

# Faith Community Nursing: integrating faith and health care in the community

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## Introduction

Families, schools, workplaces, health services and churches are examples of institutions that can provide health assistance. Churches may contribute to the communities with health promotion programs for quality of life.

## Objectives

The experience reported here describes the implementation of a nursing program for Brazilian's faith community. It has provided the creation of workshops in spirituality to prepare nurses to work with hypertensive people, using eight natural medicines and reflections based on a biblical character experience's life.

## Methodology

The present report is fundamented by Westberg's experience in the city of Chicago in 1983, when the International Parish Nursing Resource Center (IPNRC) with the Faith Community Nursing Program was founded. It intends to promote a holistic vision of health in churches and/or communities, bringing people to faith principles and values. Four stages of training from the academic curriculum of Faith Community Nursing was developed: spirituality, holistic health, professionalism and community. It was established a partnership program between UNASP-IPNRC.



## Results

During the four days of the Brazilian Faith Community meeting (22-25, November, 2013), 16 lectures based on the four modules of the academic curriculum of Faith Community Nursing were presented. It was also developed dynamics to subsidize suggestions of how to apply the workshops in local communities. Thirty-four nurses participated to the lectures. It was found a positive pre-disposition on the part of the participants to the proposed activities. They also demonstrated themselves engaged, touched and participatory in planning the workshops on spirituality. Six of them took a public commitment to apply the "project" in their communities as soon as possible. A future meeting will be scheduled to share experiences and evaluation, as preparation to future generalizations.



**Conclusion:** Due to low income of large part of the Brazilian population, only circa of 26.3% (49.1 million people) are fully covered by health insurance. Faith Community Nursing program will be configured as a contribution to promote religious coping in health difficulties encountered. The project will not be destined only to people who do not have a health insurance plan, but to all who want to satisfy the spiritual dimension so much overlooked in modern human life context. This project has as presupposition that when it deal with health care should be take in consideration that we must treat the whole person: mind, body and spirit. The nursing profession was chosen by Granger because nurses are prepared for both fields: scientific and behavioral. Nurses are not only to be seen as attendants of primary care, but someone who can facilitate the use of available sources such as those that comes from churches and communities.

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