

Bridges to Spiritual Care Conversations in the Exam Room

Dr. Bill Morehouse* – CCHF Conference, Breakout 1, 10:30 am, March 28, 2019

INTERWOVEN – Mission • Medicine • Christ = Service • Skill • Witness = Soul • Body • Spirit

Who am I and who are you?

- *Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody – Introductions*
- *“I am the Vine; you are the branches”* John 15:5 – We’ve been grafted into the Tree of Life to bear fruit. Our leaves are for the healing of the nations. His life is in the SAP, we yield to the growth and fruitfulness.

Topics covered

- Motivation – Why would we consider sharing with patients about their spiritual lives?
- Mandate – Who has authorized or trained us to enter into conversations of this kind?
- Mission – What is the purpose of sharing about spiritual matters in a clinical setting?
- Morality – Is it ethically or morally permissible for health care providers to discuss spirituality?
- Methods – How do we find open doors where medicine and spiritual care can be interwoven?

Who is Motivating the Mission?

- I’m in charge: I went to school so I could take care of people. Now that I know how to do the medical part, that’s what I’m going to do.
- He’s in charge: God has called me to His side and is equipping me by His grace to serve among those who are afflicted in His harvest vineyard.
- How can we collaborate with each other to get the job done?

The one who Mandates will make the time

- Space: Out of His Infinite Energy, He made space for the Universe, all the matter in it, and all the laws that govern it.
- Time: Out of Eternity He brought forth time and not only did all His work in it but found time for a Sabbath of rest.
- People: Out of the dust of the ground He made man in His Image and gave us free will. We have all sinned, fallen short, and need redemption.

**Presentations/handouts
available online at:
www.hb-health.org/talks*

*Be sure to get handout on “Tips
for Bridging to Spiritual Care in
the Exam Room”*

Morality and Methods

- Our 3-fold Approach: Body, soul, spirit all interwoven and guided by the heart
 - Anatomy of the human heart, the heart of an artichoke, and the heart of a city
- What do we bring to the exam room? Our heart, our tongue, our hands and feet guided all by our attitude
- Ethics and Morality: Balancing benefit, autonomy, justice
- Where are the openings in a visit? Practical matters, personal and organizational
- How long do we carry on? How long will we tarry for revival?
 - Let your light shine *“until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream”*

Summary

“We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.” — Charles Swindoll

“An optimist is the personification of Spring.” — Susan J. Bissonette