

Reflection on the life of a Christian Missionary Nurse

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Introduction

Nursing is an incredible profession with a variety of career options. One of these is missionary nursing, which is a field of great importance. It involves not only the protection of patients but also spreading the gospel and promoting good health in the community. For the nurse, it can be a spiritually gratifying experience with the potential to expand knowledge and provide continuous growth. This type of nursing has various effects on the individual and the community, such as spiritual growth and increased access to healthcare. There are many nurses who were involved in missionary and hence it is important to evaluate their work. This discussion evaluates Betty Ann Olsen so as to establish Christian missionaries in nursing.

Betty Ann Olsen was born in 1934 to a Christian household and was actively involved in the Christian and Missionary Alliance from an early age. She was born on the Ivory Coast, where she was one of Walter and Elizabeth's daughters (Fasolino, 2018). Her parents were missionaries, and thus it was at an early age that she discovered that she had a missionary calling and hence developed the passion. She was first introduced to the Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, where she trained as a nurse from 1953 to 1956. She then worked while furthering her nursing and missionary studies at Nyack Christian College and, upon graduation, applied to the Christian and Missionary Alliance to use her nursing knowledge and faith to serve God's mission abroad. Despite the fact that she had the passion to at an early age, she developed fear and frustrations forcing her to consider her stance on whether to join missionary work. However, her desire developed, and hence expressed her intention to proceed with missionary work.

Summary

In December 1964, Olsen was allocated to Vietnam, where she cared for many individuals suffering from leprosy. She first trained in the Hong Kong leprosarium such that she prepared herself before taking the huge task ahead in Vietnam. She arrived in Vietnam during the Vietnam war, and therefore this was a major issue of concern. Despite the dangers of working in a developing country, Olsen was determined to use her skills to help those in need and to spread the love of God. Olsen understood that there were threats to her physical health, as well as external threats of abduction and cruelty, but her trust in the Lord was greater than any risk. She understood that a true missionary needed to be dedicated to her work of being good to the people despite the various challenges. She remained to be a pillar of hope to many individuals whom she interacted with and hence made them become believers in the word of God. Her passion and dedication to the work of God were evident in how she cared for the sick, even sacrificing her own portions of sustenance to those in greater need.

The various challenges in her work were evident in some circumstances. For instance, in January of 1968, Olsen and two others were taken prisoner by the Vietcong during a siege of their camp. She was subjected to hard work and hence was mistreated as they were not accorded proper food as well as drinks. This led to a negative impact on their health as they suffered from conditions such as dengue fever, malnutrition as well as other related infections associated with poor living conditions. Despite the severe subjections, Olsen did not give up as she did whatever she could to help the other prisoners, caring for those who were sick and using her own sustenance to help them. She inspired other prisoners and hence made a positive impact on the lives of many of them. Unfortunately, Olsen did not survive her time in captivity, and her life was taken too soon. It is important to note that the life of Betty Ann Olsen serves as an inspiring example of what it means to be a Christian missionary nurse. For instance, she dedicated her life

to helping others, being a pillar of hope for others, and spreading the love and the Word of God. Her determination enabled her to promote health, thus uplifting the health standards of the community. It is vital to note that she was a caring being in the sense that she chose to work in a risky country such as Vietnam despite the ongoing war in the country. This shows that she was driven by her love for humanity hence choosing to serve the Vietnamese people despite the challenges. She was able to build trust as she served many people, even during her days in prison. Though her life was cut short, her legacy lives on, and her life serves as an example of what it means to be a true Christian missionary nurse.

Conclusion

In summation, Betty Ann Olsen's life as a Christian missionary nurse is inspiring in various ways. Her dedication towards the provision of healthcare as well as spiritual care in Vietnam, despite the dangers, teaches people the importance of being selfless as well as being committed to service delivery. She remained hopeful despite the challenges, and hence this illustrates the power of being a strong believer in God. It is also important to note that she was both a nurse and a missionary, and hence this shows that people can utilize their different positions to serve humanity so as to benefit the community. She was arrested, and eventually, she died, and this can be attributed to the suffering that she was subjected to while in prison. The interpretation of this is that she was mistreated because of her good deeds, as she had chosen to stand by her faith and continue with her service to humanity. Her act of giving food to other prisoners shows her value for humanity in addition to praying for the other prisoners. This is a lesson that despite any challenge, a person should extend a hand of help to other people. Therefore, Olsen's life as a Christian missionary nurse is inspiring as it portrays selflessness and love for humanity.

References

Fasolino, A. (2018, April 22). *Betty Olsen: Loving Those Who Mistreat You*. The Restful Home.

<https://therestfulhome.com/betty-olsen/>