



The Newsletter

www.OSLregion8.org

FALL 2006

The Newsletter seeks to encourage interest in **Christian healing** and is published by The International Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL), Region VIII Council. To submit stories of healing and notices of coming events please contact the editor, via 'contact us' on the website or write to Keith Bird, 206-5 Tangreen Court, Willowdale, ON, M2M 3Z1 email kbird7@rogers.com. The Regional Director is The Reverend Canon D. A. P. Smith 5 Railway Street Perth, Ontario K7H 2Z6, Telephone 613 267 3421 Fax: 613 267 3421, dap.smith@sympatico.ca. For more information regarding OSL please visit our website at www.oslregion8.org

We Believe: God uses many agencies for healing: some are spiritual such as prayer, love, faith, anointing with oil, and the laying on of hands; some are medical such as medicine, surgery, and psychology. These agencies should be supportive of one another. God's desire for us is wholeness and health. Christian healing is accomplished through faith in Christ and through subjecting one's entire life to the scrutiny and counsel of God. We believe Jesus Christ is alive today and still possesses all power on earth as in Heaven.

Our Objectives: Promoting the restoration of the Apostolic practice of healing as taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ; promoting a sound pastoral and counseling ministry; promoting the practice of holding healing services in every church; developing local chapters to promote healing missions, workshops and prayer groups in their area.

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An application form for membership in The International Order of St Luke the Physician is available at www.OSLregion8.org



“... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

Seek Ye First By The Rev'd Murray McColl

A few years ago there were two “words” that the Holy Spirit brought in meetings in which I was involved. The first was that we were to seek God's face first and not His hands. The second was that one of the purposes of the wind of the Holy Spirit was to blow “things” around in our lives so we would recognize wrong priorities and by His grace, put “things” back in the order God wanted them. He seemed to be showing us that we had some priorities wrong. We lived as those who sought to be happy and blessed and with no suffering first. And further, He showed us that our prayer life was much the same. God was seen as a vending machine in the sky or some celestial Santa Claus whose first priority was to bless us with healing, health, wealth, good feelings about ourselves and others or whatever our hearts desired.

Again, these verses are being brought to people as they seek God. I wonder how we would feel if the

only reason our family or friends had any contact with us was to get something from us. Or if their first words to us were about what they needed from us. I do not wonder, I know. I'm sure we would wonder about the relationship. How close a relationship is this? What is its purpose? Am I only there to give? How about intimacy in the relationship? How close can we be to each other?

I cannot help but wonder if some of this type of praying is evident in our prayers for healing? Is our method of praying for healing to invite God's Presence first or just to get the healing done? Is it just healing we want God to dispense? Do we seek the healing of God or the God of healing?

Do we seek the healing of God or the God of healing?

Please, don't get me wrong. I believe God wants to heal us. I have asked for healing and prayed with people for healing many times. I have advanced heart disease and had quadruple bypass in 1999. I still have heart disease. Many, many prayers have gone up for my healing. Plainly, God asked me early on after the surgery, "Do you want Me or My healing?" "Lord, I want You" was and is my reply.

The Lord reminds me regularly of His words in Matthew 6:33 which are, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (NKJV) Notice it does not say, "But seek first My healing, My love, My blessings, My peace". We are asked to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. If His kingdom and His righteousness come first, are all the "things" we need included after that? They seem to be. His word says, "And all these things shall be added to you".

So what shall we do? I believe we are called to repent of wrong priorities. We may well need to repent identifying with the same sin in our forefathers. "We have sinned, O Lord." And I believe we need the grace of God to do even that. Jesus was correct when He said, "Without Me, you can do nothing." (John 15:5b) But God led Paul to write, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) And Paul was told, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Jesus Christ is calling us to greater intimacy than we have ever known. He walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the garden. He desires the same closeness with us. Let us seek His Presence with us and those for whom we pray, more and more.

And let us seek His face for the knowledge of His will. May we answer like the Psalmist in Psalm 28:8, "When You said, 'Seek My face', my heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

Murray McColl is an Anglican priest (retired) in the Diocese of Toronto, and formerly the Rector of Emmanuel Church (Richvale) in Richmond Hill. Murray leads healing workshops and is a seasoned leader in the ministry of healing. He and his wife, Sandra, live in Woodview, ON.



THE DIRECTOR'S DOIN'S

September, 2006

Canon David Smith

Well, it appears I am still the OSL Director of Region VIII. My second three-year term was to have expired last June but in that no successor has been found I am still on the job. The Council is going to have to give this situation some attention at its September meeting, but in the meantime I am willing to carry on even though I feel I am not giving the position the time and attention it deserves.

I was away a lot this summer, mainly at our cottage, but also I took a two week course on St Paul in Turkey visiting the historical and Biblical sites. Turkey was a memorable and inspiring experience indeed and opened a number of new insights for me. But the time away has meant that I am now trying hard to get caught up on a number of things including OSL business.

During the course of the summer my bishop appointed me Interim priest-in-charge of the Parish of Maberly/Lanark-Parham/Sharbot Lake, a six-point parish not far from Perth. It is an interesting parish in that half of it is in the Diocese of Ontario and the other half is in Ottawa! But I do appreciate the opportunity to respond when asked to serve in this way.

Because I had presumed my term as Director would come to an end in June I made arrangements to go on the Turkey trip in the belief that my successor would be attending the June North American conference in San Antonio instead of me. Therefore I was not free to go either to the

**A Mini-Report of the
REGION 8 COUNCIL MEETING
Saturday, 16th September, 2006
St Timothy's Church (Agincourt)**

conference or the North American Director's Council Meetings, so I am grateful that Phyllis Beauchamp, our Regional Representative, was able to be there. The conference was "wonderful", I have been told by at least two people who were there but this was not surprising news as I have always found the North American conferences to be not only inspiring and educational but also a great time for renewing old acquaintances and meeting truly interesting people. Of special interest to Canadian OSL members is the development of an identifiable Canadian entity within the North American structure of the OSL. No doubt we will be hearing more about that as it progresses.

Still, there have been OSL concerns to attend to. Last April I was invited by St Mary Magdalene's Parish in Napanee to come and give three OSL talks on "Jesus' Ministry and Ours" on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week. Then on a Sunday evening in May I preached at the monthly OSL healing service for the Rothwell Chapter in Ottawa and inducted two full members and a new associate member there. Later on in June I drove to Toronto to speak in St Timothy's Anglican Church, Agincourt, to the Scarborough Chapter which was celebrating its twentieth anniversary.

The Regional Conference last 2nd and 3rd of June was, of course, in Kingston, held in the beautiful new facilities of Christ Church Parish Centre. Canon Mark Pearson from New Hampshire was the speaker. The returned assessment forms indicate that ninety-eight percent of those who attended were thoroughly enthusiastic about that conference. We should praise God for the dedication and hard work of all the members of the local committee who made it such a success: Edward Tennant, the convener, the Reverend Jack Bennett and the Reverend Ruth Smith, chaplains, Marion Bennett, Anna Bell, and Pauline Bettney.

I took some photographs at the Kingston conference and Phyllis Beauchamp brought a number of good pictures back from the North American conference in San Antonio. I am hoping to pick a selection from these to update the OSL display so that it will be ready for use this Fall and in the coming year. Right now the display has been borrowed by the Runnymede chapter who want to use it at a Fellowship of Prayer conference in Toronto.

David Smith
The Rev'd Canon David A.P. Smith
Director, OSL Region VIII
dap.smith@sympatico.ca

The meeting began at 10 am with eight persons present, five having sent regrets, and one person absent, and amongst other business –

- enjoyed basic refreshments provided by Deacon Bill Manley;
- welcomed to the Council Beryl Young (from Smiths Falls) who has agreed to be secretary; Sr Jocelyn SSJD, back after five years and at one time treasurer of the Council; and Deacon Jacquie Bouthéon and Carol-Anne Foty to a second term;
- was led in devotions by Sr Jocelyn;
- suggested that Keith Bird as webmaster of our Region 8 website be the Regional Contact person for Trudy MacGregor, the North American Convener Liaison;
- requested that the OSL archival material presently with Archdeacon Gordon Simmons be put with the OSL stuff in the basement of the Regional Director;
- felt that the fees for meeting in St Timothy's were not unreasonable for continuing to meet there in the future;
- discussed who might be asked to be the next Regional Director and the procedures to be followed;
- struck a search committee to find persons to replace the three Council members whose terms end next June;
- celebrated the Eucharist in St Timothy's chapel, the Director presiding;
- received Phyllis Beauchamp's report on the very successful North American conference and Council meetings in San Antonio last June;
- congratulated the Kingston Tri-county chapter for the way they hosted last June's Regional Conference in Kingston and called it "a model for future conferences", and authorized that \$300 be returned to that chapter for their funds;
- recommended certain persons as speakers for the 2007 Regional Conference next June in Perth and asked the Director to approach them;
- discussed the 2008 conference as well;
- accepted a plan to revise the mailing list for the Newsletter;
- set the date of the next Council meeting for Saturday, 17th March, at St Timothy's, Agincourt;
- adjourned with prayer at 2:40 pm.



The new banner was created by OSL Chaplain, The Rev'd Ruth Smith, and presented to Canon David Smith in June at the Region VIII Conference in Kingston. Ruth's gift is much appreciated and will hang proudly at future OSL events.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that stories of healing are posted on the website at www.oslregion8.org?

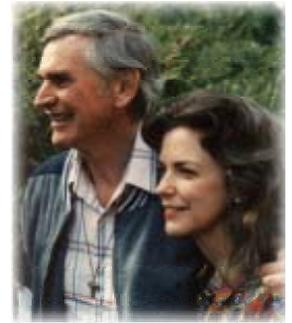
Do you have a story of healing or answered prayer? Would you be willing to share it with the OSL family? You can be certain it will be a blessing and encouragement to others. Poems are also welcome.

Please send your contribution to the editor at the address shown on page 1.

Why I Wrote

CAN HOMOSEXUALITY BE HEALED?

by Francis MacNutt



Like most of you, Judith and I share the pain of many friends who are members of churches that are being torn apart by the issue of homosexuality. We have dear friends on both sides of the divide. We also think we have learned something about healing that could lead to solving the conflicting opinions about homosexuality. We also believe that we haven't as yet had a real opportunity to share what we have learned and experienced.

That's the reason I wrote a short, easy to read, book entitled *Can Homosexuality Be Healed?* (Chosen Books). In it I share several key ideas which some Christians have not yet heard. The basic key we want to share with you, naturally, in relation to the healing ministry, is that *homosexuality can be healed*. By this we mean that someone, whose sexual orientation is directed to the same sex, can become a heterosexual through Jesus' saving power when we pray. We believe this, not only theoretically but we have seen it happen over a period of many years.

Again, in our experience, most church leaders are not aware that such a change is even possible!

The common belief, reinforced by gay activists, is that their orientation is 1) genetic, and 2) unchangeable.

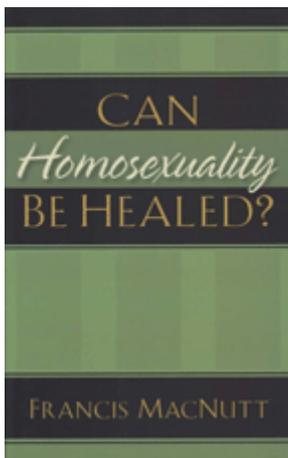
Therefore, they propose that the true Christian response is for the church to accept the homosexual community and also to accept their homosexual lifestyle. "Inclusivity" is the key word. To those churches who disagree with them and teach that sexual activity directed to the same sex is forbidden by Scripture (e.g. Leviticus 20:13 and Romans 1:26-27), the homosexual activists respond by saying, "I was born this way, and this orientation just doesn't change. I was born as a sexual human being, and my emotional drive to union with the person I love needs to be expressed. I am not a celibate, and it's wrong for you to demand that I live without a sexual companion." Otherwise, as one older homosexual wrote to me, "The loneliness that I feel in my life is overwhelming." This man is living a single life but "the discouragement and loneliness at times are unbearable."

For traditionalists who support the stand that same-sex intercourse is wrong, it seems harsh to insist on living out this norm with only the help of willpower. A few homosexuals, like the elderly man I just quoted, can sustain a sexless lifestyle, but most cannot sustain such a lonely life.

In our experience, the homosexual orientation can be changed, but most church leaders have never heard of this possibility, so they face a dilemma: they either have to accept an active homosexual lifestyle, or they simply condemn homosexual actions without offering the help that most homosexuals need to change. Where are the church leaders who can say, "We understand your pain. We also know that you probably didn't choose the homosexual lifestyle. We understand why you are angry with us because we simply condemn your lifestyle without reaching out to help you. But now we are here to help you if only you will give us a chance to pray with you for healing."

This is the great secret that we would like to share with the church in a way that makes sense — spiritual, scriptural and human. Unfortunately, only a few Christians know that homosexuals who wish to change their orientation can actually change and become heterosexual. To us, healing prayer seems to be the only viable option for those Christians who believe that living a homosexual lifestyle is wrong. Without a real belief in healing, a Christian traditionalist can only offer homosexuals a command to repent, which will lead the homosexual to respond in anger or despair. Our belief and experience leads us to proclaim that healing does take place when we pray for inner healing and, occasionally, deliverance. We personally believe that the success rate of this approach is close to 100%.

The one caution, and it is a big one, is that this usually takes time. Rarely have we seen a homosexual healed with only one prayer or one session; the ordinary process takes perhaps six months, with an hour's session once a week. The basic issue does not usually stay in the physical, sexual level but goes much deeper. For example, the male homosexual may not have received the love he needed from his father, and his homosexual activities are an attempt to fill up that void in his life.



But where do we find Christians who do not condemn homosexuals themselves but do not agree with them that homosexual activities (some 80% engage in anal intercourse) are morally acceptable? In addition, where do we find mature Christians who understand how to pray for inner healing and are willing to spend the time to pray the homosexual into the fullness of life?

And that's why I wrote the book, *Can Homosexuality Be Healed?* I wanted to offer hope to those churches who believe that Jesus can change the homosexual's orientation and, beyond that, will raise up a whole generation of wise prayer ministers who will see the homosexual through to his or her complete transformation.

Unless we really believe in prayer for healing, we are condemning the homosexual community into accepting their condition and the churches into being tempted into accepting their lifestyle.

(Footnotes)

¹ "Holding it Together," *Sojourners*, May-June 1999, p. 28,30.

² *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, p. 218. This is an excellent book by a Jewish psychiatrist, it gives much of the background of the inner struggles of the psychiatrists in the face of the gay activism.

Reprinted with permission. Above article appears in the September/October 2006 issue of The Healing Line, official newsletter of Christian Healing Ministries founded by Francis and Judith MacNutt, Jacksonville, Florida.

Kingston OSL Chapter Launches
www.kingstontricityosl.ca
Congratulations on a great website!

SUPPORT FOR REGION 8

To support the work of OSL throughout Region VIII, Council passed a motion in 1998 asking members for a "Loonie-a-month". Members are asked to remit once a year. The \$12 per year voluntary donation to Region VIII is in addition to annual OSL membership renewals that members send to the Order in San Antonio.

Some chapters remit on behalf of their members. Others go beyond the request and actually tithe to Region VIII for which we are very grateful. We pray that practice will continue and that other chapters will consider doing likewise.

If your chapter does not participate – or you do not attend a chapter - please consider using the following response form.

When chapters enclose a list of members and the amount of donation from each, the treasurer is able to provide an income tax receipt to those individuals. To reduce costs all receipts are mailed in one envelope addressed to the secretary.

Enclosed is a pre-addressed reply envelope. Please enclose the following response form or a note with your remittance.

To encourage everyone to take part, the Newsletter will publish a notice each fall as a reminder. Space on the form is also included for those who wish to give a one time year end gift.

Please clip or photocopy and mail to treasurer	
Mrs. Sandra McColl, Woodview, ON, K0L 2E0	
An income tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$12 or more received before Dec 31	
Enclosed is my support for Region VIII	
Name	
Address	
City	P/Code
Annual Donation (\$1 per month x 12)	\$ _____
Year end gift	\$ _____
Total amount enclosed	\$ _____
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT	

What's Happening At Your Church? By Keith Bird

"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." (Luke 9: 1-2 NIV)

For years the Order of St Luke has been faithfully fulfilling its mandate to promote the restoration of healing to its place in regular worship services. Others are working to this end as well. Much is being accomplished and we are grateful for what God is doing. Training is happening, prayer teams are being formed and many are receiving healing. More and more are

becoming aware that Jesus is still in the business of healing today!

As wonderful as it is that increasing numbers of churches are now holding healing services and people are being healed, few have actually taken the next step of integrating healing into regular weekly services. For the majority, healing activities are still being held separately from worship services. Why?

Scripture is clear: "...And (Jesus) sent them out to preach the kingdom of God **and** to heal the sick." (Luke 9:2) As Jesus himself demonstrated, preaching and healing happened together. Why do we separate the two?

Jesus often healed when he was not preaching, but **He never refused to heal when he preached.** Should we do any differently? Can we accept His command to "preach **and** heal the sick" as one directive and follow His example to do both at the same time?

"What if I pray for this person and nothing happens?" is a common fear and a ploy of the enemy to keep us from taking action. Until we accept that it is our part to pray for healing, and it is God's part to heal – in His time, in His way - that fear will continue to cripple. Something always happens when we pray for healing whether we can see it or not! God's Word never returns to Him void, and because He has commanded us to pray for the sick we can be confident that He will be faithful.

Jesus always demonstrated love and compassion for people in spite of convention and religion, and never hesitated to pour out His love on all who asked. When opportunity for healing is including in the worship service, we can expect God's blessings to flow.

Why integrate healing into regular worship services? The most important reason is because we are commanded to preach and heal the sick. The second reason is that the need is very evident; events of daily life take their toll on us. In many ways we are not the same people today that we were last week. At any given time there are those who have had a loss and are grieving; others are dealing with hurt, physical and emotional pain, difficulty, depression or tragedy... illness has entered their life or the lives of loved ones,,, children are in need of healing prayer... others are fearful or anxious... the list is endless. In particular we all need to receive healing on a regular basis to help us become whole. Must we wait for weeks

before the next healing service? Must we seek healing elsewhere?

Healing **is** being integrated into worship services in a growing number of churches. Some congregations ask those who desire prayers for healing to place a prayer book in front of them at the altar when they come forward for Holy Communion. Others provide lay prayer teams to pray with individuals during the process of Communion every week, and still others have established a specific time every Sunday during worship services to invite those who would like to receive prayer for healing to gather in a group at the front to be anointed and prayed for before going forward to receive Holy Communion. With careful planning a format that works for your congregation can be accomplished within an acceptable time frame.

Are opportunities to receive prayer for healing, anointing with oil and laying-on-of-hands offered in your church every Sunday? How is healing being incorporated into your weekly services? Would you let the editor know so that your feedback can be shared in future issues of *The Newsletter* to encourage others?

Are you interested in more information about how to get healing started or to encourage the healing ministry at your church?

Speakers are available to visit your congregation or prayer group to share about the ministry of healing and the work of OSL. Trained leaders and ministry teams are available to support you at every stage of planning and, if you wish, to participate with you in a healing event.

The Order of St Luke (OSL) offers a **Healing Ministry Training Weekend** (a Continuing Education Unit is available) designed to assist those who would like to learn and participate more in this ministry, and to be a refresher course for those who already have experience. In Ontario please contact Canon David A. P. Smith at the address on page 1 for more information. For national and international interest please visit http://www.orderofstluke.org/healing_weekend.htm

The Order of St Luke would be pleased to be a resource for you and your congregation.

Keith Bird is the founding editor of The Newsletter. He attends St Ninian's (Scarborough) where prayer teams are available and opportunity for healing is offered during worship services and also at a mid week and monthly healing services.



CALL TO PRAYER AND FASTING

For a period of 7 days, of your choosing before November 30, OSL members in Region VIII are encouraged to set aside a regular time each day to pray and to listen for leading from the Lord in four areas: the ministry to which you have been called, OSL Chapter attended, Region VIII, and for the Order. In preparation for this special time, it is suggested you ask the Lord for what He wants you to give up for the fast. For some it could be a meal or part of a meal each day, others may be asked to give up watching TV, and for others perhaps something else.

Rev. Al Durrance, who initiated the annual practice when he was North American Director, said he found it helpful to head up a sheet of paper for each of the four areas he was praying about – the ministry to which he was called, the chapter he attended, the region, and for the Order, and to take those sheets with him each day to record what he believed the Lord was saying to him about each one. He encourages us to set aside a specific time each day during the week for this prayer time, and focus on **listening**.

Before the end of November, you are asked to share results directly with Region VIII Director, Rev. David A.P. Smith, 5 Railway Street Perth, Ontario K7H 2Z6 Phone: 613 267 3421 Fax: 613 267 3421, e-mail dap.smith@sympatico.ca. May God richly bless you as you participate in this important event.

We Remember and Give Thanks



Thank you for joining with us in prayer for our Canadian troops, in particular those serving in Afghanistan. We pray for their safety and protection, and for peace and comfort for their families and loved ones. We remember especially, with deepest gratitude, all who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we hold so dear, and we give thanks for their bravery and courage. We ask for peace to come soon for all people in that land. We remember with gratitude all Canadians who gave their lives on our behalf.

We shall never forget...



Sept 11th, 2001

We hold in our hearts and prayers all who experienced loss as a result of 9/11.

Our prayers are also with those who risk their lives on a daily basis in Iraq to defend the cause of freedom. We ask for protection for their lives and for their safe return. We remember as well their families and loved ones. We are deeply grateful for the ultimate sacrifice made by so many to defend freedom. We remember and ask for comfort and peace for their families and loved ones. May God bring about a swift end to their task in that land.

PASS IT ON!

One of the simplest things we can do to share the healing love of Jesus is to pass our newsletter along to others. Some members leave their copy in a waiting room, others drop it off when visiting. We never know when an article may bless someone and might come at an important time in their life.

By each of us simply sharing our copy with others, a potential of 1,000 or more new readers each year could discover the Good News that Jesus continues to heal today, and may also learn about the ministry of OSL for the first time. Contact the editor for additional copies.

Would you consider telling us where copies of your newsletter have been placed? Replies will be published in future issues to encourage others.

If you are a new reader and would like to receive this newsletter by mail please send your request to the editor at the address on page 1. If you no longer wish to receive *The Newsletter* please contact the editor. Thank you.

COMING EVENTS

October 13 & 14 - St Simon's Church, Oakville Annual Healing Conference will be led by the Rev'd Mike Flynn of Fresh Winds Ministries, California. For more information and on-line registration visit www.oslregion8.org

October 18, (St Luke's Day) 7:30 p.m. St James' Church, Perth Dr Ivan Jackson, Physician, will present a talk and show slides on *Christ in Medicine*. A Healing service will follow.

2007 April 14 & 15 North Bay A Healing Conference with Diane Marshall of the Institute of Family Living, Toronto. For more information visit Coming Events page at www.oslregion8.org

Deadline For Coming Event Notices.

March 15 for Spring issue published in April; September 15 for Fall issue published in October.

Notices are posted immediately on the website when received and are also communicated by email as advance notice to group members. Two ways to advise the editor of your coming events are by regular mail to the address on page 1, or at www.oslregion8.org/coming_events.htm

Want to receive updates between newsletters?

Sign yourself up on the home page at www.oslregion8.org

You may leave the group at any time. Members can email the group to exchange information, advertise coming events and to request prayer.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Links to daily devotions, Bible search engine lookups for most versions of the Bible, Christian E-cards, OSL International Email Prayer Chain, and more are available to you at www.oslregion8.org/links.htm

As a public service a Directory of Christian Healing Services in Ontario is being developed on our website by the editor. You are invited to post notices free of charge at www.oslregion8.org/coming_events.htm to advertise your healing services, healing events, and worship services that offer healing. A form is provided for your use on that webpage.