

**NEW ZEALAND FAITH
COMMUNITY NURSES
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

November 2003

365 Trafalgar St
NelsonP.O. Box 64
Kaiapoi**From the Chairperson's desk**

Welcome to our first official NZFCNA 'newsletter', which I have been promising to get out to you for sometime. We have had a busy time to date with the groundwork involved in establishing NZFCNA as an association. The draft copy of the constitution is with the lawyer, to be presented to IRD and then registered with the company office.

Our first Board meeting was held in Wellington to look at the competencies required by Nursing Council. These have been delegated out to members and need to be returned to the secretary by the 19th January 2004. Special thanks goes to Faith Roberts and NZNO for all their help. Continue to pray that the incorporation and competency process goes smoothly.

Next Board Meeting Date – 5th March 2004

To be held in Palmerston North - please make this date a priority and if necessary book your flights to get the budget fare. There will be more details to come.

Board members are: Margaret Birtles, Dorothy Finlay, Raewyn McDonagh, Jenny Campbell, Ruth Lyons, Shelley Mills, Wendy Scott, Diane Webster, Elaine Tyrrell, Heather Spence, Marjorie Newcombe, Pauline French.

Membership with NZFCNA

Please find enclosed an application form to become a member of NZFCNA. We hope that you will complete this and return to Diane with your fees as soon as possible. This will ensure that you are included on our database, receive regular newsletters, have the opportunity to have your voice heard in the running of this association and be part of nursing history!!

We suggest that your faith community be approached to pay for your membership and at \$25 per annum we felt that was realistic. We shall be using the funds to network, liaise with Nursing Council and other agencies, provide an annual conference and support those as they seek to serve God in this valuable ministry

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Reverend Charles Tyrrell

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Chairperson

Elaine F Tyrrell
The Deanery
365 Trafalgar Street
Nelson
Tel/fax: 03 548 8574
Email:
etyrrell@xtra.co.nz

Secretary/Treasurer

Diane Webster
P.O. Box 64
Kaiapoi
Tel: 03 312 2430
Fax: 03 312 2431
Email:
cgwebster@xtra.co.nz



Please feel free to encourage others to join too – membership is open to any interested in this ministry so student nurses for example can become associate members and churches can become group members.

Indemnity Insurance

I have been in touch with those in the Anglican Church who plan insurance cover for employees within the Church. Currently AllChurches Insurance Ltd. together with Ecclesiastical Insurance (EIG) Ansvar is developing a new insurance cover, which should be in place by January 2004. This will cover volunteers as well as those in paid positions. Churches involved as well as Anglicans include: Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Baptist. The Roman Catholic Church and Salvation Army are currently observers.

In the meantime I am advised that to get adequate indemnity insurance cover as a Parish Nurse, that you need to be a member of a professional nursing body such as NZNO or the College of Nurses. As a volunteer, you can get 50% reduction for NZNO membership which gives you their insurance cover so that is a useful option. Liability of volunteers is a current hot topic in New Zealand due to changes in the law and the recent case of a prosecution of a volunteer. There has been an investigation by the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector section of the Ministry of Social Development so we cannot dismiss this topic out of hand.

TRAINING DAY

“Theological training course related to parish nursing”

It is a Spiritual Health Model via DEFT (Distance Education Formation and Training)

Training days:

Auckland 28 Feb

Dunedin 27 Mar

Hamilton 8 May

Christchurch 26

June

Contact Elaine via email or direct to admin.deft@xtra.co.nz Jenny Campbell will be attending the Auckland event.

Highly recommended for FCN training portfolio. Nursing Council has viewed it favourably



Prayer requests from our Australian FCNs

- Please continue to pray for the work of AFCNA who have so generously shared all their foundational work with us. Pray for **Marlies** in Western Australia as she seeks God's guidance in her ministry. Pray for **Anne van Loon** in her new work with homeless and addicted women. She writes: “I am fully trusting God to lead me in the way he sees us able to help these precious women”

Please pray for Milly Davey a young FCN in Australia, and mother of three young girls whose husband has sustained an injury in a fall and as a result has become a quadriplegic. Please pray for Christ healing to God's glory.



The Address by the Very Reverend Charles Tyrrell

At the Service of Dedication & Commissioning
FCN Training Course – Nelson - 5 July 2003

Jesus said, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."
St John 13:14-16

In these words of the Saviour we have evidence of the nature of the Lord we serve and the extent of our call to ministry. The word which links both, is service. Many people talk about service these days without realizing its true meaning and true costliness. The purveyors of kitchen whiteware talk of service contracts for when their machines break down, which they inevitably will. For them the cost of this service is built in to the original price, and is therefore no real service at all. True service involves sacrifice, and sacrifice is a word which is all but abandoned in our vernacular vocabulary today. In the church, we need to be modelling to the community what real service is, the unselfish and costly offering of self in the service of others. When a Christian fails to serve then she or he denies the Christ in them, abandons the servant nature of their calling, and becomes selfish and self-seeking. This is the complete antithesis of the nature of Christ as we know it from Holy Scripture.

Today though, you have gathered in this holy place to offer up in thanksgiving all that you have learned and experienced this week, and to seek God's guidance for your future ministry. For some the only consequence of these training days will be the setting up of a faith community nurse ministry in your location. For others, there will be questions which may not have been resolved, and a confusion about what the next step along the journey will be. There may be some who will say that this ministry is not right for them, or is not right at this time or in the place where they are. Whatever your thinking, wherever your mind is at this point in time, know that God honours the time and commitment you have put into these days. The thinking and the praying will not have been in vain, for out of this will come a call to ministry of some sort, I am sure. As I indicated yesterday, all those baptised in the triune name are expected to fulfil the ministry to which they have been called. If each of us leaves with that intention in mind, then God will respond to our faith with guidance and direction.

Each time I read the Gospel passage from St John 13:1-20, I am reminded of the Chapel at my theological college in London. During my time there a new hanging was commissioned to go behind the altar, with the theme of service. Two of the strongest images in the hanging were the pitcher and bowl, symbolizing the humble service we offer after the fashion of Christ. Our Lord came to serve and not to be served, we are told. We are placed in the church to serve and not to be served, and that is precisely what you will be doing, what some of you are doing in this wonderful ministry. The universal Church is going through difficult times, most of the problems of their own making. There is a great need in the church for a upsurge in the healing and caring ministry, the foot washing ministry of you like, and faith community nursing is poised to meet that need perfectly. Faith Community Nursing is a ministry whose time has come, I am utterly convinced of that. It is firmly placed in the mainstream ministries of the church alongside and complementing mission and evangelism, nurture and teaching, worship and prayer.

Do you recall Peter's initial reaction to having his feet washed by Jesus? "You will never wash my feet" Jesus' response put him right, and speaks volumes to us today as well, "Unless I wash you, you have no share in me."



Those who are called to ministry have to be prepared and ready to receive ministry themselves. We have to be open to the ministry of the Spirit who challenges us, teaches us, empowers us, and commissions us. We also have to be open to receiving ministry from others in the church. None of us is perfect. We are all capable of making mistakes. Failure is a constant option for us if and when we rely on our own meagre resources instead of depending on God. As we wash each other's feet metaphorically or practically, we wash away our differences and hurts, we wash away our lack of faith and our lack of vision, and we are reminded that in Christ we are altogether clean. Symbolically, the first view we have of each other is our feet, because that is where we begin our service. On our knees we are in fellowship with the Servant Lord. On our knees we are in the perfect position for prayer as humility becomes our strength and service becomes our song of welcome.

Soon you will receive your certificates of attendance and be invited to receive the anointing with oil. As you prepare to leave always remember that the Holy Spirit is present in all power to equip you for your ministry, and to prepare the hearts of your people to receive what you have to offer. Ultimately that is yourself, all you are and all you hope to be in the service of God and the church. Even if you fail, especially when you think you have failed, remember the Spirit is closer to you than when you are full of confidence, which can soon evaporate into pride. At our weakest moments we are closest to Christ and his cross, and we can then pick up our cross and be a true disciple again.

To conclude this brief address, please listen to this moving, yet painfully truthful prayer of a South African Christian, Joe Seramane:

“You asked for my hands
that you might use them for your purpose,
I gave them for a moment then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth
to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes
to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life
that you might work through me.
I gave a small part that I might not be too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
only in the places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me,
renew me, send me out
as a usable instrument
that I might take seriously
the meaning of your cross.

Amen.



What NZFCNA is doing Nationwide

AUCKLAND

Congratulations to Ruth Lyons who was commissioned as Parish Nurse at St Peter's, Pakuranga, Auckland on 7th September 2003. Please pray for her and her Vicar, Jean as they develop their Faith Community Health Team. They are supported by Michelle who is a nursing tutor at the University.

Jo Conaglen from Mercy Parklands Rest Home and Hospital in Auckland has been to Nelson to discuss with Elaine how parish nursing might be used as a form of outreach into the community from the rest home. This is an idea also shared by the Salvation Army in Nelson and Selwyn Village in Auckland. Watch this space.

NELSON

Well done Valerie Sirett, Parish Nurse at Nelson Cathedral, who spoke to the Nelson Diocesan Synod as part of the Bishop's exploration of the need for outreach and mission.

WELLINGTON

Great News! Revd Jenny Campbell has now been appointed Parish Nurse Facilitator to the Anglican Diocese of Wellington.

TAURANGA

We welcome Anne Davidson from Matamata who has done a postgraduate paper in faith community nursing through Avondale College, Cooranbong, Australia. She has just started working 8 hours a week in Tauranga as a Parish Nurse at her church as well as working at Tauranga Hospital as an oncology nurse. If anyone knows Judi Turnbull, Anne has been in touch with her but tells us that she is no longer parish nursing.

NAPIER

Anne Simonsen from Taradale, Napier has recently been exploring the idea of setting up this ministry in her parish at St Mary's with her parish priest and at a parish meeting. She writes: "The parish manager has confirmed that the implementation of a FCN for our parish will be a goal for 2004. Praise God!" *Please pray* for her as she starts on this journey. She will be meeting with Elaine as this newsletter goes to press!



Useful web sites – to access Parish Nursing Information

- www.afcna.org.au Australian Faith Community Nurses Association.
- <http://ipnrc.parishnurses.org/index.phtml> International Parish Nurse Resource Center in St Louis
- <http://www.healthministriesassociation.org> Health Ministries Association.
- www.moh.govt.nz/nursing.html Ministry of Health specific to nursing and provides links to publications, nursing education etc. You could check out the Primary Health Care Strategy via this site if you are not familiar with it.
- www.medicineandstory.com Brian Broom, a Christian doctor working in Christchurch has developed this site. He spoke at our first FCN conference in 2001.

He writes:

"For the last 15 years I have been exploring the relationships between patients' life stories (or personal meanings) and the development of physical illness and disease. The extent of these connections is largely unknown in Western clinical practice (including both medicine and psychotherapy) because the culture of healthcare is intensely dualistic, reductionistic, and dominantly biophysical.

As time has progressed I have been more and more scandalised by the lack of attention to our patients and clients stories in our consideration of their physical illnesses. More than that, our work has shown that many people with intractable symptoms, recurrent physical health problems, and specific supposedly purely physical diseases, can achieve substantial symptom relief and/or cure if a story approach is added to our usual biomedical armoury.

In 1997, in an attempt to help rectify this situation, my book "SOMATIC ILLNESS AND THE PATIENT'S OTHER STORY" was published. It is a conceptual and how-to-do book directed at doctors and psychotherapists who want to add a 'story' approach to their work. This is still being well received, and has led to pressure to write another book directed particularly at patients and clients. In the end I decided to construct a user-friendly, interactive, on-line facility that people with physical illnesses can use to explore the relationships between their symptoms and their 'stories.' It was a huge task! But now we have a large easily navigable site constructed in two halves in a 'journey' format.

The first half, which is free of charge, educates and enables people to think about the mind/body connections, and addresses, amongst other things, the doubts and fears that, over the years, we have found prevent people considering such things for themselves. The second half, which one can use for a very small fee, is full of sequential exercises and tasks that build on each other and that enable patients/clients to explore their own story/illness connections. Again, these exercises are based on things we have found by trial and error (over a long period) to help patients make such connections and get well.

Many patients and clients will be able to use ILLNESS EXPLORER without clinical help, and it is constructed simply enough to allow that. But we suspect a major utilisation will be via interested clinicians who are struggling with patients/clients with physical illnesses that are difficult to manage (for a variety of reasons, or for whom there is no satisfactory medical treatment. In these situations we envisage doctors and therapists suggesting to their patients and clients that they do the ILLNESS EXPLORER journey, and offering ongoing support for this, even suggesting they come back to the clinician to discuss it and work together on that which is being discovered.

So, it is a tool that you as a clinician can use to support your work, in an area in which you are keen to offer help, but may feel you do not have the skills or the time to do this. NOTE: WE INTEND ILLNESS EXPLORER TO BE USED ALONGSIDE ANY OTHER USEFUL TREATMENT OR THERAPY. It is not an either/or situation."



The Future for NZFCNA

- Elaine had the opportunity to teleconference with Faith Robert's (from NZNO) friend Cathy Cooney, a Christian nurse currently in the role of CEO of Lakes DHB. She was very supportive of the concept of parish nursing and was able to share how we need to approach Primary Health Organisations for funding. She encourages us to keep the vision and keep moving!
- Elaine was invited to speak to the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia in Wellington in October at their training conference. Each Bishop received a folder of how parish nursing can be an effective form of ministry. She was encouraged to submit a motion to the General Synod, which meets next year, to ensure that policies and standards are put in place and the idea is promoted. *Please pray* as she works on this proposal and for the reception of the funding application already made to ensure ongoing training opportunities.
- The Dean of Suva Cathedral followed up the information sharing at the Dean's conference in Dunedin, which Elaine participated in with Charles. *Please pray* that this germ of an idea might grow.
- Penny Mashlan, the Family worker at St John's Cooperating Parish, has been encouraging that parish to explore parish nursing. It was a dream of their former minister, Revd Bob Tewhaiti, that they should explore this. *Please pray* that the Holy Spirit will prompt when the time is right.
- The Anglican Parish of Atawhai-Hira is meeting with Elaine this month to discuss the next stage of setting up the parish nurse ministry. Their new Vicar, Michael Lawrence is very keen and they have a good group of members with health-related roles. *Pray for* Ann Newton and Rosalind Pritchard as they share what they discovered at the training in July.
- *Please pray* for those others making enquiries: Bridget, Vanessa, Barbara, and Robyn.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This is your Newsletter!

Please send us any articles, useful websites, pictures, poems, prayers, comments or news, which we could include in future newsletters.

We are also very interested to learn more about your skills – perhaps you might consider sending us your CV? We hope to use the expertise we have as an organisation, as we develop this ministry. Such information would be confidential to the Board and only shared with your permission.