B. Nursing Philosophy: (20 Pts.)

Review your previous philosophy and evaluate what you have written. Revise what you have written based on your management experience. You may use the following questions to rework your philosophy: (however, if you do use these questions - do not just answer these questions, but write your philosophy with these ideas addressed; also think of these questions in terms of your beliefs about management)

1. How do I see the nature of nursing?
2. What do I expect the outcomes of my nursing to be?

This I believe of nursing—that it is the very essence of the word caring. It is about tending to the sick and their families. It is about giving your all whether it’s listening to a patient, explaining medications, or cleaning out a bedpan. The thing about nursing is that it’s made up of everyday tasks and procedures that make it humble yet important. In terms of management, nursing sets a person up to be a good leader. I believe the higher a position a person attains, the more humility that person needs in order to become a great leader. The kind of qualities that a respectable nurse possesses includes compassion, empathy, humility, and efficiency to complete tasks. The very nature of nursing are made up of qualities that coincidently make a good leader as well.

One thing that has influenced my perspective of nursing and management is the people I work with. One particular person who has influenced my nursing career is a charge nurse at my workplace. His name is Julius. He is the definition of a caring nurse and he is also a great leader. I feel that he would be a great manager and has already influenced me more than any other manager I’ve had. He has encouraged me through some of the toughest work days. He also sets an example that I one day hope to be like. He is very knowledgeable and is pursuing a PhD in nursing. Often, he’ll ask me about my education goals and intellectual pursuits which show how much he believes in me. He treat’s all nurses with kindness and never belittles anyone.

The world of healthcare can be very demanding especially in the acute setting. A nurse might have five needy patients with doctor’s ordering multiple things to happen. It is the job of the nurse to know what’s going on while running around to make care happen. It can get very hectic, really fast. It is important to remember the reasons of what nursing is—to make a difference and to care. In terms of management, staff are like a manager’s patients, and remembering to make a difference in the workplace setting by caring for the staff is a good goal.

Sometimes it is hard to remember the reasons of what nursing means and what a difference nurses can make. But I believe that keeping those reasons in mind is a great habit when doing bedside care. A good attitude makes all the difference in patient care, management, and in life. There was a staff member on my unit that consistently had a bad attitude that drained the rest of the staff every time he worked. It came to the point where his complaining and lack of motivation for the job made everyone, including patients rejoice, when he got dismissed. His contribution to nursing was non-existent, even detrimental to my unit’s work environment stemming from his bad attitude. That is why a good attitude is imperative to provide excellent care.

Some attitudes that exemplify my practice of nursing include being positive and having a mind-set of servitude. On days when I feel great and remind myself of why I got into nursing, the day seems to go smoother. I remember to go out of my way to help coworkers and it always pays off when I get into a crunch. There are those days where I dread certain patients and forget to have an attitude of service. On those days, I notice my day is more unorganized and I feel that patient’s are needier. I have learned that anticipating patient’s needs and wanting to provide the best patient care possible makes for a better work environment for other staff members, patients, and the overall hospital.

The contributions that nursing makes in the health industry are numerous. I believe nurses are like the lines of resistance in reference to Neuman’s model. They protect the central core/patient especially when environmental stressors come into play. If they are effective, the patient can regain homeostasis but if ineffective, a loss of energy can result in death. For example, the doctor may order many tasks to be done but it is the nurse who carries out the tasks and checks to make sure the tasks are suitable for the patient’s condition. That is why it is very important that nurses know their patients and become advocates for their needs.

Being a patient advocate is the basis for good outcomes. The ideal outcome of nursing is to help patients through their healthcare ordeal by effectively managing their care. When this goal is reached better outcomes are achieved. From a managerial perspective, good nurses are priceless and are the faces of a good hospital. They are what set up positive experiences in bad circumstances. This is what I believe about nursing—it is the very essence of caring and making a difference.