



Free Methodist Healthcare Fellowship

Whole Person Care Newsletter

www.fmhealth.org

November 2015

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Fall Conference 2015: Chaplains are part of our group now. Our plan to be a resource to our pastors and churches.

Over 50 people, including 7 chaplains, attended our fall conference on the topic: The Place of Chaplains on the Healthcare Team. It was wonderful for our members, who are mainly physicians, dentists and nurses, to meet and hear from our Free Methodist Chaplains who work in health care facilities. They are as much a part of the health care team as any of the rest of us. They shared through talks and two panels. Summaries of some of the issues discussed will be in articles here and further notes and information will be on our website at www.fmhealth.org.



The chaplains who attended wanted to be on our mailing list and receive our newsletter, which comes out three or four times a year. Several wanted to join our organization by paying fifty-dollar dues, or less if that is a burden. Most important, they want to help us educate pastors and church members in ministering to the sick and disabled. In the past the Free Methodist Healthcare Fellowship has had a foreign mission focus, which is still part of our interest, but we are equally interested in the sick and hurting in our own land. Although doctors, dentists, PAs, NPs and RNs provide much care, those who are ill or disabled need a healing community, which can be the church. We need our chaplains to help us in the effort.

Specifically, we plan to post materials on our website for churches. These will include practical ideas for visiting the sick and references to a variety of issues where the church can minister to the ill, elderly and disabled. This will start small and hopefully expand. Secondly, we want to host some local meetings where pastors, a chaplain, physician, nurse and perhaps a social worker discuss how churches can become better healing communities. Please subscribe to this newsletter via our website and be part of future articles on this. We welcome submissions of material or ideas.

WHAT DID OUR CHAPLAINS SAY TO THE REST OF OUR FELLOWSHIP?



To really know this you needed to have attended our weekend retreat, but we can share a little here. Notes from our main speaker, John Vlainic, will be posted on our website. We'll try to summarize what other chaplains. Rev. Bruce Swingle from Albany, New York works at a VA Hospital Medical Center. He is an integral part of the health care team and talked about how he brings value to the team, a value that is recognized even by those who may not share his Christian

faith or any faith. A panel of chaplains responded to this and other talks. They agreed with Rev. Swingle and pointed out that their main task is not to lead people to Christ at their final moments but to provide care and ministry throughout their illness, whether at home, a nursing home, hospice or a hospital. Jesus called on us to visit the sick, not to just convert the sick. He said that in visiting the sick we were visiting Him, so we never know who is really lying in that sick bed or what our visit might do for them.



Rev. Mark Zumhagan is a young chaplain at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. As a new chaplain he has been assigned the night shift. He loves it. He is in the ER when children who are the victims of trauma come in. In this hospital chaplains attend all deaths, and also do the paperwork and help in making arrangements. In this very large children's hospital he is the only chaplain there in the middle of the night and spends a lot of time in the ICU, at codes and at deaths. The fact that his father is a family doctor may be one reason he is able to handle what might be too much for some chaplains or even doctors. He shared how he listens and tries to respond to the needs of the child and family. Often pastors visit sick children who are in their church and it can be difficult. He tries to join them and many pastors find this team approach very helpful.



Our panel of chaplains addressed many issues. They recognized that pastors have various gifts. People other than the pastor can visit the sick, but in a severe illness people often want their pastor there. Pastors can ask that the hospital chaplain come with them, just as a physician might visit his patient but also call the hospitalist to be updated or to join them.

There was a lot of discussion about helpful and not so helpful ways to visit the sick. This will be the subject of an article in a later newsletter plus part of material that will be placed on our website. Finally, all those present shared ideas. One of many interesting ideas was to have church members deliver communion to shut-ins after a communion service. This helps them feel a part of the church community and not forgotten.

FREE METHODIST HEALTH FELLOWSHIP TO POST MATERIALS FOR PASTORS AND CHURCH MEMBERS WHO VISIT THE SICK ON OUR WEBSITE.

Healing: Chaplain John Vlainic

Chaplain Vlainic presented a brief but very powerful talk on healing. We tend to focus on localized physical healing but our illness and problems may be much deeper. James 5 talks about prayer for physical healing but also for restoration of our minds and psyches. Forgiveness is a part of the prayer time. II Corinthians 12 talks of the miraculous healing of our lives as people grow in Christ – like character and grace. Finally we have the healing of Revelation 21, when God heals everything fully.

Chaplain Vlainic gave various ways that God can heal: medicine and medical procedure, the body healing itself as God created it and by God's special touch. This touch could come through scripture and worship, prayer, miracles of forgiveness and reconciliation and through the Lord's Supper.

As a listener I reacted in some special ways to his talk. First, I realized I was so fixed on physical healing. Certainly when we are ill we call on God for physical healing and that is appropriate, however if this healing does not come, we may receive an even greater healing: healing of emotions, healing of



relationship and in cases of death, total healing. As a listener, I thought: we hate to die and leave our family, yet there are many people who are alive but are essentially dead to any relationships with their family. Healing of that relationship during sickness or even death may be as important or miraculous as any physical healing.

As a listener, I am usually not medically ill, so I am not so concerned with healing, but if I understand the fullness and wholeness of God's healing power, I may need a lot of healing. Finally when I contemplate and possibly fear death, do I see death as the final healing and restoration? It has been over a month and I am still thinking about his talk.

Norman Wetterau

If you would like to share any personal reflections on the conference please email Norm at normwetterau@aol.com.

Doctors from Umri present at FMHF fall conference



The Free Methodist Hospital at Umri, India began in the 1950s. The hospital is totally managed and staffed by Indians. Husband and wife team: Dr. Sam and Elizabeth Jeevagan were in the states and shared with us what is happening at the hospital and nursing school. The goal is to update the hospital to a modern facility with a definite Christian Focus. Recently fifty thousand dollars was raised to build a new dormitory for the nursing school. For more information including videos of the hospital and nursing school go to www.arisebuildumri.org. You will need to use the password "arise" to enter the site.

Burundi Report

Dr. Eric McLaughlin also attended the conference and gave a report on Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi. He is a Family Physician and part of a team serving there since November 2013. They have been teaching and discipling the medical, nursing, and paramedical students who come from Hope Africa University. You can learn more at mccroppers.blogspot.com. It was so encouraging to hear the work is continuing at Kibuye, energized by young families. We were also grateful Eric brought his guitar and led us in song. We also took the opportunity to get a picture of all those at the conference who have served in Burundi:



Photos needed for our new website

If you have visited our website (www.fmhealth.org) recently you probably noticed a change in appearance since we switched to a new web host in October. Please feel free to send feedback from the "Contact" page. Also please send photos, old or new, related to your healthcare ministry that we can use for the site! These can go to Jennifer Becker at jsdbecker@gmail.com.



Special Prayer Request: Linda Stryker is undergoing chemotherapy and then will have surgery. Please pray for her and also her ministries in Congo (see <http://fmcic.ca/linda-stryker-bio>).

September 16-18, 2016 Consultation to be held at the Palisades Retreat Center in Seattle

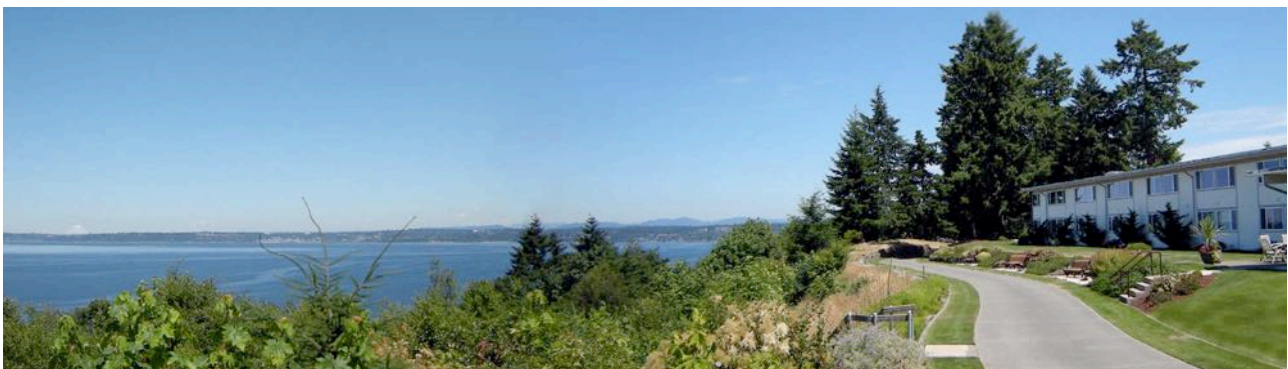


Every year several loyal members of our group come east to attend our annual consultation. This past July Drs. Kratzer and Wetterau attended a function called by the Ogdens and Rushers in Seattle. Even with short notice, over two dozen people attended. They all wanted our organization to have a weekend retreat in their area. There are many Free Methodist medical people in that area and if the Free Methodist Healthcare Fellowship is to minister to our whole church, we need to hold a western meeting. This September our board decided to have our 2016 consultation near Seattle. Wait until you see the spectacular spot our Seattle members found for us.

The main speaker will be Blake Wood, Pastor of Seattle First Church. Pastor Wood used to be with the mission board and has worked overseas as a Free Methodist missionary. We are working with him as to what our theme will be. Tentative plans call for a mission emphasis on Friday night and other issues discussed on Saturday. We also want to reach out to students at Seattle Pacific and have contact with faculty there. The facility is very good. The cost will be a little over 200 dollars a person, but this will include two nights lodging and 6 meals. There will be no separate registration fee, lodging or meal costs. More details will appear in our winter newsletter.

For those flying in from the east, there will be transportation from Sea-Tac Airport to the center, so there will be no need to rent a car. On the other hand some many want to come early or stay late. Our west coast members will have suggestions. If people can commit early, we can also connect people through our website. Our board is really excited about this upcoming event and hope many decide to come.

Archbishop Burnett Retreat Center at the Palisades to be site of 2016 Consultation: a place of comfort and beauty



This center, only 20 minutes from Sea-Tac Airport, is located on Puget Sound and surrounded by woods. The view of water and mountains from the dining room is spectacular. There are 56 rooms, all with private baths and either queen or double beds. Rollaway beds can be placed in some rooms for a third person. Find more pictures at: <http://www.palisadesretreatcenter.org>. Mark the weekend of September 16-18 on your calendar now. Let Free Methodist friends who are health professionals know about it, including chaplains who work in health facilities.

ROBERTS WESLEYAN COLLEGE OPENS NEW SCIENCE AND NURSING CENTER

Free Methodist colleges are leaders in nursing education. Roberts Wesleyan is one of them and has 400 students enrolled in their nursing programs. To date over 2100 nurses have been educated at Roberts. The school also has science majors including pre-med and pre-pharmacy. As the science and nursing programs grew, the need for new space arose. This fall the new Crothers Science and Nursing Center was opened.



The students will learn in the Crothers Science and Nursing Center, which is 40,000 square feet, has two floors and uses sophisticated simulation technology systems. There are two nursing laboratories, a simulation center and a practice lab. Roberts has four state-of-the-art, high-fidelity mannequins that give nursing students the opportunity to practice in the safety of the simulated environment.

The building features state-of-the-art classrooms, an experimental greenhouse and an advanced simulation center. The simulation center will bring social work, nursing, criminal justice and other programs together for real-life, integrated and collaborative educational experiences that better mirror real-world situations. Through hands-on practice in this safety of the simulation environment, students will be better able to hone their skills and thus become even better health practitioners, social workers and law enforcers. It gives students a realistic learning environment, and allows students' engagement and skill level to increase.



The simulators have realistic features — such as blinking eyes, pulses, breathing, heart and lung sounds — that respond to all nursing students' interventions. The simulators are designed for realistic changes in vital signs, and one simulator can give birth. Students will test blood pressure, give medication, listen to the simulator's heart, lung and abdomen, and monitor the heart rhythm and more. The simulators are also programmed with lifelike patient scenarios to give students real experiences from which to learn.



A donor has dedicated one of the offices in this new Crothers Science and Nursing Center in honor of Linda Stryker. Linda is a graduate of Roberts Wesleyan College School of

What makes the nursing and science programs different at Roberts?

Many colleges have fine nursing and science facilities, but few offer students the type of fully integrated, interdisciplinary experiences that best prepare them to work in real-world contexts like Roberts Wesleyan College does. We are excited about the learning experiences in the new facility, using the latest in simulation equipment and that faculty and staff will be able to focus on fully integrated teaching and training to our students in simulation experiences. Although the majority of the students who use the building are nursing students, there are excellent new labs for basic sciences, nursing, premed, pre-pharmacy and general biology. For more information about programs at Roberts Wesleyan College and financial aid see: www.roberts.edu.

We feature Roberts Wesleyan in this issue. Other Free Methodist schools with nursing programs are Spring Arbor University in Michigan and Seattle Pacific University in Washington.