



# Canadian Healer

**Christmas 2013**

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OSL in Canada

The International Order of St Luke the Physician



**Emmanuel... God With Us (Isaiah 7:14)**



# THE ADVENT FAITH: MOVING FROM DESOLATION TO HEALING

Colin C M Campbell, PhD

Let us praise God for giving us an understanding of the true meaning of Christmas, and, with it, an understanding of the true meaning of life, itself. The goal of the Christian life is to build the Kingdom of God, by turning desolation into healing through the power of prayer. Without prayer, we are unable to sustain communion with God and may be compared to a barren tree, only fit to be cut down and thrown into the fire (Matt 7:19). Desolation affirms the reality of sickness. Healing affirms the reality of God's love. The Advent message is that, in Christ, we are able to defeat sickness through the love, which God's Holy Spirit pours into our hearts as we pray, provided we know how to pray correctly.

Sickness has an ontological reality. When things go wrong, there could be no freedom or responsibility if God were simply to restore the situation to the way that it was before things went wrong. Suffering proceeds from God's letting-be of his creation, so that it may participate meaningfully in determining its future. God takes a risk with us. Instead of imploring God to fix things when they go wrong (or even worse, expecting things not to go wrong, simply because we are Christian), we must avoid all denial, bargaining and cynicism, and embrace our desolation, as a people of Advent, awaiting the deliverance of Christmas. As twenty-first century people, used to the quick fix, we find it natural to ask God how long he expects us to live with unhappiness. God's love also has an ontological reality. It is not an illusion. If we are not familiar with it, we can expect sickness to win. Once we move beyond denial, bargaining, and cynicism, we are ready to experience the love of God.

Healing prayer confronts the reality of desolation with the reality of healing. Both realities must be respected. God wills our desolation to affirm our responsibility. Our pain will last until we have fully accepted our loss. This is the grieving period. The running off at the mouth type of prayer will not help. Responsibility cannot be short-circuited. God wills our healing to rescue us from desolation. When we accept our suffering and seek his will, our redemption begins.

Just as the grieving period takes time, prayers for healing may be protracted. Jesus ridiculed "vain repetition," as being the prayer form of the pagans. However, this is not the same as praying for different facets of a complex problem. Once, there was a woman who prayed that God would put an end to World War II. Not surprisingly, her prayer (as she expressed it) was unsuccessful. Such a problem is too complex to be healed by a single prayer. Too many variables must be brought under God's authority. The most effective prayers deal with a simple problem. Complex problems take several sessions. We pray through a problem in which emotional, spiritual, and physical aspects are intertwined, as the Holy Spirit leads us. If we do so, we shall see healing happen.

There are three stages to effective prayer for healing. First, you get in touch with the Presence of Jesus, usually by praying into a text of scripture, until you are "in the Spirit." Second, you bring the situation requiring healing into this Presence. Third, you go with what happens, keeping the Spirit and the issue together until you receive peace. Rambling, waffling prayers are ineffective, depressing, and a waste of time. Specific, focused, informed prayer is always fruitful. As an Advent people, let us be God's sacrament of healing in order to extend his Kingdom by making full use of spiritual resources, known only to us, who are "in but not of this world."

May God bless us with a Holy Advent and a Joyful Christmas!



## Fending Off Illness

by Rev. Mike Flynn

Let me tell you my own story about this. About 19 years ago I experienced recurring sinusitis which produced sharp pain in the sinuses over my eyebrows. This went on all winter. When the weather warmed up the next spring the symptoms went away. But the following Fall there was a cold day which brought back that pain. “O no! We’re not doing this again are we?” I shouted to the Lord. Suddenly a vision came into my thinking. The picture was of my body, prone, covering an acre of ground. There was a figure on my waist casting handfuls of seed into my chest, ear, nose, and throat areas. It occurred to me that this figure was Satan. And I was demoralized by the handfuls of seed he was casting into me.

“What are those?” I asked the Lord.

“They’re the seeds of illness,” He replied.

“Aaaaagh! What am I to do?”

Just then the Lord reminded me that I had done a word study on the word translated “rebuke” in the New Testament. And one commentary noted that a literal meaning of that word was “strangle.” I realized that I had been given my marching orders. So I began saying aloud, “You sinusitis, I rebuke you in the Name of the Lord Jesus.” I repeated this over and over for about 2 minutes. But there was still a lack of peace in my spirit, so I asked the Lord “What’s this about?” He revealed to me that all my thoughts—while I was rebuking the sinusitis—were explaining why it wasn’t going to work. “What do I do about that?” I asked. He replied, “rebuke those thoughts too.” I thought, “I can do that?” So I spent another minute or two rebuking the thoughts I was having that accommodated the symptoms. Later that morning I checked in with the Lord and realized that the symptoms were gone. And they never returned!

After that, whenever I had symptoms of illness, I rebuked them and the accommodating thoughts that I was going to be sick anyway.

In the last 18 years I have led over 400 conferences and have experienced symptoms of physical illness about 500 times. Often the symptoms occur a few days before I am scheduled to do a conference, and the thought, of course, is that I won’t be able to attend the event due to illness. But the habit of rebuking symptoms has led me, in each case, to rebuke the symptoms and the thoughts in my own mind that are accommodating them. In all that time I’ve been sick 10 times. That’s a pretty good success rate: 99.9%.

On one occasion I had four separate symptoms of illness, and the thought that time was “you can repel one illness but you can’t do *four* mister!” Out of habit I began rebuking the symptoms, one at a time, until the whole list was covered. But I still had that lack of peace in my spirit (which dwells just beneath my sternum). I asked the Lord what that was about and He reminded me that I had emotions of fear that I was going to be sick and told me to rebuke them also. They all went away.

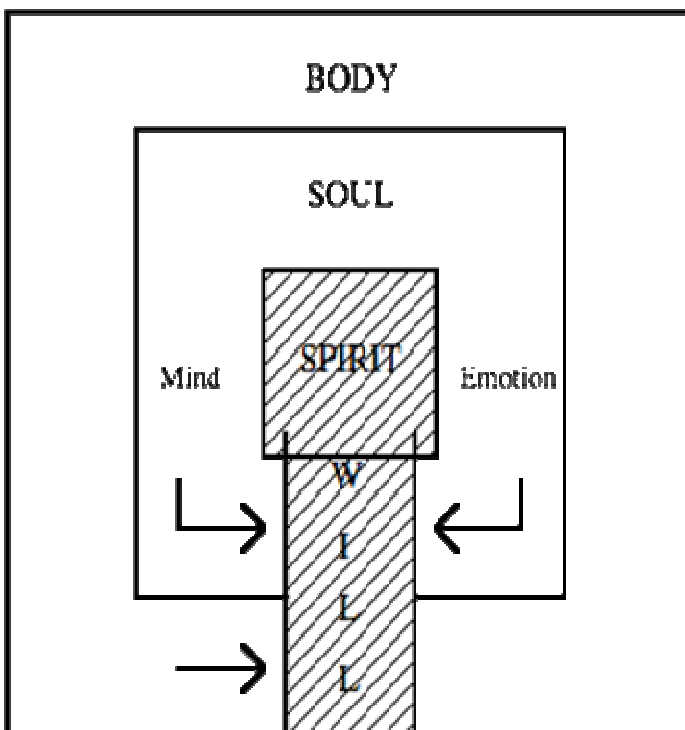
The times that I did get sick:

- I've had about 5 colds, but they only lasted a couple of days
- I had a one-day cold flying from northern Brazil to southern Brazil in which I filled a waste basket with tissue.
- In Hong Kong I began coughing and continued doing so for the next 11 weeks while doing conferences in the Philippines and all over the US. A young couple finally told me the Lord had revealed to them that I had been cursed in China with the cough. In prayer, that curse was broken and the cough went away within hours.
- I was bragging about my success to a conference in Baton Rouge; by the time I got to Mobile AL for another event I had laryngitis. Pride goes before a fall.
- I fell into an old sin of using pornography and was so disillusioned with myself that I refused to confess it to the Lord. The next morning I woke up with a very sore throat and the simultaneous thought "You deserve it!" I agreed, and got strep throat.
- Once on vacation I woke up with a sore throat. "I don't want to fight; I'm on vacation," I said to myself.

Within 2 days my wife and I both had to go to the doctor and get medicine for strep throat.

But the conditions have gone away every other time.

What I must emphasize to you is that the thoughts that argue with my rebuke are always very reasonable, logical, weighty, and rational. The thoughts provide ample reasons why I'm going to be sick *this* time. Long ago, however, the Lord revealed this concept of biblical anthropology:



The shaded parts are those the enemy has no access to. But the arrows illustrate where he does have limited access to our bodies, minds, and emotions. Satan knows that God has positioned faith in the human will, and that is his target. He attacks the decisions we're making—through our minds, feelings, and physical symptoms—in order to get us to change our decision and agree with him that we're going to be sick. Then, guess what? we get sick.

But once we learn to keep on repelling symptoms and the accommodating thoughts and feelings, we free the Lord to remove the illness from our bodies.

This is part of what St. Paul meant when he exhorted us to have renewed minds: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Ro. 12:2)

**Now, I challenge you to engage in an experiment of faith. The next time you get symptoms of illness, spend several minutes out loud rebuking the symptoms and the accommodating thoughts and feelings that you're going to get sick anyway. Then see what happens.**

But be on alert to thoughts as to why this won't work: they will be plausible, reasonable, rational. I even say, "you reasonable thoughts about why I'm going to be sick anyway this time, I bring you under the rebuke of our Lord Jesus Christ by rebuking you myself."

If you do this vigorously and still remain sick, then you may need a more complicated solution: The Five Steps (interview, diagnosis, prayer selection, prayer engagement, post-prayer).

[If you want further enlargement of these thoughts you might look at my books: Holy Vulnerability, The Mustard Seed Book, How To Be Good Without Really Trying, which can be located on our website: [www.freshwindministries.org](http://www.freshwindministries.org) . Also, click on "Free Gifts" and download "Protection Prayers" and the article "Taking Control of Our Thoughts."]

*Rev. Mike Flynn is director of Fresh Wind Ministries and has a dynamic ministry of healing. He has authored several books on healing and is frequently asked to lead healing events. For more information visit his website at <http://www.freshwindministries.org> Mike has been a guest speaker for an OSL Online Telephone Conference Call. Get free access to his talk by joining the email list at <http://www.oslregion8.org>*

## **WANTED!**

**Have you experienced the healing grace of Jesus Christ?** Would you share your story to encourage others? Submit your story to [editor@oslCanada.org](mailto:editor@oslCanada.org) Theological and teaching articles on Christian healing, photos, poems, and book reviews are also welcome.

**Please update** your chapter website listing at [www.oslCanada.org/chapters.htm](http://www.oslCanada.org/chapters.htm)  
**Membership:** Join OSL or renew your membership at <http://orderofstluke.org/content/join-osl>

# **How I was Introduced to the Ministry of Healing**

by The Rev. Canon Don Beatty



**M**ichael Harper in his book, **The Healings of Jesus** stated that about one-third of the gospel stories are about healing. If you took a pair a scissors and cut out the healing miracles, you would have a very anemic gospel record! When I first became involved in the ministry of healing, I searched through the Acts of the Apostles and it seemed that there were records of healings in the early church on nearly every other page. It is obvious from a careful reading of scripture that Healing was a very important part of the early church. Is it important in your church today?

A real advantage of reaching my stage in life is the opportunity to reminisce and reflect on some of life's experiences. One of the most profound for me was my introduction to the Ministry of Healing. This was over thirty years ago, and the memory is as vivid as though it were yesterday.



It happened on the day following my Baptism in the Holy Spirit; but that's another story! I was attending a clergy conference in Darien Connecticut with the Rev. Terry Fullam. The last evening of the conference, some of us gathered for prayer ministry. I remembered kneeling with Ann and the Rev. Bob Weekes, who were praying for my ministry in renewal, and for all that God had in store for me.

Then Bob started praying for my ministry in Healing. What was this all about? I had been a faithful pastor for twenty years. I visited the sick and the hospitals regularly. I took communion to the shut-ins. Once or twice I had even anointed someone when they requested it. Occasionally I would pray with them, and some Sundays the parish would remember them at the Intercessions. I never expected anything to happen during these prayers, but surely this was the ministry of healing for a cleric. These are of course important in pastoral ministry, but there is so much more.

When I returned to my parish, I went through a series of God-incidences. (I don't believe in coincidences anymore!) It seemed that every time I picked up a book it was about the Ministry of Healing. I found myself at a clergy day about the Healing Ministry and people kept asking me questions about it. Finally, I decided God was trying to get my attention. So in the usual Anglican fashion, I set up a committee to study this 'new' ministry. We looked at some books I had been reading, especially Jim Glennon's **Your Healing Is Within You** and Miriam Dobell's, **Healing Happens.**

After a few weeks we decided God was calling our parish to get serious about this ministry. We booked Miriam Dobell as a guest preacher. The Archbishop of Toronto had commissioned her to promote this ministry in our diocese and she was the logical choice to inaugurate the Ministry of Healing in our parish. We duly prepared the congregation for what was about to happen, and then waited for the big day. Tuesday morning as the committee met for prayer in my office, we received a frantic knock on the door from our church secretary. Miriam was sick and had been ordered to bed by her doctor. She suggested others who could take her place, but as I phoned each in turn, they were busy.

**After a few frantic days, my wife, who God has endowed with great wisdom, told me I was supposed to preach that first sermon. With much fear and apprehension, I did. It's easy to blame new ideas that don't work on a guest preacher; but putting yourself on the line is very different.**

I shared with the people my own walk since returning from Darien. I told them about the committee's struggles and our sense that God was calling us as a community to become a centre of Christian Healing in our city of Oshawa. We described the process for receiving the Ministry of Healing and invited people to come to the altar rail for prayer and anointing.

The response was overwhelming. Three-quarters of the congregation came forward that Sunday morning. Fortunately, we had a number of clergy available to meet these needs (at that time, we only used clergy in anointing for the Healing Ministry). As we concluded this time of ministry there was a spontaneous outburst of praise. We knew, as a congregation, something had happened and we would never be the same again. Over the next few days and weeks, several stories came out about how God had honoured our prayers.

**One woman remarked after the service that it was beautiful and meaningful, but not at all like she expected. It was done so 'decently and in order'. That service was thirty years ago and it changed my life and ministry in a most dramatic way.**

I became a member of the Order of St. Luke in 1988 through the encouragement of the Rev.'s Charlie Storton and Beverly Hall. By this time I had moved into Willowdale and was helped by members of St. George's parish to establish the North York Chapter of the Order in our parish. I was elected Regional Warden for Region 8 in 1990 and served in that position for four years. Retiring from active ministry in 1995, I continued to serve some fifteen parishes over the next thirteen years as an Interim Pastor. In most of these parishes, we continued to offer this ministry of Healing.

The Ministry of Healing has been very much a part of who I am and how I exercise my ministry to this day. I concluded my last interim about four years ago and settled into St. Luke's Dixie South. I came to this parish partly because of its name, as well as its music tradition. Now I live across the street from the Church building! Since attending here regularly, we have restarted the Ministry of Healing in this parish, so I am allowed to continue exercising the ministry of healing with a number of folks each month who ask for prayers and anointing with oil. We have also started a Prayer Chain where a small group of parishioners pray daily for the healing needs of others as requested. And God continues to act in mighty ways in our lives.

This ministry has been exciting and fulfilling beyond my greatest expectations. I have discovered that God in Jesus Christ continues to work in His world through this Ministry of Healing, a ministry which was given to the early church and to us as we carry on His work in His world through his Holy Spirit.

As a new career in ministry, about five years ago I was invited to write a monthly column for the Toronto Anglican, our diocesan paper which goes out to every Anglican family in the diocese. The column is called 'Reading the Bible' and I try to help people read and understand Holy Scriptures, as more people come to see the work of God in their lives. It is such a wonderful and loving God we worship and serve. I never cease to be amazed by His graciousness and love in my life.

I know that God will continue to honour our endeavours which are done in sincerity and with expectation. They are imperfect offerings, as we are imperfect human beings, but Jesus brings them to perfection if we continue to honour and glorify Him.

*Canon Don Beatty has been ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada for more than fifty years. He has been involved in the Ministry of Healing for more than thirty years and became a member of the International Order of St. Luke in 1988. He served as Regional Warden (Director) of Region 8 (Ontario) from 1990 to 1994. Presently, he is retired and serves as Honourary Assistant at St. Luke's Dixie South, in Mississauga, ON. He writes a monthly column on the Bible for the Toronto 'Anglican', the diocesan newspaper.*



## OSL Canada Network



**OSL Canada is committed to finding ways to help you remain connected and encouraged.** **OSL Canada Network** looks and feels like Facebook. It is a private, social network for OSL Members and all who are interested in healing. The **Network** is a great place to be encouraged... receive teaching... share photos, videos, music... share your struggles and questions about healing... give and receive support from others. 'Embers' cool and grow cold when removed from fire. Stay connected and encouraged! **Membership is FREE.** More than 55 members... and growing... and we'd love to have YOU join us! Email your request to [editor@oslcanada.org](mailto:editor@oslcanada.org) for an invitation to join.



Jan 19, 2014

## Exploring the Role of Forgiveness in Healing

The Rev. Lesley Hand

For more information visit

<http://www.oslregion8.org/online.htm>

### OSL Online Conference Calls

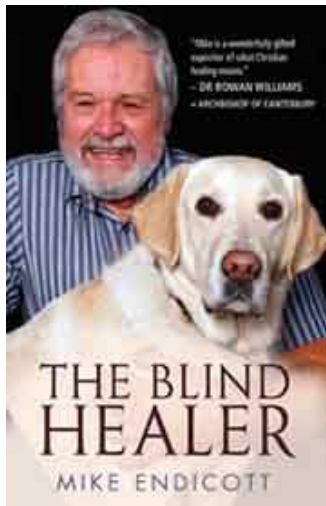
Join a one-hour call 6 times a year for encouragement and teaching for healing ministry

### ON THE CALENDAR

The OSL Canada website Calendar at [www.oslCanada.org/calendar.htm](http://www.oslCanada.org/calendar.htm) is always up to date

**Did you know?** You can advertise your healing event online instantly by clicking "Add Event" on the Calendar page? Use "search" to quickly locate events or province. Includes links to the OSL North America website events calendar

**Heads-up!** Are you ready to receive a call from a visitor? The OSL Canada website Calendar now features a link every month to help visitors find a chapter in their area.



### A Special Book Offer

from Rev. Mike Endicott

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## “For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory”

by The Rev. Canon D.A.P. Smith

**W**hen Jesus came down from the Mount of Transfiguration he was confronted by the ugly situation of the epileptic boy. Jesus instantly healed the boy, or as the Gospel puts it, he cast out the demon.

The disciples, who had already tried their best, asked Jesus, “Why could we not cast it out?” and Jesus’ reply was, “Because of your little faith” (Matt. 17:20), and “This cannot be driven out by anything but prayer (and fasting).” (Mk. 9:2).

The disciples’ question is a common one with many of us today. We wonder, “Why can we not heal?” We pray in faith, and perhaps fast and yet there appears to be no healing. It can be very discouraging.

When the question is put to me, as happens occasionally, I can only reply, “I have no idea. Some people are healed; some appear not to be. I really don’t know why.” And yet, there is a basic concept which lingers at the back of my mind that makes me ask a further question: Who is in charge here?

The last Sunday of the Church’s year, the Sunday before Advent, celebrated in many churches as “The Reign of Christ”, or as “Christ the King”, proclaims that Christ is Lord and King, and that we, as members of his kingdom, put ourselves under his gracious and loving rule.

When Jesus came into his ministry in this world, he came to usher in his Kingdom. His miracles and healings were “signs” that his Kingdom had arrived. So we see in the Gospels that where Jesus is allowed to be in charge, there his Kingdom is come, and there his will is done. We see good things happen. On the other hand, when we work against Jesus, or simply neglect him, then his will is not done, and we restrict and limit his power.

All this then raises the very personal question, who is in charge in my life? Is it myself, or the Lord Jesus? Most of us who try to be conscientious in the Christian Way find ourselves in a life-long struggle. We are engaged in “spiritual warfare” - that constant battle between my innate desire to run my own life, and my inner longings to follow Jesus.

Where God is in charge we see his creation working in perfect harmony according to his perfect will. We are given a picture of this scenario in the story of the Garden of Eden, and then again in The Revelation of St John the Divine. Where God reigns there is only peace, glory and joy. Where God does not reign (and he has given us free will by which he permits us to frustrate him) we come face to face with problems and confusion.

I know from my own experience that when I try to take over my own affairs, and “do it my way” I find that things just do not seem to go right. But when I climb down off my high horse as it were, and ask for guidance and strength, things begin to fall into place. When we pray for a certain thing to happen and we discover that it does, is this simply a coincidence? As the saying goes, “the more I pray, the more coincidences happen”.

A while ago I was visiting a certain parish on behalf of the OSL and a woman came up to me and asked, “Do you remember me? The last time you were here you healed me!” I had to explain that it is not I who heals, but I did recall the occasion. She had stopped me in passing and asked for prayer. So I

immediately laid my hands on her head, her friends standing around, and prayed for her healing, much in the way Jesus did. I expect the others were praying too. Now she was telling me that her cancer had gone into remission. It was another of those coincidences.

Some people seem to have the gift of healing, as others have gifts of administration or listening, That is why we tend to turn to those whom we understand to be close to God, people who, we believe, have God's ear, and ask them to pray for us. The members of the OSL Board of Directors, for instance, regularly receive emails asking for prayer for certain persons in need. Many people turn to the Holy Saints and ask for their prayers. When the Roman Catholic Church considers a person for canonization, that is, to be recognized as a Saint, it looks for evidences of a miracle resulting from their prayers. What people are doing here, I believe, is turning for prayer to people in whom God's will is done, in whom he rules as Lord and King. For it is in the lives of such persons that his mercy and grace appears to be most active and effective.

So when we ask, "Why is it that when I pray, healings don't seem to happen?" perhaps one reason is that we must not presume to try to manipulate the power of God. He does heal us and the people we pray for, not because we demand it, but because he wants to. And he heals not in ways that we often expect, but in the ways that are best for us. Our role as Christ's disciples is simply to love him, and obey him, and trust him in faith even as little as a mustard seed, knowing that he longs to draw us into his Kingdom of perfection and joy.

*Canon DAP Smith is past Director of OSL Region 8. He was elected to the Board of Directors for The International Order of St Luke the Physician, and serves as its Corresponding Secretary. David lives in Perth, Ontario, and although retired continues in parish ministry. He is often asked to lead missions and healing workshops*

### **Would You Consider a Year End Gift to OSL Canada?**

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