



LCA Pastoral Care Nurse **NOTES & NEWS**

No 141 March 2020

Samaritan care

Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan has much to teach us about wholistic pastoral care. Roman Catholic Father, Gerry Arbuckle, has described it as 'the founding story of Catholic health-care', and I am indebted to him for some of the thoughts in the following.

Because the victim in this parable would have been bloodied from his beating by the thieves, he would have been 'automatically stigmatised as im-pure, untouchable, and therefore a social outcast'. People would have been hesitant to touch him, for fear of becoming ritually unclean themselves, and having to go through a lengthy purification ritual.



Pastoral Care Nurses are called to serve also those who are alienated from and by society – as many Christians in China are doing to help those who have contracted the coronavirus. While Pastoral Care Nurses may have been appointed to serve a particular congregation or church institution, they also have a 'ministry of presence' to all with whom they come in contact, both within and outside the church.

The theme of one of the Pastoral Care Nurse seminars several years ago was *Walking with*. This is exactly what the Good Samaritan did. After rendering First Aid, he placed the victim on his own donkey, and walked with him to the nearest lodgings. It meant interrupting his own journey and any plans he might have had for that evening, and arranging accommodation for the stranger – someone from a despised and separated group.

Pastoral Care Nurses have a 'ministry of presence' with those they serve. Theirs is not a 15-minute appointment to deal with two, or at most three, issues ... and then make an appointment for another consultation in three months' time! They offer ongoing care for the whole person – body, mind, and spirit, as well as the family and community to which the person is related.

Again, the Good Samaritan is our model. He tended the victim when others – 'good' church people at that! – simply left him lying there and hurried on. He took him to the next inn, arranged overnight accommodation, and also made provision for his continuing care ... or, as St Luke puts it, he **bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him', he said, 'and when I return I will pay you for any extra expense you may have.'** (Luke 10:34, 35)

It was an act bravery as well as love. The Samaritan risked his own wellbeing. Jesus' hearers would have known this, because it was common knowledge that the road from Jericho to Jerusalem, with its rocky sides and sharp bends, was frequented by bandits.

It was also an act that showed genuine and continuing concern for the robbed traveller. It's this kind of 'Samaritan care' that's at the very heart of Pastoral Care Nursing – inclusive, companionable, and continuing.

Robert J Wiebusch

First US student completes intro course



The first US nurse to complete the joint LNAA-LCMS Parish Nursing Council *Introduction to Parish Nursing* course is Aimee Jambor. She received her certificate from her pastor, Dr Richard Hans, in a service at her home church – Living Savior Lutheran church, Lake Shore, Minnesota – on 12 January.

The course was originally written by Lynette Wiebusch and her husband for presentation in Australia over a long weekend. It formed the basis of courses they presented in Papua New Guinea, and was modified for Distance Education in Australia. The US version was developed

in liaison with Dr Marcia Schnorr, who supervises students there.

Aimee's 92-year-old mother, Dorothy Uhrinak, presented her with her Parish Nurse pin. Dorothy is also a nurse, and served the congregation for some years as an 'unofficial' Parish Nurse.

Lutheran Parish Nurses International

Annual meeting

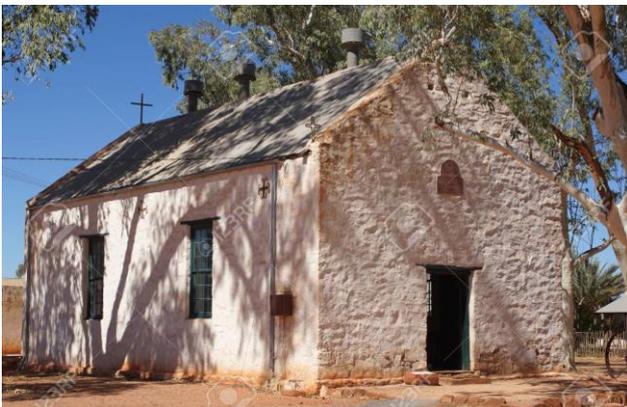
At the annual general meeting on 2 February, all existing office bearers were reelected for a further 12 months. Dr Marcia Schnorr (chairperson), Carol Broemer (vice-chairperson), Carol Zimmermann (secretary), Sue Neff (treasurer), Dr Daniel Paavola (pastoral advisor),

Carol Lueders-Bolwerk, Jamie Spikes, Carol Wehland, and Lana Wingate (all from USA); Judy Hertlein (Canada); Raeda Mansour (Palestine); Rev Bob Wiebusch (Australia).

Sue Neff reported a current bank balance of US\$30,361.24.

Study tours

Some places are still available for the study tour to Alice Springs, scheduled for 8-14 July. Payment after 1 March incurs a \$200 surcharge.



Old church at Hermannsburg

The program includes a visit to the historic Lutheran mission site at Hermannsburg, 126 kilometres west of Alice Springs, as well as visits to *Yirara*, a unique Lutheran secondary

boarding college for children from remote outback communities, to the Living Waters Lutheran primary school, and the Royal Flying Doctor headquarters, as well as to tourist attractions such as Simpson's Gap, with Uluru an 'add-on' extra.

A day-long seminar will give the opportunity to learn about health matters among Australia's Aboriginal people. Sunday worship will be at a bi-lingual service.

For more information or a registration form, contact: robert.wiebusch@lca.org.au

Detailed itineraries and registration forms for the **2021** tour to eastern USA (15-21 September) will be available shortly. Time will be split between Washington DC and Williamsburg.

The **2022** tour will be to Madang in Papua New Guinea.