

# *News from the World Forum for Parish Nursing Ministries*



International Parish Nurse Resource Center  
A Ministry of the Church Health Center  
[www.parishnurses.org](http://www.parishnurses.org)

*Mission: The World Forum for Parish Nursing Ministries committed to promoting intentional care of the spirit by integrating faith and health in wholistic nursing care locally, nationally, and internationally. (adopted 2006)*

**December, 2011**

**Vol. 3 No. 11**

Dear World Forum Members,

Peace be to you all! My husband shared with me a resource called, *Quest, A Reflection Booklet for Small Christian Communities*, published by the diocese of Hartford, CT. It had a wonderful reflection for Christmas Day, speaking about "gift". We celebrate the gift of God's Son to us and also the gift God gives of ourselves to us and to others. Can you see what the gift is that God has given you to be for others? And what gift have others given you this day? Are there gifts that you have not opened from God? Are there others who have no gift or no one to give to them? God asks us to be childlike in receiving our gifts from Him with open and grateful hearts and to share them as we see the need. Everyone of you is a wonderful gift from God to yourself, your family, community, and to us. Let us have grateful hearts for these wonderful gifts of God. We often don't see all that we give, but it is there nonetheless. And God sees it. May you receive your hearts' fullness of God's gifts. Christmas blessings!

Maureen

## *Reports from Other Countries*

### **Madagascar**

Here are some notes that our project Coordinator, Hortense Rabetsara, received from the Parish Nurses there in November, 2011.

Josiane in Toamasina

She wrote me (Hortense) a letter and this is the translation. "I do not have any special things to share with you but I have some experience that convinced me. From some moment, I felt that without the formation that I got when Maureen was here, I truly believe that I would still have some missing things that I need for taking care of people. Listening to someone is very important in communication. I experienced that when people come to see me at home or at the hospital or at church. Sometimes, **patients told me that they had the chance to get to know me and have the opportunity to meet a person who can listen to them even when there is no medical care.** In this case I always remember the source of the formation I got in Antsirabe. I am so lucky. Thank God, and thanks to you as well.

For me this kind of formation is good, and not only for Nurses but also for those who are working in the field of health like doctor, midwife, etc...Once again, thank you Maureen for the good

formation you gave us. My God bless you. Next is my report.”

From Felana in Antsirabe

I noticed that people are suffering because of the economical crises. Due to that many people have problem with blood pressure, insuffisance cardiaque, heart problems and depression.

From Francoise in Antananarivo

Now I am the accountant in our Church in Antsobolo where we go every Sunday. In this place I take the opportunity to practice the role of Parish Nurse. Last October, I got the benediction from the Bishop in Antananarivo to bring the Body of Christ to those who are sick at home or at the hospital and to teach catechism to those who do not have fixed religion. I thank God for that big opportunity. I got this chance not only as laity in our church but also as a Parish Nurse. This role is not very common in our church.

These stories remind us of what Parish Nursing is and what it is giving to their clients. Again it is spiritual care that has helped the clients and given them hope, as well as renewing the nurse herself. Thank you to the Malagasy Parish Nurses and Coordinator.

## Malawi

Greetings from the "Warm Heart Of Africa" - Malawi

Thank you for the newsletters all year. Sometimes I can't reply because of lack of internet services, but I do get to them when the service is up again.

I am spending the holidays here in Malawi.

Our church does a hospital outreach at the local government hospital to the pediatric units, which include pediatric oncology, intensive care, stepdown and general med/surg peds. Since Christmas is on Sunday, we will visit from 7AM-8:30AM before going to our regular church service. Then in the afternoon we share treats with children in the village where I live. There will be about 200 children this year. Many of them are orphans. They are so precious.

It has been an amazing year and God has been so wonderful as always. I pray that everyone has an amazing team this season and the New Year brings love, joy, peace and all the things you need.

Everyone is welcomed to come and visit Malawi.

Blessings to you.

Rosetta Swinton, RN, FCN



Rosetta in her village with the children she serves.

## **Growth of Chronic Illness in Our Countries**

These statistics continue to demonstrate the need for more health education, screening and counseling to curb these diseases. Thus the need for Parish Nursing also grows! MD

### **Pakistan To Be 4th Largest Diabetic Population Country By 2030**

*Dec. 12, 2011*

International Diabetes Federation (IDF) president-elect Sir Michael Hirst has said that more than 300 million people have diabetes, representing six percent of the world's adult population, with numbers increasing fast everywhere.

This he said on Sunday while addressing the second session of a 3-day Second International Conference on Diabetes 2011 that began on Saturday. It is being jointly organized by the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) and the Diabetic Association of Pakistan (DAP).

Hirst said an additional seven million people develop the disease each year. "By 2025, IDF estimates that 380 million people will have diabetes, with the greatest burden falling on low and middle-income countries. It is causing premature deaths in both children and adults, and devastating complications including amputations, kidney and heart disease. The cost of diabetes is challenging health systems even in the wealthiest countries", he said.

*©2011 Daily Times*

**For complete article, visit:** <http://bit.ly/sLNgrI> , from Global Health Council News, 12/2011; category: News from Other Sources : General Health News contributed by Winnie Mutch on 15 December 2011.

### *Resources:*

## **IPNRC 2009 FFCN Curriculum is Translated into French**

We just received word that the 2009 IPNRC Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Curriculum is now translated into French. This work has been accomplished through the help of Sr. Ernestine LaPlante and an associate from Canada. If anyone needs more information on this, please contact me at [mdaniels@churchhealthcenter.org](mailto:mdaniels@churchhealthcenter.org). Thank you so much, Sr. Ernestine.

## **Resources on Missions and Cross Cultural Living**

From Christian Connections for International Health at [www.ccih.org](http://www.ccih.org)

### **[Changed Agents: Nine Years in Nepal](#) - A New Book by Dr. Nick Henwood**

Dr. Nick Henwood of CCIH member [Community Health Global Network](#) (CHGN) and his wife Ros, recently published [Changed Agents: Nine Years in Nepal](#) that tells the story of their sojourn in Nepal in the 1990s and early 2000s.

"They thrived in a remote village, and in a cosmopolitan town; working with Christian and secular organizations. Nick pioneered a TB and HIV programme, while Ros and a Nepali friend prayed him through each obstacle. They raised two daughters, negotiated red tape, faced political unrest, and engaged with the rapidly-growing Nepali church. Intending to be change agents, they found Nepal changed them."

Told by both Nick and Ros in their own words, the book provides a fresh "de-mystifying" look at cross-cultural living, including how they tackled many thorny issues. Information on purchasing the book can be found [here](#).

*"They worked side by side and tell their story side by side. In this fascinating kaleidoscope they describe honestly, humbly and humorously how they survived, adapted, and served community and church." | Dr Andrew Fergusson, Former Head of Communications, Christian Medical Fellowship*

*"Here is a couple who tell it as it is, share what it was like to work with Christian and secular agencies, live through political unrest, cope with bureaucracy, handle conflict between expatriates, and raise kids in another culture...This is a must read for anyone who is considering cross-cultural work overseas. Don't go abroad until you have read this! Don't encourage others to go abroad until they have read it!" | Rev. Dr. David & Rosemary Harley, Former principal of All Nations Christian College and General Director of OMF*

### Christmas Prayer of Pope John XXIII

**One:** O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which (we) sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give. . . .Help (us) to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to (us) also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in (our) hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join (us) all together in your love and give us your heavenly peace.

[www.churchyear.net/christmasprayers.html](http://www.churchyear.net/christmasprayers.html)

**All:** Amen.

May God bless you richly with His abundant gifts. May we all know more of Christ's peace, despite the conditions, and turmoil of our daily world.

Maureen

Maureen Daniels RN MN  
Dir. of International Programs and Coordinator's Support  
International Parish Nurse Resource Center

[mdaniels@churchhealthcenter.org](mailto:mdaniels@churchhealthcenter.org)

901-305-9090

[www.parishnurses.org](http://www.parishnurses.org)

[www.churchhealthcenter.org](http://www.churchhealthcenter.org)

[www.chreader.org](http://www.chreader.org)

