



Summer Issue 2009

InterACT

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

DATEBOOK...

ACT International Conference

September 17-21, 2009
Jacksonville, FL
Healing Through Social Justice: Meeting Jesus in the Marginalized
"For I, the Lord, Love Justice" (Is 61:8)
Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel
www.ACTHeals.org or contact Nicole Ritchey at 703-556-9222

The Francis and Judith MacNutt Training Center presents

School of Healing Prayer Level IV
October 5-9, 2009
Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel
Registration will be limited. Contact Jeff Sampson at 904-765-3332
www.christianhealingmin.org

Hold the Date!

Oct 6-15, 2009
Pilgrimage to Assisi
Chaplain Fr. Joe Scerbo, SA
Contact: J. Dodson
905-335-6902
jenniemdodson@yahoo.com



Pencil Power Narrative Healing Strategy

According to a 2005 study in the Journal of Health Psychology expressive writing can help speed the healing process. For one, writing has been associated with lowering blood pressure. Then in 2006 a study in Psychology & Health found that patients "with lupus or rheumatoid arthritis who wrote about their illness experienced less fatigue than a control group." Putting your innermost thoughts and feelings on paper can release painful emotions such as guilt, sadness and anger according to Joshua Smyth, Ph.D., coauthor of *The Writing Cure* (APA, 2000). "Writing can reduce levels of the stress hormone cortisol, too much of which can inhibit your body's natural defenses."

Using writing as a narrative healing strategy begins with being *Real*. Write about your experiences, both good and bad, as honestly as you can. Set aside from 20-45 minutes daily to journal. Use a timer to focus you and help keep track of time. Don't judge your writing, let it flow naturally. Then *Reflect*. Sharon Bray, writing coach and author of *When Words*

Heal: Writing through Cancer (Frog Books, 2009) suggests that you split the time between writing and reflecting. Writing without reflection can sometimes increase anxiety and depression, according to Bray. In addition, look for any *Positive* benefits that you can glean from the illness. Be *Specific* about the details. As you remember the experience try to recall your thoughts and images at the time, the people who cared for you, their conversation, etc. Above all, be *Free*. Let go of any worry about spelling or grammar, advises Gillie Bolton, co-editor of *Writing Works* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006). Lastly, keep it *Private*. If you are writing for an audience you may hold back or try to use the writing as a way to impress. Keep a low profile when sharing your journal. Let it be for the eyes of a trusted few. For most of us this is not about publication. It is about healing.

Rx: Sharpen Your Pencil: Start Writing! Pass the word along to your clients. (Adapted from an article in *Natural Health* February, 2009).

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Dear ACT Community



In mid-May ACT leaders, the Board, Regional Coordinators, Committee Chairs and Specialty Group Chairs met at Marymount University in Arlington, VA for our annual Leadership Gathering: for retreat, training, Council meetings and planning. I was especially moved by the clear voice among us to love one another, to forgive always, to reach out and communicate the treasure of ACT to colleagues and friends and to glorify God in all we do. ACT members are held by the urging of God to reach His healthcare practitioners with healing and His people with healing through healthcare.

At present the ACT Board and Councils are evaluating our progress on the 2006 – 2009 Strategic Plan and commencing to articulate our Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2013. The evaluation will be posted on the ACT website with the 2006 – 2009 Plan. To help with these tasks we have been consulting with Jack Frost, a dedicated Christian expert in Strategic Planning. Jack guided us at the May Leadership Gathering as we worked to focus our Vision and Mission statements and to define Critical Goals for 2010 – 2013, goals that are strategic for ACT's future and organizational health. Thorough prayer, discernment and dialogue, we arrived at the following Critical Goals to guide the next stages of our work:

Critical Goals for 2010 - 2013

- 1) Welcome and integrate new members
- 2) Increase membership from 560 to 1000 by 2013
- 3) Retain and equip members (through healing, support, mentoring, spiritual and professional development, training in healing prayer, etc.) for healthcare service
- 4) Support ACT Councils: The care and "feeding" of volunteer leaders
- 5) Promote active ministry throughout all elements of the organization and by all members

Please reflect on these goals and communicate the treasure of ACT to your colleagues and friends.

Now is the time!

Doug

Douglas Schoeninger, PhD
President ACT



EDITOR'S NOTE

Gloria Doino, MA

A gathering, a conversation, an exchange: The ACT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE- Healing Through Social Justice, Meeting Jesus in the Marginalized - is the place to be come September 17-21, 2009. It is a place to envision possibilities both on a personal and professional level. Come rest a while and ask the Spirit to fill you anew. Come seeking and you will find knowledge and guidance for your work. Come and be among brothers and sisters in Christ who will be the lifters of your chin. Just say, "YES". I look forward to seeing you there and ask that you make yourself known. I look forward, as well, to

having you take in this issue of InterACT. Reflect on the need to hearken to the prophetic word and avoid causing "Friendly Fire". Put into practice "Pencil Power" to help you or your clients cope with stress and illness. Then get inspired as you read up on your fellow members in Act Pulse. Be enriched by their moments of grace. And in the company of Anne Lessing's, "Answered Prayer" give glory to God for challenges overcome. "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. -Isaiah43: 1-2

InterACT NEXT DEADLINE: *October 1, 2009* (Fall Issue) storysunday@optonline.net (Editor's Desk)
Mention InterACT in the subject line. *All submissions subject to editing.*

HEALING FROM “FRIENDLY FIRE”

Denise Dolff, MA



When Jesus was challenged for associating with prostitutes, tax collectors, and other sinners, He acknowledged that He did not come to heal/forgive the well (or the holy), but He came for the sick and for those in need (Matthew 9:11-13). As much as ACT has been a place of healing, a home and a family for many of us, it has also, at times, been a place of wounding. As wounded healers, we acknowledge our personal need for Jesus, for His love and for His healing, but it is harder to admit that because of our wounds, we have also wounded each other. Some of these wounds relate to denominational positions and misunderstandings, some have been within the board and leadership level, or between the leadership and the members, some have been professional biases, and some personal in our judgments, gossip, and human imperfections. It falls within the role of the Committee for the Healing of the Family of ACT to meet one-on-one, by telephone or in person at conferences, with any individual desiring to be heard in order to contribute to the healing of these wounds. In a Word Gift first given in 1997 at Mundelein, and then repeated in 2008 at Mundelein, the Lord cautions us regarding carrying these unresolved hurts. **You must look beyond your human frailties, misinterpretations and miscommunications. I have drawn you together as my body. Remember this. Treat one another gently with the love and understanding that I would have you share with one another... Among my soldiers there must be no friendly fire. I want no losses, no casualties from within. As my army you must stay connected strongly to me and to each other. Let there be no unforgiveness, petty misunderstanding or resentment among you my people... Seek peace through me with one another that you may be strongly united to bear my presence into a broken world. Be always ready to hear and respect each other. Resolve your differences so you can be totally free to walk side by side upon the path to which I have commissioned you.**

This is a strong call from the Lord to attend to these wounds, rather than allowing them to fester and cause division and strife among us. In many cases, being listened to “from the heart”, being “believed” and “feeling “heard”, are the bases for healing. It is the role of the committee to hold your pain by listening in this way, and praying with you, rather than to offer mediation, therapeutic intervention, judgment, advice or blame.

If you are one who has been wounded within ACT and desire healing, please feel free to contact the committee through myself (dolff13@rogers.com, 519-883-4213), and arrangements will be made for a committee member (Denise Dolff, Ann Arcieri, Katsey Long or Frances Schoeninger) to be available to hear you. May God’s desire for ACT come to fruition, that there be no losses or casualties from within, no unforgiveness, petty misunderstanding or resentment, but let us be at peace with one another through God.

SCRIPTURE MENTORING AND THE BIBLICAL CONNECTION

Bonita Lay, MA, Membership/
Marketing Chair



One of ACT’s goals is to MENTOR its new and especially younger members. So what is a mentor? According to Webster: a MENTOR is an advisor, guide, counsellor, tutor, and teacher. I’d like to give you some supporting Biblical references.

2Kings2:9,10: Every leader needs mentors, especially emerging leaders. After watching the great Elijah for many years, Elisha reached down and found the strength to ask Elijah for a DOUBLE portion of his spirit. God took Elisha through the preparation necessary under Elijah. The younger man waited for the right time, and then made his request. The result? Scripture records that Elisha performed twice as many miracles as did his mentor.

Matthew 17:14-2: Jesus assesses and holds his disciples accountable. Following Jesus’ transfiguration, He comes down from the mountain to find His disciples attempting to cast a demon out of a boy. At that moment, He again becomes a mentor for His men. He commits Himself to the training of the twelve, believing every exposure they get becomes an opportunity to learn. Review the story and see what we learn from Jesus, the leaders’ Mentor. His method includes four elements: instruction, demonstration, experience and assessment. He teaches them, shows them, allows them to try it themselves, and then processes what happened. Jesus is the master Mentor in developing leadership.

In Luke 6 12-19, we read that Jesus spent the majority of His time with twelve, not twelve hundred. Jesus practiced an axiom: “More time with less people equals greater kingdom impact. Like all

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ACT 2009 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

SEPTEMBER 17-21, 2009

For complete descriptions of the workshops please visit www.actheals.org

Healing the Imprisoned: Reverend Larry Carew

Many of the incarcerated are afflicted with profound woundedness that is an impediment to healing. The presenter has developed a six session retreat comprised of conferences and healing prayer sessions and has successfully used it over ten years.

Human Rights as the Basis of Social Justice: What Every Therapist Should Know About Human Rights: H. Victor Conde, MA, JD, LLM

The health of a society and its members has much to do with the degree of social justice in that society. The language of human rights constitutes the dominant discourse of our era. This workshop is an introduction for Therapists about the basic principles and terminology of human rights.

The Healing of the Marginalized, The Healing of the Marginalizers: Reverend Dr. Howard E. Friend, Jr.

The workshop draws from Reverend Friend's book, *Gifts of an Uncommon Life: The Practice of Contemplative Activism*, and its basic theme, but it also focuses on a single passage of Scripture, Mark 10,46-52, commonly called the healing of blind Bartimaeus. He offers an in-depth biblical reflection, suggesting that there are, in fact, *two* healing miracle stories in this text, the last exchange in his itinerant ministry before the events of his last week.

Caring By and For the Caregiver: Maria Theresa Hronec, BSN, C, SSCM

Caregivers themselves often become marginalized. The summons to serve tugs at one's heart with the touch of God's Spirit. It may come at any time. Spiritually we are invited to meet Jesus and be Jesus in the encounter. Participants will be encouraged to present their own caring experiences, struggles, and outcomes both positive and negative.

Life in the Spirit Seminar I & II: Sister Betty Igo, MED, MSPC, SFP

The Life in the Spirit seminar is a sharing of the enrichment that Christ offers us through His Holy Spirit. It is an introduction and renewal as a formation experience and an introduction to a life lived more fully in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Christian Healing and Science are Proving Each Other by Challenge to Cartesian Dualism: Benjamin Keyes, PhD, EdD

Rene Descartes, in contemplating the components of human existence, separated man into mind and body as

a property of matter, regarding spirit as being ethereal and not a part of matter. This workshop will focus on presenting the theory and background and discussing the ramifications from a Christian worldview.

The Homeless Among Us: Nancy Morgan, MS
Homelessness in America is a moving target that is growing and changing into a situation unlike anything we've seen since the Great Depression. This workshop will be an interactive exploration of today's homeless population: who they are, what they need, and how we can best serve the Christ in them.

Identifying and Healing the Marginalized Self and One's Marginalization of Others: Frances Schoeninger, MS

Using clinical therapy illustrations the presenter will clarify processes of self-marginalization and subtle marginalization of others as they manifest in people's lives and are addressed in psychotherapeutic treatment.

Discernment for Individual and Corporate Growth: Robert Sears, SJ

This workshop seeks to further this growth. It is in two parts: Part I deals with principles for beginning discernment, Part II with more advanced principles. We plan to video record this workshop for further developing discernment in ACT.

Care for the Caregiver: Jackie Sitte, RN, CARN, LADC I

Mt 12: 23 Caring for loved ones, in ministry or work, can lead to cumulative stress and burnout, which quickly becomes Compassion Fatigue. Feeling alone and overwhelmed, self-care can seem impossible. Join us in inviting the Holy Spirit to lead us in building resilience and plan preventative measures to regain the balance to which God calls us.

Treating Addictive and Compulsive Behaviors with Psychotherapy, Complimentary and Integrative Medicine and Christian Spirituality: Charles Zeiders, PsyD

Three seasoned Christian psychotherapists share their therapeutic work with Christ in his marginalized disguise. Their discussion addresses the practical theological issues related to clinical advocacy for the mental health needs of under protected populations, such as the dying, elderly, orphaned, and very mentally ill.

CONFERENCE PRAYER

Bring us together, Lord in our call to bring Healing through Social Justice. Make us more in your likeness, Jesus, that we may reach out to those you place in our path. Let us be your eyes, ears, mouth, feet, hands and heart. Prepare us, Lord, through this International Conference, dedicated to meeting Jesus in the marginalized, to recognize the journey to which you call us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Bind us together, Lord, in your love. Amen! And Amen!

Association of Christian Therapists
2009 International Conference

September 17-21, 2009
Jacksonville Wyndham Hotel
Jacksonville, Florida

**HEALING THROUGH SOCIAL JUSTICE
MEETING JESUS IN THE MARGINALIZED**

“For I, the Lord, Love Justice” Isaiah 61:8



Francis MacNutt, Ph.D and Judith MacNutt, Ph.D

Francis and Judith are co-founders of Christian Healing Ministries. The desire of their hearts is to bring Healing Prayer back to its rightful place among Christians. Francis is the author of the classic, HEALING. Both he and Judith, a Christian Psychologist, are noted speakers on the topic. Francis is one of the founders of ACT.

Michael Brescia, MD

Dr. Brescia is Co-founder and Executive Medical Director of Calvary Hospital, NY, the only hospital devoted exclusively to the continuum of care of advanced cancer patients. He currently oversees Calvary's expansion to other acute care hospitals. He is a tireless advocate for the sanctity of life.

Dale Racinella, JD

Mr. Racinella, a magna cum laude graduate of Notre Dame University School of Law, is the author of "The Biblical Truth about America's Death Penalty". He has served for 12 years as a state-certified Spiritual Counselor and Catholic Lay Chaplain in Florida's Prisons. He ministers cell-to-cell on death row.

Susan Racinella, Psy.D

Dr. Susan Ward Racinella has a specialty in working with the severely mentally ill. Senior Psychologist and Director of Psychological Interns at Northeast Florida State Hospital, she participates, as well, in death row ministry by ministering to the families of inmates on deathwatch.

ACT PULSE



Region 12... Fran Devonshire reports that she and her husband, Charlie, are the new coordinators as of April 2009. The retreat given by Father Faricy/Cheryl Nguyen had 40 people in attendance and centered about the theme: Deepening our relationship with Jesus. Plans are in the making for next year's regional schedule.

Region 43... Nancy Morgan would like to introduce The Koinonia John The Baptist Community to fellow ACT members. Nancy tells us that they are a dynamic, spirit filled community steeped in the gifts of the Spirit, especially praying for healing. They operate out of Brooklyn, NY and LA. Teresa Nelson is the lay contact person for LA (teresa@koinoniajb-usa.org). Look to this

community for speakers, prayers and inspiration. Nancy says that a recent meeting in San Diego with the community was one of the most spirit-filled gatherings they have ever had. **Region 4...** Jean Carr shares, "For more than 30 years ACT has been a source of healing and challenge... through the dying of my husband, Bill Carr, the rough years after, the changes and new beginnings both in my life and in ACT and the special love of my nursing buddies and old ACT friends, Act has been there for me. Most recently the Northeast conference blessed me deeply and when three of us gathered for prayer about our respective ministries in Rwanda....well, I knew afresh that it was the Holy Spirit who gave birth to ACT and still does!"

Region 5... Rev. Dr. Gail Paul has retired as director of the Oratory and returned to her home in

Arkansas. In the words of the Oratory Newsletter, "Gail has helped many people to be healed and made whole again. She has helped transform the lives of those who came seeking the healing ministry of Jesus". Godspeed to Gail as she waits upon the Lord, seeking His next call. Gail has served ACT as co-leader of the Clergy and Religious Specialty Group. **Region 10...** Father Joe Scerbo was the main speaker at Hamilton Day, 2009. The region



ACT Hamilton Day Region 10

has sponsored a new ACT member, Bishop Emeritus Matthew Ustrzycki. Jennie Dodson (905-335-6902) is thrilled to offer a pilgrimage for ACT members from October 6-15, 2009 to Assisi in the Umbrian Valley followed by a trip to Rome. Father Joe Scerbo will be the Chaplain. Jennie reminds us of the practice of the White Mass which is celebrated yearly by the region for physicians and health care workers to ask for the support of the

Holy Spirit. They are still reaping the benefits of their White Mass last December 09. **Region 20...** Our deepest condolences go to Linda Schubert on the death of her step son Marcus Schubert. We regret that Father Justin Bailey, a longstanding ACT member, passed away July 4, 2009 after an extended illness. Our sympathy goes to his family, community and friends. Deepest condolences to Sheila Waldeck on the death of her mother. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for that of Fr. George Koerber. Father George was one of the priests at the first meeting on Staten Island. He was deeply involved in prison ministry and was affectionately known as the "Hoodlum Priest." Many souls came to Christ because of Father George. Our sympathy to his family and community.

MENTORING

Continued from page 3

good mentors, Jesus provided *HANDLES*: He simplified truth into something his men could grasp, practice and pass on to others. He took complex theology and made it usable. *ROADMAPS*: Road maps show you where and what roads to take. Jesus did this consistently with the twelve. *LABORATORIES*: Labs are safe places for experimentation. Jesus just didn't lecture. He provided labs for His disciples to practice what they learned.

ROOTS: Jesus gave His followers a firm foundation and a sense of heritage. They sunk their roots into solid ground and were willing to die for Him and His teaching. *WINGS*: Jesus empowered His men to soar beyond where He went Himself (John 14:12) He pushed them and cheered them on in their victories.

What a gift!

ANSWERED PRAYER

Anne Lessing, RN

Despite all odds, my mother was admitted to a Catholic Rehab Nursing Home in Brooklyn. The Social Worker had doubted that any of the facilities I had chosen would accept her and had suggested several others that I refused for various reasons. But on June 12th, the prayers of our family, friends, Living Waters Ministry and ACT were answered. She was accepted.



In addition, my daughter-in-law, Anita, had been on the list for a liver transplant for only a month and her liver blood work did not show any indication that she should have surgery sooner than not. However, Anita was feeling weak, exhausted and generally terrible and kept reporting this to the "Liver Team". Anita and my son, Jim, were called in on the morning of June 12th and advised that a liver was available for her if she arrived at the hospital by 2:00pm. Soon after noon, they were there and a few hours later, surgery was underway. When the surgeon met Jim late that night, he said the surgery went very well and that her new liver

was functioning beautifully. He also mentioned that Anita's liver was so bad that without the surgery she probably would not have lived much longer. Why, we asked ourselves, had the doctors called for Anita to have the transplant surgery at the perfect moment? Without a doubt, we believed it was a miracle of God's intervention. Each time a team member was asked why Anita was called, they answered that 'it wasn't for the usual reasons!'

The third "miracle" occurred only a week later. Anita and my son had had a fracture in their relationship with my sister, in Florida, two years before. It was a very difficult situation for my daughter, Regina, and myself. It seemed unresolvable. We had prayed for reconciliation and asked for prayers for this from many. After Anita was on a ventilator for more than five days following surgery, due to respiratory difficulties, she finally was extubated. Praise the Lord! The next day she was seen by a priest and cried as she told us about their meeting. She asked that my sister be called and that their relationship be returned to how it was before the "fracture". Wow! Thank you, Jesus! Anita is now recuperating with difficulty and my mother is adjusting to being in the Nursing Home. Thanks to all of our ACT friends for their prayers. Ditto to our Living Waters intercessors led by Carol and Vinny Rubano. **To God be the glory now and forever!!!**

The Francis and Judith MacNutt Training Center presents

School of HEALING PRAYER® LEVEL IV

Please note: SHP Level IV DVD's, CD's and manuals are not currently available in our bookstore.

The long awaited Level 4 is finally here, with subjects including:

- Healing of Mother and Father Wounds
- Understanding the Free Masons
- Advanced Deliverance
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- Purification of People, Places & Possessions
- Avoiding Burnout in Ministry
- Developing Listening Skills in Prayer Ministry
- Special Concerns in the Healing Ministry (New Age and Cult Practices)
- Becoming a Healing Person
- Understanding Satanic Ritual Abuse
- Healing of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Legalism vs Freedom in the Spirit
- Healing Among Christians

*Titles subject to change

October 5-9, 2009

Wyndham Jacksonville
Riverwalk Hotel

Registration will be limited



www.christianhealingmin.org

keep connected

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Association of Christian Therapists

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A-M-E-N!

They Listened

I was heard
They listened
Heard the seeking of my heart
The loneliness of a human
Set their hurts aside
Openly told me
They were listening

Liking me
Liking what I said
Liking my beliefs
Liking my actions
Ceased to matter
They listened
And touched
The depth of me
The core
My breath
Before I breathed it.

We were created to do this!

Royce Johnston, August 3, 2000, ACT member

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Online Store is now open
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thought...

"Do the next thing."

- Meister Eckhart, 13th Century Mystic

extra! extra!

Spring/Summer Issue of Journal of Christian Healing online as of August '09.

miscellaneous...

An elderly woman telephoned the hospital and asked, "Can you tell me how Norma Smith in room 102 is doing?" The operator put her on hold while she checked with the nurse on the floor. After a few minutes she replied, "Good news, Mrs. Smith is doing very well, her tests came back normal and she will be discharged on Tuesday". "Thank You", the caller said. "You're Welcome", the operator replied. "Is Norma your daughter?" "No," the caller said. "I'm Norma. No one tells me anything".