

Freedom Life Centre News



Churches Exploding in Growth and Spiritual Power

(Continued from last newsletter. Dr Wagner speaks now about Apostles, the need for them, their character, work and relationship to prophets)

What Apostles Have That Make Them Different

1. They have authority.
2. They have spheres

- a) They have the Gift of Apostle that gives them authority. It is God given authority.
- b) They have an assignment or call. They know what God wants them to do.
- c) Apostles have extraordinary character. Paul as an Apostle said, "Imitate me."
- d) They have followers. Their greatest desire is to add value to the life of their followers.
- e) They have visions, receive revelations. Can say, "This is God's will."
- f) They have spheres. i.e. They have places ecclesiastical.

How Apostles Operate

They have four different ministries.

1. *Vertical Apostles* - These are the most common. They have a number of churches under their authority.
2. *Horizontal Apostles* - They hold other apostles together and have authority among them. James was one of these (Acts 15) He called the Council of Jerusalem. Here the apostles and elders came together to work through the issues. James moderated the meeting, then said, "Men and brethren, listen to me."
3. *Hyphenated Apostles* - They have another office with that of Apostle. e.g. Paul was an Apostle-prophet. Timothy was an Apostle-evangelist.
4. *Marketplace Apostle* - Is one who operates outside the body of Christ. There are many impotent Christians in the market place, because they have not yet received recognition.

What Apostles Need

1. They need positive relationships with Prophets
 2. They need personal intercessors [Phil. 4:2-3 (Euodia and Syntyche)] They need to keep communication channels open with other Apostles. They need functional accountability with other Apostles.
 3. They need recognition and affirmation from (a) Themselves (b) The body of Christ.
- Many have functioned as Apostles without recognising it. It is necessary that they accept that they are Apostles. Apostles are tall poppies. They need to be recognised, not cut down. True humility is one of the marks of an Apostle.

Linking Apostles to Prophets

Each can do certain things very well on their own, but hitched together they can do much more. The harness to hitch them together is Church Government. Prophets are crucial as are Apostles, but they must be hitched to Apostles. They form the foundation of the Church. (Gal. 2:20).

How Apostles and Prophets Together can be Winners

The ones who pull together win.

How They are Hitched Together

1. *The Prophet submits to the Apostle (Eph. 5:21).*



No-One Came To Church On Christmas Day!

In our February newsletter we published the above named poem written by Peter Playsted who is the Chaplin of the RAAF base at Tindal via Katherine in the Northern Territory. Peter would appreciate prayer for those people on the base who really don't see Church as part of their world view.

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2. *God speaks to the Prophets (Amos 3:7)*. This can break down when they do not know how to pass it on. It is because they are not submitted to an Apostle.

3. *The Prophet speaks to the Apostle*. At this point the Apostle submits to the Prophet.

4. *The Apostle judges, strategises and executes*. Sometimes the Apostle blows it and the Prophet knows it. The Prophet needs to be quiet about this.

5. *The Prophet submits to the Apostle*. Does not try to control the Apostle. The crucial role of humility needs to be stressed. "Whoever exalts himself will be abased ..." Humility is a cause of Apostolic leadership. You do not become an Apostle unless you are humble (Romans 12:3-5). Apostles are leaders and are exalted. This is the result of humility. Humility is a choice.

MODERN CHRISTIANITY AND HEALING from Dr Col Warren

If we are to see whether healing has a place in modern Christian activity, we must understand how the change took place from biblical times.

Three reasons for change

1. There was a gradual change in popular views of the nature of God and man. This was associated with the Barbarian conquests and the decline of civilisation in the West.

2. There was a major shift in theological thinking, in which Plato's world view was replaced by the Aristotelian rationalist world view, which had little place for direct contact between man and God and therefore little room for healing.

3. Throughout these times there continued to be a belief in the miraculous but it really was the result of superstition and supported an uncritical belief in healing miracles. This sort of belief became increasingly fanciful until the point was reached where it was difficult to believe many of the stories being told.

From the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine, the Barbarians continued to attack the Roman Western Empire until finally Rome fell and was plundered.

The Arabs came into a sense of national identity and overcame much of the Roman Empire, all of Asia Minor, North Africa and most of Spain. The Church was the only major institution to survive the collapse. Men became less confident of God's love and thought more of His wrath. As things became worse, people almost forgot the sense of God's love and concern for man.

As education disappeared, few could read the Gospels enough to even hear what the teaching had been. With the end of persecution in the time of Constantine, less committed Christians flooded the Church. There were mass conversions of whole tribes following the conversion of their chief or king. The faith of many of these people was little more than pagan religion with a new label.

The Lombards, Goths and Franks took over a dying civilisation, only to be taken over by Normans and Danes. Many saw little use in bodily healing. Within this context, there developed the view that the important thing was to insure a good existence after death. Care of the soul became more important than the care of the body. Sickness was seen as the result of God's wrath at the sins of man.

Suffering was seen as sharing in the crucifixion. Curing the body without curing the soul was seen as valueless. With the emphasis on the next life, a profound change took place in the sacrament of healing. Its meaning shifted gradually to healing of the soul in preparation for death. Unction for healing became unction for dying. The mediaeval church developed its understanding of extreme unction (anointing with oil in preparation for death) until the Vatican 2 Council in 1962.

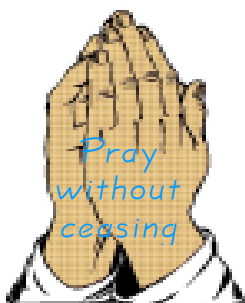
Independent of these trends, there was a transformation in the intellectual climate of Western Europe. The philosophical base of many influential Western thinkers shifted from Plato to Aristotle. Whole generations of men forgot that Plato had stressed the importance of life here as well as in the next. They needed a point of view that gave value to the present world. Aristotle provided this outlook, which had already been embraced by the Arab culture.

Conditions were right for the emergence of a new world view based on the thinking of Aristotle. This view had the support of an authoritarian church which now developed a schism between East and West where anything Greek was viewed as almost heretical.

The greatest exponent of this world view was Thomas Aquinas who sought to build Christian thought and practice on an Aristotelian foundation. This made a great difference in attitudes toward healing.

If God is known primarily through intellectual activity, then that leaves little opportunity for the use of Gifts of the Spirit. The mediaeval church developed an outlook based on past revelation elaborated by human reason. There was no need for God to break through into the lives of men. The result of this was that there was no expectation of further revelations or healing as the natural interaction of man and God. Such things only occurred under extraordinary supernatural conditions.

However, healings continued to occur throughout most of this period. The Catholic Church had an Aristotelian head and a Platonic heart. Cut off from critical scrutiny, the



miracles of healing spread and it became difficult to sort the genuine from exaggerated or fabricated instances of healing.

From healing to forgiveness of sins

At Metz in 847 A.D. and Pavia in 850 A.D., the idea that unction had more to do with forgiveness than with healing was clearly expressed. The healing effect was never denied, but the Church was fast coming to the position that it was to be administered principally (or only) at the point of death, for the purpose of obtaining "a spiritual advantage".

In 1551, the Council of Trent legally made unction a service only for those in danger of death, and healing ceased to exist as an official rite of the Roman Catholic Church until very recent times.

Much the same attitude concerning other Gifts of the Holy Spirit continued up to the Second Vatican Council in 1962. However there was a special rule for saints where a gift like healing might be a sign of extraordinary holiness, but for ordinary people some of these gifts were considered to be a sign of demon possession.

During these centuries, the Holy Spirit gifts had little chance of operating. The church did not confine itself to liturgy but began to legislate about medical healing as well. In 1215 A.D. the Fourth Lateran Council decreed that on the premise that bodily sickness was sometimes caused by sin, when a physician was called to care for a sick person, his first duty was to call the priest.

From 1566 A.D. on, to obtain a license to practice medicine, doctors were required to swear that they would stop seeing a patient on the third day, unless he had confessed his sins and had a statement signed by the confessor to prove it. The Roman Synod renewed this decree in 1725 A.D. with added penalties.

If a Catholic physician continued to care for patients who had not confessed their sins, the eighteenth century Catholic physician was permanently removed from the practice of medicine, removed from medical societies and forever bore the stigma of infamy. This resulted in medicine viewing the church and its attitudes with suspicion and it continued to view man as merely another material thing.

(To be continued next newsletter)

Blest Retirement Tom and Sylvia Lagerwey

Since our retirement the Lord has blessed us abundantly by using us in the Freedom Life ministry assisting Col Warren with the seminars throughout Queensland, from Pine Rivers - Kallangar, to Blackall, Nerang, Moree and Gladstone. We have seen people released spiritually, we have seen spiritual and physical healings and the release of many confirmed gifts of the Holy Spirit. There was personal ministry at every place and as part of these teams we were greatly blessed.

Our last seminar in Gladstone with Joy Baulch added to our team was very well attended. Joy took one of the sessions, "Our Relationship with God", and here again many of God's Gifts were released and confirmed. It has been during these trips that the Lord laid it on our hearts to obtain a caravan and a suitable 4 wheel drive car (Pajero) so that we may be able to accompany Col on the many road miles ahead into NSW, SA and WA to conduct seminars booked for the rest of this year.

As we are now preparing for this trip we ask that you will continue in prayer for the Mission of Freedom Life, the Churches, Ministers, Pastors and the people attending the seminars and also for Col, Hazel and ourselves for continued good health, safe travel and clear minds and spirits so that the ongoing work of the Centre may be a blessing to all who attend the seminars that lie ahead.

Donations & the GST Freedom Life Centre

A special thank you to all who so generously support our ministry with your donations. It is only through your generous and continued support that we can minister freedom into the lives of people.

You need to be aware that under the tax reform provisions, donations given to Freedom Life Centre and accompanied by a directive as to the use of the funds are subject to GST. FLC will thus be required to pay one eleventh of such donations to the Australian Tax Office.

Donations which DO NOT carry any directives as to the use of the money will NOT be subject to GST. In that event the whole of the amount received will be used by FLC in its ministry.

Ministers Day Of Refreshing Rev Herman Ruyters, Director FLC

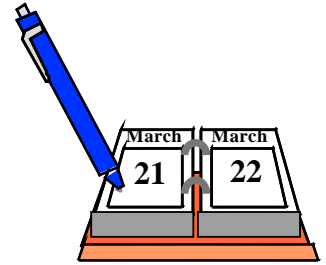
Continuing on with our established tradition, Freedom Life Centre held its latest Ministers Day of Refreshing on Monday 5 June 2000.

Starting with morning tea and a time of praise and worship, ministers and their wives from many denominational backgrounds listened to challenging speeches. An excellent lunch was enjoyed and appreciated. The afternoon program offered different options for men and women. Opportunity for ministry was offered and taken up. After afternoon tea the guests returned home to their many destinations.

Ministers Days of Refreshing are welcomed by many ministers and a number of requests have already been received for the next one.



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Dates for your Diary

If you would be interested in hosting a seminar or having Freedom Life Centre visit in your area, please do not hesitate to contact us.

<p>21 - 23 July Deliverance with Rev Dr Col Warren Logan Uniting Contact: Mrs Liz Taylor 07-32901277</p>	<p>8 - 10 Sept Prayer with Rev Dr Col Warren Wudinna Uniting Rod & Margaret Hier 08-86817018</p>	<p>20 - 22 Oct Releasing God's Gifts with Dr Col Warren Albany Uniting Contact: Ps Norm Baty 08-98413116 or Ps Alan Ward 08-98413102 or 98415834</p>
<p>28 - 30 July Deliverance with Rev Dr Col Warren Port Macquarie Uniting Contact: Mrs Bernice Smart 02-65840970</p>	<p>12 - 17 Sept Fulfilling the Great Commission with Rev Dr Col Warren Goolwa Uniting Contact: Rev Phil Pynor 08-85552589</p>	<p>3 - 5 Nov Strategic Level Prayer with Rev Dr Col Warren Geraldton Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Contact: Ps Geoff Thompson 08-99644169</p>
<p>1 - 3 Sept Spiritual Gifts with Jack & Leonie Frewen-Lord Mallala Uniting Contact: Rev Richard Winen 08-85272036</p>	<p>15 - 17 Sept Prayer with Jack & Leonie Frewen-Lord Pinnaroo Uniting Contact: Mrs Gloria Wilson 08-85778206</p>	<p>10 - 15 Nov Releasing God's Gifts with Rev Dr Col Warren Oxley Vale Anglican Church Contact: Mrs Joy Harris 02-67667787</p>
<p>8 - 10 Sept Releasing God's Gifts with Jack & Leonie Frewen-Lord Freedom Worship & Community Centre Contact: Rev Peter Wilson 08-82810818</p>	<p>22 - 24 Sept Deliverance with Rev Dr Col Warren Clare Uniting Church Contact: Raylene Bartholomaeus 08-88438080</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Scripture To Ponder Mark 11:22 <i>Have God's faith.</i></p> </div>



!!!!Changed Address Recently!!!!

If you have changed your address or the address we have for you is not correct and you would still like to be on our mailing list, could you please take a little time to update us.

Name:.....Phone:.....
Address:.....

If you would also like to support Freedom Life Centre financially you may do so in the following ways:

- o One off donation \$_____o Continuing monthly donation of \$_____
- o Regular deposits to FLC bank account.

**Westpac Bank: Account Name: Uniting Church in Aust. Freedom Life Centre
Branch: 034 221 Account No: 12 3165**