

President's Message

Journeys and the Joy of Circles

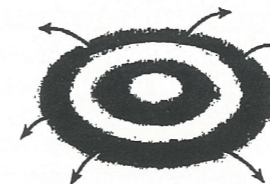
By Gloria Stephens

When one sets out on a journey, one usually checks to see that they have all the ingredients to make a successful trip - maps, tickets, reservations, a plan. Some may think of every detail, others need guidance and assurance to set them on the right course.

To have a successful trip we need to trust many people: the map makers, road signs, luggage handlers, etc. We put ourselves basically at the mercy of others. How and in what condition we arrive at our destination depends on our plan and our organization, but a great deal of our success depends upon our FAITH and our TRUST in others.

Consider yourselves a pebble thrown into a pool - we make small ripples.

But the more information the pebble contains the larger the pebble becomes, until it is the size of a rock which, when thrown into the pool, makes ever enlarging circles.



As individual nurses, our "rock" may have POSITIVE - outgoing vibrations...



or NEGATIVE - internal vibrations

Both directions may be based on ASSUMPTIONS. Assumptions should first be checked out - to ensure that an assumption is appropriate to the behaviour...before any behaviour change is contemplated.

Flying across Canada, you can see below a beautiful structured landscape. What a pattern of life, I thought. Looking more closely, I suddenly realized that patterns showed independent circles and squares,

sometimes connected by waterways and roads. The circles appeared to be connected, even though occasionally half the circle was dark and half light.

It also occurred to me that within the circle there were NO CORNERS to be locked into. Yes, with circles, you may return to your starting point and have another opportunity to start afresh.

When we start again we will hopefully enlarge the circle and like the "positive rock" to make positive assumptions and therefore have positive behaviours.

The success of any journey - whether it be personal or as a professional team, is the fulfilment of its expressed commitment and goals.

As operating room nurses, we have a VIP commitment, which is VISION, INVOLVEMENT and being PERSISTENT in our mission. That is, to harness all the individual resources within the circle and hopefully, this can be done in tandem and harmoniously. However, as in any "family" - and as operating room nurses we are indeed a family - there will be differences of opinion.

The analogy of the pebble/rock in the pond and the enlarging circles, is to view those differences as challenges, to energize, to accomplish and fulfil our responsibilities and role as an operating room nurses.

Where are we going? Do we know where we are now? Are we going forward collectively? Important questions to think about as we enter the journey of a new year. Let us make this journey a successful one by pulling together, and putting our positive energies toward formulating the future of operating room nursing and our National organization - ORNAC.

There is a saying:

*"Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow
Don't walk behind me, I may not lead
Just walk beside me and be my friend"*

And so the journeys and circles continue into infinity.

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