

Christian Missionary Nurse: Jeanette

Boersma

Neisha Michel

Dr. Elenice Lima

NUR301

Introduction

I have chosen to reflect on the life of a missionary named Jeanette Boersma. Jeanette Boersma was a dedicated Christian nurse who was always committed to serving others through her profession. Jeanette was born in Michigan, USA, on October 20, 1926 (Boersma et al., 1991). Boersma completed her nursing education in 1949 and joined the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), now known as World Renew, in 1952 (Boersma et al., 1991). Jeanette worked as a Christian nurse missionary in various countries. For over 30 years, she worked as a missionary nurse in Nigeria, treating patients, providing nursing knowledge, and advancing the Gospel. I will focus more on Jeanette's work in Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman. Jeanette's practice in this region was unique in a way. While working in this region, she encountered several challenges, making her practice unique. These challenges include overcoming language and cultural barriers in the region and limited sources and facilities to aid her missionary work in Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman.

Nursing Practice

The nursing care that Jeanette Boersma provided in Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman was exceptional in many ways. She overcame obstacles like a lack of resources and facilities and linguistic and cultural hurdles (Boersma et al., 1991). Nursing was approached holistically by Jeanette, who provided not just physical care but also emotional and spiritual support. She promoted health education and preventive care in the communities she served using her nursing talents. Besides, Jeanette was admired by many residents she encountered, most of whom were her patients and most often visited her for treatment.

Effect on Spreading the Gospel

Jeanette had a unique opportunity to share the Gospel with the patients she treated as a nurse in these countries. As a nurse, she used her long-term experience as a platform to portray God's kindness and love for people (Boersma et al., 1991). Besides, she created relationships with patients and their families, which allowed her to talk to them about her convictions. Many of her patients loved her so much. Because of Jeanette's testimony, many individuals came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. This significantly improved Jeanette's mission in Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman.

Effect on Healthcare in the Community

Her nursing career significantly impacted the healthcare system in the areas Jeanette served. She strived to make healthcare services more accessible, particularly for individuals who were underprivileged or disenfranchised. To assist individuals in leading better lives, Jeanette offered health information and preventive care (Boersma et al., 1991). Her efforts also reduced the stigma attached to some medical illnesses, such as mental illness. She met many people by providing healthcare facilities to the residents and made them aware of the Gospel of God. This significantly increased the spread of the Gospel in the region.

Effects on Her Physical and Spiritual Life

Jeanette's physical and spiritual well-being was greatly impacted by her employment in Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman. Jeanette was forced to overcome various challenges during her work in the region, including a lack of resources, barriers related to language and culture, and the stress associated with working in a foreign and unfamiliar setting. Besides these challenges, Jeanette's

devotion to her work and convictions never hesitated (Boersma et al., 1991). She leaned on God's power and direction to get her through challenging circumstances.

Her spiritual life was positively affected by Jeanette's efforts as well. She saw God's compassion and grace's impact on those she helped. Her encounters strengthened her faith and drew her closer to God.

Conclusion

Jeanette Boersma's work greatly impacted the populations she had worked with as a Christian nurse in Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman. She promoted health education and preventive care while providing holistic treatment using her nursing talents (Boersma et al., 1991). The Gospel was greatly impacted in these nations by Jeanette's witness as well. Her efforts improved access to healthcare services and lessened the stigma attached to some medical disorders. Jeanette clung in her faith and career in the face of obstacles, and her experiences helped her develop a closer relationship with God.

Getting to know about Jeanette helped me feel at ease with how I will approach my patients. As Christians, it is hard to bring up religion in your workplace. However, how you treat people and carry yourself will allow others to approach you or have an open conversation to get to know you. Showing God's love should not be a force; it should be shared naturally. That said, I will continue to be myself and treat all my patients with the best care and respect. That action is the initiation of introducing patients and other people I encounter to God, and I hope it will lead to a conversation of them wanting to know more about Him.