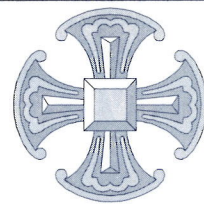


The Healing Line



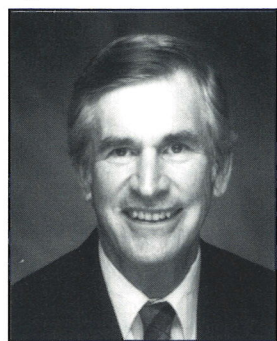
Volume 11 Issue 2

Summer 1998

Christian Healing Ministries, Inc.

Research Study Echoes the Power of Jesus

by Francis MacNutt



Last year, CHM was privileged to take part in a pioneering research study on the effects of Christian prayer on healing the sick. We praise God for the opportunity to participate, knowing He

used us in some small way to help the world know the full power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since I became involved in seeing Jesus heal people more than 30 years ago, I've had a deep desire to share this knowledge with the medical and scientific communities in terms they might understand and accept. But in order for this to happen, critical, thorough, real scientific studies must be performed, rather than relying solely on individual stories of healing that physicians chalk up as "spontaneous remission."

So, three years ago I was delighted to meet Dr. Dale Matthews, a research physician who shared the same vision. We chose rheumatoid arthritis as the field of study, since this type of arthritis is a disease that is medically incurable. Over one million people in our country are afflicted with this debilitating disease, and the main treatment is the administration of pain-killers, most of which have harmful side effects. When it becomes really severe, the joints are replaced.

The study was graciously funded by the Sir John Templeton Foundation. Sally Marlowe, director of the Arthritis Pain Treatment Center in Clearwater, Florida, was chosen to select volunteer patients and then study the effects of prayer on them, both immediate and long-term. In order to qualify for the study, each patient had to have pain and measurable swelling in the joints.

A year ago, we at CHM finished our part of the study, after traveling twice to Clearwater with teams from CHM who prayed for 43 patients (in two separate groups) for three days at a time. From our point of view, an extraordinary amount of verifiable healing took place.

The patients have all been evaluated, and the results of the study have now been compiled by Sally Marlowe and her team. Dr. Matthews is in the process of submitting the study to professional medical journals. He cannot publish the results until they are accepted by one or more of these prestigious journals. Therefore, we can only speak very generally and from our limited viewpoint about the results.

Dr. Matthews has just published a book which persuasively presents the case for Christian healing prayer. Called *The Faith Factor* (Viking Press), the book's main purpose is to demonstrate to physicians the value of prayer. Dr. Matthews plans to later release a book on the arthritis study itself. In *The Faith Factor*, however, he does include several pages on the remarkable healings in the study:

"Mike, a 65-year-old man, was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis when he was in his twenties. In the intervening decades, he had been through a great deal of pain, suffering and medical treatment. Like many rheumatoid-arthritis patients, Mike can describe a history of treatment with strong medications, from prednisone to Cytoxan to methotrexate; repeated surgeries and courses of physical therapy; and periods of remission, then relapse.

"Mike walked stiffly with a cane at the beginning of the (study). He had severe pain in his hands, which had been operated on a number of times. After receiving many hours of prayer and laying on of hands for healing, Mike reported dramatic results.

"Look, no cane today!" he said. 'I couldn't have walked without it yesterday or the day before.'

"...Like many patients in the study, Mike also noticed improved flexibility and reduced pain in his hands: 'I was preoccupied with the pain in my hands. Lynn [a member of the healing-prayer team] prayed with me and held my hands, and I had a warming sensation, almost like energy vibrating down my hands, and my hands don't hurt nearly so bad. I ate dinner today and was able to handle a cup and a glass. Usually,...I spill them immediately.'

"Though Mike describes himself as a

spiritual person and frequent churchgoer, he had come to the study not knowing what to expect. Grinning, he said, 'There is something weird going on here, and I love it!'

Relieved of the pain and disability his rheumatoid arthritis has caused, Mike is now living a full and active life... Ten months after the first healing-prayer session, Mike continues to report remarkable improvement. He is, in fact, pain-free and able to go without medication of any kind for his arthritis....He says he feels better today than ever before in his life."

Most medical researchers, of course, are skeptical about anything more than human factors being involved in prayer, so the study is controversial. Nonetheless, Dr. Matthews believes the study will have an extraordinary impact in the medical community once it is published.

To us, of course, the study is not controversial at all. It is just ordinary Christian life as we see it everyday at CHM!

"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the Eternal Life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1-3).

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What Has CHM Gained from Its Involvement in the Matthews Arthritis Study?

It is obvious that the Matthews arthritis study in which CHM participated is having and will continue to have a significant impact on the medical and scientific communities. But the results of this study go way beyond the scientific viewpoint.

Through creating the three-day ministry format for the study, CHM leaders recognized the wonderful benefits of this type of prayer setup. We have used the three-day format as an outline for our Intensive Prayer Ministry (IPM), which we now hold once a month. The IPM encompasses three full days of prayer ministry interspersed with teachings about healing. This format is ideal for out-of-town clients, clients with serious illnesses and clients needing a great deal of healing prayer.

The Intensive Prayer Ministry has been an important addition to the program at CHM, and we are amazed over and over again at God's faithfulness through it. In fact, the IPM has become so anointed that our waiting lists are about four months long. In order to accommodate more people, we hope to eventually hold two IPMs per month, and we look to the Lord for His leading in that direction.

In addition, we have built many relationships through our participation in the arthritis study, both within the medical/scientific communities, among other Christians, and with many people who need the healing of our Lord Jesus. Praise God that many of these relationships are eternal. If only one person came to know Jesus personally as a result of this study, it was all worth it. God's priorities are so different from our limited human viewpoint.

Finally, our ministry has grown significantly and flourished in the past year-and-a-half. Our board is possibly the

most active one yet and is leading us in wonderful ways. Our staff is united in the Lord, is professionally experienced and is very dedicated to this ministry. Our number of prayer ministers is increasing (although we always pray for more!), and we have a strong, supportive community of Christians associated with the ministry. In addition, our intercessory program is going through some exciting changes, which we pray will only serve to strengthen this very important aspect of CHM.

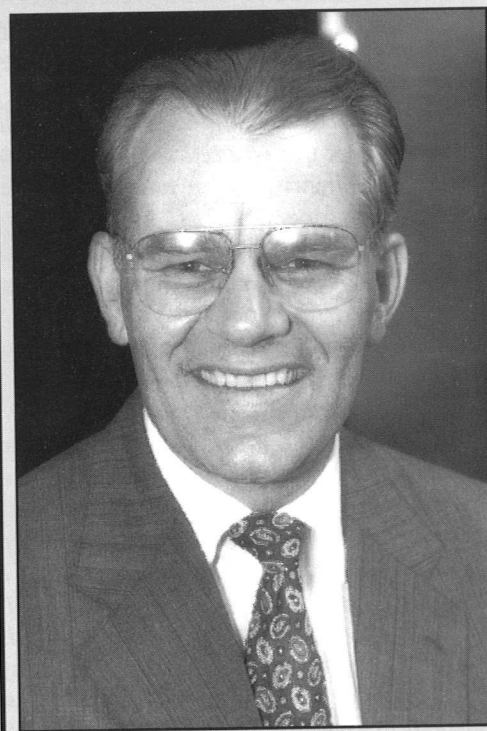
We praise God for the many ways He has used the arthritis study to achieve results we never even expected! We are confident in His leading, knowing that whatever our involvement in future research may be and wherever He may lead us, it is all for His glory, and "all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Dr. Matthews' Book is Finally Released

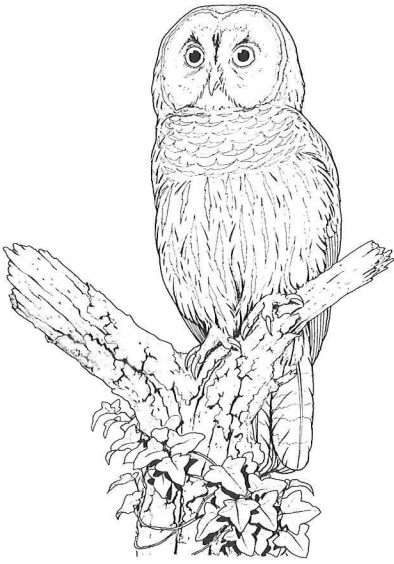
Dr. Dale Matthews' recently released book, *The Faith Factor*, is making quite a hit in the medical community. Published by Viking Press and co-authored by Connie Clark, the book is armed with excellent clinical and scientific data and confirms what many patients (and Christians!) have known for a long time: that faith and religious practice are valuable medicine!

Dr. Matthews, a recognized leader in the field, seeks to revive the ancient connection between science and religion, restoring them to their original roles as the twin traditions of healing. Solidly grounded in the latest scientific evidence, *The Faith Factor* is filled with remarkable case histories from Dr. Matthews' own practice, where he prescribes both faith and medicine.

We at CHM have acquired a deep respect for Dr. Matthews and his anointed commitment to the subject of faith and healing. If you are involved in the medical field or simply want to know more about this fascinating subject, we encourage you to read his book, which can be ordered through the CHM Bookstore, page 11.



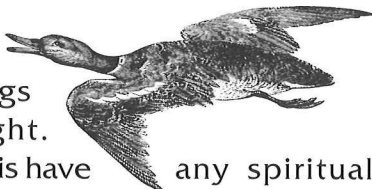
Dale Matthews, M.D., is associate professor of medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine and senior fellow at the National Institute for Healthcare Research. He is the author of a four-volume annotated bibliography of clinical research on spiritual subjects, and more than 55 peer-reviewed scientific articles, book chapters and other publications. He has been featured in numerous newspapers and national magazines, and on national television. Dr. Matthews lives in the Washington, D.C. area with his wife, Demetra, and children, Karen and Louis.



Francis MacNutt Achieves Personal Lifetime Goal

In my lifelong hobby of bird-watching, I reached an exciting personal goal of seeing more than 500 North American birds. CHM board member Bobby Fallin accompanied me to the Lower Grand Valley of Texas, where we saw such unusual birds as the Great Kiskadee, the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, and the Black-Bellied Whistling Duck, a strange duck with a red bill that roosts in trees, perches on telephone wires and makes a whistling sound with its wings in flight.

Does this have any spiritual significance? For me, bird-watching is one way to praise God for the wonders of His beautiful creation.



We praise the Lord for our new, updated phone system. We have had a few problems in transition, so please bear with us. We apologize for any inconvenience the change has caused.

CHM Seeks Prayer Ministers

The more God expands our ministry, the more Christian Healing Ministries finds itself faced with the need for additional volunteer prayer ministers. We have a very dedicated and gifted group of approximately 120 volunteers, for whom we are so very grateful. But as we consider expanding current programs, such as

our monthly Intensive Prayer Ministry, or starting new programs, we realize our current number of volunteers is not adequate. If you live in the Jacksonville area and are interested in becoming a CHM volunteer, or if you know someone else who might be, please call the office for an application form and list of requirements.

It's That Time Again!!! Renew Your Subscription to *The Healing Line*

At CHM, we try very hard to be good stewards with our financial resources. For this reason, our computer system automatically removes names from the mailing list of those who have not ordered from the bookstore or sent a contribution within the last two years. If you wish to continue receiving *The Healing Line*, please send us the form below, along with a \$20.00 contribution to help cover production and mailing costs. You may send the completed form in the enclosed envelope. If you are unable to send a contribution and wish to continue receiving *The Healing Line*, please mark the appropriate box, and we will keep you on the mailing list through our scholarship program. If you do not wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please indicate that on the form and mail it to us. Thank you for your quick response and, especially, for your support of CHM. God bless you!

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Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

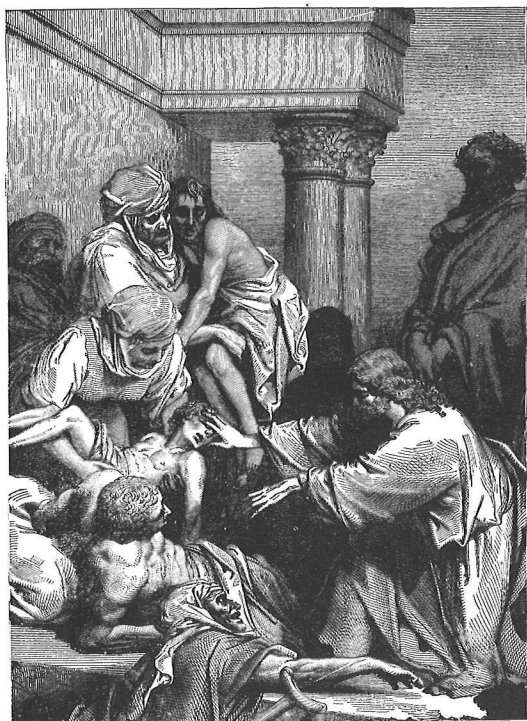
Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____

- ☐ Please keep me on your mailing list!
I have enclosed at least \$20.00 for my minimum contribution this year.
- ☐ Please keep me on your mailing list, though I am unable to support CHM financially at this time.
- ☐ Please take me off your mailing list.
- ☐ Please accept this additional donation of \$_____ to scholarship those unable to support CHM at this time.

Please return this form in the CHM envelope inserted in the newsletter.

Q&A FORUM

by Francis MacNutt



What is the attitude of the medical and scientific communities toward spirituality and health?

We are seeing a dramatic positive shift in the attitude of the medical establishment in regard to the healing ministry. It has become common for doctors to appear on news or talk shows to discuss the health benefits of spirituality and prayer. But just a few short years ago, this focus on spirituality would have been unthinkable.

Three years ago, I began to take part in several "think tank" meetings on the relationship between spirituality and health. This gave me a chance to talk with prominent medical researchers regarding what's happening in the medical community:

1) Most researchers now accept that "religion is good for your health" — a far cry from the "religion is a crutch" doctrine. Church attendance is easy to measure, and many studies show that people who regularly engage in religious practices live longer and generally experience better health than average. Of course, you can be an agnostic scientist and still have no problem recognizing that Baptists who choose not to drink or smoke are not likely to die of cirrhosis of the liver or lung cancer.

2) Research also has been conducted by medical doctors such as Harvard's Dr. Herb Benson that shows meditation and prayer relieve stress. Since many diseases are stress-

related, like high blood pressure and heart disease, meditation is considered good for health. Again, you need not be a Christian to see the value of being quiet for half an hour a day to relieve stress.

3) Research shows that love and a supportive community contribute to good health. One physician, Dr. Leonard Laskow, quit his medical practice to spend full time in a lab researching the curative benefits of love. The value of a loving community is now widely recognized in the medical community. Forgiveness and its benefits, aspects of love, also are being researched by psychologists. This emphasis on love relates directly to Jesus' main teaching, but once again, you do not have to be a Christian to have a high estimation of love.

4) Prayer in general, or turning to a transcendent power, is a current subject of research. Dr. Larry Dossey has written eloquently on the effectiveness of prayer. One of his books, *Healing Words*, details these studies. His books are popular, but my impression is that his conclusions are not widely accepted by the medical establishment. And very few of these studies have been performed with Christian prayer, an amazing fact to me.

5) Christian prayer, which is, of course, the only kind of prayer we at CHM practice and believe in, is only now beginning to be analyzed in a research setting. The Matthews Arthritis Study in which we have participated seems to be on the cutting edge of research in this area, and we anticipate that it will have a significant impact on the medical community in understanding the relationship between Christian prayer and healing. We at CHM are certainly not the only ones involved in prayer for healing, but God has uniquely used us to play a small part in helping restore the relationship between science and religion, a relationship that has been severed since the time of Galileo.

So, the good news is that the medical establishment generally accepts that religion, prayer and meditation, faith, love and community all contribute to good health. All of these are, of course, inherent parts of Christianity.

The bad news is that prayer for healing is still seen as "fringe." The real reason for the skepticism is, I believe, that proving that prayer works forces one to face the possibility of God, a real and personal God, actually intervening. It is easy to accept the fact that 20 minutes of quiet meditation is good for stress. But if Someone is actually answering prayer, one must face the possibility that God exists.

At least we are now able to talk openly about God in scientific circles. If even Christian doctors simply embraced the practice of praying for patients as a result of the research, it would mean a major change in our society and a wonderful advancement of the Kingdom of God. And wouldn't it be a wonderful, surprising paradox if the scientific community eventually evangelized the Christian churches by simply observing that Jesus is still in the business of healing the sick!

"Proving that prayer works forces one to face the possibility of God, a real and personal God, actually intervening."

REACHING OUT IN MINISTRY

Date	Event	Location	Speaker(s)	Contact & Phone
6/21-25/98	The Holy Spirit Celebration 1998 Fishnet Conference	Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont	Francis and Judith MacNutt, Dr. Dale Matthews, Rev. Tommy Tyson	Fishnet (802) 773-7210 or Fishnet@sover.net
7/17-19/98	Healing and Deliverance Conference	Cenacolo Catholic Community, Sliema, Malta	Francis and Judith MacNutt	Fr. Andrew Consiglio 011-356-331034
7/21-23/98	Intensive Prayer Ministry	CHM	CHM Prayer Ministers	Janis Lewis at CHM
7/23-24/98	Holy Trinity Brompton Summer Retreat	London, England	Francis MacNutt	Tricia Neill 011-01-71-590-8267 (ph) 011-01-71-584-8536 (fax)
7/25/98	St. Barnabas Northold Park Teaching and Healing Service	London, England	Francis MacNutt	Rev. Peter Denton 01-81-422-3775
7/26-27/98	London Healing Mission Church Leaders' Meeting	London, England	Francis MacNutt	By invitation only
8/4-5/98	The Healing Church	Perth Ice Rink Perth, Scotland	Francis and Judith MacNutt Don Williams	The Rev. Philip D. Noble 011-01-292-477-108
8/11-13/98	Residential Leaders' Conference	Bonskeid House Perthshire, Scotland	Francis and Judith MacNutt Don Williams	The Rev. Philip D. Noble 011-01-292-477-108
9/11-13/98	Christ Episcopal Church Conference	Denver, Colorado	Francis and Judith MacNutt	Rev. Marilyn Schneider (303) 758-3674
9/15-17/98	Intensive Prayer Ministry	CHM	CHM Prayer Ministers	Janis Lewis at CHM
10/1-4/98	Annual Vail Conference	Vail, Colorado	Francis and Judith MacNutt	Paul Johnston (970) 476-5641
10/6-8-98	Intensive Prayer Ministry	CHM	CHM Prayer Ministers	Janis Lewis at CHM
10/9-11/98	Fishnet Conference	Stamford, Connecticut	Francis and Judith MacNutt	Fishnet (802) 773-7210 or Fishnet@sover.net
10/17/98	Order of St. Luke Healing Conference	St. Anne's Episcopal Church Crystal River, Florida	Norma Dearing	Father Russell Griffin (352)795-2176
10/26-29/98	School of Healing Prayer Level II	CHM	Francis and Judith MacNutt, Norma Dearing, Ann Bauwens	Ann Bauwens at CHM

CHM Speaker Series

The MacNutts have so many demands on their time that it is impossible for them to fulfill all the speaking engagements to which they are invited. During the years that CHM has been headquartered in Jacksonville, God has raised up some servants in the ministry who are gifted speakers and eloquent testimonies to the ministry of healing. We encourage you to consider them for your retreat or conference.

Two of the speakers the Lord has so clearly gifted are Norma Dearing, CHM's director of prayer ministry, and Ann Bauwens, director of prayer ministry education. Both of these women of God can teach about virtually any aspect of the healing ministry and are two of the most learned and experienced people in the ministry. Also, Joy Lamb is truly anointed by the Holy Spirit in her ministry of leading people in intercessory prayer and teaching about intercession.

Please remember that CHM also offers an extensive video/audio series which captures Francis and Judith on tape giving some of their best teaching on healing. These tapes offer wonderful material for a conference on healing, particularly if you are trying to build a healing ministry in your church or community.

If you would like more information about CHM speakers, their backgrounds and areas of expertise, speakers' fees or the video/audio series (outlined on page 11), please call us at CHM.

KEYS FOR PRAYER MINISTERS:

How Important is the Holy Spirit in the Healing Ministry?

by Norma Dearing,
Director of
Prayer
Ministry



The Holy Spirit is vital to the healing ministry. He empowers us for ministry and brings us into all truth.

Jesus gave His disciples instructions to wait and receive the Holy Spirit: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17). "If you love me, you will obey what I command, and I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. That is the Spirit of Truth" (John 4:15).

Jesus made a promise that by the power of the Holy Spirit believers can do what He did and even more: "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 4:11).

Baptism of the Holy Spirit comes when the Holy Spirit, already residing in us from the time we accepted Jesus as Savior, is released to operate fully in our lives. As Dennis Bennett used to say, the question is not, "Do you have the Holy Spirit?" But rather, "Does the Holy Spirit have you?"

In Jesus' life, there was a particular event, a second experience, where the Holy Spirit was released to empower His ministry. From the day of His conception, the Holy Spirit resided in Him. There was never a moment in His life when He was not God. Yet, for the first 30 years of His life, there is no recorded ministry of Jesus, other than those occasions when He was found in the temple as a young boy. Nor are there any recorded teachings or miracles — not until He was baptized in the Jordan at the hands of John the Baptist.

So what happened to Him at the River Jordan? He says He was baptized in the Holy Spirit. If we emulate Jesus' personal example and the examples of His disciples, we conclude that there is an additional experience through which we can expect empowerment

by the Holy Spirit to heal, teach and lead people to a closer relationship with God.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are chronicled in a couple of places in Scripture. They include the gifts of healing, discernment, wisdom, miracles, prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues. These are the weapons we use to advance the kingdom of God and protect it from encroachment by Satan.

The Holy Spirit is unifying and brings us closer to God and each other. Things that separate us from one another are contrary to the work of the Holy Spirit. Satan tries to cause confusion and division over Baptism of the Holy Spirit, because the gifts of the Holy Spirit help destroy the enemy's works.

Separating those of us who are baptized in the Holy Spirit from Christians who have not is a foreign concept to the Holy Spirit. This separation is to the shame of the Holy Spirit, who works to unite. He unites us as Christians to one body — the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit also brings us into a more intimate relationship with the Lord. Through this Baptism, we have a direct line of communication with God in a new and powerful way.

As a result of this closer intimacy with the Lord, the Holy Spirit begins what I call "house cleaning" — He reveals to us those things in our lives that are not pleasing to God. He takes away our desire to do the things we did before that were displeasing to Him and gives us the power to resist temptations. This is life-changing in every respect.

Imagine a dry sponge in a puddle of dirty water. It soaks up the dirty water. But take that same dry sponge and fill it with oil, then put it in the puddle. It no longer soaks up the dirty water. Rather, the oil spreads into the water until the entire puddle is covered with oil. When we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, our lives become like that sponge full of oil. Accepting Jesus is a life-changing event, as we begin to learn the principles by which God expects us to live. When the Holy Spirit is released in our lives, we discover it is possible to live the way God expects us to live, and His power affects every area of our lives.

One of the most important aspects of Baptism of the Holy Spirit is empowerment for ministry to others: "Now to each one the manifes-

tation of the Spirit is given for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:4). When we lay hands on someone for healing and God pours His power through us to them, the manifestation of healing is for the person, not us. Likewise, when the Holy Spirit uses us to teach others or to deliver a word of wisdom, it is for the benefit of the other person. These gifts are given for the benefit of serving others with God's love and power and to be witnesses to the world.

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and...to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Remember how Peter denied Christ three times, but after the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, he preached to the five thousand and never denied Christ again? Peter is an excellent example that Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an essential element for living a victorious life in Christ.

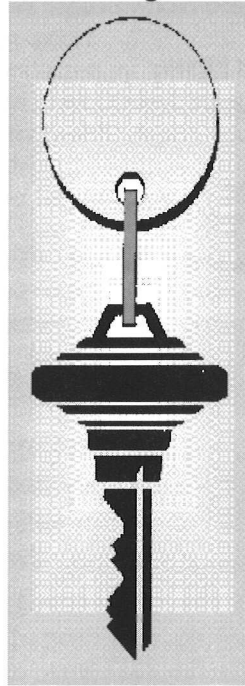
Must everyone be baptized in the Holy Spirit? No. But everyone can be if they only ask. Jesus said, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

(Luke 11:13) Although it is not mandatory for salvation, the Holy Spirit is available to everyone.

In the kingdom of God, there are citizens, or people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior. The kingdom of God also has an army. This army includes those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is strictly a volunteer army; no one is drafted. We enlist in this army when we ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Once we have enlisted, we are taught how to use the weaponry of the Holy Spirit.

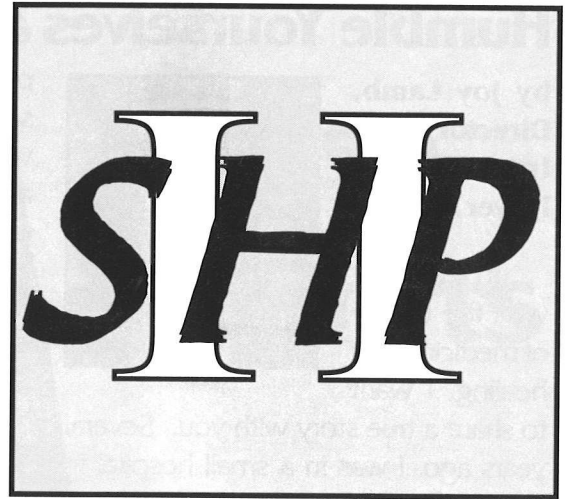
If you would like to be a soldier in the Army of God, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is essential. All you have to do is ask in faith: "Dear Father, I acknowledge that I have sinned against You. I thank

You that You forgave my sins through Christ's death on the cross. I invite Christ to take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in Your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I pray this in the Name of Jesus. I thank You for directing my life and for filling me with Your Holy Spirit. Amen!"



CHM to Offer School of Healing Prayer Level II in October

Christian Healing Ministries will offer the second level of its School of Healing Prayer at the ministry campus in Jacksonville, October 26-29. The SHP II will feature speakers Francis and Judith MacNutt, Norma Dearing and Ann Bauwens, as well as some teachings on videotape. The Level II school is the follow-up course to Level I and builds on the foundations already established. If you have completed the Level I course and are interested in furthering your knowledge and understanding of the ministry of prayer for healing, you may want to consider Level II.



Level II leads prayer ministers through a progressive and more in-depth understanding of the healing ministry and more specific issues that may arise. It focuses on the healing of relationships through more defined areas such as healing of marriage, healing wounds of divorce, and healing of abortion and miscarriage, among others.

Topics covered in Level II are as follows:

Summary of Level I
Healing Our Image of God
Bitter Roots and Inner Vows
Intimacy in Relationships I and II
Healing of Abortion and Miscarriage
Introduction to Healing of Sexual Abuse
Understanding Depression and Mental Illness
Introduction to Deliverance
Ministering to the Terminally Ill
Healing of Marriage
Healing Wounds of Divorce
Praise, Worship and Healing

Cost of the October SHP Level II course is \$150.00. Anyone wishing to apply to Level II **MUST** have completed the Level I course, either in person or through video/audio teaching. If you would like an application for Level II, call CHM and we will send one to you.

We want to emphasize that this course is not a time to receive personal prayer ministry. Although some ministry practice is included, the Level II course is only for those wanting to learn how to minister to others, rather than to receive ministry. If you wish to come to CHM to receive ministry, please apply to the Intensive Prayer Ministry, held each month, or a regular daily ministry appointment.

If you have questions concerning the School of Healing Prayer Level II or would like to receive an application, call Ann Bauwens, Director of Prayer Ministry Education, at (904) 765-3332 Ext. 210.

If you would like to take Level I or are interested in the School of Healing Prayer but cannot come to Jacksonville to take the course, we hope you will consider purchasing the video or audio series, which are available from the CHM Bookstore (see Bookstore, page 10, for details). These courses are a wonderful way to begin a healing ministry in your church or community, and they offer excellent teaching in ministering God's healing to others.

Humble Yourselves and Pray: A Message for Intercession

by Joy Lamb,
Director of
Intercessory
Prayer Ministry



In keeping with the theme of medicine and healing, I want to share a true story with you. Several years ago, I was in a small hospital in Gainesville, Fla., having surgery. As I lay recuperating and listening to the ongoing chatter of the nurses, the paging of the doctors and the general buzz of daily hospital activity, I wondered why hospitals don't have prayer teams to go around to each room and offer healing prayer as part of their service to the sick.

Later, when my doctor came to make his routine call, I presented him with this question. His answer was more than vague. I immediately knew that not only was this man not much of a believer, but he definitely was not a believer in healing prayer. I went a step further and asked him if he would be willing to bring me the name of a person who needed healing. I would then take this person's name and give it to the intercessors.

He thought about this overnight and the next morning came into my room to give me a description of the

person he had targeted for prayer. He said this person was a young woman with two children who had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor which was growing rapidly. She had been given about three months to live. Then, he told me the woman was his sister. What a test! I immediately began to pray and passed her name on to the intercessors.

In the meantime, I became aware of the patient next door. This man cried out in pain day and night. I questioned the nurses about him and was informed that he was very ill and not expected to live much longer. After I learned this, I was determined to somehow get into his room and pray for him. That night, I literally sneaked next door and laid hands on the poor fellow and prayed for God to heal him. I passed his name on to the intercessors, too.

One of the nurses on my floor was very much overweight and was having all kinds of family problems. I asked to pray for her. She agreed.

Six weeks later, when I returned for my final checkup, my doctor was elated that his sister's tumor had stopped growing. The "man next door" had been released from the hospital, and the nurse had lost 20 pounds.

This all happened eight years ago.

I don't know what eventually happened to the man next door or the nurse, but last November the doctor informed me his sister was still doing great. However, she had not been able to get insurance. My response to that was, "No problem — we'll pray!" A week later, he called to tell me she had acquired insurance. God is so faithful.

I still wonder why hospitals and medical facilities don't offer prayer for healing. Are people afraid that if they pray and God heals, then He might be real? Are we afraid to look at Who God really is and how He relates to us? Are we afraid to give up certain lifestyles and make Him the center of our lives? Are we being blocked by a force that keeps us from accepting prayer as the most powerful form of healing? Could prayer be the answer to medical research? Are we afraid we will be ridiculed if we make prayer the solution to problems?

God tells us, "If My people who are called by My name HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14). I think God means He will heal if we are faithful.

Humble ourselves, seek Him, repent of our sins. Isn't that the message of salvation?

We Want YOU for God's Army!

Want to be an Intercessor? God's Army can always use more prayer warriors! CHM intercessors receive a bi-monthly newsletter with prayer requests for which they are asked to pray faithfully for two months. Also, Joy Lamb sends them a copy of *The Sword of the Spirit — The Word of God*, so that they can more effectively pray Scriptural prayers for the prayer requests. The intercessors support Christian Healing Ministries through prayer covering.

If you would like to become a CHM intercessor, please write to Joy Lamb, CHM Intercessors, P.O. Box 9520, Jacksonville, FL 32208.



Matthews Study: At Least One Additional Healing!

God is so good! In 1997, I volunteered to pray for two people who were plagued with arthritis, (as part of Dr. Dale Matthews' scientific study on the effects of prayer in healing patients with rheumatoid arthritis), and we were asked to pray for six months for each person. I did not know either person (man or woman), but only their names and ages. Praying for these two people was a blessing — a real blessing in my life. A couple of years before, I was diagnosed with osteoarthritis in my right hip. It was very painful and kept me from many activities. During the last six months of praying for these people, God healed me of my osteoarthritis. One day, I realized I had no more pain, and I was able to exercise, sleep soundly and go up and down the stairs easily. Praise our Lord! I continue to know He is faithful, and His power is always present for Jesus to perform healing.

— A CHM Intercessor

Dear Fellow Prayers:

With great rejoicing, I share with you a report on (a lady from Johnstown, Penn., for whom I requested prayer). She suffers from Alzheimer's. Recently, her deteriorating condition began to change: **SHE IS REGAINING HER MIND!** Please put her back on the prayer list for a **FULL** recovery and fulfillment of a vision showing her telling others of her miraculous healing. Glory to the Lord!

Dotty
State College, Penn.

Praise Snippets from the Intercessory Prayer Chain

Our two sons have returned to the Lord, along with their families. They have come out of the occult and are back in our family. Praise the Lord!

The cancer did not spread. Thank you for praying.

My niece was delivered out of a Chicago vampire cult, a new thing with the younger generation. She is doing well now in a Christian college in California. Thanks for your prayers!

My son-in-law found a job. Thanks for praying!

Over the years I have put several couples on your prayer list to conceive a child. All of the couples have conceived! These were hard cases — people who had tried everything to get pregnant but were unsuccessful. The prayers made the difference!

Praise Reports

Hope for the Forgetful

Several months ago, I faced the grim prospect of losing one of my dearest friends. Joy had discovered a lump in her throat. Her doctor recommended a biopsy: "In 99 percent of the cases, these are malignant."

My heart pounded as Joy reported what the doctor had said. My mind was overrun with fear and anxiety. How different the world would seem without this dear friend with whom I had shared so many laughs and tears!

As the day of her surgery approached, I scrambled to reassure her in whatever way I could. I promised to pray. I contacted the prayer chain at my church, and my husband went to mass on her behalf. On the day of her surgery,...I promised Joy I would call a special prayer chain headquartered in Florida (CHM): (over) 500 people throughout the country would pray for her.

I worked on the day of her surgery and forgot to call. Needless to say, I felt guilty, believing I had let Joy down. I quietly said prayers as I went about my work, hoping somehow God would hear.

That night, I received a phone call: "The tumor is benign." My heart sang for Joy. That evening I ran across an article by Francis MacNutt, who pointed out: "God covers for us even when we forget...the very desire of our hearts for the sick person to be healed is a form of prayer, even before we put that desire into words." My guilt was just about gone by the time I read, "Isn't it wonderful that God honors even the silent cry of our hearts?!"

I don't know who God honored more that day. I do know that God performed two miracles: My faith increased, and Joy was healed.

Lynne Harkrader, LSW

THE CHM BOOKSTORE

School of Healing Prayer: CHM highly recommends studying each level in sequence!!!

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Order #	Level I Course Materials	Contents	Price
AVL1-SET	Level I - Complete Course Materials	12 Videos, 12 Audios, 1 Facilitator's & 1 Student's Mnl.	\$425.00
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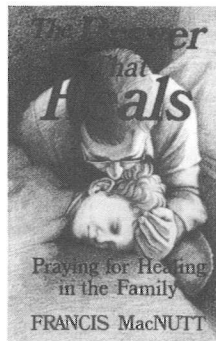
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ATTENTION

If you have purchased the School of Healing Prayer Level I audio or video series in the past but have not purchased Level II, please contact us. We have added a Level II teaching, *Prayer for Conception to Birth*, to Level I because we believe it is an important teaching in the introductory course. Call the Bookstore at (904) 765-3332 Ext. 203, and we will send it to you.



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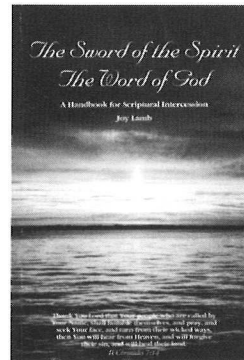
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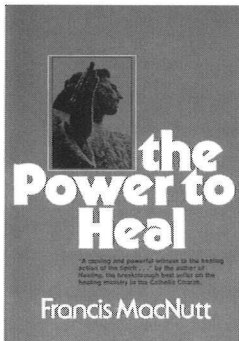
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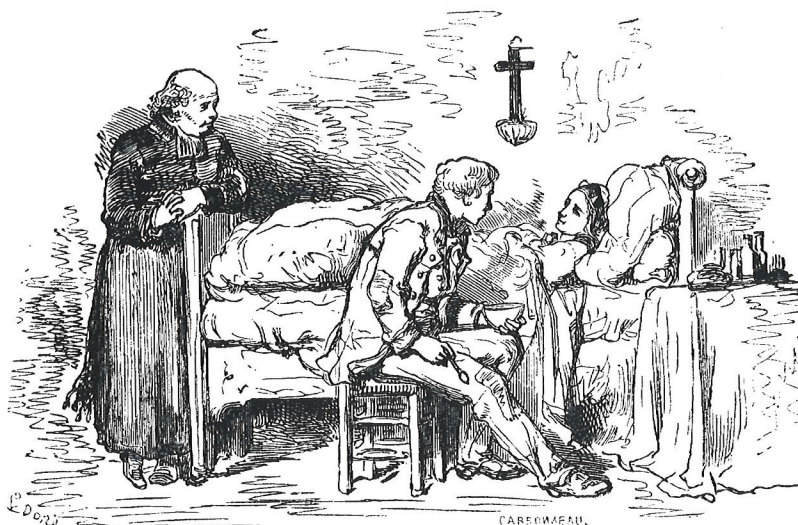
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