

HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE AFRICA

GOSPEL CHURCH IN FRANCISTOWN

by

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Submitted in part fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS IN NURSING SCIENCE

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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FEBRUARY 2003

DECLARATION

I declare that *Health seeking behaviour among the people of the Africa Gospel Church in Francistown* is my own original work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references; and that this work has not been submitted for any other degree at any other institution.

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FEBRUARY 2003

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- I thank God my keeper and my saviour for the strength and inspiration He gave me to do this work.
- My sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr L De Villiers and co- supervisor Prof GJA Lubbe who provided me with guidance, comments, and moral support and broadened my horizons. Indeed you were truly there for me, all the way.
- I thank the Office of the President of Botswana for allowing me to carry out this research.
- I thank the research participants for their committed participation in this research.
- I thank my daughter Neo for her support and encouragement throughout this academic exercise. You had to sacrifice much in order to allow me to complete this research. God bless.
- My mother Kaelo, who has always believed in me and encouraged me to pursue this degree.
- My colleagues who frequently acted as a sounding board.
- Waithera, I want to say you were truly a Godsend. Your assistance and patience were invaluable. May God multiply your blessings. You have been blessed with the gift of giving; you gave of yourself without a whimper!
- Dr E Tafa and Mr Phaswana who edited this research report.
- Mr Oladokun, Mrs K Balopi, Mr W Chakalisa and Mr T Jeremiah, the library staff of the University of Botswana CCE Francistown for their support and encouragement throughout this research.
- I dedicate this report to the memory of my father Baitso Kgwatalala, for all that he was.

ABSTRACT***HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE AFRICA GOSPEL CHURCH IN FRANCISTOWN***

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This research was stimulated by an indication that members of the Africa Gospel Church do not utilise professional health care services optimally, probably due to religious reasons. This may also be the result of registered nurses' inability to render culture congruent care. To render culture congruent care, nurses require knowledge of the belief system and the health seeking behaviours of the church members.

The qualitative research investigated the religious beliefs and health seeking behaviours of members of the Africa Gospel Church in Francistown, Botswana. An exploratory ethnonursing research method was applied. Semi-structured interviews were held with two purposively selected samples. Qualitative data analysis was done using computer software to reduce data and interpret the research results.

The study indicated that members utilise the Church structure for health care purposes and seek health care mainly from priests and prophets. Members of the Church actively participate in rendering community and home-based care.

Key Concepts

Religion, culture, culture congruent care, health, illness, explanatory models of health and illness, health-seeking behaviour

OPSOMMING

Die navorsing is gestimuleer deur 'n aanduiding dat lede van die Africa Gospel Church nie professionele gesondheidsdienste optimaal benut nie, moontlik vanweë religieuse redes. Onder-benutting van gesondheidsdienste kan ook voorkom as gevolg van 'n onvermoë, by verpleegkundiges, om kultureel kongruente sorg te lewer. Verpleegkundiges benodig kennis van die geloofstelsel van die Africa Gospel Church, en die gesondheidsoekende gedrag van die lede, om hulle in staat te stel om kultureel kongruente sorg te lewer. Hierdie kwalitatiewe navorsing is gemik op 'n ondersoek na die religieuse gelowe en gesondheidsoekende gedrag van lede van die Africa Gospel Church in Francistown, Botswana. 'n Verkennende ontwerp, wat die etnoverpleegkunde navorsingsmetode insluit, is toegepas. Semi-gestruktureerde onderhoude is gehou met twee doelgerig-geselekteerde steekproewe. Data-reduksie en interpretering van die navorsingsresultate is gedoen deur die toepassing van 'n kwalitatiewe data-analise metode en benutting van kwalitatiewe data-analise sagteware. Die navorsing dui aan dat lede van die Africa Gospel Church die kerkstrukture benut vir gesondheidsorg doeleindes en gesondheidsorg hoofsaaklik by priesters en profete verkry. Dit is gegrond in 'n geloof in die bonatuurlike veroorsaking van siekte, gekoppel aan streng kerklike voorskrifte ten opsigte van lewenstyl en gesondheidsorg. Lede van die kerk neem aktief deel in die verskaffing van gemeenskapsgebaseerde sorg en tuissorg.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL BACKGROUND

	page
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 CONTEXTUALISING THE STUDY.....	2
1.2.1 Geographical background of Botswana.....	2
1.2.2 Ethno-history of the Africa Gospel Church.....	3
1.2.2.1 <i>Foundation of Africa Gospel Church</i>	3
1.2.2.2 <i>Perspectives of the African Gospel Church</i>	4
1.2.3 Dimensions of health care in Botswana.....	6
1.2.3.1 <i>Primary health care in Botswana</i>	6
1.2.3.2 <i>Health and illness : The African perspective</i>	7
1.2.3.3 <i>The paradox</i>	13
1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.....	14
1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY.....	16
1.4.1 Research purpose.....	16
1.4.2 Research questions.....	16
1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.....	17
1.6 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS.....	17
1.6.1 Health.....	17
1.6.2 Illness.....	18
1.6.3 Care.....	18
1.6.4 Health seeking behaviour.....	18
1.6.5 Religion.....	19
1.6.6 Religious beliefs.....	19
1.7 FOUNDATIONS OF THE STUDY.....	19
1.7.1 Assumptions.....	19
1.7.2 Theoretical framework.....	20
1.8 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHOD.....	21
1.9 ORGANISATION OF THE DISSERTATION.....	21
1.10 SUMMARY	22

CHAPTER 2**LITERATURE REVIEW**

	Page
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	23
2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....	23
2.2.1 Leininger's Theory : <i>Culture Care Diversity and Universality</i>	24
2.2.2 The Ethnonursing method.....	27
2.3 CULTURE AND HEALTH.....	29
2.3.1 Explanatory models for illness and health seeking behaviour.....	30
2.3.1.1 <i>The biomedical paradigm</i>	30
2.3.1.2 <i>The magico-religious paradigm</i>	30
2.3.1.3 <i>The holistic paradigm</i>	33
2.4 RELIGION AND CULTURE.....	34
2.5 RELIGION AND HEALTH : A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP.....	35
2.6 RELIGION : HARMFUL TO HEALTH?.....	38
2.7 RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND UTILISATION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES....	39
2.8 RELIGION, HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AND HEALTH.....	41
2.9 SUMMARY.....	44

CHAPTER 4**DATA ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS**

	Page
	67
4.1 INTRODUCTION.....	67
4.2 DATA ANALYSIS STRATEGY.....	68
4.2.1 Collecting, describing and documenting of raw data.....	68
4.2.2 Coding and classification of data.....	68
4.2.3 Pattern and contextual analysis.....	68
4.2.4 Data synthesis.....	68
4.3 RESEARCH FINDINGS.....	69
4.3.1 Biographical data.....	69
4.3.2 Characteristics of the religion.....	70
4.3.3 Prescriptions.....	76
4.3.4 Lifestyle of the members of the church.....	76
4.3.4.1 <i>Religious practices</i>	76
4.3.4.2 <i>Social practices</i>	78
4.3.5 Health, illness, and care.....	78
4.3.5.1 <i>Explanatory model</i>	83
4.3.5.2 <i>Practices relating to health, illness and care</i>	88
4.4 SUMMARY.....	

CHAPTER 5**RESEARCH RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS**

	Page
5.1 INTRODUCTION.....	89
5.2 SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS : MAJOR THEMES....	90
5.2.1 General characteristics and belief system of the Africa Gospel Church.....	90
5.2.2 Conformity to religious prescription within a health context.....	92
5.2.3 Health seeking behaviours within the context of religious beliefs on health illness and care.....	94
5.3 CONCLUSION.....	97
5.4 CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDY.....	100
5.5 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY.....	101
5.6 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	101
5.6.1 Recommendations for clinical practice.....	101
5.6.2 Recommendations for education.....	103
5.6.3 Recommendation for further research.....	103
5.7 SUMMARY.....	104
References.....	105

LIST OF FIGURE(S)

Figure 2.1 Leininger's Sunrise Model.....	25
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ANNEXURES

		Page
Annexure A	Letter of consent.....	114
Annexure B	Request to do research.....	116
Annexure C	Permission to do research.....	117
Annexure D	Interview Guide for congregants (English).....	118
Annexure E	Interview Guide for priests and church leaders (English)...	120
Annexure F	Interview Guide for priests and congregants (Ndebele).....	123
Annexure G	NU*DIST Power Version nodes and categories.....	128
Annexure H	Coded Data.....	134