

Africa team 2012

Welcome to the healing and prayer team for 2012. I will begin to share online teaching for you over the next 5 months. From previous experience, this has proved very popular. It is not an exam! But it's good to think about the principles of healing and prayer together. That way, we can be more effective.

Teaching session 1

Why do we heal?

*** Isa 53:2-6 (Message)**

**“But the fact is, it was our pains he carried—
our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us.
We thought he brought it on himself,
that God was punishing him for his own failures.
But it was our sins that did that to him,
that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins!
He took the punishment, and that made us whole.
Through his bruises we get healed.”**

It is so easy to see the cross as a place of our personal salvation, which it is! But it is also so much more than that. The Message translates well “through his bruises we get healed.” There is a clear implication in Isaiah that the cross was the place where our sicknesses were broken. The Bible also says “for I am the Lord, who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26) So when we begin to challenge the sicknesses in our bodies, we are in line with God's will.

*** Matthew 4:23**

“ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah and the words in Exodus. He preached and he healed. The power of the preaching was highlighted by the power of healing.

Healing is a great sign - to us of God's love for us, and to unbelievers of the reality of God's activity today.

* **Acts 5:16**

“Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.”

The power to heal did not disappear with the ascension of Jesus. This gift was left with his people. Our early Christian friends soon discovered that what Jesus could do, they could do, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Ghana, we have seen hundreds of people healed – on our base, in Blessing Church, at outside events and on the streets. Africa is a place where people expect to be healed. When we begin to offer healing, the response is very positive. Would that be true in the U.K.? Forget the western culture. Rejoice at the potential for breaking the power of sickness in Africa.

How do we heal?

* **Luke 13:13**

“Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.”

We heal very simply - with the laying on of hands and prayer. Some western people are fearful that they don't have a “technique” or the right form of words. We don't need either - we just lay our hands on people, pray and leave the rest to God. He does the healing. We are just the channel. Many are worried by thinking “What if God does not heal?” This is wrong thinking. The healing is all down to God. He does what he wants in the way he wants it. We may not “see” what he has done, or we may. In the end it is all down to him.