

Conference Report

"Gaining altitude for a clearer vision."(Isaiah 40:31)



Faith Community Nurses (FCN's) from all over New Zealand gathered at Vaughan Park Retreat Centre, Long Bay, from the 15th-17th October 2007 for an exciting conference. The program was varied and balanced; including the required training to meet the scope of practice for FCN'S commencing practice.

Internationally acclaimed Faith Community Nurses along with nurses and speakers from different specialties in New Zealand ensured an extremely interesting and varied programme.

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Dr. Anne Van Loon, RN, PhD founding member of the Australian FCN Association presented practical training for Faith Community Nurses. Anne is a pastoral nurse and health team co-ordinator within her church as well as Senior Research fellow at the Royal District Nursing Service South Australia. Anne introduced some of the issues that she faced in coping with crises in a recent project which involved working with survivors of child sexual abuse. She shared interventions, which she has used that have resulted in successful outcomes.



The Rev. Debbie Hodges, RN, MA (Pastoral Theology) BSC.PGDE, RCNT, RNT from the United Kingdom brought a wide experience in nursing and as a Chaplain with pastoral responsibility for some 500 chaplains within her church affiliation. We were encouraged to take care of our own spiritual health. Debbie termed this as taking 'Sabbath moments' time out to stop, consider creation, relax and recharge. This led to reflection on what constituted spiritual care and how to implement a tool, which Debbie used to assess spiritual needs.



Dr Elizabeth Niven, RN, PhD, from UNITEC Auckland presented scenarios highlighting ethical and legal issues the FCN may face in practice. We reflected on what accountability meant and on the importance of accurate written records. Dr. Niven reminded the conference of faith-based values and the need for boundaries within FCN. There was a need to link ethical and professional values with personal beliefs and be bold in client advocacy.

Gwen Tepania-Palmer, MBA, RCpN, RpdN TeAupouri, Ngati Kahu, Ngapuhi & Ngati Paoa Tainui, provided a practical insight into the application in Healthcare of the Treaty of Waitangi. Gwen is Chairperson of the Ngatihine Health Trust a provider of health and disability services, social and educational services in TeTaitokerau, Northland. The connectedness of everyone through the Treaty was a key feature. Gwen saw the Treaty as a celebration, signed in love, belief and peace, for all New Zealanders and the church played a large part. The nurse of the future as she saw it must have the strength of spirituality, deep abiding faith for justice, a political imagination, depth of human courage and creative energy.

Jane Maries, RN, and FCN Board Member encouraged each to develop creative expressions in their lives as FCN's. Jane shared her poetry written in various times and situations through which she expresses her personal feelings and reflections. In developing a creative outlet be it art, music or writing, Jane emphasized the importance of self care and careful time management.

Peggy Dawson, International Trainer for "Services Through Nurturing Touch" demonstrated how she worked with people suffering from life threatening illnesses, the elderly and those with physical and mental disabilities and infant massage. Peggy demonstrated the use of the various techniques of therapeutic touch and spoke of her role in working with clients with depression and suicidal clients incorporating scripture with her massage.

Cindy Brickell, Pastor and also from Vineyard Ministry Training College in Auckland.

Cindy brought a hands on approach to the discovery of personal Spiritual gifts and motivational leanings as the FCN approaches the care of others.

The Very Rev. Charles Tyrrell, QSO, M.Th, BA, SRN and Dean of Christchurch Nelson Cathedral took us inside the private experiences that he and Elaine his wife, journeyed when he experienced the healthcare systems from the receiving end. With gratitude to God he traced how he had recovered from a serious brain insult and being comatose, to his return to Parish ministry. Charles emphasised the importance of the Nursing/healing ministry to the future of the church.

Samoan and Tongan Parish Community Nurses from the Healthy Village Action Zones Project with the Auckland District Health Board and PHO's, shared in colourful fashion the encouragements they receive daily serving their communities. It was described as a mat woven with fine threads bringing beauty and wholeness in the lives of their people.

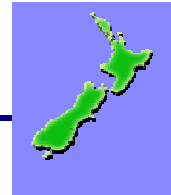


The Rev. Duncan MacDonald, CEO of the Selwyn Foundation, provided information of funding approaches for FCN and challenged each FCN to write grant proposals and approach possible donors.

The food was delicious, the view was glorious, the networking inspiring, and faith and enthusiasm evident in the farewell anointing service where we each received their token 'wings' to gain altitude in our personal lives and practices as each returned to serve their own communities.

By Dorothy Finlay RN FCN. Tauranga

Regional Reports



Auckland

Auckland continues to have Margaret working within the Anglican parish in Northcote. With increased hours her role has been an intrinsic part of the church and the parish does not know how they ever functioned without her. The parish benefits from her ability to source, support, resource and manage the ever changing needs of many members of the parish and to support those caring for family within the parish.

The ADHB have continued to fund the newly established services in the Pacific Island churches Faith Community's in the central Auckland region and the new branch of this service is due to formally open this month. Elizabeth Niven, Margaret and I have attended meetings with them as they began to set up.

There has been a degree of interest in the concept of Faith Community Nursing in Auckland with the latest published articles and the upcoming conference. These enquiries have been followed up with e-mails and phone calls and names have been added to the Auckland interest database.

Kris has been a great support and has attended, and presented the Faith Community concept at a number of places.

The Auckland region attempted to gather twice during the year the first meeting successfully earlier in the year but later in the year despite positive RSVPs only 2 members attended.

The e-mail network tends to support people and to answer questions and due to the suburban sprawl of Auckland this makes gatherings, timing and locations challenging.

I have decided due to my many commitments to step aside from the coordinator role but continue to support the new coordinator in the role. Thank you to Kris who has agreed to take this on.

I have enjoyed watching this concept, which I learnt about from a tiny slip of paper 4 years ago, grow and develop. Faith Community Nursing is the greatest form of fully caring for a person (mind, body and spirit) you can achieve. Through our networks of faith we are able to offer care that is in Florence Nightingale's words a "Christian divine calling"

May we continue to flourish in 2008.

Angela Anderson

Hawkes Bay/ Manawatu

In August Val Southcombe and I were privileged to support Diane when she addressed the council of Priests at the Catholic Cathedral in Palmerston North. I would trust that some 'seeds' were sown that day and that the priests involved will consider the introduction of this ministry for their Parishes. An article in regard to this address is to be published in the October edition of the Catholic newspaper 'Wel-com'

I am aware that two nurses from Hawkes Bay will be attending the conference. It would be great to have someone else practising in Taradale.

I have continued with health education sessions in the Parish and have a talk by a solicitor on Wills etc. planned for the 31st Oct. At his stage I am considering a fitness programme for the parish in 2008. I may have to look at some means of funding locally for that.

Val Southcombe continues to practice as a Faith Community Nurse in Wanganui. I understand from Val that she will be present at the conference along with another Catholic nurse from Wanganui who is interested in becoming involved. I am sure despite a 'lull' this year there will be further developments within the ministry in Wanganui in 2008.

Anne Simonsen

Bay of Plenty and Waikato

2006-2007 has seen slow but steady progress in establishing Faith Community Nursing in the Tauranga City Elim church. Faith Community Nurse Jan at T.C.E. church, decided not to renew her registration and since June has been working in the social support ministry with her husband, a role she has had for many years. I have recently received my new Nursing Council Practising Certificate for 2007-08 year on the basis of my role in Faith Community Nursing.

February - May: I was overseas in UK and Israel and Jan provided the FCN support as able.

Since May I have maintained a weekly healthcare clinic in the Elim church. At least 50 members have accessed the service this year. Several clients have come through the weekly free meal that is given to 'homeless people' in Tauranga and I am hoping to expand this outreach arm of the work. Jan and I had a stimulating visit with Diane (National Coordinator) in July, where we brainstormed ways to involve more churches in Tauranga to the FCN ministry.

I distributed via email to all members of the Tauranga Minister's Association the brochures regarding the conference. This reached many churches and as a result several nurses have made contact showing interest. One or two are planning to come to conference. My vision is to encourage the establishment of Faith Community Nursing in many churches in Tauranga and if possible it be seen as a Body Ministry through the Minister's Association. There is need for further work to develop this.

In February I went to Te Awamutu and presented a PowerPoint on how to set up the FCN ministry in Joan's church. This was very well received with many churches represented. Dorothy and Joan have got together several times throughout the year for fellowship and brainstorming. Recent communication with Anne Davidson was encouraging as she was in contact with a nurse interested in FCN in her church in Tauranga, and I look forward to further contact. Anne has been working in Whakatane this year.

Dorothy Finlay

South Island/ Canterbury

Late February 2007, Lesley Askin and I had an opportunity to share the vision of Faith Community Nurses at Tai Poutini Polytechnic in Greymouth, many thanks to Frances Stapleton. Wyatt Butcher helped us with part of the presentation speaking on Spirituality and Mental Health. It was a well attended gathering of approx 25 attendees. It was great to meet with Marjorie Newcombe the resident Anglican Faith Community Nurse in Greymouth for 5 years, and hear her story which is published on our website.

In April I connected with Alison Wilden in Gore, over coffee. It was great to encourage her in her Faith Community Nursing dream. She now has funding from the regional DHB and is running a foot clinic at the local Baptist church. Her story also will be posted soon on the website.

Throughout the year invitations have been sent out to the Canterbury FCN database. A few of us have regularly met to discuss an article or hear each other's journey in FCN and to encourage the vision in each of us.

It's been exciting to see the vision of Faith Community Nursing grow from strength to strength. I trust that the Spirit of God will bring a year of growth in Canterbury and the South Island with the proposal to hold our next Conference in Christchurch 2008.

Diane Webster

NZFCNA Board

At the recent AGM in Auckland, a new board was selected.

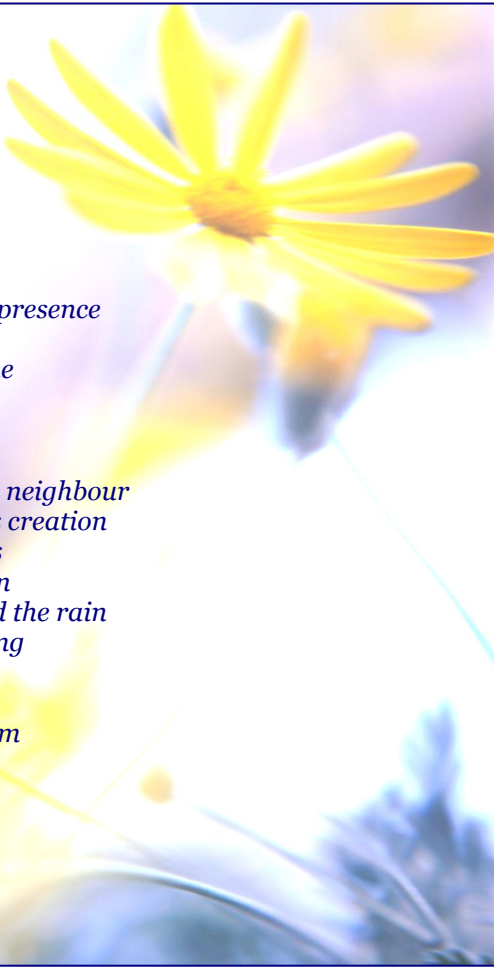
Diane Webster – National Coordinator
Anne Simonsen Jane Maries
Ane Masima Lesley Atkins
Joan Macmanus Kris Telfer

Elaine Tyrrell has stepped aside from the Board and the Chairperson role, and is now our Board Advisor, so we will still have the benefit of her knowledge and friendship.

Dorothy Finlay has also stepped down from the Board but continues as Regional Coordinator for Bay of Plenty and Waikato, and FCN in Tauranga.

We would like to thank them both for all the passion, work and commitment they have put into the NZFCNA Board.

TAKE TIME



*Take time to breath
take time to relax
take time to smile
take time to laugh
take time to just be with God
take time to be still with God
take time to come into God's presence
take time to pray
God wants us to just take time
take time to meet a friend
take time to hug a child
take time to listen to another
take time to say hello to your neighbour
take time to appreciate God's creation
take time to smell the flowers
take time to be near the ocean
take time to feel the wind and the rain
take time to hear the birds sing
God wants us to take time
take time to walk
take time to have an ice-cream
take time to be your self
take time to have fun
JUST TAKE TIME*

written September 2007

Jane Maries

IPNRC eNotes - from the International Parish Nurses Resource Centre

At the 21st Annual Westberg Symposium, we had a couple of outstanding keynote addresses by Rev. Wayne Muller, founder of Bread for the Journey, who encouraged us to "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8). He reminded us that it is the only one of the Ten Commandments that starts with "Remember."

So, to all our dear friends, both those who attended the Westberg this year, and those who were with us in spirit, remember. Remember to slow down, to rest, to stop for worship and renewal, this week, and every week. It's not a suggestion, as Rev. Muller reminded us, "It's in the manual."

Dr. Verna Benner Carson reminded us that we are each on a team - we don't have to do it all ourselves.

www.parishnurses.org

From the Editor

Well wasn't the conference wonderful. It was great to meet so many people with a common interest, and to put names to faces. Although I was busy most of the time I felt very rested at the end of the three days. Don't forget to try and fit in those Sabbath moments throughout each day.

May God bless you all as you minister to others.

Kris

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

Mark 6:31-32 NIV