

Work as Spiritual Practice: The Five Questions that Change Everything

by Jennifer (Jay) Sherwood, BScN, MEd

The Good Samaritan Society has over 55-years of experience in providing complex/continuing care, assisted living and other specialized health and community care services in innovative and caring environments. It is one of the largest not-for-profit, voluntary care providers in Alberta and British Columbia. (www.gss.org) The values of The Society encompass much of what is included in the concept of caring, extending the values beyond its clients to those who provide the care. Sponsoring workshops for the personal and professional development of its staff and the larger community is one way that The Society demonstrates its "caring for the caregiver".

In the fall of this year, workshops will be delivered in locations in Alberta and British Columbia. (See advertisement below for the Alberta locations on this issue. Information about the Kelowna and Nanaimo workshops may be found on their webpage: www.gss.org.) The Edmonton and Lethbridge workshop is entitled, "Work as Spiritual Practice: The Five Questions that Change Everything." The workshop leader is John Scherer, the founder and lead consultant of the centre that bears his name. The Scherer Leadership Center is an international consortium of experienced consultants and coaches in leadership and change. Last week I had an opportunity to talk to John and ask him to explain what he meant by the five questions that "change everything" and how taken together, they relate to work. He began by emphasizing that the one question that is not part of the five is: "How can I change myself?" Beginning with the premise that we can't, nor should we try to change who we are because to do so negates us, he offered some further explanation. All of us, he says need to understand that we don't need to change ourselves, rather, we need to "come home to ourselves" by digging deep to find the qualities that define our "human spirit" and to "unleash" that spirit at work. How can we do that? Participants in

the workshop will come away with at least some of the answer!

Most people tend to separate the concepts of life and work, even though work takes up a significant part of our lives. If we view work and life as integral parts of each other, it leads to the possibility of bringing everything about who we are to everything we do! The workplace is the best classroom in the world, the faculty are our co-workers and in the case of caregivers our clients as well. The curriculum is what comes up in our work every day. Throughout the workshop, John will continue to explore these powerful ideas with the posing of the following five questions.

- What confronts me?
- What am I bringing?
- What runs me?
- What calls me? and,
- What will unleash me? (Scherer, 2008)

John brings a wealth of life experience to the workshops. He was a Combat Officer in the US Navy during the Vietnam era, Lutheran Chaplain at Cornell University, graduate school co-developer, best selling author, successful entrepreneur, and consultant to some of the best known organizations around the world. John is also a professional magician doing stand alone magic shows or when requested weaving magic into his keynote addresses.

For more information about the workshops, please visit The Good Samaritan Society website (www.gss.org) and for more information about John Scherer visit www.scherercenter.com.

References

Scherer, John. Poland Re-visited. The Scherer Center Newsletter: May, 2008

The Good Samaritan Society website www.gss.org

The Scherer Leadership Center website www.scherercenter.com



WORK AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE THE FIVE QUESTIONS THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING PRESENTER: JOHN SCHERER

Friday, September 26, 2008
Greenwood Inn, Edmonton, Alberta
Early Bird: \$70.00 (by August 4)*

Friday, October 3, 2008
Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge, Alberta
Early Bird: \$70.00 (by August 11)*

*Regular Rate: \$90

For more info or to register online go to
www.gss.org or phone 780.431.3780



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RESEARCH NURSES

Research Nurses are needed to work on a study of Hutterite colonies within the province of Alberta (*Health Regions: Chinook, David Thompson, East Central, Calgary*). This is a double-blind study that involves following high risk participants and healthy children who are immunized against influenza. This is an exciting long-term study whose aim is to provide vital information regarding influenza immunization.

Candidates must be CARNA registered and have experience with venipuncture and/or vaccination. Strong knowledge of research and excellent organizational skills are required. Experience working with different cultural groups will be considered an asset. Must be comfortable driving in the winter and access to a reliable vehicle is essential. Travel to the colonies will be compensated. Casual to full-time positions available. Ideal for nurses living in rural areas. Positions in SW Saskatchewan and Southern Manitoba are also available.

For more information contact:

Caralyn Kelly, Research Assistant, kellycj@mcmaster.ca or
Lorraine Moss, Program Coordinator, mossil@mcmaster.ca
or call toll free at 1-888-541-2821



NUNEE HEALTH BOARD SOCIETY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Nunee Health Board Society is currently seeking to recruit full time Registered Nurses and a Nurse in Charge. The successful candidate will be expected to function as a member of the Nursing Station team. Salary will commensurate with experience and education including an excellent employee benefit package. Willing to train a nurse who just graduated.

Nunee Health Board Society is located in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta. It is the oldest community in Western Canada. The hamlet is situated on the northwest shores of Lake Athabasca at the edge of the great Canadian Shield along with beautiful scenery and endless opportunities for outdoor activities such as camping, boating, cross country skiing, hunting and skidooing. Great place for the outdoor enthusiasts.

Using your extensive experience of nursing skills with an emphasis on assessment, treatment and medication, you will perform examinations and administer medical treatments in a varied clinical setting. Your problem-solving skills and ability to respond effectively to emergency situations is essential in this challenging healthcare setting. Experience in drafting correspondence and writing reports. Experience in operating computer software such as Microsoft Office.

Qualifications: Graduation from a recognized nursing program and nursing experience. You must be eligible or have current registration with the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses. Current CPR and First Aid is required.

Requirements: The requirement to work overtime may be required at a short notice. Must have a valid Alberta driver's license. Experience working within a First Nation setting is an asset.

Condition of employment: Must meet enhanced security requirements.

For more information on the above positions please contact the Health Director

Closing date: Open until suitable candidate selected.

Please submit a resume, verifiable documentation and three (3) professional references to:
Human Resources Coordinator

P.O. Box 476, Fort Chipewyan, Alberta T0P 1B0
Fax: 780-697-3031 Email: lena1@nunee.org

We thank all applicants but only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.