

Ministry of Healing

JESUS AND HEALING

Jesus devoted a great deal of his time, addressing human suffering. He healed the sick and raised the dead. Jesus did more than heal sick bodies though; He brought reconciliation to families and communities, he lifted those who were down and helped them to see they were valued by God and forgave sins. His work of miracles were signs that God was at work, bringing in the Kingdom. Indeed, the name Jesus means 'one who saves' and includes the idea of 'making well' and 'wholeness'.

By his death Jesus made it possible for all barriers to be broken down and he won the victory over sin, death and all the powers at work to destroy our lives.

By his resurrection, Jesus opened up the way to a new life of wholeness and peace.

THE CHURCH AND HEALING

Jesus commissioned his Church, not only to preach or proclaim the Gospel but also to heal and this is what the early Christians did. The early church practised the ministry of healing through those who were given a gift of healing and through the Church.

The Church is no different today than it was then and its work is no different either. It is through both individuals and the whole Church this ministry is offered.

THE WORK OF HEALING OF THE CHURCH IS -

- not an alternative to, or in opposition with, the medical profession. Indeed, the Church prays continually for the work of those involved in medicine and rejoices in the love and care shown .
- given to bring people before God and to pray for the whole person, that God might 'heal' or 'make whole' their relationships, attitudes, emotions, as well as physical ills.
- given to show people the love God has for them and that he is concerned about everything in their lives, the removal of their sin, the suffering they are experiencing, the sorrow they have and the worry or anxiety they face.
- is nothing to do with 'spiritual healing' or 'faith healing'. It is not dependent on the amount of faith we have in God (although believing that God will touch our lives is important).

How God 'touches' or 'heals' us will be different for every person for God can make us whole - spiritually, emotionally, physically or socially. God can also give us peace to accept things as they are and the strength to cope with them.

HOW CAN I HAVE HEALING?

- A Service of Healing is held from time to time and notification is given in the Kirk News magazine or Church News each Sunday.
- A small group of people are available to meet with anyone wishing prayer, the ministry of laying on of hand and anointing with oil.