

The Healing Line.....



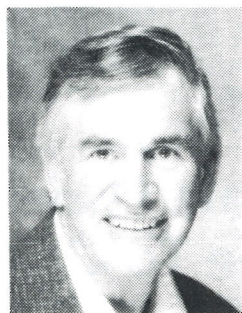
Volume 7 • Issue 2

May 1994

Christian Healing Ministries, Inc.

Why Was Healing Delayed Seven Years?

by Francis McNutt



When can we pray for healing

with the assurance that it will happen? Only when the Holy Spirit guides us with the *blessed assurance*.

This happened to our family just one year ago. Our daughter, Rachel was then 11 and had been suffering from asthma for seven long years. Every night as we put her to bed, we would pray for her healing. Others were praying, too. But still we saw no change. Then a friend received guidance that Rachel would be healed if she prayed for her in a certain way. She asked for our permission, which we readily granted.

Later, she and another dear friend prayed for Rachel in the back of the hall during one of our conferences, while Judith and I prayed for the crowd down front. Toward the end of the session, Rachel came down to us and we prayed for her, too. She was healed *that night* and has had no asthma attacks since. Now she can run a mile! Why was she healed that night and not the others?

Jesus' temptation in the desert gives us a good clue. Remember how Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple and urged Jesus to throw himself down; he even quoted the promise of Scripture that the angels would protect him and bear him up in their hands lest he dash his foot against a stone (Lk. 4: 9-11).

Satan was claiming that God would back up his promises in Scripture and

that they would apply to anyone, especially the Messiah, if he would simply claim them. But Jesus, as we know, refused to claim that promise. Even for Jesus, discernment (the guidance of the Holy Spirit) was needed in order to decide whether or not that promise was meant for that particular moment.

A literal translation of Luke 4: 1-2 reads, "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit . . . *was being led by the Spirit* in the wilderness for forty days as he *was being tempted by the devil*." Luke lets us know that the Spirit was continually guiding Jesus in all his responses to the devil while he was being tempted.

Similarly, when Paul encourages us to put on the whole armor of God, the climax is, "Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Eph. 6: 17b). The Word of God (which includes the Scriptures) is the weapon, but it must be wielded by the Spirit¹.

When we pray for healing without relying on the guidance of the Spirit as to when and how to pray, we can easily end up in a deadly legalism, which will put us into bondage. A church historian once told me that after every great Pentecostal revival, the next stage was usually legalism.

I argued with him, because the Spirit brings freedom and I could not believe the next development was the bondage of legalism. But experience in healing ministry has led me to see that he had a valid point.

As human beings, we desire easy and definite answers, which is claiming promises based on this or that Scripture, rather than depending on the steady guidance of the Spirit on when and how we should pray.

Kathryn Kuhlmann used to say she was going to ask Jesus, when she died, why some atheists who came to her meetings were healed while Christians with absolute faith were not — or at least not that particular night.

Why was Rachel healed on that night after waiting seven long years? Why couldn't she be healed before? I don't know. But God does, and thanks be to Him, Rachel was healed!

¹ Many of these insights are found in the excellent commentary, *Reading Luke*, by Charles Talbert (Crossroad, NY; 1992) pp. 44-46.

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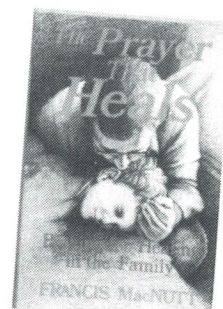
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The Prayer That Heals

Praying for Healing in the Family

by Francis MacNutt



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Fr. Richard Rohr Featured at CHM Benefit

by Joy Abney

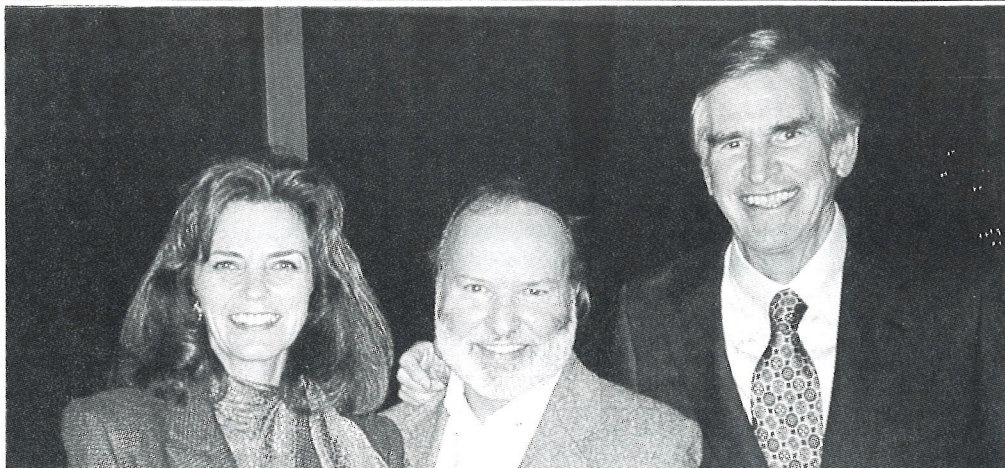
CHM held a benefit dinner, February 28, featuring Father Richard Rohr. Board members and other local supporters of CHM sponsored tables of eight to help introduce the ministry to their friends and colleagues. The event held in the River Club of Jacksonville attracted 160 guests and was a success in generating new interest in the ministry.

Board Chairman David Busse, and board members Donna Ernest and Joan Haskell chaired the event which made approximately \$3,617.22 for the ministry. Judith spoke about the healing ministry and the mission of CHM. Francis introduced his friend Father Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest and the leading retreat master for Catholic clergy, who generously donated his time to speak on behalf of CHM.

Father Richard spoke about the lack of meaning in our modern life, and the need to reconstruct society and our lives around the deeper truths of the Pascal Mystery: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. The breakdown of Western cultural institutions has created a modern world where people find only "episodic meaning in life." There is no longer any commonly-acknowledged bedrock of meaning from which individuals can order and create their lives.

As a result, each person tries to build their own "tower" of possessions and accomplishments to buttress themselves from the chaos, only to find when confronted by some life-shaking failure or loss, that the "tower has to be dismantled" and life rebuilt of stronger stuff. This is hard to face "especially if you have built a pretty good tower," Richard said. Only God can provide the building materials that will endure all of life's challenges. The Pascal Mystery reappears over-and-over in creation: birth, death, and rebirth. We have to embrace it and flow with it to grow as the people of God, and to find true meaning and purpose in life.

Father Richard's message was powerful and thought-provoking. The audio tape can be ordered from the CHM Bookstore (see notice to the right).



Judith MacNutt, Father Richard Rohr, and Francis MacNutt enjoy a moment together at the CHM Benefit held at the River Club of Jacksonville.

Over 125 Intercessors Prayer Groups Formed in Response To Offer

by Joy Lamb

In the last issue of *The Healing Line*, we offered four free copies of *Sword of the Spirit...The Word of God, A Handbook for Scriptural Intercession* to those who were interested in forming a prayer group committed to intercessory prayer. The response has been overwhelming!

Over 125 groups have formed and committed to using the book as a guide for praying the Word of God. These groups are scattered throughout all fifty states and Canada! Many of these groups tell us they are fasting and praying for the concerns of our nation as outlined on pages 19-21 of the book, and praying the scripture verses on pages 96-99. There is tremendous prayer power in Body unity and agreement and we are expecting great breakthroughs for God's Kingdom.

Join with them, if you feel led, and pray II Chronicles 7:14 for your nation:



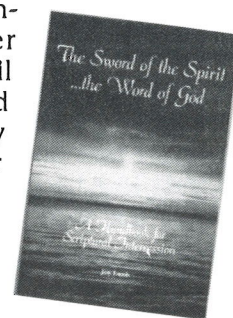
"Thank you Lord that your people which are called by your name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek your face, and turn from their wicked ways: then you will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their

land. In the name of Jesus Christ."

Some have written to share how God has led them to request the books and start a prayer group. One woman told of how she kept thinking about the sword of the spirit and praying about it, asking God what he was trying to tell

her. She had not even heard about the book! At a friend's house she saw CHM's newsletter and the reference to *Sword of the Spirit...The Word of God, A Handbook for Scriptural Intercession*. The words almost leapt off the page. She wrote requesting the books and shared that she knew the Lord had sovereignly placed it in her mind first, and then in her path!

Your enthusiastic response has inspired us to continue this special offer for as long as possible. We will send four free books to anyone who feels called to start an intercessory prayer group. Please mail your request marked "Attention: Joy Lamb" with your name, full address, and \$2.00 to help us defray mailing expenses.



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Rejoice In The Lord Always

by The Rev. Robert J. Kerner

"Rejoice in the Lord always." Phil. 4:4. *Always?* How is that possible? Are Christians always to be happy? That's neither possible nor is it what St. Paul is saying.

How about you? Does joy seem rather distant, right now? Are you undergoing suffering in your life? Are you waiting for God to move some circumstances or people in your life? Are you struggling for victory in a time of testing? So am I. So was St. Paul when he wrote the passage. It would be good for all of us to study just what he said in that Philippians passage.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

To fully understand what Paul meant in this passage, let's start with some underlying principles first. Read Romans 12:1-3. In that passage Paul exhorts us to offer ourselves as "living sacrifices ... to God."

The passage reveals three key principles in attaining joy in life:

- **First principle** in gaining joy in our life: surrender yourself and every aspect of your life totally to God and his will for your life.

- **Second principle:** "...reject the pattern and standards of this world."

- **Third principle:** "Be transformed by the *renewing of your mind*. *Then* you will be able to test and approve what is God's good, pleasing, and perfect will."

How do we do that? Be transformed ... renew our mind? We don't. He does. But, we must cooperate.

In Philippians 4:4-13, Paul tells us how to cooperate with God in this transforming renewal. How to appropriate God's joy and peace – especially when circumstances are not joyous or peaceful. The battleground is primarily in the *mind* – thus we need the "renewing of the mind." The secret is in our *focus*.

In **verse 4**, Paul makes a strong imperative statement. He *commands* us to rejoice. No one can command you to have an emotion. We cannot be commanded to be happy. To be happy is an emotion; it is affected, even produced, by circumstances. "Rejoice" is a verb, an action, an

act of the will, a *decision*. It is choosing to place our focus of attention on God, the source of our joy, and off the problem and our feelings.

Even though we do not feel happy, we can choose to find a positive aspect in our lives – something that God is doing or has done for us that is apparent – and focus on that, and decide to celebrate it.

Paul continues in verse 5, "Let your gentleness be evident to all." In other words, no matter how you feel, don't punish everyone else by your grumpiness or sharp tongue! Focusing on the needs of others, caring for them, and being sensitive to their feelings can often get us out of self pity, as well.

"The Lord is near," (v.5) – This Lord who promised to be with us always (Mt. 28:20), and this God who has promised that he

ness, desert times are normal for God's people in their journey of faith. They are times for discipline and growth in faith. God has to teach us that he is there whether we can feel him or not. *Though your feelings deny it, he is with you!* Rest in him. Trust in his goodwill to save you.

Verse 6 commands us again, "*Do not be anxious.*" Here again, a matter of the will – a decision not to worry. Fear is a normal, healthy feeling and a God-given protective instinct. *Worrying is practicing the presence of fear.* It is a decision, an action – a sinful action. It is taking hold of fear and inviting it inside to build a nest. Worrying is entertaining fear, mulling it over, running rampant with "what ifs." I know. I'm an expert in it! We must repent of it, and decide each time *not* to do it. Change our focus, and reject the temptation.

Paul continues in verse 6, "... but in everything, by prayer and petition, with *thanksgiving* (note the focus), present your requests to God. And the peace of God..." Present your requests to God ... and *leave them there!* Let go.

Give up control. Let go and let God. Once I did this symbolically. I took a helium-filled balloon and wrote my heart's desire and request on it, and let it go. Something snapped in me – my line of control over the situation, my attempts to make it happen – and I was free, free to trust, and to receive.

As we release control, we find peace in the midst of our dark night. "And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (v.7). He will guard, but again, we need to cooperate by using our wills in decision-making, and by utilizing God-given ways of protection.

Verse 8 continues, "Whatever is true, ... noble, ... right, ... pure, ... lovely, ... admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, *think about such things.*" Protect your peace by filling your heart and mind with the good and positive things God commands us to dwell on. Again a matter of focus. We can always find *something* positive in our lives. Focus on those things. *Reject* the negative images, faults, failures, lies, accusations, and worries from your mind. This is not just a matter of the "power of positive thinking" or a humanistic or

continued on next page.



Sandi and Fr. Bob Kerner with Norma Dearing at a St. Peters, Jacksonville, seminar.

will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5). The name that God revealed to Moses (Ex. 3:14), "Yahweh," usually translated I AM WHO I AM or I AM THE I AM is actually the third-person form of the Hebrew verb "to be" and may more accurately mean HE WHO IS. The name does not indicate God's eternal being, but God's action and presence in time and history. The sense is that he is actively and dynamically present with us – to save, rescue, heal, and guide. Truly he is Emmanuel, GOD WITH US.

Though we know this in faith, but there are times when we cannot experience God's presence. This temporary lack of awareness of God's presence is an uncomfortable, but fairly common experience. One of the church's great mystics, St. John of the Cross, wrote about a "Dark Night of the Soul." Often referred to as spiritual dry-

New-Age mind game. This is God's Word! **We must use** our free will. It is God's great gift. We are not to be sponges, absorbing everything that pops into our minds. And accepting *everything* as from God. There is much in the world and many ideas and thoughts that are definitely *not* of God. *Reject* such things. We have a shut-off valve in our minds! Like a faucet we can reject the flow, or open to it. Use your will. Be discriminating in what you receive into your mind as worthy of acceptance.

In verse 9, Paul exhorts his people to follow what he has said and modeled to them as his disciples in following the Lord. "Do this ..." and the God of peace will be with you. Not only do we need to follow God's revealed teaching, through Paul, for example, but, as I have written above (as a comment on Romans 12:1) *peace* comes from our total submission to God's will for us in all situations.

The great poet Dante wrote, "In His will is our peace; it is that towards which all things tend." Psalm 16:5 says: "O Lord, you are my allotted portion and my cup. *You it is who holds fast my lot.*" (NAB). Both of these lines have been formative in my life, since the earliest days of my adult walk with the Lord and my vocation to the priesthood. But it has taken years of painful discipline in waiting on the Lord for me to grasp their full meaning and the power that submission and acceptance of God's will has to release joy and peace into my life when there was little circumstantial basis for happiness or security.

Paul continues in verses 11-12: "... for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances ... I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation." Well, I haven't! Not yet, but I'm growing in that direction. How about you? We can continue to focus on the Lord in each situation and grow in faith. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," (v. 13). So can you and so can I!

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

It is very important, in conclusion, to clarify some common and dangerous misconceptions. "Rejoice in the Lord always" *does not mean* the following:

- **A Christian must always be happy.** A "grin and bear it" Christian is a phony! As I have written above, "happy" is an emotion, a feeling dependent on circumstances. To *always* be happy is unrealistic and abnormal! Other emotions are just as valid at times. All emotions are of God and are good. Each has its purposes. It is OK for a well-adjusted, "Spirit-filled", mature Christian to grieve,

to feel sad, angry, remorseful, afraid, et. al. Don't put on a false front. If you're hurting, be truthful. Own and express your feelings in a healthy way. Share your pain with others, that they may minister to you. And receive that ministry!

- **"Rejoicing** in the Lord always does not mean *ignoring reality*. The Kingdom of God is not yet come in fullness! We are still in a valley of tears. *Suffering* is a real and normal part of life. So it was with Jesus – "Son though he was, he learned obedience through what he suffered," (Hebrews 5:8). So it is with you and me!

- **Don't ignore** danger signs! The Lord has his purposes for allowing suffering; pain alerts us to our needs. Our lives may be in need of *redirection* and/or *healing*. We may need to respond to God by changing behavior or by seeking help – through ministry, medical treatment, or therapy.

All that being said, most of us could experience a lot more victory, joy and peace, in the *midst* of our trying circumstances, than we do now. We can submit our wills to God, change our focus, and seek God's help, direction, and ministry, regardless of the situations around us. We can appropriate God's salvation daily, in all of its aspects, and rejoice in the Lord always!

About the author: *Fr. Bob Kerner is a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. He has been actively involved in the renewal of the church for over 23 years. With his wife, Sandi, he has worked and taught in the healing ministry for several years. They have led and taught healing missions, retreats, and renewal conferences for parishes and other groups in several states and in Canada. They are currently on staff of Christian Healing Ministries in Jacksonville.*

The author shares a personal insight :

*Again, at this time in my life, I am in a time of waiting. I have been without full-time employment for almost a year, and I await God's timing and placement (while I do all I can to seek that placement). For me, submission and acceptance of God's will **today** is to accept that for now he wants me to be as I am, and that he has his purposes for me and for others during this "delay" in employment. I may not **like** God's ways or his timing; but, like Paul in prison, I must submit to them and to His purpose. As I must **TRUST** in his good will and pleasure for my wife and me, and believe in his favor in our lives and ministry.*

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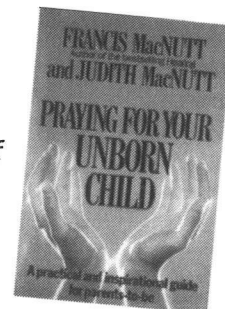
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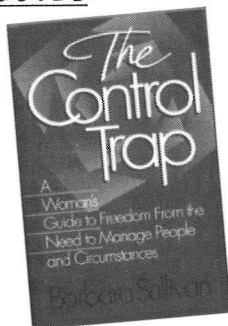
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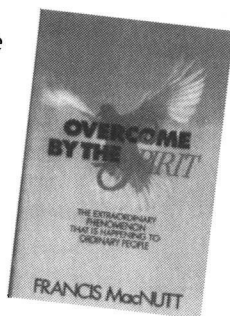
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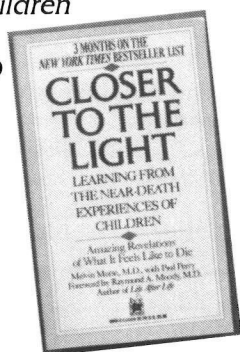
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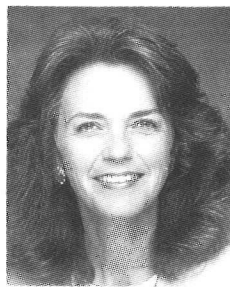


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Reflections of Resurrection Joy

By Judith MacNutt

Francis and I were praying with people at a healing service, several years ago. It was the last evening of a five day conference on prayer. The Holy Spirit was moving in a very



gentle way, touching deep areas of pain in the people. One lady in her fifties came slowly to the front of the church and bowed her head before us. She said nothing. I had the feeling that words could never convey the loss and pain she carried.

I had noticed her sorrowful face for several days. Her pained expression never changed during the teachings. When others laughed or wept she remained motionless, unresponsive. She appeared to be drained of life, as though a switch had been turned off within her.

We laid our hands gently on her head, as we asked the Lord to heal the source of pain so deeply embedded within her heart. Suddenly I felt the Holy Spirit surround us with the loving presence of the Father. Looking down I saw a tear streak down her face, followed by yet another. Soon she was sobbing without restraint, as a young child would. Deep, ancient grief that had been covered over for many years was finding release. Only in that safe place protected by the Spirit of God could she finally allow the pain to surface.

She remained deep in prayer for over an hour, while we continued praying with other hurting people. I was aware of her sobbing each time we moved near her. My initial reaction was to go back to her, to hold and comfort her, as I have done hundreds of times when the Lord so directed me. This time, when I asked the Lord, "Should I go over and hold her?" the answer seemed to be, "No, I am holding Susan; she needs my love."

Near the end of the service, I heard someone softly giggling (sounding like a child). In a few minutes the giggling was followed by an explosion of laughter! We turned to find out what was so funny and saw Susan doubled over with glorious joy!

The most beautiful sound on earth; it was

the laughter of being healed, cherished, freed! Later Susan came over to us (still laughing) and enveloped us in her arms! She couldn't speak because she couldn't stop laughing, but the joy of her radiant face said it all! When she left us she made her way to the back of the church, laughing and hugging everyone as she went!

A major miracle had occurred that evening in Susan's life. We found out later that as a small child she had been a victim of incest and was left emotionally devastated. She remembered as a little girl making a decision never to trust anyone again...and to never *feel* again. She had turned off her emotions! That evening, God began a deep emotional healing in Susan, freeing her from the broken, painful memories of incest. In the presence of her loving heavenly Father, Susan was immersed in God's love and was given the gift of joy. As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Happy are you who weep now; you shall laugh," (Luke 6:21, Living Bible).

Friends told us later that Susan's joy has continued on as God has been turning her tears into laughter! David proclaims in the Psalms, "In the evening come tears, but with dawn cries of joy." God's own joy has filled those bleak areas of Susan's heart where sorrow had ruled until that glorious night of prayer.

Bishop Oscar Romero said to the suffering people of El Salvador, "Jesus liberates us from our fears, from despair and sorrow, from anger and hatred, from bitterness and a vengeful and unforgiving spirit. He is the joyful and loving healer who liberates every person who reaches out to him from sickness of the soul. There is no wound that he cannot heal; no sorrow that he cannot turn into joy."

Rachel and I have received over forty responses to my article about Big Red's death in our last issue. Your cards, letters, and audio taped messages have been so comforting to us all.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your love and support. I would like to thank you all personally, but will probably not be able to do so because of the demands of our travel schedule.

*Bless you all,
Judith*

News & Views

by Joy Abney

CHM's 450 Intercessors have been praying that our nation will begin to recognize and use the power of prayer to heal our country's woes. These prayers are bearing fruit! In the last few weeks there have been several articles in secular magazines and several TV talk or docudrama shows about prayer and miracles: Oprah Winfrey, American Journal, Good Morning America, Longevity Magazine, and a Tom Brokaw Special!

Dr. Jackie Canepa, Norma Dearing, and Fr. Bob and Sandi Kerner have been filling requests from churches to train prayer ministry teams and to teach. St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville has held two training sessions for 65 members committed to form volunteer prayer-ministry teams. CHM staff members Norma Dearing and Sandi Kerner have taught the seminars with Don Harvey, Judge Peter Dearing, and Fr. Bob Kerner assisting. For more information on this type of training for your church, call CHM Administrator Dr. Jackie Canepa at 904-765-3332.

We have new Macintosh computers and software at CHM, and they are sure easing the load and making our work for the Lord more productive! These blessings were made possible through the Richard Rohr Benefit. God continues to be so good to this ministry!

We are very grateful to these CHM Benefit Sponsors:

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Doug Schoeninger, a clinical psychologist who trained with Carl R. Rogers, is President of the Institute for Christian Counseling and Therapy, Narberth, Pennsylvania, and past editor of the Journal of Christian Healing. He has been practicing Contextual Family Therapy for 20 years.

Frances Schoeninger, his wife, is a staff therapist at the Institute and works in the areas of self esteem, abuse and generational healing.

For More Information Contact: Nan Wigginton, Conference Coordinator
(904) 765-3332

Dates	Event	Location	Staff	Contact & Phone
5/8/94	Bible Teaching	St. Johns Cathedral 256 E. Church St. Jax., FL	Francis MacNutt	Rusty Martin
5/9/94 - 5/12/94	Nat. Charismatic Concerns Committee Charismatic Leadership Conference	Canterbury Retreat Center Oviedo, FL (By Invitation Only)	Francis MacNutt	
5/21/94 - 5/21/94	Inner Healing, Intercessory Prayer and Prayer Teams	St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Tallahassee, FL	Norma Dearing	Judy Coleman 904-488-7711 (w)
6/7/94 - 6/10/94	Understanding Anger and Hostility Seminar	438 W. 67th St Jacksonville, FL 32208.	Staff and Judith and Francis MacNutt	CHM (904)765-3332
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