

NZFCNA

NZ Faith Community Nurses Association

Special points of interest:

- Conference 2008
- 10 years of Parish Nursing in NZ
- 2008 –2009 Board

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2008 Conference

The New Zealand Faith Community Nurses Association (NZFCNA) held it's annual conference to facilitate education sessions, networking and Christian fellowship. Over Labour weekend, members met at Living Springs, Christchurch to celebrate ten years of parish nursing in New Zealand following a pilot scheme at Nelson Cathedral.

The conference opened with a service of thanksgiving at St Michael and all Angels, where Nurse Maude worked as New Zealand's first District Nurse. (see page 2 for more on service)



A keynote speaker this year was Dr Lynda W Miller from Canada, a leading nurse educator, who was so keen to hear of the work in New Zealand that she invited herself! She shared her model of parish nursing and the work in Canada but was just as interested to learn of cultural safety implemented in nursing in New Zealand and the recent initiatives in the Pacific Island churches in Auckland. Hilda Fa'asalele of the Healthy Village Action Zones updated us on the challenges and joys of providing primary health care within the church, whilst being funded by Auckland DHB and local PHO's.

Wayne Orchard spoke about the importance and use of healing prayer, and encouraged us in our practice of this. Elizabeth Niven challenged us on ethical issues on prayer. Rev. Wyatt Butcher and Paul Eden both spoke on aspects of mental health and spirituality.

Faith Community Nurses from around New Zealand shared their journeys with us, and Noreen Wright FCN at Avonhead Baptist Church in Christchurch discussed the initial setting up of her foot clinic, and how it has expanded so that now she is helping other FCN's start this in their churches. Her Pastor talked about the value of this ministry and his involvement with it.

Throughout the conference there seemed to be a theme of listening. Listening to God and listening to others.

There were also times of worship, wonderful fellowship and networking. Faith Community Nurses encouraging and supporting each other. It is a privilege to part of this group of nurses who are using their gifts and abilities to make a difference in their communities

We thank God for the individuals who share our journey and look forward to the next decade of sharing the vision of faith community nursing as a means of Christian ministry and outreach.



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6 NIV.

Weaving the Mat: the Nurse Maude Connection

St Michael's Anglican Church, Christchurch Oct 24th 2008, 10 year Celebration Service.

At our last conference in Auckland, when our Pacific Island parish nurses joined us, I used the image of a woven mat to illustrate the development and history of parish nursing in New Zealand. Such mats have great significance to Pacific Islanders and they are not simply viewed as useful objects. A lot of love and patience goes into making them as the strands which start in different sections meet and are joined together in to one.

Our mat is made of the many people who had been involved in different ways in being faithful to a call from God to be involved in this ministry of practical caring.

It is fitting that we should worship and celebrate at St Michael's church 10 years after I started working as a parish nurse as this is where Sibylla Emily Maude or Nurse Maude as she is best known, worked as a district nurse. I should make it clear at this point that parish nursing is NOT district nursing. However I see two strands of Christian ministry where professional NZ nurses feel drawn to work in the community, filling the gaps in the health care being provided.

However there is another strand that many here will not be aware of. 150 years ago (another anniversary), a philanthropic Liverpudlian businessman employed a skilled nurse called Mary Robinson to care for his dying wife. William Rathbone was impressed by the care she gave in comparison to that received by so many poor people in the workhouses and hovels of Victorian England. After his wife's death in 1859, he engaged Mary to go into one of the poorest districts of the city to bring healthcare to people who had no means to pay for it. He spent the rest of his life working to build up the service, with assistance from Florence Nightingale and others. The Liverpool model of district nursing soon sprang up in other towns, cities and rural areas. District nursing was born!

By the time that Nurse Maude trained as a lay probationer at Middlesex hospital 40 years later, district nursing was well-established. She worked as the Matron of Christchurch hospital for four frustrating years but wanted to be involved more practically. Like Rathbone before her, she saw the needs of the elderly poor in the community. She approached her hospital chaplain friend, Revd Walter Averill, the vicar of this parish of St Michael's. Revd Edwin Scott from Sydenham parish and Jessie Heaton Rhodes were also drawn into the scheme and the outcome was the employment of Nurse Maude as the first NZ district nurse. She is well-known here in Christchurch for her tireless work within the region combining her Christian commitment and love with her practical nursing skills. Nurse

Maude is now synonymous with the large association of district nurses which has flourished from the foundation of her one nurse practice.

Meanwhile in Liverpool, Rathbone working with Florence Nightingale established training for professional nurses and he also founded the first Liverpool Infirmary – a large public hospital. Queen Victoria allowed the district nurses to be called Queen's nurses and in 1974, one Charles Tyrrell, another Liverpudlian became a Queen's nurse. He says this gave him insight into his later pastoral role as an Anglican priest. So it is hardly surprising that when I completed my nursing training in 1997 in Nelson and mentioned the ministry of parish nursing to him, that he should show such a great interest. This model of primary health care was pioneered in the USA by a Lutheran hospital chaplain. Granger Westberg saw the need for people in the community to have optimal healthcare to prevent their hospitalisation – a practical means of Christian nursing ministry. Charles and Bishop Derek Eaton were in fact so convinced of the possibility of this work that they encouraged me to see how it would work out at Nelson Cathedral.

This started a journey of others throughout New Zealand catching the vision and trialing the work in many forms in their own areas and churches. The need for education and networking became obvious and relationships were forged with Christian nurses first in Australia and then throughout the world. The New Zealand Faith Community Nurses' Association was inaugurated. We choose to call ourselves faith community nurses as not all churches sharing this ministry operate on a parish system. The goal is the same: sharing the love of Christ through professional, holistic nursing.

Today we celebrate the weaving of the many strands:

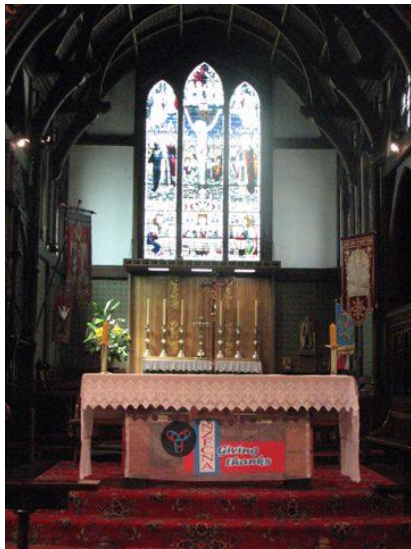
- St Michael's parish and Nurse Maude;
- District nursing, Liverpool's huge needs and
- William Rathbone;
- Florence Nightingale and the establishment of professional nursing;
- Faith community nurses in New Zealand: Pacific Island,
- Maori and Pakeha; nurses from all Christian denominations And NZFCNA
- Parish nurses throughout the world being called to this ministry and networking globally

The connections are multiple as the strands in the mat are woven together. And the weaver is God himself. This is His work and the Church continues to meet the needs of society through its healing ministry.

Thanks be to God.

Elaine Tyrell

Photographs from conference



Letter from Dorothy Finlay

Dear Friends

The Lord has been opening doors for me to become part of this awesome ministry Shevet Achim in Israel based in Jerusalem and reaching into the Judea and Samaria and Iraq and Gaza to reach children who need surgery

I have known about this work and when I was in Israel in February it was suggested to me to consider them. Shevet Achim means Brother's together, Ishmael and Issac blessing each other and reconciliation in Yeshua (Jesus) is the key.

As many of you know I am going to Israel on 25th November with a 6 month ticket, again provided by the Lord through dear friends. I contacted the Shevet Achim leadership and received a favourable response and so I will be contacting them when I get to Israel. It is a faith based ministry where I must trust the

Lord for my own support but the children that the Israeli surgeon's operate on are funded by sponsorship.

Jonathan Miles the Leader has suggested I could move throughout the Land, assessing and helping Arab children to come to Israel for surgery this would also include Gaza and maybe Jordan.

The centre in Jerusalem is just down the road from a ministry led by some young Arabic believers, called the Upper Room Ministry where they meet to pray for an Acts2 experience in Jerusalem.

I am sending this to you so that if the Lord puts me on your heart to pray for me and the work. or to support me, you can do so.

Any financial support can be sent to me c/ - Judi Caesar at 26 Miles Lane, Tauriko and she can get it to me.

The Lord is tying together the experience of years in this work and I believe He has confirmed to me many times that this is His plan for me to serve Him. I will be prayed for by my church this Sunday. I will be able to serve using Arabic which will be an open door into the hearts of the people.

Please pray for me.

May the Lord bless you

Shalom

Dorothy Finlay



UNEXPECTED VISITOR

Based on a true story which happened in 2008

Nadia would soon be home. It had been a long week and Khalid's heart had been very troubled. "What if the surgeon could not help my son, my heir?" He mused as he looked at the clock on the wall slowly ticking the hour away. To the right was a gold framed photograph of his father, the respected Imam Mustafa.

The day was hot and dusty and there was a hum of insects in the air. Suddenly everything went still, the air charged and Khalid rubbed his eyes in astonishment, for there in the doorway was a Man in pure white. Khalid began to shake.

"I have come to tell you that I am Jesus, Son of Mary and I have come from God to tell you that He loves you. Even now your son is returning with his mother completely healed."

Khalid, strong leader that he was, knelt down and worshipped Jesus.

"Jesus I believe you have come from God and I trust in you." And just as he had come, Jesus vanished.

His cell phone rang, it was Nadia; they were at the border, waiting to cross into Iraq. She spoke of hearing about Jesus and how her heart warmed as the "foreigners had spoken about Him."

Khalid could not wait. He told her about his unexpected Guest and Nadia began to cry.

"Now we can believe together." She cried. "I prayed that you too, would believe."

"Our son is healed, we have met Jesus. We must obey the Scriptures which teaches us that God wants us to show compassion to others just as He has done for us."

"He has shown you oh man what is good and what the Lord requires of you; to love mercy and do justly and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Dorothy Finlay

The name Shevet Achim is taken from the Hebrew of Psalm 133:

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,

running down on

Aaron's beard,

down upon the collar of his robes.

It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

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NEW ZEALAND FAITH
COMMUNITY NURSES
ASSOCIATION

NEW BOARD

A new Board was elected to represent you at the AGM held at the conference.

The members are:

Diane Webster: Chairperson/National Coordinator

Elizabeth Niven

Anne Simonsen

Ane Masima

Joan MacManus

Kris Telfer

Elaine Tyrrell will continue to be the Board Advisor

The next board meeting is on the 14th Feb in Auckland

THANK YOU

Two of our board members stepped down this year.

We would like to thank Lesley Askin and Jane Maries for all the work they have done as board members. For their willingness to participate and to use the gifts God has given them.

They will both continue to be involved in NZFCNA

Thank you

Regional Coordinators

The Regional Coordinators for the next year are:

Auckland – Kris Telfer

krist@adhb.govt.nz

Waikato – Joan MacManus

joanmacmanus@hotmail.com

Wellington/Nelson – Jane Maries

vjmaries@hotmail.com

Southland – Alison Wilden

eawilden@callsouth.net.nz

Christchurch – Diane Webster

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Hawkes Bay – Anne Simonsen

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Manuwatu – Val Southcombe

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Bay of Plenty to merge with Waikato.

From the Editor

Another year nearly finished! Christmas fast approaching.

I pray that you will have a wonderful time of celebration, and a time of rest before 2009 begins.

I pray that you will see God's leading in your ministry, and that you and your ministry are richly blessed in the coming year.

Merry Christmas and a Wonderful new Year

Kris



O Come All Ye Faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

