

CIRCLE OF LOVE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2007 Volume #. 14 ACT – Region 1 & 2

In the past few years, and recently, I asked you, members of Region 1 & 2 to submit a brief article about healing or how God has used you as an ACT member in your work or ministry. Thanks to all of you who have responded.

If any of you would like to send in an article in the future, I'd be happy to receive it and include it in a Region 1 & 2 mailing when possible.

God bless each of you and your ministry.

Love in Jesus,
Anne Lessing, RN
Regional Coordinator

Journey Into Wholeness and Holiness
ACT 2006 International Conference
October 19-23, 2006
by Marge Nyland

After working and preparing for over three years, I have MANY fond memories of our October 2006 ACT International Conference. Our Lord had it right when He said there is much joy in service. There were many what I call 'God-incidences' rather than coincidences. Dr. Brescia was speaking on Friday morning. It was a talk I was desperate to hear. As a nurse for over 36 years I really needed to hear a physician who was as dedicated to following Christian values and who believed in caring for his patients as I try to, as vessels of Jesus Christ. I was deeply engrossed in his sharing when I was called to the registration desk. As part of the conference committee, I had been solving various questions and concerns throughout the long weekend. Imagine my dismay when at the desk was Ralph, the resident 'handy man' for the hotel. He wanted to fix the sink in our suite. The day before Ralph had helped my roommate, Anne and me, when we had a problem with our room phone. Today, Ralph was asking me to go with him to our room. I told him the fixing could wait; I wanted to hear the rest of Dr. Brescia's talk. That's when Ralph said, 'look I know there are only women in your room and when I knocked on your door, a man answered, 'he told me to wait a minute'. If anyone got in your room, I don't want to be blamed; I think some man is in your room.' Now, I really didn't want to go but I needed to. So we took the elevator to our room and when I knocked there was no answer. Ralph again reiterated, "I knocked twice and someone answered each time." Using my room key, I cautiously opened the door to find no one and nothing was out of place. I searched all the room and the drawers. nothing was amiss. Satisfied, Ralph came in to fix the sink and apologized for bothering me, but once again stated, "I know I heard what I heard. But I guess all is O.K." Having missed a portion of his talk, at the beginning and now the middle, I resigned myself to

getting Dr. Brescia's tape and decided to get a jolt of caffeine. For those of you who were unable to attend, the hotel had a free hospitality bar in the lobby for coffee, tea, etc. And it was delicious. While I was adding my portion of French vanilla cream, I couldn't help but overhear a group of women talking rather heatedly about Dr. Brescia. They were going to leave the conference because they were disgusted that the doctor favored euthanasia. Wow, I knew I missed some of his talk but I know that judgment was incorrect. I had to interrupt and clear things up. In sharing what I heard and knew about the work at Calvary that is done for the terminally ill, the love and comfort that is administered, the desperate need for funding so that the personal treatment can continue, these women realized they had misinterpreted something that Dr. Brescia said. Their primary language is French Canadian. One of the words or phrases they interpreted had been incorrect. They were so relieved and realizing their error changed their minds about leaving. Later on in the day I saw them crowding around the good doctor for a photo together. I couldn't help but think that Jesus was the 'man in our room.' I needed to be called away by Ralph so that I would then meet up with these women and clear up the misunderstanding. Another God-incidence!! If you haven't heard Dr. Brescia's sharing, order this CD from Robin Caccese at (610)582-5571 or Rcaccese@talon.net or borrow our Region's CD or DVD. Contact Jim Demar at jimdemar@optonline.net. The doctor was phenomenal. Dr. Michael Brescia is Chief Medical Officer at Calvary Hospital in Bronx, New York. Even if an Insurance Company refuses to pay for their member's care, Calvary will continue to care for that person as well as help the family or loved one(s) in concrete ways. Dr. Brescia is writing a book about his years at Calvary. It should be a great, inspiring read!

“San Diego Conference”
by Jim DeMar

The 21st Annual Southern California ACT Conference took place in San Diego, from February 8-11, 2007. The conference was entitled "Out of Darkness into His Marvelous Light". It focused on identifying those issues, both subtle and not so subtle, that block our receiving the fullness of the healing gift that Jesus has for each and every one of us. These obstacles were addressed from different aspects.

Abbot David Geraets, O.S.B., and Marie J. DiSciullo-Naples, Ph.D., spoke to us of the inner Journey and the language of dreams as guides to reveal hidden areas still in need of healing. Doug Schoeninger, Ph.D., discussed aspects of generational bondage. Barbara Ryan, R.N.,

and Corinne Helena, LMFT, helped identify not only the obvious, but the not so obvious blocks to healing that come through the addictive/compulsive processes.

Music ministry was provided by Spirit Alive. They brought to us music that allowed our hearts to be open to God's will and the movement of the Holy Spirit. On Saturday afternoon, Earl Vincent Flores, the Catholic Cowboy, provided music that revealed his heart that pulses with powerful motivation - the desire to communicate the joys of fatherhood and grand-fatherhood, and a deep appreciation for life.

The conference hope was that each and every attendee would be touched by God's mercy as light overcomes darkness. Since attending the conference was not possible for most members of our region, we have purchased DVDs of each of the talks from the conference. If you are interested in viewing any of these talks, please email jimdemar@optonline.net and we will mail you the DVDs that you request. When you have finished viewing them, we ask that you mail them back so that others can have an opportunity to view these presentations.

Testimony of a new ACT Member
By Rev. Mark G. Kiesel

If my grandmother came to St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Stewart Ave. in Bethpage, New York she would wonder, "what is a nice Jewish boy doing in a place like this!" The answer can only be found in the grace of God.

As a new member of ACT, I grew up in a Jewish home and came to know the incredible love of God to be found in Jesus during my college years. Academically I pursued a bachelors as well as a Masters in Theology, and a Masters in Special Education. After a career in the New York City Fire Dept, I completed a Masters in Social Work and am now a Pastor in a Lutheran Church.

I became a member of ACT because I believe very deeply in the healing love of Jesus: a healing love that I have seen demonstrated over the years in many, including myself. As a recent graduate of the MSW program at Stonybrook, I realized that as important as the tools of secular therapy might be, they are incomplete without the power and the love of God. A therapist might be able to bring great comfort to a hurting soul but only Jesus can bring the fullness of healing and the truth that alone can set us free.

We recently began a healing service on Saturday evenings at 6 o'clock at St. Paul's. Many have been coming to experience the healing love of Jesus. Recently a woman who was prayed with experienced the complete healing of a "cluster" in her breast. When her doctor sent her for testing, to his amazement there was no sign of anything! Our worship leader Palma Pascale, who is one of the most gifted musicians in Christian music, was diagnosed with ovarian

cancer. Recent tests have shown no sign of the disease!

The scriptures tell us that "God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever"! His love never fails. I continue to be deeply humbled and amazed when I realize the Lord brought this Jewish man from Far Rockaway to where He has me today. To God alone be the Glory!

We Are All Connected

This reflection is the first written by Vicki Nagle since she had a stroke in April.

We are all connected and must remember that... The more often we remember, the stronger we are in Jesus... Our rootedness is in the Trinity whose life we live daily... To know and believe this is to live victoriously in Him, the source of all graces... Holiness is our calling... Beautiful is our name... Gracious is our God. June 15, 2007

Announcements

On Thursday, July 26, 2007, a bus from St. Gertrude's Church in Bayville will go to Auriesville where Fr. Bob McGuire, S.J. is now ministering. The cost is \$70.00 (\$50.00 for the bus and \$20.00 as a donation to Fr. Bob). If you are interested, call Anita Laurien at 516-628-1666 without delay, to learn if there are seats available.

Regarding our plans as a Region to visit Fr. Bob at the Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, we have 2 options: To try to go on August 28th if we have enough people interested in order to hire a bus for the day or go there in cars during the weekend of 9/8-9/9/07. We would stay overnight in a nearby hotel/motel. Please call Jim DeMar at 631-422-9310 or e-mail him at jimdemar@optonline.net to let him know in which option you're interested.

Beginning in the Fall of 2007 we will be e-mailing the regional calendar and other items to as many of you as possible in order to eliminate the necessity requiring a great deal of time, labor and expense involved in regular mailings. If you have not listed your e-mail address with the ACT office, please send it to jimdemar@optonline.net If you don't have e-mail, we'll continue to send the calendar, etc. via regular mail.

If you no longer wish to receive our mailings, please notify Jim by e-mail or Anne at ALessing33953@aol.com or call 718-238-9686.

