



Fall
Issue
2007

InterACT

The Newsletter of the Association of Christian Therapists: Healing with the Heart of Jesus

Datebook...

ACT Regional Conferences

Region 43

Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2008
Lake San Marcos, CA
Contact: Nancy Morgan
sdact@cox.net

ACT Regional Retreats

ACT Northeast

March 14, 15, 16, 2008
Espousal Center
Waltham, MA
With Fr. Robert Faricy
and Cheryl Nyguyen.
Contacts: Pat Hurd,
603-882-1503,
phurd1503@aol.com
and Jackie Sitte, 781-
341-6179
jmsitte@verizon.net,
"I have called you by
name" Is. 43:16

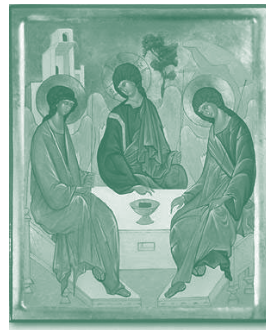
Region 12

March 30-June 1, 2008
Benedictine Abbey
Benet Lake, WI
Contact:
bjcar60@sbcglobal.net

Plan Now...

ACT Pilgrimage

Ireland, May 2008
Father Joe Scerbo,
Chaplain. Contact:
Jennie Dodson
jenniemdodson@yahoo.com
905-335-6902



THE CHRIST WITHIN US

Retreat Reflections by Sister Betty Igo, SFP, MS, MEd

"...through Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father." *Here we become involved in the very rhythm of Trinitarian life in the movement between one Person and another. The Trinity is not, so to speak, at the head of the line but is itself the line along which our prayer passes. This is a prayer mode with the Trinity and not just to the Trinity. Because of the love infused in us by the Holy Spirit, we love God through God. We can say the same about prayer in general: "We pray to God through God." Christian prayer is distinct from all other types of prayer precisely because of this.*

As I read the above words in Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM, Cap.'s book *Contemplating the Trinity*, my heart leapt. The author's words, that we Christians "pray to God through God," jumped out at me and I realized that they were calling for a

deeper pondering. Being on retreat, I began to reflect on them.

When we, as Christians, pray "through Christ," we are praying in the power of the Indwelling Trinity and not just sending created ego energy to the one in need of healing. By faith we are united with, and prayerfully sending forth, the uncreated, Divine Trinitarian energy of Love, Goodness and Truth that dwells within us. Our union allows for the very life and healing energy of God to flow through our prayer to the ones for whom we are in intercession.

Taking it yet further, I wondered, as we are united to the cycle of love within the Trinity and loving "God through God," *we are praying that the same Divine healing energy of the Holy Spirit that empowered the Risen Jesus*

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Forrest Stewart Yanke. LCSW, PhD



As I go through my day, with the ups and downs of working with the homeless I am reminded of a popular praise and worship song : “In the Name of Jesus, we have the Victory.” I believe that through the **Name of Jesus**, we can expect miracles, both large and small. Indeed, I count on Jesus to be

amongst His people, ready to heal, ready to comfort, and ready to open the eyes of the blind.

In ACT, we know that in the **Name of Jesus**, mountains can move and healing, thought impossible, can occur. At the recent ACT International Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas we heard stories of how Jesus healed the mentally ill who were down-trodden and hopeless.

As we think of the people we serve, let us remember that someone may have to **carry** the discomforted person to Jesus. That person may be you. You may be the ‘good Samaritan’ with the “heart of Jesus” called to shoulder the “weight” and bring the person to the true healer, Jesus Christ. This becomes a form of **evangelism**.

In our official meetings we talk about **evangelism**, and it takes on lofty meanings. But Evangelism can be as simple as saying the Name of Jesus to a person you aren't sure knows Him, or daring to mention in a healthcare meeting (and open the door) that it is appropriate to talk about the spiritual dimension of the person, as well as the physical and mental. Evangelism occurs when you ask to pray with nurses or mental health techs before an intervention is done with a patient/client or when you offer to pray for a person on a street corner, who is crying or disturbed. Evangelism can

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FRIENDS' SALUTE

PAST PRESIDENT MARGARET JEFFERS, MEd



Thanks Margaret for encouraging the ACT Board Members to interact online. You made “ voting on line’ the norm. Thanks for your heart of gold which opened the doors of ACT to members in distant lands- Africa, India, Mexico. You helped propel ACT into the international arena. The position of Ambassador Abroad is your doing. But what stays with us the most is your heart of prayer, nourished as it was by your contemplative spirit and your unique leadership style that recognized the goodness in every member—inspiring trust among members and generating stability within the ACT community. Likewise, ACT reaped the benefits of your participation in the ecumenical “Shalem Institute” and your intercession for each of us. May the prayers return to you a hundredfold, as you continue to recover from

your quadruple heart bypass surgery. May your dream: “that every ACT member recognize the healing presence and power of the Christ that dwells within” come to pass. Lord, thank you for the presence of Margaret in our midst. She is loved.

INTERACT

Submissions for InterACT: InterACT welcomes articles, poems and photos for consideration. All submissions subject to editing.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 1, 2007
(Winter Issue) storysunday@optonline.net (Editor's desk)
Mention ACT in the subject line.

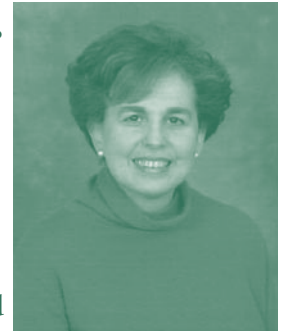
Theme: ACT International Conference, *Reflections on the Gathering...A Time to Envision Possibilities*. Send feedback.

EDITOR'S NOTE...

Gloria Doino, MA

Yeshua, Called Jesus...Known by Many Names:

Messiah ● Lord of Lords ● Healer ● King of Kings ● Prince of Peace ● Good Shepherd ● The Alpha and The Omega ● The Way ● The Truth ● The Light ● Savior ● Priest ● Redeemer ● Cornerstone ● Lamb of God ● Mediator ● Suffering Servant ● Counselor ● The Christ ● Emmanuel, God With Us...



The list is endless. In this issue of InterACT, we seek to Know Jesus and Make Him Known. “Who do you say I am?” is the question. Sister Betty Igo answers with a dynamite reflection on *The Christ Within*. Dr. Thomas Hicks calls us to pray the same Psalms that Jesus prayed in *Lord, Open My Lips*. And a reflection on the life of Reverend Charles Kadahl, *Well Done!* gives us a role model of one who lived his life in Jesus. All part of what we feel is an exciting issue during this special season of Advent.

Marantha, “Come, Lord Jesus.” For it is Through You, With You and In You that God's promise to Abraham is being fulfilled. “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen 28:14). To that we add a rousing AMEN!

THE WORD

“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET” (PS. 119)

CANDLES IN OUR CORNER

Gloria Doino, MA

Some folks have all the luck. Take Lot. When God mapped out Abraham’s itinerary, a one way trip from Mesopotamia (today’s Iraq) to Canaan, Abraham took his wife, his wealth and nephew Lot. One wonders how Lot made the cut.



Genesis’ account of Lot reads like a bad dream. Lot’s herders wrangle with Abraham’s herdsmen over grazing rights. To avoid strife Abraham pacifies Lot by allowing him to choose any plot of land. Lot picks a place near Sodom, only to be captured and lose all. Abraham gets word of it, leads the rescue mission, and refuses any reward. Lot is safe .

Next, a band of wicked townsmen come pounding at Lot’s door. Lot’s guests, who happen to be angels, turn the tables on them and save the day. As a bonus they warn Lot that Sodom is a doomed city about to be destroyed and urge him to save his family.

But Lot’s family resembles Lot. His future in-laws think he jests, his wife defies instructions, even Lot himself stalls. The angels take matters into their own hands and lead Lot out of the city. “Flee to the hills”, they beg . Lot refuses. Instead he demands a ‘city’ sanctuary. So plans are revamped, his request is granted and the angels hope they have seen the last of Lot. But no sooner is Lot settled in the city of Zoar, than he suddenly decides he is better off in a cave and leaves town for the Hills!

Abraham must have wrung his hands over his nephew’s plight. But Uncle Abraham is also a seasoned Intercessor, *the only person in Scripture ever to be called “the friend of God”*, (Is.41:8). “He goes early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord” (Gen. 19:27). And God heeds his prayer. “So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow”(Genesis 19:29). *God spared Lot’s life for the sake of His friend Abraham. The prayers of good people are very influential before the throne of God.*

Like Abraham, we are called to the Charism of Intercession. Like Lot, we need “Friends of God” in our lives . . . lighting *Candles in Our Corner.*

LORD, OPEN MY LIPS

THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS AS DAILY PRAYER

Dr. Thomas Hicks

There is the natural rhythm of time. There is day and night, the year with its seasons, the working week and Sunday. With the prayer known as the Liturgy of the Hours, we sanctify this flow of time; indeed, sanctify our journey through time. Most specifically, with the Liturgy of the Hours one stays in touch with the rhythm of the day, the passing of the hours. It is recited seven times a day: early morning, midmorning, noon, mid-afternoon, evening, night – and then there is the “office of readings,” which can be inserted in an interval best suited. “Hours” does not refer to sixty-minute hours. Each hour is a matter of minutes, during which we celebrate and sanctify the time of day.

The contents of this official prayer of the Catholic Church are derived mainly from Scriptures. “As an authentically Christian form of prayer it lends itself readily to ecumenical groups. For more than 1500 years, the life of Christian communities has been shaped by this dynamic collection of Psalms, hymns, prayers and readings” (Seth Murray). The psalms have the prominent place. The psalms capture the whole range of human emotions and thus are a marvelous way of expressing our own innermost feelings. They give voice to all the cries of our human heart – joy, pain, frustration, anger, grief. The psalms contain a surprising amount of complaining about suffering.



The psalms are like a mirror in which we can see ourselves and the stirrings of our own heart; we can recite them against the background of our own emotions. These psalms echo some of our deepest yearnings and our strongest fears.

As St. Ambrose, put it: “The Liturgy of the Hours is a shield when we are afraid, a promise of peace and serenity. Day begins to the music of a psalm. Day closes to the echo of a psalm.” Ambrose went so far as to say that people should content themselves with the Liturgy of the Hours and not burden themselves with other vocal prayers. St. Alphonsus

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FIELD NOTES

LETTING GO OF CREDENTIALS

Jeremy Ashton

When I joined ACT, I was asked to bring a “radical commitment” to Jesus Christ. I took that to heart. This step was to have serious implications. Credentials, professional status and a secure career offer a sense of security, social acceptance, and purpose. In my case, God removed me completely from the alleged advantages associated with my experience and degrees in education and ministry.

ACT has received many prophecies in which the Lord asks us to let go of our credentials. At some point I prayed, “Lord, I give You my credentials, my professional status, my recognition, my reputation and my career.”

Even if it is the Lord’s will, these words still have powerful consequences. There is often a price to pay when one follows a call. Not long after this prayer, my ten-year stint in mainline Protestant ministry ended and I found myself in a predicament.

It was March 2000 and I was now working as a TV cable mapper. I had zero experience in the field. My trainer, as I later discovered, had insufficient experience. I had to send technically accurate maps of actual or proposed cable layouts from New Hampshire to an office in Kentucky. I did this because it was the only work the Lord put in front of me. Meanwhile, I prayed for the land as I walked it. I had no idea how to do this job, and if I asked for help too often, the company might get suspicious and fire me. Therefore I depended utterly on daily miracles to survive. They happened, but the faith stretch I experienced was not fun; I was accustomed to knowing what to do.

By now it was almost eight years since the doors to the role and the work we call “professional” had closed. I had

been a special ed. teacher, a private school principal, a counselor and an ordained minister. Nothing had worked. I had left Canada, on a slim hope based on an interview with a special school in New Hampshire. The school never called. Now I was an illegal alien, avoiding peoples’ dogs in their backyards, trying without clues to understand how their local TV cable was or should be placed, so I could send in data and be paid.

The endless daily miracles on the job, while stumbling through thorns, snow, police questions, red tape nightmares, confusion, financial insecurity, frequent moves; these signs confirmed to me that the Lord was with me.

But the hardest part of the loss of professional status, for me, was the real or imagined judgments, not only from others, but from myself. I would have questioned the journey of any colleague doing such strange things. “No career doors opening? You must be missing God’s perfect will, or else lacking wisdom. Here illegally, too?”

Every wound is an opportunity, a potential opening for more of God’s light to pour through. But instead, to compensate for the job and lack of support from extended family and community, I sought the spotlight. For a while that kind of fix worked. I had a few speaking engagements and the beginnings of a local healing network. Then God took all that away, or so it felt. Now I didn’t even feel like talking to people in ACT or in other circles where I had experienced some of this “recognition.” Largely through my wife Maggie’s lead, I kept in touch. So where is the good in all this?

I’ve long believed in the New Covenant. To me, Scripture was saying that the



Jeremy and Maggie Ashton

Holy Spirit falls upon “all flesh,” will lead each one into “all truth,” and that we will “not have a need for anyone to teach us.” Professionalism says the opposite: “You need someone to teach you, and make you qualified.” But all along, I seemed to be having a conversation with God that went like this: “When, Lord? When do I get out of this low-paying job and get back into something suitable for my gifts and talents?” God’s answer seemed to be, *Not long now. Hang on.*

And yet much later, the same question elicits the same answer. I’m not saying God is stringing me along. We are not in serious debt. We are healthy. I get a lot of prayer time out of the long commute to work. We have a purpose where we are.

In past years, I could distance myself from clients, I could delegate work, stand behind a pulpit or a well-designed program, with the client on the other side of that, having them deal not with me but with words and systems. Now, in a job as an educator aide, I am linked, joined, and almost identified with a handicapped young person. But being this close to someone, I am learning something that has eluded me for 40 years.

Recently, in a middle school science class, I lengthened and almost severed the leash I’d kept on my autistic student. He was to do a multiple-step

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SPECIALTY GROUP NEWS

PHYSICIANS' RETREAT

Meg Bason, MD

When I first heard about the healing retreat for physicians (at Christian Healing Ministries, Jacksonville, Fla.), I immediately wanted to participate. I thought back to the many traumatic experiences during medical school and residency training, some 20 years ago, and I wondered what God would choose to heal me from. I had been blessed greatly through ACT and CHM's healing ministry, culminating in the birth of my son after seven years of miscarriages, and seven years of healing prayer. I wondered if this special retreat could make me a better, less-wounded doctor. I went to Jacksonville expecting physical, spiritual, emotional and generational healing and I was not disappointed.

I told the prayer warriors about the first time I ever had to tell a patient they had cancer. I told them about the first time I had to declare a patient deceased. I told them about the first autopsy of a patient I knew, that I had to observe. The prayer ministers were wonderful, asking the Lord to cut me free from all these memories and give me His peace. I experienced physical healing when they did this.

Many of the physicians present marveled at how they had been led to the retreat. One physician spoke of having received "manna from heaven" during the retreat. All were touched. Those present represented varying specialties: Pediatrics, Pediatric Ophthalmology, Pediatric Neurology, Internal Medicine, Urology, Dermatology, Obstetrics and Gynecology.

CHM has intensive prayer ministry for anyone coming a distance. I was very happy to be a part of the first retreat they had for doctors. I hope they do it again. Many docs need the healing.



Dr. Meg Bason and Robbie

SIGNS AND WONDERS

...A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

According to Patti Gallagher Mansfield, longtime leader in the Charismatic Renewal, "Personal testimony is the single most important tool we have for evangelization." Before the days of e-mails, the words of our lips ignited peoples' hearts, set them on fire with the Holy Spirit. We witnessed!

Suggested media pick: *Proclaim His Marvelous Deeds: How To Give a Personal Witness* by Patti Mansfield, available at her website: www.ccrno.org. Then send your witness on to InterACT. We want to hear your story. We want to hand it down to the next generation for the precious treasure that it is. It is our hope to print the stories in a book entitled *A Cloud of Witnesses*. (Our target for distribution is the ACT International Conference 08.) The news is too good to keep!

GLOBAL ACT ON THE ROAD AGAIN

"Christmas in Kenya" is the latest word from Friar Joe Scerbo, ACT's Ambassador abroad. Fr. Joe will be giving workshops to clergy, the cloistered Carmelite nuns and local African groups. ACT member Bishop Martin Kivuva of Machakos, Kenya, has graciously invited Fr. Joe to present. Then, former regional superior and Franciscan Sr. Aquillina, ACT member, will meet with Fr. Joe in Nairobi and bring him to the much-talked-about Massai people in Tanzania. Untold possibilities exist for an information exchange between the African clergy/religious and the ACT visitors.



Friar Joe Scerbo

Fr. Joe will bring the "Cross of San Damiano" to Bishop Kivuva to be donated to a local church as a means of uniting us across the miles. Fr. Joe reminds us of Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa (preacher to the Pope), who urges us to not remain "inbred" as organizations, but to reach out to other shores. "Surely websites can be marvelous tools for doing that; they are the new form of evangelization," encourages Fr. Joe! "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ" are words to live by, says Fr. Joe.

Lastly, on January 14, 2008, Fr. Joe and ACT member Fr. Javier will be traveling to Kerala, India to visit ACT's newest international member, Sr. Joan Chunkapura, a medical missionary nun who runs a center for drug addicts and alcoholics. Myriad thanks go out to Fr. Javier for making so much of this venture financially possible. Pray for ACT Africa. Pray for ACT India. Pray for Fr. Joe as he goes 'on the road again.'

GOING GLOBAL MEDICAL TREATMENT

With healthcare costs spiraling, some Americans are choosing to travel to other countries for less expensive treatments. People are reaching for the mouse to find medical care abroad. Some U.S. companies and insurers are even encouraging the trend to help keep their health costs down. People who have never had a passport may opt to get surgery in a foreign country simply because it is the only way that they can afford to get the needed treatment. On the other hand, many are concerned with the risks and feel patients should receive care back home, close to loved ones with a doctor and a hospital that are known to them. However, the relative ease of the medical journeys, such as having an agent to take care of all the medical details from surgery to recovery, is gaining momentum.



The reviews are mixed. *Patients Beyond Borders* by Joseph Woodman explores the new

trend of “going global” for medical treatment. While saving money is the major attraction, saving time also appears to be a benefit. Appointments in foreign countries can be obtained quite readily, which all makes for food for thought for healthcare professionals who may be asked to give an opinion. For more information and to help evaluate the trend, go to www.aarp.org/bulletin.

CREATOR MUNDI WORKS OF ART

For sacred symbols of the highest artistic quality and ecumenical breadth that will touch hearts and inspire the soul visit www.creatormundi.com

ONLINE THERAPY

Online therapy is now available 24-7 by e-mail or instant messaging. Websites such as etherapistsonline.com post information for licensed therapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists. Verification of credentials (such as board certification) is essential as potential clients search for help. E-mails usually elicit a response within 24-96 hours. Instant messaging provides real-time conversation. The cost varies but is generally between \$30 and \$45 per e-mail. Charge cards and PayPal are generally accepted. Questions include discussion of medical history, medications, and conflict resolution. Strategies are offered by the therapist and if an in-office visit is required, the suggestion is made. Two questions come to mind for your consideration: Do the obvious risks outweigh the benefits? Do Christian therapists want to investigate the model?



FAITH – FRIENDLY WORKPLACE

E-mails may include a scriptural reference, employees may ask for a prayer room, chaplains are being hired – companies are being challenged to be faith-friendly by their employees. This is not to be confused with faith-based companies. Companies are being asked to recognize the importance of spirituality in their employees’ lives, not to preach to them.

More and more employees are expressing a desire to integrate their faith with their work environment. No one is asking to impose their belief system on anyone else. Rather, faith-friendly companies are being asked to create a culture of respect for diversity and tolerance for differences. Policies are being written that cover the prevention of religious harassment and training is being offered on how to accommodate different religious backgrounds. The end result is the recognition of the importance of faith in the employee’s life.

Strong morale and contentment among the workers begets higher productivity and better customer-friendly attitudes.



When drafting policy guidelines for religious sensitivity, the following questions are suggested :

1. Is company policy inclusive?
2. Will it prevent law suits?
3. Will it promote understanding?
4. Will it scare off talent?
5. Does it empower minorities?
6. Is there cooperative dialogue?
7. Is the language inter-faith sensitive?

(adapted from B. Robinson)

RADIO SHOW

Linda Schubert

A new radio program with internationally popular author, and ACT member, Linda Schubert will be held every Tuesday morning from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Pacific Time. Linda Schubert, author of *Miracle Hour* and other popular booklets, will be hosting a live call-in program on Radio Maria. You can connect with “Linda Schubert’s Miracles of the Heart program” from anywhere in the world through the internet. Check your time zone and tune in through www.radiomaria.us Click on live broadcast and also e-mail her with comments and suggestions at www.miraclesoftheheartministries.com.

THREE CHEERS FOR PALLIATIVE CARE !!!



Even when faced with a serious illness, the desire of the heart is to carry on with everyday life as best you can. But first you need relief; relief from pain, relief from stress, relief from symptoms. You need to understand your choices and how best to tolerate your treatments. Diane Meier, M.D. has found the solution to be *palliative care* (AARP '07). Palliative care has as its goal to relieve pain, symptoms and the stress of serious illness, regardless of the diagnosis or prognosis. It is a growing discipline among many hospitals today. It is a team effort that includes doctors, nurses, social workers and anyone else who might be needed for a particular case working in tandem with the primary doctor.

The concept of palliative care is totally changing the way doctors and hospitals treat serious illness. Most doctors simply do not have the time, for example, to hold ninety minute family meetings for their patients when fifty more patients are back in the waiting room. And even those who would like to do it lack the training. Palliative care is not hospice; that is for the patient who expects to live six months or less. Palliative care teams may follow patients for months, even years.

The center for the advancement of palliative care ("CAPC") in New York City has seen palliative care programs double in hospitals over the past few years. It is said to cut cost by up to three thousand dollars per patient. Thirty percent of hospitals and seventy percent of teaching hospitals now offer palliative care.

The end results are that patients flourish because they are not treated as a list of symptoms but as individuals who deserve to be living the best quality of life possible, even up into their nineties.

The Center for Advance Palliative Care ("CAPC")

CAPC provides healthcare professionals with the tools, training and technical assistance necessary to start and sustain successful palliative care programs in hospitals and other healthcare settings. CAPC is a national organization dedicated to increasing the availability of quality palliative care services for people facing serious illness. Direction and technical assistance are provided by Mount Sinai School of Medicine (www.capc.org).

As the nation's leading resource for palliative care programs CAPC provides seminars, audio conference, tools, reference materials, a robust website, and the palliative care leadership centers sm (pcl) a major training and mentoring initiative. It also sponsors www.getpalliativecare.org, a website for patients and families. CAPC may also be reached at (212) 201-2670.

ECUMENICAL MODELS

Christian Churches Together, a new ecumenical organization for the 21st century, is composed of 36 churches and organizations from virtually all Christian groups. They come together for fellowship, witness and to work toward unity. The group draws from Catholics, Evangelicals, Pentecostals, Orthodox, and mainline Protestants, to name but a few of its members. Its focus will be on evangelization and reducing poverty together. (www.christianchurchestogether.org) In a similar form of cooperation, a

Catholic parish built a Protestant church in Franklin Park, Pa. and received a gift of its own. Sts. John and Paul, a Catholic parish, and its neighbor, New Heights Church of God, each needed to build a new church. The former needed land, the latter needed funds. Parishioners of each church met and the Lord moved mightily. Eventually the Catholic parish bought new property and built a church for the New Heights parishioners, and in exchange New Heights turned its land over to the Catholic parish, which bordered its property. Sts. John and Paul built a new church on that property and both churches moved forward happily, having experienced a win-win for all.



Meanwhile, the three members of Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, Wis. are charting new ecumenical waters. Composed of two Catholics and a Presbyterian, the three women have formed a religious community that has drawn praise from the Benedictines. The two Catholic nuns needed to cancel one set of vows and take another set to start the new group. Their hope is to open their doors to those of all Christian faiths. It is similar to Taizé in its ecumenical character, but the only monastery of its kind in the world. They are monastic, ecumenical and Benedictine all at the same time. Oblates, friends, neighbors and hundreds of volunteers join them in their work. As women's religious congregations continue to grow smaller, this expression of 'unity in diversity' may well be one of the answers. (www.benedictinewomen.org)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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occur in a church or whenever you go where the Lord sends you. **The face of evangelism is your face, and the voice of evangelism is your voice**, when you claim, in the **Name of Jesus**, that there will be victory in some form for the person or persons who need Him and who need your **ACT touch**.

I encourage each of you to **reach out**, with all the tools that you have in your ACT tool kit. Give freely, as you have received freely, in the **Name of Jesus**. For it is: "In the Name of Jesus that we have the Victory." And it is in the Name of Jesus that His people will be healed.

LETTING GO

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experiment on his own. The sense of risk almost dissolved my lesson plan. The impulse to over-prepare him was jumping around inside me. He'd been quite weak at following oral or written directions and even at coping by copying other students. Nevertheless, by sharing with my agreeable classroom teacher my decision to back off, I was able to minimize my intervention. His performance was imperfect, but better than I'd expected. And I could almost watch his confidence grow. I had cut the leash.

I am reminded of the Ascension of Jesus. At the very moment his stumbling followers needed a concrete, visible figure to lead them, he cut the leash. No more human coaching for them, just the Spirit. The Ascension presents the loss of Jesus but simultaneously gives us the most intangible addition, that of the Holy Spirit. **When we let go, God acts. This is what God is teaching me. The New Covenant is real. We trust, and God will send His Spirit to teach and grow everyone.** We stand, believing, out of the way of the Work of the Cross, Resurrection and Ascension, and "greater things" than even those in the New Testament will happen.

My Lord, my God, for You, for this incredible Hope of the power of Your Spirit to utterly change the face of history and the earth, I would stand aside; I would yield over to You my career. How could I not? I love You. Your precious Promise inspires me. I drink of its sweetness and I want to throw away everything for You.

Yet I wake up on a given day, and I want out of the daily grind. I want the freedom promised to my generation: *get a good education, find a good, fitting career, and you'll get fulfillment and freedom* – then I remember I'm 62, without a retirement plan. But these regretful feelings occur less and less. The almost unteachable part of me is slowly learning – God *does* provide. He provides, not only for me and mine,

but also for others in my path who need what He offers, through the gifts He created in me.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR "CLIENTS"

Beneath the pain and fear

Each one is You, Lord

There to share the hope of freedom,

Not to be my living, my accomplishment,

Not my case history

Not my pedagogical example or my statistic,

But each one is here to offer

As much or more than I offer

Witness of Your healing love

And of Your perseverance on the journey

Of the Cross and Resurrection

Present in their struggles and victories.

Thank you, Lord, for each one,

And please forgive my professional pride

When I forget they are You.

I can remember each face

And in thanksgiving for each one

Lift up her or him

To Your love and light,

But more, much more

I can remember You, Lord,

In the eyes and in the yearnings of each one

And thank You for being there for me in them

In ways I hardly imagine. (Jeremy Ashton)



"We are sent on mission because of our deep experience of God. We are not sent on mission because of our resumes, our credentials, our experience or our careers. Mission is not about professionalism. Mission is about reconciliation, crying out for justice, banding with the powerless in word and witness... When we are on mission, when we go home to otherness, we find the experience to be shattering rather than soothing. All that we thought was the meaning of home, its secure, stable, convenient, comfortable environment is challenged, as are our unquestioned certainties... Most of us will acknowledge that our homes are divided and hearts are broken. We find a way out of the impasse. When we see that something is wrong, we must say so, but we must do it in a way that does not widen the gap, create deeper division and rip apart what is already torn... There is only one way: we must build bridges."

(Ann Willits, NCR)

THE CHRIST WITHIN US

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raise up the person for whom we are praying. This is far beyond our limited psychic energy; we are asking the Holy Spirit present in the indwelling presence within us to be the mighty healing energy available when we connect through our faith in Jesus. We are going directly to the Source of all Energy: the love of the Blessed Trinity.



Sister Betty Igo

I thought of Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who brought our humanity into the fullness of that indwelling cycle of love, and thanked the Father for His tremendous gift to us.

I thought of how Jesus spent His life here on earth as He spends His Godhead existence in the Trinity – seeking always to glorify the Father, do His Will and exalt Him to all His creatures. There is no selfishness in the Trinity. Even when Jesus was with us here on earth, He sought always to please His Father and spend His life teaching us how to do that. He promised us His Spirit so as to continue to free us to love.

I thought, just as His healing ministry flows from that Trinitarian love, so must ours. As with Jesus, healing begins in Community and its end is community. Romans 5:5 came to my mind: “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.” As Christians, we never stand alone in the healing ministry because that indwelling Trinitarian love flows through us. As we gather within

ACT to give public witness, I continue the hope that the healing power of the indwelling Trinity may be evermore set free to glorify the Trinity through us and continue its outreach of healing to poor, suffering humanity.

My heart filled with gratitude and the need arose to prayerfully ask for His guidance:

“I thank you, Father, for the action of Your Holy Spirit incarnating the Son within us each day as we envision and enter into the light of Your Trinitarian Love. May You send forth that same Trinitarian healing Love of the Risen Jesus to flow through us to our brothers and sisters in need of physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual healing. May we be so one with Your Divine Will that the Divine healing energy flowing through us will purify our own limited psychic energy and enrich it with the power of Your own Strength, of Your own Truth, Love and Goodness overcoming our world’s division and violence. And finally, may the realization of the Indwelling Trinity allow Jesus to become incarnate within us, as ACT members, and strengthen us to faithfully bring forth His healing ministry, allowing His Healing Presence to again be felt and acknowledged in today’s world.” (Sister Betty Igo)

“Jesus, as the son of God, is the first Other in the universe: he is the prism of all difference. He is the secret *anam cara* (friend of the soul) of every individual. In friendship with Him, we enter the tender beauty and affection of the Trinity. In the embrace of this eternal friendship, we dare to be free. There is a beautiful Trinitarian motif running throughout Celtic spirituality. This little invocation captures this: The Sacred Three, My fortress be. Encircling me, come and be round my hearth and home.” (p. 15, *Anam Cara*, John O’Donohue, HarperCollins Publishers, NY)

Footnote:

Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM, Cap., *Contemplating the Trinity*, translated

by Marsha Daigle-Williamson, Ph.D., Ijamsville, Maryland, 21754; The Word Among Us Press; 2007, p. 47.

OPEN MY LIPS

Continued from page 3

Ligouri said he preferred one prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours to a hundred private prayers. The Liturgy of the Hours can be more meaningful than any other prayer which human ingenuity or devotion might contrive.

With the psalms contained in the Liturgy of the Hours, we pray the same psalms that Jesus prayed, and reciting the Liturgy of the Hours puts one in union with our brothers and sisters throughout the world, in different time zones, who are also reciting these “hours.”

Reciting the Liturgy of the Hours is not hard to learn. It comes with instructional materials. With some practice, one “gets the drift” and attains an ease with it. A four-volume set (recommended) of the Liturgy of the Hours may cost as much as \$150; but it is a lifetime investment.



Dr. Thomas Hicks

So, with these prayers we focus the day around God, we stay in touch with the throb of time, the passing of the hours – indeed, with the earth’s journey around the sun. It gives us a heightened consciousness of time, its passing, its value. “It infuses daily life with holiness” (Seth Murray).

“The Hours sustain me.”

Thomas Merton

INSIDE ACT

REGIONS REPORT ...

NEWS BRIEFS



Region 12 (Illinois)... successful retreat last summer... 50 people in attendance, led by Doug and Fran Schoeninger... plans are set for the 2008 annual retreat, May 30-June 1. Region 12's goal is to empower all who want to be active and share their gifts. (B. Carlo)

Region 43 (San Diego)... recent events... Generational Healing Mass, Fr. Pat Crowley, Community Healing Mass, Fr. Dave Leon... Regional Conference, Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2008 sdact@cox.net (N. Morgan) All are invited to sunny California.

Region 29 (BVI)... Bonnie Lay presented a program to the Community Health Group sponsored by Molly Argune... served as an introductory meeting to ACT, provided time for witness, prayer and viewing of Dr. Michael Brescia's video. Molly and staff start the day off with prayer for both healing and intercession... Bonnie has been asked to speak again, in the name of ACT, to the hospital staff. (B. Lay, R.C.)

Region 10 (Canada)... 12/12/07 annual White Mass for healthcare professionals... ACT DAY is scheduled for Feb. 2008. ACT pilgrimage to Ireland, May, 2008. (J. Dodson)

Region 5 (Northeast)... Retreat, March 14, 15, 16, 2008, Waltham, Mass. (M. Ashton, R. Swegart, Co-R.C.s)

TRY THIS...

MULTIPLY THE BLESSING

"We are called to travel light – both physically and spiritually. What baggage are we carrying that we really don't need? What is really important to us? What are we ready to let go of if necessary?" So asks Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer of the magazine *Pentecost Today*.

If you are ready to let go of your old ACT conference tapes and videos, they could be sent to English-speaking members in countries which are in need of teaching materials. We have been so blessed in ACT. It is a way of multiplying the blessing. This program pick is meant as a Regional or Specialty Group project independent of the office.

If you have the "media for moving," we will get the message out through InterACT by asking if there are members interested. Imagine the joy of setting up an ACT lending library in India or Mexico. Imagine the joy of finding room at home for new ACT materials.

READERS WRITE

Ann Marie Porter writes:

Having just received my last issue of InterACT, I want to thank you for an outstanding job. I loved all of it, but the page on Lectio Divina was very special to me. I was introduced to this method of praying about six years ago and a group of us now meet monthly to participate in Lectio. Members have commented that Lectio has touched their lives through the obedience to the daily reading of the Bible. I, for one, am learning how Scriptures relate to my life right now.



I love the Quiet Time. It has brought more discipline into my prayer life and this leads me to increased sharing and works of mercy. As a Benedictine Oblate (we also meet monthly), I have come to love The Benedictine Rule based on Scripture. Each morning I use the Internet to read the Rule and Reflections for the day. And then on to the Liturgy of the Hours (see related article this issue, p. 3).

It provides for beautiful spiritual uplifting, as we are constantly immersed in Scripture reflecting on what they mean to us as individuals and then as a group. The sharing builds community. We in 2007 are learning the ancient ways of praying the Scriptures. The gift of Holy Scripture: Read, Meditate, Pray, Contemplate. (We have bookmarks highlighting the Lectio format, available upon request.) In closing, I am reminded of a Scripture I deeply love, Colossians 3:16-17: "Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In Wisdom Made Perfect, Instruct and Admonish one another. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns, and inspired songs. Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him."



Ann Marie Porta and Benedictine Oblates' Group

WELL DONE!

REV. CHARLES KALDAHL REMEMBERED



His was a tender heart, a heart fashioned for the forgotten. He ministered to the tough cases...the rejected, the isolated, the marginal. The Lord called Charles Kaldahl to “bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to release them from darkness.” Charles answered the call. The ones society didn’t want were the ones Charles welcomed. He was, in the words of ACT member Ken Fung, “a healer with the heart of Jesus.”

Born in May 1930, he entered Eternal Life July 9, 2007. He faced each struggle in life with the passionate plea: “Lord, take this situation and let me learn from it; make something good come from it.” The Lord honored his prayers.

Creative by nature, Charles had a gift for floral design and used his talent to pay for his ministry training. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California. He served as an associate pastor in two Lutheran churches and as a Christian presence in the streets at night. In the early hours of the morning, he responded to suicide calls, cooked eggs for the weary, prayed with prostitutes, gave Communion in unlikely places.

His Church had no walls.

As an ACT member he was ever vocal and well read, sharing the knowledge he gleaned from the likes of Agnes Sanford, Francis MacNutt or the Order of St. Luke. But it was through St. Timothy’s Healing Community (which he co-founded and served as director) that his “empathetic intuition” found its greatest outlet. There were also the prayer groups and cancer support groups that he started and served. His early days as a teacher had made him a natural counselor, a man with a listening heart. Prayerful healing followed his footsteps.

Then came the moment to retire and join son David’s family in the state of Washington. With his beloved wife, Jean, he made the transition smoothly. It was there, in the company of his loving family, that he was to face his final challenge. When chemotherapy did not live up to its promise, he chose Hospice, reflecting, “I can choose life with death or I can choose death with life.” He chose the latter.

Charles could be quiet or feisty. He was strong, stable, kind, intelligent, quick-witted, fun-loving, but above all a man of compassion. The accolades are many, but “faithful” seems to best describe his anointed life. “Comfort my people” was the song deep in his heart (Matt. 25:40). “Whatever you do for the least

of these, you do for Me” were the words he lived by.

Among many memories shared by ACT member Linda Schubert, one seems to capture Charles at his best. At a memorial service led by Charles, for Linda’s late husband, Charles took Linda’s schizophrenic stepson, Malcolm, aside and told him a story about his father’s love for him. Malcolm went back to Charles repeatedly and said, “Please tell me again about how my father cried for me when I was lost.” Charles consoled Malcolm by telling him the story over and over again.

In the last months of his life, Charles had coined the word “WOW” as a synonym for “AMEN.” With the deepest respect we now proclaim “WOW” to a life well lived, that of Rev. Charles Kaldahl.

Following Charles’ example, we pray, “Lord, take Charles’ life and let us learn from it; Lord, take Charles’ death and draw wonderful gifts from it.” Our deepest sympathy goes out to his beloved wife, Jean, and son, David, and family. May the Lord continue to comfort and console them. May He draw His faithful servant, Charles, to His bosom and repeat the well-earned words over and over again (for all to hear): “Well Done, Charles, Well Done.”

Compiled by G.Doino, L.Schubert

IN MEMORIUM

Rev. Paul Schaaf, CPPS, Founding Member, ACT. Send reflections for next issue.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS

ACT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE '07

Be inspired by the “Sights & Sounds” of the ACT International Conference by ordering DVDs and VHS tapes through Robin Caccese: 137 Proudfoot Drive, Birdsboro, PA 19508 or rcaccese@enter.net and Audio Cassettes and CDs from Vince Kirton: 160 Gibson Drive, Unit #8, Markham, ON L3R 3K1 Canada or by e-mail, vkirton@sympatico.ca. Order forms available upon request.



A-M-E-N!

Cradled
Reverend James Wheeler

At a time I cannot remember
my mother cradled me in her
arms
and I felt that no harm
would ever come to me

As I grew and lived and
fought
security flew like a bandit
into the depths of the night
where she was I do not know

I searched for a firm foothold
on the constantly shifting
earth,
a place to walk without fright
a place that would never cave

in my life I fought the
comforts
that offered me a pseudo
safety

a place that seemed so secure
but dissipated at a closer
glance.

Until one day I rode through
hills
on the Kenai peninsula,
stopped
at an amphitheater circled by
mountains
and wandered in the deep
bright sun.

As I stood at the center of
convection
where all the hills joined in a
valley
I took a deep breath, sighed
realized that I now lived

Cradled in the arms of God.

nuggets...

"Don't expect applause."

"A day hemmed in prayer seldom unravels."

"Growing old is inevitable...growing UP is optional."

miscellaneous...

As long as there is Algebra, there will be Prayer in School.

Larry Miller

www.webwatch...

Visit Us Online at (www.ACTheals.org) Be on the lookout for an all new website Spring 08!

The Journal of Christian Healing is back. Members and friends are encouraged to read the first issue for 2007 online or print out this dynamic volume.



Helpful websites that complement ACT's vision and mission are available for perusal on the ACT website. Send suggestions of other sites to chuck@usc.edu.

keep connected

Association of Christian Therapists (ACT)

6728 Old McLean Village Drive ~ McLean, VA 22101

(703) 556-9222 ~ fax (703) 556-8729 ~ ACTHeals@degnon.org ~ www.ACTHeals.org



Association of Christian Therapists

6728 Old McLean Village Drive
McLean, VA 22101-3906

**REMINDER: Use your member number
(DIRECTLY next to your last name) to access
the members only section of the ACT website at www.actheals.org**

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