



InterACT

The Newsletter of the Association of Christian Therapists: A fellowship of Health Care Professionals and Associates

DATEBOOK... Save the Date!

ACT International Conference

September 16-20, 2010
ACT International Conference, Albuquerque New Mexico, USA
Hilton Albuquerque
1901 University Blvd. NE
Tel: 1-505-884-2500
Fax: 1-505-880-1196
www.ACTHeals.org or contact Nicole Ritchey at 703-556-9222

2010 Southern California Annual Conference

Overcoming our physical, emotional and spiritual troubles
February 25 – 28, 2010
Lake San Marcos Resort
Lake San Marcos, CA
760-744-0120
For information, contact Roby or Lawrie Gallagher (714) 538-0730, gallagherr@sbcglobal.net
Conference schedule and registration available online: www.actheals.org

Sights & Sounds

International Conference '09 see page 4 for orders



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Kathryn was scheduled for a colonoscopy. Her prayer was always to see God in His people. Today that meant the operating staff. All appeared to go well, but complications lead to five days without the blessing of a hot shower. How she longed for one. Gratefully, student nurse, Amber came along. She asked Kathryn if there was anything she wanted. The much desired shower was discussed and granted. The only specification was that it be an assisted shower.

From the beginning, Kathryn was taken aback by the gentleness and empathy of the student nurse as she helped bathe her. She described the experience, "I felt reborn. Tears surprised me and began flowing down my cheeks and I hoped Amber wouldn't see them as they mixed with the shower spray." Kathryn went on to notice that Amber's uniform was wet and her shoes soaked. "You're drenched. I'm so sorry", she said. Amber smiled, "Don't worry about it." Again, Kathryn expressed her concern. It was February, she thought to herself. "How will you get home without dry clothes, she asked?" "Shush", whispered Amber.

Kneeling on the wet tiles, Amber continued by carefully bathing Kathryn's feet. Indeed it made Kathryn reflect on the Washing of the Feet. Kathryn relaxed and enjoyed the last of the hot shower. Later, Amber lotioned Kathryn's back and combed through her hair telling her she looked 'lovely'. It is said that "one kind word can warm three winter months". After a gentle "thank you" (lest her emotions get the better of her) Kathryn fell asleep. When she woke up she found a handwritten note signed by Amber saying, "God Bless." She regretted not having said goodbye in person to the caring student.

Unknown to Kathryn the student nurses evaluated themselves at day's end. Accidentally, Amber had loosened the IV in Kathryn's arm which caused some bleeding. She had graded herself poorly for the day. This came to light when Kathryn sent a letter to Amber's College reiterating her thanks, for the caring experience. The story was later used by the school as a teaching tool. The message was simple: "God sees the heart and the intent of our actions." When we minister to others heart speaks to heart. (Adapted from St. Anthony Messenger, March 2008)

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Dear ACT Community



We are instruments of God's healing presence. We have been prepared and are being prepared so that we are ready for the next leg of our call and journey together. At our International Conference in Jacksonville I heard repeatedly from ACT members, through various expressions, "This is a new day in ACT. We are crossing over into a new land (Joshua 3: 1-5). Send your taproot ever deeper into the heart of God and you, ACT, will bear much fruit." I see four emphases here: 1) Deepened intimacy with the Trinity manifesting in greater works in our healthcare practices and ministries; 2) growing love and appreciation for each other across our diverse disciplines, denominations and spiritual traditions; 3) growing integration of the four spiritualities Francis MacNutt spoke to us about on the Thursday evening of the Conference, evangelical, charismatic, sacramental/contemplative, and social justice; bold communication to friends, colleagues and students about ACT and Jesus healing presence and power.

I was so impressed by the quality of completeness that the focus on social justice brought to ACT in our conference. Francis MacNutt, Michael Brescia, Dale Recinella and Susan Recinella brought us powerful witness to intimacy with Jesus in caring for the forgotten. As Dale said, "If you look after His business, He will look after yours. When you touch the marginalized, you touch Jesus. When you touch Jesus you receive healing." What begins as ministry becomes a mutuality of healing.

Moving forward, the ACT Board and Councils have condensed the Critical Goals for the ACT 2010 – 2013 Strategic Plan to 3:

Goal 1: Equip members to integrate Christian healing into their healthcare practices and ministries.

Goal 2: Plan and implement major recruitment drive and member retention program.

Goal 3: Develop Board and Council leadership capabilities.

Under Goal 2, one Action Plan is: Each ACT member recruit two new members per year. Person to person is our primary means of growing ACT. Together we grow ACT. God bless you as you deepen your walk with Jesus, your friendships in ACT and reach out to communicate ACT to others.

Doug

Douglas Schoeninger, PhD
President ACT



EDITOR'S NOTE

Gloria Doino, MA

Permission granted to turn to the centerfold first. View Joe Duddie's photographic review of ACT's International Conference '09. From planners to speakers, from liturgies to healing services, from workshops to 'beach party'...dozens of people gave their all. Myriad thanks from your brothers and sisters in ACT! The conference will long be remembered because of your efforts. It was evident that God

was in the details. Do read the above President's message as Doug reflects and inspires. Next, let the Prophetic Word sink deep into your heart. Finally, open yourself to "Overcoming Obstacles" as you share ACT's treasures with perspective members. Do you have a winning strategy to add to the list? Here's mine: **Start doing what is necessary, then do what is possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.** Works every time.

InterACT NEXT DEADLINE: *January 4, 2010* (Winter Issue) storysunday@optonline.net (Editor's Desk)
Mention InterACT in the subject line. *All submissions subject to editing.*

SCRIPTURE

BOOK OF TOBIT

Tom Hicks



As the Biblical scholar, Carey Moore, points out (*Tobit*, NY: Doubleday: Anchor Bible, 1996), most Biblical characters are not people to whom I would want to be related. In spite of their much-vaunted beauty, piety, and courage I would not have wanted women like Esther or Judith to have been my mother, wife, or daughter. Neither would I have wanted Daniel, Isaiah, or Ezekiel to have been either my father or my son. I don't think I would want to go on vacation with Jeremiah, or have dinner with Elijah. I suspect that most "great" people of the Old Testament are fascinating and inspirational to watch from afar but difficult to live with.

However, I can honestly say that I admire and like Tobit and his family. I feel at home with them. They are simple, everyday folks, trying in a very difficult and dangerous world to be good and to do good. The Book of Tobit is an edifying story about the lives of two pious families: Tobit's family in Nineveh, and Raguel's family in Ecbatana. They are hardworking people with distinct personalities. And, of course, there is the angel Raphael.

The Book of Tobit is fiction with a kernel of historicity. There are many historical inaccuracies in the book. The anonymous author was cavalier about getting all his facts straight; he was interested in telling a good story.

There are obvious similarities between a couple of ancient folktales and the plot of Tobit. The author clearly drew on a combination of the "Grateful Dead" and "Monster in the Bridal Chamber." These folktales are given a distinctly religious stamp. It might be said that the Book of Tobit is a Jewish legend built upon some traditional fairy-tales. The Jewish author transformed these tales into the legend of Tobit. The dog in the Tobit story probably derives from some versions of the ancient folktales. To say that the story is fiction in no way denigrates its value as truth.

The book was written sometime during the second century B.C. by an unknown author, who places his folktale in a historical frame, an important phase of Israelite history, the time of the Assyrian deportations from Northern Israel in the 700s B.C.. It can be noted that the bulk of the story in the book of Tobit is carried by dialogue. Briefly, Tobit is the story of a devout and charitable man who – blind and miserable – sends his son, Tobias, to collect some money he deposited with a friend. An angel joins Tobias on his journey, and in the end Tobias returns with the money, a beautiful bride, and a miraculous cure for his father's affliction.

The angel Raphael is God's agent in vindicating the faith of two worthy people, Tobit and Sarah, whose devotion to God, in the end, brings them blessings. The Book of Tobit asserts the reality of the divine operation in human affairs. It portrays God's providence working subtly in the midst of ordinary life. Indeed, it gives a portrait of a God who carefully orchestrates events in human life, and presents mercy as God's primary attribute. It tells of God dispatching angels to deal with humans mercifully. In Raphael we see that the function of angels is to act as guides and protectors.

The story of Tobit tells us that God hears, pays attention to the cries of his people, and that an ordered plan of God is surely unfolding in our lives.

PROPHETIC WORD ACT International Conference

Gaylene Baier, RN



Ever faithful, the Holy Spirit anointed the Word Gift Team with prophetic words for the body of ACT. Many attendees had to leave before the conference ended, so were unable to hear the commissioning words at the final assembly. The Spirit is speaking this word to all of ACT, not just the few left to hear it on Monday. We pray that you will hear it with an open heart and respond to this needed gift of the Spirit.

"I give you Holy Boldness. This is a gift of great power, therefore you must use it with great care. I call you to have my gentleness in use of this gift. Unloving boldness itself can be sharp; it has the ability to wound ones heart and soul. I remind you, this is HOLY BOLDNESS—a gift from me. When you use this gift, you must first hear my voice clearly and you must prepare yourself to follow my lead.

Speak forth that which I reveal to you. Speak with my authority and most importantly do so with a gentle tone and speak only with my love—speak only with my love."

"My sons and daughters,
You have allowed me to open your eyes and your ears.
You have allowed me to soften your stony hearts.
The world has not changed, but you have been changed.
Go forth into my broken world with my love.
Time is short!
My Little Ones, I need you. I need you. I NEED YOU!
Your "YES" is critical."

(Complete transcript of Word Gifts on website)

ACT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! RENEWED THROUGH ACT

Rev. Joseph Ogbonnaya



I came to know of ACT through ACT member, Mary Salvador. Mary and I work at the same facility. As hospital chaplain I care for the needs of the Catholic patients and staff while Mary is a nurse. When Mary dropped off an ACT Niagra Falls Conference flyer, intended for a colleague, she asked if I might be interested. Initially I was not; furthermore the cost seemed pricy. Imagine my surprise when Mary returned three weeks later with two sponsors should I want to attend. I did.

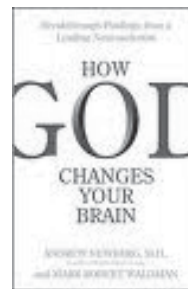
The first thing I experienced at the Canadian conference was a warm welcome. The Christian fraternity that I received from ACT members was a signal to me that I was in the right place. In fact it was an answer to my prayer. I say 'right place' because a few weeks before the conference I had had an experience of praying with twin sisters, who had come to my office seeking help. I soon realized that one of them was being troubled by some unidentifiable attack as she started manifesting at the hospital chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. A follow up prayer subsequently did help, but did not free the poor woman. Midway in the prayer they decided to seek help elsewhere. So I went to the conference seeking, as the apostles did, and asking, "Lord, why was I not able to handle the situation?" I found answers.

At the conference I was overtaken, as well, by joy at the daily silent adoration of the Eucharist. It reminded me of the practice I did occasionally. I was renewed to see the people of God embracing God and deepening their relationship with the Lord through this practice. Since we learn by imitation, this experience was a wake up call that I cannot do the Lord's work without attaching myself to Him more fully. The next thing that touched me was hearing the Prophetic Word, most of which emphasized God's Love and Our Lord's desire to have us as witnesses and as His instruments for greater evangelization. The prophecies were Biblical and rang true for me, a reminder of God's presence among his people.

I learned much. And I had many questions to ask about the information I heard, for example, the

healing of the Family Tree and generational healing. People versed in the topic spent time over a meal discussing it with me at length. I pursued it with other members, as well, until I sensed the value of considering its inclusion in my ministry, when needed. I continue to explore this topic. The prophecies after Mass spoke of praying over reluctant priests to be open to the ministry of healing. I was such a reluctant priest, hesitant to become involved lest I be categorized. I left the conference renewed and resolved to commit myself to the Lord. I received a greater awareness of myself as I dialogued anew with the Lord. I had received answers from the members of ACT... knowledgeable men and women, gifted professionals. I signed up and was inducted as a member of ACT. Then I heard of the International conference. This time I did not hesitate. I registered and received so much. The experience after being Baptized in the Spirit was one of joy, peace, and renewed zest for the Lord. I commit myself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I give thanks for ACT.

book review ...



How God Changes your Brain: Breakthrough Findings from a Leading Neuroscientist. By Andrew Newberg, MD and Mark Waldman, Ballantine Books, New York, 2009. The strength of this book is the ability of the authors to integrate a multitude of studies, including their own, to describe the neurological changes in the brain brought about

by faith in God and regular spiritual practice. A discerning reader may not agree with all of the concluding observations, but written in a clear, lucid style it is an informative/interesting read. Recommended by *Vision*, (Nat. Assoc. of Catholic Chaplains.)

sights and sounds...



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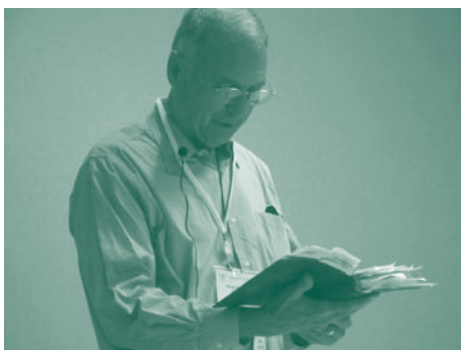
Robin Caccese

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CONFERENCE JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA '09



SCRIPTURE



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SPEAKERS



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PRAYER

Photos by Joe Duddie.

ACT PULSE



On the **International level...** "Umoja wa Kristo unatuleta pamaja!" Let everything you touch be blessed and let everything blessed, be a blessing in your life. Words from Kisaka

Nyache to Fr. Joe Scerbo his ambassador to ACT. Collins, as Kisaka is

better known, is an ACT member. He was born in a village near Mombassa, Kenya and is a member of the Taita tribe. Currently a student at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago he relates his experience in the Charismatic Renewal as being key to understanding the power of the Word of God and the importance of Healing to his future ministry as priest. He delights in the fact that there are ACT members in his home country of Kenya. On the home front Dr. Carole Edland, ACT member, **Region 13** has written a book based on the death of her granddaughter from cancer that may help those dealing with similar situations: "Devyn Has Cancer: A Tale of Two Angels" (\$10 To order call 1-608-785-2787). Fr. Paul Feider reports

that a Day of Healing held in October was an oasis of hope and healing in the midst of the stress and challenges of difficult times. To receive a schedule of events e-mail frfeider@juno.com Julie Woodley, **Region 1-2** reports a series of events with Restoring the Heart Ministries. Retreats, DVD Projects, Monthly Luncheons, Support Groups, all for the purpose of healing life's hurts, in particular the wounds of Sexual Abuse. Visit www.rthm.cc for more information. **Region 5** ACT members heard fellow ACT member, Linda Schubert, speak at a recent Magnificat luncheon in Danbury, CT. And from our ACT Board via Doug: **Appreciation: Regional Coordinators Outgoing:** Much gratitude to Al Nyland, Region 21; Nancy Morgan, Region 43; Marilyn Dolcetti, Region 5; Barbara

Carlo, Region 12 and 13; Angele Desrosiers, Region 10, and Gail Golla, Region 16, for their dedicated, sustained and faithful service to ACT as regional coordinators. Thank you!

Incoming: Welcome Rita Ann Cornyn and Georgiana Rodiger, Region 21; Judy Lemm and Antoinette Doyle, Region 43; Robert Correo and Jean Correo, Region 5; Charles Devonshire and Fran Devonshire, Regions 12 and 13; Renee Lavitt, Region 10 and Joseph Mary Marshall, Region 16, as our new regional coordinators.

Thank you for your yes! **Council of Specialty Groups Outgoing:** Thanks to Charles Zeiders for his strong leadership of the Psychotherapists Specialty Group the past 3 years and his best practices initiative. **Incoming:** Welcome to Ben Keyes as our new Chair of the Psychotherapists Specialty group. We are blessed by your yes. **Council of Committees Outgoing:** Thanks to Jim DeMar for his service to ACT as Chair of the Council of Committees the past 3 years. We have been blessed by his creative and collaborative spirit and are strengthened by his continuing as Co-Chair and as



ACT Member Collins Nyache

Program Development Committee Chair. **Incoming:** Welcome to Bonita Lay our new Chair of the Council of Committees, Franchesca Franchina our new Chair of the Communications and Publications Committee and Marilyn Dolcetti our new Chair of the Membership Committee. Thank you for stepping up!

Board of Directors Outgoing: Thanks and much gratitude to Gloria Tipton, Jim DeMar and John Gallaer for their service on the ACT Board. Their dedication, discernment, teamwork and faithfulness have been exemplary. **Incoming:** Welcome to Beth Ford and Bob Sears, our recently elected at-large members and David Tipton our recently appointed Treasurer. Thank you each for your yes and thanks to Bob for his willingness to serve a second 3 year term.

Announcing...



The ACT online store, Pearl, is open! In order to provide discounts for members there is a separate store for ACT members in the member's pages. Search the member's Pearl section for past conferences. The Journal of Christian Healing (JCH) is now available in the Pearl online store for non-members (cost \$15 per issue). In addition the ACT Board has decided to run a two year experiment with an online membership application and joining process. Act can now be joined online by first affirming one's commitment to Jesus, to one's own healing, to growing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and confirming one's healthcare profession, associate or student status and then filling out and submitting the application and paying the membership fee. Please take a look at www.ACTHeals.org.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AS WE REACH OUT TO BRING IN NEW MEMBERS

Bonita Lay, Chair of Council of Committees

Before taking off on a flight, all experienced pilots check their flight path to spot potential storms and other hazards. Before you take off toward your goals, take time to identify the obstacles that might block your path.

One of ACT's action plans is for each member to recruit two new members by the next International Conference. Board members agreed to fulfill this plan themselves: recruiting one person by the end of the first quarter (April) and the second, by the end of the second quarter (August).

In doing this, list every obstacle that comes to mind. Don't skip over anything. The one seemingly insignificant obstacle that you brush aside may come back to haunt you. Don't let your thirst for the rewards of your plan cloud your honesty about the risks. If you have difficulty generating a list of obstacles, then ask, "If this plan is so important, why haven't I accomplished it?" Maybe, deep down you don't really desire the outcome of this plan, or perhaps there are issues related to this plan that you haven't personally addressed. Writing down the obstacles that stand between you and your plan will reduce uncertainty and increase your confidence. When you eliminate the hazards and roadblocks, you can make solutions to overcome them. When you list your worst fears, you can adjust your attitudes and develop actions to subdue those fears.

The Board came up with a number of obstacles: primary among them are insufficient time and failures in communication. In fact, being a volunteer organization, time and communication are listed as obstacles in each of our action plans. You can then develop some possible solutions and ACTIONS to overcome the obstacles. (Action steps is where the rubber hits the road). For example instead of waiting until the zero hour to recruit a new member, initially think of a person you would like to approach about ACT. Think about when you could meet them (ASK!) and set a mutually convenient time to meet (even 5 minutes!). You can ask them to join you for a cup of tea or coffee. Initiate a dialogue. Be a friend, make a friend, bring a friend to an ACT function. Ask the Holy Spirit to provide possible solutions and actions. After all, God is the ultimate Strategic Planner. I'm asking Him for a bigger dose of courage and fortitude for ACT. Will you join me?

HEALING EXCHANGE FALSE GUILT

Denise Dolff



Many Christians suffer from a false guilt syndrome which separates them from God, and keeps them bound on an endless treadmill of trying to appease God or win God's favour, but never quite managing to get there. The end result is doubt and confusion, which then leads to frustration, discouragement, even despair.

False guilt is often vague and ambiguous, with the individual believing he has offended God, but either does not know how, or cannot accept that he is forgiven. This is contrary to scripture, which reminds us that even while we were sinners, God sent Jesus to make reparation for our sins (Romans 5:8). In addition, God promises that when God forgives us God removes our sins from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:11) and then God chooses to remember our sins no more (Isaiah 43:25). In addition, God's word promises that there is nothing that could separate us from the love of God (Romans 8: 38-39), and this truth, then, becomes the acid test to distinguish between true and false guilt.

Consider for a moment the nature of God as expressed in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). The father waits continually for the son's return, and even rushes to meet him when first catching sight of him. So, too, does God wait and run to meet the sinner who shows the first sign of repentance. And the number of sins does not matter (Luke 7:47). Therefore, any thought or feeling that suggests one cannot go to God, even to confess the same sin for the one hundredth time can not be from God. And if not from God, then count it as interference from the only one who delights in creating separation from God.

"Lord, help me to always remember that You not only love me, but that You delight to forgive me, if I come to you in repentance asking for forgiveness. Help me give no ground to the work of Your enemy who would desire to separate me from You, but draw me ever deeper into Your perfect love for me. Thank You Lord. Amen."

Condolences to Elysha Baker on the death of her Father. Our prayers go out to her and her family.



keep connected

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Association of Christian Therapists

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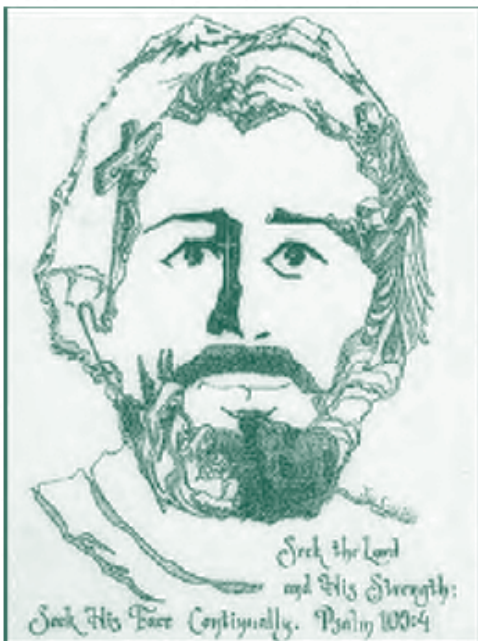
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Association of Christian Therapists SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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**“Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled.....
The Truth Will Set You Free.”**

Overcoming our physical, emotional and spiritual troubles

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Thursday to Sunday**

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