



## THE HEALING MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Healing Ministry at St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney

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### From the Leader, Canon Jim Holbeck



Dear Friends,  
Seeing this is one of the last articles I will be writing to you as the Leader of the Healing Ministry it gives me a chance to look back with thanksgiving to God for His goodness to us over the last (almost) 18 years.

During that time we have seen and heard of many wonderful healings at our Cathedral services, at our Healing Ministry Centre and elsewhere as we have prayed for people in difficult human situations.

Well over 20 years ago I was invited to speak about healing to a group of health professionals. This was the first time I had spoken on healing publicly. I chose to speak with a sign around my neck with a capital "L" on it just like the "Learner plates" on cars.

The point I was making was that I was a learner in my experience of this topic. I need not have taken it off because in this life we will always remain learners. There are no infallible gurus!

What one can do is to praise God for wonderful answers to prayer. People have asked for prayer for their needs and God has answered sometimes instantly, sometimes gradually and sometimes after a period of time elapsed.

At times we have been amazed at the completeness of the healing. Some individuals finished up more healed than they had ever been in their lifetime. Others wonderfully healed have their medical specialists still saying to them after many years, "What happened to you was not medically possible." Or even, "You had a miracle."

But there are times when people don't receive the degree of healing they have asked for. One of the sad

unloving things that may happen at such times is that a "well-meaning" Christian may begin to tell that person that *this or that* is the reason why that person didn't get healed. (Unfortunately the two main things they suggest are often a lack of faith or some secret sin in the person). They may even tell other people what they believe was the reason for the lack of healing received by a particular person.

This is called "playing God" for only He knows and understands everything about us as individuals. He alone knows why sometimes it seems that people don't get the healing they wanted.

I think that all of us involved in healing ministries ought to relax in our ministries with two thoughts in our minds. One is that nothing is impossible with God as the omnipotent One. So He is going to amaze us with what He does from time to time. Many of the things we have seen in the last 18 years have been amazing. Yet we shouldn't have been so surprised if He is so loving and powerful.

The other truth is that God is always ultimately in control though we may not recognise it. He never goes against our free-will and will never force on us that which we are not ready or willing to receive from Him.

Who knows what goes on in the mind of individuals? They don't always know themselves so how can we know? But He knows!

Faith means trusting God even when we are not seeing the answers we expected to see. God's answer may come at a time or in a way we never expected and so we fail to see His answer. Many of us who pray the prayer of faith (James 5:15) need to remember that it is faith in God Himself that is absolutely necessary and not faith in faith or faith in the prayer of faith. There is a world of difference.

Keep on trusting Him come what may. Don't trust in the quantity or quality of your faith. That's the wrong focus. Rather trust in the quality of the Person in whom you have your faith, the Lord Jesus.

May the Lord surprise you in His love and power.  
Your friend in Christ,  
Jim

## SUSAN'S STORY

When I came into the Healing Ministry in 1981, I was a student at Moore College.

It was a wonderfully rich time because on the one hand I was learning the Word, while on the other, the experience was that I saw that what God said in his Bible was being applied to those who received prayer, and they were being helped greatly – in many cases, healed completely.



For some time, I had suffered a form of depression periodically, and while it was not severe, it was debilitating at

times. Some years earlier my first baby had died as a result of an accident in the hospital. I was unable to grieve healthily. Depression was a result.

A few months after I began coming to the Healing Service at St. Andrew's Cathedral, a comment was made in a sermon about a child with a splinter – the splinter festered until it was removed and then the infection was dealt with. I knew that message was for me and that the splinter of unexpressed grief had to surface. I knew that I needed prayer, so I put my hand up during the laying on of hands. At the end of the service I was anointed with oil and I went home. I was aware that the business was not finished, for it became clear that I had to forgive the people who were responsible for my baby's death and I knew that I couldn't do that without Jesus' help.

As I asked Him to help me to forgive, I put my baby into His hands.

I have never had a moment's depression from that to this – nor am I likely to.

When the Lord heals, he heals.

After I graduated from Moore College, I found myself involved in the Healing Ministry Centre in Newtown, whilst at the same time, doing part time Parish work.

A little later, I came to the Centre to work full time as Ministry Co-ordinator, after the Lord told me that I was to be there on a regular basis and learn to be a .....

I waited to hear what this big important job was, that the Lord had for me.

Then I heard the word "servant."

How I laughed.

And what a training ground the Centre was to begin to learn that life-time lesson.

During that time we saw people amazingly helped and enriched in their Christian journey through the ministry offered in that place.

Many different teachers came to add to the rich deposit laid by Canon Jim Glennon.

And of course since Canon Jim Holbeck has been Leader, the teaching has been expanded and crystallised in a wonderful way.

In 1992, I was invited to join the staff of one of the Churches of Christ to be Dean of Students as we developed a School of Ministry

After my husband died in 1995, I returned to the Healing Ministry and later on, as I was being healed from that grief, the "Grief and Loss" seminars were born – involving others too, who were being healed in the same way.

The Lord says in his Bible - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

2 Corinthians 1:3,4

This is true of the Healing Ministry.

That as we are healed, so we stand alongside others who struggle, and can pray with faith that God will heal them too.

I think that if there is a hallmark of the Healing Ministry, it is Love.

As Love Himself ministers to us all, so that love overflows to those that he invites us to pray for and to be with.

I thank God for His Healing Ministry.

Susan Larkins

Leader - Grief and Loss Seminars

***Editors Note: Susan will be conducting:-***

***Grief and Loss Seminar – 8 April***

***Winter Retreat - 3 June***

## HM WEBSITE

Have you visited our website recently? You'll find Testimonies, Sermon Notes, Newsletters and Programs. Tell your friends here and overseas.

[www.healingministrysydney.org](http://www.healingministrysydney.org)

## CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Please advise: (02) 9557 1642

Email: [newsletter@healingministrysydney.org](mailto:newsletter@healingministrysydney.org)

## **SET FREE FROM ANXIETY**

I was brought up a Christian, in the country, in a Catholic church.

Life, until about 4 years ago, had been easy for me. I came to Sydney after school, studied law, married my beautiful wife and had two great children.

In my early days in Sydney I was a lazy Christian, not attending church much at all. We started attending St James Anglican Church in Croydon when our oldest son was about two. Life was easy, and nothing worried me.

However, I was getting busier and busier at work, with two full time

*Each week I would receive prayer for the anxiety in the Healing Service*

secretaries in a very busy legal practice in the city.

In 2001 we were preparing for an overseas trip to New York and the work just got busier. I was working each day from 6.30am until around 9.00-10.00pm and some weekends as well.

Then September 11 happened. I virtually ignored it, as I ignored my stress. The Friday before we left for overseas was the funeral of a friend from church who had died of cancer. I went to the funeral, went back to work and raced to finish everything before flying off. I ended up having a psychotic episode, believing it was the end of the world, that I was God and came to save everyone. I died (so I thought) that night.

I ended up being hand cuffed by the police and taken by ambulance to St Vincent's Hospital and woke up the following morning in my right mind.

The next few weeks and months were spent recuperating and I slowly started back at work.

I got busy again and so by two years later I was again

*It wasn't a dramatic healing. It has been gentle and caring*

stressed at work. I ended up in hospital again after another episode in August 2003. I was placed on medication again at that time. The next year I started to get very anxious the episodes would come back. The doctor I was seeing explained it as a fear and gave me some breathing exercises to help me control it.

Virtually every day I would be gripped by a fear I would lose my mind and end up in hospital again.

Where was God in all this? I know He was protecting me every day.

I knew of the Healing Service from friends in my Bible study. I had to deal with this anxiety. My older son and my wife came. I was prayed for and I cried. But nothing changed. I kept coming. The anxiety would still engage me, and grip me.

God began to change this in February and March 2005. I don't know which week it was, because every week I would receive prayer for this anxiety, in the Healing Service on Wednesday night.

And then gradually, it lifted. These thoughts no longer gripped me.

They still come, as I haven't forgotten what happened, but they leave me just as quickly. God has healed me miraculously of the panic and fear that had accompanied them.

It wasn't a dramatic, blinding, road to Damascus healing. It has been gentle and caring. I know I have been looked after all this time.

I still ask for prayer each week at the Healing Service each Wednesday night. I need God's strength each day. I know I am not bullet proof, although I thought before I was sick that I could cope with anything.

I took great comfort from Philippians 4:6-8:

***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."***

When I was healed, I heard verses 12 and 13 in the same chapter which I hadn't noticed before. St Paul says:

***"I have learnt the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength"***

And now, having just finished the Inner Healing and

Wholeness weekend there is another verse, mentioned by Peter, one of my prayer partners, which has spoken to me:

***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"***

(2 Tim 1:7)

I thank God for that every day.

Geoff

***Editor's Note: Canon Jim Holbeck will be leading a one day Seminar on "How to Deal with Stress" on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2006.(see program) Applications are being taken for the Inner Healing and Wholeness Weekends in June, September and November. Ring 9557 1642 or download the application form from the website.***

## **FREEDOM THROUGH FORGIVENESS**

100 people packed into the Auditorium at the Healing Ministry Centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March to hear Canon Jim Holbeck teach on "Forgiveness". Topics were "The Freedom of Forgiveness, "God's Forgiveness of Us", "The Danger of Some Unhelpful Comments Regarding Forgiveness", "How to Really Forgive Others" "Prayer-in time - Doing it!". The prayer during the last session, led by Canon Holbeck, was very powerful and covered every imaginable area of forgiving others and praying in the healing for the hurt and pain caused by others.

Not only was it a good day to actually forgive



someone, but it was an equipping time of being better prepared to help someone else who may be struggling with forgiveness.

### **Some comments from participants:**

"As soon as I walked in I had a sense of knowing I was in the right place and was meant to be there. It was good to go back to basics of scripture and get a deeper understanding of the spiritual aspects of forgiveness"

"I forgave my father who died 20 years ago. He was unfair. I realised I still held a grudge against him and forgave him during the prayer led by Canon Holbeck at the end of the day."



"I now know what I am to do regarding a relationship situation. I can approach that person now for reconciliation."

"I was released to forgive my mother, and in doing so, understood my mother's circumstances at the time I was born. The whole thing is forgiven today!"

"I had to forgive a group of people. Whilst praying I saw those people round me. All the people who had hurt and mistreated me faded away from me during the prayer."

**The set of 3 CD's of this Seminar costs \$15.**

**Phone: 9557 1642 to place an order.**

The next special one day Seminar will be "How to Deal with Stress" - Sat 27 May

## **HEALING SERVICE**



Wonderful things are happening by the grace of God at the Wednesday night Healing Services at 6.00pm and the Services held every second Sunday afternoon of the month at 2.30pm.

One person had an answer to prayer, for a relative who lives in another part of the world.

Everyone is welcome to come – bring your friends, relatives, neighbour, co-workers, etc

***Editor's Note:** If you'd like to share some good news about answer to prayer, please write a couple of paragraphs and send to:*

*[newsletter@healingministrysydney.org](mailto:newsletter@healingministrysydney.org) or write to The Newsletter Editor, St. Andrew's Cathedral, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **The Healing Ministry Centre:**

**Phone: 9557 1642**

Mar 31 to April 2 - Inner Healing and Wholeness

April 8 - Grief and Loss

April 13 - Maundy Thursday Service

April 23 - Christian Meditation (Sunday)

April 29 - Art & Craft Show

May 13 - Prayer time for the Healing Ministry

May 16,17,18 – Core Teaching Stage 5

May 20 - Cancer/ Chronic Illness

May 27 - How to Deal with Stress

May 28 - Christian Meditation (Sunday)

June 3 - Winter Retreat

June 23 to 25 – Inner Healing & Wholeness

June 25 - Christian Meditation (Sunday)

#### **Healing Services in Cathedral**

**Phone: 9265 1660**

6pm. every Wednesday

2.30pm Sunday April 9, May 14, June 11

**SEE ENCLOSED PROGRAM FOR DETAILS OF ALL ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK AND ON WEEKENDS.**