

CHAPEL HEALING PRAYER TEAM TRAINING

INTRODUCTION

This ministry of Christian healing prayer in a hospital chapel context arose from many years of pursuing healing ministry and my increasingly fervent desire to see God's children experience His restoration in body, soul and spirit. As members of the Body of Christ, we have been called to lay hands on the sick in the name of Jesus and each of you has answered this call. We are a diverse group of different ages, cultures and denominations, yet one Body in Christ Jesus. Many of us have read countless books on healing, gone to seminars and training sessions, prayed for the sick in hospitals and other venues, seen some healing miracles, and perhaps even experienced them ourselves. But I sense that the Lord has now called us to something far greater than we have yet experienced. He wants us to trust Him to bring the Kingdom of heaven to earth as we allow ourselves to be the expression of His love and compassion to those who may not yet know Him.

As we begin to learn to pray together as a team, I am reminded of Paul's admonition to the church at Ephesus: "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one Body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:1-6)

In this ministry, it is imperative that we focus on the person of Jesus Christ who binds us all together in and through His love. There may be temptations to disagree in manifestations of the Holy Spirit, to feel inadequate because someone else might appear to have a greater anointing, or even to be irritated by the personality of another - including both their strengths and their weaknesses. Just as the disciples stayed at the side of their Master, we must also remain in Him and learn to function as different parts of His body, all significant and none less important than another.

MINISTRY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To glorify God by carrying His Presence and the healing touch of Jesus into lives that are crying out for healing of body, mind, spirit and relationship.
- 2) To use healing prayer to draw people to the heart of God so that they become whole spiritually as well as physically.
- 3) To minister to doctors, nurses and hospital staff as they encounter challenges and loss in their own physical, emotional and spiritual struggles, and to come alongside the medical community as they use their God-given gifts to bring healing to the patients under their care.
- 4) To make available to the greater community a safe haven of healing where they can come to find hope.

- 5) To create a culture of healing expectation where all who come will receive the touch of Jesus and none will go away empty.
- 6) To encourage unity in the Body of Christ as we learn to minister with and to those of different denominations and traditions.
- 7) To generate increased faith as we see His Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven!

HEALING MINISTRY IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

It is a recognized and documented fact that healing prayer works. It unequivocally boosts what the medical community does and ideally works hand in hand with them. Quoting from *Healing Prayer and Medical Care*, the book by Abby Abildness that inspired me to begin this ministry, “Our healing team honors the (university) setting and supports doctors and their treatments with prayer. Now that word has spread to the surrounding community, some patients tell us they choose this hospital and intentionally schedule doctor visits on Fridays in order to combine healing prayer with their medical treatment schedules. Some cancer patients say they want a healing infusion before their chemotherapy infusions. Some medical staff refer their patients for healing prayer, knowing that they can count on it to be there on a regular, weekly basis. We have discovered a great benefit to all involved from having lay pastoral care prayer ministers available in the chapel where concerned family and staff come for solace and cry out for help from God. This combination brings the greatest healing for body, soul and spirit for all.” (p.19)

“In the medical and religious communities, differing beliefs and views on the benefits of healing prayer and medicine have caused breaches in the strength and partnership that they could experience for the greatest benefit to patients. If prayer ministers honor the medical setting and its regulations and medical staff honor the prayer ministers coming to help the pastoral care, there can be strength to both believing prayer teams and medical teams for the best holistic care for all concerned. The biggest miracle is the love of God that transforms lives daily as they receive a healing touch to their hearts and souls. It convinces hurting people of God’s loving concern for them. It is a taste of Heaven that makes them want more of God in their daily lives. It is a reviving wellspring of reviving revelation and healing.”(p.20)

We will be encountering people who have never heard about Jesus or felt His love. We will represent Jesus to all who come into Chapel Emmanuel!

There will be family members of patients in surgery; outpatients awaiting treatment; those who have just lost a family member or friend; medical staff looking for God’s strength and wisdom; people who feel rejected or alone.

Those who come will be from many nations and religions, but they will sense in this place that they are on holy ground, for the Spirit of the Lord is here. We will meet them with the love of Jesus. We will speak LIFE to them in His name.

People will come for solace and rest, for release of their burdens, for another chance at life, for restoration of their family, for wisdom in making decisions, for a healing miracle - or just because they sense that there is something - Someone - beyond themselves and they desire to know more.

We are not there to offer false hope; we are there to offer the God of ALL hope! We will not be amiss in re-presenting Jesus Christ, for He is the God of hope who fills us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him. We will not make the performance of miracles our goal; we will put our trust in the only One who is able to sovereignly work through broken jars of clay to touch the sick in the name of Jesus and see them healed. It will be His power perfected through our weakness, all and only to the glory of His name.

God is sovereign and always will be, but He expects us to believe what He says and to obey His commands. There is a wonderful illustration of the power of prayer offered by the great evangelist Watchman Nee:

"A brother once observed that God's will is like a train whereas our prayer is like the rails of a train. A train may travel to any place, except that it must run on rails. It has tremendous power to go east, west, south and north, but it can only run to places where rails have been laid. So that it is not because God has no power (He, like a train, has power, great power); but because He chooses to be governed by man's prayer, therefore all valuable prayers (like a train's rails) pave the way for God. Consequently, if we do not take up the responsibility of prayer, we will hinder the fulfillment of God's will.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:20, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through Him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." We have His promises, they are YES in Christ and together all God's people say "AMEN!" He is faithful and now we will be faithful.

THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE

John 3:16,17 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*

I John 3:16 - *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

I John 4:10-12 - *This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love each another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.*

I John 4:16 - *God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*

I Corinthians 13:1-3 - *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I am nothing.*

I Corinthians 13:13 - *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

These are very familiar passages that many of us know by memory. But do we know them “by heart?” As I have prayed for the sick over many years, attended healing seminars, and read countless books on healing the sick, the most significant and recurrent theme is this: love. The love of God. The love of God heals, because God is love and God is Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals. When Jesus destroyed the works of the enemy through His death and resurrection, that love of God saved us from our sins, healed all of our diseases, and delivered us from the pit of demonic oppression.

When Jesus was comforting His disciples at the Last Supper, He spoke revolutionary words that continue to transform the world:

Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe in the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth: anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.

(John 14:11-14)

The death and resurrection of Jesus were the ultimate expression of the love of God to the world. And by taking Him at His word - “anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing” - we can demonstrate the love of God to this world in need. We have all of the power in the

universe behind us: that resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ!

After the resurrection when Jesus appeared to the Eleven, he told them to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. He also told them about the signs that would accompany those who believe, the last of which is ***they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.***

Brothers and sisters, He is speaking this to us today, for He has not changed!

God's children everywhere in the world are hungry for His touch, even if they do not recognize it as being from Him. By re-presenting Him, His touch through our yielded vessels overcomes every barrier of race, culture, class or creed and creates a bridge of love - the love of Jesus.

God's word says that we are hidden with Christ in God and that in Him, we live and move and have our being. When we lay hands on the sick with the understanding that we are touching them with His very Presence living in us, we are sharing the life and light of God! It is His Presence that comforts and heals as we simply become willing transmitters of that pervasive love. The same Presence that was manifested in Peter that caused those in his shadow to receive healing by the power of Jesus is available to us - now. ***You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.***

Consider that some who will come to our healing services may have little or no knowledge of God and may not know much if anything about the Gospel. But the Holy Spirit goes before us to prepare the way and to woo His children to Him. We empty ourselves of any agenda other than the love of Jesus and we offer that love as we present our bodies as living sacrifices.

We need not trust in ourselves but wholly in Him, for He will work through us with a smile, a touch, a word. ***Not by might nor power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.*** (Zechariah 4:6)

Abby Abildness illustrates this so powerfully in her book through the testimony of a Muslim man who had come to observe the Christian prayers going on in the medical center chapel. He watched as a troubled man came in, desperate for help for his dying mother. As the team was praying over him on behalf of his mother, he had a vision and exclaimed, "I see a bright neon light flashing 'Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord!' Then he said, "I need to get Jesus. How do I get Him? I felt His deep love, and I need it desperately. I want Jesus; I see He is my help as I cry for my mother. I want to receive Jesus in my heart."

The team prayed with him as he received Jesus, and the Muslim man watched in amazement at the dramatic change in the distressed man's countenance. He was so impressed by seeing Jesus ministering to that newly-transformed man that he continued to come early to the chapel before his Muslim prayer time. He and his Muslim friends knew that Jesus healed and said that there is more in the Qur'an about Jesus' life and healings than there is about Mohammed. This Muslim man received a "Jesus prayer" for healing of chronic headaches and kept coming back. It was the power of the love of Jesus that drew him over and over.

God's law is that of love. It proclaims His faithfulness to all generations. You and I are called to manifest and re-present His unchanging love to the world. When we operate according to His

law of love, His power is free to flow through us. We have the same fire of the Holy Spirit available to us as did the early Church in the book of Acts. The love of Jesus ignites that flame that brings holy healing. And it is by allowing Him to activate that love in us, releasing it to do His work through our hands and hearts, that we in turn receive more of Him.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
(Luke 6:38)

GOD'S HEALTHCARE PLAN

Exodus 15:26 - *If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes; if you pay attention to His commands and keep all His decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord who heals you.*

Isaiah 53:4,5 - *Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.*

Malachi 4:2 - *But for you who revere My name, the Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in its wings.*

Matthew 6:10 - *Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Hebrews 2:3,4 - *This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard Him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.*

God is looking for Kingdom-minded people who will take Him at His Word. He is a covenant maker and a promise keeper. He is waiting for us to say “Yes” and “Amen” to what He has already spoken. He has all of the resources of heaven and earth poised and ready for us to use!

When Moses led the Israelites through the Desert of Shur and they were parched with thirst, the first water they came to tasted so bitter that they couldn't drink it. They grumbled against Moses, forgetting that the Lord had just delivered them from the hands of the Egyptians by parting the Red Sea.

When Moses cried out to God on their behalf, God showed him a piece of wood, which he tossed into the water - and it became sweet.

But right then and there, God made a decree and a law for them and tested them. He established conditions for their health and well-being: they had to listen to Him, do what was right, pay attention to His commands, and keep all of His decrees. Then He would not bring on them the diseases that the Egyptians had suffered. He also established His identity as Jehovah Rapha: *I am the Lord who heals you.*

The death and resurrection of Jesus set us free from the law of sin and death. The Cross of Christ was the tree that brought us the Living Water. He died once for all, and has given us the choice of His way of redemption or the way of sin and suffering. For those of us who have chosen His way, our call is to show that way to others.

Many who will come to the service of healing prayer will not yet understand God's plan of redemption, yet in His incomprehensible love and grace, He will touch and heal them. God will use wherever they are to get their attention. But His purpose is so far greater than just physical

healing. He desires that all of His children know Him and fulfill His purpose for their lives. He wants to see His Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

That urgent cry for physical healing often reveals underlying sources of conflict that can be roots of sickness. “Dis-ease” is fundamentally a result of our living in a sinful world, although not always attributable to personal sin.

There are relational difficulties, bitterness and unforgiveness, accidents and consequences of negative habits. But God in His mercy turns none away. It was - and is - always the will of God to heal and restore. Jesus never turned anyone away. He taught His disciples to go and do likewise, and we are those disciples today.

We as His healing agents are drawn to this ministry because we have also suffered. There is an ongoing process in each one of us as we are being changed from glory into glory, and we are balancing attending to the needs of others with those needs in our own lives. We so need the fullness of His Presence that brings rest and refreshment. The need for intimacy with God becomes even greater as we realize that everything we offer comes from the Source that is Christ in us, the hope of glory. We see that His Presence is real and His Word is true, and we receive it fully so that it can then be poured out of us like rivers of living water. We minister from the overflow of His love and He renews us day by day as we abide in Him. Our bodies become living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.

As prayer ministers in the context of a hospital, we have an amazing opportunity to work with the medical community to help to bring wholeness of body, mind and spirit. As doctors bring healing through their God-given gifts of wisdom and reassurance as well as through medicine and surgery, we come alongside to provide healing prayer to further their work, praying for and encouraging them as well as their patients. We do not presume to supercede the work they are doing, for their calling is also from God.

There have been times when I have resisted getting medical help, thinking that if I had enough faith, the Lord would heal me by His hand. While I have experienced miraculous healings, the Lord has also used the medical community to save my life several times. I have to guard against spiritual pride and be continually attuned to the Holy Spirit to guide me as I decide what to do in each situation. There was an incident five years ago that I have written about in my book, *Glimpses: Two Stories of Hope and Healing*, that aptly illustrates this point:

My most recent struggle with this physical body also presented a spiritual conundrum. I had been miraculously healed of two herniated disks in my cervical spine four years ago after years of chronic and often debilitating pain. Although I had prayed and been prayed over more times than I could count, I was not healed - but one day, I woke up completely without pain! God had released His power and removed my distress. However, beginning nearly two years ago, I developed two new herniations in my lumbar spine, causing increased numbness and difficulty in walking. The distress became very disabling, but I didn't sense the permission of the Lord to seek surgical intervention, although I was under a doctor's care. Well-meaning friends would recommend surgeons, but I kept answering, "I don't sense that God is taking me there; I want to wait on Him and see what He will do. What He has done before, He is able to do again."

The symptoms mounted and we upped the fervor of our prayers. Philippe and I were both trusting in God to manifest Himself in a miraculous way. On Tuesday, May 6, 2008, I could hardly sit, stand, or lie down, much less walk. A dear friend and prayer partner called to find out how I was. As I shared my conviction that the Lord was able to heal me by His hand, she said, “Jan, just because you’re in prayer and healing ministry doesn’t always mean that God will choose to heal you.”

God uses any number of means to bring healing, and in this case, He used the prompting of my friend as a catalyst to contact an anointed surgeon who cleared his schedule to operate quickly and bring restoration to my back. In the process, God used me in a doctor’s waiting room to pray for another person who was suffering greatly, to minister to the nurses who attended me post-surgically, and to bring great encouragement to my surgeon. In fact, I learned quite recently from a friend who is currently his patient that this doctor reads daily a letter I wrote to him five years ago after my surgery, in which I thanked him for being an instrument in the Lord’s hands! This was quite evidently part of how God planned to use all of this for good.

We will be working closely with the doctors, nurses, administrators, technicians and hospital staff as they also seek the healing touch of Jesus for their patients, their families and their own lives. We not only cooperate with them, but we bless them as they carry out their call to heal the sick. It is imperative that they sense that we are working together for this purpose and that we never undermine them in any way. They need the assurance of our support through prayer and encouragement, regardless of their spiritual beliefs. Sometimes Jesus is represented more faithfully without words. They will know we are Christians by our love.

I am the Lord who heals you. We yield and God heals. He is the covenant maker and the promise keeper. He testifies to His Word through His actions. Jesus proclaimed that He was the Bread of Life - and it was proven by His feeding the five thousand and then the four thousand. He said that He was the Light of the world - and He opened the eyes of the blind. He declared that He was the Resurrection and the Life - and He raised the dead. Will we believe that by His stripes, we have been healed? Will we take His word that “Nothing is impossible with God” and “greater things than these will you do?” I believe we will, by His power at work within us. To God be the glory.

THE POWER OF GOD TO HEAL

Mark 1:15 - *“The time has come,” He said. “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.”*

Hebrews 13:7,8 - *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

I Peter 3:15 - *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

John 14:11-14 - *Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth: anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.*

Acts 1:8 - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Have you ever wondered how the Church “lost” healing prayer? There are many suppositions with some evidence to back them up, but our focus is going to be on ensuring that it never gets lost again! I grew up in a Calvinist denomination where healing prayer was not something we typically practiced. But when the stuff of life inevitably makes an appearance, doctrine goes out the window and we cry out to Jehovah Rapha - the One who heals. How much better to make this our first response rather than our last resort, asking Jesus to touch us with His healing hand and to provide for every aspect of our care, including leading us to the right physicians and anointing their hands to heal.

Dr. Francis MacNutt, a pioneer in the revival of the Christian healing movement, writes about the love of Jesus that rescued us from the miserable state we were in:

He proclaimed the Good News: “The Kingdom of God is at hand!” Life, health and love. The kingdom of Satan is being destroyed! Death, sickness and hate. Can you see how much Jesus loved people? How much His heart went out to the sick? How He spent hours making His way through crowds and touching foul, leprous sores, even when it was against the law of His day to touch lepers? He really did care for us.

Now if that was part of His daily schedule, going out into the reeking crowds every day to touch and heal them 2000 years ago, do you think He is any less willing to do it today? At the Last Supper He told His followers that things were going to be better for them after He left, after He died and rose from the dead, because then the Spirit would be sent to empower them

to do the same deeds that He Himself had done - and even greater deeds. He was going to live on in us and, by the power of the Spirit, would continue to heal in the 20th century as He had in the first.

Some Christians find it hard to believe that Jesus still wants to heal them in extraordinary ways, that healing is meant to be as ordinary, as frequent, as it was when Jesus walked out through the crowds every day in the glaring hot sun of Galilee...

Just in the past six weeks alone I have seen five extraordinary cases of feet that were crippled and smaller than the normal foot, grow out and become the same size as the normal foot. In two of the cases the crippling was caused by polio. In one case a woman's foot grew from size 4 to 7 as we prayed. I mention these because clearly the problem was not psychosomatic; a real bone growth had to take place for the changes to take place. In one instance, it took only 10 minutes; in another it took two hours. But what a wonderful thing to see God's healing power at work under our very eyes! I didn't always have so much belief in the willingness of Jesus to answer my prayers, but I have now seen so much it would be hard for me not to believe.

(excerpt from *The Prayer that Heals*)

“It would be hard for me NOT to believe.” This is His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven! It is for now, for us, for all who will believe. But we will encounter some obstacles because it is not the cultural norm. In the African nations and some of the other Third World countries, there is often a much greater reliance on faith healing than in America, simply because they do not have access to the medical care that we do. As Abby Abildness writes in chapter 4 of *Healing Prayer and Medical Care*, “Faith in medicine causes us to call the doctor, and faith in Jesus causes us to call upon God and see His compassionate response. We can reach out to touch the heart of God and His compassion will flow freely for healing today.” The key is to find the balance, calling on God and trusting in His direction and provision for our care.

We will be ministering to people of many different denominations, including some who are not Christians. However, God looks on each one with infinite love, patience and compassion, desiring that none should perish but that all would have everlasting life. What an opportunity we have through healing prayer to show the love of Jesus! Abby writes about training physicians in the Middle East in behavioral health issues and their response:

Muslim doctors readily recognized that the Qur'an talks more about Jesus than Mohammed. They believe enough in the legitimacy of healing by Jesus that patients flocked to receive Jesus prayer to bring healing to their bodies. They did receive healing and such a strong sense of Jesus' love for them that they brought family members who weren't sick because they wanted the healing prayers for them as well.

The same happened in Israel. When people were extended the opportunity for healing prayer, they lined up for hours to get a healing touch of God. The love and peace they feel when touched by prayer makes them long for that personal touch from God. Reports come back consistently of not only healings but answers to prayers for jobs and family relationship healing. Various unfulfilled needs are answered by faith reaching out for a touch of God.

Paul wrote, “Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor. 6:2)

“Salvation” refers to healing, being set free from bondages, and prosperity. Jesus, who brought these healings 2000 years ago, still does these healings to those who reach out to Him for it. Father God sent Him to earth to demonstrate to us His divine love. He demonstrates through healing His personal care for us so that we would respond to His love. When we are healed God gets the glory and people are drawn to return to God.

Our purpose is to glorify God by loving others with His love so that they will in turn be drawn to Him. Randy Clark, a former Baptist pastor and the founder and president of Global Awakening, writes about this in his book co-authored by Bill Johnson, ***The Essential Guide to Healing***:

When you understand that to (the apostle) Paul, glory and power were synonymous, and that the number one way God received glory in the Bible was through signs and wonders, miracles and healings, it causes you to see the necessity of all the gifts continuing until Jesus returns. John also expressed the relationship between power and glory in John 2:11 when he talked about Jesus’ miracle at Cana: “This, the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him.” I did a word study in this area and discovered that healings, miracles, signs and wonders were indeed the number one way God received glory or glorified His name.

God is love. Love is the greatest power in the universe. We receive power through abiding in the Vine. We cannot give what we do not have. And we can have as much of Him as we desire.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:14-19

OUR AUTHORITY AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST

Matthew 8:8,9 - *The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes, and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

Psalms 8:4-6 - *What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.*

Matthew 28:18-20 - *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Mark 16:17,18 - *And these signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*

Luke 9:1,2 - *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

The story in Matthew 8 of the bold and yet humble centurion illustrates God's delegated authority given to us in the name of Jesus. In Bill Johnson's book, *Hosting the Presence*, he writes, "This Roman military leader realized that his authority came from being under authority. We can only release the benefit of God's rule flowing through us to the degree that His rule is over us. Jesus was so moved by his response that He acknowledged that this insight gives place to great faith. He also applauded his insight, for its roots are in another kingdom besides Rome - the Kingdom of God. This understanding is paramount to humanity's ability to rule well."

As co-heirs with Christ, He has given to us that same authority and power to minister as He did. In *The Essential Guide to Healing*, Bill Johnson writes, "Authority is quite different than power. Power is explosive and environmental in the sense that it is the actual atmosphere of heaven that changes the atmosphere of earth. Authority is a position given by Jesus Himself. A policeman carries a gun (power), but he also carries a badge (authority). The badge does much more than the gun. Power is the atmosphere of heaven. Ministering in power is like catching a wave. Authority is like starting a wave. Things start happening because of who God says we are and what our responsibilities are. Faith is what connects us to this realm of authority - we have to believe what He says about us and what He has commissioned us to do."

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 is pretty indicative of how we are to exercise that

authority. In *The Essential Guide to Healing*, Randy Clark writes, “This passage indicates that people who become Christians should be taught to do what Jesus taught the disciples to do. Healing the sick and casting out demons top the list, and nothing indicates that those were only meant to be done until the Bible was canonized. As long as we baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are to continue teaching the newly baptized to heal the sick and cast out demons.

The Kingdom of heaven parables Jesus told in Matthew 13 seem to mitigate against the view of dispensationalism that sees the end-time church as lukewarm instead of victorious. Every parable - the sower and the seed, the mustard seed and especially the yeast and the dough - teaches the ongoing increase of the Kingdom of God. Nowhere do they indicate that the Kingdom will start out with power and great growth, but will sputter and lose its energies of grace - the gifts of the Spirit.”

After Jesus had commissioned His disciples and ascended into heaven, we read in Mark 16:20 that ***“the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it.”*** Wow, that sure gives me hope! All we have to do is what we see Him doing and He will be faithful to work with us and confirm His word with signs and wonders. As Abby Abildness writes in *Healing Prayer and Medical Care*, “The prophet Isaiah spoke in Isaiah 61 and Jesus confirmed his word in Luke 4 that the spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus to preach good news and to heal. The Book of Acts documents that the apostles could do even greater works by the same anointing and spirit. The Lord said that those who believe can do greater works. We need to believe the Lord and lay hands on the sick and watch them recover. The twentieth century brought a new breed of healing evangelists like Kathryn Kuhlman, Aimee Semple McPherson, and Oral Roberts. This is our time to step out and take God at His word. We are called to arise and shine in this later season of time. Let the glory of the Lord flow out of you with the Spirit’s anointing. The heart of the Gospel is the good news of Jesus and what He did for you. Faith comes by hearing the Word of the Lord, and then there is healing in response to it. There is power in the Gospel as it impacts a life. Healing flows in response.”

Have you noticed how faith is contagious? When we hear the word of God and respond to it, faith rises and God’s healing power is imparted to others through our fervent prayers and the laying on of hands. I experienced this several years ago in a Global Awakening healing conference. We had just heard Randy Clark teach on radical obedience to God’s voice and the session was wrapping up. Suddenly I saw a picture in my mind’s eye of Randy lying prostrate on the floor of the auditorium with his assistant Chad standing over him with his right foot placed on Randy’s back. Then I was given instructions to have the entire congregation assemble in a circle with joined hands and sing “Standing on the Promises of God” - after which Randy’s back would be healed! Oh, my...the mere thought brought fear and trembling to me and I asked the Lord what I should do. “Go and tell him.”

Well then...really?! The response was affirmative, so I made my way to the front and found Chad, relating to him what I saw in detail. Unknown to me, Randy was listening behind me and agreed to do what the Lord had shown me after someone else came up and confirmed that he had just been given a similar word! About ten minutes later, the entire assembly was gathered around the room in a huge circle, singing three verses of the hymn as Chad stood with his foot on Randy’s back. And all glory be to God, who confirmed His word with healing!

“Surrendering to the Lord is the key to releasing the anointing of the Lord,” Abby writes. “Anointing of the Spirit of God involves healing balm from ingredients from anointed leaves of the garden. He Himself took our infirmities. He is our burden-bearer - the one who takes the accusations, bitterness, and spoken words against us upon His back. His stripes are the propitiation of our iniquities. Through His sacrificial love for us we have access to healing if we hand over our guilt and shame, our anger and anxieties, getting the burden off our bodies and freeing ourselves to be restored to health. Spoken prayers of righteous people who live in godliness can change the cellular structure of our bodies to restore healthy cells that have been damaged. Through the hands of many apostles, many were healed.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:14,15 - *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Matthew 5:23,24 - *Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*

Luke 6:37,38 - *Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

John 20:21-23 - *Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." And with that, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."*

I Peter 2:9,10 - *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

As I have read countless books on healing and put into practice what I have learned, the two most prevalent themes are love and forgiveness, for Jesus is the full representation of the love of God and His provision of reconciliation. From the fullness of His love, He taught us that we must also love one another. A great part of loving others has to do with forgiveness.

Dr. Francis MacNutt emphasizes this in *The Prayer that Heals*:

"Yes, if you forgive others their failing, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours; but if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failings either." (Mt. 6:14-15) He writes, "Similarly, just as our Father will not forgive us, He will not heal us until we forgive those who have injured us. Part of this is a natural spiritual law: We have all sinned and, as a sign that we believe God will forgive us out of His compassion and goodness, we must be willing to pass that forgiveness on to others and break the chain of hate that affects the whole human race. ***"It is someone who is forgiven little who shows little love."*** (Luke 7:47) We cannot receive the love of Jesus, the lifeblood that circulates through us and keeps us going, unless we are willing to pass it on to others. We need to change our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh."

Dr. MacNutt continues, "Over and over again, I have seen people physically healed once they were willing to forgive someone who had hurt them! It's amazing how we Christians are sensitive to such sins as drunkenness and adultery, but seem so insensitive to the hatred we may be constantly nourishing in our hearts. Usually, we believe that the other person is really bad - or, at least, the person's action is - and he or she doesn't deserve anything but scorn and

punishment... Clearly, the destruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Center on 9/11 was a dreadful crime. But, some Christians don't have any compunctions about hating a whole group of the world's people. Hating at a distance is dangerous, but holding grudges at home is more immediately devastating. It not only binds up the person we hate, but it can also bind us up and make us sick. When we hate or harbor anger, without working it out, we hurt ourselves even more than the other person. Our hate may eventually destroy us."

"More and more, doctors are discovering the role that unresolved feelings play in making us sick. Dr. and Mrs. Carl Simonton in *Getting Well Again* found evidence that unresolved loss or trauma can lead to cancer's onslaught. Dr. James Lynch in *The Broken Heart* discovered that a lack of love and community increases the incidence of heart disease; and nearly everyone recognizes that tension and anger building up over a period of time can lead to certain kinds of arthritis and ulcers."

Bill Johnson substantiates these claims and adds additional insight in *The Essential Guide to Healing*: "Many would experience healing if they would just forgive others. Some would experience their miracle if they just believed they were actually forgiven by God and followed suit by forgiving themselves accordingly. These are real solutions for real situations. Often, we reject asking people questions about the deep issues of the soul for fear of causing them pain. While concern for the feelings of others is to be applauded, we must not be so concerned about avoiding discomfort that we fail to reach a greater understanding of how their physical health is related to their souls. We must address this without accusing the sick of being in sin or being weak in character. We also must not wait for science to figure it out for us. The answers are in the owner's manual - the Bible."

I experienced a very graphic illustration of this which taught me the extreme importance of addressing this issue. My husband and I had been prompted by the Holy Spirit to intercede for a neighbor we didn't know who had Stage 4 cancer. The prompting eventually became so insistent that we went over and asked if we could lay hands on her and pray for healing. Having learned that she would have surgery the following week at M.D. Anderson, we asked the Lord to perform a miracle, and I heard myself praying, "And Lord, let the doctors be amazed when they operate on her and find no tumors!" God heard and answered our cries for mercy, and that is just what happened. Over the next several months, she enjoyed a resurgence of health and vitality, and we were invited to dinner at their home to celebrate. However, as soon as her husband left the room for a few minutes, our neighbor began to spew bitter words over a presumed injustice on his part - and I stood there in disbelief, not knowing how to respond. The saddest thing is that the cancer returned after a year and she eventually died.

Francis MacNutt offers wise counsel in *The Prayer that Heals*: "I truly believe that holding grudges is such a natural process that only Jesus can free us. Often I have prayed with someone who was unable to forgive and have asked Jesus to fill the person with His own understanding and love for the other party and then to pour out His forgiving love into the heart of the person who is having a hard time forgiving. Over and over I have seen this prayer answered with the forgiveness that Jesus won upon the cross when He cried out, "**Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.**" (Luke 23:34)

Abby Abildness writes about the power of forgiveness in chapter 4 of *Healing Prayer and Medical Care*. Sent to train Muslim doctors in northern Iraq to do family and community medicine, she and her team told them of the Amish schoolhouse shootings and the worldwide impact of the forgiveness of the Amish families towards their killer and their compassion for his family. “As we shared the story of the Amish forgiveness with the Muslim doctors, they tried to find a word to translate this healing principle. They had trouble finding a word for forgiveness because it was a new concept to them. As they began to understand the meaning for forgiveness and the healing effect it has on the perpetrator and the victim, they reacted by saying that this was a brilliant concept and that they wanted to be ‘Amish-ized’ if that was what brought healing in hearts and between people.”

Forgiveness is not an option; it is a Kingdom mandate. When Jesus appeared to His disciples after the resurrection, He said, ***“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.”*** ***And with that, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”*** (John 20:21-23) Look at that! After He breathes on them and tells them to receive the Holy Spirit, they are sent out with the ministry of reconciliation - as Christ’s ambassadors to a dark world! And so it is with us. We speak to the people for God be letting them know that in the name of Christ, they are forgiven! ***“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”***

SOZO: SALVATION, HEALING, DELIVERANCE

Psalm 103:1-5 - *Bless the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases; He redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion. He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Psalm 107:19,20 - *Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble; and He saved them from their distress. He sent forth His word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave.*

Isaiah 53:4,5 - *Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.*

I John 1:9 - *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

2 Corinthians 6:2 - *I tell you, now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation.*

There is a Greek verb, *sozo*, that means “to be saved, healed, delivered.”

It is used over a hundred times in the New Testament and can mean all three of these things at the same time. It means to be made whole in body, mind and spirit. It can also indicate resurrection from the dead.

“Every part of Jesus, every aspect of His own emotional and mental makeup, died with Him upon the cross for our redemption. He was a human being like us in everything except sin.” (Francis MacNutt, *The Prayer that Heals*) That means that He desires for us to be made whole by Him not only physically, but mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

In my experience with patients in the hospital, there is nearly always a history behind the reason for the hospitalization. So often the roots of sickness go back even to previous generations and many patients feel helpless to do anything about it. But as Abby Abildness writes in *Healing Prayer and Medical Care*, “Jesus often healed people and then told them that the Kingdom of God was at hand. He wanted them to recognize through the healings that Kingdom power for wholeness is present in this life. People may argue that they don't believe that kind of healing is for today. But Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, and when they experience Jesus' healing touch they will quickly be impressed at what God is doing today.”

My personal experience attests to this many times over. After the Lord healed me by His hand of two herniated disks in my neck which had caused agonizing pain over several years, I had a rather substantial awakening: my physical pain had become an excuse to not deal with underlying emotional issues. When pain consumes so much of our energy and dominates our days, there is little left to deal with anything else. For so long, I had prayed to be freed from what had become chronic pain; yet when it finally happened one bright April morning several years

ago, my jubilation was short-lived. The absence of physical pain somehow seemed to magnify the presence of emotional pain.

I needed *sozo*. *I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.* (Psalm 34:4,18)

Many if not most of those we will minister to will need prayer for inner healing and wholeness. There may also be barriers to their receiving it. Abby gives some indicators of this in chapter 6 of her book. Among them are:

- 1) Unbelief; particularly that God loves and cares for them enough to work to bring healing to their lives. Sometimes there is a resistance to hearing the Word of God and what it has to say about healing.
- 2) Unforgiveness; perhaps this is the biggest barrier. Sometimes this is towards others and is directed at an injustice or offense; other times it is directed towards oneself or even towards God.
- 3) Unconfessed secret sin, addiction, or ungodly behavior; this causes a kind of idolatry and prevents fellowship with God.
- 4) Lack of perseverance in prayer for healing.
- 5) Negative words (curses) spoken against us.

Abby writes about a threefold healing cure of Repent-Renounce-Release. By helping others to confess and repent of bitterness, unforgiveness, fear or deception, they can be freed from the prison of offense and their bodies more receptive to healing. By renouncing harmful habits or activities, they can open the door to a healthier lifestyle. By releasing negative binding attitudes to God, their burden is lifted as Jesus willingly assumes it.

Bill Johnson writes in *The Essential Guide to Healing*, “the one thing greater than divine healing is divine health.” In other words, wholeness.

He continues, “We have heard for years that 85% of all sickness originates in the mind - not that it is imagined, just that it has its roots in an unhealthy thought life. While these internal issues are not injected into the arm or inhaled into the lungs, they poison the life of people who were created for significance. People’s creative energies are redirected into the management of unhealthy thoughts and emotions, leaving them little or nothing for living in the purpose for which they were created. On many occasions, I have led a person into a prayer of repentance over unforgiveness, only to find that a miracle was at hand the whole time. But before the miracle manifested in his or her body, the person’s heart also needed to be in agreement.”

“Confession is basically agreeing with God. Pretending that all is well, when it is not well, has no positive effect on our health. As Psalm 32:3 says, ‘When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.’ Secret sins devastate. They are like holding poison close to us until all in us is poisoned. Deep and complete confession is one of the most essential ingredients of a healthy lifestyle. Sometimes confessing to another believer who is mature and trustworthy can help provide the accountability we need to walk in success. Jesus was perfectly healthy, but He had no sin. His forgiveness towards us gives us access to the same reality He enjoyed. But we must confess and truly believe His promise of forgiveness.”

“If we could only give ourselves permission to live in the romance of loving God, and then learn to love ourselves properly, we would find out why the Bible commands us to love our neighbors

by that standard. One reality paves the way for the other. Most of us understand that our soul is comprised of our mind, emotions and will. What our will chooses has great impact on our thought life and on our emotional condition... There is no punishment in the mind of Christ. There is no self-hatred or frustration either. His mind is beautiful in every way. When our will reflects His, our emotions receive the best medicine possible. An alignment takes place that gives permission for the body to experience health. A healthy spirit makes for a healthy soul. A healthy soul makes it more likely that we will enjoy physical health, too.”

Francis and Judith MacNutt have a motto at Christian Healing Ministries:

LISTEN - LOVE - PRAY. Some people will receive healing simply through confession and/or sharing their stories. We listen to them with ears that have been anointed by God and we reflect what we have heard with the love of Jesus that is moved by compassion. When we pray, it is with discernment, knowing that the Holy Spirit is also at work in them and sometimes words are not even necessary as He intercedes with soft sighs. It is then that we can comfort others with the same comfort that we ourselves have received from God. *For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.* (2 Corinthians 1:5)

I like to use a scripture from I Thessalonians 5:23-24 in The Message translation as a benediction in our healing services: *May God Himself, the One who makes all things holy and whole, make you holy and whole; put you together – spirit, soul and body – and make you fit for the coming of our Master Jesus Christ. The one who promised is faithful. If He said it, He will do it.*

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

Isaiah 50:4 - *The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning; wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.*

Isaiah 61:1-3 - *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness; a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.*

Romans 8:16,17 - *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.*

I Corinthians 3:9 - *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.*

2 Corinthians 1:3,4 - *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

As co-heirs and co-laborers with Christ, we are called to minister to others with the authority of His name and by His power through the Holy Spirit. As those who have also suffered in our bodies, minds and spirits, we understand the miracle of the blood of Jesus and earnestly desire to share that with all who come for His healing touch. The anointing of the Lord to heal is a treasure that needs to be safeguarded and stewarded properly. Foremost is the need to abide in the Vine so that the Spirit is able to flow through us without hindrance. We must have clean hands and pure hearts!

It is important that we not call attention to ourselves but focus on the one to whom we are ministering, listening in our spirits to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Healing prayer in the context of a hospital differs somewhat from that which we practice in our homes, churches or conferences. There will be a mixture of believers and unbelievers; those who are fervent and those who have fallen away. Some will never have heard the gospel and may never have had someone pray with them. What we offer first is the compelling love of Jesus, reflected by the compassion we extend to them through our countenances and touch. So many people live in loveless environments and are surprised when someone lovingly listens and offers to pray for them. In chapter 6 of her book, Abby Abildness offers keys to releasing this healing anointing as we pray over others: the compelling love of Jesus; a spirit of unity among ourselves; words of encouragement while listening to the Lord for direction; with permission, laying on hands and anointing the person for healing; praying God's Word over them; praying in the name of Jesus.

As we pray for others in the chapel, we can confidently expect that God will supply His logos and rhema words through the power of His Spirit. ***His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.*** (2 Peter 1:3) God's word creates, sustains and heals. He will bring scriptures to mind that minister to the specific need. He may give us words of knowledge (I Cor. 12:8) whereby we know something that we could not know in the natural (see attached sheet). It will not be by our might or power, but by His Spirit.

Because we will likely have a high volume of people to pray over in an hour, it is important to be concise and it helps to have some kind of format to follow. The chapel service will begin with worship through music, scripture, and a very brief message so that most of the hour will be spent in prayer. We will pray as teams of at least two ministering to one patient (or to their family or friends who are with them), with one intercessor leading and the others silently interceding, taking turns to minister.

Randy Clark, founder of Global Awakening, has developed a Five-Step Prayer Model that is very useful for team ministry in a context such as ours. They are: 1) Interview; 2) Diagnosis and Prayer Selection; 3) Prayer Ministry: Praying for Effect; 4) Step and Re-interview; 5) Post-Prayer Suggestions.

The Interview includes asking the patient's name, prayer request, cause and duration of their condition and why they think they have this problem. This is to determine the root cause: is it a natural cause, psychosomatic, an afflicting spirit? It is important to ask them if they have a doctor's diagnosis; if someone caused this condition (asking if there is someone they need to forgive); if there was any traumatic event associated with the time of its onset (within 6 months to a year). Ascertain through the Holy Spirit if you need to pray first for unforgiveness or emotional wounds of fear, shame or rejection before proceeding to prayer for physical healing.

Prayer Selection involves using the information from the patient and revelation from God to determine how best to pray: a prayer of command or a prayer of petition. When Jesus prayed, He commanded - and these commands were directed at people's conditions. Commands are indicated when: breaking vows or curses; casting out afflicting spirits; progress has stopped with prayers of petition; the Holy Spirit leads you to do so; there is an indication that God wants to perform an immediate healing. It is important to remember that no one in the Bible ever prayed for healing by saying, "If it be your will." We do not need to beg God to heal, for He has ordained it. And we are not commanding God to do what we say; we are commanding the body of the patient to respond to what Jesus has already done as we co-labor with Him.

Prayer Ministry is not addressing your prayer to the patient as a form of guidance or encouragement, but praying for the desired Kingdom outcome. We can begin by asking the Holy Spirit to touch the person and show us what He is doing. The patient might respond in physical ways with tears, trembling, a change in respiration, blotching of the skin, or a sensation of heat. It is very important for them to communicate what they are experiencing and for us to keep our eyes open to observe. The patient might not feel a thing but then receive healing even afterwards.

We need to pray with expectation and to proclaim what needs to happen! Another imperative is to continually give thanks during the process. It is God who is at work in His inestimable ways, and He deserves our thanksgiving every step of the way.

Stop and Re-interview helps us to assess if progress has been made and to know how to proceed. If nothing has changed, we may need to ask again if there were any significant events that happened, ascertain if there is anything familial, inquire about fears, determine if there have been any curses spoken or vows made, or ask if there has been any involvement in the occult. We stop praying when the person is healed or requests that we stop; when the Holy Spirit instructs us to stop; when there is no other way to pray.

Post-Prayer Suggestions can involve encouraging the prayer recipient from scripture; sharing suggestions for appropriate lifestyle changes; blessing the patient and their family. There must never be any accusation of a lack of faith or condemnation for the presence of sin in their life as a possible cause of their circumstances. If they have received healing, tell them to thank God and to tell their family and friends what He has done.

ABOVE ALL ELSE: PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

This five-step model is a guideline, but the Holy Spirit guides us and will never mislead us if we are listening to Him. As we intercede in the chapel, we must also honor the medical setting and remember that there are considerations for the medical staff as well. Some doctors may be skeptical about healing prayer and/or be concerned that their patients may be given unrealistic hope about their disease and prognosis. However, if we always pray with our focus on Jesus as our Healer and our Hope, there will not be disappointment. *And hope does not disappoint us, for God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given to us.* (Romans 5:5)

We must also encourage the patients to cooperate with the doctors' orders, continuing to take medication and treatment until healing has been verified by the doctor.

We must encourage and support the medical staff and bless the work of their hands. By working together as a team, we can watch in amazement as God's Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

MINISTERING THROUGH WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE

A word of knowledge is a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of information that would otherwise not be known in the natural. It is one of the prophetic "sign gifts" and can become apparent in several different ways through our various senses: as a brief and sometimes very intense physical pain that is out of your normal realm of experience; as something that you "read" that is not visible to others; as a mental picture or vision; as a thought impression that apparently comes from nowhere; as inspired speech - something that comes out that you had no idea you were going to say; as a dream you receive that eventually plays out in reality, providing information you need to deal with that situation. Because God is not limited to our understanding, there are other ways He can choose to manifest words of knowledge that seem highly unusual but are useful and edifying for the Body of Christ.

I have experienced several of these ways and seen how God uses this spiritual gift to encourage others. It is something that grows with practice and can be highly useful in healing ministry because it so helps to raise the level of faith and expectancy. Because these words are so clearly not of our own making but from God, they have the potential to encourage both the recipient and the prayer team to expect that God will act and bring healing.

Patients may be moved to tears as God reveals specific words to an individual or even to the team that speak of His great love and concern for them. Healings can occur spontaneously simply from the power of God through a word of knowledge.

We must use discretion and discernment when delivering words of knowledge. Knowing that in this life, we only “prophesy in part,” we must allow for our own fallibility, taking care not to say, “The Lord told me...”.

It can be very disconcerting for people who do not understand the prophetic realm to have someone reveal something about them that could not be known in the natural. It is preferable to say, “As I was praying, I had an impression. Does this mean anything to you?” Humility is always in order. Healing ministry involves taking risks and that means we have the potential to be wrong as well as right. The late John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Church, said that faith is spelled r-i-s-k. It involves the confidence to step out and reveal what you feel the Lord is speaking to you.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1,6 - *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see...And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*

Revelation 19:10 - *For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

Romans 15:13 - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:17-19 - *Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done - by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.*

I Cor. 2:2-5 - *For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*

I felt a bond with Abby Abildness immediately as I began to read *Healing Prayer and Medical Care*. Her deep love for Jesus was so evident right from the beginning, but when I read that she had also been diagnosed with endometrial cancer as a young woman, that sealed the deal! Yes, we are co-heirs and co-laborers with Christ, but we also survived a disease of the womb - the very source from which new life emerges. In Abby's case, she received a miraculous physical healing that enabled her to bear four children. In mine, the healing was accomplished through surgery, allowing me to live an abundant life and raise our adopted son, Paul. Interestingly, Judith MacNutt, co-founder with her husband Dr. Francis MacNutt of Christian Healing Ministries, was another who had been diagnosed with endometrial cancer as a young woman and miraculously healed. How amazing that God would use these circumstances to draw each of us into a healing ministry. As Abby says, "God uses miseries and turns them to ministries."

Abby writes in chapter 7, "A womb is a protective, secluded space where things are conceived and formed. It is a place of incubation. It brings forth new life. Seeds of life are conceived into new life and grow in the protective environment until they are ready for new birth in the world. The chapel is the center where all people are welcome to come to God for the needs on their hearts. People need God's help when their need is beyond what medical care can do. People get connected to God in a deeper way at their point of need. And people of all faiths are delighted to find a team that has God's compassion for their need."

So, we are rather like spiritual midwives, helping to "deliver" God's children into abundant life through healing prayer and the touch of Jesus. New hope is found as the Holy Spirit ministers

through our love and compassion. But it is important for us as prayer ministers to build a culture of faith around us with expectation that God will meet every need in His sovereign way and time.

Francis MacNutt encourages us with these words in *The Prayer that Heals*:

“If you have a lively belief in God’s goodness and faith - that He is on the side of life and health and that He also has the power to bring us healing when everything we have done has failed - then you have the kind of faith that is sufficient to bring about healing. (Even if you don’t have that much faith, pray with what you do have, and you will still find that wonderful things happen.)”

In writing about the gifts of the Spirit in chapter 3 of *The Essential Guide to Healing*, Randy Clark uses two scripture verses to connect power, the promise of God the Father and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In Luke 24:49, we read, “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Acts 1:8 says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Randy makes this correlation:

“It has been said that there are hundreds of promises in the Bible, but there is only one ‘promise of the Father.’ The greatest promise and greatest inheritance is this promise of power. The power is made known through the energies of God, as the Orthodox would express it. Paul also speaks of the “energy” (Greek *energeia*) of God working in him in Colossians 1:29. These energies are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a primary example.”

Randy continues, “Peter helps us see in Acts 3:12 that the power that works through us is not our power. We stand in a role of dependence. Peter asked the crowd who were amazed by the healing of the beggar at the Temple gate, ‘Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?’ We cannot manipulate this power. Rather than us using this power, the Lord uses US by releasing His power through us.”

The power that Randy talks about is a gift that comes through the fruit of abiding in the Vine. Jesus has commissioned us and given us authority in His name, but then He instructs us (because we are His disciples as well and He is no respecter of persons; what applied to the Twelve applies to us today) to “wait until you have been clothed with power from on high.” When we have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are clothed with power from on high. The degree to which we earnestly seek more of Him each day has a great bearing on the efficacy of that power.

Randy writes, “The power of God is the believer’s source of joy, peace and hope. Romans 15:13 says, ‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’ See also Colossians 1:27, which refers to ‘Christ in you, the hope of glory,’ which I believe means more than hope of receiving a glorified body. I believe it means that and MORE - it also means that because Christ is in us, we have the hope of seeing the glory of God manifested through the works we do through Him by faith - that is, healing, deliverance, miracles, signs and wonders. We must be careful that our preaching does not appear to indicate that we are serving the ‘I Was’ or ‘I Will Be,’ but that we are serving the ‘I

AM.”

Further substantiating what Randy has to say, Bill Johnson writes in *The Essential Guide to Healing*, “The best way to create an atmosphere of faith is to start with an overwhelming awareness of need and realize the impossibility of our assignment from God. Often we get caught up with what is possible through human effort...Being overwhelmed with the task at hand should take us quickly to the end of our resources - which is the beginning of His resources. Faith is the primary tool used to access and release all that He has made available. This is no small matter. Jesus said the Father had given Him EVERYTHING as an inheritance. It is the Holy Spirit who transfers EVERYTHING to our account through His declarations (see John 16:14-16). Every time He speaks, a deposit is made into our account that enables us to complete our commission.”

“Faith pursues. The nature of faith is reflective of God’s nature. Part of the definition of faith is believing that God is a REWARDER (Heb.11:6). It is not good enough to believe that God exists or that He can even perform the miracle I need. The devil believes those things. Faith lives out of the revelation of God’s nature as a REWARDER. The following is a list of things I have done and still do to increase my personal experience in faith and the experience of the church I pastor:

- 1) Cry out to God - be specific and passionate in pursuing miracle breakthroughs. Paul said to pursue earnestly spiritual gifts.
- 2) Bible Study - The Scriptures reveal how the Holy Spirit moves. We especially see how He moves through the life of Jesus. Look for models from Scripture. Look especially at all references to the Kingdom...
- 3) Research History - Find books written by the generals of God’s army - those who have lived or are living the supernatural lifestyle.
- 4) Impartation - Pursue the men and women of God who live a miracle lifestyle and ask them to lay hands on you and pray.
- 5) Associations - Grace is that which enables us to live a Kingdom lifestyle. When you associate with those who regularly experience signs and wonders in their lives, it rubs off.
- 6) Obedience - We pray and obey, and we learn to make room for God. Radical obedience - a life of risk - is needed for continual breakthrough...
- 7) Stewardship - One of the primary principles of the Kingdom is that INCREASE COMES THROUGH USE.”

SERVICE PROTOCOL

Ephesians 6:19 - *Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.*

2 Timothy 1:6,7 - *For this reason I remind you to fan into flames the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

Psalms 46:10 - *Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.*

Isaiah 61:1-3 - *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, and provide for all who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.*

Romans 12:1 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

As we near the end of these training sessions, I thought it would be beneficial to summarize some essential suggestions as well as to mention some of the hindrances we might encounter as we minister in the context of the hospital chapel.

Procedurally, we will gather as a team an hour prior to the service to worship, cover ourselves with the whole armor of God, and prepare to minister in the name of Jesus to all who come. Always remembering that we are a holy priesthood, we carry a high authority as we represent our King. We are the earthly hosts of His Presence and carry that anointing with us. There will be worship music playing as people come and a hospitality person will greet them at the door, welcoming each one and providing warmth and reassurance. We will have a brief time of Scripture reading and sharing about the healing power of God, and then prayer ministers will gather in groups of two or more to pray with those who wish to receive. If requests are made for badged team members to visit patient rooms, that may be done following the service.

Here is a general summary of suggested steps as we pray:

- 1) Ask the person's name, what their prayer need is, and how they would like you to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to discern root issues.
- 2) Ask about their faith and their perspective on what God is doing.
- 3) Ask about their family and whether there are others with this issue; ascertain whether there is any bitterness or unforgiveness.
- 4) Pray for God to give wisdom and revelation on their situation.

- 5) Ask if you can lay hands on them and anoint them with oil. If they are uncomfortable with either, honor their boundaries.
- 6) Tell the recipient to not consciously try to pray but simply receive the love and healing that God wants to impart. Pray encouraging and edifying Biblical prayers and ask for feedback of any improvement. Ask them if any symptoms have disappeared or if there is a sense of heat or tingling.
- 7) Pray commanding prayers as the Spirit leads. If demonic spirits manifest, quietly tell them to leave without their making a scene. Tell the afflicting spirits that they must submit in the name of Jesus.
- 8) Some people will need to make a confession of sin in order to release the burden of guilt that is blocking their healing. We as prayer ministers have the authority to dispel their guilt by saying, "In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven." Then remind and encourage them to "go, and sin no more."
- 9) Pray Biblical blessing over them and their loved ones as the Holy Spirit leads, and encourage them to continue to pray and believe God's healing Word that has been spoken over them. If appropriate, offer some of the literature resources available in the chapel.
- 10) Ask them to return and share testimonies with us of what God has done.

We will undoubtedly encounter individuals who have never received healing prayer before and who may be somewhat apprehensive about it. If we approach each one with the love of Jesus, expressed with an open, gentle countenance, they will be reassured and more able to receive. We can encourage them to "soak" in His Presence and just relax and receive. Some may need to be assured that they will still be in control of their mind during the prayer process. Others may wonder if there is something wrong with them if they can't feel anything or if nothing happens. We can help them to discern if there is an obstacle like unforgiveness or unconfessed sin that they need to bring before the Lord so He can take the burden from them.

Encourage prayer recipients by telling them that they are in a very safe place where nothing can harm them. They can weep, tremble, smile, laugh - however the Spirit of the Lord leads.

When you are praying for an individual and healing seems blocked, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to proceed. After questioning the prayer recipient about any bitterness, unforgiveness or unconfessed sin, consider the following possibilities: a lack of necessary inner healing; a curse pronounced over the individual or family or a vow made by the individual; generational matters; Freemasonry; occult activity; lack of belief in God's ability to heal today; guilt; disobedience; ungodly soul ties; a spirit of affliction or infirmity; a spirit of fear; false belief systems (such as God causing the person to get sick to develop their character).

If you discern or are given information by the prayer recipient that helps you to determine what the hindrance is, pray with them again, addressing the specific issue and dealing with it by name. This may involve leading them in a prayer of forgiveness; a prayer of confession of sin; breaking any curses or vows; severing ungodly soul ties; renouncing occult activity; casting out afflicting spirits, etc. If you are not comfortable with this type of prayer, ask another member of the team to help you.

Many times over the years as I have practiced healing prayer, I have found sometimes that I am too aware of myself and how I am sounding as I pray with others rather than focused on Jesus

and His love for the one coming to Him with trusting expectation. If I take the time to first find my rest in Him, I have the peace of His healing presence to offer others. Abby shares very wise words about this in her book: “The key to provision of all our needs is the presence of God. This leads us to delight in His holy name. Too often we seek Him for our needs to be met, but He actually meets our needs while we delight in Him.”

“Worship to bring the presence of God in the chapel is key to lifting burdens. It is uplifting to our hearts, and the anointing of the Lord breaks every yoke. People come to the chapel to find help in desperate health situations and find a refreshing presence that makes their stresses not seem so burdensome after all. It is a place of peace where the sacrifice of praise has been made even in suffering, and the peace of God brings emotional freedom and victory. The Lord even anoints their minds with the oil of gladness.”

“Let His love captivate your spirit and cleanse your spirit of all emotions that rob your peace and destiny. Let His light shine on your face that you would behold Him. May the Lord bless you and keep you and give you peace. May He warm our spirits, comfort our souls, and heal our diseases that we would be *at ease*, not *dis-ease*. Let us come into Your presence together that we would have unity among us.”

“We pray that our differences would subside as we worship together. Let the Spirit and Bride invite all to come to His banqueting table. Your loving presence draws us with Your lovingkindness. Show us great and mighty things to come in the earth and in our lives. Let destinies be fulfilled.”

PRAYER OF COVERING

Heavenly Father, we bless your holy Name and declare that you are the King of kings and the Lord of lords! We thank you that we can come before your Throne by the power of the Name and blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God. We acknowledge that His death on the cross cancelled our sin debt in full and purchased our eternal salvation, healing and deliverance from the spiritual forces of evil.

Thank you for the authority you have given us in the Name and by the blood of Jesus to do those things that Jesus did because He now lives in us. Holy Spirit, we welcome your Presence and submit to you our will, our rights and all control. Rule and reign in us as you work with us to bring freedom to the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. We clothe ourselves with Christ and put on the whole armor of God to protect us from the Accuser, Satan. We place on our heads the Helmet of Salvation to guard our minds, for you have given us the mind of Christ. We put on the Breastplate of Righteousness, for you are Righteous and have made us your righteousness; we buckle around our waists the Belt of Truth, for you are the Truth that sets us free and in you all things hold together; we step into the Sandals of the Gospel of Peace, for we walk in step with your Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit is peace; we lift up the Shield of Faith to deflect the flaming darts of the enemy, for it is by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved and He is our Shield, our glory and the lifter of our heads; finally, we hold at the ready the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, that is quick and powerful and sharper than any double-edged sword, the Word that has created all things and is the power of life for those who believe.

We proclaim your steadfast protection over us, our family members and loved ones, our homes, vehicles and possessions, and everything you have given us stewardship over. We agree with your Word that says that whoever dwells in your Secret Place will rest in your shadow. Surely no evil will befall us and no disaster will come near us, for you have commanded your angels concerning us to guard us in all of our ways. We hold to the promise that you are able to keep that which we have committed unto you against that day and that you who began a good work in us will see it through to the day of completion in Christ Jesus.

As we intercede for your beloved children, Lord, show us your heart and reveal it to the ones who need your healing touch today. Make a holy highway for us, Father, that the way might be clear and the path straight. Shine your light in the darkness and bring new life to those wounded places in the name of Jesus. Now unto you who are able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or even imagine according to your power that is at work within us, to you be the glory in Christ Jesus and the Church, both now and forevermore.

AMEN.