MARTINS, Darci Aparecida. “Faith and Health: a study about the representation of the charismatic follower on his/her infirmity recovery processes with the support of the prayer groups at the RCC in Maringá, PR. Doctorate thesis. Sao Bernardo do Campo, Methodist University of São Paulo.

ABSTRACT

The present study aims to interpret the religious representations of the charismatic faithful that belongs to the prayer group “Renovação Carismática Católica de Maringá”, Paraná, when one faces an illness process.

Based on the antropologic conception of health and the interpretative antropologic conception, the text open a discussion within these areas of knowledge to interpret the search of religion, as a system of significance and motivation for the recovery of illness on the life of the charismatically faithful.

The process health/illness, by antropologic vision, is seen as a social phenomenon, concerning people, in different cultures and social groups, once health and illness are not present, on the same way, in different cultures. Understanding that health is something that goes beyond the concept that the body is free of illness, Antropology proposes a study model that connects culture, society and nature; that allow us to reflect, and not reproduce, the positivist model of medicine that fragments the body, throwing the illness responsibility on the ill, not considering his history, his beliefs, values and the social context in which he lives.

This study revealed, by narratives of the faithful who were interviewed: the search for the RCC prayers group, as a place of value, humane care, and a sacred aproximation; the religion, as something that grants meaning through religious symbols that act in a therapeutic form for the recovery of illness, and, at last, the religion as a source and a system of motivation and courage while facing the sickness of body and mind, or the illness properly said.