

Good **GRIEF**

JUDITH MACNUTT

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Isaiah 53:3).

Many times, as I am out among people, the Lord says two words to me: *Pay attention*. On one occasion, I was in a hotel where I was to speak, and I noticed a hotel employee who was putting out breakfast for our group. The room was full of people and very busy. I was eating and studying my notes at the same time, but one by one the crowd thinned out and the two of us were left in the room.

The Lord again said, *Pay attention*. I caught the woman's attention and expressed how nice the meal was and thanked her for all her preparations. I don't know how the conversation changed, but within a couple minutes she was crying.

She said, "My daughter died two weeks ago, and she was my only child. My daughter had graduated from high school and the family was preparing for the graduation party. We had cake and balloons, and her friends were arriving. She was driving home in her graduation present, a new car, and as she turned into our driveway, a drunk driver hit and killed her right in front of our home."

My heart just sank, and I said, "Can I pray with you?"

So we prayed.

This mother had to take all the balloons down and plan a funeral. She never got to say goodbye to her daughter. She experienced a tremendous level of pain and hurt. Fortunately, she was able to come to my counseling practice later and we talked a lot about time of remembrance. In the Jewish



culture, for example, there are rituals of remembrance at intervals, including a 7-day mourning period (*Shiva*), and others at 30 days, and yearly.

This is her recollection of how she viewed her recent grief.

She said, "The friends and family came; the casseroles, the pies and cookies, they all came. And then they were gone. After a while, it felt like I wasn't allowed to talk about it anymore. If I got teary-eyed or had a memory of my daughter, even my friends were very uncomfortable."

It is so sad that we are uncomfortable with grief. Pain is a difficult subject. We are not to take on another's pain and sorrow, but we need the freedom to help others by being present with them and to listen to their memories.

Jesus knew deep sorrow. There is a tender image of Jesus as He wept over Jerusalem. There was such longing in His words: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37).

He wanted to bring together the people of Israel, to set them in the love of the Father and to forgive their sins, but they did not respond. He knew He would soon suffer the same fate as the prophets of old, and He wept over the city (Luke 19:41).

Jesus wept over the death of Lazarus. He cried because He loved his friend Lazarus, and the sisters, Mary and Martha. And He saw all the people weeping. It is extremely difficult to watch someone cry without starting to cry yourself. Jesus was filled with love and empathy.

It is my belief that Jesus also wept because they still didn't truly understand who He was and what this meant (John 11).

It is possible to be shaped by grief even from childhood, fear, grief and sorrow can exist even in the womb. (See *Praying for Your Unborn Child*, by Francis and Judith MacNutt). While my mother was pregnant with me, she lost three family members to death – her mother, her father

and one brother. Years later, when I was an adult, I received prayer from one of our gifted prayer ministers. She was part of our group of therapists who met together in Clearwater, FL. Barbara had a special anointing. She heard the voice of the Holy Spirit, and she prayed over me with words of knowledge and wisdom.

She said, "I see in the spirit a dark cloud over your head, like the Peanut's cartoon character, Pigpen. I think it is a shadow of grief, but it's not 'yours.'"

In that prayer, the Holy Spirit touched the effects of my mother's grief which I had unknowingly carried from the time I was born. We have learned that sometimes the sorrow and grief carried through the generations may have passed to us.

The cloud lifted off my spirit that day, and I actually burst out in laughter. That supernatural joy has been with me ever since!

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, your Father, believe also in me (John 14:1). Jesus said this to his apostles, to prepare them for His departure and for the grief and pain that would follow.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and he will act (Psalm 37:5).

When a difficult or traumatic event happens, our first response is fear. If a child breaks away from us and runs out in the street, we scream in fear and run to save the child. Then we may respond in anger: *Why did you do that?* The third response may be delayed: *How would I have lived with myself if this tragedy happened?* And we imagine our grief.

Jesus was acquainted with grief and sorrow (Isaiah 53:3). He knew what grief felt like, and He knew how

to move through it to a place of peace. Grief must be processed.

We may have to walk through other strong emotions first. I cried when my dog died. I cried when my mother died, when my father died, and when friends died. But when my husband died, I found a depth of emotion I didn't know I had. Jesus wants to comfort us in our loss. Weeping and deep emotion are part of that, even wailing. We may have to walk through our fear and anger first.

It is appropriate to mention, however, that something called complicated grief may set in if our sadness and sorrow continue for years on end. It means we have been unable to move to a place of remembrance. God's loving purpose in grief is to cleanse and soften the heart, bringing us to a place of peace in God's comfort.

We must rest in the arms of Jesus. Let yourself surrender to Him in your pain. We don't know all the answers, but we know the One in whom we trust.

Lord, I pray that You pour out a gift of faith on each of us, so we can step from the place of grief into a new place of peace with You. Holy Spirit, we ask You to bring deep healing into those places where we have been broken or shattered by loss. Lord, help us trust You, and to enter into Your joy, Your peace and Your great love for us.



JUDITH MACNUTT is a licensed psychotherapist, author, teacher, conference speaker, co-founder and president of CHM.

2024/2025 Calendar of Events

Renew and Review Online

Oct 29-Nov 1, 2024

Day of Healing Prayer

Nov 7, 2024

SHP® Level 4 Online

Nov 7-23, 2024

SHP® Level 4 (on campus)

Nov 21-23, 2024

Day of Healing Prayer

Dec 5, 2024

SHP® Level 1 Online

Jan 23-Feb 8, 2025

SHP® Level 1 On Campus & Livestream

Feb 6-8, 2025

SHP® Level 2 Online

Feb 20-Mar 8, 2025

SHP® Level 2 On Campus & Livestream

Mar 6-8, 2025

SHP® Internship

Mar 25-29, 2025

Journey to Healing On Campus

Mar 27-29, 2025

SHP® Level 3 Online

Apr 10-26, 2025

SHP® Level 3 On Campus & Livestream

Apr 24-26, 2025

** Schedule is subject to change. See website for more information.*

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.CHRISTIANHEALINGMIN.ORG

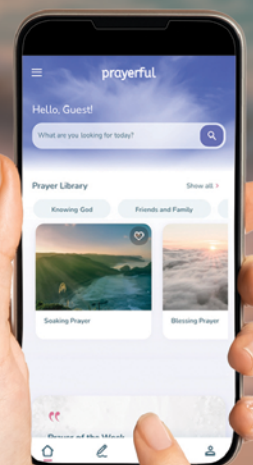
Powerful and anointed prayers

available anytime, anywhere.



a prayer app by CHM

scan to download



the word of their testimony...

We would like to introduce you to a couple of our newest staff members.

LUKE M. (SUPERVISOR OF PRAYER MINISTERS)

Fourteen years ago my wife, Ann, was healed of lymphoma at an Open Prayer session at Christian Healing Ministries. Ann's healing was a wonderful and powerful experience, but I also had a rich and almost unexplainable encounter with the Lord that day. It awakened me to the incredible love the Lord has for all of us. It changed my life forever!

I am a retired Navy Commander and retired American Airlines Captain. Ann and I have two grown children, Jackie, married with 4 children, and Christopher, (also a Navy pilot and airline pilot).

In the years since her miraculous healing, Ann and I completed the four levels of the School of Healing Prayer® and the CHM Internship. I completed seminary and was ordained in the Anglican church. I currently serve as the Pastoral Care Minister and supervise the Healing Prayer ministry at a church in Fleming Island, Florida.

I have a deep love of CHM and for the vision that Francis and Judith pursued in creating this incredible hallowed ground that the Lord has blessed as a place of miracles. It is a great honor to serve with the hard-working staff of CHM and to be witness to miracles and tears of joy.

ALLISON H.

My call to Christian Healing Ministries began 16 years ago after a dramatic physical healing from God after a very serious bike accident. Despite having a helmet on, the accident resulted in a brain injury, migraines and double vision. I'd been told by a neuro-ophthalmologist that nothing could be done to help me, and that I'd always have double vision due to irreversible nerve damage. When I left his office, I went outside and immediately prayed and asked God to help me, and to prove this doctor wrong.

Soon after, I went to visit a church with some friends. Afterwards we all went to lunch at a friend's home, with the pastor of that church and his family. I was having a terrible

migraine that day and the group offered to pray for me. The pastor anointed me with oil and the group laid hands on me and prayed. I had never experienced healing prayer before.

I began seeing improvement in my headaches, and within a week my my vision was completely healed—no more double vision! I was able to return to the doctor's office and show him my eyes. My vision was 20/20! He was in disbelief, and I got to tell him about the prayer time and that God had reversed the irreversible.

A few months later, I felt God clearly telling me: You have received my healing, and you are called to be an instrument of my healing to others.

When the Registrar position at CHM became available, God surprised me by giving me my dream job! I pinch myself every day that I have the honor of being a part of the team at CHM, and I am privileged to be a witness to the life-changing work of Jesus. I'm so thankful to God for his healing power, and for calling me to CHM!



christian healing ministries

438 West 67th Street
Jacksonville, FL 32208
ph 904.765.3332 fx 904.765.4224
www.christianhealingmin.org

Unless otherwise indicated, any article in *Healing Line* may be reproduced without charge and in its entirety (acknowledging the source) for noncommercial and nonpolitical purposes without prior permission from Christian Healing Ministries, Inc.

Copyright © 2024 Christian Healing Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved.

This publication is distributed freely upon request and exists to further the teaching goals of this ministry. No advertising is accepted.

HEALINGLINE