

Christian Healing Ministries

P.O.Box 9520, 438 West 67th St.

Jacksonville, Florida 32208

Telephone 904-765-3332

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 1989

From Francis-

How Soaking Prayer Works!

I want to share with you a marvelous account how God heals through "soaking prayer." Soaking prayer involves immersing a sick person for an extended period of time in healing prayer.

Over the years I have come to believe that about two out of three sick people can be cured, provided we really take time to pray with them. In large healing services, time is often extremely limited. The healing evangelist comes to town, speaks to several thousand people, prays, and gets on the next plane. Wonderful healings take place at large healing services, but usually only a small minority of the crowd are healed.

In contrast, I find that when people minister individually and spend time praying with the sick, results dramatically improve. Perhaps this is why Jesus spent so much of his time ministering to the sick one by one. Local churches and prayer groups, then, have a special opportunity to utilize this power of soaking prayer.

To illustrate this fact, I want to tell you about one ordinary pastor and six reluctant members of the congregation who prayed with a young woman terminally ill with cancer. Celeste Formby, her husband Doug, and two young children, moved to Sparta, N.J., in January of 1987. Celeste thought that she had been cured of Hodgkins disease, a cancer that eats at the lymph system. While rejoicing in the news, a routine check-up discovered that the dread disease had returned.

The doctors offered only one hope: an experimental bone marrow transplant. The treatment is very painful and dangerous - ten percent of those who undergo the treatment die from it. Then, if Celeste survived treatment, she had only a fifty percent chance of remission.

At this point the Formby's pastor, the Rev. Rick Constantinos, returned from a seminar about soaking prayer. The church already had prayer teams, but soaking prayer was new to them. After praying about it, Rick offered to arrange a team pray with the Formbys three or four times a week for an hour at a time. They agreed.

Next, Rick prayed for the names of people for the team. Six unlikely people came to him in prayer, and when he proposed this to them, all except one felt disinclined to do it. They did not know what they would be doing. If Rick had asked for volunteers, these people never would have offered. Yet these were the people God wanted. This offers an important teaching: if you obey what the Lord sends you in prayer, it will be very creative and perhaps unexpected, but it will turn out better than planning your own agenda.

Doug Formby prayed with his wife Celeste every night. Then whenever two or three of these people could get together, they began to pray with the Formbys. The first time they prayed together little seemed to happen. The team was encouraged that an hour seemed to pass like 15 minutes. Celeste enjoyed the prayer time and looked forward to more. Yet Doug felt frightened and could not escape his fear that Celeste was going to die.

At the second prayer session Celeste felt power flowing into her body as if she were being filled with light and energy. She had never experienced a physical sensation during prayer before, so it encouraged the group, and helped to calm some of their doubts. Celeste also sensed a shrinking in her abdomen.

After this, the team experienced a change in their attitude of worrying about Celeste's physical condition. Increasingly they felt concern for her spiritual condition, until eventually the physical was their least concern!

The group came to each session with no planned agenda. They tried to listen to the Spirit, and go with what began to happen between Jesus and Celeste. Each session, therefore, was different in emphasis, a gradual unfolding

(Continued on Page 2.)

Soaking Prayer at Work (Continued from Page 1)

of healing. Doug, who prayed with Celeste each night, also began to see a change in his wife's spiritual attitude.

Team members experienced their own changes or healings. Previously, Rick had prayed for a woman with cancer and she died. As a result, he felt discouraged and troubled with self-doubt. As he prayed with the team he found himself making prophetic statements in spite of his doubts. For example, he proclaimed that Jesus wanted Celeste whole in every way (although he was not sure if she would be physically cured).

In the fourth session, one of the team began to weep, and **repentance** became the focus of the session. One team member found herself saying, "This is not unto death, but is all for the glory of God." When she said this she felt like a fool, and was asking God, "Do I really have to say this?"

Meanwhile the medical treatments were delayed in mysterious ways. Celeste's heart started skipping beats and she had to be treated for that. The cancer treatment center, one of the nation's most prominent, seemed to be blocked from giving Celeste treatment. They failed to receive x-rays from Florida. They lost Celeste's records and other delays ensued. Yet ultimately God's purpose was revealed. Without the treatments, it would be clear if God was healing Celeste through prayer.

As the weeks went by, Celeste found that she could hardly wait for prayer. The team found that **the Spirit was using them** in ways they never expected. One member received a prophecy that Celeste was going to undergo the marrow transplant, but she was not sure about the chemotherapy. One turning point in the process came when Celeste realized that who she was in Jesus was far more important than her physical health. Something more happened with each prayer.

Finally the hospital got Celeste's records and removed her bone marrow. After this Celeste suffered terrible pain. She felt like she had been beaten, and in fact was covered with bruises.

The next day, however, Celeste was back at her prayer session at church. Shortly afterward, her heart was healed of palpitations. At another session, everyone started laughing with joy in spite of the fact that Celeste faced a painful, dangerous medial treatment. At a later session, Rick (the Formby's pastor) saw a **vision** of a cross of white suffusing Celeste's body. It was located in the place where he later discovered that Celeste's affected lymph system was located. Later while Celeste was resting at home she experienced heat throughout that area of her body.

Celeste's new doctor ordered a lymphangiogram to determine where to make incisions. After the x-ray, the technician reported that there was a white light on the x-ray. They repeated the process, and again the light appeared.

Back home, waiting for the hospital to call with the schedule for chemotherapy, the Formby family decorated their Christmas tree. They felt encouraged because their pastor had received a message in prayer, "It's over. It's done," as if they had graduated in spite of the discouraging medical prognosis. They were listening to "Joy to the World" when the phone rang. It was the doctor. "I don't know how to tell you this, but..."

Celeste interrupted him. "I know what you're going to tell me: there is nothing there." He was astonished and asked how she knew, so Celeste told the doctor about her pastor and team and soaking prayer.

"I'm not into that," said the doctor, "but your x-rays are in front of me. The tumors are gone."

In subsequent months the doctor continued to monitor Celeste's condition. That was December, 1987. Now, a year later, Celeste not only feels well, but she and Doug are expecting a baby!

Their pastor's conclusion: "From the outside it may seem strange, but I would encourage anyone to enter into soaking prayer. Something is going to happen. And regardless, Jesus is going to be praised!"

Resources:

Richard Constantinos. "On His Way." Two cassettes from Christ Episcopal Church, Stanhope, N.J.

Francis MacNutt. Power to Heal. Chapter 3. Order Item #439-428. \$4.95

Video Highlights of the Deliverance Conference are still available. This two-hour professionally produce tape is the best single resource available about deliverance ministry. It features Fr. Richard McAlear, Mrs. Betty Brennan, Rev. Tom White, and the MacNutt's. \$35.00 #880505





NEWS BRIEFS:

- Our conference on **Healing for Addictions, Codependence and Dysfunctional Families** will have just been completed by the time you receive this newsletter. We feel very excited about the presenters, Fr. Jack McGinnis, Dr. Susan Stanford Rue, Dr. Vince Rue, as well as Judith and Francis, and the help they will offer to people around the country who struggle with the wounds of addiction. The conference is being video taped and videos of the conference will be available. The complete audio set of the conference (about 15 tapes) may be ordered for \$65.00 #890002.

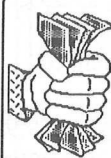
- The National Advisory Board of Christian Healing Ministries met in January, and shared some great visions for our future. One is that we hold **four major conferences** in different areas of our nation each year. We would involve as many people as possible in these opportunities to learn and experience the healing power of God, and the income from these events could be one major source for funding CHM.

- FISHNET Northeast, our sister organization, will host one such conference open to all persons, providing a basic **introduction to healing ministry**, March 31 to April 2, at the Radisson Hotel at Newark (NJ) Airport. (Please note change of location. Hotel and meal registrations will be automatically transferred.) Francis and Judith will be the keynote speakers. We expect about 1,100 people. To register, contact Elizabeth Janicki, 29 Tomac Ave., Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

- FISHNET Northeast will host a **conference for leaders in the healing ministry** July 10-13th, in Rutland, Vermont, focusing on Healing Relationships. Francis, Judith, Jeanne Hill, and Don Williams, a member of the National Advisory Board, will be main presenters.

- Participants in either FISHNET Northeast Conference will become eligible to participate in one of the regional, monthly FISHNET groups that gather for mutual support, learning, prayer ministry, and growing closer to Jesus. These groups are being formed all around the northeast. For more information about the July Conference or regional groups, write to George and Rena Larson, RD # 1 Box 4290, Rutland, VT 05701.

- Francis and Judith are teaching a 15 week **Course on Christian Healing** at the center in Jacksonville. It is providing an extensive background to train clergy, professional, and lay people in the Jacksonville area, and refresh and empower people who have been in ministry



Opportunity to

DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS

We are excited to announce that the Edna Proull Williams Foundation has caught some of the vision of what a powerful resource Christian healing Ministries can become, and has offered a \$40,000 matching grant for 1989. For every \$10,000 contributed to Christian Healing Ministries they will contribute a second \$10,000! This means that your gifts will **DOUBLE** in strengthening CHM this year! Please prayerfully consider how much the Lord might have you give, and watch it multiply to assist with these good works!

Coming Events

with **Francis and Judith MacNutt**

March 10-11th, Albuquerque, NM, Christian Psychological Foundation sponsors a conference at the Amfac Hotel, Albuquerque; 7-9pm on Friday; 8:30am-3:00pm on Saturday. Contact Dr. Paul DeBlassie III, (505) 884-2736

March 31-April 1, Newark, NJ, FISHNET Northeast sponsors a conference for us for about 1000 people at the Radisson Hotel at Newark Airport. See notes to the left.

April 13-15th, Waco, TX, International Conference to train lay leaders sponsored by the Episcopal churches of the NW convocation of Texas. For registration, call: Bettye Guthrie (817) 772-1536, or Dr. Clay Weekley (817) 772-2086. Don & Anne Bloch will be there also.

May 2-5th, Glencoe, MO, Annual conference (by invitation only) for 40 charismatic leaders at Marianist Apostolic Center.

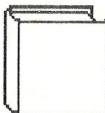
May 9-12th, Glenwood Springs, CO, Clergy and Spouse retreat for the Episcopal Diocese of Denver. (Bishop William Frey)

The Ecumenical version of Francis' book **HEALING** is now available for immediate delivery. Order Book #880585 \$7.95

for some time. Registration is completely full (more than 80 people). We pray that some of these people will want to make a continuing commitment to join in the ministries at the center.

Additional Titles about Addictions & Codependence

___ Birke, Szifra & Kathy Mayer. Private Practice \$9.95 Paper 880619 This excellent resource describes common roles in the dysfunctional family, as well as much other helpful information for both counsellor and person in need.



___ Bradshaw, John. Healing the Shame that Binds You \$9.95 Paper 880631 Early in life, children struggle between taking initiative, reaching out to make their way in the world, and the controlling power of shame. Many adults still are bound in the prison of shame from their childhood. Bradshaw helps us to see how shame grew, and ways to be set free!

___ Carnes, Patrick, Ph.D. Contrary to Love: Helping the Sexual Addict \$9.95 Paper 880629 For the professional and the addict, Carnes describes the inner and outer influences that ensnare the sexual addict, and offers steps for treatment.

___ Mastrich, James & William Birnes. ACOA's Guide To Raising Healthy Children \$9.95 Paper 880628 Guidelines for ending the cycle of alcoholism from generation to generation by being a confident parent.

___ Miller, Joy. Addictive Relationships: Reclaiming Your Boundaries \$7.95 Paper 880637 Dedicated to the claiming of personal boundaries, this book deals with addictive and destructive relationships with spouse, children, friends, parents, and how to move from an addictive style of loving to find a true love of self.

___ Ross, Maggie. Pillars of Flame \$17.95 Cloth 880625 Ross explores the ways in which the institutional church suffers from the same diseases that psychology defines as addiction and codependence and dysfunctionality. She offers powerful insights on the problems and possibilities for transforming the church as a body.

My Prayer Requests:

Resources I would like to order in addition to those checked above.

Name: _____ ID# (from mail label) _____ Tel.: (____) _____

Address: _____

(if different from mail label)

City, State, Country: _____ Zip: _____

To cover shipping, please add \$1 plus 6% of total order.

Fla residents add 6% tax, Vt. residents 4%.

Payment may be check, money order, or credit card in **American funds**. VISA or MASTER CARD

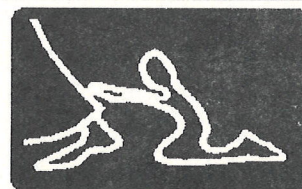
No. _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Signed: _____

Please send your requests, orders and /or commitments to:

Christian Healing Ministries Bookstore

P.O.Box 303, Fair Haven, VT 05743 Tel.802-265-8605 or

Christian Healing Ministries P.O. Box 9520, Jacksonville, FL 32208 Tel.904-765-3332



Christian Healing Ministries, Inc.

P.O.Box 9520

Jacksonville, FL 32208

Non-Profit Org,
U.S.Postage
PAID
Permit #509
Jacksonville, FL

Inside this issue:

An inspiring teaching by Francis about
Soaking Prayer

An opportunity to **Double your Dollars**
The Latest News

about Christian Healing Ministries
and Coming Events