

'Healing' Investigation

In various issues of our newsletter "**Diakrisis**" we have uncovered numerous fraudulent claims to the gift of miraculous healing.

In *Diakrisis* Dec/99 we quoted a *Christian Outreach* publication in which there was a healing testimony dubbed as a 'true story' and titled '*God Heals Bone Disorder*'. The article (July/Aug/99 P.27) was submitted by a Philip Macfarlane of Roma *Christian Outreach Centre*, Qld, Australia, as told to him by a 32 year old Gabriel Laurance from the Solomon Islands. The story relates how Laurance suffered much pain in his legs and took '*pain killers, had x-rays and blood tests. The results always came up negative...Blood tests couldn't pick it up; it wasn't in the blood. Early x-rays had no chance because the holes in the bones were so tiny...*' (Underlining ours)

This man was called out by the pastor at a meeting: '*There is a man with holes in his bones . . . your legs are paralysed!...you can't walk...there are holes in the bones from your knees to your hip...*' The man was apparently completely 'healed' that night. The report goes on to say: '*The doctors were stunned. Five x-rays every two weeks for ten weeks showed a complete healing*'.

The obvious question is: How can it be a miraculous healing, when the initial x-rays and tests showed nothing wrong in the first place?

The example shown above highlights a fact found in most of our investigations of modern healings - *an incorrect understanding of the initial diagnosis*.

We referred this 'healing' to a subscriber who is a *Forensic Pathologist*. On reading the account of the healing, he wrote:

Dear Terry, Thank you for the article on the alleged miraculous healing in the Solomon Islands. I agree there are a number of medical inconsistencies (not to mention the unscriptural manifestations [slaying in spirit, etc]. I think the most obvious being the twenty-five X-ray examinations of the legs following the 'healing'. The degree of irradiation over such a short period of time would leave the poor fellow at risk of developing bone cancer. I have written to the hospital in Honiara [letter below] requesting more information, in particular the precise medical diagnosis...' Dr.Bogdan Hullewicz, Consultant Forensic Pathologist, M.B; Ch.B; F.R.C.Path (London); ER.C.P.A (Sydney)

The letter by our Pathologist to the hospital in the Solomons on Nov/02 is as follows:

'Dear Doctor, I am writing on behalf of a Christian Ministry here in Australia that investigates miraculous healings. It was recently reported in an Outreach Magazine article that Gabriel Laurance (aged 32 years) a native of the Solomon Islands had been miraculously healed of a bone disorder.

Mr Laurance claimed that in 1996 he developed pain in his legs that prevented him from walking. He was seen at the Central Hospital in Honiara and was told that various blood tests and X-rays were negative. Apparently three months later he was told that he had a bone disorder causing holes in his leg bones. He was admitted on a 'permanent' basis to a local hospital in Malata when in July 1997, against doctors advice he discharged himself, so that he could attend a Christian conference. It was at this conference that an alleged healing occurred. Mr Laurance claims that the doctors were stunned and that five X-rays every two weeks for ten weeks showed a complete healing.

I would be most grateful if you could help me with the following: 1) What were the findings on physical examination? 2) Can you confirm that the initial blood tests and X-rays were normal? 3) What did subsequent x-rays show? 4) What was the primary diagnosis and was the disease only limited to the leg bones or was there evidence of other bone involvement? 5) What treatment was recommended and did this treatment alter the course of the disease? 6) Was Mr Laurance re-examined following the alleged healing and what were the results of this examination? 7) Why was it necessary for Mr Laurance to have five X-rays every two weeks for ten weeks? (25 irradiations in total) following the alleged healing? Were these X rays diagnostic or therapeutic? Did the X-rays confirm that healing had in fact occurred? 8) Is Mr Laurance still free from this bone disorder today?...'

Dr.Bogdan Hullewicz...

After more than nine months our pathologist has still not received a reply from the above letter. This is typical of our investigations of such healings. Like so many of the healing claims we have investigated over the years there is no reply to our investigations and the 'story' ends up in a dead end or a report that is so much a 'distant' rumour that it bears no credibility at all. Most stories are invariably in remote areas and the details are handed down through numerous people.

Yet despite non existence of any documentation, many such 'healings' are regurgitated and offered up to the unsuspecting hearers in countless churches each week. We have heard of 'healings' (including the one cited above) later rewritten and with added sensational claims.

Pentecostal evangelist Reinhard Bonnke continues to sell videos of miraculous healings and raisings from the dead despite them having been proved fraudulent or lacking any credible documentation.

One of the most popular modern faith healers, Benny Hinn, has had all his top five 'healings' proved either fraudulent or non miraculous by Christian organisations including the *Christian Research Institute* in the US. Yet he continues to impress his audiences with more 'healings'.

The 'lying Signs and Wonders' Movement will continue to spread and deceive multitudes, (Matt.24; 2Thess 2). Every week more stories of healings and signs and wonders are 'reported' in many Churches across Australia. Very few listeners bother to check the credibility of these. It seems a blind faith is necessary to believe the claims of Faith 'healing' today.

While it is our belief that God can heal whoever He wills, we have issued this challenge to many - show us one person who has this gift. In the Gospel of Matthew alone it is clear that Jesus healed 'all', (Matt. 23:24; 8:16; 10:1,8; 12:15; 14:36; etc.) and whether they had 'faith' or not '**every sickness**' that came to him were *immediately* and *completely* healed, (12:13; 20:34;). Today's 'faith healers' are imposters by comparison to Jesus and the apostles. The many 'healers' of today have repeatedly been exposed and challenged to show *one* authentic case of healing of an organic disease and they have failed *every* time.

Terry Arnold