



The Newsletter

www.OSLregion8.org

December 2008

The Newsletter seeks to encourage interest in **Christian healing** and is published by The International Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL), Region 8 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 editor@OSLregion8.org. The Regional Director is The Reverend Ron Vanauken, 19 Frost Drive, Whitby, ON, L1P 1C8 home 905-430-1949, church 905-431-0835, email vanauken@rogers.com 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



Christmas Greetings
The Rev. Murray McColl

In the Gospel of Luke at Chapter 2, verses 10 and 11, we read, "And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'" (RSV)

It gives me great comfort to read that the shepherds were afraid. I am sure I would have been afraid if an announcement was made to me by an angel and suddenly the whole sky was lit up with angels praising God. Mary was afraid when the angel announced to her that she was to be the mother of God's Son. But the announcement was "Good News" to these people.

I understand that God tells us three hundred and sixty-five times that we need not be afraid. I sense a lot of fear in this weary world. I am glad that we are told so many times that we need not be afraid. And we need not be afraid because we have a Saviour who will heal us of this fear. Jesus came to be our Saviour! He came to heal us!

Did you notice that the job of Saviour has been taken? Jesus was born to be our Saviour. He was born to be the Saviour of the world! I nor you nor anyone else can save anyone, including ourselves of anything. And only He can heal or save that one that we may be trying to heal or save from drugs or alcohol or any behaviour contrary to His word. He is the Saviour! He is Christ the Lord!

So many times I have had to be brought to the end of myself trying to save myself and others. So many times we need to be brought to the end of ourselves trying to heal some character flaw so we can present it to Jesus in its healed form. So many times we

exhaust ourselves trying to "rescue" someone from their behaviour or addiction, when they need to be pointed to Jesus Christ who will bring them to the end of themselves, brought low so they will look up and find Jesus, the Saviour. All the while Jesus is telling us that He wants us, not our works.

I wonder if we get so busy doing things for God that we miss God in the whole scenario. God is waiting for us with outstretched arms saying, "Come!" We can get so busy "doing" so we "be" who God says we already are rather than "being" who God says we already "are" so we can "do" what He asks.

The shepherds and Wise Men came and worshipped Jesus. They left Him glorifying and praising God. We will gather probably this Christmas season and glorify and praise God for all He is. We will thank Him for all He has done. And it is right to do so! Our voices will join in the words of the beautiful chorus to the hymn, "O Come All Ye Faithful" which says "O come, let us adore Him." Maybe we can add, "We give Him all the glory." or "For He alone is worthy."

I believe we need to come before Jesus just as we are. If we recognize and accept our helplessness (He was so helpless as a wee baby!), we will see again what He has to offer us. We come with nothing, naked, and a divine exchange is made and we receive all He is and has! He gives us all we need.

Loved ones, Jesus still saves! He is still our Saviour! He still saves marriages! He still saves broken bodies! He still saves tortured souls! He still saves us from our sins! He still saves us from fear! He is our wonderful Saviour!

He still asks us, "Will you let Me be your Saviour? Will you let me be the One I was born to be? Will you let Me be Saviour in and through you? May we all answer as Mary said so long ago, "Be it unto me according to Your word!"

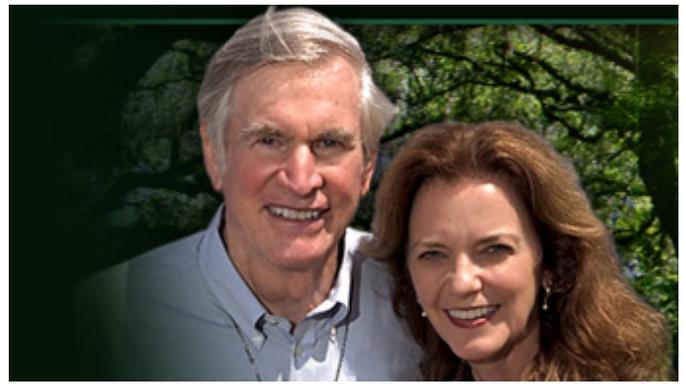
May you be blessed with a very holy, Merry Christmas!

Murray+

Coming To Your Chapter

Region 8 Council would like to partner with your chapter to host a 1-day ***Introduction to the Ministry of Healing*** event.

Why? To encourage your chapter in its work - to bring awareness of the healing ministry of our Lord to individuals and congregations who have yet to embrace it - to strengthen the witness and mission of the Order of St Luke in each chapter's area - to be responsive and responsible as Region 8 Council in working with chapters within the region. Please contact Rev. Ron Vanauken for details.



Angels In Our Midst

By Judith MacNutt

Several years ago my husband, Francis, and I were leading a conference on healing prayer in a local church. The day had been filled with teaching and lively discussion. Everyone was excited about the healing service that would take place soon in the sanctuary. Many of the congregation had told us about their pain, either physical or emotional, and were ready to receive God's healing touch.

During the healing service, a young mother came forward followed closely by her six-year-old son holding tightly to the folds of her skirt. Tearfully she told us of her deep heartbreak because she had been recently divorced from her husband of ten years. The way she carried her body clearly showed her despair and loneliness. Her deepest concern, however, had to do with her young son, Timmy.

Since the divorce Timmy had withdrawn more and more, showing signs of depression. He missed his daddy terribly and felt somehow he was to blame for the break-up of the family. A mother's heart had brought her broken son to the Lord for healing.

Unlike most six-year-old boys, Timmy's face was etched with sadness, his eyes deeply sorrowful. As we layed hands on Timmy, he began to cry softly.

As we continued to pray quietly with Timmy, I opened my eyes and looked up. Suddenly, I became aware of an angelic being sitting on a wooden rafter high above the Cross! The angel was surrounded by a brilliant white light, his garment shining - unlike anything I had ever seen before. His countenance was joyful, yet concerned. He was looking directly at us while we prayed over Timmy. I had the distinct impression that he, too, was praying for Timmy.

After we finished the prayer Timmy returned to sit down with his mother. I would occasionally glance at Timmy as the service continued. I noticed he, too, was looking in the direction where the angel was still seated.

Excusing myself from the healing line, I slipped into the seat beside Timmy. I asked him if he would mind sharing with me what had captured his attention. By this time he was staring at the angel, his eyes full of wonder!

He hesitated for a moment, and then slowly said that he saw a "large man sitting on a rafter." He gave me a quizzical look as if to say, "Do you believe me?" I smiled and assured him that he was really seeing an angel of the Lord.

When I asked him to describe the angel, he gave me an exact description of his hair, clothing, smile and size. I asked him if he was bigger than my husband, who is 6'4", and he said, "Much bigger." I told Timmy he was greatly blessed to see this angel. A broad smile covered his little face and excitement raced through his voice as he said, "I believe God wants me to know He has sent this angel to always take care of me, since my Daddy can't be around anymore."

Judith and her husband, Francis MacNutt, are founding directors of Christian Healing Ministries in Jacksonville, Florida. Judith wrote the above article prior to a conference on The Ministry of Angels; Messengers from God, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, where she and Francis were keynote speakers.

School of Healing Prayer

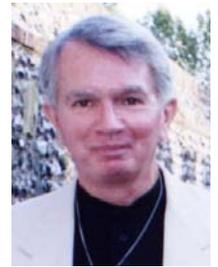
Christian Healing Ministries offer a School of Healing Prayer in Jacksonville, FL. They have also recorded several teaching sessions on video tape for each of three levels. Schools have sprung up in many communities throughout North America.

For those living in Toronto or nearby, a School is available at Danforth Baptist Church. For more information contact Carol or Ted Ward at teward@idirect.com or visit their website at <http://www.christianhealingintoronto.ca> (click on All Levels). A new session begins in February.

Region 8 Council purchased a series of video tapes a number of years ago and have been loaning them to chapters. To request a loan for your chapter contact Rev. Ron Van Auken.

Try Standing Naked

The Rev. Ron Van Auken



Okay. I will be the first to admit that "Try Standing Naked" is not what you would expect to find in a Christian newsletter. I will admit as well that there may be a few who take offense to it. It is one of those phrases that come to me on occasion that sound bizarre, even to me, until I reflect on it. If I were more religious I would be quick to assert that it is God speaking to me; but I am not and so I won't.

By far the biggest problem we have as followers of Jesus is that we think too highly of ourselves and too little of him. Those of us who are clergy love to parade the fact that we are a doctor, or a canon. We love to list our honours and parade our achievements. The rest of us will tout the books we have read, the seminars and conferences we have attended, the training we have received, the positions we have held, the particular healing guru that we follow. We are obsessed with ourselves and with drawing attention to ourselves. We are obsessed with looking good. We are obsessed with impressing others with who we think we are. And the more we are inclined to do this, often without even being aware of it, the more the whole ministry of healing becomes about us and not about God and the individual who looks to him for healing and wholeness. We are concerned that we have the right words, the right technique, the right answer to difficult questions. Let's be honest, we want to point to the prayers we have uttered that God has answered and the individuals who have been healed because we have laid hands upon them.

Try standing naked. It's not a shock statement. It's not even an invitation, suggestion, or a challenge. It is an absolute necessity. When we stand naked we drop all pretence. When we stand naked we take off and discard everything that we adorn ourselves with to make ourselves appear knowledgeable, wise, skilled, capable or attractive. When we stand naked we are left with nothing. We are humbled. And that is precisely where every servant of Christ needs to be. Only when we stand naked—and become comfortable with our nakedness and turn aside from any effort to cover ourselves, are we able to truly listen to others and care for others. Only when we stand naked are we open to hearing the word of God. Only when we stand naked is God able to fully use us.

May We Please Have Your Help?

To be good stewards, we need to reduce printing and mailing costs for *The Newsletter*. The 8-page newsletter is now 4 pages.

Our idea is to deliver *The Newsletter* in future via email to everyone who has access to the internet, and mail the printed version to all others on our mailing list. The printed version will also continue to be available for outreach to spread the Good News and encouragement for those in the healing ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and recipients of healing prayer.

Make no mistake, we want to get the newsletter into your hands one way or another, and if you do not have email please know we are happy to continue to mail it to you.

Also, if you have been in the habit of passing your copy along to others we will be happy to continue to mail the printed version to you as well as deliver it via email. And if you are currently placing copies in waiting rooms and during your visits to hospitals we will gladly send a quantity at your request. We will not be cutting back on sharing the Good News.

For those who are not able to receive attachments via email we will also provide a link in each newsletter email where you can read (and print, if you like) the newsletter on our website at www.oslregion8.org. It will be available in both pdf (Adobe reader) and also Word doc formats.

For your information Adobe Reader (for opening pdf files) is a free and safe download. A link for downloading Adobe can found at www.oslregion8.org/newsletters.htm

To help us in planning to whom we should email the newsletter in future or mail the printed version, could you please take a moment to complete the following short form and return it in the reply envelope enclosed. Thank you in advance for your participation!

If you are able to enclose a donation with your reply as well, it would be greatly appreciated, and will help to support the ongoing work of OSL in Ontario. Thanks again in advance!

Your Reply

Please Print

Use back for comments, questions & suggestions

My email address is:

Please check all that apply to you:

I receive email notices via the Region 8 News email list.

I do not have email

I have email (noted above) and would also like to receive the newsletter by mail.

I place copies of the printed newsletter for outreach. Please send a package of (how many?) _____

I have been receiving the printed version of the newsletter by mail.

I no longer wish to receive the newsletter.

Name on the label is:

My Name

Address

Telephone

Would You Consider Giving A Year End Gift?

Your generous year-end gift payable to OSL Region 8 will be especially appreciated this year as council strives to balance expenses with shrinking income. **An income tax receipt will be issued.**

If a reply envelope is not enclosed with this newsletter, please send your reply and gift (if you can) to:

**Sandra McColl, OSL Region 8
Woodview, ON
K0L 3E0**

Thank you!

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and every blessing now and in the coming year!