Spirituality in Health Care
From a Low-income Country’s Perspective – a Luxury or a Necessity

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What is Spiritual Care?
Moral values and virtues

- The practice of loving kindness
- Empathy
- Tolerance
- Solidarity with other human beings
- Peace
- Harmony
- Conviviality
- Benevolence
- Compassion
- Honesty
- Sympathy
- Respect
- Forgiveness
- Integrity

Basic Principles of Spiritual Care

- Be impartial, accessible and available to persons of all faith
- Respect a wide range of beliefs, life styles and cultures
- Value diversity, never proselytise
- Be a unifying and encouraging presence
- Affirm and secure the rights of patients

One to One

- Spiritual care is usually given in a one to one relationship, is completely person centred and makes no assumptions about personal conviction or life orientation

Provides a service no one else is providing

The old, rejected and hopeless find love here in this hospice
Gives hope to the hopeless
- A child rescued when rejected in the streets with polio
- A nun giving her life in service, giving hope to the hopeless

Is pro-active in helping those who otherwise would be rejected by society

Practices with skill and competence, giving the best

Showing Compassion

Is Challenging
- Discrimination and persecution
- Poor career opportunities
- Difficult working environments
- Real danger
- Personal fears
- Loss of hope and diminished faith
- Frustration

Encouragement and support essential
Praying together for Christ’s love to flow through them

Sharing experiences

Luxury or Necessity?
Christian nurses in low income countries give spiritual care every day in their work…but it’s not easy!

- Proselytising carries very heavy penalties in many countries
- Active violence against Christian communities is persistent
- Career opportunities are limited
- Good care is often seen as a challenge to non-Christian nurses

Sharing Christ’s love through care is never a luxury

- But as one nurse said to me
  ‘If we get it wrong we could be shot or imprisoned but we are compelled by the love of Christ to share his love through our care’
- 4 Corinthians 1.4
  Who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God

Any Questions

Thank You For Listening