

NEURON

January 1982

"LORD, THAT I MAY SEE...FEEL..THINK...ACT..."

A FORUM FOR THOSE IN THE HEALTH APOSTOLATE

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1981

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

"Health for all by the year 2,000 A.D.!"

"Primary Health Care in the home, the school, the community, and even within the hospitals!"

"Eighty per cent of the Filipinos have no access to essential health care!"

These are statements that make us pause and reflect on our own health apostolate as Religious.

***An initial contribution of the TCHS to this demand was the preparation of a "Directory of Health Services of Religious Congregations in the Philippines" and a "Survey of these Health Services".

The Directory includes a listing of hospitals, clinics and dispensaries, community health programs, and special health-affiliated programs run by the Religious arranged first according to congregations, then according to region. It can be used as a referral source for the different health agencies. Some health workers have found it useful for updating their own health care system.

The Survey studied the historical involvement of Religious Congregations in their particular health agency, administrative systems used, target clientele, services offered, problems encountered and plans for the future. A common desire of the respondents of the survey is to see a maximum utilization and effectivity of their health services to those most in need.

(Copies of the Directory and the Survey are available for ₱10 each)

***Seminars conducted at Lourdes Hospital, Sta. Mesa, Manila:

October 24, 1981 - ACUPRESSURE by Mrs. Concepcion Hilario, RN
attended by over 100 participants

December 12, 1981 - MEDICINAL PLANTS by Dr. Vicenta Mendoza-Escobar
attended by over 60 participants

***Community-based Health Program Orientation and Skills Seminar at Apostolic Center
March 28-April 2, 1981 attended by 40 participants

***TCHS participated in the "International Dialogue on Primary Health Care" hosting David Werner (author of Where There is No Doctor) and the Latin American health workers, last August 28 - September 5, 1981. Activities included a series of symposia on health related issues, forums with the theme "Primary Health Care and Human Dignity", exhibit-fairs that depict health care in the Philippines.

***Linkages formed with:

Family Life Education Programs by giving Pro-Life Seminars and materials
National Coalition for the Promotion of Breastfeeding
Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition
Citizens' Action for Consumer Protection
AKAP

1982

WHAT IS BEING DONE

***Setting up the INFORMATION BUREAU for dissemination of articles on health and health-related issues

***Seminar on Breastfeeding Technics at Lourdes Hospital on January 30, 1982.
Lecture and Demonstration by the members of the Nursing Mothers' Association.

***Organizing a one-week live-out seminar on Primary Health Care Skills (Herbal Medicine, Acupressure, Identifying and Treating Common Illnesses, Maternal and Child Health, etc.) in April at Quezon City. Definite date and place to be announced later. Inform us if you are interested.

democratic interest.

***Organizing a 3-day live-in FORUM FOR HEALTH PERSONNEL of Religious Congregations involved in hospital, clinic and community work. Tentative date is May 7-9 at Villa Consuelo, Novaliches. Transportation, board and lodging c/o TCHS funds

SEE

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WHAT TO SEE BEHIND THE DISEASE

A lot of health workers and professionals find their work boring, tedious, unchallenging and unfulfilling. Their lives have become a big routine of rendering medical and nursing intervention to the growing number of patients with respiratory infections, gastro-intestinal diseases, cancer, etc. They see their patients only as disease entities.

Mr. de la Paz is regarded merely as a PTB case for 6 months with on and off fever, positive for sputum, positive for chest x'ray, etc. It was not taken into consideration that Mr. de la Paz is weak because his salary is only ₱13/day and is forced to work overtime. He is exposed to synthetic chemicals, fumes, and smoke and his company is not providing any safety devices.

The health professionals' efforts in giving the best and most sophisticated nursing and medical intervention are futile. Many have started to feel resigned and unaffected by the fact that many of the patients will die because they cannot afford the treatment. Many will feel the same if they will not see that behind the disease is a person struggling to survive because of the deteriorating socio-economic condition of the country.

Unless health workers, students and professionals recognize the fact that the health problems cannot be solved apart from the socio-economic problems of the country, then their lives would be one boring, tedious, unending assessment, diagnosis and treatment....

(taken from HEALTH CONCERNS Vol.II No.3)
published by NCCP

THINK

A REFLECTION ON A VALUE

When we really think about it, it is our VALUES that govern what we do, and how we do it.

Have you read the Gospel in the light of Primary Health Care to discern the values there? One that struck me was the WAY HE LIVED!

- as a villager with a very ordinary job - a carpenter
- with no highly paid post...he was not a 'man of means'
- not as a person one should treat with deference because he was an employer and may procure a job or possibly terminate it!
- not as a landowner
- a man without servants but one who said He came to serve
- a man who mixed with others even with tax collectors and sinners. He seemed to enjoy eating with them too. (What's the equivalent of tax collectors in your area?)

You probably know the following:

GO TO THE PEOPLE...LIVE WITH THEM...LEARN FROM...LEARN FROM THEM...
LOVE THEM...START WITH WHAT THEY KNOW...BUILD ON WHAT THEY HAVE

What a lot is implied by the words LIVE WITH THEM. HE did it!

(taken from PHC Link #2,) Sussex, United Kingdom

ACT

AN APPROACH - PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

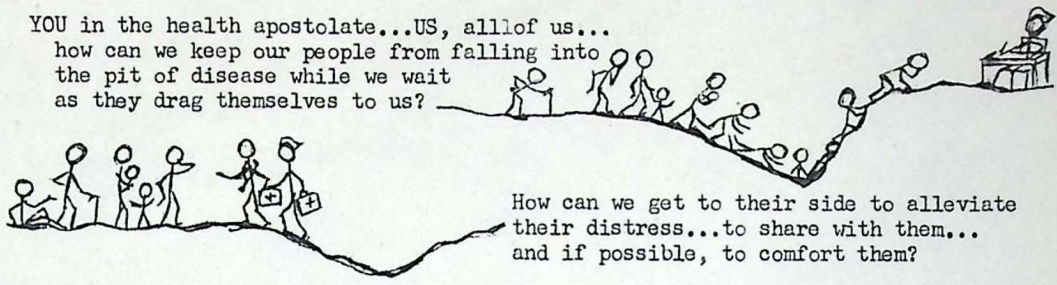
From our above reflections, a perspective evolves which wholistically views health problems. Primarily, it strives for a health system that is national, scientific, and democratic. The health system must have a national character - free from foreign domination and influence. It must rely mainly on human and natural resources of the country and must be based on the people's concrete conditions and experiences.

The health system must be scientific. It must promote a comprehensive and objective approach to health and totally eradicate superstition by engaging people in the investigation and analysis of health problems and events.

The health system must be democratic. It must involve people in determining, planning, implementing and evaluating health policies and programs that respond to their needs and democratic interests.

(taken from the IAC-PHC brochure, 1981)

YOU in the health apostolate...US, all of us...
how can we keep our people from falling into
the pit of disease while we wait
as they drag themselves to us?



How can we get to their side to alleviate
their distress...to share with them...
and if possible, to comfort them?

Are you working in a hospital, in a clinic, or in the community?
Have you integrated Primary Health Care in your involvements?

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PUBLICATIONS

- Botika sa Kapaligiran - published by Council for Primary Health Care
written in Tagalog and contains sketches and description of 20 medicinal plants; including instructions on how to prepare them and preserve them. Available for ₱3.50 each.
- Health Care Mini-Manuals - published by AKAP
50 pocket-size booklets arranged topically with cartoons and explanations in lay-man's language
English version - ₱60 a set
Tagalog version - ₱45 a set
- Guidelines for Christian Marriage - published by Family Life Advisory Center
Ozamis City; ₱3.00 each

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NEWS

The CAMILLIAN SISTERS will soon set up their pastoral work in Villasis, Pangasinan upon the invitation of the Bishop. The Camillian Sisters, named after St. Camillus de Lellis (patron saint of hospitals), is known for their involvement in health work. Our Italian missionaries are hardly in the Philippines for three years but they are proving themselves aptly prepared for their work among the poor because of their openness to varied exposure programs and seminars offered them. Let us pray that their mission will be successful.

Write us! Spare a few centavos and send us your suggestions, comments, and contributions to make the NEURON an effective nerve cell, reaching out, feeling, and maximizing our health resources for our people.