

HEALING WAYS

CHRISTMAS/WINTER 2024



Creator Expectations

The International Order of St Luke the Physician (UK)



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Editor's Thoughts

Alan Coode



In this edition we combine Christmas with the shortest day in winter. The theme of this issue is **Creator Expectations**. I think about the poem of winter in Love's Labour's Lost, act V, scene 2 - by Shakespeare, who wrote about the four seasons.

*When icicles hang by the wall
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When Blood is nipped and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who; Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.
When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl.*

Makes you feel cold, doesn't it? I just put a coat on!

In this edition Rev. David Walton leads with an article about the peace of God in this world. He uses a painting

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by the American artist Edwin Hicks called the “Peaceable Kingdom”, showing the colonists and native Americans happily living side by side with predator animals living beside the young of the colonists. Predator and prey co-existing beside each other without tension. We need to pray for peace with the Middle East and the Ukraine trapped in war.

The article by Rev. Mary Richards gives us some Christmas thoughts. She shares some words written by Fr. Jim Wilson who was involved in the Guild of Health.

Mary’s grandson, Tristan Richard wanted to contribute from the point of view of a young adult searching for his way forward - an interesting article.

An article by Rev. David King looking at the book of Job. David concludes that having the right attitude throughout is what our Creator wants and we need to adopt.

An article by the Ven. John Scott, which points to our selfishness and as a result our ability to sin, without realising it. There is a way forward. As St. John says, *“We are part of His creation and our first priority therefore is to look to ourselves and make sure when Jesus comes and calls we hear our name.”* The article was so good that I highlighted some sections.

I wrote the next article titled, A Cycle of Life, which explored the picture on the front of the magazine in the light of ‘Creator Expectation’. It is amazing where the Holy Spirit will lead us.

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The next article is taken from our sister organisation in North America's magazine Sharing: A Healing Testimony by Ted Parsons. It is good to be able to read all personal witness articles.

Our Director, Rev. David Walton, gives us a review of what has happened in the Order. Two things are important: first there is the conference next June 21st led by Alison Bryan. Details are still being worked out. More in the Spring/Easter edition. Second, Jim Birch has been coping with serious health issues and he has resigned as Associate Director for Scotland.

I was moved to write a poem about a Homeless Christmas.

Lastly, we look at our website, exploring items we may have missed. In this, we tackle the websites thoughts about prayer.

Thank you to all those who have contributed. It is so good to have your articles.

Lastly, this is your magazine and it is only as good as you make it. Please do not hesitate to send in comments on what is good and what is not so good; on what you'd like to see more and brought forwards and what you'd like to see less of and dropped. As editor I'd love to read minds, but I can't. Only you can translate your thoughts into words and send them either by phone, mail or by email – contact details on the back page.

Alan

God's Peaceable Kingdom

Rev. David M Walton



In Advent, we hear again from the Prophets; one of my favourite passages is Isaiah 11:1-9. A weed is indeed just a plant in the wrong place, but when it grows into a tree in the wrong place, it can be deeply damaging to nearby buildings and must be

removed. Those who have cut down a tree and then watched as shoots start to form from the stump, commercialised in the practice of coppicing, know the power of the image that Isaiah gives us, “*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*” (Isaiah 11:1)

The troublesome tree that needed to be dispensed with represents the Assyrians, who it was understood were sent by God as judgment on the Israelites for their waywardness. The King of Assyria, Sargon II, saw himself as more important and powerful than God and became ever more oppressive over the Israelites as time passed. Isaiah provides a hopeful image of a different future. A peaceful kingdom where: “*The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the*

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calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:6-9)

News recently that the saplings that have sprung up from the stump of the Sycamore Gap tree are being given to a range of places and organisations where the trees can grow and, in time, be seen by the public in various parts of the land brought some joy from what has been a sad, and for many, devastating destruction of the original tree. Isaiah's imagery must have brought great hope to an oppressed people. He invokes the name of Jesse, the father of King David, and then sets out the image of a kingdom which is the total opposite of the people's experience. A new start, yes, but more than that. The imagery invoked by Isaiah for this renewed nation portrays a radically different kind of kingdom: a peaceable kingdom. In this kingdom, evil will not flourish; there will be equity for the meek. It overturns the expected 'business as usual' as relationships of power and dominion are rethought. Predator and prey will find a way to live with each other in peace.

The American artist Edwin Hicks uses this image in many of his works. In the "Peaceable Kingdom". The main focus is the imagery from Isaiah. But to the left, we see the portrait of other characters. Colonists and indigenous

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First Americans sitting with each other as Hicks, a Quaker, recalled the agreement by William Penn (the Englishman who founded Pennsylvania) and the Lenni Lenape tribe to live peacefully with each other. The



“Peaceable Kingdom” by Edwin Hicks (1834)

painting was created long after this legendary event when Penn is said to have proclaimed: “We meet on the broad pathway of good faith and good-will; no advantage shall be taken on either side, but all shall be openness and love.” Hicks used this story in his art to encourage a spirit of reconciliation and peace in his own time.

Fred Kaan’s hymn, “For the healing of the nations”, is a favourite hymn in my congregation. “Lord, we pray with

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one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords. To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word”

Isaiah’s image of a peaceable kingdom gives us hope in a world of war, hatred, and division. It also gives us a model and goal for how we live our lives. Jesus, in his ministry, often healed just one person, but in doing so, he began transforming our world. We, too, can bring healing to the brokenness of our world today by living the peaceable kingdom each and every day and, in small ways, transforming our world.

David



Divine love and human faith

Rev. Mary Richards



'Healing Ways' will no doubt arrive in mid-December when countless people are in the midst of preparing to celebrate Christmas, which makes the theme for this issue very apt. Rooted in preparation is expectation. Rooted within all world religions there is an expectation of how people should best behave and live

and our manual is of course the Bible which starts "In the beginning, God" and so I want to start with God, our Heavenly Father.

It is a wonderful and amazing thing to stop and consider that God, the creative power of the universe, the source of all life, has provided for all our needs in a truly beautiful world and given us in the Ten Commandments, a set of rules for the best way to live. Moving on in history God promised a Messiah, a Saviour for the whole world. And so we come to Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who would eventually surrender His life to crucifixion for the sins of the whole world. It seems to me that our God has enormous expectations of and for everyone born into the world. He has provided for our

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every need especially if we believe and trust in Him. Jesus repeatedly said and demonstrated in all His miracles that He was one with the Father and expected the Father to work through Him. For anyone involved in the healing ministry, that expectation of God the Holy Spirit working through us is vitally important. God obviously expected Jesus, His Son, to fulfil His will and Jesus expected the people of His age to recognise the creative power of God by His teaching and the miracles He performed, culminating in His gruesome death. But God's people, the Jews, were expecting someone very different, a powerful leader, a King who at that time would overthrow the Romans occupying their country. I feel within expectation is an element of faith and hope.

If a truly loving parent desires only the very best for a child, maybe in a little way we can understand how God desires not only the very best but so very much more for everyone. That so much more is eternal life, life beyond this world in heaven.

Is not our faith and trust in God as revealed in the man Jesus, an expectation of His promises, in response to the expectations of God in and for us?

With Christmas in mind I want to share with you some words written by Fr. Jim Wilson¹ who was very much involved in the Guild of Health many years ago when the

¹ From "Growth in prayer (with meditations for a year)" - Jim Wilson, 1964.

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Guild's headquarters was at Edward Wilson House in London. Dr. Edward Wilson was part of Captain Scott's South Pole party and older brother of Jim.

“The birth of Jesus was the beginning of a whole lifetime of incarnation. From the moment of His birth until His resurrection, everything that He was and did and said was revealing God to us in and through our human nature. God was made flesh in Him. As we see Jesus at any moment of His life, we see something of God. As He was a helpless baby entirely dependent upon His mother and others, so sometimes is God. We can neglect Him, crucify Him, make Him suffer as men could and did to Jesus. As He bore all suffering and prayed for His murderers and didn't want to punish, so He loves us while we are sinners and hurt and neglect Him. But also the fact that God was incarnate in Jesus revealed the truth that God is always like that; He is always working to reveal Himself in creation. He reveals Himself in all the beauty of unspoiled nature, in human nature at its best: yes, in the bread and wine of the Communion. God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all, and He ever works to let His light shine out through all creation and through us in perfect goodness and love’.

*Though Christ, a thousand times in Bethlehem were born
but not in me,
‘There all in vain,
To me reveal Thyself today, dear Lord.’*

Beyond flesh and blood

Tristan Richards



In addressing this question, firstly it is important to convey what we as individuals understand to be meant by the term 'creator'. For many thousands of years, humans have sought to find meaning in life, to map out a true sense of what it means to be. Traditionally, a large part of society have found personal meaning in religion, in revealed truth, the word of God. So what of those that have

not found solace in such places, do they lack meaning, purpose or understanding? To those who are believers and followers of Christ, the son of God; is it not true that all humans are made in his image? If so, what can be said of those that either happen not to believe, or choose not to? Can this deeper Christian understanding be transferred from believers unto the unbeliever, and in doing so grant a reprieve to both parties, in the name of deeper connection with fellow man?

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May a distinction exist between the spiritual and the religious, must the two terms be synonymous? I believe one can exist without the other, maintaining the belief that humans, as with all other creations, exist within a sea of energy, a writhing mass of consciousness permeating throughout the universe. Therefore, when attempting to answer what it might mean to have a creator, and what expectations may present themselves before us, I will take the approach of the spiritual, in place of the religious.

Planet Earth just so happens to be a place that we as humans call home, and as far as we are aware, it is all we have ever known. As of 2024, we are yet to answer the question “are we alone in the universe?”, due to this currently unknowable fact, it has often led us to believe that we are special in some fundamental sense. With that said, we are made of flesh and blood, experiencing the world with our human senses, our perceptions; garnering meaning through the ways in which we interact with the environment, other creatures and people. However, we are much more than just flesh and blood, we have a sixth sense, a spiritual and esoteric sense, one that cannot be explained with reason and logic. Housed within us is a sense of burgeoning, a flame, a drive that compels us to go on, to search for and achieve more. This drive is not merely a result of evolutionary biology, there is something much deeper at play. As we age, this deeper sense of what it means to be, and the desire to understand, grows stronger, burns brighter. In our living world, we as creatures are interconnected, one with each other, separated only by the

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physical bodies that we reside within, brothers and sisters, all owing to the same beginning. So how can we rectify all the hurt and troubles in the natural world around us? Herein lies the key to the original question of 'Creator Expectations', as to garner appreciation, love and respect for everything we experience, it is imperative that we understand the ways in which we are not unique; in that we are all one and the same. Once this understanding has been established, it is clear that evil and hatred may only manifest through division, through the separation of what is deemed friend or foe. So what of our morals, where must we seek the answer to such fundamental questions? In the simplest sense, in order to answer this, we must look inward, to find peace within ourselves, to understand the meaning of acceptance, the healing power of forgiveness and the obligation of self sacrifice.

“In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12), this quote alone provides the backbone for all that we should strive for in life. Gifting us with structure and a collective mantra by which we can align ourselves with, to achieve a greater good. To love unconditionally, to give without receiving, these are qualities that foster and nourish us not only as individuals, but as a collective spirit. For if we consider any expectations that may be placed upon us, love is the most important of all, the true creator, the ultimate purpose.

Our Creator's Expectations of Job & his friends

Rev. David King



When discussing Job's problems, which included sickness – some go to painstaking lengths to prove that Job's words and actions caused the extreme challenges he experienced during a brief period of his life

(between nine and eighteen months many scholars reckon). Yet, regardless of whether they played a role, Job chapter 1 gives the definitive behind-the-scenes cause of “blameless and upright” Job's problems. They arose from two conversations between God and Satan, where Satan, thinking he could turn Job against God, was granted permission to kill Job's children and destroy his resources and health, but was forbidden to take his life.

There are extreme theological views about Job's troubles, which range from using it to justify any trouble amongst God's people, recognising Satan as culprit in such matters, or joining Job's three friends in blaming blameless Job for bringing about his demise via his fears, confessions and actions.

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But based on the book of Job, his troubles were not caused by God, just permitted by him for reasons God alone knows. The book is challenging reading, not fitting comfortably into standard Christian theology. Even the outcomes following his troubles – ten more children, a doubling of previous possessions, and 140 more years of life – can still leave readers in bewilderment over the whole situation.

C.S. Lewis, struggling immensely with grief following his wife's death from cancer, penned troubling words about God, publishing *A Grief Observed* under the pseudonym N.W. Clerk. It shows that many thousand years later, Christians can still experience anguish over sickness that they struggle to handle.

But God, whilst taking issue with some of Job's words about him during Job's afflictions, was very displeased with the words spoken to Job by his friends - Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, who should have been comforting him.

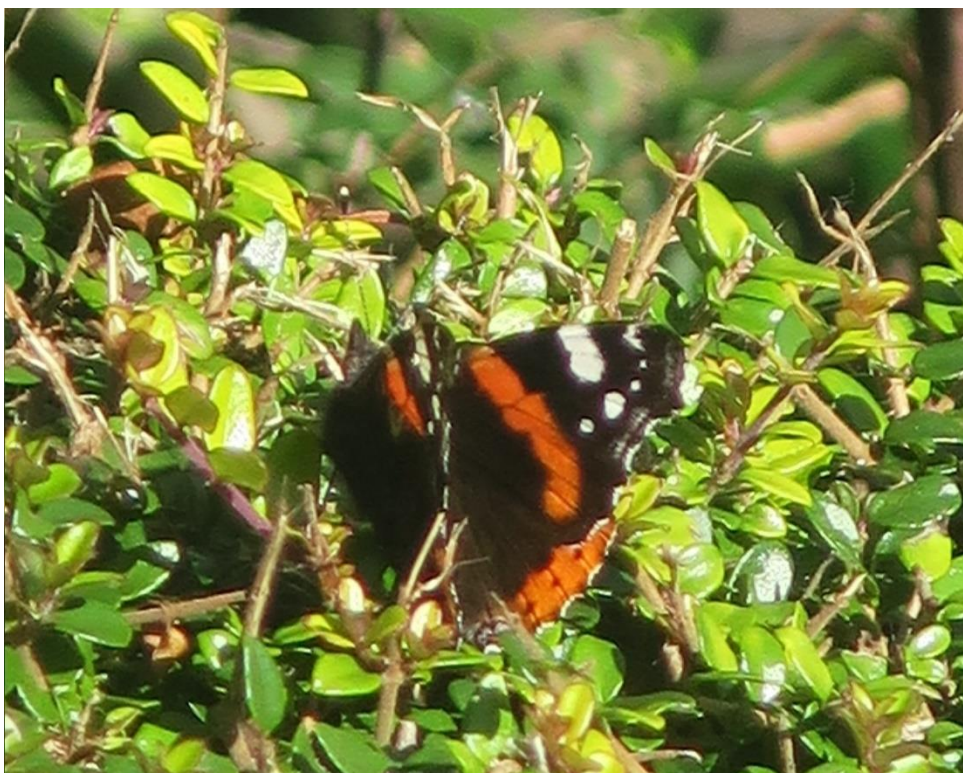
The three friends variously believed that the good, loving, just Creator was correcting Job for some sin, or that his children may have died because of their sins or his, or that he was reaping what he sowed, and repentance would make things good again. A fourth friend Elihu offered something different, commenting on Job's current words and attitude. Notably, God seemed not to address Elihu's comments.

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Perhaps surprisingly, God expected Job not to falter throughout, but to have confidence in him and his purposes. He proceeded to expose Job's shallow awareness of gigantic issues, showing Job that he lacked the wherewithal to judge rightfully this contextually minor situation, which led to Job recanting the wrong things he had said during his suffering.

And what do we learn from this? When experiencing sickness or other sufferings, it may not be anything to do with what we have or have not done. Having the right attitude throughout is what our Creator expects. And we should trust that he is totally good, and that anything he permits is ultimately for our good and that of others, and for his glory.

David



From Selfishness and Sin to a Loving God

The Ven. John Scott



According to Genesis when our God created the world he was pleased with his creation – He saw that it was good, and presumably hoped that it would remain so. Sadly however human selfishness and disobedience took over as the Garden of Eden story explains. Interestingly nearly every time the word selfish is used in the bible it is accompanied by the word sin i.e. Selfishness and Sin. **Sin is**

a wedge which separates us from God and sadly like a wedge one sin often leads to another pushing us further and further from God.

God is all about Love, Caring, Kindness and Hope etc. – Selfless qualities. Qualities God would have wished for mankind – his wonderful creation - to emulate. However as society shows we fall sadly short. So as part of God's creation we are left with a choice. Being Selfish or Selfless

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1. Following Jesus and his example and in Him looking forward to salvation and being redeemed in Christ or
2. Pursuing selfish desires leading to eternal death rather than eternal life.

Just now in the church calendar we are beginning the season of Advent. As the hymn puts it, Advent tells us Christ (and Christmas) is near - Christmas tells us Christ is here. Advent means coming and points not only to Christmas and the first coming of the Christ child - the way of our salvation out of the human dilemma - but also points to the promise, nay warning, of His second coming. **His first coming as I've said – offered a solution – a way of salvation.** The second however is to Judge i. e. make judgement on those who acknowledged what was offered and accepted it.

When Jesus was on earth. He was a rabbi – a teacher. He taught through example, parable, storytelling and sermons but he was also a healer and a reconciler – someone who sought to make life whole for people in body, mind and spirit and more in line with God's original intention for humanity. Sadly many people see the healing ministry only in terms of physical healing. Yet so often – and I think this has been accentuated by Covid - deep seated psychological, learned behavioural or past traumatic experience issues manifest themselves in physical sickness, so cannot be effectively cured without getting to the source of the problem. **Complete healing therefore**

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must incorporate Body, Mind and Spirit - Wholeness Healing.

Our world faces many challenges right now – I don't think anyone would deny that. **What it lacks is moral compass and good leadership in all its many spheres.** i.e. societal change. The wedge of sin and self interest is prising it further and further from God. Whereas this should be a cause of major concern for all right thinking people I am heartened to be reminded that it has been like this before. **Let us remember therefore that it is, first and foremost God's world. He is in control. We are part of His creation and our first priority therefore is to look to ourselves and make sure when Jesus comes and calls we hear our name.**



A Cycle of Life

Alan Coode



Where is the Holy Spirit leading me with the theme Creator Expectation?

A month ago I had to cut down a beautiful rhododendron which had gorgeous white flowers and brightened the place in April of each year. Between last spring and this September it dropped

all its leaves and its twigs became brittle and snapped. It had died.

So, the chain saw was brought out and the cord pulled, a notch was made on one side of the trunk and a cut was made on the other. If I left it, it would drop branches and fall over when the weather was bad and not when it was convenient. The twigs were collected and the trunk was cut up and given away.

On the last day of October (was that Halloween?) I noticed that something was pushing up beside the bark of the stump. What could it be? I pulled the bark away, woodlice fell to the ground and a 'flowering' mushroom came into view. The truth will out. The rhododendron had been attacked by the mycelium network. It was

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interesting that it could not help itself but fruit with mushrooms. I took a picture of it and it is on the front of this edition.

It looks like it is exploding out of the trunk. That is only because it was constrained by the bark. I wonder what it might be. My immediate thoughts were that it was honey fungus. It is everywhere, it seems to be more carnivorous than herbivorous and it kills plants. I was not happy to cut down the rhododendron, but I had no other choice.

After I took the photo, I could not help thinking, that it was a parable for me. What could it mean? My thoughts wandered. I thought of my job in a potash mine (potash is the orange bits you find in artificial fertilizer you buy; it is potassium rich, which is good for plant roots and stems). The mine had to reduce the work force and I had the job of accompanying, those who were leaving, to security and the company gate and off the property. You do what you have to do. My sympathy was with the men.

My mind wandered some more. The union president of our local had been talking to me one evening. “You know” he said “I once found a brood of skunks.” (skunks have two things, both of which makes you want to avoid them: first an ability to spray a very unpleasant fluid from a gland near its tail over anyone nearby – it stinks and stays with you for months and secondly it is the carrier of rabies). The president continued. “Well I caught all the little fellas and put them into a tank of water. Initially the little fellas swam to stay alive, but I pushed their heads under the water and they all drowned.” He laughed at the

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thought. “I tipped the water out of the tank and kicked the bodies into a ditch.” I was disgusted. Was he testing me to see if I could take it? Did he really do it or was it a story? It was a magnificent *tour de force*. He was in the business of negotiation and this sort of thing did not excite me, which is what he wanted, to throw me off my balance.

Slowly it dawned on me that that mushroom was like my thoughts about the union president; growing up inside my mind and without me knowing it slowly killing my ability to enter the kingdom of God.

The mushrooms look SO UGLY (yes do look again at the front cover). Maybe my thoughts were the same and rather than being harmless thoughts about the perfection of others and the standard I would like to hold others to, they were destructive to me.

What was it that Jesus said? My mind sprang to the Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl in Matthew 13: 44-46. “*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*”⁴⁵ “*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.*”⁴⁶ “*When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.*” Does the first parable sound as though I am looking for the Kingdom and the second the Holy Spirit looking for me? I have been and am looking for the kingdom. Does *selling all that I had* mean giving up on my thoughts about the union president? Now that would be a steep price to pay! I have

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to decide whether it is more important to enter the kingdom or my long held self-righteousness? Quite quickly, the priorities came into focus. I knew what had to be done.

Was the Holy Spirit looking for me and did he find me? I think so. He led me quietly to the stump, encouraged me to pull the bark off (and ruin the carefully prepared homes of the woodlice) to show the picture parable and let me work it all out.

I sat back and looked at the ceiling of the room I was in. A picture of my mother talking to me thirty years ago came to me, when I came to visit her from Canada. She was saying, “I have a friend who is displaying dinky toys and I noticed that you had in your collection of toys from your childhood some excellent planes. Alright to give them to him?”

I was surprised. “Not really. I would like to keep them so that when I came back in retirement, they would be there. I can then decide what I want to do with them.”

“Oh OK.” Was her reply.

When I did come back, I looked for them and they were gone. She had taken them and given them away, knowing that she would not be around when I discovered the theft.

Was I supposed to forgive her? This really rubbed raw. Of course, I loved my mother, we all do, but this incident left a tough stain, which I was loathed to wash out. Wow!

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Another thing to clean out of the cupboard and throw away.

The Holy Spirit returned as I was day dreaming. He said, “You know you cannot remove your memory. Your memories make you what you are. They will be with you for the rest of your life. But you can forgive the person who hurt you.”

I gulped. ‘Yes,’ I thought. ‘I do not have to try to kill the memory in order that I might forgive, just forgive and live with the memory, knowing that forgiveness has been complete. How wise of the Holy Spirit.’

I smiled and, still looking at the ceiling, I thought, “Today, I expect to come closer to your realm, Father. Amen”



A Healing Testimony

Ted Parsons



When I was on the way to the Order of St. Luke conference near Oakhurst, California, in November of 2012, my physical healing wasn't on my mind at all. I had torn the rotator cuff in my right shoulder four years prior, and had been told by the surgeon who examined it that it had been damaged irreparably—it could not be repaired surgically. I had, by this time, adjusted to the limited mobility and ability that resulted—I couldn't raise my right hand any higher than the shoulder, and had almost no strength at all in the shoulder. But I had come to accept the situation as it was, and had no thoughts that it might ever change. I was going to the conference (I thought) just to learn more about the Order.

The speaker/teacher at the conference was Mike Endicott, who has a healing ministry in Wales, called Jacob's Well (www.jacobswell.co.uk). His teaching was very interesting, and although much of what he said I had heard before, there was quite a bit that was new to me. The way he put things together was different. His style was interesting and entertaining, so I listened carefully.

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On Saturday night, he asked if there was anyone there in the audience with a stiff neck or sore shoulder. Although my shoulder was no longer sore, I put my left hand up, and he invited me forward. After a brief discussion of what my situation was, he began to pray in the manner that he had been teaching us during the weekend—nothing like the "usual" requests for healing at all—just prayers of thanksgiving for what Jesus had done on the cross, and the glorification of God's kingdom. Less than five minutes later, I could raise my right hand above my head with my arm fully extended! Hallelujah! Praise God!

The next morning, during the Eucharist service, we were all holding hands as we said the Lord's Prayer. The hand that I was holding in my right hand belonged to a lady who had come to the conference after having an x-ray earlier that week that showed an image that the doctor couldn't identify. She was scheduled to have a follow-up x-ray the following week. She was a cancer survivor, so this was a definite concern. As we recited the Lord's Prayer, although I was not aware of anything out of the ordinary, she felt what she later described as a tuning fork sensation that went from her hand, up her arm to her shoulder, and across her chest. I learned from her later that the follow-up x-ray was completely clear! Praise God for her healing!

Later that day, after the conference was over, I went for a walk in the woods by a creek. It had been raining most of

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the weekend, and I wanted to see the waterfalls—they were great! When I returned to the parking lot, I entered into a conversation with a couple who'd been walking their dog on the trail. When I told them about my experience, the man said that he'd like to meet Mike because he had a bad knee. I said that Mike had left, and then I surprised myself by offering to pray for him, thinking that I'd try to imitate what I had learned over the weekend but also thinking that I didn't feel sure that I knew what I was doing. After praying for a couple of minutes, I stopped and as Mike had done with me, asked him how his knee felt. He got a strange expression on his face, took a couple of steps and exclaimed, "The pain's gone!" He continued walking around the parking lot with no difficulty, while I was literally jumping up and down with excitement and praising God. More Hallelujahs! I'd been doing exercises that a physical therapist gave me, and slowly regaining the strength in my shoulder. She had worked with me after my earlier injury, and recognized what had happened as a miracle of prayer. I was released from physical therapy — having passed all of the therapist's strength tests. My shoulder continues to increase in strength. There are many things that I can do now with my right hand and arm that I could not before! Praise God! Then, next January, there was another experience.

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At a dance weekend in California, I became acquainted with a lady who mentioned that she had problems with her shoulder and was planning to start physical therapy. Since that sounded very familiar to me, I offered to pray with her. On Sunday night, we looked for a quiet place to talk, which turned out to be my car. We sat there and talked about our thoughts about God & Jesus' healing. Then, before I began to pray, she told me that she had lung cancer. To encourage her, I shared the story that Mike Endicott had told us at the OSL Oakhurst conference about a lady who discovered she had breast cancer, and the repeated prayer sessions that resulted in her healing. Then I took her hand in mine and began to pray as Mike had taught at the conference and had done with me.

I believed that this was God's healing happening for her, out of his love & mercy for her.

A few minutes later, when I stopped to ask her how she felt, she said that she couldn't feel any difference in her shoulder, but that there was a strong sensation of warmth in her chest! She wondered if I had heated seats in the car—which I didn't. I believed that this was God's healing happening for her, out of his love & mercy for her. The warmth increased gradually and continued for some time.

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When I later dropped her off where she was staying for the weekend, I reminded her of God's love, and encouraged her to continue expecting her healing just as I did. In an email exchange the next day, she said that she has "great hopes and faith for a healthy future."

Since then, I attended the OSL North American Conference in Fort Worth, where I was blessed to not only hear from God what my purpose is, but also to pray with two people who were suffering from pain; one in their shoulder and the other with an arthritic thumb. Interestingly, in the case with the painful shoulder, I had no idea that she was suffering, nor did she ask me to pray for them. As I walked past her, I was moved to stop, put my hand on her shoulder, and just stand there—wordlessly, without consciously praying. When I began to move away a couple of minutes later, she asked me to put my hand back, saying that the place where I had placed it, was where her pain was. She said she could feel heat under my hand. Within another couple of minutes, her pain was completely gone!

The woman who was suffering from an arthritic thumb said that as I held her thumb and prayed, she could feel the pain shooting out from the end of the thumb, and then in a few minutes, the pain was gone and movement in her thumb was completely restored! Our God is indeed very good and all the time!

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Naturally, (supernaturally?) I've become very interested in the healing ministry, and have taken two levels of courses from Francis & Judith MacNutt's Christian Healing Ministry in Jacksonville, Florida, and attended another regional OSL conference, where I've learned more and seen other instances of healing through prayer.

Ted Parsons, Conference Coordinator, has been active in the Episcopal church for almost 50 years. He served in Cursillo for over 25 years as a team member including as weekend Rector and Secretariat Chairman. Ted joined OSL over 10 years ago. Currently, he serves as Convener for the South Bay Chapter-San Diego. He has assisted others in becoming regular members. Ted has attended six healing conferences, served as coordinator of prayer and healing teams for 40 years, and also served on his church's pastoral care committee for years. Plus, he has contributed to our Sharing magazine multiple times.

This article has been reprinted (with gratitude) for the permission of their past Director, Josh Acton, of our sister organisation, OSL North America, from their magazine "Sharing", a Journal of Christian Healing, September/October 2024.



Director's Roundup

Rev. David M Walton



At our last Council meeting we finalised some of the arrangements for our next AGM and Conference. It will be held on Saturday 21st June 2025. Do put the date in your diary. It will be led by Alison Bryan, who is a Coordinator of

Healing Ministry in the Methodist Church. She will focus on healing and prophecy. We have not finalised a location yet but will do so soon.

Another big issue we discussed is expanding membership. Like the church in general, we are getting older and fewer in number. We reflected that the healing ministry isn't seen as important in most churches and isn't part of curriculum for the training of new clergy. We therefore need to look at ways to proclaim Jesus the healer in our churches where we worship and to use today's means of communication to link with new generations.

I was saddened to hear that The Revd. Jim Birch has decided to stand down as Associate Director for Scotland. Jim has been coping with serious health issues for some

CREATOR EXPECTATIONS

time now and feels it the right time to step down. We thank him for his service to the Order of St Luke UK over many years. I will miss his words of wisdom in our council meetings. Please join me in praying for Jim's healing and for peace and comfort in the months and years ahead.

I wish every reader of Healing Ways a blessed Christmas.

David Walton



A Homeless Christmas

Alan Coode



Some places are warm, when your clothes are all torn.
They offer you shelter away from the storm
The pavement is hard and its surface is cold
The living is easy or so I am told.

I'd celebrate Christmas and cherish the bliss
The family's goodness and love will be miss'd.
The presents are nice, but they don't mean a thing
If given away without love on the wing.

I'd think of the past, but it wasn't to last
When days were all happy and none of them mask'd
My wife was a woman, who's full of good cheer
Who fill'd up our home with her laughter and tears.

We covered our tree in an ornament's sea
The lights on the branches were placed there by me.
Our Season was rich with the message adored
We glorified Christmas, the birth of our Lord.

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The presents for three, were a wonder to see
There's some for Samantha and Jimmy and me.
At church, all our friends shared the best of the year
And after we'd meet and partake some good cheer.

The day after Christmas, the phone took our bliss
The message it carried was hard as a fist.
Our Jimmy, our darling, was hit by a car.
It happen'd in town on some newly laid tar.

It wasn't a car driven ever so far
By traveling salesmen who came from a bar.
The driver, you see, was the nicest old man,
Whose vision was blurr'd by the lights of a van.

His Sorrow was great, but the crossroads of fate
Had focused the birth of a terrible date.
We drank one or two at the start of the Wake
We carried on drinking to the day's early break.

I gave in to drink, while my Sam was the link
To keep me from tumble-ing over the brink.
They told me my work was effected and poor.
They gave me some means, when they show'd me the door.

My Sammy withdrew with a weird sort of crew.
She said that it hurt her to watch me undo.
She wasn't being mean when she led her own life
And left me alone with no son and no wife.

CREATOR EXPECTATIONS

I struggled away for a month and a day
And peddled the house and the contents for pay.
I took what I could of my Jimmy's sweet things -
The rest were consumed in the fireplace that Spring.

So I wander'd around until I had found
the secret of life's little troubles abound.
I've travelled since then, but my friends are all here
In town .. on the streets .. and the corners .. all year.

Some places are warm, when your clothes are all torn.
They offer you shelter away from the storm.
The pavement is hard and its surface is cold
The living is easy or so I am told.

Alan



Our Website: Items you may have missed

By Alan Coode

The Order's website is at www.osl.org.uk and the web master is Rev. David King. We have a list of resources available.

Under the heading of RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS there are a number of additional resources to download

**Quick Overview — Prayers — Blessings —
— Running a Chapter — Our History —
— Manual for Members — The Rule of the
Order — Prayer of the Order**

Over the months we'll look at each of these as we explore our website. Today we'll look at "Prayer". It starts with the prayer of the Order, which we looked at in the last issue. Next there are ten

Prayers for Healing.

Following this we have four

Prayer on entering your Room/house

Then we have four more

Prayers on Leaving a Room or House.

There are three

Prayers on Suffering

Lastly we have

CREATOR EXPECTATIONS

Arrow Prayers

Demonstrate Love

Dear Lord, help me to live my life so that it demonstrates your love and draws others to you. (Stephen Rand).

Gifts of an abundant God

Abundant God, may the transforming presence of your grace, multiply the gifts I offer in service to your world. (Stephen Cottrell).

Patient God

Patient God, teach me to watch and wait. Teach me to see and hear. (Stephen Cottrell).

Turn to the Lord

Help me to turn to you, dear Lord and Father, whenever I am aware of my sin. (Rachel Boulding).

God of Blessing

O God of blessing, you love to pour out on us the abundance of your kindness. Give us grace to live with such simplicity, such humility, that our lives have space to receive all that you long to give. (Penelope Wilcock).

Followers of Jesus

I pray for those who will suffer today because they follow Jesus. (David Runcorn).

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CONTACT WITH THE ORDER is best through the website
at www.osl.org.uk