



# The Newsletter

[www.oslregion8.org](http://www.oslregion8.org)

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**The Newsletter seeks to encourage interest in Christian Healing** and is published by The International Order of St. Luke the Physician, Region 8 (Ontario, Canada) Council. To share stories of healing and notices of coming events please contact the editor, Keith Bird, 206-5 Tangreen Court, Willowdale, ON, M2M 3Z1 [editor@oslregion8.org](mailto:editor@oslregion8.org). The Regional Warden is The Rev'd Canon D. A. P. Smith 5 Railway Street Perth, Ontario K7H 2Z6, 613 267 3421 Fax: 613 267 3421, [dap.smith@sympatico.ca](mailto:dap.smith@sympatico.ca). For more information regarding OSL please visit our website at [www.oslregion8.org](http://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 lives today and He 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 areas.

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Everyone is invited to attend OSL healing events. Come and receive a blessing.



**"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." James 5:13-15**

## FREDDIE'S HEALING

*"What was that electricity going through my body and down my "leg" when they prayed for me?"*

**Carol-Anne Foty**

**W**e first met Faraidon (we all call him Freddie) when he showed up at our church one April Sunday morning, 3 years ago. When our welcoming team discovered he spoke Arabic,

they were happy to introduce him to my husband and another parishioner who originally came from the Middle East. We wanted to make him especially welcome and get to know his story.

What we gradually came to find out about his life in Iraq and the ordeals he endured in the journey along the way 'til that day we met him, was at once horrific, and awesome at the same time. We learned how God had intervened in so many ways to preserve his life and protect his strong faith despite unbelievable hardships.

He was a Christian raised in a strongly devout Syrian Orthodox family, and worked as a college teacher of history in Iraq. In 1980 he had to flee for his life as Saddam rose to power and started culling potential "western minded" thinkers. His father, a professional engineer who had worked for a British Petroleum company in Iraq for 30 years, was murdered by the authorities in 1978 (taken out of bed in the middle of the night, and his body thrown back to the family the next day).

Freddie found sanctuary for over a year at the Canadian Embassy in Athens, thanks to his friendship with a Greek Orthodox priest who had "connections". Just before he was to leave for Canada as a Canadian government-sponsored refugee, Freddie received word from his sisters in Iraq that his wife and two young sons had been shot and killed by Saddam's police. Freddie ended up in hospital in Athens at that point, in total despair. The entire embassy staff was grieving with him, and the ambassador was especially compassionate concerning his case.

In 1984 Freddie arrived in Canada, and began his journey towards citizenship and a new life here in Toronto. He searched out many different churches during that time looking for "family" and acceptance.

I am a community pharmacist. When we learned that Freddie was diabetic and a heart-attack survivor, I took him under my "medical" wing. Two years ago we were dismayed to discover that he had developed gangrene in his right foot, and subsequently his leg was amputated just below the knee. He no longer could work at his 2 jobs (18-hr days) and that sent us all on a learning curve together, soon to discover the holes and gaps in our social support structures. Thank God he had found the caring community at our church, and thank God we were obedient to the Lord's call on us.

We invited Freddie to attend our High Park Chapter of the Order of St. Luke in hope that he would receive prayer for the "phantom" pain that

plagued him daily following his amputation. Prescription medication was inadequate for the pain and he was very desperate for the Lord's help.

At one of our chapter meetings last spring, our guest speaker was Michael Whate and team from the School of Healing Prayer (Christian Healing Ministries, founded by Francis and Judith McNutt). An invitation was given to receive laying-on of hands & prayer for healing, and Freddie went forward.

Freddie was prayed for (even though the team didn't know what "phantom" pain was, the Lord did!), and although he didn't say anything at first, he asked me later, "What was that electricity going through my body and down my "leg" when they prayed for me?"

I had the happy opportunity of assuring him that THAT was the Lord healing him! Since that prayer time he has had no "phantom" pain episode at all! Praise God!

What an encouragement to realize that healing to relieve suffering is just one thing the Lord wants to do in Freddie's life and in all our lives, to bring about health & wholeness.

*Carol-Anne Foty is Convener of the OSL High Park Chapter and a member of OSL Region 8 Council.*

## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN HEALING?

**Rev. Al Durrance**

**W**hat is Christian healing? That is a question that is often asked and has many answers. The answer is simple. It is asking Jesus Christ what to do about any disease, and doing it that He might bring wholeness from the inside out. It is not a process of magic whereby we get God to do what we ask. It is praying, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Christian Healing is the manifestation of the creative power of God's love as He comes to make us a new creation in Christ Jesus. It is concerned not only with the stewardship of our body of flesh and blood. It is concerned with our ultimate relationship with God as our Father, Jesus Christ as our Savior and Healer, and Holy Spirit, as the Executive of Father's will for us as He revealed it in Jesus Christ.

It is not simply the maintenance of life in this world, but the growing edge of God's creation where the Kingdom of God encounters the old creation, and brings about transformation as well as restoration. The purpose of Christian Healing is to grant us entry into the Kingdom now, that we might live *in* the world, but not *of* the world. It is our invitation and access to God's Kingdom and the wholeness He has prepared for us.

Since we have a two way street of, "How do we receive Christian Healing?" and "How do we minister Christian Healing?" we will have to look a little closer at "asking Jesus what to do."

### **How do we receive Christian Healing?**

God is not into magic, and Christian Healing does not use incantation. He is into creation through the manifestation of His love. He calls us to Himself, and healing begins when we are willing to seek Him as He reveals Himself to us. That revelation will always be in accord with the revelation that He has already shown us in His Only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

The diagnostic questions are simple also. Do I know God? If I do not know Him well enough to talk with Him, I need spiritual healing. Do I accept and forgive myself and others? If not, I need healing of the soul. Am I able to perform some task that I find meaningful and of value? If not, I need healing of vocation and the body healing to go with that. Do I think of the Kingdom of God as present? If not, I need healing of the mind. Am I a member of an intimate community? If not, I need to become a member of a community where Jesus Christ is the Center. Do I forgive and receive forgiveness? If not, then I need to seek to receive and give forgiveness.

The receiving of Christian Healing is simply to ask the Lord to lead you to the community in which He intends you to share, and to the persons in the community through whom He will minister to you. Ask the people to whom He sends you to pray for you; and being willing to receive the healing on His terms. If you are willing to ask, He is able to open the way for you to find what you are seeking from Him. It may not always be what you expect, but He will act in your life. When the asking is done, be still and listen to what He wants to do next.

It is important to pursue healing from one area to another. From time to time the disease that we find in our bodies is connected to a source that needs healing in the soul. The disease we find in

our soul might find its origin in our spirit. All of them might stem from our failure to forgive or seek forgiveness. Perhaps the most difficult task is to forgive ourselves.

When faced with a serious disease of any kind, it might be well to begin with a confession of our sins to God so we might receive His forgiveness. Then we might make a list of the people we need to forgive, beginning with God and ourselves. To forgive God does not mean that He has done something amiss. He has just not lived up to our expectations. It is simply a reaffirmation that we are willing to accept God as He has revealed Himself rather than as we had apprehended Him initially.

When we are unable to forgive someone, we might ask God to forgive them through us so that we might get in on His love and forgiveness for the person. (For a more detailed discussion of forgiveness, see the OSL tract on forgiveness.)

### **How do we minister Christian Healing?**

Jesus gave us six, "Go and Do" Commissions which define the realm of healing as Christians. The first three are found in His commission to the disciples when He sent them out as apostles. He first gave them authority and power, and then sent them to, "Proclaim the Kingdom of God, to Heal the Sick and to Cast Out Demons.

The proclamation of the Kingdom is not simply a proclamation about the future. The Kingdom of God is at hand, and the King can be known. He is known now in part, through a glass darkly, but He is known. We can be reconciled to the One who created us, who loves us, and who has prepared the Way for us to live with Him as His children. That reconciliation opens the way for the healing of the spirit. It is the access we have to determining who we are and why we are here. It is the primary source of deliverance from lostness, loneliness, and stress.

Prayer is no longer talking **to** God. It becomes talking **with** God. It is the encounter wherein we transact the trade of our disease of spirit for His grace and peace in our lives. Christian healing begins when we can assist people to connect with the author of creation who alone can bring wholeness to us now. It is perhaps the great difference between Christian Healing and other alternatives.

The casting out of demons simply means to completely change the internal motivations that move our lives. It means to remove both the

reactions to the world around us, and the compulsive behavior that drives us or hinders us, even against our own will. While it is normally seen as the removal of spirits that act on our behavior; it may also include removal of the reaction bases which bind us in some sort of codependency.

In the final analysis it means to set people free from the seven deadly sins of pride, envy, anger, sloth, avarice, gluttony and lust; so they might become the garden of God bearing the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness, humility and self control. It means the exchange of the character of Adam for the character of Jesus. It is the resolution of the stresses that plague us with disease, and it enables us to live with ourselves as we learn to live with God

The healing of the sick has to do with the finding and fulfilling of vocation, the purpose for which God has created us and to which He has called us. It is not simply a matter of rising and walking. It is a matter of walking with God in accord with His purpose for us. It is concerned with finding and walking in His will.

The healing process equips us physically to walk in the purpose He has given. It does not necessarily make us into specimens to show case in the world. It brings us to a freedom, strength and the grace to become His, and to work with Him.

The next two commissions are given following the resurrection. "All authority has been given unto me, Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them all that I have taught you." These two are followed by the great promise, "Lo, I am with you, even to the close of the age." Mt 28:18ff

The commission to teach is for the healing of the mind. If we look at the Gospels, we might be struck by the teaching about the Kingdom of God, while He was doing with work of healing. He told us, in effect, that we are to think Kingdom, not human limitations. We are to think solution and not problems. When we ask God what the solution is to be, He might not come up with the same one we have in mind, but He does not leave us alone, and we are never without Hope. He is with us always.

Perhaps we might say that our minds and our thinking are healed when we encounter a crisis

and immediately think prayer rather than how we are going to work it out ourselves. Prayer has been put down over the past few decades, but it is our communication line with both the wisdom and power of God. Think Kingdom!

Making disciples has always been about the idea of saving souls; but it is also about the healing of the community. It is not simply bringing souls out of hell into heaven. It is bringing souls into communion with God and with one another. There is no provision in the New Testament for individual Christians. It is individual in community. The community is the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head, and all of His disciples are members. "...so we, though many, are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another." Rom 12:5

In the final analysis, I cannot become whole apart from the rest of the Body which Jesus is preparing for the Kingdom of God. There is no way for me to practice love alone. There must be someone who is giving and someone who is receiving in order for love to become a reality. The intimacy to which we are called by God is to be practiced in the community of Jesus' disciples - those who know that they are loved infinitely and unconditionally, and can share that same unconditional love with others.

The final commission is, "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you...If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Jn 20: 23 We are sent to forgive. We are sent to heal relationships with others as well as with God. In the context of the community we are taught by James " Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed." Ja 5:16

Confession comes in a variety of forms in church traditions, but it does not come as an option. It is a necessity for maintaining an open relationship with God and with other people. Forgiving ourselves and others is also essential to the flow of God's healing love and power into our own lives, as well as through our lives for the lives of those to whom He sends us to minister.

These six commissions embody the fullness of Christian Healing. It begins with establishing a living relationship with a living God, Who wants us to know Him as Father. It continues with the nurture of that relationship in prayer and worship, individually and corporately. It extends to our soul and the enabling grace to know and accept ourselves as God knows us and loves us. It incorporates the changes that grace imparts as

God makes us a new creation, preparing us to enter more fully into His Kingdom. It works out the extension of these healings into the body that we might be prepared to know and fulfill the purpose of our creation. It enables us to think in terms of the Kingdom of God being present, and the authority and power of the King being available as we pray, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done - nothing more, nothing less, nothing else"

### **What about the use of Medical Care, Diet and Exercise?**

Medicine and Counsel work from the outside in. Doctors treat; God heals. We are not to avoid external treatment; we are to use it as we are led, prayerfully offering the physicians and treatments to God for His use. We trust God to use the physician of the body or the psyche to prepare us for His love to restore us to the wholeness He intends for us to use in our vocation.

I recall a time when I was dealing with a cyst. I had it prayed for a number of times, and it would come and go. I finally said, "Lord, if you don't heal this thing, I am going to a doctor."

To which He responded, "I will tell you to whom you are to go."

When any medical procedure or treatment is used, seek God's direction in whom you are to contact, commit the doctors, nurses and all medication and treatment to Him, and let Him fill in the bottom line. The Book of Sirach, from the Apocrypha, gives us a practical guide to the use of physicians and medications in his thirty-eighth chapter.

Diet is important to our physical well being. Since God has not made two of us alike, there is no specific regimen to which we must adhere; but it is essential that our food intake be balanced and in accord with our body's capacity to metabolize it. While it is not a fetish to hang around our necks it is important to have a sensible diet that does not fall on either side of gluttony - starvation or over eating.

Exercise is essential to maintain normal health. It is especially necessary for those who are subject to high stress. Stress that dumps adrenaline into the cardio-vascular system, allows fat molecules to enter also. They must either be burned out through exercise or settle out causing cardiovascular problems with circulation. The obvious solution is not simply exercise, but the

working toward the elimination of the stress through the healing power of God's love.

Christian Healing is found in the context of a community of people who share two things - the needs over which they have no power, and the grace that God has given them in Jesus Christ to share in their corporate lives. The healing power of forgiveness is operative in that community to assure that relationships are kept open to the flow of the love of God that heals the spirit, soul, body, mind, community and relationships.

*Rev Al Durrance is Warden Emeritus for The International Order of St Luke the Physician, a frequent leader for Schools of Pastoral Care and Camps Farthest Out and prolific writer. Author of "Good Lord Deliver Us!" Rev. Durrance has written several tracts for the Order of St Luke, continues to contribute valuable articles on Christian healing and is popular keynote speaker at conferences and healing events.*

### **WARDEN'S WANDERINGS Rev. Canon David A.P. Smith**

**T**here are great perks to being an OSL Warden. You get to go to places and meet wonderful Christian people you would probably never get to know otherwise, and enjoy occasions that are invariably happy, positive, and filled with the Spirit. As I begin my second term I look forward to the next three years.

For me it has been a busy summer what with a wedding in the family, a cottage that decided that this was the year for things to go wrong, and an enjoyable if too short stint as interim priest of the Parish of the Rideau, a three point rural parish just south of Perth. It was a good break from the many good things that are happening in our OSL region.

For instance, St Alban's Parish, Ottawa, is the centre for a new and vibrant chapter. Over the course of this past year an OSL group has been meeting and studying under the conscientious leadership of Dawna Gallagher. Then on Sunday, 25 March, I inducted one Full Member and five Associate Members, installed the Rector, the Rev'd George Sinclair, as a chaplain, and presented them with their OSL charter.

The following week I drove to North Bay and conducted a Healing Mission at St Brice's where the Rev'd Tom Carman is the new Rector. Before Fr Carman's arrival, Bishop Eddie Marsh, retired Bishop of Central Newfoundland and well known

in healing and renewal circles, had had an extensive interim ministry in the parish, and, thus encouraged, I, as OSL Regional Warden, was invited to help them explore ways to expand the healing ministry of the parish. The result of that one-day mission on the Saturday was that on the following day, Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> June, after I had preached at the Sunday Eucharist, I inducted the Rector as a chaplain and received eleven others as Associate Members of the OSL.

There would also appear to be a third chapter coming into being in Campbellford, a very pretty town half-way between highways 401 and 7, northwest of Belleville. Deacon Bill Manley, one of our council members, is a member of the parish of Christ Church there and, at the invitation of the Rector, the Rev'd Chamberlain Jones, I preached at the Sunday Eucharist on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and inducted two Full Members and four Associate Members. At this time of writing the OSL people there hope to invite me back sometime soon to help them organize themselves into a chapter.

Then, the other day I got a call from St Peter's Parish in Cobourg inviting me to come on a Monday morning in November to speak on the healing ministry to their Pastoral Care Group. This is a largish group of twenty or more persons, and it is my hope and prayer, and I believe it is theirs, that this will develop into an OSL chapter in that place as well.

I should also mention Deep River, up the Ottawa River above the capital. Mrs. Lillian Cousins has been the convener there for many years and she had intimated to me that the few of them there that were left could no longer carry on as a chapter. On my drive to North Bay I dropped in to see Mrs. Cousins and discovered that this little group meets faithfully every week to pray for the sick, the Church, and the world, and so I told her that as far as I was concerned they continue to be an OSL chapter carrying on a vital and meaningful ministry.

Everyone I speak to agrees that last June's Regional Conference was a great success. Norma Dearing, of Jacksonville, Florida, was the theme speaker and she captivated us all. The theme of the conference was "The Healing Touch", the title of her book, and the Spirit of Christ spoke mightily through her. We are most grateful for the facilities provided by All Saints Lutheran Church, and for the meticulous arrangements made by the host Rothwell Chapter. Over one hundred and eighty people attended.

The North American Conference in Berea, an independent city within the greater Cleveland area, was also a gratifying experience even though numerically it was smaller than our Ottawa conference. The speaker was Nigel Mumford who enthralled us with his stories of the healing power of God. Nigel is the Director of the Oratory of the Little Way in Gaylord, Connecticut, where he carries on a full-time healing ministry. The Reverend Jack Sheffield of Austin, Texas, and me (for Canadian content!) were subsidiary speakers. Because these North American conferences continue over several days, are residential, and are often far from home, they can be relatively expensive, but I have always found them to be memorable and, in many cases, life-changing. I urge every OSL member, and others, to try by planning ahead to attend one of these conferences. Next year's conference will be from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of June in the Glorieta Lifeway Conference Centre near Sante Fe, New Mexico, and Canon Mark Pearson will be the keynote speaker.

Once again, this year, I plan a one-day meeting of OSL chaplains and conveners for the purpose of mutual sport and encouragement. This will be next March 6<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday, probably from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Miriam Dobell Healing Centre located in St John's Convent, Toronto. I have asked the Executive Director of the Healing Centre, the Rev'd Ron van Auken to introduce us to the Centre and show us around. I am also hoping that a representative of the Schools of Pastoral Care will be there also to show us ways in which OSL chapters can make use of what the SPC has to offer. I will be sending out letters of invitation in early January. Please pray that God will grant us an enjoyable and worthwhile day.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Oakville Chapter's annual conference in October. The Oakville conferences are always excellently run and this year the Rev'd Dr. Barbara Pursey of Dubuque, Idaho, Warden of Region XI, was keynote speaker. I was faced with a clash of events in that Bishop Eddie Marsh and his wife Emma were invited to my own home parish of St James, Perth, on the same weekend and I felt constrained to add my support here at home.

Let me remind people that the OSL display is now updated for this year and can be borrowed for any event, synod or gathering simply for the cost of the shipping. Just get in touch with me and I will do my best to either bring it personally or send it along.

I have also a number of cassette tapes and some videos on the healing ministry and they too can

be borrowed. One of these days soon I hope to catalogue them so that a proper list will be available upon request, or by finding it on our webpage.

Finally, let me mention a interesting set of statistics that Julabeth Carden, the OSL office manager, passed on to us at the NA Warden's Council meeting last June. She said that last year 1,458 new members were received into the OSL in North America. At the same time the overall membership of the Order declined from 7109 to 7068! What do these figures tell us? I suspect that there are many OSL members who lose their initial enthusiasm, and through lack of support from other members fail to renew their membership. Most of us need to be motivated and encouraged in our various ministries. Let us remember to pray for one another that we will continue to be faithful in the various ministries to which we are called, and continue to reach out more and more in new forms of ministry to the sick, the suffering, the lonely and the confused, wherever they can be found.

Region VIII Council met on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, in the Joseph Shepard Room of St John's Church, York Mills, Toronto, with eleven persons present, and amongst other business:

† **welcomed** Carol-Anne Foty and Deacon Jacquie Boutheon, and welcomed back Dr. Colin Campbell to a second consecutive term on the Council;

† **heard** that Jim and Hilda Graham, both past members of the Council, had been in a car accident near their home near Renfrew in July, and although their car was totaled and Hilda was in hospital, both are now quite well again, praise God!

† **expressed** sincere thanks for the participation on the Council of Fr. Philip Townshend-Carter and Hilda Graham, both now having completed their terms of service;

† **referred** the proposed Guidelines for Organizing Region VIII Conferences to a small Committee which will edit it for presentation to the Council next March;

† **struck** a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates to replace the five council members who complete their terms in 2004;

† **returned** \$500 to Rothwell Chapter in Ottawa with thanks and congratulations for their excellent work in organizing the 2003 Regional Conference at All Saints Lutheran Church;

† **affirmed** the recommendations of the Toronto organizational committee regarding the 2004 Regional Conference in Toronto next June 4 & 5 at which the keynote speaker will be Canon Linda Nicholls;

† **considered** speakers and locations for the

2005 Regional Conference;

† **set** the next meeting of the Council for Saturday, 27 March, 2004, at St John's Church, York Mills, Toronto;

† received a report on the North American (NA) Warden's Council meeting last June 17<sup>th</sup> in Berea, Ohio.

## REPORT

### NA Warden's Council

■ **"Going Deeper"**, a more advanced study that builds upon the primary study, **"The Healing Miracles of Jesus"**, is now available for \$9 US (now available from the Canadian Resource Centre\*) is being highly recommended. A sequel to "Going Deeper" will be ready in 2004, and "Going Deeper #3" is now in the process of preparation;

■ the plan to make the position of the NA Warden a full-time salaried position is still being pursued and gifts for the endowment are being received.

■ the term of the present NA Warden, the Rev'd Don Baustian, will be completed in 2004, and after elections in March the new Warden will begin an eight-year term of office after the NA Conference in June;

■ **"Sharing Magazine"** wants articles, especially on styles of ministry (i.e. how we do it in our chapter", etc.);

■ a total of 1,456 new members were received into the North American OSL last year, but that the total membership fell from 7109 to 7068, which raises the question, is this because many of our members are not bothering to renew their memberships, and if so, why?;

■ the production of a protocol and guide to follow in the event of an incident of sexual harassment at an OSL gathering is being considered;

■ the 2004 NA Conference next 16-19 June will be held at the Glorieta Conference Centre near Sante Fe, New Mexico, and the keynote speaker will be Canon Mark Pearson.

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### 2004 DUES AND DONATIONS

Although an appeal was not made last year, this is a friendly reminder that Region 8 Council requests an annual donation of \$24 (\$2 per month) per member to provide needed funds to help carry out the work of OSL in Ontario.

Donations are also gratefully accepted and an income tax receipt will be issued. Members and friends are asked to please use the enclosed envelope for gift giving before year end and accept the grateful thanks of Council.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The application form for membership in OSL can be printed from the home page of our website.
- The Canadian Resource Centre is now open and provides all OSL materials available from OSL. Check out the website for details.
- Canon David Smith was a keynote speaker at the OSL North America Conference in June. Text of his speech is available on our website on the "news" page.
- Two new pages have been added to the website. **Stories of Healing** to encourage readers, and **In Loving Memory** to honour the memory of OSL members. Please submit contributions to the editor.
- You can stay informed between newsletters by visiting our website, and by signing up for the free email update service on the home page.

## 2004 REGION 8 CONFERENCE

The Rev. Dr. Canon Linda Nichols, Incumbent at Holy Trinity Thornhill, Ontario, will be the keynote speaker for next year's conference in Toronto, June 4-5. The annual event will be held Friday evening and Saturday at the Centennial Conference Centre (formerly Howard Johnson Motor Hotel) located on the south east corner of Highway 401 and Markham Road. Overnight guests will have free use of the pool, kitchen appliances and other amenities offered by the centre. Details and registration will soon be available on our website at [www.oslregion8.org](http://www.oslregion8.org) and a brochure will be mailed in early 2004. Please plan to join us and bring a friend!

### OSL CHAPTERS

**School of Healing Prayer** video teaching tapes are available for loan to OSL chapters in Ontario. Purchased by Region 8 Council, the videos offer excellent teaching on a variety of needs presented for healing, and provide important guidelines for praying with others.

The School of Healing Prayer videos are produced by Christian Healing Ministries, founded by Dr. Francis and Judith MacNutt, and are an important resource for enhancing the training of those involved in the day to day challenges in the Christian ministry of healing. Although there is no formal relationship between OSL and the School of Healing Prayer, the teaching videos are a valuable resource and highly recommended. Please contact Rev. Canon David A.P. Smith.



## INVITATION TO FAST AND PRAY

For a period of 7 days before the end of 2004, OSL members are encouraged to set aside a regular time each day to fast and pray for guidance in four specific areas - - for your life and personal ministry, the chapter you attend, Region 8 Council, and the Order in general. During his term as North American Warden for The International Order of St Luke the Physician (OSL) Rev. Al Durrance introduced this important exercise which has become a meaningful part of life in the fall of the year for members of the Order.

In preparation for this special time he suggests asking the Lord what you are to give up for the fast. For some it has meant doing without food for a day or so, or a meal or part of a meal each day, others have been led to give up watching TV, and another reports being led to give up thoughts of fear by turning them over to the Lord specifically during the fast.

It is helpful to head up a sheet for each of the four areas and to have on hand for recording guidance during prayer times.

Members are encouraged to set aside a specific time each day for prayer and to focus on listening.

Consider sharing the results of any leading for your ministry or chapter at your next chapter meeting or with a chaplain. Lone Members, who have no nearby chapter to attend, are invited to share with Region 8 Lone Member representatives: Beula Cooke RR #1, Oxford Mills, K0G 1S0, 905-428-9053, [beulac@netcom.ca](mailto:beulac@netcom.ca), or Jim Graham, 1267 Pinecable Rd, Horton Township, K7V 3Z8, 613-432-9223 [jamesb@renc.igs.net](mailto:jamesb@renc.igs.net).

Guidance for the region and the Order in general may be communicated directly to the Regional Warden, Rev. Canon 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](mailto:dap.smith@sympatico.ca)

May God richly bless you as you participate in this important time apart.

**YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE LEADERSHIP  
OF OSL ARE MUCH APPRECIATED**