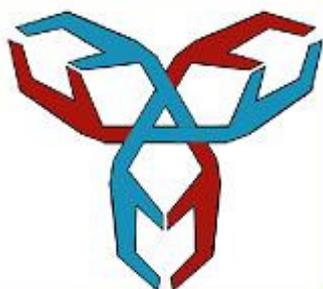


April
2007

*“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
they will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not faint”.*



Isaiah 40:3



Chairperson's Report

It is great hearing good news about what individual parish nurses are doing around the country. Some other good news is that Maureen Aston in Waikanae was audited as a Parish Nurse at the end of last year and deemed as competent in that role.

Our regional coordinators continue their role and Auckland have had a meeting recently and are keeping in touch with Hilda as she develops her new group of Pacific Island parish nurses

Diane continues to do a sterling job addressing all the multitude of tasks we set her. Please pray for her as she travels to Auckland June 7-11 to meet with our Auckland nurses and meet with speakers and make arrangements at Vaughan Park. Also as she takes up a computer course to develop further skills in one of her many roles.

Charles has received funding from St John's College, Auckland, the Roy Trust, Nelson, and Nelson Anglican Diocese and will use his sabbatical study to develop the theological paper we are producing for distance learning. He will be spending 5 weeks in July/August in Adelaide, Australia meeting up with Anne van Loon and those theologians who worked with her. He will attend the AFCNA conference and visit the Luther Seminary there.

We continue to FLY with our heavenly Father – please pray that we continue to seek His will in every aspect of our work and do not rely on our own strength. Thank you for all your work with us in this adventure.

Love Elaine

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New Zealand Faith Community
Nurses Association

Marjorie Newcombe.

Faith Community Nurse in Greymouth

This year I turned 70 and since 1954 I knew I wanted to be a nurse. In 1955 I started my training, first as a sick children's nurse and then as a registered general nurse. I was hospital trained in England.

The work was hard and at first involved scrubbing bed-pans and menial jobs which was not nursing work at all. It was great to graduate to actually care for patients. I did a 56 hour week, often with split shifts and 12 hour night duty stints for three months at a time. A second or third year student was often left in charge of a 30 bed ward at night with an auxiliary to help and a supervisor on call. Of course we were doing basic nursing and not expected to be technicians or a computer whiz as you need to be today. Our patients survived in spite of us!

After working in the field of cardio/thoracic surgery with both adults and children for several years I came by sea to work in the cardio/thoracic unit at Wellington hospital where I met my husband.

Eventually we moved to Dunedin where I again worked in the chest surgery unit until the birth of my sons. My nursing career then took a change in direction and I started

district nursing two evenings a week and found I loved it. On moving to Greymouth in 1974 my second son had health problems so nursing went on hold for some time. Finally I went back to district nursing until I retired at the age of 66, with some casual - call today.

I have always had a strong faith and been involved in church work. When I was considering retirement I felt my skills could be put to use as a parish nurse and mentioned the idea to the Vicar. With his blessing and after training in Nelson I got started. I now run a monthly clinic for people to drop into mostly for blood- pressure checks and advice. I welcome anyone who comes, many are not church goers, or are from other denominations. I average about 16 hours a week visiting Parishioners with problems such as sickness, bereavement or just loneliness and I field lots of phone calls.

I have a wider community vision and have had opportunities to speak to people of other denominations. I get occasional referrals from GPs, mostly for blood pressure monitoring but word of mouth spreads quickly in small communities. Other health community professionals in my town know of my role and I am sure the Faith Community nursing role is valid. People ring me and/or stop me in the street for advice. It is very much a fellowship - caring role. God willing I will have many more years to continue in His service.



HELP STOP INFLUENZA

Keep your congregation informed and encourage them to have the vaccine.

For more information:
0800 IMMUNE
0800 466 893
WWW.INFLUENZA.ORG.NZ

THE INFLUENZA VACCINE IS FREE for people with ongoing medical conditions, such as: asthma (only if on regular preventative therapy), diabetes and heart disease, and for anyone aged 65 or older.

“Immunisation is our best protection. Being fit, active and healthy does not protect you against influenza – it's easily spread and anyone can catch it.”

Influenza vaccination is free for high-risk New Zealanders - people aged 65 and over and those with long-term health conditions such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes. The subsidised immunisation programme is available until 30 June. The influenza virus changes each year so it's important that people are immunised annually to gain protection from the strains most likely to circulate.

The new vaccines are expected to give the best protection against the strains of influenza, designated by the World Health Organization, likely to be circulating in New Zealand in 2007

WEBSITES

Health Point

This is a NZ site which has information on services, treatments etc available at health facilities throughout NZ
www.healthpoint.co.nz

Everybody

Everybody aims to provide useful and accurate consumer health information for New Zealanders. It is written by medical writers and reviewed by consumer health organisations and health professionals.

Everybody has been developed for the lay reader seeking general health information. It offers an overview of health conditions and treatments. It is not intended to provide 'in-depth' health information on diseases or conditions.
www.everybody.co.nz

DVD Review

The Spirit of Healing

Produced by: Advocate Health Care, Parish Nurse Ministry
Length: 11 minutes

This DVD has been developed as an educational resource for nurses, clergy etc
The Spirit of Healing gives a good overview of what parish nursing involves.
Parish Nurses are shown working within a variety of church settings, and cultures.
The DVD meets its primary goal which is to provide understanding of parish nursing, and explore the diversity of the parish nurse's role. If you are considering this ministry it would be worthwhile showing it as part of a presentation to your church leadership.

The NZFCNA has purchased this DVD, and it is available to borrow.
Contact Diane Webster admin.faithnursing@xtra.co.nz

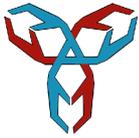
Kris

MUSIC & PAIN MANAGEMENT

The *Journal of Advanced Nursing* recently published a study which suggested that people with chronic pain, who spent an hour listening to relaxing music chosen by researchers or to music of their own choice, reported about 20% less pain than pain sufferers who didn't listen to music. Those who listened to music also reported less depression and disability during the study.



We need photographs – Do you have any photos of FCN's in action, that could be used in articles or for advertising?
You would need to get written permission from anyone in the photos for them to be used in this way.
Please contact Diane admin.faithnursing@xtra.co.nz.



NEW ZEALAND FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2007

'Gaining altitude for a clearer vision!'

Isaiah 40:31

Registered nurses working within pastoral teams have the privilege and responsibility to promote holistic health in their faith communities.

This is a demanding role requiring spiritual maturity, professional experience and highly developed communication skills.

This conference will provide opportunities for the following:

- *How to stay spiritually healthy*
- *Explore your spiritual gifting*
- *Develop your professional skills and talents*
- *Introductory modules for Faith Community Nurses*
- *Time out for reflection, refreshment and opportunity for ministry in prayer*
- *Enjoy national and international networking*

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS – Dr Anne Van Loon-Australia; Debbie Hodge-UK
Plus **NZ GUEST SPEAKERS**

WHERE: Vaughan Park, Torbay, Auckland
www.vaughanpark.org.nz

WHEN: 16-18th October 2007

FURTHER DETAILS AND REGISTRATION:

Email: admin.faithnursing@xtra.co.nz

Web Site : www.faithnursing.co.nz

“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagle; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint”.

Isaiah 40:31



Auckland

We have had a few enquirers after the recent article in the challenge magazine and these have been answered and referred to the conference as well. One person I spoke with is keen to come to the conference and begin practice in the new year.

Margaret is meeting with another nurse who is keen to start soon in her parish.

Margaret has also developed a no interest loans scheme for use within the parish and this begins as soon as the funds clear.

We are looking forward to having a visit from Diane in June.

Angela Anderson

South Island/ Canterbury

Late February, Lesley and I had an opportunity to share the vision of Faith Community Nurses at Tainui 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. Frances, who coordinates education for elderly care givers through the Polytechnic, is keen to have us, back later in the year to repeat our presentation.

In April I connected with Allison Wilden in Gore over coffee. It was great to encourage her in her Faith Community Nursing dream. She later emailed me to say she got funding from the regional DHB to run a foot clinic. So she is on the way.

In May an invitation was sent out to our Canterbury FCN database. A few of us met over a light meal to hear each other journey in FCN and to encourage the vision in each of us. We are planning another evening in July to look over an article topic relevant to Faith Community Nurse.

Diane Webster

Bay of Plenty

There is no report from Tauranga this month as Dorothy has just returned from her trip to England and Israel.

Welcome back Dorothy!

Napier

I continue to find work with FCN at St Mary's Taradale to be rewarding and feel privileged and also blessed to have the opportunity to share in the lives of people within the Parish. On 6th May, following the Sunday morning service, with the support of Cardiac specialist nurse, Maureen Bent, I conducted a free health check three other registered nurses, nursing students and their tutor also assisted. The response from the congregation far outweighed my expectations. The 43 people who attended had their blood pressures and blood sugars taken, and their BMI calculated. They then received a consultation from Maureen in regards to their results. It was an excellent opportunity for health education, with those with risk factors identified referred on to their GPs. The positive response that I have received from those who attended would indicate to me the need to repeat the clinic again at a later stage. Before I go out on a visit I pray and I know all too well from the experiences that I encounter, that the Lord certainly goes ahead of me. I can always seem to meet the need required even though at times I wonder how this will ever be accomplished! Recently I visited a lady who was concerned that she was no longer able to prune her roses- all 20 of them! I assured her that I would find someone to do this for her. I phoned a person who after church the week before had offered me assistance if I ever needed it and found that she loved pruning roses and would be delighted to do the job. Hmm, the Lord obviously knew a week in advance that I was going to encounter this need!

To the FCN board members thank you once again for your hard work in the promoting of FCN here in New Zealand and for the continual support you give to me. To all fellow FCN's I would like to say "keep up the good work".

"May your constant love be with us Lord, as we put our hope in you" Psalm, 33: 22

Anne Simonsen

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20 NTV

Please Pray

- † For the board as they plan the October Conference, that they would know God's leading
- † Pray for the Speakers.
- † Pray that nurses who feel called to the FCN ministry will be able to attend.
- † For Diane as the National Co-ordinator.



From the Editor

Can you believe it is nearly the shortest day of the year already? I hope you have all organised your leave so you can attend the conference. Vaughan Park is a lovely place. It will be a chance to meet and network with other Christian nurses and also a time to relax and recharge. See you there.

Kris