

Does Healing Prayer Work?

Francis MacNutt's Response to Philip Yancey

All Things Are Possible When the Spirit Leads

A Testimony from a Leaders' Conference

Children of the Light

Walking in Confidence with Tesus

Sept/Oct

Taking Care of Business..

postal rates after our May/June issue so that we are now faced with a 52% increase in postage for "The Healing Line". Along with that are added printing costs. Over the years, we have absorbed certain costs without increasing our subscription rate of \$20.00 per year, but with this current postal increase, we regretfully have no other choice except to increase the yearly subscription rate to \$25.00.

Merle president of Finance

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The Healing Line

Published bimonthly by Christian Healing Ministries, Inc. P.O. Box 9520 Jacksonville, FL 32208

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don't want to write this article, but I think I have to. You see, one of my favorite authors – someone I read all the time – has written in his most recent book that he believes it is a mistake to encourage Christians to pray for physical healing. As you know, the main mission of CHM is dedicated to the goal of restoring belief in Jesus' healing ministry, so this author's belief goes counter to our life's work. If it was just an abstract belief, we could simply let it go, but I believe that lives are lost because Christians have lost their faith in healing prayer. To us, it is a matter of life and death! For example, here are just three testimonies from our May international conference:

- "I have been transformed, renewed and born again this week! I have been healed."
- "I loved everything about it. It was over the top! I learned a lot. I was healed. I loved the people."
- "I was inundated with miracles. I was crushed by miracles. I was reborn by miracles. I will never be the same again!"

The respected author to whom I refer is Philip Yancey, and his recent book is titled Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? (Zondervan, 2006). Yancey devotes one chapter to prayer for physical healing, and in it he dis-

courages praying for bodily illness because he has seen so many sick patients devastated by Christians who tried to heal them through prayer. Their last state was worse than the first! Yancey points to piles of letters on his desk, all complaining of the same problem: they were misled by the false hope that they could be healed if only they prayed with faith.

So what can we say?

First, I do not doubt that he has mounds of evidence that many Christians have held high hopes for being healed, but then were severely disappointed. As a consequence, they then blame God or their church - or worse yet, themselves - for their lack of faith. We could send him some more letters to add to his stack of evidence, Yet, now we must try to deal with his problem as openly and honestly as we can. The beginning of solving the question is to admit that some people are physically healed and some are not. We hope and believe that everyone to whom we minister is blessed and drawn closer to God by our prayers. The difficulties are created by well-meaning Christians who have absorbed false teachings: "If you have faith you are going to be healed tonight when we pray. If we just agree on it, you will be healed. Do you have faith for this?" I have dealt with these questions at length in Healing¹ and The Power to Heal.² For years we have struggled to do two things:

- 1. Restore what we regard as Jesus' clear teaching to pray for the sick with faith;
- 2. Avoid the legalistic understanding that everyone we pray for will be unfailingly healed.

Most Christians, in our experience, tip the scales in one way or the other, either by ignoring healing prayer altogether or by claiming that healing always takes place if only people would have "faith."

Having said that, we also have stacks of letters over on the other side: the witness of hundreds of people who testify to having been healed. I am well aware of the power of suggestion and the "placebo effect," so we have always tried to gather as much objective evidence as possible over the years. It seems that we have always been somewhere in the middle: on one side, trying to encourage people to pray for healing while, on the other, trying to guard against extremism. It does seem strange, though, that the group we are trying to encourage the most are the evangelicals, whose strong suit is a belief in Scripture, asking them to believe in the overwhelming scriptural evidence that Jesus advocated prayer for healing. Of all groups, they should be the strongest proponents of healing prayer (Yancey is an evangelical), but they tend to follow John Calvin, who believed that Jesus himself healed the sick but denied that it took place after the death of the last apostle. Historically, this is simply not true. For 350 years the early church boasted of its healing powers³ and the ordinary Christian people have always retained their belief in healing, as witness those famous healing shrines, such as Lourdes.

Even if the scriptural evidence does not convince someone to try prayer when they are sick, the scientific evidence is also strong. To convince physicians in the reality of prayer as a method of healing, we at CHM took part in a study with Dr. Dale Matthews (in conjunction with a Pain and Arthritis Clinic, directed by Sally Marlowe, N.P.) in which we prayed for 40 patients who suffered from rheumatoid arthritis. We chose this disease because it is medically incurable (at least at

this point in history). This was a scientific study and its results were published in the Southern Medical Journal (December 2000). Most of the patients were improved, and it seems that four were completely cured (we conducted a year's followup). According to Dr. Matthews, the chances of the healings occurring by chance were only .0001, and anything better than .04 is statistically significant! One physician, Dr. Larry Dossey, claims that studies have shown that prayer works and asks, "Will we reach a point where physicians who ignore prayer will be judged guilty of malpractice?"4 How about Christians who ignore prayer?

Our own experience, gleaned by praying with thousands of individuals (and not just at large healing services) is that some physical improvements happen for most people we pray with, and a significant minority are totally healed. (We try to be honest and avoid exaggerated claims.)

Another inconsistency: no one suggests that we should not consult physicians for treatment for cancer because many patients die after their hopes for a cancer cure have been raised. Such a reaction to physicians is, on the face of it, ridiculous. Nobody would raise it, unless they believed that chemo or radiation were useless. If a cancer cure only worked 10% of the time, patients would go for the possible cure and not blame the physician. Furthermore, prayer has none of the harmful effects of chemo. It means that the critics simply do not believe that Jesus works healing through prayer.

Another additional factor not often mentioned is that, if the one who prays has been baptized in the Spirit, it seems to help. Before Pentecost, the disciples were already born-again believers who knew Christ intimately, yet they were not ready. Jesus told them to go to Jerusalem and wait until the Holy Spirit came down on them and they were "endued with power from on high." Perhaps that is the reason why charismatic and Pentecostal Christians give testimony to seeing so much healing. Peter and the other disciples were transformed at Pentecost, but it did not happen until then, even though they were already Christian believers who were sold out to Christ.

Continued on page 10

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WHEN THE SPIRIT LEADS

ur hearts have been touched by the many ways God has worked to bring attendees to the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) conference which Christian Healing Ministries, Inc., cosponsored in Jacksonville. We wish we could share all of them with you. Since that is impossible, we have asked Maria De Souza for permission to write a brief summary of her experiences, as God gave her an understanding that she was to attend the conference and opened the doors that led to her finally arriving.

Maria is a laboratory assistant who lives in Calangute, Goa, India. Several weeks before the conference began, she thought about the possibility of attending. Feelings of excited anticipation alternated with days of discouragement as situations occurred to get in the way of her plans. Maria's mother prayed for God to reveal to her daughter whether or not she was supposed to go to Jacksonville, and if so, how He would lead her there. Maria's mother speaks only one language, Konkani, which is the language of Goa, the region of her home. During the days of praying, however, and while Maria struggled to overcome obstacles to her preparations for the trip, God gave her a few significant words in English as she prayed - words that showed the way for Maria to proceed.

The greatest obstacle seemed to be the obtaining of a visa – an extremely difficult accomplishment for a single woman in India. Maria had to go to Mumbai, a day's journey from Goa. She made an appointment with the American Embassy, paying the \$100 fee. When asked why the conference was being held in America, Maria told the consul that Catholic charistmatic renewal had started in America and spread from there to the rest of the world, and, also, that the speakers for the conference would be Americans. Maria said that if only she could obtain a visa for eight days that would be sufficient. The person conducting the interview would not yield. Maria was given a 214(b) status, denying her request.

Maria was terribly discouraged, but her mother continued to pray. She received two English words as she prayed - "visiting visa" - and asked Maria what they meant. Other words flowed from God as she continued to pray: "They are going to worship God in tongues, and many bondages will

> be broken." After some time of praying, she said there was going to be "generational healing and many souls ... would be released into heaven." Finally, another word, "consul," came to her as she prayed. The message was: "The Holy Spirit will come on the consul and the visa will be granted."

Maria felt that God's word to her mother meant that a visa would be granted, so again she paid the \$100 fee and applied for another appointment at the U.S. Embassy. All appointment times for April and May were blocked out; none were available. Since Maria had to work, her sister went online for two or three hours every day to watch for an opening that might occur as a result of a cancellation, because a new opening would be taken within five minutes or less should one become available. Finally, her sister was online when a scheduled time for April 25th opened up. (The first appointment had taken place on March 29th.) Maria's brother flew to Bombay to submit her forms. Maria went to Mumbai for the second ap-



Featured Classic

HANNAH WHITALL SMITH

God of All Comfort

by Hannah Whitall Smith

Comfort and peace never come from anything we know about ourselves, but only and always from what we know about Him.

Hannah Whitall Smith introduces *God of All Comfort* with the incident that sparked her inspiration to write it. She was speaking with an intelligent agnostic, whom she wanted to influence, when he remarked, "Well, madam, all I have to say is this: if you Christians want to make us agnostics inclined to look into your religion, you must try to be more comfortable in the possession of it yourselves. The Christians I meet seem to me to be the most uncomfortable people anywhere around."

She never forgot the pointed lesson of the agnostic. His words rang true. She wrote this book to bring a little zeal and genuine comfort into the lives of Christians tormented by doubt and fear, Christians who are frankly uncomfortable.

Smith is a masterful teacher and storyteller. God of All Comfort is beautifully written and charming, reflecting Smith's era and her simple, powerful, transformational faith.

#B326

\$13.99

pointment, confident that she would get a visiting visa as God had given the word to her mother during prayer.

Maria's second appointment at the U.S. Embassy was very different from the first one. She had promised God that if she got the appointment she would testify there about the reason for her going to the conference. That she did, telling the woman who interviewed her about God's love, his saving grace, and how she was going to learn about his healing power. When the woman pointed out in amazement to Maria that she would be spending an amount comparable to her salary for one year in order to go to the conference, Maria assured her it was worth that much to her. (Maria's mother had been healed through prayer a few years before.) She said, "After all, were it not for the charismatic movement, I would not have my mother. My mother is worth much more than that!" And, to her surprise, a ten-year visa was granted!

As Intercessory Prayer Coordinator, Anne sees hundreds of prayer requests and praise reports cross her desk on a monthly basis. We need more intercessors to commit to praying for the hurting who call in. If you are interested in becoming a part of this powerful ministry of CHM, please call Anne Early at 904-765-3332, ext. 221.

Classic

Christian Healing Ministries, Inc. \mathscr{E} The International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service present



School of Healing Prayer® For Leaders



Now available on CD and DVD

Order online at www.christianhealingmin.org or call the CHM bookstore at 904-765-3332.

CHM Announces a New Workshop

"How to Present a CHM School of Healing Prayer®"

Many attendees of Christian Healing Ministries' Schools of Healing Prayer® and conferences have expressed a desire to take their new knowledge and experience back to their churches and communities, but are unequipped to do so. In response to this expressed need, we are pleased to announce that we will now offer a new workshop, which is designed to equip and encourage you as a facilitator of a CHM School of Healing Prayer®.

This very special 3-hour workshop will be offered during two of our Emerging Leaders in Healing conferences for the following dates in 2007:

September 10-14

Traverse City, Michigan

October 15-19

Jacksonville, Florida

For more information, please contact Linda Strickland via email at lhs@christianhealingmin.org or via telephone at 904-765-3332 ext. 202.



September					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
					SCRC Cath
2 SCRC Convention	3	4	5	6	7
9	10 Emerging	Open Prayer Ministry on CHM campus: 1:30 pm Generational Eucharist on CHM campus: 6:00 pm Leaders in F	12 lealing in Tr	13 averse City,	14 Michiga
16	17	Open Prayer Ministry on CHM campus: 1:30 pm & 6:00 pm	19	Asbury Theolo	gical Semi onference
23 30	24	25	26	27	28

For all Tuesday prayer ministry, be sure to call CHM first at 904-765-3332 to verify there are no cancellated at the control of the control o

Octo	October				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	Open Prayer Ministry on CHM campus: 1:30 pm & 6:00 pm	3	4	5
7	Day of Healing Prayer on CHM campus	Open Prayer Ministry on CHM campus: 1:30 pm Generational Eucharist on CHM campus: 6:00 pm		11	12
14	15 Emergin	16 g Leaders in	17 Healing in	18 Jacksonville	19 , Florida
21	22	Open Prayer Ministry on CHM campus: 1:30 pm & 6:00 pm	24	25	26
28	29	Clergy Intensiv	ve Pr <mark>ayer M</mark> inistry (on CHM campus	



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2007		
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Conference Information

SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention

August 31-September 2

Anaheim, California - Anaheim Convention Center

Speakers: Francis & Judith MacNutt

Registration: online at www.scrc.org, email spirit@scrc.org or call

Barbara Lambert at 818-771-1361, ext. 14.

Emerging Leaders in Healing

September 10-14

Traverse City, Michigan - Park Place Hotel

Speakers: Judith MacNutt, Mike Evans and Nigel Mumford Registration: online at www.christianhealingmin.org or call Jeff Sampson at 904-765-3332, ext. 203.

Asbury Theological Seminary Healing Conference September 20-21

Wilmore, Kentucky

Speaker: Judith MacNutt

Registration: email Peg Hutchins at

peg_hutchins@asburyseminary.edu or call 859-858-2198.

Emerging Leaders in Healing

October 15-19

Jacksonville, Florida - Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel Speakers: Francis & Judith MacNutt, Don Williams and Mike Evans Registration: online at www.christianhealingmin.org or call Jeff Sampson at 904-765-3332, ext. 203.

Looking Ahead...

November 5-9

School of Healing Prayer Level I

Registration: online at www.christianhealingmin.org or call Jeff Sampson at 904-765-3332, ext. 203.

November 12

Day of Healing Prayer

December 10

Day of Healing Prayer

Children of the Light by Linda Strickland

raveling with Judith MacNutt all over the country is a privilege and a blessing. Recently, we were at a women's conference and, during one of Judith's talks, she said something that has stuck with me: as a matter of fact, it has changed the way I think about my identity in Jesus. She was reminding us of the opening scene of Mel Gibson's film, The Passion. If you saw this unforgettable film, I am sure you will recall this scene: Jesus is in the garden praying and the camera pans down to His feet where a horrible yellow snake is slithering. As you watch, you begin to think that maybe Jesus is unaware of the looming danger, when suddenly, without even looking down, He stomps His foot and crushes the head of His enemy. The point Judith was making was that, although Jesus was aware of His enemy, He was not focused on him.

This teaching is one I really needed to hear. As I said, I have traveled to many places with both Francis and Judith over the past months, and I have seen amazing things. I have seen cataracts disappear from eyes, I have seen people get up out of wheelchairs and walk, I have seen people throw away hearing aids, and I have seen lives completely transformed through inner healing and deliverance.

Yet something else I have witnessed is that some Christians tend to focus on the enemy more than the Savior. These are well-meaning people who live their lives in a state of fear, convinced of the fact that the devil and his demons are around every corner and under every rock. It troubles me to see God's children like this –

crouched in the dark, giving satan credit for every negative aspect of their lives.

Being a Christian does not mean we will not go through dark times, but, as children of the King, we do not reside there. As Christ's own,

King, we do not reside there. As Christ's own, we are to live in the atan cannot have us and under his influence, we

light, knowing our enemy has already been defeated. Satan cannot have us and he knows that, but he can influence us and when we're under his influence, we are weak, sickly, depressed and unhappy. If he can discourage us and make us doubt who we are, he can negatively affect our usefulness to God and the quality of our lives here on earth.

At Christian Healing Ministries, we are dedicated to the practice and teaching of healing prayer. We encourage people to "touch the hem of His garment" (Matthew 9:21). Although we should never forget that we have an enemy, Jesus is, and always should be, our focus.

This leads to the second lesson we can learn from that garden scene: on what, exactly, is Jesus focused? He is focused on His Father. Even with darkness at His feet, He continues to look up into the light. It is a scientific fact that darkness and light cannot co-exist: in the presence of light, darkness naturally disappears. This is what I want in my own life. I want to be so tightly bound to Jesus that nothing, including my enemy, can separate me from the love of God. I want to be so full of the light of Jesus that wherever I walk, darkness will run screaming!

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."

Ephesians 5:8

Linda Strickland is The Associate Director of Ministry and Personal Assistant to Judith MacNutt

Special Opportunity for Clergy

On October 30 - November 1, we will be offering a special Intensive Prayer Ministry session meant to meet the needs of clergy and their spouses of all denominations. This is an opportunity for those who work tirelessly to shepherd God's people to take some time to receive some tender care from the Lord. If you are a clergy or clergy spouse, prayerfully consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

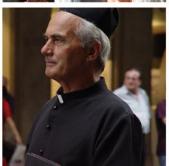
If your clergy and his/her spouse are in need of some retreat time, encourage them to attend this session, or consider sending them as an early Christmas gift from the community.

To make a reservation or to indicate your interest in receiving this ministry, please contact Neona Daugherty at nfd@christianhealingmin.org or 904-765-3332 ext. 216. There is a registration fee of \$250.00









Continued from page 3

I have written this with a little more passion than usual because I would hate to see people die because they do not receive the help they need. It is not just physical death we are talking about: it is all the other devastating ailments from which Jesus came to free us. For instance, do we as Christians believe that Iraq war veterans can be cured of post-traumatic stress syndrome? Can so many suffering from alcoholism and other addictions be freed through prayer? Can the victims of sexual and physical abuse be cured? Our answer to all this is, "Yes! It can happen. This is the Good News of the Gospel."

We cannot just let these cautious statements ride on by without a challenge. We know that the skepticism about prayer for healing comes from a loving caution, but to us, it denies an essential part of the Gospel and allows the

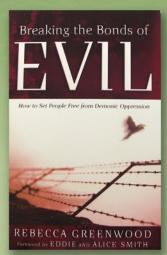
inert mass of Christians to remain in their pain and weakness. As Paul cries out, "Who will rescue me from this body doomed to death?" (Rom. 7:24).

And the answer is Jesus (Rom. 7:25).

Footnotes

- ¹ Chapter 8, The Faith to be Healed.
- ² Chapter 10, What is God's Will? and Appendix One: Faith or Presumption and A Husband's Perplexity.
- ³ My recent book, The Healing Reawakening (Chosen Books, 2005), deals with the historical question of how we lost our faith in healing.
- ⁴ Prayer is Good Medicine (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1996), 66.

CHM Bookstore



Breaking the Bonds of Evil

How to set People Free from Demonic Oppression by Rebecca Greenwood

Deliverance is a powerful demonstration of God's authority over darkness, but if we do not identify and close up points of entry for demonic activity, we leave ourselves and those to whom we minister open to even morer serious attack.

Using established biblical patterns for deliverance, along with experiences from more than fourteen years in deliverance ministry, Greenwood seeks to equip pastors, deliverance ministers and any Christian wanting to minister more effectively in this area. At the same time, she imparts both knowledge and hope to those in need of deliverance themselves. Breaking the Bonds of Evil reminds us that setting the captives free is at the center of God's heart.

Item #B220\$12.99

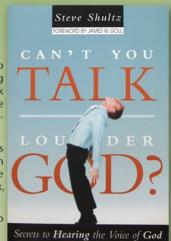
Can't You Talk Louder God?

Secrets to Hearing the Voice of God by Steve Shultz

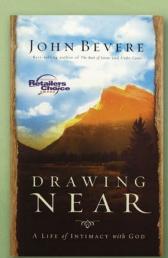
How many times have you felt God is trying to speak to you and yet you feel like you're hearing nothing? Who hasn't asked, "God, can't you talk louder? I just want to know what to do!" The reality is that all of God's sheep, in every denomination, already hear God's voice - every day!

Steve Shultz uncovers the many Scriptures "hidden in plain sight." These clear, yet often forgotten passages contain easy answers to the questions you've asked, or wish you could ask, about hearing God's voice.

Learn how you can tune in to what God has to say personally to you!



Item #B947\$15.99



Drawing Near

A Life of Intimacy with God by John Bevere

In Drawing Near, John Bevere urges you not to settle for the dry shadow of Christianity that knows about God without knowing God. The incredible invitation from the Creator of the universe is not just to worship Him from afar with words and rituals, but to enter a relationship so meaningful and intimate that you know His heart, and He knows yours.

"John takes passages we've all read a thousand times and gives them life...His gift causes all of us who read his work to thirst for God, and he teaches us how to find satisfaction through intimacy with Christ Himself."

-Ted Haggard, President, National Association of Evangelicals

Item #B941\$13.99

The Healing Touch

A Guide to Healing Prayer by Norma Dearing

Are you are someone you love hurting physically, emotionally or spiritually?

In The Healing Touch, Norma Dearing tells how we can be set free from the harmful effects of the past.

Rejection, abandonment, emotional trauma, generational bondage, unholy unions and dabbling in the occult can each interfere with our healing. In this book you'll find prayers for deliverance, practical advice from Dearing's years in counseling and prayer ministries, and examples of people who have received healing. The Healing Touch is a powerful reminder that God longs for His people to be healthy and whole.

The Wisdom of Tenderness

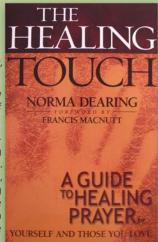
Transforms Our Lives

by Brennan Manning

each other.

What Happens When God's Fierce Mercy

Item #B507\$16.00



Reframe Your Life

Transforming Your Pain into Purpose by Stephen Arterburn

Do you need a new frame of reference? Do you have a distorted view of your life? Do you feel bound by the events of your past?

It's not what happens to you, but how you see it that makes all the difference in the world. Stephen Arterburn believes we are all "framed" by our experiences.

Reframing your life involves a process of breaking down the barriers that prevent you from having a healthy perspective on your past, present, and future. Through reframing, you learn to see hurts in a way that allows healing, traumas in a way that encourages restoration, and defining moments in a way that promotes a new perspective.

Item #B942

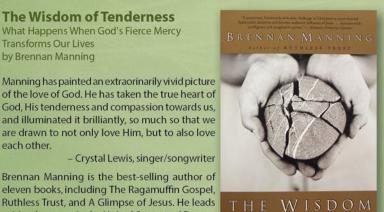
REFRAME

Transforming Your Pain into Purpose

YOUR LIFE

eleven books, including The Ragamuffin Gospel,

Ruthless Trust, and A Glimpse of Jesus. He leads spiritual retreats in the United States and Europe for people of all ages and backgrounds.



Item #B951\$13.95



CHM

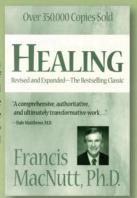
STEPHEN ARTERBURN

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.

Item #B607\$17.95

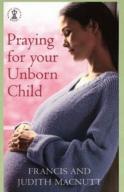


Praying for Your Unborn Child

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 MacNutts give examples of the wondrous difference that prayer makes. Also available on audio cassette or cd.

Item #B107.....\$11.95

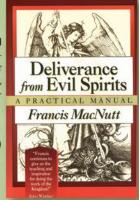


Deliverance from Evil Spirits

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.

Item #B506\$16.99

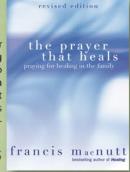


The Prayer That Heals

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 or cd.

Item #B047.....\$9.95 francis macnutt



Overcome by the Spirit

by Francis MacNutt

In the 1960's and '70's, 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 was not new at all; it had 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?

Item #B231\$16.00



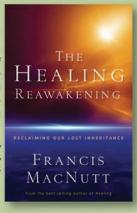
The Healing Reawakening

previously titled The Nearly Perfect Crimo 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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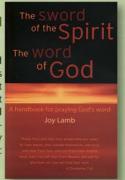
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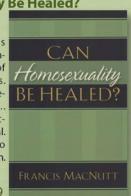


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