



The Newsletter

www.OSLregion8.org

August 2009

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, 5 Tangreen Crt, Apt 206, 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, 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

ALL HEALING COMES FROM GOD – OR DOES IT?

Carol S. Ward

"Let no-one deceive you in any way;"
2 Thess. 2:3

"See to it that no-one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ." Colossians 2:8

More than 30 years ago I had a medical problem and could not afford surgery. I was taken to a spiritualist "church" for healing. The room was furnished much the same as the ones you see when you go to a masseur. I was asked to lie down on a bed not unlike those used for massage therapy and the spiritualist quietly placed his hands about 6" above my body, just below my midriff and then began to move them from that centre to other parts of my body - slowly and keeping them still about 6" above me, intermittently flicking them to one side. It was very peaceful and I was healed. But the healing did not come from God. To this day I regret having participated in that and when the Holy Spirit revealed my sin to me, I had to repent of it and be freed from Satan's clutches. For you see, unlike God who gives us free grace, Satan demands a price.

Because I have witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit in healing bodies and minds and in delivering people from the root causes of their physical and mental difficulties, I felt it was important to examine some current thinking about healing in particular with respect to two activities that seem to be gaining momentum in the medical field, among professional groups and even amongst Christians - Therapeutic Touch and Reiki.

Therapeutic Touch was developed and introduced to the nursing profession by Dolores Kreiger (a professor at New York University). She was mentored by Dora Kunz who was a psychic and past president of the Theosophical Society. ("Nurse Healers - Professional Associates International - The Official Organization of Therapeutic Touch", p.1).

Reiki is a Japanese word meaning "Universal Life-Force-Energy". Reiki has its origins in Buddhism, Hinduism and Zoroasterism. It was begun by Dr Mikao Usui from Japan in the late 1800's. Reiki 'energy' comes to the patient through the practitioner who is the channel. Therapeutic Touch, like Reiki, is the purported manipulation of an 'energy field' by using one's hands. Both work on the theory that the human body is made up of an energy system or prana and that all things in the universe exist as part of the 'Universal Energy'. Healthy people are supposed to have an excess of prana, sick people are supposed to have a shortage of it. Prana is a Sanskrit (Hindu) word, which loosely means 'vitality' or 'vital force'.

The Therapeutic Touch practitioner 'channels' the excess 'energy' to the sick person through a four step process - centering (meditation), assessment, unruffling and modulation. Interestingly, occult healing involves the manipulation of prana. "Pranic healing is done by sending prana (the 'vital force') from your body to the diseased or affected parts, stimulating the cells and tissues to normal activity and allowing the waste material to leave the system. It involves the use of passes and the laying on of hands." ('Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft', Raymond Buckland, p. 194).

In his book called 'Psychic Healing', Ramacharaka says "When the pass is completed, swing the fingers sideways, as if you were throwing water from them" - sound familiar? Sure it does, it's exactly what is done during Therapeutic Touch, Reiki and spiritualist healing sessions.

From God? Most definitely not!

I have heard Christians who practice Therapeutic Touch and Reiki talk of 'chakras' and 'energy' and the use of colour and, in the same sentence, state that they are "not into anything bad, such as tarot cards or séances". In a recent edition of the Journal of Christian Nursing, an article on Reiki Therapy states that "According to Hinduism, chakra powers rise in the form of a serpent: the Kundalini force, represented at the base of the spine by the Hindu god, Shakti, who ascends to the seventh chakra and unites with Shiva, the third member of the Hindu trinity." As for colour 'therapy' – it has been used by

spiritualists for many years - where do you think the New Agers got it from?

What we as Christians need always to remember is that Satan and his agents masquerade as agents of light (2 Cor. 11:14-15) and not allow ourselves to be deceived by him and his minions. All power comes from God and we approach God through Jesus Christ. The practitioners of Therapeutic Touch and Reiki talk of their practices as being Christian because "after all, Jesus talked of laying on of hands (Matt. 8:3, Luke 13:13, Mark 1:41) and we also read that power went out from Jesus (Luke 6:19, Luke 8:46)". It seems to me that when I read of Jesus' laying hands on people for healing the Bible says that Jesus stretched out His hand and touched the ailing person - certainly not a procedure followed in either Therapeutic Touch or Reiki.

What these practitioners also miss is the fact that it is God who heals through Jesus Christ and the power Jesus talks of is not His own energy but the power of the Holy Spirit - it has nothing to do with 'centering' or movement of our own 'energy' or channeling. As Christians we are told very clearly how God feels about consorting with Satan and the occult - see what He says in Deuteronomy 18:9-14. God has called us to be "a people holy to the Lord your God ... His treasured possession" (Deut. 7:6) and He says "If you heed these ordinances by diligently observing them, the Lord your God will maintain with you the covenant loyalty that he swore to your ancestors; He will love you, bless you, and multiply you will turn away from you every illness..." (Deut. 7:12-15).

Yes, not everyone who is prayed for is healed, but God is sovereign and a mystery - if He were not He would not be God.

May we continue to be a people holy to our wonderful and loving God.

Carol Ward and her husband, Ted, lead the School of Healing Prayer in Toronto, Ontario <http://www.christianhealingintoronto.ca>. Weekly teaching sessions are provided using videos created by Christian Healing Ministry of Jacksonville, Florida, founded and led by Francis and Judith MacNutt. Carol and Ted have presented workshops on healing for Order of St Luke events in Ontario and many other healing events. The Wards are past regional leaders of ALPHA and are actively involved in their church.

Interested in starting a healing ministry in your church?

For more information visit

www.oslregion8.org

Resources To Encourage You and Your OSL Chapter During the Coming Months

School of Healing Prayer

Judith and Francis MacNutt founded Christian Healing Ministries in Jacksonville, Florida, where people are invited to come for both teaching and prayer. The International Order of St Luke the Physician recognizes the importance of Judith and Francis MacNutt's contribution to the healing ministry, and recommends their teaching to members of the Order.

Francis and Judith MacNutt designed the School of Healing Prayer, and are leading classes regularly in Jacksonville. Videos of the classes have been recorded and are available for sale. There are currently 3 levels of teaching including videos, support materials for students and guides for leaders. Level 4 has just been announced. It is expected videos and materials will be available later this fall.

To purchase a variety of healing resources from Christian Healing Ministries - including DVD's, CD's, books by Francis MacNutt and others, audio and video tapes on various topics, individual videos and the complete set of recently revised and updated School of Healing Prayer teaching videos, contact Christian Healing Ministries, PO Box 9520, Jacksonville, FL 32208, telephone 904-765-3332, fax: 904-765-4224. Purchases can also be made on their website at <http://www.christianhealingmin.org>

A number of years ago OSL Region 8 Council purchased a series of School of Healing Prayer video tapes to provide teaching for chapters. To request a loan for your chapter contact Rev. Ron Vanauken 19 Frost Drive, Whitby, ON, L1P 1C8 home 905-430-1949, email vanauken@rogers.com

Schools of Healing Prayer are springing up in many communities throughout North America. For folks living in Toronto or nearby, a school is available east of the Don Valley Parkway on Danforth Avenue. For more information contact Carol or Ted Ward at PO Box 41, Station R, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Z3, telephone 416-429-8770 email teward@idirect.com or visit <http://www.christianhealingintoronto.ca>.

New classes start every October and February.

Level 1

Scriptural Foundations for Healing
Baptism in the Holy Spirit
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
History of Healing in the Church
Becoming a Prayer Minister
Healing Our Image of God
Four Types of Healing
Conducting the Initial Interview
Praying for Physical Healing
Developing Prayer Teams
Introduction to Inner Healing
Introduction to Deliverance Prayer
The Healing Power of Forgiveness

Level 2

Sin
Praying for Forgiveness
Understanding Generational Healing
Healing of Spiritual Abuse
How to Pray for Inner Healing
Conception to Birth Prayer
Healing of Sexual Abuse
Healing in Marriage
Healing the Wounds of Divorce
Suffering
How to Pray for Deliverance
Depression and Mental Illness
Healing of Abortion and Miscarriage

Level 3

Love is a Gift
Intimacy and Identity
Understanding the Emotions
Blessings and Curses
The Misunderstood Emotion
The Purpose of Fear
Praying for the Homosexual
Understanding the Grieving Process
Ministering to the Seriously Ill
Hearing God
Healing of Addictions
The Ministry of God's Holy Angels
Spiritual Warfare

Level 4

DVD's and materials are expected later this fall.
Healing of Mother and Father Wounds
Understanding the Free Masons
Advanced Deliverance
Learning to Pray with Authority
Purification of People, Places & Possessions
Avoiding Burnout in Ministry
Developing Listening Skills in Prayer Ministry
Special Concerns in the Healing Ministry

(New Age and Cult Practices)
Becoming a Healing Person
Understanding Satanic Ritual Abuse
Healing of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Legalism vs. Freedom in the Spirit
Healing Among Christians

Is It Possible To Recover Anointing?

The Rev. Ron Vanauken



The question may puzzle you, or even sound a bit foolish. After all, most, if not all of us, have engaged in what we have come to call anointing: a bit of oil placed on the forehead, usually making the sign of the cross, accompanied by a blessing or brief prayer. But this practice is a far cry from the anointing we hear about in the scriptures.

In the Hebrew of the Old Testament there are two prominent words which are translated “anoint.” Each of these words has its corresponding equivalent in the Greek of the New Testament. The first of these words refers to what we might call “sacramental” anointing. It is the anointing of kings, priests, and prophets for their office and is the equivalent of what today we refer to as ordination. It is distinctly a sacred act.

The second set of words are used of a variety of anointing, none of them having any particularly sacred overtones. The words themselves can more literally be translated “rub.” So to anoint is to rub with oil. One’s face might be rubbed (anointed) with oil to make it shine and give to it a healthy appearance. Following a bath the body was rubbed (anointed) with oil to soothe their skin. Food was often rubbed (anointed) with oil prior to being cooked. In other words, anointing of various things with oil or ointment was common practice with no particular spiritual meaning or significance. What is important is that it is this common word, meaning “to rub”, and not the “sacramental” word that is used when the anointing of the sick is spoken of. This is particularly true of the familiar James 5 passage where the sick person is, literally, to be rubbed with oil. Why? Because the oil had softening and soothing properties and was especially used on rough or dry skin, and was also seen as having medicinal qualities, sometimes being mixed with wine, it was used to treat wounds and diseases that affected the skin. This is not to mention that, as it was frequently scented, simply made the person feel better. Rubbing (anointing) the sick person with oil might well be regarded as the

equivalent of applying first aid cream, seeing to it that they receive adequate medical care. This is not to mention the positive benefits of a gentle, therapeutic massage, or prolonged touch by caring hands.

Is it possible to recover anointing? The question expanded might be: Can we envision a healing ministry wherein we care for individuals physically by doing what we are able to make them comfortable and to feel good? Can we envision a healing ministry wherein we take care to see that each person receives the necessary medical care? Can we envision a healing ministry where we take time to hold hands, to touch, to embrace? Can we envision a healing ministry that brings together both the real physical care that we ourselves can provide (anointing) as well as that which we seek from the Lord through prayer?

It is, for certain, a big challenge as most of us have grown up with a sacramental theology or way of thinking that does not readily allow us to return to the roots of our faith. But if God works through anointing, then he does so not because of any spiritual properties the oil has by virtue of being blessed, but because of those caring individuals who reach out with mercy and compassion to heal through the offering of their time and their touch. We are called to be healers...healers in the very natural sense of that word. At the same time, we call upon the Lord to heal in a supra-natural manner. In this way we are co-workers with Christ.

The Rev Vanauken is Director of OSL Region 8

COMING EVENTS

October 2 and 3, 2009

OSL Oakville Chapter Annual Fall Conference

St. Simon Anglican Church 1450 Litchfield Road,
Oakville, ON L6H 5P4

Theme: **The Spirit Comes In Power**

Leader: **The Rev. Josh Acton** [Desert Call Ministries](#)

Adult registration: Weekend \$35.00 each

Saturday only: \$25.00 each

Married couple registration: Weekend: \$60.00

Youth/Student registration: \$10.00

[click for more information and brochure](#)

October 3, 2009

The OSL Region 8 Annual Business Meeting will take place as we enjoy lunch on Saturday during the OSL Oakville Annual Fall Conference

June 21-25, 2010

OSL International meets in Kelowna, BC. Visit www.osl2010.ca You are advised to register early.