



May 2017



NCFI

connections

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on Saline and Spiritual
Care courses

A Visit to Christian nurses in Cuba



Nurses from Chile and Ecuador who are part of the Latin America region of NCFI, joined with Cuban nurses for the Annual Conference of the Union of Evangelical Missionary Nurses of Cuba.

They were registering the attendees, preparing the dining room for lunch, fixing the folders, receiving the colleagues, and delivering the presents we took for them, from Ecuador and Chile.



The conference was held in Havana, where more than 30 nurses attended the NCFI workshop "Art and Science of Spiritual Care", which was taught by Gladys Altamirano and Alicia Yañez.

You cannot imagine how grateful we were for all the people of the Church who, together with Pastor Fernandez, provided us with all the facilities for the Conference to be held!



Gladys writes..There was great joy when we all meet in the Upper Room of the Baptist Temple! Our Cuban colleagues and the sisters and brothers of the Church who were collaborating in this event, welcomed us with great affection, which made us feel at home.

It was a beautiful experience, guided and blessed by God. These nurses have so little, but do so much. They have a great faith in God who they serve with self denial.”

Gladys Altamiro is the NCFI Regional Chair for the Latin America Region, CIDEAL.

Gladys Altamiro (left) is the NCFI Regional Chair for the Latin America Region CIDEAL.

NCFI Regional Conferences 2017-2018

Over the next two years conferences will be held in all six regions of NCFI. The first of these will be the South Asia and Middle East (SAME) Region in November this year. See details and downloads of Regional Conferences: ncfi.org/conferences/category/regional/

Teaching the NCFI Art and Science of Spiritual Care in Norway



This spring, Norway NCF invited all nursing students from the two nursing programs in the city of Bergen. There is one Christian and one secular nursing school in town. They count about 1000 students all together in the three year bachelor program. We collaborated with the student council in the Christian university to recruit students, which turned out to be a challenge. We ended up with nine students all together, from first and second year, from both schools.

We ran the course over 2 Saturdays. Students prepared for visiting different faith communities before we met for the second Saturday. We - Britt Kuven, the president of NCF Norway and Tove Giske, planned the visits together with the “Collaboration Council of Faith and life-view communities” in Bergen. Students and leaders of different faith communities prepared for a conversation about what do they believe in, and rituals or symbols that express important aspects of their faith. In particular, students were challenged to reflect on own beliefs related to death and afterlife, and to learn from the faith community they visited what is important in nursing care from their perspective.

On the second Saturday we shared experiences from our visits to different faith communities. All students found that they had learned a lot, both about themselves and the faith community they visited. In Norway, such combination of spiritual care course and visiting with different faith communities has not been carried out before, so we were enthusiastic about it and want to continue to integrate that into our teaching.

The students evaluated the course very well. They had learned a lot about themselves through role play, reflections, sharing and discussions. Since the group was small – just nine students + two course leaders, everybody could share and take part in the discussion. We feel blessed by the openness and fellowship, despite the diversity in faith background of the group. We encourage others around the world to invite nursing students to take the NCFI Art & Science of Spiritual Care!

Britt Kuven and Tove Giske

Learn more about the ASSC Curriculum from the Institute of Christian Nursing at: <http://iicn.ncfi.org/training-courses/art-and-science-of-spiritual-care/>

Saline Course for Spain

On Saturday the 13 of May, the Saline Process was presented to health workers in the city of Burgos, Spain. Rosa Lopez, who taught the course, reported that it was attended by 2 nurses, 3 doctors, 3 auxiliary nurses, 1 dentist, 1 psychologist, and 3 others who although not health workers had an interest in the topic. It was the first time a group of health workers came together for such an event.

The impact of the course was very positive, as demonstrated by the comments on the evaluation sheets and an expressed desire to meet again. Participants felt the course was useful to them, and appreciated that there is an international group with sensitivity to the Christian testimony in the health sector.

At the end of the day participant’s attitude toward the possibility of sharing faith in the workplace had changed a lot. They appreciated the personal testimonies, as well as the focus on the ‘process’ of sharing faith in a natural way. It is likely that the course will be followed up with review meetings to gain practice in some of the tools used, such as *faith flags* and *spiritual stories*.

Rosa, who taught the course said. “I ended up tired physically through teaching alone, but was very happy to be able to do it. Thanks to God that this opportunity has opened”.



Rosa Marie Lopez

Rosa is the NCFI Regional Chair for Europe. The Saline Process Course has been developed by IHS Global and NCFI. Find out more about the Course at:

<http://iicn.ncfi.org/training-courses/courses-overview>