

NZFCNA Newsletter

August 2010

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Chairperson's Report

Greetings to you all, and may you know Christ in your lives as you work to show his love in our communities.

We are working towards our Conference and AGM now, and you will have had emails about both of these events – note that the AGM is held within the Conference in Wellington on September 3 & 4. If you are unable to attend and wish to vote on any of the constitutional matters being considered, you may invite someone to be your 'proxy'. It is normal for the Chairperson to undertake this on your behalf, so do let me know if I can help you in this way. We will check that you are 'paid up' as a member, and table your request, including your vote as you ask us to record it.

The Board has continued to meet, and we have been trialling using Skype for meetings to save our resources for other purposes. We are getting more skilled in doing this, inspired by our Canadian FCN colleagues, who manage their organisation at great distances, meeting face-to-face only once a year. Helen Vaughan has moved to Canberra, but continues to offer her wisdom to the Board until the end of this term.

I have been appreciating recently the works of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and I thought you might find the quote below as inspiring in relation to our caring work, as I do:

If we could but recognise our common humanity, that we do belong together, that our destinies are bound up in one another's, that we can be free only together, that we can survive only together, then a glorious world would come into being where all of us lived harmoniously together as members of one family, the human family.

I look forward to seeing you at Conference – if not this year, then perhaps next year.

Elizabeth

"It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing."
Mother Theresa

AUSTRALIAN FAITH NURSES' CONFERENCE

Melbourne 7 – 9 April 2010



As a result of the invitation from our Australian colleagues to join their conference I was asked to attend to represent our NZ Faith Nurses. I was accompanied by Jillian Bull, another Faith Nurse from Chapel Hill church in Hamilton. We were surprised and delighted to find our spacious accommodation was behind the retirement house for Jesuit priests which had been built as a retreat centre. Our Aussie colleagues were welcoming and gracious. Their committee had invited an auspicious number of very well qualified speakers – the title for the conference was “No health without mental health, No mental health without spiritual health”.

The disappointing feature of the conference was that there were only approximately 15 nurses present, and that number was drawn from the whole of Australia. The most striking feature for both the attendees and the speakers was their high level of academic achievement. The nurses are very encouraged to gain post-graduate qualifications and are financially rewarded for doing so.

One very interesting guest to the conference was Jose Grigg whose presentation had us all practising (before breakfast!) her reversion of Body Prayer – a Christian mixture of Yoga/Tia chi. We all thoroughly relaxed to her voice giving the gospel parable stories – which was unique.

We were very interested to hear the “Nurses’ Bible” story from the group of nurses there who formed the idea and carried this through to its publication. Many of those nurses’ stories are included in the front pages.

The director of the Melbourne based branch of Betel was accompanied by two men who were once substance abusers but had been free from addiction now for many years and now hold responsible positions within this caring community. A living testimony to the power of God working through dedicated Christians.

There was a short after dinner session for us all to share what we are presently doing in our own “patches”, this ranged from “Grannie Grubb food” to a Youth Health intervention.

We had a short time to walk the beautiful grounds of the Centre, but the programme was too busy for any other “time out”. We both enjoyed our time, made new friends, and felt energised in return.

I would like to thank the Board for the opportunity to make this trip and will display the resources our colleagues so generously made available to us.

Joan MacManus

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Regional Reports

Auckland

The Auckland Regional Faith Community Meeting was held at Selwyn Village on 21 June 2010. Attendance was poor with only five people attending, and six apologies received. The meeting opened with prayer, the nurses introduced themselves and discussed what they had been doing in their areas. Jo Little from the Baptist Church introduced a Nurse from her church who was interested in Parish Nursing. The group outlined what Faith Community Nursing was and Isabel showed the promotional DVD recorded in Christchurch.

The photo and story competition flyer and the upcoming conference were discussed. The group discussed holding a Regional Conference in Auckland and set a date; 12 March 2011. The title for the Regional Conference is "What is Faith Community Nursing" and will be held at Selwyn Village Theatre.

Elizabeth discussed the printing and the content of a new advertising flyer that they are hoping to have printed and distributed, with sponsorship from Revd. Duncan McDonald from Selwyn Village.

The meeting closed with prayer. The next meeting is to be held at Kinder Library, St John's College in Meadowbank on Saturday 30 October 2010 at 10am.

Manawatu/ Hawkes Bay

A small number of FCNs met for a regional meeting in Palmerston North in June. These regional meetings are not only a time for coming together for spiritual reflection but are also a time for peer review and to share experiences and stories. The possibility of coming together for a time of spiritual renewal, perhaps in the form of a retreat, will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The group welcomed two new FCNs from Napier, Shirley Pope from the Waipu Anglican Cathedral, and Anne Scollay from All Saints Anglican Church in Taradale. Both Anne and Shirley shared their areas of nursing expertise with the group and took the opportunity to ask relevant questions and share concerns associated with the setting up of the FCN ministry in their church communities. Anne and two other nurses, Kathy Tait and Karen Marshall, have been working very hard in recent months to establish FCN at All Saints. They were to have been commissioned in August. Shirley is to be commissioned on Sunday 28th Sept. Charles Tyrell has been invited to speak at the service that day. Shirley has been blessed by having the support of a health committee assisting her to meet her goals, including the completion of the modules and finding financial assistance.

Meanwhile the FCNs in Pahiatua, Dannevirke, Fielding, Palmerston North, Otaki and Wanganui have been working tirelessly in maintaining their voluntary commitments to FCN, while at the same time working in paid employment, doing post graduate studies and/or the FCN modules as well as managing other church commitments, their homes and personal lives.

The next meeting is scheduled for November.

Waikato

The meeting was held at Central Baptist Church in Hamilton at the beginning of August, there were six nurses present. The group discussed ordering of the Nurses' Bible for the local group and conference attendance; unfortunately no one will be able to go. Also they talked of their role in helping complete funeral arrangements (using the Leprosy missions booklet called "departure time").

Wendy Grant will be going to Bible College next year so will not be in her role of FCN. Wendy was encouraged to take photos of a Congolese family for our photo competition as she has put a huge input into their lives.

Some of the activities the nurses are doing are Upright and Active, support of the elderly who have a terminal disease, regular visits to young Mums' groups, regular after church clinics and running a Solo Women's group.

Canterbury/Westland

In this region there are a delightful group of women who are strong supporters of the FCN movement. Around a dozen are usually able to attend the support group gatherings. A few months ago a small survey was conducted among the members to determine whether the peer group get-together was meeting the needs of the attendees. The feedback was positive regarding content. The consensus was for bimonthly meetings.

At these gatherings, three hours is spent together supporting, informing, inspiring and challenging each other with interesting topics pertinent to the specialty area of practice.

They are informed of national and regional association news and the group contributes with good ideas and strategies where appropriate. They are always openly supportive of the Board and all the work that our national co-coordinator Diane does for the wider Association as well as locally.

An area that is felt to be of great importance, especially to those who are practicing as Faith Community Nurses, is to address the Peer Review process. This is done in a group setting, where a clinical situation can be openly discussed. This has been a very valuable tool for practitioners. There is also opportunity for one on one peer review among members.

Scripture reflection and prayer is a really important part of each meeting and the nurses minister to each other as they would those that they serve in our church communities. They all go away spiritually enriched by one another.

At the June meeting, the contents were as follows:

- Upcoming conference/ sponsored registration for first timers
- Carol shared a little of what she is presenting at conference
- Photo competition
- The importance of documentation
- Written reflective practice for auditing
- Setting up practice – the importance of getting aims and objectives in place for measurable outcomes/data/funding
- Ruth and Kathryn shared their presentation of FCN to Anglican leaders. A comprehensive and multimedia approach.
- Setting up practice – the importance of getting aims and objectives in place for measurable outcomes/data/funding
- Scripture – stories of transition
- Prayer

The next meeting will be after the conference.

NZFCNA CONFERENCE 2010

The NZFCNA Conference is in Wellington next Friday and Saturday. 3rd & 4th September.

For more information see our website;

www.faithnursing.co.nz

Contacts

National Coordinator:

Diane Webster

Po Box 64

Kaiapoi 7644

admin.faithnursing@xtra.co.nz

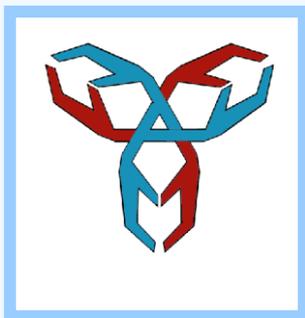
Editor:

Kris Telfer

ktelfer@xtra.co.nz

Website:

www.faithnursing.co.nz



Kinder Library

Remember that as a member of the NZFCNA you can access the Kinder Library. They have a selection of books related to Faith Community / Parish Nursing.

For more information see their website:

www.kinderlibrary.ac.nz



Prayer Points

- ✚ Please pray for the conference next week.
- ✚ Pray for the organisers and the speakers.
- ✚ Pray that interest in this ministry would continue to grow in our nation.



From the Editor,

It is only a week away from the NZFCNA conference as I write this. I hope as many of you as possible are planning to attend. It is always a time of great fellowship and networking as well as learning. Unfortunately I am unable to attend this year, the first time in about 6 years. I pray those of you who attend are greatly blessed and leave feeling refreshed and invigorated.

May the Lord bless you richly,

Kris