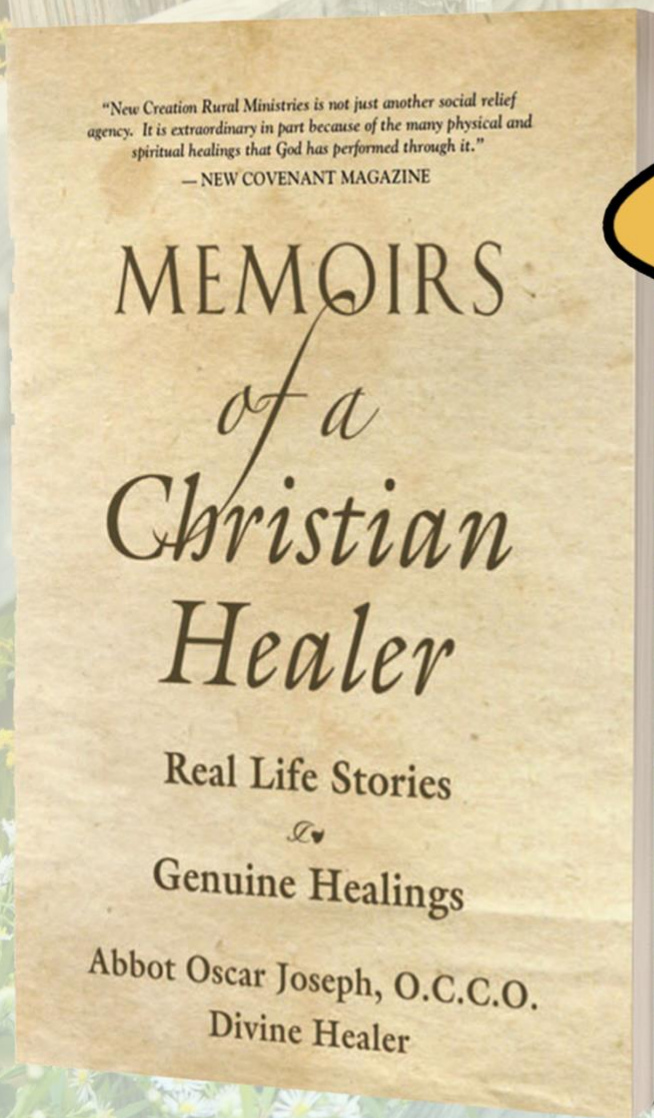


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by Abbot Oscar Joseph, O.C.C.O.

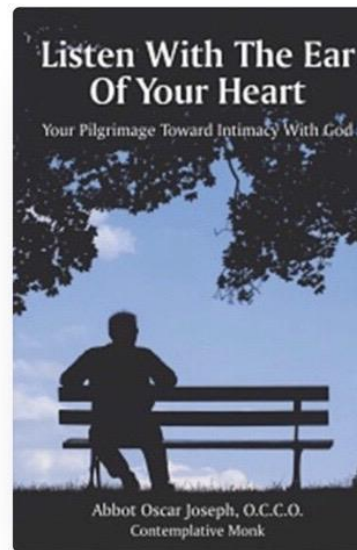
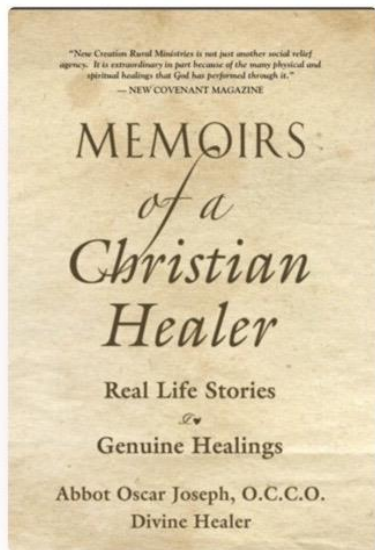
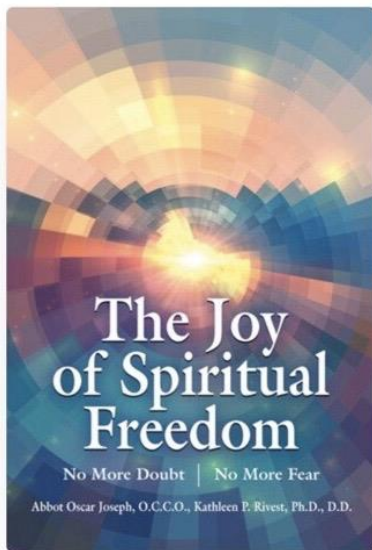
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Dear Readers:

Thank you for joining me in my wonderfully inspiring memoirs.

I have received many compliments on this book and have used it to teach about developing healing ministries. I have noticed that people were reading it rather casually and consequently not getting the full benefit. So I have included this companion work to be able to accompany you via the teachings and reflections on your journey.

May our Almighty God bless you, keep you from every evil and bring you to everlasting life.

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Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 1, p. 2.

"Later, I reflected that although I had been in the healing ministry for years, I had never labeled myself as a divine healer. I am still not comfortable with that title, but if God gave it to me, then I am glad to give Him such honor as to retain that title".

I would often ask my counseling clients, "When God looks at you, how He does see you?"

I would tell them my story of a job interview many years ago when the interviewer asked me, "Who are you?" I answered, "I am a child of God, brother of Jesus, heir to the Kingdom now and forever." Even after all of these years, I still remember those Holy Spirit-inspired words. When tough times came, that Godly definition was very encouraging.

I ask you, "How does God see you?"

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch.1, p.3.

"My purpose is to give glory and gratitude to God for His mercy to me and the people whom He led me to heal."

Giving glory and gratitude to God for His mercy will change your life. Your focus will change from being upon yourself to being upon God. You will become happier. How can you do that through your life's actions, not just vocally?

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 1.p.3.

"Having said, "Led me to heal," I never mean that I am the healer. I say the prayers, and God answers, often with healing but always with His blessings. I am, however, aware that I am merely a freewill instrument who cooperates, often sacrificially, with God's will. So please remember that when I say "I healed," it should be clear that God heals, and I am only an instrument."

If you are going into the healing ministry or any ministry, please understand that God, not you, is both the initiator and completer. You are simply the administrator, the tool.

Not only will this help you to keep your ego in check, but also your fear of failure when seemingly your prayers are not working. You can suffer inappropriate guilt when your prayers and hard work do not produce good fruit. Remember that God's ways are not our ways.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 1 p.3.

“Often I would hear God, not with actual audible words, but in my spirit, either by being moved or actual words for me to speak. God frequently gave me instructions about the type and content of my prayer and where to place my hands. I would try to clear my mind, be still, and be without a personal agenda or goal, simply to be a willing instrument.”

It is vital to put yourself aside when you pray. I have heard many sad stories about “prayer abuse.” It is abusive to set your agenda above God’s. A good example might be a prayer group insisting on a demonic presence when there is none. The recipient would be confused, conflicted, and in worse condition than when the prayer began.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 1, p.4.

“Frequently, I would ask the individual what they would like me to pray for, and I would repeat it prayerfully. I have learned that having the individual pray is often more moving than my prayers. Mostly I would try to get out of the way and pray quietly. It was common for me to pray in tongues quietly. I always remembered that prayer moments are about the individual encountering a loving God and not about me.”

It is easy to let our ego get in the way when we pray for/with others. Before I prayed with a poor soul in my early days, I would try to educate them on what they would experience. Eventually, I learned that I was talking to myself. What they wanted was just the prayer and the hoped-for results.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 1, p. 4.

“I pray that these memories give glory to God and that you might also be inspired and encouraged in your own life. We all carry something or many things that need healing. I would also like to encourage you to pray with others for their needs, particularly their physical needs. God hears all of our prayers whether we are particularly gifted or not.”

I used to practice my healing prayers on my preadolescent children. If they had pain, large or small, we would pray. I would put warm or cold clothes on them and see if it got warmer or colder.

I continue to ask those I pray for to tell me of their prayer experience and give me a follow-up call. Sometimes one prayer occasion is fine, and sometimes it takes many occasions and some several hours in length.

Always be sure that God does hear your prayers and be open to how He answers.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1, p.4-5.

"I am also certain that I am a terrible sinner and have not earned or deserved anything. Everything I have is a gracious gift from God. I do frequently repent and amend my life through His grace. As a human being, I am not particularly special. What I do have that is special shows up when He graces me."

So many times, I used to think, "I am not powerful enough to heal this terrible cancer," or "I just am not in the mood." I would make the healing prayer about me. I soon learned it was about God, NOT me. Now I often pray, "Lord, please accept my lack and make it a perfect prayer." The sooner you can learn this lesson, the happier you will be.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1, p.5.

"It is impossible to name the large number of supporters, mentors, and friends who encouraged me during those years. Certainly, perpetual thanks and gratitude go to my immediate family."

If you are participating in any ministry, do NOT even attempt to do it alone. If you try, Satan and his human collective will destroy you.

Before you begin, a ministry makes sure that your immediate family is 100% on board and that they and you know the terrible cost that will have to be paid.

Ministry is a sacrificial service that requires much love and courage.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1, p.6.

"The purpose of my edited story is not to speak so much about myself but rather of God pursuing me and sustaining me. I imagine that my story is somewhat similar to yours. While some of the details I hope are not yours: the pilgrimage of falling and standing up, falling down and once again standing up is familiar to everyone."

I would like you to reflect on your story. What did you do that caused you to fall? (Don't blame others.)

What did God do to help you change your ways and stand up?

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1, p.10.

“I moved slowly into the healing ministry.”

Even Jesus spent considerable time alone with His Father to discuss what He should be doing next. Should we not do the same?

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 1, p.10.

“I had experienced my first mystical prayer, infusion of knowledge, and reception of a wide variety of spiritual gifts. God was so gracious not only towards me but also towards the poor whom I served.”

There are different levels of prayer. God will provide the mystical when we provide our willingness. Willingness means giving our time and silence.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 1, p.11.

“News spread of the wonderworker up north. There were numerous magazine and newspaper articles about me. A local university produced a television special. People around the world were asking for my prayers, and strangers from nowhere appeared at my door.”

Before you enter into ministry, examine your motives. Is it for charity, and do you have the courage to be in ministry?

If your motives are not other-centered, you will become self-centered and self-destruct.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1, p.11.

“The evil one hated me. But I was too naïve to realize the consequences.”

Be assured that Satan will hate you if you do God's will. Satan's primary tool is your ego and weaknesses. So watch out. Don't let fear stop you but let it stimulate wisdom. Good protection is daily prayer and doing your good work with a group. Do not be by yourself.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1,p.11.

“Satan greeted me at my front door. He had taken away all the people whom I loved. I was devastated.”

When I originally envisioned this book, I did not intend to write about my problems and weaknesses, but God had a different idea. I believed that He wanted to illustrate that no one is perfect. We all have some difficulties, but we need not be held back because of them. It is easy to use our lacks or weaknesses as a copout. I am too old, not educated, not enough time; I am not ready, and so on.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1,p.11.

“God had fired up my “get out of the way.” Despite my emotional weakness, my world was filled with miracles, healings, and with more on the road healing services along the east coast.”

Sometimes a weakness can be used as a strength. For example, my "get out of the way" could be a rude and hurtful expression of negative emotion. But used as a positive force expressed gently or as a means of thinking beyond the obvious, it can be used for good. I remember telling the mayor of our little town to "get out of my way. God gave me a mission, and he would not stop me." Now that took courage. He did stop obstructing the mission after that. Thank you, Lord.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch.1.p.12.

"Puzzles drive me crazy. Every time I try to put all the pieces together, I have to start repeatedly. The journey from one piece to all of the pieces is frustrating. But finally, when the last piece is positioned, the journey rings with joy. The sense of accomplishment far outweighs the pain of the journey. Life is somewhat like a puzzle. You know there is a direction, but the journey is filled with confusion and uncertainty. False starts abound."

It is somewhat normal not to have the complete picture for any ministry from the beginning. Sometimes even we get confused, distracted even go in the wrong direction. That is normal. Do not let that discourage you or your ministry.

Sometimes there will be false starts and even years of no activity as you regroup. That is okay.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1,p.13.

“Mostly everyone who dares to say that God speaks to them is labeled as crazy at one time or another.”

That certainly has happened to me. I suspect people will call you crazy for wanting to do godly things. The local parish priest thought I was crazy to want to be a monk. Another parish priest was supportive but not very publicly. Don't be surprised if the church does not support your mission. You don't really need them. But do not get the church angry either. It is better to have their support.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1, p.13.

"I wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to live a Spirit-filled life. I wanted to speak in tongues so badly that I read book after book about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I knew that tongues were the least important of the gifts. I didn't care.

Not all of the readings were theologically solid, and I was sometimes misled. I tried to get into an emotional state so the tongues would come out. I prostrated myself before the altar at church. Nothing worked.”

Now, this is where the church can come in handy. They can educate you about the true faith and not wild emotional misadventures. Proper education and prayer are essential.

I was trying to force God through my emotions to do something. That was foolishness. Eventually, I learned better. It was more helpful for me to submit to God and get out of His way.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch. 1, p.13.

“God was showing me the events that got me to this very place. He had directed my life. God infused all of my gifts. I knew for sure that I was to heal the sick and free those in bondage (Isaiah 61). I knew that I had been given the gift of healing. Other gifts would be revealed.”

That was a loving prayer experience. Receiving spiritual gifts comes in many wonderful and sometimes confusing ways. Usually, your understanding will come in time, not immediately. It is good to discuss these with your spiritual director. Yes, if you are going to be close to God, you need someone to guide you through the journey. Go by yourself, and you will get lost.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch.1,p.15.

“I learned that being childlike and just plain trusting God was the real issue, not the crazies name it; claim it books with wild emotions. How wonderful.”

There are two good points here. The first is being careful about the correct development of your spirituality. Second, being childlike is not the same as being ignorant. You don't have to be super educated. Or super anything, for that matter.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch.1, p.15.

“God was so gracious not only to me but to the poor dear ones that I was praying to heal and set free. Cayuga and Wayne counties were the poorest in the state. There were few medical facilities available and even fewer for the poor. My gifts saved and freed countless lives.”

I may be prejudiced on this, but I think that most ministries should be focused on the poor. God holds the poor as special. The poor realize that they need God. The rich are not as needy for God.

You will grow tremendously when you work with those who are in need.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch.1, p.15.

“Eva was eager to receive my prayers. We prayed and prayed. On January 6, Sunday evening, she died.”

You may not have the opportunity to pray with someone for an extended period of time or several times. I would encourage you, however, to try to create the opportunity. Sometimes more prayer is needed. Sometimes you need to gather more information. The more time you spend with someone, the more you will care about them. That will inspire your prayers.

We always pray, seeking God's perfect will. Many times our prayers are not answered. Sometimes it is not answered because it is the wrong prayer. Sometimes I just don't know. Certainly, we prayed for Eva to get healed and live. However, she died.

Please be careful not to promise a specific outcome or misuse Scripture. Remember also that you are not the healer. If a prayer is not answered as you might wish, it is not your fault and not your lack of faith or anyone else's lack of anything. God simply has something better in store.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch.1, p.15.

“My poor dear ones, although many were un-churched, were eager for my healing prayers. They were all blessed, and most were healed. I was so excited about God’s goodness...”

This is a good reminder. God loves us. There are no requirements to go before God.

Sometimes we may want to manipulate people to confess to God or accept Jesus. If they agree to prayer, aren't they doing that?

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch.1, p.16.

“I learned my lesson. From then on, I just simply asked, “Would you like to pray about that?”

That request spoken humbly with love was a great door opener. I still do that today. No big story or witness was necessary. God spoke for Himself.

Memoirs of a Divine Healer Ch.1, p.16.

“God had graced each and every prayer.”

That is a fact. God does grace every moment that we come to Him. I always ask the person to tell me about their prayer experience. I do that because I know in advance that they had an experience, and it would be encouraging to express it. That may not always be the case for you. So be wise in your asking.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.17.

Several people have written asking how we began the ministry and what directions we followed. Perhaps some were looking for guidelines for their own ministry. We responded via this letter.

First, be assured that each ministry must be led and encouraged by the Holy Spirit. Second, what happened to us may not happen to you. Use discernment and celebrate your individuality.

Notice the tone of not starting all by yourself. Look toward others for guidance. Perhaps even join them and learn up close and personal. Indeed, be led by the Holy Spirit. Do not expect the Holy Spirit to confirm your personal goals. You have to be prepared for all of your ideas to be turned upside down.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.18.

During the next few months, I prayed, discerned, and talked with political, civic, and religious leaders about the needs of families in our area. By June 1984 we decided that the Holy Spirit wanted a sustained ministry to the suffering. I would lead the ministry and complete my theological studies.

Sometimes discernment takes several months and sometimes years. Do not let your excitement push you faster than you should. We even look at secular agencies and town councils for aid. We did not want to duplicate already existing services.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs.18,19.

That Fall, on the shores of Lake Ontario, I had received not only the gifts of tongues and healing but had also been commissioned to preach the Good News to the poor, heal the brokenhearted. I was given to understand that captives would be released, the blind would see, the downtrodden would be freed from their oppressors, and that God is ready to give blessings to all who come to Him. (Luke 4:18-19) Since then I received the word and wisdom gifts which have enhanced the original core gifts.

Indeed, that was the mission statement for that ministry and everything I have done subsequently. Receiving the infusion of wisdom and gifts was both exciting and confusing. Fortunately, I had several educated holy people to help me.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.19.

On October 30, 1984 we were officially incorporated as a non-profit religious organization. Soon afterwards we put ourselves under the authority of a Board of Directors.

Becoming incorporated was an opportunity to put goals, objectives, and methodologies on paper and gain legal protection and credibility. We were a group of people with a clear vision.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2. p.19.

During the next four months we researched a legal and ecclesiastical union with the Diocese of Rochester, NY. This was both learning and a discouraging experience. The well-known Dorothy Day was correct when she said that people often suffer more because of the church than for the church. By February 1985, the Board decided that this was not the direction that the Holy Spirit was leading.

For some missions, it is good to join up with the church; for some, it is not. Our experience was that the Roman Catholic Church was often disrespectful and controlling toward the people we served and us.

We invited other churches, including the Roman Catholics, to join and contribute to our work, but none were asked to be in control.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch.2, p.19.

The cost of ministry is great. There is pain when others do not share respect for the Biblical message. Our family received many blessings and gifts, but also much personal grief.

I have counseled hundreds of ministers and other Christian servants. They were tired, burned out, some very angry, and many of their families felt the same. Ministry is complex, and it can ruin your life if you are not balanced. Ministry demands are great and never stop.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.19.

For others who want to go into ministry, we suggest that you pray A LOT AND LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, including those He sends to you. Make as many contacts as possible. Get others involved and always stay attentive to your loved ones.

Never fly alone. You will crash. Remember, if you feel special because of your work, you are already in trouble.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.19.

It takes a long time and much patience to create something new. Go slowly and pray.

All too often, people want immediate success and will do all in their power to make that happen—meanwhile, they and their families' crash. Remember, slow is grow, and fast is last.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.20.

*A woman named Kathy called. She was having a tough time in her marriage. Her husband was beating her. She asked me to come over. I arrived to find her badly cut, bruised and crying. This beating had been going on for days. She was five months pregnant. The baby had been kicking regularly but stopped when the beating began. She was fearful for herself and the baby. We talked and prayed. During the prayer Kathy reported feeling at peace. Her physical pain left, and the baby leapt in her womb, giving her a kick in the ribs. Praise God!
Kathy moved into her parents' home where she could be safe.*

Rather tragic events will bring up various emotions, including hurting the offender. Those feelings will get in the way of a true healer. You are there to serve the broken, not seek revenge for them.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch.2, pgs.20,21.

One night, around 9 PM, I received an urgent call for help. A family with eleven children needed food and gas money. The family's food stamps had not arrived. I gathered up some food and gas money and took it to the family. Several days later, I found a note on my porch from that family. After my visit they had canvassed their neighborhood asking for further assistance. Their neighbors gave them double the amount of food and gas money that NCRM had provided. Praise God!

There is no time clock for a crisis. Stressed individuals have to focus on immediate survival, not preplanning for success. Only after some relief are they able to moderately function. Do not expect them to be able to do more.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch.2, p 21.

I was invited to a wedding. The engaged couple said I was to blame so I better be there! When meeting with them, I suggested that God would bless them if they committed to each other in marriage rather than just living together. After all, wasn't four years enough? No one had ever quite said it to them in that manner and it made them think of their relationship differently and decide to get married.

Notice my approach was to suggest, not condemn. I motivated them by pointing out the advantages of pleasing God, not punishment. Theirs was the first marriage that I officiated. Very exciting.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch.2, pgs. 22,23.

"We were about to lose our home because we were behind on our payments. We were also about to lose our two young children because Social Services told us that if we had no place to live, the children would be placed in a foster home. We were about to give up after trying to raise the money ourselves, but to no avail. Me and my husband were separated for about a week. My husband called me with news that a man from New Creation Ministries was coming to visit us on Saturday. It seemed that a friend found one of their brochures in the mail, called New Creation and told them about our troubles. Mike came to see us that Saturday. He prayed with us and for us. We talked for a while. He left but returned on Monday with some good news. It seems that he told some people about us and God reached out and touched their hearts. They gave the funds needed to save our home and our children. We cannot thank God, and you, enough. It was such a nice miracle that the Lord has done for us. I am now praying to keep our marriage. I have more faith than ever before."

Some good information. First, it takes time to get the word out regarding your ministry. We did several advertising things, and the brochures were helpful. Also, your ministry needs to have some financial resources of its own and know people who can substantially help financially.

If you are going to promise something, then do it. I promised to be there Saturday. I was there. Imagine if I did not show. I was their last hope. So they would have been devastated. I promised to return Monday, and I was did. Fortunately, I had a lot of good news, but I would have shown up even if not. Make a promise, then keep a promise.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs. 23,24.

“A neighbor alerted us to the situation of a single mother who was renting a small room in a trailer for \$90 per week. This \$90 was supposed to include food, but there was none. The mother, Sharon, earned \$110, net, per week at a seasonal job. She was trapped in a no-win situation, unable to save money for a security deposit, no telephone or car. She had to pay someone to drive her to work. When I interviewed Sharon, I felt her desperation. The ministry gave her some food and I promised to search for another place for them to live. After a few days of searching, with no positive results, I stopped by to encourage Sharon, only to find her and her children, with their few belongings, sitting on the roadside in tears. They had been thrown out of their meager quarters with no place to go. The ministry gave them a place to stay while searching for stable living quarters. The ministry was able to find an apartment, negotiated terms, provided food and supplies, and moved the family into the apartment. With the help of the church, government agencies, and loving neighbors Sharon and her family were planted in good soil to grow and develop their human potential. (Footnote: The neighbor who alerted the ministry to this family's situation had been reading her Bible that morning when a New Creation Rural Ministry card fell into her lap. This neighbor had no memory of ever having seen this card. Thank you, Father!”

This story was a heartbreaker. Empathy is imperative. If you cannot join in another's pain, you will not help them. The place that we found for their short stay was our home. Yes, our home. It took a little bravery, but having them share our lives and serve them wholeheartedly was a blessing.

Naturally, be very careful about who you invite into your home. We have had some bad stories as well.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch .2,pgs.24,25.

"Like many others I had only seen the organization as a source of emergency food from your food cupboard program. But after once using this program, and contacting your ministerial servant, Mike Rivest, I now know better. The follow-up visits by him and others have led to a new spiritual growth in our family. We have had many blessings granted to us that previously I would have thought were impossible. For me, an old back injury has been healed, or at least the pain has ended. Our daughter had a doctor confirmed healing of scoliosis, so she did not need X-rays or other treatment. When she saw her doctor, he said it was indeed a miracle. New Creation Rural Ministries has had a wonderful and needed impact on my family. I joined Mike in his travels, visiting the sick and needy, finding a new spiritual growth within myself and a strengthening of my faith in the Lord."

I loved this family. Not just one call; here is the food; good luck. No repeated calls that develop a relationship with those whom you serve. You can bring them to Christ via the relationship. Love them first. Evangelize them after they know that you care.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.25.

"Just a note of thanks to one of God's special people. You have helped us through a hard time in our life. Through you and other Christians God is showing us how he takes care of His people in many ways."

"We want to thank the food pantry for the food sent to us after our recent fire. It is wonderful to know such aid exists in our community."

"What a warm feeling to know how much people do care for one another in these days. It is often tough to make ends meet. Bless each one of you."

It is not just the things that you can give but whom you can give. Give yourself and your fellow servants than you can point toward Christ.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.27.

"Most of New Creation Rural Ministry's efforts to the serve the poor in Cayuga and Wayne Counties, NY, two of the poorest counties in New York State, were welcomed. We solicited the aid of the county government, social services, local churches, and businesses. We had many supporters for God's healing presence locally and throughout the East Coast of the USA."

"Our sweet dear poor considered us more as friends than social workers. Generally, every day was filled with blessings and miracles."

I pray that mighty blessing will be the fruits of your healing service. We had many supporters even in the pre-computer era. Whatever your service, you need the same. Not much is written about it, but Jesus had a vast background group of supporters from various backgrounds. DO NOT FLY ALONE.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.27.

"As you might imagine, Satan and his helpers put some difficult obstacles before us. We had to be careful of lies and deceits."

"The most painful experiences came from those who we might have thought would-be supporters."

The attacks will come from within, without, and even from those you have previously helped. That is just the way it is. Very sad, but also it is very real. Be prepared by having lots of loyal supporters both near and far. Get liability insurance. It might help to have a Board of Directors or someone outside of your ministry to whom you are accountable to give regular reports, including looking at your accounting books. Those you give account to should be well known and respected. Ministry was always complex, so keep your feet on the ground.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs 29,30.

“Just prior to the meeting, I received a frantic call from a woman who had just been beaten by her husband. Her neighbor was with her, but she wanted me to come over. I agreed to come over after the meeting.”

“All I could think of was my promise to aid the battered woman. I doubted if I could be much help.”

“I drove home slowly on the backcountry road. The stars were bright. God encouraged me and said, “Don’t be dissuaded by critics; do what I have given you to do.” I cried tears of joy.”

This was one of the worst and best days of my life. Before a meeting with the Town Board in which I was trying to get a permit to put up a sign regarding our clothing depot, I promised to stop over to this hurting lady's home. The Town Board about tore my skin off. I left in tears. Then in the parking lot, two crazy pastors assaulted me. But I made a promise.

That is my point; if you make a promise, keep it regardless of the effort that you have to make. If something happens and you cannot, contact the person, not text, and let them know before the time previously made for the meeting or event. Failure to do so results in the loss of your credibility. Unmet expectations ruin relationships.

The day ended with the person receiving a miracle healing, and God encouraged me against my enemies.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch 2, p.33.

“These were some of the really difficult times. I don’t care who you might be. Godly ministry will have difficult times. Be prepared.”

I hope that you have heard me. I don't care who you are, how powerful, how rich, how anything. Your will attacked. Do not go into any ministry wearing rose-colored glasses.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.34.

“God allows us to misuse our healings. I had prayed for a five year-old boy who had one strong leg and one crippled and weak. He also had several learning disabilities and a deformed arm. During the three days of prayer, his shorter leg grew to match the other; his arm was strengthened and became more mobile. He also became more alert and congenial. Sadly, however, as the months passed, he and his parents failed to continue the necessary exercises and medical assistance. Subsequently, he lost his healing.”

It was very disappointing that the parents failed to follow through. Often people want the easy way on something and do not put in the necessary effort. I gave this family a lot of time and effort, and essentially they just pooped on it.

Once a blind young man asked me to pray for his sight to be restored. He assured me of his sincerity. Without a computer or FaceBook, I got 100 people to be in prayer at the exact time we were to pray for his healing. When I arrived at his home, he had changed his mind. He was afraid of losing his disability check. He preferred to have the money over his sight. Naturally, I had to respect his decision, but also, naturally, I was quietly upset. Interesting how people make decisions.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.34.

“Before I invite anyone to prayer, I would ask the Holy Spirit for permission. Usually the Spirit says yes, but not always. There have been times when I have wanted to pray for someone, but the Spirit had said no. That is hard for me, but I try to follow directions.”

Regardless of the purpose of the prayer, we need first to ask if our petition is in God's perfect will. Often there is no time to think, pray, consult others, read Scripture, and do other discernment activities. You need to know now. If your relationship with God is not prayer-filled and Spirit-driven, you will not be able to discern quickly. Sadly, most Christians do not have that depth of a relationship with God. If that is your case, pass the decision on to those with that type of God intimacy. Then work on your own. Try not to make crucial decisions based on emotions and good motives. They are apt not to turn out well, and you don't need to hurt others or be irresponsible. I am not saying that only spiritual superstars should be in ministry. I am saying be responsible.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.35.

“I was able to gather two Roman Catholic churches and some grants to come to their aid.”

Do not be afraid to ask others for help. Those assisting in a project get their blessings as well.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs.35,36.

“Frankly I was upset and went outside to have a one on one with God. I begged and then returned to attempt another effort. It too failed.”

“I went out again and again, failure after failure. Finally God's replied, "Not this way." I certainly did not know what to do with that message. Finally we just gave up.”

“The next morning, a stranger unexpectedly stopped by their home to introduce himself. He looked at the pump and said, "All you have to do is this." Wouldn't you know, the pump started right up? That was God's way!”

I remember this event rather well. We spent a lot of time helping this family, and we're very committed to them. Yes, I did get God's permission to pray for the water pump. Yes, I was confused and upset that it did not work immediately.

The truth is that it often takes more prayer or some other helpful activity before the time for the prayer to be answered.

The fellow that arrived simply fixed the pump and became a helpful friend to the family. That was important.

The pump was fixed by the turn of a small latch that was less than an inch away from where the husband, several contractors, and I had our hands. We did not see it. I wonder if that was one of those Gods blinding us from seeing the whole situation. Many times we just do not know it all.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.37.

“Through prayer and counsel, Jim was delivered from that bondage. The symptoms of spiritual imprisonment gradually disappeared.”

This is one of the many illustrations that sometimes you have to invite professional help and time into the situation. Patience is difficult. It is good to remember that you are not called to be all things to all people. You are called to do what God has specially

called you to do. I remember being asked to heal a local group of thugs. I looked at them. I looked at God. He said," not yours to do. Walk away."

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs.38,39.

"I remember my sad moments of grief and depression when I was full of my pitiful self and wanted to sit around all day in my poor baby me. During one of my worst pitiful days, a man came to my door asking for food."

"I just wanted him to leave. As soon as I closed my door, God said, "Go pray for him. Don't let him leave until you have done so." Even my pitiful self could not say no to God. We prayed. His pain was instantly gone."

This situation reminds me of something St. Paul said, "When I am weak, I am strong." I was certainly weak. I had nothing to give. It was all on God's shoulders. That was the strength. Actually, everything is on God's shoulders. The success of ministry is with God, not you. It is not your ministry. It is His ministry. Do not call any ministry yours.

Before a healing service, our hosts and several others would want to gather for a cheerleading prayer session. The implication was that I needed to be charged up so I, we, would have the power. I have seen this also in churches before the leading service. It was more a screaming match than a prayer. I would prefer a quiet time, so my ears could work better. My healing services, by the way, are reverential, not a wild, crazy, jumping up and down screaming emotional display.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs.40,41.

"All three disabled adult family members were attempting to pool their efforts and make it through a rather difficult life. Mary had recently lost her job. When I first met them, they were frantic about losing their rental housing. The landlord had sold the property, and they expected to be evicted so the new landlord could make significant repairs."

"The film team and I visited them. We prayed. Mary reported that while in prayer, Jesus told her not to worry and that everything would be okay. She was somewhat comforted."

"A week or so later, I returned. Mary couldn't wait to tell me their great news. The new landlord not only wanted them to stay, and he was still going to do the needed repairs. Thank you, Lord."

This is one of my favorite stories. Healing comes in many ways. In this situation, these three elderly folks pooled their resources and were doing their very best to live out their last years. All of their resources failed them. No individual, church, or government agency came to their rescue. In their despair, God showed up and more

than answered their prayers. I believe that if we all were doing our best, God would also more than bless us.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.42.

“My first crazy encounter occurred soon after I received my healing gifts. One of my people suggested that I visit with Mary Jane. She greeted me warmly. We visited and chatted about the weather and so on. Suddenly, out of seemingly nowhere, Mary Jane started speaking about her involvement with Satan. It was quite scary. I didn’t know what to do, so I politely excused myself and said that I would return later”.

There will be encounters that will be beyond your training. Notice my reaction. I did not fake it and try to make it work. God was not giving me extraordinary information. There was no immediate danger to this lady or anyone else. I excused myself so that I could get educated.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs.44,45.

“From there I drove directly to the priest and told him my story. Yes he knew Jackson well. The priest told me that I had actually been in terrible danger. The previous year Jackson had been accused of killing another migrant with an ax. Unfortunately the courts could not prove it, so the locals had given Jackson bus money to get out of town. Apparently he had now returned. The priest was not interested in getting involved.”

The Jackson story is one of the more dramatic encounters I love to tell. It speaks about the incompetency of Catholic Charities who sent me there alone, myself for the way I dressed, the Farm Bureau for knowing Jackson, and not keeping their eye on him, the local priest for not even caring to follow up, and the farmer who employed Jackson and the other migrants.

Once again, DO NOT DO IT ALONE.

I suspect God was protecting me but let us not put God to the test.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.45.

“Years later I had applied for a job at that same Farm Bureau. The inexperienced interviewer asked me a rather existential question. “Who are you?” Immediately I responded, “I am a son of God, brother of Jesus, heir to the Kingdom now and forever.” Needless to say, I didn’t get the job.”

I knew that I would not get the job by speaking my spiritual definition. But I had to be honest about my call—a good lesson for all of us. Be honest about who we are.

That spiritual definition has stayed with me even forty years later. The ministry you serve should also have its description, mission state, purpose, and goals. Do not go outside of them.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.46.

“Home visits were the backbone of New Creation Rural ministries. Sometimes I would be referred, but more than not, crazy me would just knock on the door and give the person who answered some government cheese or just say hi.”

Jesus did the same. He was out on the road where the people were not sitting comfortably in his office, waiting for the weak to come to Him. He also came bearing gifts. Jesus gave something such as food, healing, and a message of encouragement. These gifts essentially said I care; my Father cares; come follow me.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.46.

“Poor people have an exceptional network. I introduced myself. He let me in. It didn't take long for him to narrate his story. Yes it was scary. But I could see beneath his tattoos. He was indeed a gentleman wishing the best for himself, his wife, and his neighbors.”

People can present as unwelcoming and a bit scary. Look beyond their appearance and circumstance. You smile, be warm, and be caring. Listen to their story without judgment or comment. This frightening guy became a resource for me. He had volunteered to fix things for broken people. One of my goals was to bring the poor together so that they may give to each other. I had little nests of helping people throughout the rural countryside.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.48.

“The Jehovah's Witnesses folks frequently canvassed the trailer park. God had placed me on their trail. I would visit those vulnerable dear ones shortly after the Jehovah's Witnesses. They would tell me of their convincing visit. I would listen and ask, "Do you want to pray about that?" We would pray. God would always grace our prayers. They described the prayer experiences as very warm, loving, and accepting. I then asked them which God they wanted to accept. They always chose our Christian God.”

I knew intuitively that Scriptural arguments, persuasion, emotional manipulation, and other convincing tactics generally do not work or don't last if they do. Current studies are now learning the truth of what I had intuited. People learn and are influenced by experience. So I let God speak for Himself by giving them an experience of His loving presence. I would encourage you to do the same. Do not put arguments in your prayers.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs.48,49.

“God even pursues those who are running away from Him and are actually in terrible sin.”

“I embraced him and said, “See how much God loves you. Now stop stealing from your neighbors.” It was later reported that all three reformed thieves became quite the helpers throughout the trailer park.”

These events happen like a gentle running stream. As you gather more experience, I suspect that you will become more confident and comfortable. If you practice putting yourself aside and focus on the people you are giving, more love will be expressed, and the more they will accept you.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.49.

“Over time I gained some notoriety both as a social worker, good-doer, and a healer. Consequently, a large number of people contacted me, (remember there were no computers at that time) either by mail, phone, or just showing up at my door.”

Remember, I was the face of the larger organization behind me. The work of New Creation Rural Ministries was known. Yes, and they loved my face!!! In time your service will be known.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.50.

“God graciously gave me two unusual healings”.

I tell these embarrassing stories in the book to illustrate God's grace and that I have not entirely arrived as some superstar. The lesson that I keep learning is that I, we, you, and everyone are called to act responsibly in taking care of ourselves. God's grace is working in that also.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.51.

“There was a void between us and the prayers. I asked if she had some un-repented sin. She said yes. Just then the priest appeared. I asked her to immediately go to the priest and confess her sin. She did. They went off to a room beside the altar. Moments later the priest came running out of the room yelling, ‘She can see, she can see.’ “

While we should not be focusing on the sin of others or looking for evil under every rock, there are times to give recognition that sin does block prayers. Notice also the uniqueness of this situation. I was in a church; the lady was an active Christian, a priest was available, and she was willing. It was fun watching the priest run around proclaiming her healed vision.

I am a priest now, and when led, I casually mention sin during my healing prayers and just as causally absolve them from their sins. I say causally not to diminish the enormity of sin but to stay focused on God's loving mercy, not their terribleness.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.52.

“The New York State Troopers, Sheriff, and security guards were all very welcoming to the ministry. They would send people to us and generously watched over some who really needed help”.

Law enforcement personnel are your friends. They are servant members of your community.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs. 54, 55.

“Sometime later that same prisoner was hospitalized. One of my volunteers and I went to visit him. He was alone in a room and chained to the bed. An announcement came over the loudspeakers that visiting hours were over. The halls were darkened. We leaned over him to pray. A nurse entered the room to see two men leaning over the prisoner and my hands on his neck. She asked what we were doing. I said that we were praying and that she was welcome to join us. That invitation usually gets people to exit, and she did.”

Some important lessons are in this story. Inviting people into your prayer time shows your legitimacy. If they stay, they will have much to offer. If you represent an organization, not just your good-doer self, the hospital staff will be more apt to give you the time and space for your prayerful visit. Do not be shy to ask for some privacy.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.57.

“We had another mostly unspoken problem in our church. Our priest pastured not one but three separate churches over a large geographic area. He lived alone and worked alone. He was loved and appreciated, but the parishioners were wrapped up in their own lives and seldom gave him much personal attention.”

Every ministering person is overworked and underappreciated. Put them on your visiting list. Just because they are spiritual leaders, do not be afraid to ask them if they would like to pray for their own needs. They need it also.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, p.59.

“We had the money, location, volunteers, food, gifts, and the drivers to pick up our dinner guests for the Christmas celebration. All was going perfectly. I cannot compliment the volunteers enough. They gave up part of their Christmas Day to give to others. They decorated the parish hall to look like an Italian restaurant. They cooked turkey with all of the fixings and had a gift for each dinner guest.”

Leading volunteers is much like herding cats. But the rewards can be immeasurable.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 2, pgs.61-64.

“Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Funerals”

Healing comes in many forms and in many places. Go with enthusiasm if God leads you and your organization to a specific ministry niche.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 3, p.65.

“One member of my healing teams and I drove to Ohio. We were to conduct a two day seminar on healing and to conduct an evening healing service at a Catholic church.”

“You never quite know what will happen at the seminars or services. This one was fascinating.”

“The church wanted to establish a layperson healing team. Much of the seminar was focused on teaching them how to pray for others and encouraging them that they did not have to have healing gifts to pray. After all, the healings were at God's mercy, not our efforts.”

It is an exciting and fruitful experience to train others in the healing ministry. Perhaps that could be part of your call. Not everyone has the spiritual gift of healing, but we are all called to pray for each other.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch 3, p.67.

“The next evening we divided some of the seminar attendants into two groups. I took one group with the Irish priest, and my team member took the other group. I had the priest anoint the petitioners, and I would say the prayer with the group's support. Several hundred people came forward.”

The priest could have been a problem because he was rather outspoken and did not believe in divine healing entirely. I had to include him or invite him to join us since he was the local pastor. However, I did so in a way that limited his opportunity to spoil things. I have had several similar experiences. Keep your eyes open for the know-it-alls. As you read the rest of his story, you will see his conversion and reception of his physical healing.

If a group is under your instruction or inviting you, invite them to join in the healing service. Remember, it is not about you. It is about God. That being the case, He can work through everyone.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch 3, p.69.

“I had received calls from churches along the East Coast to conduct healing services and seminars. Those were exciting times.”

“Below are just a few of the many letters I received from the participants in those healing services. I thought that you would enjoy these unsolicited and unedited response letters rather than getting the details of each trip”

Take a good look at those letters. Everyone is a hurting person. Recently I was shopping in a local box store, and suddenly I saw every shopper and employee carrying huge burdens. It broke my heart. I prayed for them. I wanted to give them a big hug and an award for being heroes.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch 4, pgs.79-10.

“Important People”

The persons and family I have described significantly changed my life. The change was inspired through giving and receiving. I encourage you to be open to receiving from others. Often the givers are not so good at receiving. If you cannot receive from others, I would have to wonder about your ability to receive from God.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Ch. 5. pgs.103-106.

“The Next Chapter of the Divine Healer”

“I am very proud of our accomplishments during those four years in the 1980s.

- New Creation brought nearly \$280,000 worth of goods and services into Wayne and Cayuga counties.*
- We provided enough food to the poor to create 230,000 meals.*
- We visited homes, jails, hospitals, and nursing homes on 2252 occasions.*
- We participated in 438 meetings with churches and supporting agencies.*
- Our clothing depot gave clothing and appliances to 653 people.*
- We helped 287 people get affordable housing and stable employment*
- We sponsored annual "Celebrate Life" picnics and hosted a "Community Resource Day" in which several agencies participated, and hundreds of people attended.*
- All in all, I drove the famous van an excess of 60,000 miles.*

I was able to pass on my leadership to a dynamic family in Red Creek.”

You, too, will have to move on to your next chapter at some point in your journey. Everything has its time and place. You may not recognize that it is your time, but your teammates might. Be open and prayerful about what God has you to do. Celebrate what you have accomplished and be at peace concerning your future. Remember, God cares about you also.

Memoirs of a Christian Healer Appendix, pgs.106-123.

“Newspaper Articles”

I incorporated some of the news articles on our work to validate its authenticity and set the stage for this cautionary tale.

I have been interviewed by some reporters that were lazy about the facts or had their hidden agendas. I often tried to get them to agree to give me the final say on their reporting. They all refused. Fortunately, none reported terribly false information. It was disturbing when one reported that I owed a local gas station \$600.00. I told them that I traveled so much that I usually spent \$600.00 a month on gasoline. It hurt because I often did without so I could pay for the gas.

When interviewing, speak only the facts. Avoid giving your opinions or talking badly about anything. Keep confidences. Do not give names of those whom you are serving. The names I gave in the book have been with the persons' permission.

A local reporter phoned me and asked if I thought that the current President of the United States was a sex addict. I had such a great time scolding him.

I hope my Memoirs and this discussion have inspired you toward your own healings and response to God's loving mercy.

