



Parish Nurse Newsletter

Winter 2012

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Mission Statement

The Parish Nurse Newsletter serves to:

- create a bond between parish nurses and the staff of LCMS Health Ministries
- report creative programs developed in the field
- inform parish nurses of resources available from various sources and encourage them in their vocation.

A message from Marcy

By Marcia Schnorr, RN, EdD
Coordinator for Parish Nursing, LCMS Health Ministries

Why in the world. . . ? Whenever someone asks me “why in the world. . .” it is usually because they think I have done something foolish or thoughtless. This is even true as we (as LCMS parish nurses) have begun to share parish nursing with the world. Even a brief look at the concordance of a Bible will reveal many Scriptural texts that tell us to go into the world.

LCMS parish nurses provide a witness of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, as we serve others with acts of mercy. These acts of mercy may be serving on a medical mission team. The acts of mercy might be in encouraging and supporting new opportunities for parish nursing in other Lutheran faith communities. The acts of mercy might be in serving refugees and immigrants from other parts of the world who are now located in our communities.

This issue of the *Parish Nurse Newsletter* provides first person accounts by parish nurses who have gone into the world — or responded when the world came to them. It also provides but a few of the opportunities for stepping out of the box and going into the world. If you are unable to participate by going, you can participate by supporting. Your prayers, donations and encouragement are of value to those who do go and to the people who are served.

Opportunities for service

Several opportunities exist for Lutheran parish nurses to serve in international settings by either using clinical nursing skills through acts of mercy, or by encouraging and/or supporting parish nursing in developing countries. A few of these are listed below.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem provides assistance in coordinating a parish nurse team each year (usually in late November) that provides assistance and support to the parish nurse in Bethlehem (Christmas Lutheran Church and Dar-al-Kalima). Parish nurses and others are welcome. Contact Marcia Schnorr for more information at marcyschnorr2009@gmail.com

The **LCMS Mercy Medical Team (MMT) program** is part of the LCMS International Mission and organizes and sends medical professionals to volunteer their time and expertise to work in underserved areas of great need overseas. The program works in conjunction with LCMS international partner churches and missionaries to help serve indigenous populations. Each team consists of approximately seven to 15 volunteers and may include medical professionals, LCMS pastors and hard-working non-



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medical volunteers. The teams set up temporary primary care clinics in remote areas or internally displaced person settlements where facilities are not available and sometimes work in established medical facilities. To date, the MMT program has donated and administered more than \$1,000,000 (retail value) of prescriptions and over-the-counter medications to overseas partners through reduced prices and charitable donations. Parish nurses are valued in this outreach of mercy. www.lcms.org/mercyteams

Lutheran Parish Nurses International, NFP is a network of Lutheran parish nurses from various international Lutheran denominations for the purpose of promoting the vocation of Lutheran parish nursing worldwide. An annual study tour provides the opportunity for mutual service and networking through sharing and learning. See the article in this issue of *Parish Nurse Newsletter* describing the upcoming study tour for 2012. Parish nurses are welcome to join. www.lpni.org

Lutherans in Medical Mission (LIMM) serves Global Lutheran Partners in sharing the healing Christ in medically underserved communities. LIMM links qualified health professionals to other global mission sending agencies and financial giving opportunities. www.limm.org

MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term) offers numerous opportunities for short-term missions in several and varied international destinations and objectives. Some opportunities are specifically related to health and wellness. Other opportunities are environmental and/or educational. www.mostministries.org

A vocation of mercy through nursing; from the local congregation to the edge of the globe

By Janet Sanderson, RN

LCMS Rocky Mountain Parish Nurse District Representative and LCMS Mercy Medical Team Nursing Volunteer

'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' And the King will answer them, *'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me'* (Matt. 25:35–36, 40 ESV).

The New Testament gives ample witness to the church's purpose of mercy. The parish nurse is a vital, contemporary expression of this mercy and compassion. The parish nurse ministers through a faith community of individuals and families using health education and spiritual resources to promote wellness of *Spirit, Mind, and Body*. The parish nurses I serve with are an inspiration, women I respect and would like to emulate, as do the wonderful volunteers I have served with in the mission field.

My own philosophy of nursing continues to grow and evolve. As my practice expands, I recognize that being a nurse has taught me about being human. I have gained different perspectives and developed an essence of who I am as a person and as a professional. I have also learned to adapt to and respect the cultural differences and perspectives of my patients in order to provide them with the care they desire.

As a medical professional, I had been in search of a way to serve both the community and to serve God. I acquainted myself with LCMS Mercy Medical Teams a few years ago while searching for a short-term medical mission within the foundation of the Lutheran Church. The benefits of short-term missions may seem minute on the world scale. As a member of a Mercy Medical Team, I have had many opportunities to provide physical relief, as well as emotional and spiritual support to the hungry and hurting people of third world nations. Providing hope and the understanding that one is not alone in facing the heavy burdens of suffering is essential in the promotion of healing.

Because of these experiences, my nursing vision has evolved from the individual, to our global community. The relationship between health care and globalization is

Janet Sanderson, R.N., from Longmont, Colo., examines a small child at the LCMS Mercy Medical Team temporary clinic designed to serve residents living in isolated housing barracks erected after the tsunami four years ago in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.



becoming more defined as issues such as the AIDS epidemic, malnutrition, unsanitary conditions and the lack of medical treatment are recognized as problems faced by developing countries. Global health will affect many people with no regard to their age, gender, race, economic status, education or health condition. It is going to take great efforts in health care to globally deal with the health challenges of the world.

The continued pursuit of service in both my medical mission work and in parish nursing strengthens my desire for an advanced nursing degree as a family nurse practitioner. Many factors have contributed to my choice to progress in the profession of nursing. I desire to provide a positive influence in the lives of many by the provision of holistic nursing care both to my congregation, my LCMS district and to those I touch in the mission field.

God's repeated call . . . here and abroad

*Carol Zimmermann, RN, MS
parish nurse/pastor's wife, St. James Lutheran Church in Shawano, Wis.;
neuro-critical care staff nurse, St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay.*

"Say, Carol, do you use defibrillators where you work?"

So often in life we look to God for answers. My entrance into parish nursing and mission work to Bethlehem began with a series of questions. Dr. Les Schmidt (travel coordinator for Bright Stars Bethlehem) and his family had purchased an automated external defibrillator (AED) for the Health and Wellness Center sponsored by Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. Les was looking for a nurse to join the Parish Nurse Mission Team led by Marcia Schnorr, RN, EdD, to teach the staff how to use the AED. I was hooked! My husband had led tours to the Holy Land before and I was anxious to return. So in late November 2007 I joined the mission team of doctors, social workers and parish nurses. It was a privilege for me to work side-by-side with such talented nurses as they taught staff and nursing students from the Bethlehem area.

During one of our lunch discussions Sue Neff (a parish nurse from California) asked, *"Carol, have you thought about becoming a parish nurse?"*

Most of my nursing career has been spent in the Neuro Critical Care Unit. And, as a pastor's wife, I had a personal policy of not having any ministry totally dependent on "me doing it all." I had only some vague answer. "I have no background in teaching, home health, hospice, none of that stuff. What would I do?" I asked myself. I thought I had escaped. But God had other plans.

One year later I was back in Bethlehem with Marcia's 2008 Parish Nurse Team sharing our Community Stroke Screening program. During one of our lunch conversations, Dr. Jamie Spikes (a parish nurse from Kansas) asked, *"Carol, why shouldn't you be the parish nurse in your congregation?"* This time I had even less of an answer. It was another one of those questions I couldn't shake.

Throughout the spring of 2009 I began to see the needs in our congregation and how parish nursing might assist. I began to see the nurses and worshipers around me who would partner with me in a new ministry. Then God sent the question (via the mail) from Carol Lueders Bolwerk, RN, MSN, PhD, (a parish nurse from Wisconsin) and Concordia University Wisconsin, *"Will you join us for our next parish nurse class?"*

How to Support LCMS World Relief and Human Care

You can make a gift three ways:

1. **By mail** (gifts by check):
LCMS World Relief and
Human Care
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

(Please make your check to LCMS World Relief and Human Care. If you want to designate a specific ministry, please mark that on the check notation line.)

2. **By telephone** (credit card gifts):
toll-free 1-888-930-4438

3. **Online** (credit card gifts):
www.lcms.org/givenow

You can support the general work of WR-HC (by designating your gift for "where needed most") or you can designate a specific WR-HC project, category or ministry. Here are some examples of how your gift may be designated:

- **Where needed most:** These gifts can be used in any area that supports WR-HC ministry, including support for unexpected needs and opportunities to share Christ's mercy.
- **WR-HC projects include:** 1001 Orphans, Project 24, Building Homes and Hope in Haiti and Mercy Medical Teams.
- **General need categories include:** hunger, children, medical, water, education.
- **WR-HC ministries include:** Parish Nursing, Health Ministries, Life Ministries, Veterans of the Cross (impoverished church work retirees), Prison Ministry, Chaplaincy, Disaster Response, etc.



When I was privileged to again connect with the Bethlehem team in November 2009, I came along as a parish nurse, very new and just at the start of the ministry in my congregation. My role was to lead a staff development day focusing on provider and community stroke education. It was my task this November 2011 to prepare our mission staff and to assist with community stroke screenings in Bethlehem and Nablus.

God is finding ways to show me that parish nursing is for acute care nurses, too, and that I have much to learn and much to offer. Here at home, our Parish Nurse ministry is developing. I have key people who support the ministry and who are willing to share the joy of service. It's coming.

God sent me to Bethlehem to be inspired, to serve and to find my path into parish nursing. It was not answers He provided, but a series of experienced, enthusiastic, top-flight parish nurses who asked His challenging questions to a nurse who did not know she was looking for answers. Now it's my turn: *Will you be the parish nurse who has the courage to ask those challenging questions of another nurse?*

A pastor's perspective

Rev. Fred Zimmermann

St. James Lutheran Church, Shawano, Wis.

Beyond being married to a parish nurse (which is the best), I am privileged to experience the blessings of this deeply caring ministry in our own parish and in mission opportunities to the cradle of our faith and salvation, both near and afar. Christ's love is borderless and all geographical regions are near to the heart of Jesus.

In our own parish, the hands on, heartfelt caring of a blood pressure taken shows the love and care of our Great Physician. We may take the professionalism of our nurses for granted, but I'm particularly impressed by the dignity, follow-up care and compassion they show. It is an opportunity for greater trust to develop within the church and for the message of Jesus' love to extend from not only His Word, but also His touch.

It is the same in modern-day Bethlehem, but with a different dimension. The church's outreach there is about real people who live in different worlds and yet share the same basic human needs. Our experience as a mission team in Bethlehem involved a unique bonding with each other as together we experienced a wall of separation (literally!) in the midst of places where Jesus walked to free us from the divisive walls of sin. Our mission team has been honored to witness this ministry that goes on in the Holy Land, and enter into it for a time. This region requires a ministry of living the love of Jesus in the context of two other world religions; and to translate His love and compassion into the midst of conflict and hatred. We worshiped at Christmas Lutheran Church in many languages at the same time, reminding us that God is the God of unity and hears the prayers of His people from every language and corner of the world. His love does not know our limits. We worshiped at this church and later walked 10 minutes away to worship again — kneeling at the birthplace of our Lord.

The parish nurse ministry that happens in Bethlehem and Palestine is very similar to what happens in my own parish in many respects. The roads in Palestine are dusty and more difficult to travel, but the human touch and the loving Lord work the same miracle. Our nurses have been blessed to participate in this ministry in Bethlehem. They share here as well as there in an ongoing way, the healing ministry of our Lord.

How to Subscribe

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To receive this newsletter in printed form, please send your request along with your current address to:

*LCMS World Relief and Human Care
Attn: Parish Nurse Newsletter
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Support LCMS Health Ministries

LCMS Health Ministries is an outreach of LCMS World Relief and Human Care. All programs of LCMS Health Ministries are funded strictly by donations from caring people like you. No dollars come from the Missouri Synod's unrestricted budget.

Your generous gift to the international and domestic work of LCMS Health Ministries will help to uphold the message of Christ's mercy to all in body and soul. [Click here to help.](#)

News Welcomed!

We want to know what you're up to, what issues you are facing, and what programs are working in your congregation or agency! We welcome story suggestions, questions, short articles or photographs that highlight achievements in parish nursing.

If you have news you'd like to share, contact Dr. Marcia Schnorr at marcyschnorr2009@gmail.com or 815-562-6823.

Please note: Editorial staff reserve the right to edit or decline articles.

Parish nursing in every corner of the earth!

HisStory Downunder was the theme for the Second Annual Study Tour for Lutheran Parish Nurses International, NFP. Hosts Rev. Bob and Lynette Wiebusch (Australia) planned an itinerary that included much history regarding the Lutheranism in Australia — much of which paralleled the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We learned of the desire of confessional Lutherans to be true to Scripture as they found themselves in a Germany that was changing. We learned of the importance that the new Lutherans in Australia placed on education, caring for the ill and aged, and reaching out with the Gospel to those who had not heard — especially the aborigines and those in nearby Papua New Guinea.

Our journey took us to the Lutheran Archives, the headquarters for the Lutheran Church in Australia, Lutheran Laypeople's Association, Luther College and Seminary, a Lutheran facility for the aged, several churches and major historical sites. In each location we met with leaders including Rev. Dr. Mike Semler, president of the Lutheran Church in Australia.

As a part of the tour we were privileged to participate in the annual seminar hosted by Lutheran Nurses Association. I was privileged to present “*Parish Nursing: Side Door Evangelism*” as well as provide an overview of parish nursing in the United States with a special emphasis on parish nursing in the LCMS. Sue Neff (Lakeside, Calif.) provided an overview of parish nursing in Bethlehem (West Bank) and the outreach by LCMS parish nurses to provide ongoing support and encouragement. Jamie Spikes (Manhattan, Kan.) provided a devotion on the theme of “*Happy Birthday.*”

Celebrating 5 Years of Parish Nursing in Bethlehem was a major focus for the team of LCMS parish nurses and other interested people who traveled with me to Bethlehem Nov. 25 through Dec. 2. The journey included an opportunity to visit Christmas Lutheran Church, Church of the Nativity, the Separation Wall and other Bethlehem area sites. More importantly, we were able to serve through presentations at Azwaj (young couples group), provide stroke screenings and/or teach the FAST stroke assessment to seniors in Bethlehem, Taybeh and Nablus through the Ajyal outreach.

In addition to the stroke screenings the team was able to join in a celebration thanking God for the blessings He has provided through the five years of parish nursing in Bethlehem. In addition to Raeda Mansour, RN, FCN, still the only parish nurse in the West Bank, God has blessed them with Ragdah Sansour (an LPN) who has worked with Raeda almost since the onset of parish nursing in Bethlehem. The NID Parish Nurse Network shared a curriculum for congregational health ministers that was translated into Arabic for Ragdah's use. Karen Hardecopf (NID Parish Nurse District Representative) and I (serving as educational chairperson for NID Parish Nurse Network) presented Ragdah with a certificate and a health ministry pin.

The final two days of the trip were spent making pilgrimage visits in and around Jerusalem and into Galilee.

Although the details are still being discussed, it is anticipated that a parish nurse team will travel to Bethlehem in November/December 2012. If you would like more information on how to be a part of this, contact me at marcyschnorr2009@gmail.com



Photo 1: LPNI tour participants were able to see a 16th century Bible owned by Martin Luther during their visit to Luther College and Seminary in Adelaide.

Photo 2: Marcia Schnorr, RN, EdD (LCMS Parish Nurse Coordinator) presented “*Parish Nursing: Side Door Evangelism*” at the annual seminar hosted by Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia.

Photo 3: LPNI tour members from Australia, Finland and the United States visit the Barosa Valley site, settled by German Lutheran pilgrims to Australia.

Photo 4: New van and driver secured through donations through a parish nurse led initiative enables nurses to make more visits to seniors in the Bethlehem villages and allows seniors in Bethlehem who lack transportation to attend senior activities through AJYAL.

Photo 5: Raeda Mansour (Parish Nurse at Christmas Lutheran Church) addresses an audience of about 250 seniors attending an event at the International Center affiliated with Diyar and Christmas Lutheran Church.

Come join us! LPNI study tour to Finland September 2012

The third annual study tour sponsored by LPNI begins in Oulu, Finland, on Sept. 3, 2012. The first two days will be spent attending the Health Promotion Seminar *A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body*, at Oulu Diaconia University of Applied Sciences and visiting the Evangelical Lutheran parishes of Oulu. (Note: In Finland the term diaconal nurse is the familiar term. You will learn why during the trip.)

From Oulu, participants will be transported by bus to Rovaniemi in Lapland where we will visit the Rovaniemi parish and meet with diaconal workers and make a stop on the Polar Circle.

The bus will then transport us to Enontekiö where we will have a day at rest for optional activities. After the day of rest, we will spend the day in Enontekiö visiting the parish and learning about social and health care with the Sami people. From here we will travel to Kilpisjärvi Hikincenter.

From Kilpisjärvi we will travel to Tromsø, Norway, and visit the Arctic cathedral and begin our return to Oulu along the Tornio River Valley (part of which is through Sweden). The tour ends Sept. 10 when we return to Oulu.

For more information, contact Lea.Rattya@diak.



Resources

Fast Facts for Faith Community Nurses by Janet S. Hickman is a 224-page book published by Springer Publications and available online (www.springerpub.com) for \$25. It is one of the more practical books for the busy, practicing parish nurse with many topics written in simple, easy-to-follow format with bullet lists and simple suggestions. Although there are times that a more theoretical book serves as a useful academic text, *Fast Facts* serves a valuable role for the novice and the mentor. The book is so helpful, that I have now lost (or misplaced) two copies. I am sure they are out helping someone, but I may need to get another copy for my library.

Did you complete your parish nurse education through the course at Concordia University Wisconsin? If so, parish nurse pins are available for purchase from carol.luedersbolwerk@cuw.edu. These pins are for CUW parish nurses only. If you completed your parish nurse education elsewhere and desire a parish nurse pin, check with your provider. Some other programs also offer pins.



LCMS World Relief and Human Care Health Ministries

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