Yasly Urbaez

03.06.2023

NUR 301

Elenice Lima

The Christian Missionary Nurse

The Christian nurse that I had decided to research was Ann Graber Hershberger, who left to Nicaragua to serve as a missionary nurse at the age of twenty-two. She had recently graduated from nursing school when she decided she wanted to take this step in her life. She summarized in this article that it was not easy. She had a lot of bumps along the way. Ann had also mentioned that she was not prepared for what was to come, because this missionary work is not brought up in nursing textbooks or lectures. However, with time she was able to understand how to put God first when dealing with difficult times as a missionary nurse.She does mention she was with a group of missionaries, who were also helping out the patients in need.

The first story she brought up about Antonia struck me. The nurse explains that she was uncertain and could not recognize that this death was impending, even though she had studied so many years in nursing school. Due to this, she felt confident to provide care to Antonia. They did not have any IV supplies, and the patient was dealing with shock as well as anemia. She was not able to be saved because the nearest hospital was three hours away. This shows how healthcare is affected, because there is access to limited resources. Antonia was pronounced dead, and she was not able to make it to the hospital. This shows that the lack of resources can be detrimental to those that are in lower class countries like Nicaragua.

I like how in this article, it was heavily emphasized that “Our worldviews, or the way we think about the world, are shaped by our culture.” If we are brought with our own thoughts and feelings, it will interfere with us providing the patient care necessary to our patient. To continue, the nurse shared that

“We cannot assume that the way we know is the only way.” When she shared this, she was sharing that God is a miracle working God. We cannot assume that we know God’s every step because He has everyone’s life predestined. We must trust in Him in moments where all hope is lost. In the case of Antonia, it was unfortunate that she had passed away. However, we must understand that God has His will that we may not understand at times.

Ann mentioned in this article, that we should look to Jesus “as our example in overcoming…” the worldview of disempowerment. The effect of spreading the Gospel and putting Jesus first will always have a positive effect. Nurses “who serve in international settings must be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Mt 10:16). We must look up to Jesus as our example, and not have any hesitation to serve those in need. Ann learned how to place God first when faced with a difficult situation, where the patient is in critical condition and there is not enough resources. In regards to her spiritual life, she was able to depend more on God and know that He is in control of it all.

The effect of spreading the gospel is just as important as providing patient care. An important and interesting comment the nurse stated in this article, was how our attitudes and the way we carry ourselves as a missionary nurse is important. Sometimes the accommodations are not good, and we have to work with the resources we have. In those moments, it is important to keep positive, and keep trying to save the patients’ life just as Ann tried with Antonia.

I also liked how Ann brought up this Bible verse from Luke 10:5-9 “Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you;cure the sick who are there…” This Bible verse is powerful, and it concisely refers to the humbleness a missionary nurse should have. Ann mentioned that there was a nursing student who helped a patient obtain her green card. Though this was not health related, it showed

that the nurse is willing to help the patient in her needs. We are called to be of help, and help our patients who have closed doors. We must be the light for them through Jesus Christ.

Lastly, as a missionary nurse we can provide outstanding service. It is so great that we are able to go to an international country and serve an entirely different culture than ours. However, that comes with responsibility. We must not judge, but be kind-hearted just like Jesus Christ. While reading this article, it made me think “How can I prepare myself to be a missionary nurse?” None of this exposure is taught in nursing school. The only way we will be prepared for what awaits us in a foreign country, is to be brave enough like Ann was and get the experience. Not only helping others with their health, but helping them learn about God. Spreading the good news is essential as a missionary nurse.

Reference

- Hershberger, A. G. (2004). *Missionary nursing: Dispelling the myths : Journal of christian nursing*. LWW. Retrieved March 6, 2023, from https://journals.lww.com/journalofchristiannursing/fulltext/2004/02000/missionary_nursing__dispelling_the_myths.2.aspx