



*The Order of St Luke the Physician  
in New Zealand*  
**HEAL-LINK**

*February - March 2009 Issue 291*

*Dedicated to healing the whole person, spirit, soul and body,  
and to the healing of situations, of nations, and of God's creation.*



*Greetings from Warden Lionel*

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this the New Year will be well under way. 2009 promises to be a year of change both nationally and internationally:

- There have been significant changes of government both in NZ and the USA.
- An economic depression is sweeping the world.
- There is continued debate about the significance of global warming.

As Christians we live with the assurance that no matter how much change and uncertainty there is God goes with us and always moves from 'darkness' into 'light'.

We see this right at the beginning in Genesis chapter 1. In the account of creation, at the end of each day, there are the words: 'And there was evening and there was morning, the ... day.' Whereas we tend to regard a day as moving from morning to evening (from light to dark) God sees a day as beginning with evening and going through the darkness of night into the light of the morning. Our natural movement tends to be from light to dark, but God moves from darkness into the newness of morning. This sets the tone for the whole of God's working with his people.

- At the Exodus the Hebrews were led by God from the 'darkness' of life in Egypt into the 'light' of a new beginning in the promised land.
- With birth of Jesus 'the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.' Once again this was a new beginning with signs following.
- Then from the darkness of Calvary there came a new beginning with the Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost.
- In the book of Acts we see a new beginning as Gentiles are brought into the light of Christ.
- This translates into our Christian experience when in Christ we can move from doubt to certainty; from sickness to health; from brokenness to wholeness.

The other important thing to remember is that God continues to work through the 'night'. "He neither slumbers nor sleeps." So:

- when we face uncertainty
- when we are seeking to know the way forward
- when illness is our lot
- when we face employment issues and financial uncertainty
- when we are concerned for loved ones
- when the world's troubles tend to overwhelm us
- when God seems far away
- or when as an OSL Chapter we face uncertainty, be assured that God is walking with us leading us into new light and new beginnings.

May you know God's blessing where ever he walks with you this year and may you consciously move towards new beginnings.

Yours in his service

*Warden Lionel*

PS. Some of you will be aware through Prayer-Link that Rachelle had surgery in early January. Thank you to all who prayed for us at the time. I am pleased to report that the surgery went really well and that recuperation is well under way. *Lionel*

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**From Co-General Secretaries:**

Dear Friends,

Greetings as we begin this Lenten season in what seems to be a very busy year. Progress is being made on the handbook revision and we look forward to having it completed and circulated in due course. In the meantime please forward any **chapter remits by 23 March** you would like considered by the Executive at their next meeting on 5 May.

**Sharing Magazine** is due for a renewed subscription. At today's exchange rate that would cost \$52.50 per person for a total order of 10 or \$65.30 for 5. This increase is due to the state of the NZ dollar and will need to be adjusted at the time of placing the Order with USA. If you are not a subscriber and would like to become one then please let us know urgently. It is a very worthwhile magazine with much inspirational writing in it.

Your servants in Christ

*Brian and Shirley*

Co-General Secretaries

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## ***The God of Surprises***

Moses saw a bush burning, yet somehow it never burned away. So he drew closer to see what was going on, and it led to a divine encounter that changed his life and the lives of about one and a half million others as they were led out of slavery in Egypt.

Over 30 years ago Helen and I were ministering to a woman born with a club foot who later contracted polio. She had one leg shorter than the other. She was sprawled on our lounge floor so I felt to pray for her. I placed my hands over each hip, then, to my utter amazement her hips moved as if her body was being realigned. As we walked her home she constantly had to readjust to what had been her normal way of walking – we knew God had miraculously touched her. That event is as poignant for us today as it was 30 years ago. It reminds us that God will use ordinary people (of faith – like us) to accomplish His healings. It reminds us of the concert recital where a little boy sneaked up on the stage and began playing “Twinkle, twinkle little star” on the grand piano. The maestro then sat beside him and added the extra notes to make a beautiful sound. We often feel like that little boy, realising that God is prepared to use us as we seek to be open to His leading.

We never know where, when, or how God will move – it still amazes us that He does. We have also discovered that He gives us the “tools” to use, the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Cor 12:7-11). With those gifts comes His authority and power. Probably the greatest insight that comes with this came when God showed us that we no longer had to keep asking Him to heal or act in a particular way. We know Jesus is the source of all healing. “No, you just get on and do it!” And that is what we do – the when, where and how are in His hands – our task is to speak in faith. There are times when the God of surprises still surprises us!

Recall how Peter responded to the crippled beggar asking for money at the temple gate. Peter did not say to the man, “I will ask God to heal you”. Rather, “Silver and gold I don’t have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” (Acts 3)

**Who do you think was the most surprised? Dear God, keep surprising us.**

A book that may surprise you:

**“Megashift” by James Rutz.** The best news since year one . . . . .

“God has handed down a revised set of rules delegating greater power to more people. He has apparently decreed that plain folks like you and me are now a central part of an accelerated plan for a total transformation of the world. That plan is centred round small clusters of loosely networked but highly committed Christian people who have been empowered to do extraordinary things.”

**Ivan Dunnnett, Central Area Chaplain**

## **TE WAIORA CHRISTIAN HEALING CENTRE**

Is celebrating **25** years and the **100th** year in the life of the beautiful old Hororata Vicarage now **Te Waiora House**



**WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO COME TO THE FAIR AND GARDEN PARTY!  
on Saturday 21 March 2009, 1pm to 4pm**

We are planning a great variety of stalls, second-hand books (Christian books included), white elephant stall, competitions, a silent auction and Devonshire Teas. There will be tours of Te Waiora House and we hope to have the services of an Antique Valuer.

In addition we are having lots of musical entertainment including the **Christchurch Plainsmen**, the **St Stephens Music Group** and we are delighted to have New Zealand’s very own world renowned Opera Singer

**Rodney Macann.**

**Entry is by way of gold coin(s)**

### ***What we do at Te Waiora***

Te Waiora House is many different things to people. Guests come for a variety of reasons. Life today is busy and stressful and many people simply need time out for rest and reflection. Some come for retreats, to seek a closer walk with God, others come to shelter away from the storms of life that surround them and still others come who just need a rest from caring for their loved ones. Some are experiencing health issues themselves, either physical or mental.

Our first priority is to meet the guests’ physical needs by providing a quiet peaceful comfortable environment so that people can rest and unwind. To maximise rest breakfast is brought to your room. Home cooked meals are provided with much of the produce coming from the garden.

The House Manager and helpers are available to offer a listening ear for those who need to talk about any issues or problems. We also have a small resource library and refer guests to professional help where necessary. All our ministry is supported by prayer. Any spiritual needs of guests are met by offering daily devotional times or individual prayer ministry for deeper needs. This may include Theophostic Prayer Ministry.

We have a small group of volunteers who help to run Te Waiora. There are many opportunities or avenues for serving. These range from practical help in the kitchen or garden to prayer or financial support, serving on the Trust Board to relieving for weekends.

Averil Ewart-Jones is our House Manager and has been a real blessing to our guests with her training and experience and warm caring personality. We are always looking for more Prayer Partners. Do contact us if you would like to receive our Newsletters.

We welcome any inquiries from potential guests or helpers!

Phone Averil on **03 318 0789** or check our website: [www.tewaiora.com](http://www.tewaiora.com)

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### Chapter Study Resources:

With the year getting under way, Chapters may like to consider using material available from the Resource Assistant. Books of Studies include:

#### **'In Search of Wholeness' by Dr Peter Wellock.**

Members attending the 2009 Conference will have met Peter. His book includes a broad perspective of healing ministry and is useful for Chapters seeking to expand the horizons of this ministry.

**'Channels of Healing'** is a useful resource using stories from Scripture with healing application. Both books are ideal for a chapter meeting, with helpful introductions and discussion questions.

These two books are \$12 each plus postage.

**'Ten Teachings on the Healing Ministry of Jesus'** provides a year long course, on major themes. This study provides chapter discussion material and home study. The Ten Teachings cost \$5. It is recommended that chapters photocopy for each person.

A new resource more for *personal reading* is:

**'Healing Everywhere'** by OSL's founder J Gaynor Banks. This version has been revised into more contemporary language and is recommended in 'Sharing' Magazine. Cost is \$25 plus postage [*an excellent buy – Ed*]

**Please Order from:** Mrs Betty Meyers, our Resource Assistant,  
34a Halswater Drive, Churton Park, Wellington 6037  
or email [ecmeyers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ecmeyers@xtra.co.nz)

### **Thoughts from Central Area**

I recently read an article by Canon Paul Nener in *Chrism* (Autumn 2008) in which he said, "Our vocation in this ministry (the healing ministry) is largely to convince the fearful and the reticent that each local church community has not only a vocation for healing, but also all the necessary tools for such work. Our hope is to assist ordinary people, 'earthen vessels', to realise in themselves the potential to be Christ-bearers, and thus ministers of his healing gifts. Healing Services are an important part of the life of the local Church. They are times when we meet together to concentrate on the great themes of our common life, and the gifts of Christ our Lord—times of Holy Communion, oases of prayer, arenas of simple touch and personal presence, and silent moments where seekers can find time for confession and unburdening of hearts and minds."

Canon Paul is an Anglican priest and so his focus is primarily on church based ministry. His article led me to thinking about where does our ministry start and stop. Should we be active within our respective churches helping to support and build church based healing prayer services or should our focus be more outward looking to the greater community?

I sometimes wonder if we tend to focus more on one aspect of healing ministry and leave the other to the "professionals". At the church where I currently worship we have a time during the Sunday services every week where people can come to a quiet spot (the Lady Chapel) and there receive prayers for their personal needs or come for special prayers of thanksgiving to God. I feel that this is a very important part of the services as it allows people to express their needs, fears or thanks to God with the help of prayer ministry people to frame their prayer needs for them. I have found when it comes to "talking to God" about their personal needs people are very grateful for the help of the prayer teams. It seems that a lot of us are a bit wary about talking to God when it comes to our own problems.

Canon Paul goes on to say "... In the modern world where so many find themselves to be wandering in deserts of hurt, pain and doubt, local churches can muster resources to pierce this world, and by their life and love and knowledge open themselves to the living God. Some do it well; they grow and live. Many do it half-heartedly; at least they try. This is a fabulous call of God, and the rewards that come with a willing response." Are we part of the resource that can be mustered to meet this need? I have found it is indeed a very rewarding ministry and the results can be fabulous. Part of my focus as Area Convenor will be to support OSL members in building this ministry in their own churches.

**John Merrimen, Area Convenor [Abridged-Ed]**

## Give Thanks!

**Missioner Kevin Gwynne** had his (long awaited) second cornea transplant last December and writes: *"Things continue to progress well. The odd day of soreness, but generally the eye is doing great and I can see beyond expectations. Last week, I saw my eye specialist . . . and he was very pleased. I took an eye test for driving – and passed. I was able to read 3 lines below the acceptable standard for driving !!! That is a miracle – Praise God. So now, I'm back at work, and back driving again. Thanks again to all for their faithful prayers."*

**Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS – from the General Treasurer

The 2008 Warden's Council resolved that annual subscriptions increase from \$12 to \$20 for individuals and \$30 for couples from 1 July 2009.

The administration costs of OSL are met by the subscription income. Now, with reducing numbers and increasing costs, this has necessitated an increase in the subscription rate to break even. The current rate has been held at \$12 per person for the last nine years, but the time has come for the subscription rate to be increased to ensure that the administration of the Order is properly funded for the foreseeable future.

The proposed subscription rate compares favourably with subscriptions payable in Australia and North America, which are significantly higher.

## FINANCIAL

The Order of St Luke the Physician in NZ is a Registered Charitable Trust. Donations can always be sent to the General Treasurer who will send you an official receipt for Tax rebate purposes. Please make use of these opportunities to support the Healing Ministry in New Zealand.

**General Treasurer, Michael Bain, 12 Albert Street, Island Bay, WELLINGTON**

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## YOUR EDITOR WRITES:

Our next issue in April will come out at Eastertide, with the Easter theme **"Christ is Risen"**. We look forward to receiving lots and lots of short items about how the Risen, Healing Lord comes to us and to others to heal and make whole. Can we use some Lenten discipline to reflect, write and send something to **HEAL-LINK?** Please do!

If you ever face a difficult time, pray! If you ever face a crisis, definitely pray over it. The Greek word *'krisis'* is usually translated 'judgement'. The one and only true Judge is God and therefore He is facing your crisis too; His very presence offers support, and hope for healing your situation. This thought comes to mind: **"A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel."**

## NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Hutt OSL Healing Group: Mrs Raiha Ellis

Motueka:

Mrs Rosemary Beatson



## NEW FULL MEMBERS:

Palmerston North:

Mrs Reima E Casey, Mrs Jeanette Melton

Hutt OSL Healing Group: Mr Peter Banks

Taieri:

Mrs Celia Joyce, Mr Neville Looser,

Mrs Diana Mattingly



## ROLL OF HONOUR: Members Called to Higher Service

Central Postal:

Mrs Helen Gibbs

Kapiti:

Mrs Phyllis Newport

Nelson:

Mr Brian Carson

Picton Chapter:

Mrs Margaret Mayne

Southern Postal:

Mrs Pauline Winter, Mrs Glenise Amsden



Brian Carson, a member since 1972, living in a Rest Home, died on 15th February at 99 years old (6 weeks from 100th birthday). He and his wife, Ruth, who has already died, were both very loyal members of Tapawera and then Nelson Chapters. He kept up an interest until the last few months, enjoying 'Wholeness' and Heal-Link, which I delivered to him. He is now rejoicing in the Lord he loved for so many years.

**-Anne Wesley Area Convenor**

## DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS:

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## GENERAL INFORMATION:-

The OSLNZ Website is <http://www.oslnz.org> Log on to this website and you will find links to other OSL websites around the world.

Our website is managed and operated for OSL by Brian & Shirley Flower.

**HEAL-LINK** can be downloaded and reproduced from the website.

**Reminder: Dead-line for next HEAL-LINK is 1 April 2009**

with an Easter theme **"Christ is Risen"**

It is the turn of the **Midland Area** to send in contributions but **all members** are invited to contribute to **HEAL-LINK**; it is your newsletter!

Please send your copy to the Editor:-

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