

Hello to the nurses who come before me, big shoes that I must try to fill and walk their walk. The nurse of yesterday has paved the way with trust, passion, technical knowledge and pearls of wisdom. Nurses of the past worked in conditions sometimes dire, nurses fought in wars, brought strength to the masses facing forms of disease rarely seen today. We must never forget their passion, devotion and strength.

Hello to the nurse of today who face time constraints and try to do more with less resources at times than ever before. Communities are growing faster than the walls of capacity can allow, but what I am most proud of is that nurses – we nurses of the present do our work with boundless passion and unending desire to see that all people who need help are helped. All people, young and old alike are embraced by nurses who seek to heal, to save and sometimes to help say goodbye. We are everywhere! In the community, homecare nurses problem-solve with critical thinking super-hero capacity but we wear no capes. In public health we seek to educate, seek to help and save lives there too. In hospitals, on wards, in the operating rooms, prisons, doctor's offices and everywhere in-between, we are legions of nurses who are warriors, strong and ready to fight the good fight, we are missionaries sometimes sent out far from where we came from to help save others. We are nurses sent far north where the nurse is the everything in that community: the sole educator, healer, saver. Other times we are sent far away to other countries, in other lands who need nurses everyday just as they are needed here. This is why they say nursing is a calling. We are called to help, we are called to heal and we are called to go where there is need. We are called to just go.

Hello to the nurse of tomorrow who will work with the latest and the greatest of technology. Surgeries made faster, organs made of new space-age materials, printed on microcomputers, tubing that allows no microorganisms to grow. The nurses of tomorrow will work with other fascinating advances not yet created, not yet born; however, in the end, nurses still treat people. Young and old alike still need a nurse's touch, a nurse's critical eye and no amount of technology can ever replace that. The nurse of tomorrow will be fuelled by the same passion of the nurses of yesterday and today who seek to change things for the better, not ever giving up, especially in a patient's most dire need of help.

I am proud of all nurses, the nurses of yesterday, the nurses of today and the nurses of tomorrow. We are everywhere in our communities and we keep our communities strong. I am honored to count myself among the legions of nurses who serve. It is a calling I will love and will embrace until the end.

- Shauna Remin