

NZFCNA NZ Faith Community Nurses Association

NEWSLETTER

March 2008

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Special points of interest:

- *Diary in the 2008 Conference Now!*
- *Christian Nursing Books available to borrow.*

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Chairperson/National Coordinator's Report

The first Board Meeting for 2008 was held recently in Auckland. Our main focus was to prepare for the 2008 Conference to be held in Christchurch at Labour Weekend. This year is our 10th Anniversary for Faith Community Nursing in New Zealand, so it will be a conference with a celebration atmosphere. Mark this on your calendar as a must. A flyer will be sent out soon with more details.

Competencies and indicators specific to Faith Community Nursing have been completed, so if you are being audited by Nursing Council please ask us for a copy to help guide you through the process.

The Faith Community Nurse |

Introductory Course by long distance learning is in the process of being prepared this year and will be available in the near future online. This is very exciting for supporting and training our nurses.

We are looking for people who can help us develop a DVD on Faith Community Nursing in NZ. If you can help us with this or know someone who could, we would love to hear from you.

We are also looking at the idea of establishing a library of resources for our nurses for support and promotion. But before we go ahead and buy resources, we need to know if our nurses would access it. Please could you give me feedback.

Also if any member has resources to stock the library we would greatly appreciate it.

I trust you are all well rested and ready for the New Year of Faith Community Nursing.

May God equip and inspire you for his vision and mission.

Kind regards
Diane

"...whatever you did for one of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

Conference 2008 - Living Springs Christchurch *Bridging Health with Faith in Our Communities*



The next conference will be at Living Springs in Christchurch, from Friday 24th until Monday the 27th October. (Labour Weekend)

Make it a priority to come if possible. Last years conference was fantastic.

Check out the Living Springs website.
www.livingsprings.co.nz



NZFCNA BOARD

Back:

Elizabeth Niven

Diane Webster

Ane Masima

Joan MacManus

Front:

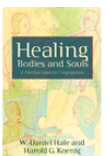
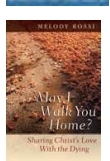
Lesley Askin

Anne Simonsen

Kris Telfer

Not Present:

Jane Maries



Books Available to Borrow

I have a number of books relating to Christian Nursing and Parish Nursing. If you would like to borrow these please email me—krist@adhb.govt.nz and I will post them.

♥ **Called to Care** - A Christian Worldview of Nursing.
Judith Allen Shelly & Arlene B. Miller
2nd Edition 2006

♥ **Spiritual Care** - A Guide for Caregivers
Judith Allen Shelly 2000

♥ **Parish Nursing** - Stories of Service and Care
Verna Benner Carson & Harold G. Koenig
2002

♥ **The Parish Nurse** - Providing a Minister of Health for your Congregation.
Granger E. Westberg 1990

♥ **Transforming Care** - A Christian Vision of Nursing Practice.
Mary Molewyk Doornbos, Ruth E. Groehoet, Kendra G. Hotz 2005

♥ **May I Walk You Home?** Sharing Christ's Love with the Dying.
Melody Rossi 2007

♥ **Healing Bodies & Souls** - A Practical Guide for Congregations.
W. Daniel Hale & Harold C. Koenig 2003

You can look these books up on the internet to find out more about them.

Kris

A Nurse's Prayer

Give To My Eyes

*Give to my eyes
light to see those in need.*

*Give to my heart
compassion and understanding.*

*Give to my mind
knowledge and wisdom.*

*Give to my hands
skill and tenderness.*

*Give to my ears
the ability to listen.*

*Give to me Lord
strength for this selfless service
and enable me to bring joy to
the lives of those I serve*

Author Unknown

*For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only
Son, that whoever believes
in him shall not perish but
have eternal life.*

John 3:16 (NIV)

A NZ Faith Community Nurse's Story

I am a Faith Community Nurse working in the Catholic Church Community and want to share about a beautiful person in our fold, his name is Larry, and how he taught me that my ways are not necessarily his ways.

Larry is stone deaf, always appears unkempt, and comes across as a real loner. He rides his bike to Mass every Sunday, never misses and sits usually up near the front of the church among the 'nice ladies'. When the sermon is long, Larry has been known to flap open his church newspaper and block the speaker from view, which doesn't seem to faze the Priests. I guess from Larry's point of view, if he can't hear the sermon, he may as well read something of interest.

As Parish Nurse, my concern for some months was that Larry had developed a seemingly upset stomach, belching very loudly (which one maybe would do if one couldn't hear.) As the months went on, even the children had become used to the loud explosions and had stopped giggling.

As a Parish Nurse, I decided it was time that I visited this man of faith and sorted out his worrying gas problems. I thought maybe he had a terminal condition that required me to minister to him medically and spiritually. As a back up, I enlisted the company of Father David the Parish Priest, I actually wondered if he may be in need of the last Sacrament or at the very least a referral to a Gastroenterologist.

We walked around the side of his house where a noisy dog warned us that he was on guard. On entering the house there were many earthly treasures stored on tiered shelves, rather like a cave effect, with Larry at the end recumbent on his bed.....watching a soap on his TV.

His pleasure at a visit was obvious as he leapt off the bed almost embracing us, shouting his delight. After introductions, it seemed the time to indicate my concern about his health so I gestured toward his stomach. He laughed, obviously misinterpreting my pathetic sign language, and stated, "I'm never

hungry, look". He threw open his enormous fridge which had literally dozens of packs of pizzas and sausages, in orderly heaps, then more in another fridge.

Sheepishly I looked at Fr. David and I knew, it was not appropriate to delve any deeper, the retorts echoing around the church were quite obviously not caused by undiagnosed terminal illness but the result of Larry's favourite food choices, the culprit of the noisy outbursts.

Excitedly Larry dragged us both out to his shed where a partially restored model T was quickly started up. The truck had no muffler, so I guess being deaf has its benefits. The engine noise was only slightly drowned out by the shouting of Larry's voice as he explained how he'd lovingly given this truck new life. The effects of the exhaust fumes were what finally drew us out of the shed and back to his castle, the Nurse part of me in awe that he had not been carried off by the effects of the carbon monoxide fumes.

A cleaning lady came to start her twice weekly clean.....but did what she apparently always did on these occasions, took the dog for a walk.

Before we left, Larry threw a can of beer to Fr. David and said we were the best visitors he'd had for ages....apart from the community Mental Health Nurse who brings my pills every week. "I don't drink alcohol now" said Larry then went on to say "its best when you're schizophrenic".

Larry taught me that there are no rules, and not to judge a book by its cover. Now when I see him come into the Church, covered in paint, hair askew and kneeling reverently to pray, ignoring the "oh dear" looks of startled visitors while maybe dealing with the gas from his breakfast pizza, I thank God for him and his ability to continue seeking God in his quiet and maybe lonely world.

While I thank God for him I just wish he'd not rush off home after Mass before I or anyone else could make him feel more part of our Community.

Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting...Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well."

Mother Teresa

Thank You to Margaret Chiaroni

Margaret Chiaroni has been parish nurse for the Anglican Parish of St. John the Baptist Church in Northcote for the last three years. She has recently resigned and we would like to thank her for all her hard work both within her parish and with the Faith Community Association. She has provided an invaluable service to her congregation and community. The work she has done in establishing this role will make it easier for the next nurse to continue.



*From International Parish Nurse Resource Centre*22nd Annual Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium
Lift Every Voice and SpeakSeptember 12-14, 2008
Hyatt Regency Saint Louis Riverfront
Downtown Saint Louis, Missouri**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**Margaret B. Clark, DMin and Joanne K. Olson, MN, PhD
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Co-Authors of: "Nursing within a Faith Community: Promoting Health in Times of Transition"

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COMMUNITY NURSES'
ASSOCIATION*From Debbie Hodge in the UK*

My best wishes to all at NZFCNA.

Here in the UK we are getting ready for our next Introduction Course and preparing a submission for a Masters Module for inclusion in a MTh pathway at Spurgeons College.

Our next Symposium is on September 12 and 13th taking the theme of Hope. We are gathering the programme and trust it will be a time of nurture and refreshment for Parish Nurses and others involved in Faith Community Nursing.

I have just returned from a two week stint in India and was able to talk with the Church of South India about Faith Community Nursing and hope that some progress will be made in the next few months.

I hold all those I met last autumn in my prayers.

*Debbie***From the Editor**

The first newsletter of the year, a bit of a slow start sorry. We had a marathon board meeting a few weeks ago and planning for our next conference is well underway. Two of the board members are practising as FCN's in their churches and it is great to hear the individual ways FCN's can minister according to the needs of their congregations.

Remember this is your newsletter so if there is anything you think should be included, if you would like to write about your area of FCN please contact me. krist@adhb.govt.nzThanks
God bless you in your ministry.*Kris***Prayer Points:**† Please pray for the Board as they organise the next conference.
Pray especially for Diane as the National Coordinator.

† Pray for Elaine Tyrrell as she works hard for us as Board Advisor as well as studying and working.

† Pray for those who are currently ministering as FCN's, especially those who are isolated and need support.

