



*The Order of St Luke the Physician
in New Zealand*

HEAL-LINK

June - July 2009 Issue 293

*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,

What's in a name?

Recently I was introduced to someone who, on hearing that I was the NZ Warden for the Order of St Luke, asked in jest, 'Do you keep them in or do you keep them out?' I have discovered that for many people the word 'warden' suggests the keeper of a prison. With that sort of thing in mind the Executive at its meeting the other week decided to trial the name 'National Chaplain' in place of 'Warden' for all internal OSL matters.

We cannot legally make the change unless the Triennial Conference in October 2011 approves it. Therefore we will not use the title 'National Chaplain' outside of OSL circles until then. So in the meantime I will answer to both names! In passing it is of interest that my counterpart in Australia is the 'National Chaplain'.

This proposed change of name is all part of seeking to find ways to be more relevant. Another thing we have agreed to do on a trial basis is to encourage churches to become associated with OSL. For an annual fee a church would be recognised as an associate of OSL and as such would have access to all OSL resources. Again, if this is working well we will seek approval for it at the 2011 Triennial Conference.

These are exciting and challenging times as we realise that we need to move forward in new ways. Someone recently asked me what is my theme for my time as National Chaplain. The theme that I have chosen was the theme of my charge at Conference, namely 'The Faithfulness of God'. I believe that this is very appropriate because in the midst of all the change and uncertainty around us we can be certain of one thing: we serve a faithful God.

*'Your steadfast love, O Lord,
Extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.'* Psalm 36:5

Yours in his service
National Chaplain Lionel

Lionel

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From Co-General Secretaries:

Dear Friends,

At long last the **revised handbook** is a reality. Having been involved in the first revision it has been a different experience this time, with the revision team being double the number of members compared with the first one and meeting frequently by email and telephone compared with monthly afternoon meetings with extensive travel to attend, battling with drowsiness. At the same time those earlier revisions were a great exercise in exploring the theology of healing. With the Executive at that time meeting every six months approval was obtained progressively as work continued over several years while this version (with modern technology) was completed within six months. Certainly this revision built on the groundwork established in the 1980's and much of it has been modernising the presentation.

To keep costs at a minimum production is proceeding over a period of time and the handbooks are being distributed as the National and Area Chaplains and others travel. We trust that members will find these to be a helpful resource.

On pages 5-8 in this issue is a report of the May Executive meeting which we found inspirational, challenging, thoughtful and exciting, especially looking forward to the future direction of OSL. We appreciated starting each day with a communion service as well as concluding with worship.

Your servants in Christ
Brian and Shirley
Co-General Secretaries

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Obituary:

Reverend Canon Don Fergusson of Titoki Healing Centre peacefully passed to Higher Service in Tauranga on April 25, 2009 aged 78.

Two former Chaplains of Titoki write Remembrances:



Don Ferguson was a man of vision and courage amongst many other noble attributes. He stepped away from a secure parish ministry, with a young family in tow, to set up a Christian Healing Centre; something unheard of in NZ at that time. Don had the opportunity to visit the Burrswood Healing Centre in England, and returned convinced he was being called by God, to do something like that in NZ. So began the remarkable journey, of the **Titoki Healing Centre** in Whakatane.

A journey and dream which lives on – and where literally hundreds of people, have come to a greater place of physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual healing in their own personal lives, due to the caring ministry offered here. Don as its founder, along with his wife Wilma, set the benchmark. Titoki was a place “set aside” for people to come and find rest, peace, healing, and wholeness, through Jesus Christ, and through the loving, caring, compassion, of its entire staff. Don was a man of wisdom, and deep faith, he had a gentle quiet nature, was softly spoken, a good listener and counsellor, and one who was loved and respected by guests and staff alike.

Don was also an accomplished musician, as a church Organist.

As one who followed Don as Chaplain at Titoki, I always felt it was a special privilege to spend time with Don, on his return visits there. He will be sadly missed by many. He has made an outstanding contribution, to the wider Healing Ministry of the Church in NZ.

Bishop Peter Atkins wrote this in the Foreword to Don’s book **“Love of the Divine Healer”** (which is good recommended reading for all OSL members):

“Don’s faith is like gold, truly tested in the fires of the struggles which we all face in ‘living in the kingdom’. He has dug deep in these experiences, often in the darkness far beneath the surface, and brought forth golden faith into the light of day to enrich us all.”

That sums the man up well !

Revd Kevin Gwynne, Missioner

The Late Don Fergusson

Our first encounter with Don was in 1988 when we first went to consider working at Titoki. At the time we were going through a rough patch in our journey and immediately, his welcome, his warmth and understanding led us to become part of the Titoki Community, and our involvement in the Healing Ministry.

We recall a visit from Don and Wilma when we were managers of Te Waioara. Their encouragement and passion for the Healing Ministry meant much to us. And their support continued when we moved to Titoki.

With a quiet sense of humour Don had a special way of turning a negative situation into a positive. Wherever he was he had a way of reaching out and touching lives, we will be forever grateful and **praise God** for the way he touched ours and the lives of many others.

John and Enid McClean, Chaplain and Convenor, Northern Area

When I heard of Don’s passing I quickly re-read Don’s book (“skimmed through”) and was reminded of the emphasis Don put on the place of Sacraments in our lives and particularly Holy Communion at times of healing and death. He writes: **“When you are in real need the outward and visible sign is very precious to you. Obviously our Lord knew this, or he would have not instituted it. There are, of course, many sacraments (with a small ‘s’) and these are very important for those who are sharing in dying and healing. Little acts of kindness and care speak for themselves.”**
The Love of the Divine Healer p48. **Editor**

Healing Addictions

Many people ask for prayer to heal a physical sickness or mental disorder which they fail to specify correctly or identify as something quite different. An example is a person wanting prayer for a painful knee when the cause is a failing hip socket, or the insomniac who wants prayer for a good nights sleep. In this second example I am thinking of Bob. Three of us stood, laying hands on Bob and waited for a word of knowledge and a prompting from the Holy Spirit. Nothing happened! We started again in prayerful questions and answers to learn that Bob was really depressed and worried by his work load and job security (another sign of economic recession). As we continued to pray all over again, our leader felt “the warm glow of Holy Spirit’s power” flowing over him and the rest of us. We all felt a positive feeling of peace. We prayed, “Thank you Father for this Peace, we don’t understand but we know you are answering our prayers.” Bob said loudly “Amen”.

I ran into Bob two weeks later, at church, and he grabbed me by the hand, “Thank you so much for your prayers. I am sleeping much better and I’ve stopped worrying about my job. You know, I’m an awful worrier!” I found myself reflecting on Bob’s addiction to worry and thanking Jesus for his understanding our prayers.

Anon

News from the Executive meeting May 2009

A major item of the agenda was the final editing of the proposed **new handbook**, which had been worked on since January by a revision team of seven members. One of the tasks was bringing the format and content into modern language and usage. For instance, the usage of capital letters for pronouns has been discontinued, so 'He' and 'Him' for God and Jesus is now 'he' and 'him'. Again, the word 'vocation' is not understood by modern younger people so it has been replaced, with different words for different contexts where it has been used.

The term 'Rule of the Order' has been replaced by 'Commitment to service'.

These are just a couple of examples of changes that have been made to make the handbook more user friendly.

The executive meeting commenced each morning with a communion service, and concluded each evening with a devotional service suitable for a healing service either for an individual or for a group or chapter. These services were being trialled, having been prepared for inclusion in the handbook and so were followed by times of discussion and amendment.



The new services include less structured forms to reach out to those who are not familiar with traditional forms of worship, and incorporate an historical background to Christian worship, especially the Sacraments. Used in one of these less structured forms of communion at Executive was unleavened bread as pictured on page 8 together with an article by Brian Hooper.

Also included with the new services is a section devoted to anointing.

Printing of the handbooks is under way and they are being assembled progressively and will be distributed over a period of time. Thanks to a bequest from the estate of the late Rae Minogue, former literature secretary and life member, the handbooks are being provided free of charge to all existing members. Future members will be charged \$5 (previously \$10) until such a time as costs warrant an increase.

Do not throw away your old handbook covers! A draft **song book for OSL** is to be printed so it will fit them so they can be recycled.

At the 2005 Wardens Council and Conference the **Guild of St Raphael** amalgamated with the Order in New Zealand and transferred its funds to the Order. The Order gave the transferring members three years' free subscriptions. Now that all of the Guild members wishing to transfer their membership to the Order have done so the balance of the Guild funds have been transferred to the OSL general fund.

One evening was taken up by discussion on the future direction of OSL with membership numbers decreasing as they are (a loss of 63 over the last twelve months). The Order needs revitalising, with younger people joining.

It was felt that the Order needed to become more user friendly in terms of the language used. For example the title '**Warden**' was felt to be outdated and conjured up the picture of a prison warden. It was suggested that this title should be replaced by '**National Chaplain**'. Such a change cannot be formally made until the next Triennial Council (Warden's Council) so the title 'National Chaplain' will be used on a trial basis in the meantime.

It was also suggested that the next Executive meeting consider that the Order be renamed "**the Order of St Luke the Physician in New Zealand commonly called OSL Healing Ministries**".

Also that we invite churches to become **OSL Associated Churches** and in return for an annual subscription or donation of \$50 to \$100 we provide Heal-Link and other resources and have reciprocal links between our websites.

A **mission statement** for the Order was also discussed and it was agreed that it be trialled as '**Jesus' healing ministry in action**' and this statement can be found on the title page of the new handbook.

Other ideas to be considered at the next Executive meeting were that:

- teams be formed to conduct weekend seminars
- teachings be recorded at seminars to have DVD's for sale
- we have a shopping cart on our website for selling our resources and add a mark up on resources advertised with a 20% discount for members and associated churches.
- testimonies be recorded to show God at work.

Any **additional suggestions** for the way forward would be welcomed by the Executive and can be sent to Brian and Shirley for consideration.

There is a perceived need for a group of people in the Order, not necessarily in one place, who are prepared to intercede for those in need of any form of healing. We occasionally receive requests which are not in the province of the **OSL Prayer-Link** (operated by Frank) which is intended for members of the Order and their loved ones.

The OSL website attracts requests which may be from anywhere in the world and we feel strongly that as a Healing Order with a website that is accessible to the public we should be able to respond to appeals for intercessory prayer. We believe that there are a number of members who could offer time for intercession and this would enrich the ministry we offer. We would like to see set up an **OSL Intercessors' Group** with somebody prepared to receive emails via the website and to manage a list of OSL volunteer intercessors and to circulate the requests to them as they are received. We would be glad to receive expressions of interest for both leader and intercessors.



A new card "**Prayer for today**" is to be included in the set of laminated cards and is to be sold to members at the same price of 60c each or \$10 for a set of 18 **Prayer and Meditation Cards**.

Some dates of interest over the next four years:-

It is **50 years** since OSL was **established in Australia** and celebrations are being planned by OSL Australia for 26-28 February 2010 at Christ Church, St Laurence for services and at Golden Grove for teaching. It is hoped that we will be represented by some of our NZ members at these celebrations. More details will be available late August but note your diary and let Brian and Shirley know if you would like to attend.

The **International Conference 2010 in Kelowna BC, Canada** is detailed on page 10 in Heal-Link and more information will be given in future issues. If you are interested in attending then do contact Derek or ourselves.

Triennial (Warden's) Council and Conference 2011 is to be held in Blenheim from Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 October 2011. Please note these dates in your diary. Some very able and interesting speakers are being arranged.

International Conference 2013 is to be held in New Zealand. At present we are looking at suitable venues and dates. This will be your opportunity to attend an International Conference without having to travel overseas.

Every blessing, Brian and Shirley, Co-General Secretaries

AN ANCIENT EUCHARIST DISCOVERY

As part of the revision of the handbook a study had been made of the history of the Communion service after the Resurrection.

The earliest Christians did not have churches as we know them so they worshipped in the catacombs. These were caves and underground caverns found around Rome, other parts of Italy, and also in North Africa. When the early Christians were martyred, the believers buried them in the catacombs. Over two million burials have been discovered.

In fact, the first altars were upon the top of the burial site of some martyr. The bread and wine would be placed on top of the departed, symbolic of death and resurrection. Scratched on the wall of the catacomb, in symbol form, was a pictorial description of the bread so as to hide its meaning from the antagonistic eyes of those who might search the catacombs. One such symbol was the one pictured:-



You will notice that the bread is round, and flat. It was baked without leaven (yeast) for leaven is the symbol of sin. The loaf is divided into four with the sign of the cross traversing its entire width and length. The cross is central to the faith. But other lines come in so far. They divide the outer band into twelve large segments. These large segments represent the twelve tribes of Israel, the Hebrew people, chosen of God. The middle circular band is divided into twelve smaller segments. These are the twelve apostles who represent the new covenant church. Then there is a central portion divided into four pieces. These identify the four witnesses who told the life of our Saviour on earth - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Thus there are three bands, three circles yet one entity. These bands represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - one triune God. You can imagine the feelings of those first century believers as they partook of this bread in such an atmosphere of death yet living and glorified spirits.

Brian Hooper, Missioner, Tararua Area Chaplain

The testimony of Bob (page 4) reminds me of Jesus healing the paralytic (Mark 2:1f). His friends went to great lengths to get Jesus to heal the man but Jesus' response; "My son, your sins are forgiven you" was not quite what they expected! His paralysis was cured. Here we see Jesus explicitly treating the visible healing of the body as an outward sign of an inner healing of the soul. This is healing the whole person, spirit, soul and body.

Editor

Does Your Chapter subscribe to “Sharing”? You know “Sharing”?

“Sharing” is a glossy **“Journal of Christian Healing”** published 10 times a year by the North American OSL.

Here is an abridged article by Rev Mike Flynn published in “Sharing” June/July 2009 with our thanks and acknowledgements to them.

Handling Fear How do we handle our problems? Or, say with the recession, paying next month’s bills, or the next follow-up visit to the doctor. Mike Flynn gives a few ways to “faith up to it”.

1. Thank God! Eph 5:20 *“Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

We can thank God for everything – good or bad – because He has the capability to turn anything for good, don’t just feel thankful do it wilfully. You can say things like: “Thank you Lord for the problems I face. Thank you that I might lose my job. Thank you that we have less income. Thank you that I’m worried about it. Thank you that I don’t feel thankful”. Saying “Thank you” is one means of having faith, and faith is what turns Him on. He goes to work on whatever you thank Him for, whether outside you or inside you. I once thanked Him for depression, which was my worst enemy, for half an hour. It went away. The next time, a few months later, it took only ten minutes. Thanking God lets Him fulfil that glorious promise in Rom 8:28

“In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called to his purpose.”

2. Use your authority! Luke 10:19 *“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”*

Jesus made these amazing promises to us in the Gospels and, because we are followers of Jesus Christ, He gives you His own authority to do these things. But you have to start (taking risks). You have to remind yourself of who you are and what He has given you. Then you have to speak that authority out over a given situation or need or problem or enemy. (Of course, “using your authority” is very important in our prayer ministry, especially when we are not seeing or feeling any response. – Ed)

3. Seek God’s Counsel! Col 3:15 *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”.*

Decades ago the Lord taught me that His peace was the decider in decisions. So, I put propositions to Him like this: “I think you want me to

re-fi.” Then I pause and perceive what’s happening in my heart. If I feel stillness, that is peace which is “yes” to the comment I made. If I perceive agitation there, that is unpeace which is “no”. This simple act has got me into some wonderful situations and kept me out of some awful ones. For God foresees the ramifications of present decisions and is willing to advise us about them. . . . put your propositions to the Lord, but you only have to be aware of what your peace is doing.

Rev Mike Flynn

A great resource is “Sharing” -- Editor

International Conference of OSL -- Canada 2010

Details are now coming to hand - are you planning to attend?

Conference Theme is:

‘Sharing the heart of Jesus with the person, the church and the world.’

There will be international speakers and a variety of workshops. Speakers include Mike Endicott (Wales), Russ Parker (England), and Nigel Mumford (USA), each of whom has written books on healing.

Conference Dates: **Monday June 21st to Friday June 25th, 2010**

Location: **University of Okanagan, Kelowna, British Columbia.**

Costs of **accommodation** and **registration** for the Conference are to be found through our website: www.oslnz.org by referring to the bottom of the events page where a link can be found for the International Conference website. Clicking on this link will take you to the conference details.

Getting there:

Flight Centre were recently advertising Flights to Vancouver at an early special of **\$1735 return**, in the ‘window’ of the Conference dates and they won’t come cheaper than that! The most convenient way to fly is direct from Auckland to Vancouver. Then it is a short domestic flight to Kelowna, or 3 hours by Greyhound Bus.

Arrangements:

Please make your own bookings, allowing for the likelihood there will be some other travel you would like to do whilst in Canada and the USA which is nearby. It may be you are not ready to book as yet, but if you would like to be kept informed with other details, or any other queries, please email dereklightbourne@paradise.net.nz or be in contact with the Co-General Secretaries. We are expecting a contingent of several members of our NZ Order to be attending.

A Testimony

KEEP ON PRAYING

Our youngest granddaughter was born in 1994. From the start we felt that she was not developing as we would have expected. We, like you, know that God heals, so when we visited her we used to sit her on our lap, place our hands on her head and pray. This went on for several years until she was too big to place on our knees. What we didn't know until a few years ago was that the doctors had said that she would not walk or talk. The Lord proved them wrong because, although she was slow developing, she is able to do both of these things. Her co-ordination is very good and she can play soccer. She has also represented her school in cross country running. We didn't know how much more she would develop, but we kept on praying. Her family had moved up country so we only saw her every now and again. She has now moved back close to us so we see more of her. The first time she visited us after her return we decided to play ludo with her. To our utter amazement she picked up the instruction sheet and started reading it aloud. She is doing well now. Only God knows the future. But one thing we know for certain is that we are not going to stop praying for her.



Pat and Anne - Tararua Postal

FINANCIAL

Subscriptions for the current financial year of 2009-2010 are now due at the rate of \$20 per member and \$30 for couples (effectively \$15 each). Please pay your subs to your Chapter Treasurer and for Postal Members, please post your subs to the General Treasurer – see below.



The Order of St Luke the Physician in NZ is a Registered Charitable Trust so any donations over \$5 are tax deductible and can be sent extra to subscriptions and an official receipt for Tax rebate purposes will be forwarded for the donation. Please make use of these opportunities to support the Healing Ministry in New Zealand.

General Treasurer, Michael Bain,
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Give thanks in all circumstances.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Healing Music CD

A CD of 'Healing Music' produced by Brian Hooper, is available for \$20 plus postage. All proceeds go to the Order of St Luke.



Titles include Jesus is Lord, When peace like a river, Just as I am I come, Amazing Grace, Be still and know I am God amongst others.

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

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Rangiora: Mr John Evans
 Mrs Shirley Hinman
 Mrs Alice Ogilvie



NEW FULL MEMBERS:

Kaitia: Mrs Janet Glover-Nugent

ROLL OF HONOUR: Members Called to Higher Service

Kaitia: Mrs Lesley Mills
 Putaruru OSL Healing Group: Mr Dudley Gambrill



DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS:

Page 5 Dargaville OSL Healing Group:
 Contact: Rev Bruce Goertz – details as shown
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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 August 2009

It is the turn of the **Blenheim-Tasman Area** to send in contributions.

All members are invited to contribute to **HEAL-LINK**; it is your newsletter!
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