

Does Science Now Prove That Intercessory Prayer Doesn't Work?

by Francis MacNutt

Like many of you, I was greatly surprised when a prestigious study came out last week not only claiming that intercessory prayer does not help the sick but that it actually may be harmful. The sensational headline the Associated Press used to proclaim the finding was: "Prayer has no effect in study: Researchers find that having people pray for heart patients did not help in their recovery." And this was the headline we saw in the religion section of our local newspaper!¹

Since we have approximately 600 intercessors connected with CHM, and their director, Anne Early, regularly writes up testimonies of healing that seem to have resulted from intercessors' prayers, I could hardly believe what I was reading — so I want to respond to this discouraging study.

The Study Itself

For the benefit of those of you who haven't read the report, let me summarize it as briefly as I can. The study, called STEP ("A Study of the Therapeutic Effects of Intercessory Prayer in Cardiac Bypass Patients")², has many notable, positive features. In the first place, it was directed by a highly esteemed group of scientists headed by Herb Benson, M.D., who wrote *The Relaxation Response* and has done many studies on spirituality and health. Above all, this study, funded by the Templeton Foundation in-

cluded more than 1800 cardiac patients and is the largest study that has ever been done on the effects of intercessory prayer. These bypass patients were divided into three groups, from 6 different hospitals, in a double-blind study. (The intercessors were given only the first names [and first initial of the last names] of the patients for whom they prayed.) Groups 1 and 2 were told they might receive prayer; they were uncertain whether or not they were actually being prayed for. In Group 1, 604 patients actually received distant prayer but did not know it. In Group 2, 597 did not receive distant prayer from the intercessors. On the other hand, in Group 3, 601 patients received prayer from the chosen intercessors and knew about it, too. (The STEP study recognized that probably many other people — friends and relatives — were also praying for the cardiac patients.)



Francis and Judith praying with Jean Colbert, a CHM Prayer Minister. As a result, she received emotional healing for grief caused from a death in the family and physical healing for her back.

These intercessory prayers continued on for 14 days, beginning the night before surgery. (It's interesting to know that more than 350,000 Americans receive coronary bypass graft surgery every year.) The educated guess of the researchers before the study was that those who knew they were receiving prayer would have far fewer complications than those who did not know. To the

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surprise of the researchers, those in Group 3 — who knew they were being prayed for — suffered 59% complications, compared to Groups 1 and 2 who suffered complications in only 52% and 51% of the cases, respectively.

There seemed to be no problem in what the distant intercessors prayed for: a “successful surgery with a quick, healthy recovery and no complications.”

A Personal Response

As you know, we at CHM have a high estimation of medical science and have always desired to collaborate with physicians on research. In fact, you probably know about the research project we did (in conjunction with Dale Matthews, M.D., and Sally Marlowe, N.P.) ten years ago. At that time, we saw remarkable results in praying with 40 patients who were suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, a medically incurable disease. Four of these patients seem to have been totally cured of their arthritic symptoms, and most of them experienced measurable improvement. The probability of this healing happening by chance was only .0001 (anything better than .04 is statistically significant!)³. These results were published in the *Southern Medical Journal* in December 2000. Of course, this study was not a “double-blind” study, since we met and talked with the patients and prayed for them with the laying on of hands. We were, however, disappointed that the press did not pick up on the study and publicize it to the degree that this recent STEP study has been acclaimed.

Not only did the STEP study contradict our experience, it also seems to go counter to the teaching of Jesus, “Ask that you shall receive.” The message of the STEP study not only is “ask and you probably will not receive” but it goes even beyond that: “If you ask, you may actually lessen the chance of getting better!” How does this stack up against Jesus’ statement: “If you ask for bread, you are not going to get a stone” (Mt. 7:9)?

Nevertheless, we believe in dealing with facts — no matter where the facts take us. We do not believe in bend-

ing facts to suit our theories. But our facts (what we actually have seen: bones straighten, and tumors shrink and vanish while we pray) do not agree with this STEP study which was meticulously performed by expert researchers.

How do we explain this disparity? If you are in the healing ministry and are honest, you must face the same question. This question has great ramifications, not just for the healing ministry but for Christians of all kinds. We are being challenged: “Is it a waste of time to pray to God for anything?”

What Was Missing in the STEP Study?

The most evident scientific question to ask — and apparently it was not asked by the researchers — is simply:

“What were the qualifications of those who did the praying — the intercessors?”

When we planned our rheumatoid arthritis study, an important factor was selecting the six teams who prayed for the arthritic patients. We wanted people who had expectant faith and who also had experience in praying for healing. But what do we find in this STEP study?

Who were chosen as intercessors?

Three groups were chosen, two Catholic and one Protestant:

- 1) St. Paul’s Monastery (Catholic), St. Paul, MN, and
- 2) a community of Teresian Carmelites (Catholic), Worcester, MA;
- 3) Silent Unity (Protestant), Lee’s Summit, MO.

(The study claimed they “were unable to locate other Christian, Jewish or non-Christian groups that could receive the daily prayer list required for this multi-year study.”⁴)

It seems to me the belief systems of the persons doing the praying provide us with the missing piece in this mystery of why intercessory prayer seemed to have no effect. While I don’t personally know any of the three groups that were chosen, I can make several observations.

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ATTENTION ALUMNI

The Alumni Network is up and running. To find out more information, or to register as a member, visit our Alumni Network page on our website: www.christianhealingmin.org.

Please send letters of recommendation (for off-campus trained Alumni) and direct all inquires to: Nancy Kelley, Director of Alumni, at: nak@christianhealingmin.org or call her at: (904) 765-3332 ext. 223.

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In our experience, the first requirement for a successful prayer ministry is that the intercessors have an expectant faith — a belief that when they pray, a real physical healing may take place. Apparently, no check on the qualifications of the intercessors was made beyond the fact that they were praying people. There was no check on what they believed about healing prayer or how they prayed. For example, ‘traditional’ Catholics do a lot of praying, but we never were encouraged to believe that physical healing might actually take place if we went and prayed for our friends when they were sick. We prayed, but not with expectancy. In the past, I have known Carmelite sisters, one of the two Catholic groups chosen for the study, and I have always had great admiration for them as women dedicated to a lifetime of prayer. In fact, one of my favorite saints is a Carmelite, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and I was greatly inspired in reading her autobiography.⁵ The Carmelites traditionally have had a very special vocation in the Roman Catholic Church, and part of their unique calling has been to accept suffering as a kind of substitute martyrdom united to the sufferings of Jesus. For example, St. Thérèse always admired the martyrs, and when she woke up one morning to find blood on her pillow, she rejoiced in the realization that she might soon die and be united to Jesus.

“...I had scarcely laid my head upon the pillow when I felt something like a bubbling stream mounting to my lips. I didn’t know what it was, but I thought that perhaps I was going to die and my soul was flooded with joy. ...I would have to wait until the morning to be certain of my good fortune, for it seemed to me that it was blood I had coughed up. ... Ah, my soul was filled with a great consolation. ... It was like a sweet and distant murmur that announced the Bridegroom’s arrival.”⁶

Thérèse’s experience was an extraordinary response to her bloody discovery that she had TB. I believe in the reality of her special call, resulting in her dying serenely at the early age of 24; but it was a special call. I don’t think most Christians rejoice when they discover they have contracted a fatal illness, especially if they are young mothers or fathers. Since this STEP study selected Carmelite sisters for a type of healing prayer, directed to cardiac patients, you would think the researchers would have checked on two important qualities:



LeeAnn Rummell, Chairman of the Board for Christian Healing Ministries, interceding for, John Watson, one of the Emerging Leaders in Healing students. He resides in Scotland.

- 1) Did these nuns tend to accept sickness as a blessing sent by God, and
- 2) Had they any experience in praying for healing?

Some sisters in such a group might pray for the sick, asking God to grant them patience in accepting their sickness as a blessing. This attitude would perhaps lessen the sisters' expectation of a cure as being God's deepest desire for the sick patients for whom they pray. In short, they have great faith but does that faith include expectancy for healing?

The second Catholic group — St. Paul's Monastery, St. Paul, MN — is a community of Benedictine sisters who center their lives on prayer and pray long hours every day. Again, the question is not about their dedication to prayer, but if they are ‘traditional’ Catholics, they may have a high ideal of acceptance of pain and suffering with only a slight expectancy that when they pray for physical sickness, the sick person might truly experience a physical change (in this case, a lack of complications after surgery).

My intention is not to criticize the Benedictine and Carmelite sisters, who probably spend much more time and

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energy in their prayers than most other Christians. I have no difficulty, either, in believing that they may be more closely united to Christ than most of us. It's only that prayer and intercession for healing is a special kind of prayer. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12, talks about a charism for healing — and it involves special elements that not all Christians have been taught.

As for the third group of intercessors, representing the Protestant group, the researchers selected a Unity Church. The Unitarians are known for their love and inclusiveness, but their belief in the uniqueness of Jesus as the Son of God has been questioned. The Unitarians that I have met are wonderful people, but are they Christians in the sense that they accept Jesus as the Son of God, and not just as a wise teacher and loving human being? If this STEP study concerns the effectiveness of Christian intercession, it only seems right to make sure the intercessors believe in the divinity of Christ — as in someone who is alive and has the power to heal and change people's lives.

The Unity Church is criticized by the Evangelical Protestants I know, because Unitarians don't have the reputation of believing in the uniqueness of Jesus as the Son of God. Do Unitarians address their prayers to him as the living Son of God the Father, who can actually change and heal sickness? The question, then, is “Why, out of all the Protestant groups, was a church regarded as unorthodox by evangelical Protestants chosen to represent Protestants?” When we carried out our study on praying for rheumatoid arthritis, our ten prayer ministers represented several different church traditions — Catholic, as well as Protestant — but they all were united in believing in Christ as their Savior, and they all had a strong belief in healing prayer.

How Were Intercessors Chosen?

All of our experience indicates that the beliefs of the intercessors, the people who are actually doing the praying, have a significant influence on the outcome of the prayer.⁷ Putting it simply, a key ingredient involving the selection of the intercessors for the STEP study seems to be totally missing. “Who are they, and what do they believe?” are questions vital to the success of the STEP study. The natural questions to ask the prospective intercessors are:

- 1) Are they fully Christian (since it involves a study of Christian intercessory prayer), and

- 2) Do they fully believe in intercession, in the sense of having an expectant belief that healing may happen (in this case, that there be no complications after surgery)?

Again, why weren't the beliefs of the three groups of intercessors — especially as relating to intercession itself — taken into consideration in this study?

Without expectant faith, I wouldn't have much confidence in the healing power of any intercessors' prayers.

Even the editors of the *American Heart Journal* (in which the STEP study was presented to the world) admit to being baffled by the fact that 59% of Group 3 (who knew they were being prayed for) had more complications than those in Group 1 (52%) and Group 2 (51%) who were not sure they were being prayed for. There had to be some reason why the third group did worse. The *Journal* itself comments that something went wrong and criticized the researchers for not trying to analyze why Group 3 did so poorly.⁸

Let me propose an analogy:

Suppose that 30 years ago, a massive study had been funded to study whether or not cardiac bypass surgery might be a new procedure that would help cardiac patients survive. Let's suppose that 1800 heart patients had been selected to undergo this new surgery.

Then these 1800 patients all underwent bypass surgery.

In spite of their high hopes for bypass surgery, the proponents were disappointed to find that 900 of the patients died within two weeks of their operations. The researchers then decided that bypass surgery, far from being a success, was a dangerous failure and would have to be stopped. Their decision seemed to be an obviously wise one.

But then a nurse spoke up and openly questioned the results of the research because the hospitals had decided to turn the surgery over to a group of hospital orderlies, scientifically chosen at random. The hospitals had decided there was no need to choose surgeons — or, better yet, cardiologists — to perform the surgery. The researchers defended their decision by saying: “After all, the orderlies are all dedicated to medicine and have given their lives to help patients. They all believe in the value of medical treatment. What more can we ask?”

Bypass surgery was judged as useless — or worse yet, harmful, because no one had bothered to check on the aptitude and training of those who performed the operations.

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How is it possible that this crucial question concerning the intercessors' qualifications did not seem even to have been asked in this important, major study? And, yet, they came to their decisive, emphatic conclusion: "Intercessory prayer does not work!"

Last Word

It is certainly praiseworthy that the Templeton Foundation put up the funds to do this massive scientific study to show whether Christian intercessory prayer has any effect. The study seems to show that it doesn't help to pray and may even make matters worse. What I suggest is that a vital element was left out of this study.

Beyond all that, most scientific studies do not examine the way we usually pray for the sick. To satisfy the need to do a double-blind study, the intercessors are not allowed to

meet face to face with the sick, and so they do not develop a relationship with each other. Distant prayer also rules out the laying-on-of-hands — one of the traditional channels of healing. Why don't researchers study the power of prayer in the way we have found best to do it? The scientific method can be a procrustean bed that takes the living breath out of healing relationships, and can set up an artificial barrier between science and Christian healing.

Like St. John, we speak about things we have seen and heard and touched. We have seen living human beings who were lame and now walk,

who were blind and now see.

Love,

Francis, with Judith

(Footnotes)

¹ *Florida Times-Union*, Religion Section, March 31, 2006.

² *American Heart Journal*, Vol. 151, No. 4, pp. 934-942.

³ A videotape (DVD) of this study "Shall We Pray?" can be obtained from our CHM bookstore. It is very moving to watch.

⁴ *American Heart Journal*, op.cit., p. 935.

⁵ *The Story of a Soul*, transl. by John Clarke, O.C.D., Third Edition, ICS Publications, Washington, D.C., 1996.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 210-211.

⁷ Dr. Larry Dossey, M.D., has actually written a book on the possible negative influence of people who pray: *Be Careful What you Pray For: You Just Might Get It* (Harper San Francisco, 1997).



Francis and Judith with Don Williams (center-back) and Mike Evans (right).

Don Williams and Mike Evans are speakers with Francis and Judith for the Emerging Leaders in Healing Conferences.

Conferences and Speaking Engagements

Jacksonville, Florida—Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel

May 8–12, 2006

Speakers: Francis and Judith MacNutt, Don Williams and Mike Evans:

Emerging Leaders in Healing. See our ad on pages eight and nine for more information or visit our website at: www.christianhealingmin.org. To register by phone call Jeff at: 1-904-765-3332 ext. 203.

Virginia Beach, Virginia—Regents University

June 16–17, 2006

Speaker: Francis MacNutt (speaks on 6-17):

Banquet and Symposium Honoring Vinson Synan. By invitation only.

Rutland, Vermont—Holiday Inn

June 21–24, 2006

Speakers: Francis and Judith MacNutt, with Russ Parker:

Annual Fishnet Conference. Contact: fishnet@sover.net or fishnetinfo@ren.com or call 1-802-773-7210.

Orlando, Florida—Buena Vista Palace

July 7, 2006

Speakers: Francis and Judith MacNutt:

Daughters of the King Triennial Meeting 2006. Contact: Deborah Tischler, 1-505-323-4098.

Arden Hills, Minnesota—North Heights Lutheran Church

August 4–5, 2006

Speakers: Francis and Judith MacNutt:

Reformation Reloaded. Contact: Denise Siemens, 1-651-490-1517 ext. 13 or go to www.lutheranrenewal.org.

Denver, Colorado—DoubleTree Hotel

October 9–13, 2006

Speakers: Francis and Judith MacNutt, Don Williams and Mike Evans:

Emerging Leaders in Healing. See our ad on pages eight and nine for more information or visit our website at: www.christianhealingmin.org. To register by phone call Jeff at: 1-904-765-3332 ext. 203.

For any other conference information, please contact Linda Strickland by phone: 1-904-765-3332 ext. 202 or e-mail: lhs@christianhealingmin.org. To see a full listing of our conferences, go to our website at: www.christianhealingmin.org.

Francis and Judith MacNutt Training Center

The next course offered through the *Francis and Judith MacNutt Training Center* is the School of Healing Prayer® Level II, June 5–9, 2006. The School of Healing Prayer® Level II training course leads prayer ministers through a more in–depth understanding of specific issues in the healing ministry. It addresses specialized issues such as the healing of relationships, the healing of marriages, healing the wounds of divorce, the healing of abortion and an introduction to deliverance prayer.

Each level taught on the CHM campus includes Francis and Judith MacNutt as featured speakers, as well as evening prayer sessions assisted by CHM volunteer prayer ministers. The cost of the school is \$325.00 per person. Each student is responsible for his/her lodgings, transportation and meals in addition to the price of the school. If you are interested in attending the school or have any questions, contact Jeff Sampson: (904) 765-3332, ext. 203, or jws@christianhealingmin.org.

SCHOOL OF HEALING PRAYER® SCHEDULE FOR 2006

- ◆ SHP® Level I February 20–24, 2006
- ◆ SHP® Level II June 5–9, 2006
- ◆ SHP® Level III September 18–22, 2006
- ◆ Each student is responsible for his/her lodging, transportation and meals in addition to the above price of \$325.00.

Prayer Ministry Opportunities

Below is a list of the prayer ministry opportunities available at Christian Healing Ministries, Inc. Please contact the CHM office at (904) 765-3332 concerning any questions you might have or to make an appointment. Since it is necessary, occasionally, to cancel ministry programs, please confirm the scheduled ministry even when appointments are not required.

PRAYER SCHEDULE AT CHRISTIAN HEALING MINISTRIES

- Prayer Ministry, Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM [Appointment required.]
- Tuesday Afternoon Prayer Ministry 1:30 PM [No appointment required.]
- Tuesday Evening Prayer Ministry 6:00 PM [No appointment required.]
- (On Tuesday, be sure to call first to verify there are no cancellations.)
- Generational Eucharist 2nd Tues./monthly at 6:00 PM [No appointment required.]

Special Monthly Prayer Ministry

Day of Healing Prayer (1 day) [Call for appointment.]

(An additional three days of prayer ministry may be available for those coming from out of town.)

Scheduled Dates for Day of Healing Prayer

Jan. 9, 2006 Feb. 13, 2006 Mar. 6, 2006 Apr. 10, 2006 May 22, 2006 June 12, 2006
July 10, 2006 Aug. 7, 2006 Oct. 9, 2006 Nov. 13, 2006 Dec. 11, 2006

Emerging Leaders *in* Healing

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*An Advanced Seminar
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about healing, I learned
from Francis MacNutt."*

— John Wimber

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*We invite leaders (and their spouses) to
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*Experienced prayer ministers will be
available to minister to your special
prayer needs and concerns.*

Emerging Leaders in Healing is an ecumenical conference that is designed to give a clear and balanced understanding of healing, with a fresh experience of the power of the Holy Spirit. It is designed to take healing to the heart of the Church and equip its leaders to take healing into the 21st century.

Come and learn firsthand from Francis & Judith MacNutt, two of the most respected speakers on the topic.

Main speakers

Francis and Judith MacNutt

Other main speakers

(not at every conference).

The Reverend Don Williams, Ph.D.
Vineyard Pastor,
Theologian & Author

The Reverend Mike Evans
Pastor and Author

From a Coast
*chaplains and
Judith MacNutt
recommend it
over 40 years.
doctors, chaplains
in the church.
miracles, incl.*



SEMINAR TOPICS INCLUDE

Scriptural & Theological Basis for Healing
The Need for the Power of the Holy Spirit
How to Pray for Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Healing
A Realistic Approach to Deliverance
Developing a Healing Ministry in Your Church
Healing the Divisions Among Christians

Seminar Dates

May 8–12, Jacksonville, Florida
October 9–13, Denver, Colorado

Seminar Sites

Jacksonville, Florida: Attendees must make their own hotel reservations directly with the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel in downtown Jacksonville. To receive a discount rate, be sure to indicate you are attending the Christian Healing Ministries' Emerging Leaders in Healing Conference. To make reservations, please call the hotel directly at (904) 396–5100.

Denver, Colorado: Attendees must make their own hotel reservations directly with the DoubleTree Hotel. Rooms have been made available at a special discount rate of \$79 per night. Indicate you are attending the Christian Healing Ministries' Emerging Leaders in Healing Conference to get the discount. To make reservations, please call the hotel directly at (303) 321-3333.

at Guard Captain with a note that said: *"I sent this email out to all my extensive Prayer Warrior prayer list: Last week I attended Francis and Matt's Emerging Leaders in Healing Conference in Dallas. It was powerful. I went to all and their families. Francis has been involved in the healing ministry for . . . The place was packed with psychologists, counselors, psychiatrists, nurses, clowns, pastors, priests and many lay folks interested in the healing ministry. Everyone had a chance to receive prayer in a healing team. We saw many people, including a woman being healed of cataracts in her eyes."* (Cont. on page 10.)



—Photograph courtesy of Dan Olson
Studio Z Photography

Go to page ten and eleven to read more testimonies from participants who attended past Emerging Leaders in Healing conferences.

REGISTRATION

☐ MAY 8–12, 2006

☐ OCTOBER 9–13, 2006

REGISTER by any of the following:

FAX: (904) 765–4224

WEB SITE: www.christianhealingmin.org

MAIL: Christian Healing Ministries, Inc.
438 West 67 Street
Jacksonville FL 32208

For more information or to register by telephone, contact: Jeff Sampson at (904) 765–3332, ext. 203 or jws@christianhealingmin.org.

REGISTRATION COSTS

- ☐ \$395.00 per person
☐ \$550.00 for couple
☐ \$250.00 group of 3 or more

C.E.U.'s provided upon request.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail: _____

Church _____

PAYMENT for registration may be check/debit, money order or American Express/Discover/MasterCard/Visa (non-U.S. orders—listed credit cards only) payable to Christian Healing Ministries.

Credit Card #: _____

Security Code: _____ **Expiration Date:** _____

(The security code is the 3–digit number on the signature box on the back of the credit card.)

Signed: _____

Check # _____ **\$** _____

Please, designate "ELH Conf." on the memo line.

Praise the Lord and Give Thanks

See What He Has Done

Compiled by Anne Early, Intercessory Prayer Coordinator.

From clients who received healing through Intensive Prayer Ministry at CHM:

- ◆ “I want to thank all the people at CHM for blessing Jane and myself last week at the Intensive Prayer Ministry. What a ministry! Our lives were touched in many ways. I have had no symptoms of fibromyalgia for nearly a week since being there. Although we were disappointed by not seeing Francis and Judith, we felt in no way slighted; God has used them to equip the many servants of CHM. Thank you, thank you, thank you, and may God continue to bless the CHM ministry.”
- ◆ “God provided an opening, when there was not one, for my wife and I to attend this IPM. The people here are like Francis and Judith. We have felt very welcomed, safe and led by the Spirit of God. Thank you.”
- ◆ From “Princess”: “About 30 years ago, I got so scared of myself that I jumped into psychotherapy with both feet and have stayed there ever since. I was afraid to accept God as the supreme authority, so I went all over the United States, trying to find answers. God showed the prayer minister who prayed with me a picture of me on a roller coaster, all alone. That has been my life. It was as though my trying to seek healing was stealing my life, and the fear was almost worse than the illness. I had horrible depression and was in and out of hospitals. Sometimes I stayed up all night because I was so afraid I wouldn’t be able to get my children off to school. The only time I could find peace was when I was asleep. When I came here for prayer I said, ‘Lord, this is it. I’m not searching anymore. I’m not going anywhere else.’ While I was here, God let me know, through one of the prayer ministers, that I am his princess. Some things have gotten into my spirit for the first time. I was rejected in the womb, and have experienced rejection ever since. I received a revelation that I had been looking for human love and perfection, and realized I had rejected the love of the Lord — the only one who could give me what I’ve been searching for my entire life.”
- ◆ “I have a heart full of gratitude and want to thank the prayer ministers that were picked just for me, because I gave them a hard time. I’m leaving all my rebellious, contentious nature here in Jacksonville. The blood of the Lamb has separated me from these things.”
- ◆ “I am shy and emotional, but you can publish my tears. I thank everybody that smiled, prayed silently, and touched, and I thank my prayer ministers for their words. I thank Jesus, and I know my marriage is going to be okay. Thank you for all the love and the peace. I feel joy. I saw Jesus reaching out his hands and I slowly accepted.”

From our Emerging Leaders in Healing Conferences:

- ◆ From a Coast Guard Captain with a note that said: ‘I sent this email out to all my chaplains and my extensive Prayer Warrior prayer list.’ “Last week I attended Francis and Judith MacNutt’s Emerging Leaders in Healing Conference in Dallas. It was powerful. I recommend it to all and their families. Francis has been involved in the healing ministry for over 40 years. John Wimber who started the Vineyard Church Ministry said, ‘Everything I learned about healing I learned from Francis MacNutt.’

“We talked about physical, inner, and generational healing plus deliverance ministry. The place was packed with psychologists, counselors, psychiatrists, nurses, doctors, chaplains, pastors, priests and many lay folks interested in the healing ministry in the church. Everyone had a chance to receive prayer in a healing team. We saw many miracles, including a woman being healed of cataracts in her eyes. Lauren, my daughter, was prayed for with no visible change in her eye, but she received some other spiritual and inner healing and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I had a great renewal of spiritual gifts and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

“I enthusiastically recommend this conference to you. They have it three times a year in various locations. The next two are May 8-10 in Jacksonville, Florida, and October 9-13 in Denver, Colorado. I am going to do everything I can to send every member of my family to this conference.”
- ◆ “My experience at your conference was absolutely life changing. Each night I found myself one of the first ‘resting in the Spirit’ and always the last to get up. Never before had I rested like that. It was incredibly intense.”
- ◆ “Since the ELH Conference in July, I have become the leader of our Afterglow-of-the-Eucharist Ministry. Since November, we have had teams praying for the needs of people individually after our eleven o’clock mass on Sunday mornings. People have felt good and have come back for more. I’m evangelizing again.”

- ◆ From a nurse who attended the Emerging Leaders in Healing Conference in Dallas: “It was such a treat for me to watch a ‘community in action’ with the group manifesting all the gifts together -- each one of you shining and beautiful, each one helping and working together in love. Your talks helped me immensely. I know a spiritual change has taken place, perhaps a structural change as well. Never had I been able to get totally still before God. I think I have learned how. After two days of praying for my family in different ways, my household is calmer and everyone is better behaved. Coincidence? I doubt it. Thank you for helping change my life for the better. I feel like a captive who has been set free. We are beginning discussions on how we can incorporate in our church all the things we have learned this week. Thank you again for the tremendous help.”

From students who attended School of Healing Prayer Level I in February:

- ◆ “This school was highly effective in so many ways. Being in such a Holy-Spirit-drenched setting allowed us to grow, as we trusted God more and more, with nurturing from staff and volunteers that was immeasurable. God so strongly spoke to my heart -- astounded but filled to overflowing with His love for me.”
- ◆ “I saw how personal, extended prayer ministry changes lives. I thought both the teaching and practical applications were effective. There is so much to learn and experience that you don’t want to stop.”
- ◆ “Very enlightening and encouraging. The most important thing I learned from the books and classes was that healing and deliverance are part of the gospel, not just ‘add-ons’ to be done outside the church’s main ministry and emphasis.”
- ◆ “This school opened my eyes to the power of healing prayer with the laying on of hands and prayer language. The prayer-practice sessions were very strong and real, and the healing which took place was incredible.”
- ◆ “It was awesome to be immersed in the supernatural for a week, an experience that completely changed my concept of healing. I can relax and trust the Spirit in me. The Holy Spirit does it all.”
- ◆ “I thank the Lord so much for making it possible for me to participate in the Level I training and to meet Francis and Judith and a most wonderful staff. I sincerely hope to make it for Level II and III. Amazingly, God has put people right in front of me who needed prayers, and He has given me the courage to proceed. The training provided me with knowledge and a feeling that I have the ‘authority’ to pray for others.”

From our Mail and Email:

- ◆ “I am a life-long Christian; however, within the past month I have experienced God’s redemption and mercy by doing the Liturgy of Reconciliation from the Book of Common Prayer with a priest. At the end of the liturgy, the priest prayed over me for my deliverance from various harmful relationships. I never have experienced inner healing in such a way as I did that evening. Later, after inquiring of the priest how she knew what to pray when she prayed for my deliverance, I was told that your ministry, Christian Healing Ministries in Jacksonville, Florida, was where she had studied. I want to say ‘thank you’ for what you are doing in healing individuals and communities through your work. Please keep up your healing work through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- ◆ “I want to let you know I received a healing on the Day of Healing Prayer in January. I asked for prayer for my problems with overeating. That day I was delivered from the spirits of Gluttony and food addiction. I had not realized that these two spirits were tormenting me and adding to my problem. I no longer binge-eat, and I have an easier time sticking to my weight-loss plan. I have visited CHM over the past 15 years and have received healings on deeper levels each time I have visited. Thanks so much for your help. It’s great to be free to live life as Jesus wants me to live it.”

For you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings (Malachi 4:2).

(The Praise Reports have been edited for readability.)

Rebecca’s testimony at the end of the March IPM was a Word for prayer ministers we want to share with other ministers, too: “I am not the architect of my being; God is. When I came here, I asked God to let me know when it would be time to go — when the portion of His work He wanted to accomplish here was finished and I would feel peace. The actual way that happened was when we were up there praying; He gave me a word for the prayer ministers. He showed me a field with sheep and shepherds, demonstrating that you prayer ministers are not hirelings who merely watch the sheep. He said, ‘They are my very own representatives. They represent me. They are representative shepherds.’ He said He sends his most vulnerable to you because He trusts you; you are the towers of light and refuge to whom refugees can run and find safety. Then He showed me Noah’s ark with all the different animals in it. He said that in Noah’s ark he had preserved a remnant in the midst of an evil generation, so that when the time came to recreate and redeem the earth, they would be there to start the process. He said that each of you, like those animals on Noah’s ark, is different and He has preserved you as a remnant for his redemption of the earth. That is your job. The last thing I saw was Jesus holding a glass of wine and toasting all of you, saying, ‘I honor you at my table for the work and service you have done unto me.’”

CHM's Featured Items

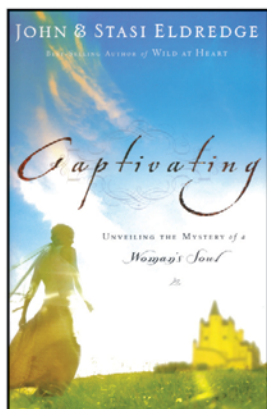
Captivating

Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul

by John & Stasi Eldredge

Every woman was once a little girl. And every little girl holds in her heart her most precious dreams. She longs to be swept up into a romance, to play an irreplaceable role in a great adventure, to be the Beauty of the story. Those desires are far more than child's play. They are the secret to the feminine heart.

The message of *Captivating* is this: Your heart matters more than anything else in all creation. The desires you had as a little girl and the longings you still feel as a woman—they are telling you of the life God created you to live. He offers to come now as the Hero of your story, to rescue your heart and release you to live as a fully alive and feminine woman. A woman who is truly captivating.



#B836 Hardcover 243 pgs \$22.99

Come Thirsty

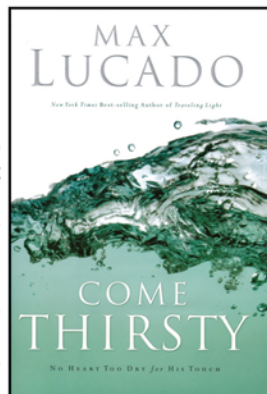
No Heart too Dry for His Touch

by Max Lucado

You're acquainted with physical thirst. Stop drinking and see what happens. Coherent thoughts vanish, skin grows clammy, and vital organs shut down. Deprive your body of necessary fluid, and it will tell you.

Deprive your soul of spiritual water, and it will tell you. Dehydrated hearts send desperate messages. Snarling tempers. Waves of worry. Growing guilt and fear. Hopelessness. Resentment. Loneliness. Insecurity.

But you don't have to live with a dehydrated heart. God invites you to treat your thirsty soul as you would treat your physical thirst. Just visit the Well and drink deeply: receive Christ's work on the cross; the energy of his Spirit; His lordship over your life; and his unending, unfailing love.



#B319 Hardcover 215 pgs \$22.99

How to Hear God's Voice

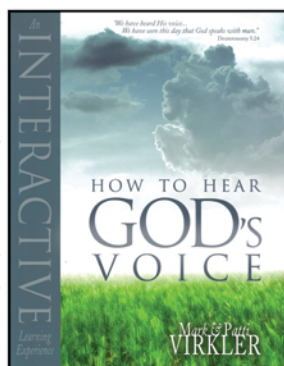
by Mark & Patti Virkler

You can hear the voice of God.

He is always speaking to you. In fact, every believer is called to have a one-on-one relationship with God because He longs to share sweet times of intimacy with all His children.

How to Hear God's Voice will teach you how to discern His voice from all the other voices that clamor for your attention.

This book: gives vital keys to increase the intimacy of your prayer time; teaches you how to be still before the Lord; helps you recognize His speech as spontaneous thoughts; encourages you to seek vision while praying, and use a journal to record revelation.



#B639 Softcover 317 pgs \$24.99

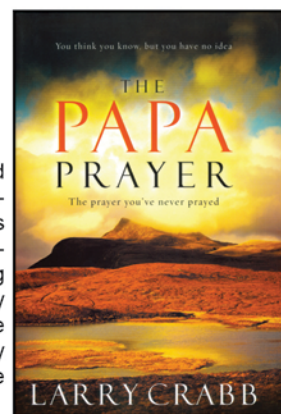
The Papa Prayer

The Prayer You've Never Prayed

by Larry Crabb

Something new and real and deep started happening in him, Crabb says, when he began practicing the four steps of what he calls the Papa prayer—a revolutionary, conversational approach to talking with and enjoying God. As this fellow seeker shares his journey and education in the mysteries of prayer, he guides us to see ourselves and God in a very different light . . . which will alter the way we talk—and listen—to Him.

Crabb's experiences and insights are so poignant, so real, so "everyman" that you will be drawn into your own spiritual journey. A journey that can yield such a close connection with your heavenly Papa that your desires will be His desires, and you'll be able to hear His voice as clearly as a child lost in the woods hears her daddy call her name.



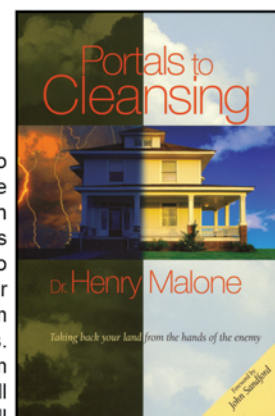
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Portals to Cleansing

Taking Back Your Land from the Hands of the Enemy

by Dr. Henry Malone

Portals to Cleansing is a spiritual journey into the realm of the supernatural. Page after page you'll discover how spiritual ground is taken and how it is released. You'll hear the stories of others who have walked out of captivity into freedom. You'll learn keys to reclaiming your land, home, possessions and animals from the power of Satan and his demonic forces. You'll experience the peace that comes from the cleansing of all you possess. And you'll walk into a portal of God's presence that will take you deeper into the realm of the Spirit and change your life forever.



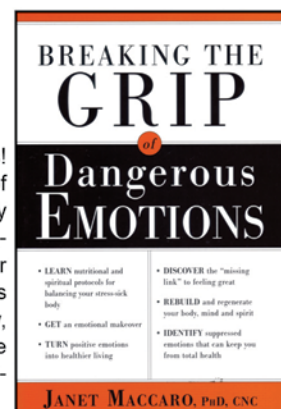
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Breaking the Grip to Dangerous Emotions

by Janet Maccaro, PhD, CNC

Get back on the road to health and happiness! Stop letting dangerous emotions rob you of your joy as you discover the truth about worry and stress. Learn how to replenish your physical body with natural foods that restore your health. Explore exciting and proven protocols for rebuilding and regenerating your body, mind and spirit as you embrace one of the greatest healing miracles of all time—unconditional love.

You will learn about: natural stress busters, identifying unresolved traumas, four levels of stress and personality types, and tips to banish brain clutter.



#B466 Softcover 227 pgs \$13.99

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For ordering information, call 1-800-858-8585.*

CHM's Suggested Reading

Healing

25th Anniversary Edition

by Francis MacNutt

Twenty-five years after its original release, it has been updated! Learn how the marvelous healing touch of God is available to you. The revolutionary yet balanced teaching of Francis MacNutt will open you to the experience of healing for you and those you love. The millions who have benefited from this book testify to its life-changing message. It is considered the classical work on the subject of Christian healing prayer.

#B607.....\$16.95

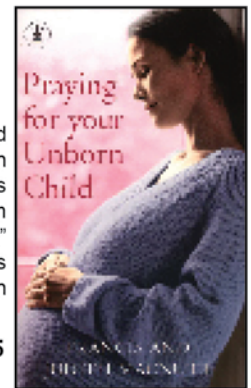


Praying for Your Unborn Child

by Francis and Judith MacNutt

What might happen if expectant mothers and fathers learned to pray for their babies even before birth? Sharing their conviction that "Jesus really wants to consecrate your child, to fill him with love and bring him into His Father's family," the MacNutt's give examples of the wondrous difference that prayer makes. Also available on audio cassette.

#B107.....\$11.95

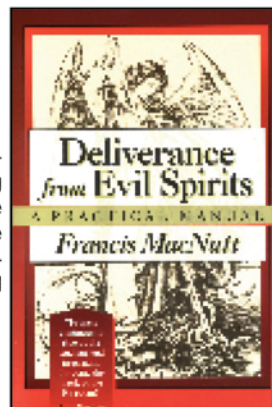


Deliverance from Evil Spirits

by Francis MacNutt

Do evil spirits oppress people today? This practical manual covers such subjects as clearing away misconceptions about deliverance, the Scriptural basis for deliverance, curses and the power of false judgment, preparation for deliverance ministry, praying for deliverance, and deliverance of places.

#B506.....\$16.99



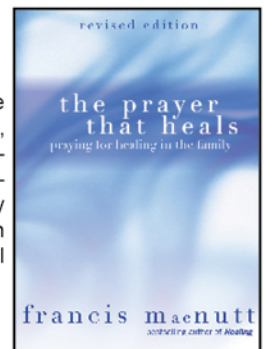
The Prayer That Heals

by Francis MacNutt

This book teaches people how to pray at home for healing of family members. Says Dr. MacNutt, "Praying together at home is such a beautiful experience—and so easy to learn—that the present bleak record (of broken families) could easily be improved if people were taught and 'given permission' to try... I hope Christian families will experience the joy of praying together."

Also available on audio cassette.

#B047.....\$9.95



Overcome by the Spirit

by Francis MacNutt

In the 1960 and '70s when Dr. MacNutt first witnessed being "slain in the Spirit," he did not know what to think. Then, it started happening in his own healing ministry. Through extensive research, he learned that this phenomenon is not new at all; it occurred throughout Church history. With Biblically informed wisdom and sensitivity, Dr. MacNutt tackles every conceivable question and concern about this controversial issue, including: Isn't it just the power of suggestion? What are the spiritual benefits, if any? How good can something be that causes division and controversy?

#B231.....\$16.00



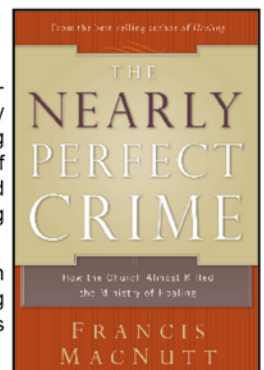
The Nearly Perfect Crime

by Francis MacNutt

Although the main method leading to the conversion of the Roman Empire during the early years of Christianity lay in dramatically healing the sick and casting out evil spirits, the belief in supernatural healing nearly disappeared from mainline churches during the following centuries.

How did something so central to Jesus' own heart, something so essential to the spreading of the Gospel, nearly disappear? Join Francis as he explores this fascinating question.

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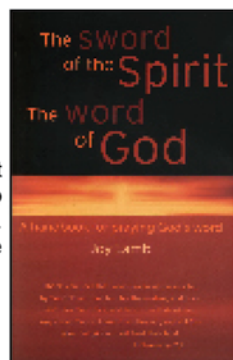


The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God

by Joy Lamb

This wonderful book is based upon the fact that God's inspired Word is the best way to pray and to combat evil. Through this powerful handbook, Mrs. Lamb teaches Christians how to pray Holy Scripture in specific situations.

#B467.....\$9.95



The Power to Heal

by Francis MacNutt

A moving and powerful witness to the healing action of the Holy Spirit, this book clarifies many points that have been a mystery and sometimes a barrier to those praying for healing. It deals directly with some very difficult issues.

#B045.....\$12.95



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▶ 1 Facilitator's Manual	\$50.00
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-----or-----	
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Founding Directors
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Judith S. MacNutt, M.A.

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