



LCA Pastoral Care Nurse **NOTES & NEWS**

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Reflection Reflection

As I write this article, Victoria is in lockdown once again. I reflect on the last few months -- where I was and where I am now, in the different aspects of my life.



My role as a Pastoral Care Nurse in an aged-care facility was no longer right for me. I struggled for two years trying to work out what God's will is for me. I really felt it was in ministry with older people, their families, the staff and volunteers of the aged-care facility where I was employed. I was so blessed to work in a role where I could talk openly about faith and spirituality. In the first 10 years I was always happy to go to work; nothing was a burden. Then things changed.

Do you have time to reflect on your work role? How is it for you? Where does God fit in your everyday life? Has COVID made a difference to your role, your career, or to God's calling in your life?

My role now is still with older people: in my family, caring for my parents and my mother-in-law. I also have a part time paid position in a secular environment, where my role is two-fold: as an RN and as a care coordinator. As I reflect on my feelings, I am more contented than I have been for a long while.

Reflection is something useful for learning and for spiritual growth. God walks with me in my new work environment, and maybe it is time for me to spread my wings and work in a secular world again. I find I watch my words, being careful not to offend. A former work colleague gave me a piece of scripture to take with me: *She is clothed in strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future* (Proverbs 31:25). For me this is personal. It says to me to go out with courage and witness by living in a way that reflects all that Jesus and the scriptures have taught me. It also reminds me that, at the end of the day/life, I can look forward to eternal life.

God goes with me in my new role. Pastoral care ministry is something that is built inside me, and already I notice that people talk with me about deep and meaningful matters. I am getting referrals that require spiritual care. In the uncertain secular world we live in, there is much needed to support the wellbeing of people.

Some articles/websites that I have found useful lately are:

<https://training.ndiscommission.gov.au/> there is free training available on this site about the NDIS, including the dignity of risk. It is a reminder about care planning and keeping the person involved.

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/clinical-governance-as-a-support-for-spiritual-health/> This article on clinical governance is worth a read.

God bless you in your everyday life.

Angela Uhrhane, LCA Pastoral Care Nurse Coordinator



Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing



The Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing (WI) moved from Church Health to the Spiritual Care Association (SCA). The change is only administrative, and WI's values and ethos have not changed. SCA, with offices in New York and Los Angeles, is a non-profit affiliate of HealthCare Chaplaincy Network, a non-profit organisation focused on spiritual-related clinical care, research and education. The new director, Dr Sharon Hinton (right), comes to the post with wide experience in Faith Community Nursing. The new email address is: admin@westberginstitute.org

✠ LPNI Study Tours

The **2021** Lutheran Parish Nurses International study tour will take participants to **Washington DC** and **Williamsburg** in the USA on 15-21 September. So far, 15 people have registered. Itineraries/registration forms are available from revbob@ozemail.com.au or at lpni.org.

Planning had begun for a proposed tour to both Alice Springs in Central Australia and Madang in Papua New Guinea in 2022. However, continuing uncertainty about international travel and border restrictions has made it virtually impossible to finalise details for such a tour in the current climate. Therefore, the LPNI board, at its meeting on 15 February, resolved to separate these two venues into two tours.

The 2020 tour had originally been scheduled for Alice Springs, before the COVID pandemic forced its cancellation. As much of the planning for that tour is still in place, it was agreed that the **2022** tour should be to **Alice Springs** as a stand alone tour. It is expected that itineraries and registration forms for this tour will be available shortly.

Planning has already been under way for the **2023** tour, which will be to **Odessa and Kiev** in the **Ukraine**. The heritage of Lutheranism in the Ukraine is in Odessa; Parish Nursing has been established in Kiev.

All being well, the **2024** tour will be a stand alone tour to **Madang** in Papua New Guinea.

The February LPNI board meeting was the annual meeting. Treasurer, Sue Neff reported that LPNI had US\$51 755 in hand, but this includes some income for this year's study tour. A US\$5000 has been made to the LCA Parish Nurse Trust Fund as a memorial to Lynette Wiebusch, who had been a founding board member for LPNI.

All existing board members were reappointed for a further term. They are: Chairperson - Marcia Schnorr; Vice-Chairperson - Carol Broemer; Secretary - Carol Zimmermann; Treasurer - Sue Neff; Pastoral Advisor - Dr Daniel Paavola (all USA). Additional members - Carol Lueders-Bolwerk, Janice Spikes, Carol Wehland, Lana Wingate (all USA); Judy Hertlein (Canada); Raeda Mansour (Palestine); Rev Robert Wiebusch (Australia).

Greeting Cards available



PACK 1

Greeting Cards

PACK 2

Two packs of *Messages of Hope* greeting cards are available from *Lutheran Media* in North Adelaide. The cards, which are suitable to give to family friends, church members or people in your community, may be purchased for \$5.00 a pack by phoning 1800 353 350, or at: www.lutheranmedia.org.au/greeting-cards.