



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

August--September 2010 *Issue 299*

**Committed to Jesus' healing of people,
 situations, nations, and creation.**



Greetings from National Chaplain Lionel

Dear Friends,

When I last wrote Rachelle and I were preparing to attend the International Conference in Canada. The Conference is now a memory, but what a wonderful memory! It was great to be able to worship together and have fellowship with OSL members from other countries and church traditions. There were about 260 people present coming from Canada, USA, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand. A number of these we had met in Melbourne in 2002. Our NZ contingent of 11 was made to feel very welcome and many people commented that we had travelled so far to be there. One man said to me that he had never met anyone from so far away! I went to six of the workshops and found each one valuable. The workshop that Derek led on 'Creative Liturgy' was very good and evoked a good response from those attending. I attended the meeting of International OSL leaders. This was a good chance to meet some of the other leaders and to discuss matters of common interest. One thing that became clear to me from this meeting was that the Order of St Luke throughout the world is facing a diminishing membership and is needing to look at the question of relevance in the 21st century. The healing ministry is still needed. Indeed more people are seeking healing but they are not necessarily looking for it in traditional organisations. One thing is clear we need to keep focused on Jesus Christ and seek to hear what he is saying to us in 2010. This conference was a stimulating and challenging event. Of course we took every opportunity to promote the next International Conference which we will be hosting at Totara Springs, Matamata in 2013.

However, before that we have our own Triennial Conference at Totara Springs from **Monday October 17 to Thursday 20** next year. This is going to be an extra special conference as we will be celebrating 50 years of OSL in NZ. I urge you to



start preparing now to be at that conference. This will be an opportunity to give thanks for what OSL has meant to so many people over the past 50 years. In particular we will remember those who were responsible for establishing OSL here and those who led us over the years. It will also be a time to look forward to what God has for OSL in the years ahead. This conference is really going to be the start of a year of celebration as we encourage chapters to continue celebrating throughout 2012.

The other matter on my heart is our need for a new General Secretary. You will have read in the last issue of Heal Link that our present Co-General Secretaries wish to step down from this position at the Executive meeting in May next year. Brian and Shirley have done a great job as Co-General Secretaries. During their time there has been a major revision of the Constitution and of the Hand book. I have really appreciated the work they have done over the past few years and will be really sorry when they complete their appointment.

So we are now looking for someone to fill this position. We need someone with a real heart for the ministry of the Order of St Luke. It will be important to have good computer skills. Also a working knowledge of the Order of St Luke would be an advantage. This is a voluntary position with expenses paid.

If you feel that God is calling you to this position as part of a forward looking team please contact Brian and Shirley or contact me if you want to have a preliminary chat.

As we look back and as we look to the future some words from a reading this morning seem appropriate:

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
 For his steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)**

The peace of Christ be with you all.
 Yours in his service,
 National Chaplain, Revd Lionel Brown.

Lionel

STOP PRESS

Nominations for the next National Chaplain closed on August 15th. There being only one person nominated I have great pleasure in declaring the Rev Brian Flower to be the next National Chaplain to take office at our Triennial Conference in October 2011. I know that you will all join with me in extending warm congratulations to Brian.

Revd Lionel Brown
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From National Chaplain-elect:

Dear Fellow Members, I would like to thank the chapters and executive members who nominated me for the position of National Chaplain-elect and would ask for your prayers as I prepare over the next twelve months to take up this office. I feel humbled by the confidence shown in my ability to serve in this capacity and pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in my preparation and for the gifts necessary for serving in the healing ministry. I come as a servant to serve, not as a figurehead. Those who have served before me have set a high standard which will be hard to emulate.

In Christ, **Brian**

From Co-General Secretaries:

We were saddened by the death recently of Mrs Lois Henderson who with her husband Paul joined the order in 1966 as lone members at Dannevirke becoming founding members of Woodville chapter in 1968 and then of the newly formed Dannevirke Chapter in 1974 with Lois serving as chapter secretary of each in turn. Lois and Paul later moved to Thames where Lois served terms as both Convenor and Secretary. After Paul's death Lois moved to Pauanui where Lois was instrumental in the healing ministry being offered at services there. Brian spoke on behalf of the Order at her funeral service in Thames.

A number of chapters have not yet sent in their **annual reports** which means that the new directory cannot be completed. Could those chapter secretaries please make this matter urgent. We do not want to be running late this year while we are in the process of selling our house and, hopefully, moving which will take up a good deal of our attention.

Membership application forms must be fully completed, including the date and place of the service, before being forwarded to us as we cannot action them until these details are received. We enjoy receiving applications as it is a sign of growth in the Order.

Our **50 year celebration** begins with **Issue 300** of Heal-Link and we join Neville (see page 7) in urging members to contribute many articles highlighting events in the life of the Order over the years. Let us make this a gathering of material which will enable a large celebration **Issue 300** of Heal-Link to be published. Let us testify to notable healings and happenings over the years – and there have been many - and give God the glory for the great things he has done!

Every blessing

Brian and Shirley

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Report on the International Conference

Impressions (from Derek Lightbourne)

There's a song which begins 'There's a quiet understanding when we gather in the presence of the Lord...' likewise when members across a number of countries gather sharing a conviction of Jesus' healing today. Also there is empathy across denominations, and indeed I met a person from the Church of the Nazarene. The Okanagan Valley where the Conference was held could be called the fruit-bowl of British Columbia, and the early season cherries and strawberries were delicious. For me, the mark of the Conference was the friendliness of those gathered. New friends were made and from this we are exploring the idea of Chapter partnerships between North America and New Zealand. From this it is hoped there will be mutual prayer, periodic contact and meeting up when we host the International Conference in 2013. My hope is that the Conference may 'continue' with our overseas visitors meeting OSL Chapters in various parts of the country after the gathering in Matamata. We had a NZ Display for 2013 and from this some 250 Leaflets were taken.

I asked our NZ attendees what were the highlights for them. As well as what is already mentioned we were blessed with some seven keynote speakers. The North American Director Larry Mitchell gave a stirring opening to the Conference with the challenge for us to 'open our eyes' to see and believe what Jesus is doing in healing and bringing people to wholeness. It was a reminder of that verse in Ephesians: 'Now to God who



is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or conceive, by the power that is at work among us....' Our National Chaplain Lionel spoke very well on Sharing the Heart of Jesus in a culture of blame. He drew from recent tragedies of Sophie Elliott's death, and the Christian students' deaths in a flash flood. He contrasted the two and pointed especially to the Christian imperative of forgiveness which was evident in the inquiries which followed.

All participants had opportunity to attend some 6 of 12 workshops, and there were prayer group times, and ministry after keynote speakers. A feature of the informal times was a 'Canadian evening', with lots tapping their toes along with the music of a country bluegrass band. Much is to be gained from meeting and sharing with others in the Order and I'm sure each of the 11 New Zealanders attending came back with good ideas to bring to Chapters along with important teaching. So – ask someone who attended to speak to your chapter.

International Conference OSL 2010 (Rachelle Brown)

This was a wonderful experience of learning and sharing together different aspects of Jesus' healing ministry. The theme 'Sharing the Heart of Jesus' was dealt with by seven different speakers in a variety of very practical ways:

- A reflection of the heart of Jesus
- Healing the wounds from a church's past
- Hospital visiting and follow up
- Kingdom healing
- Ministry to the dying and bereaved
- Sharing Jesus in a culture of blame
- The heart of Jesus is bigger than we think.



Throughout conference we were able to choose to attend six workshops out of twelve. Most of those I attended proved to be practical, enlightening and worthwhile.

The warmth and friendliness of the 'locals' (Canadians and Americans) was especially noteworthy and when they realised we were from New Zealand they made an even greater fuss over us. This bodes well for the next International Conference being held here in NZ in 2013!!

Evening meals (part of a package deal) were fantastic and a great time to connect with different people.

I have to say that the evening set aside for relaxation was brilliant. It was a 'Western Night' and many locals were dressed for the occasion. There was great entertainment from a local bluegrass band (including some young children for the first half) and the fun of getting up to dance even if one is not an expert, was liberating and refreshing. I believe that Jesus was sharing his heart with us that evening in yet another way.

Small prayer groups gave us yet another opportunity to share in a deeper way with others at the conference.

It was great to see Derek Lightbourne included in the music team leading worship and John Jones taking part in the choir. Derek also conducted a workshop on 'Creative Liturgy'. Lionel was one of the speakers and received a standing ovation along with two of the other six speakers. Several of us were invited to take part in the healing ministry following the evening messages. Altogether it was a very inspiring and worthwhile time of learning, practicing and fellowship.

We hope you enjoy these two Poems:

First poem from Suzie, second from Picton Chapter.

Our granddaughter Suzie is completing her nursing degree this year and sent this to us a few days ago. It stirred memories for Brian of similar experiences in hospital chaplaincy. **Shirley and Brian, Co-General Secretaries**

Apology not accepted

As I leave the room you apologise for your fuss
and ask me if I enjoy what I do.
I think for a moment,
And I see the good times and the bad
How I dry your tears when you're feeling sad
How I offer a smile even when it is hard to muster
Though my true emotions are all in a fluster
How I am here to listen when you feel unheard
Though sometimes your sentences can become blurred
How when you are afraid I am there to comfort you
And though I don't often show it, I'm scared too.
I do not judge you for your humanity as I remember I could be you
For my feet could easily fit in your shoes too
Even if I can't, I try my best to take your pain away
And though you don't see it I pray for you every day
When I can do no more I will sit with you in silence and offer my hand
The beauty of each life is but an hour glass of sand
In its duration you awe me with the strength of your spirit and the passion
in your heart.
You make it all worthwhile right from the very start
And when you leave I will not forget you even though I must focus on the
next in line
Instead your memory is a feather as is those of everyone I meet through
time
They gather together to create the wings my soul needs to fly
As I fall through the difficult times in the darkened sky.
So do not apologise that I must look after you
Being with you is a gift and not a burden; it's why I love what I do.



Suzette McLennan

A thought to Ponder:

- Copied from the OSL AGM minutes 2010

Jesus didn't die so that we can all sit around full of faith
Stop living for yourselves and be happy.
Live for other people
Give as well as receive. – Joyce Meyer.

Your Editor Reacts

Do you ever wonder what goes through the Editor's mind as he sifts among all the copy he receives for each issue of **HEAL-LINK** ?

Well, read on!

Our next issue will be **Issue 300**. With all our members, we should **reflect** on the past, present and future of OSL in NZ, then **react** !!

Our previous two issues resulted in members sending in **zero copy** to your Editor.

Does this not reflect very poorly on the Order? As we "go to press" National Chaplain Lionel, our Co-General Secretaries and myself, look forward to **Issue 300** being something special.



So we plead with every member to reflect, act and write about their healing or spiritual experiences to share with our large membership.

We are national and international; also we are denominational and non-denominational. **HEAL-LINK** is a very widely read newsletter which we can feel proud of and enjoy reading every issue.

Our membership newsletter can have an impact in our churches and the wider community. As individual members we can print or email as many copies of **HEAL-LINK** as we like and distribute them around our church friends, neighbours and others.

Let us, then, join together and make **HEAL-LINK Issue 300** be an outreach to show our readers that the Healing Ministry of Jesus Christ is as active and effective as it was 2000 years ago.

Revd Neville Cooper
Editor

Subscriptions for this financial year 2010-2011 were due on **1 July 2010**.

Subscription is \$20 per member and \$30 for couples. If you haven't paid **please** pay your subs **now** to your Chapter Treasurer.

Postal Members, please post your subs direct to the General Treasurer.

The Order of St Luke the Physician in NZ is a Registered Charitable Trust. Donations can 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,
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NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Motueka: Mrs Lynne Canton
Nelson: Rev Simon Martin



NEW FULL MEMBERS:

Motueka: Mr Robert Skinner
Nelson: Rev Simon Martin (Chaplain)

ROLL OF HONOUR: Members Called to Higher Service

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Bayswater: Mrs Gladys Johnston
Midland Postal: Mrs Lois Henderson
Napier: Mrs Phyllis Gudgeon, Mrs Eileen Quartermaine



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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 HEAL-LINK Issue 300 is 1 October 2010

It is the turn of the **Tararua Area** to lead with contributions; **All members** are invited to contribute to **HEAL-LINK**; it is your newsletter!

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Whatever you ask the Father in My name, I will do -- that the Son may bring glory to the Father. And if you ask Me anything in My name, I will grant it.

John 14: 13-14