

My Watercolor Journal from Jean Watson's Caring Consortium

by Tina Devoe, RN, HTCP/I



Oct 2, 2008
Jean Watson
Caritas
Consortium
Lauren Krisley -
Naturalist
Joel Baker - adaptation
KROWER

I am excited as I enter the Amelia Island Conference Center to attend Dr. Jean Watson's Invitational International Caritas Consortium sponsored by the caregivers of Baptist Health System. I join Bonnie Kelley Morrow who is there to represent Healing Touch Program and the Healing Touch Worldwide Foundation. The attendees - nurse administrators, nurses and hospital representatives - gather in a Caritas Circle, concentric rings of chairs around the centerpiece with the starfish theme. Using her heart-singing bowl, Dr. Watson opened the two-day consortium with a heart centered check-in. Jim Tippens, the chaplain for Baptist Nassau, Fernandina Beach, Florida gave an opening meditation based on the story, "The Star Thrower" by Lauren Eiseley.

As Dr. Watson lights the candle that represents the lamp of Florence Nightingale, she tells us that it has traveled around the world 11 times. I recall watching Dr. Watson and Janet Mentgen light the same candle at the 2003 Healing Touch Conference when she was a keynote speaker. At that time her light had been around the world five times in this ritual she started in 1991.

Today I am in the presence of a loving, compassionate educator who is teaching Caritas Literacy one story at a time.

"May the love that motivates you to care, motivate you to dig deep, care deep and thrust it forth" Like a Star thrower!

Dr. Watson challenged the group with her vision:

"One million nurses to manifest a field of transformation"

"Doing it for yourself is doing it for everybody."


"We are the field"

"We are the ones we have waited for."

Bonnie Kelley Morrow, HTCP/I, President of Healing Touch Worldwide Foundation (www.HTWFoundation.org) and I were introduced as representatives from Healing Touch Program. Dr. Watson informed the group that Healing Touch is doing the work of training and developing heart centered caring professionals. Dr. Watson shared her excitement over the emergence of Caritas/Heart Math Model and introduced Robert Browning of the Institute of Heart Math. The weekend also offered more training for Caritas Coach Educational Program and was to be the first time that Heart Math was going to be utilized by the Caritas Coaches. I am in awe of this alliance.

Throughout the two days, the group was able to share their stories. One theme I heard was that many large institutions have caring nurses and administrators that carry the seeds within them. Transformation is alive and well as these pioneers do compassionate work. I hear that they meeting the challenge of changing hospital culture through their work in attaining Magnet Hospital Recognition, the highest level of recognition the American Nursing Credentialing Center can grant for excellence in nursing. A short film, "Manifestation of Caring Model in Practice Setting" celebrated the success of Baptist Health Jacksonville in recently reaching Magnet status.

Another presentation was "Caring Language - A Part of the Electronic Clinical Documentation" from Mountain States Health Alliance. In addition to "Energy Field Disturbance" I will be adding a recently approved NANDA nursing diagnosis: "Comprised Human Dignity" to my work as a Healing Touch practitioner. I see the congruency of using Healing Touch as a nursing intervention in this universal aspect of our humanity. I ponder the challenges that are real for those who want to "Do the Work" It is time to see Healing Touch Protocols in place to support such a nursing intervention.

This was just part of the two day event. The stories that were shared were truly inspiring. The next International Caritas Consortium will be in April 2009 in Charleston, South Carolina. I look forward to seeing "one million nurses manifesting a field of transformation." 



About the author:

Christine Devoe integrates her training in touch therapies with a holistic nursing philosophy to empower her clients with the self-awareness of body, mind and spirit. She draws from her 20 years of maternal child health experience as a labor and delivery nurse and patient educator for high-risk pregnancies. As a member of the Department of Integrative Medicine at Calvert Memorial Hospital, she pioneered the practice of Healing Touch and Massage. Tina has written coursework to include Holistic Approaches to Wellness and Medical Massage for College of Southern Maryland. Through her teaching and workshops, she aims to increase knowledge of the human biofield and its relevance to health. Tina resides in Amelia Island Plantations where she is growing a new Healing Touch Community. Watercolor is her passion.