



InterACT

The Newsletter of the Association of Christian Therapists: A fellowship of Health Care Professionals and Associates

DATEBOOK...

Save the Dates!

ACT Conference:
Region 43 and 21
Healing the Whole Person
Feb. 5-8, 2009
Lake San Marcos Resort
San Marcos, CA.
Fr. W. Jarema, C. Miura, MD
E.Kelson: 619/540/7868
kelsonellen@earthlink.net

“A Course in Christian Listening”

March 23-26, 2009, A
Training Seminar in
Christian Listening With
Russ Parker.
Before the ACT Northeast
Conference’ at the Espousal
Center, Waltham, MA. For
Information, contact Doug
Schoeninger
(dflegacy@aol.com) or
Jackie Sitte
(jmsitte@verizon.net)

ACT NE Conference “Healing Our Wounded Histories”

March 26-March 29, 2009
“Reconciling Peoples &
Healing Places in Christ”
w/ Russ Parker, Doug and
Frances Schoeninger & Fr.
Bob Sears.
Contact Jackie Sitte (above)
or PatHurd1503@aol.com

ACT Retreat
Region 12
May 29-31, 2009
Fr. Robert Faricy, S.J.
Cheryl Nguyen
St. Benedict’s Abbey
Barbara Carlo 773/493-4867
or bjcar60@sbglobal.net



Weathering the Storm

Gaylene Baier, RN

“If another hurricane is coming toward Texas, I don’t want to be around for it.” Such were my words after experiencing hurricane “Katrina and Rita”. Prior to the hurricanes, my ankle and leg had been seriously broken and I couldn’t walk, much less run, from another trauma. It is both awesome and frightening to observe nature creating havoc. I couldn’t bear the thought of doing it one more time.

The Lord honored that request and scheduled the ACT 2008 Conference while hurricane “Ike” was bearing down on Texas. So instead of being in Texas, I flew to Chicago to hear about trauma. The Lord does have a sense of humor.

The speakers gave us left brain material for use in our ministries and right brain experiences to identify and stir up our own areas of trauma. I was comforted to learn that trauma is a normal response to an abnormal event. Trauma is a dis-order of memory. Trauma causes an emotional/memory brain concussion. Among other suggestions, we were exhorted to pray for the rewiring of our brains in regards to trauma.

What I learned and experienced was quickly put to use when I returned to Texas. I was on one of the first planes allowed into Houston after “Ike”. What startled me was the silence of the airport. People were overly silent, just like we had been told happens in trauma. Our family had been fortunate and had minimal damage to property. Many others did not fare so well. I saw the initial response of people helping one another. But as the days passed and there was no electricity, phones or gas, people became angrier. Protecting what they had became paramount. I knew these behaviors to be “normal” under the circumstances. Trauma is separation from our safety. No one felt safe.

Since then, life has returned to “normal”, but all have been affected. Encouraging the story telling and listening to the concerns helps to rewire the brain. Those stories need to be told and written again and again for healing to occur. What a blessing the conference was and how quickly the insights gained were put to use. Thank you Lord for ACT.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Douglas Schoeninger, PhD



Graduating to the office of ACT President is such a privilege. Since I have identified with the Vision and Mission of ACT ever since I joined ACT 32 years ago, the opportunity to be in leadership has truly been a step of development for me, a chance to facilitate a

dream. With a dream team, such as the current Board, and all ACT members who share the healing heart and ministry of Jesus in the healthcare practice, including our churches and ministries, it makes for a tremendous team effort.

These past two years as President Elect have been a pleasure working with and under our President, Forrest Yanke. We have developed and enjoyed a wonderful teamwork with each other and with a very collaborative Board. I also want to express to Renee Lavitt my thanks for her support and giftedness in the Past-President role, continuing to voice her guidance, her passion for ACT and ACT's mission, her example as an ACT recruiter, and the prophetic words and images that flow through her. The Holy Spirit is teaching us the principle of growing from one another's strengths and gifts and then passing these forward.

This past two years, as we have worked to strengthen ACT's foundations as an organization and faced the realities of diminished membership and financial shortfall, I have witnessed among us a reigniting of our passion for Jesus call on ACT and an active communication of this to all ACT leaders and members. I think as Board and leadership we realize that the status quo will not work, that we must recruit younger members, recruit from all Christian denominations and ethnicities those who share our vision, and break out of comfort zones in engaging our healthcare colleagues with the healing love and ministry of Jesus. And we realize in all of this that attunement and obedience to the Holy Spirit is essential or there is nothing. Our Strategic Plan and SMARTY Goals must be moved by the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit's direction.

Thank you all for this opportunity to serve. I am anxious and feel quite vulnerable as we embark on this transition, especially with the survival and revival tasks on our plate now. On the other hand our teamwork and common passion and commitment continually comfort and encourage me. God bless you as we move forward. *Doug*

InterACT NEXT DEADLINE: January 5, 2009 (Winter Issue) storysunday@optonline.net (Editor's Desk)
Mention InterACT in the subject line. *All submissions subject to editing.*

ACT 2009 Southern California Annual Conference

presents



Healing the Whole Person

February 5 - 8, 2009

Lake San Marcos Resort
Lake San Marcos, CA 92078
(760) 744-0120

Speakers:

Fr. William Jarema, www.mercycenter.com
Carlos Miura, MD, ACT Conference 2007

Music: Spirit Alive

For further information:

Ellen Kelson: kelsonellen@earthlink.net, 619-540-7868

EDITOR'S NOTE...

Gloria Doino, MA

We stretched the Fall deadline so as to include the Conference sharings and we're glad we did. Be inspired by the member's reflections, delight in the conference photos, put your finger on the ACT pulse as we read each other's goals. ACT is on the move! And if, like myself, you couldn't attend the International Conference '08, capture the "Sights and Sounds" via the recorded media. (page 8).

By the time this issue arrives in your mailbox, Advent will be upon us and the celebration of the Incarnation before us. John Shea's story says it well, "She was 5 years old, sure of the facts and recited them with slow solemnity, convinced every word was revelation, 'till she got to the best part. Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars. **THE BABY WAS GOD!**

And she jumped in the air, whirled around, dove into the sofa and buried her head under the cushion, which is the only proper response to the Good News of the Incarnation." To which I say Amen!



SCRIPTURE

THE ROAD TO MORIAH



Obedience

"Abraham, give me your son, your only son, the one that you love." It is almost as if these opening words of Genesis 22 mock Abraham's faith. Yet it is not written that Abraham hassled with God or hesitated. There was that quick, unquestioning obedience. He saddles his donkey, takes the wood for the fire, the knife and his son.

Sometimes we can forget they had a three day journey to Mount Moriah, the place of sacrifice (Gen.22:4). We are left to imagine Abraham's inner thoughts. Was Isaac ignorant of all that the journey implied? Did he beg for his young life, for his beautiful hopes? Does the Lord have no sympathy for this venerable old man, none for the innocent child?

Heroic Faith

One can be paralyzed as one looks at the artistic renderings of the old man standing there with the knife in his hand ready to plunge it into his son; his gaze wild, his whole being sheer terror.

We know how the story ends: God holds back his hand, the ram suddenly appears and Abraham receives back Isaac, probably more joyfully than the first time. Abraham's faith and obedience are so singular, so extreme, and so heroic. But I imagine that Abraham could never forget that God had ordered him to do this thing.

Our Own Journey

The older I become, the more often my thoughts turn to this story. It makes me wonder how much I really understand God. I think about the quality of our relationship after all these years. I am frightened by what He might want.

Sooner or later, we all make that appalling journey to Mt. Moriah, the place of terror. Each of us has his or her own well-loved Isaac to sacrifice. And God doesn't always hold back the knife. He takes what we hold most dear, the most precious thing in our lives.

However, I have become convinced that even then, if we wait, we will see the ram. There may be a seemingly hopeless valley through which we must travel, but, like Abraham, we can count on the faithfulness of God, who will provide a way through the fire. Thomas Hicks, PhD

HEALING EXCHANGE

SEALING A HEALING

It is often helpful to "seal" a healing following ministry. This can be done with a very simple prayer, such as "In the Name of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I seal this healing so that it cannot be lost, stolen or destroyed. I seal it against doubt and disbelief. I seal it against every attack of the enemy. I seal it against all revenge, retaliation and retribution, and I give to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, all the praise, honor, glory and thanksgiving, now, always and forever. Amen"

As the word and the prayer imply, the purpose of "sealing" is to protect the healing, to secure it against the enemy of God who would seek to rob or destroy the gift God has imparted. It is not a statement of doubt or disbelief in God's power or action in the life of the individual. Rather, it is an affirmation that God's care and provision are ongoing, and that God's gifts are not whimsical, but are intended for both the present as well as the ongoing good of the one who has sought God's intervention.

A sealing prayer can also be a gentle reminder to the one who has received ministry to stand against any doubts or personal disbelief regarding the reality of what has been accomplished and received. As always, if the enemy of God cannot interfere with or block God's work, a favorite trick would be to ridicule what has happened, to cast shadows of doubt upon it, and to cause one to question the credibility of God's work. Reminding the client of this likelihood, and having him participate in the sealing of the healing by repeating the prayer with the one ministering can help diffuse this kind of attack.

Finally, this prayer helps develop an "attitude of gratitude" to God. This, in itself, can further contribute to ongoing healing. Denise Dolff, MA



ECUMENICAL RESOURCE

The 100th anniversary of the WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY is January 18-25, 2009. Consider resources from www.geii.org (Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute). Ecumenical celebration of the

Word of God may be printed along with an exegetical reflection on the scriptural theme, as well as other materials.

IMPLEMENTING ACT'S PLAN THROUGH SMARTY GOALS: ILLUSTRATING ACT LEADER'S CREATIVITY

SMARTY: SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE, ACHIEVABLE, REALISTIC, TIMELY AND YOURS

Douglas Schoeninger, PhD, President; Cheryl Marsh, APRN BC, President-Elect; and Bonnie Lay, MA, Membership and Marketing Chair



In the Summer 2008 issue of InterACT, we focused on How to write a SMARTY Goal, emphasizing that implementing ACT's Strategic Plan 2006 – 2009 (members section of actheals.org) is for every ACT member. We noted that the actions we each take to enact ACT's Plan are a visible sign of our living ACT's Vision and Mission. Specific, measurable and achievable (SMARTY) goals are an invaluable catalyst to focusing energy in a practical way to achieve the Strategic Objectives spelled out in our Plan.

We encourage each ACT member to reread the instructions for writing SMARTY Goals in the Summer 2008 issue of InterACT and then to enjoy the following variety of Goals ACT leaders have written organized under the three Strategic Objectives prioritized for 2008. See how these stimulate your own creativity and action.

Goal 4, Strategic Objective 7: Develop communication/collaboration with other organizations and constituencies.

Goal: Ask Specialty Group leaders to build on current specialty webpage to enhance communication between members and with those who seek information about ACT.

Goal: Create an ACT online store through which to sell ACT Conference Tapes, CDs, and DVDs, ACT Healing Manual books, etc.

Goal: Network with missionaries who come to US/Canada for sabbatical who may benefit from what ACT can give.

Goal: Present ACT to 4 organizations, Spiritual Care Dept at Eastman Health Association, Catholic Renewal Services in Manitoba and Ontario, Deacon Armand Danis Region 10 ACT member will bring news of ACT to meeting of Catholic Renewal Services with Pope Benedict in Rome.

Goal: Initiate Region 21 program "ACT in Action" to be given in hospitals and churches to stimulate and increase membership, promote visibility and communication within the healthcare community.

Goal: Chairperson of PDC will attend annually 1-2 conferences of other organizations related to ACT's mission to establish links with members and will secure exhibit tables at these conferences for appropriate ACT materials regarding ACT IC and Regional Conferences.

Goal: Establish an ACT weekly, one hour, radio program.

Goal 2, Strategic Objective 1: Increase opportunities for each member to contribute to his/her region. (This includes an emphasis on providing mentoring.)

Goal: Better Communication: know one another better, learn from one another new programs and use them, share ideas, support each other using website, e-mails and group meetings at IC and in Regions.

Goal: Mobilize active members to contact old (inactive and non-renewed) members.

Goal: Continue to conduct meetings via teleconference, Skype, and face to face. Communicate to all members in a timely manner plans for future meetings. Summarize the meeting and distribute to members that are unable to attend. Keep them informed of follow-up meetings. Also share rides with those who have no transportation.

Goal: Increase opportunities for each member to contribute to their region by breaking down job responsibilities into easier steps or components and devoting a regional meeting to evaluate the direction the region is going and the needs of its members.

Goal: Program Development Committee Chair and International Conference Committee Chair will work with Regions hosting the IC to provide opportunities and support for local members to participate in conference planning.

Goal 3, Strategic Objective 2: Increase membership of Specialty groups.

Goal: Seek input from nurse (physician, therapist, associate, etc) members as to how they are reaching out to other nurses (allied health, associates, clergy) and what is working.

Goal: The Therapy Group Chair will contact 4 Christian graduate school chairs (via phone, web links sent via email, and mailings) with a recruiting initiative to recruit faculty and students into ACT and the ACT Therapists Group.

Goal: Complete at least 3 activities by Spring 09, a Healing Mass, a presentation at a medical school, a school of nursing and a school of social work.

How do these Goals stimulate your imagination as to the Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely and Yours (SMARTY) goals the Holy Spirit is nudging you to articulate and implement?

HEALING THE SHATTERED SOUL RESTORING HOPE TO THOSE IMPACTED BY TRAUMA



Speaker



Worship



New Members



Prayer



Education



Anointing



Workshops



Healing



Praise

ECUMENICAL REFLECTIONS

THE TRAUMA OF THE BROKEN CHURCH: HEALING AND ECUMENISM

Jackie Sitte, SLC Chair



The recent IC was a banquet of graces, togetherness, worship, healings, & "great" speakers. When Monday came, God cracked us open to receive Fr. Bob Sear's presentation on the trauma of the Broken Church & Ecumenism.

What came to my mind was the Wedding @ Cana when Jesus turned the water into wine. From the beginning to the end of his talk, I heard in my heart, "you have kept the choice wine until now."

Father Bob took us thru a personal and corporate consideration of traumatic wounds & how they shatter ones soul. As he revealed to us thru history and current awareness, we were invited to look at our present divided state of the Christian Church.

ACT itself, till recently, has been divided by the many issues of our denominational differences. The hurt is beyond mere theological differences. It is rooted in history and loyalty to our denominations and ancestors. To explore this would mean opening up a wound that had been concealed.

God never lets go of God's vision. "The Body of My Son is Broken!" Only God can bring us to full unity; in the meantime, we are called to recognize each other as true children of God. In the context of love and respect, we need to pray to heal our current & ancestral church histories & open up to honor each others giftedness.

Everyone! Bless yourself with the complete talk. Order the tape/DVD. Shalom!

PROPHETIC WORD

A number of prophetic words were given @ the 2008 IC. One, in particular, was given to the Board, all leadership and the body. Please reflect on this below.

Get out of my way. Die to yourselves. Repent. Time is short. You need my gifts. You need the fruit of my Spirit. No longer live on the surface of my love. Repent of your foolishness.

I have called each of you to join together in acceptance, respect, and love for one another in the unity that I AM. Value your differences; I have permitted them. You are one in my Body. Your differences are my gift to the individuation that must be recognized before true unity can ever be

met. No longer live on the surface of my love. Talk of unity in diversity is empty if you do not live it.

I love the dialogue, yet dialogue in itself will not bring the transformation to which I call you in this mission. You seek to heal others yet do not come to me for help in healing yourselves as a body. This will not suffice for the work I have anointed you to do.

Your foolishness to which I refer is your individual and corporate pride. Each of you wants to be right. You must be willing to know that you are all right and you are all wrong. You are my precious children; I have chosen each of you by name. Do you think it is a fluke that you each are in the place you are in? You are My Body. Regardless of your different beliefs & styles of worship, you are unified as my body through my Precious Blood in the sacrifice I made for each of you.

I call you to get your own house in order. Teach your people about the mission call to unity in diversity; model the love that you have for one another as you stand in the gap of the "not yet." I am the only one who can bring about the necessary changes. In the meantime, you are my disciples to go forth loving one another as I loved when I walked on this very earth. Love one another as I love you.

REGIONAL HEARTBEAT ... NEWSBRIEFS



Panama City Chapter

Region 17, Panama City chapter, held a presentation on INTERCESSION. Speaker, Julie Bettinger, writer, Theophostic Minister, and powerful

intercessor spoke on the Do's and Don'ts of Intercession. A powerful corporate prayer experiential followed with healing flowing. Hamilton chapter **Region 10**, Canada, announces an upcoming White Mass for healthcare professionals. **Region 43** Katie Brown reports on recent pilgrimage to Ecuador where she volunteered and now raises funds for their local hospital. **Region 13** Fr Paul Feider traveled to Uganda to teach School for Healing Prayer. **Mexican Regional** member,

Continued on page 7

WELCOME NEW PRESIDENT

DOUG SCHOENINGER, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist and President of the Institute for Christian Counseling and Therapy in West Chester, PA. Doug grew up in the American Baptist Church and joined a Presbyterian congregation in 1972, where he was introduced to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and healing prayer.

His private psychotherapy practice integrates spirituality and prayer as healing resources and is focused on the healing of persons and relationships within an intergenerational perspective. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a PhD in clinical psychology in 1965. Doug studied with Carl Rogers, has extensive training in Contextual Family Therapy with Ivan Nagy and Barbara Krasner, and worked for years with Kenneth McAll in the field of family tree healing.

He has been a member of ACT since 1976, over the years serving as editor of *The Journal of Christian Healing*, Chair of the Spiritual Life Committee, Chair of the Governance Council, and interim Coordinator of Region 3. He currently coordinates the work of the ACT Healing Manual Task Group, edits *The Journal of Christian Healing* and is now President of ACT.

Doug loves generational healing work, most especially focusing on healing families and communities (churches) regarding racism, and racial reconciliation, and freeing us all of religious prejudices and divisions. Doug also works with men in prison, pre-release, programs in generational healing/healing wounded history training.

Together with his wife Frances they have 4 children and 10 grandchildren. "My daughter Karin and son-in-law Scott attended the last IC, became members, had a very good experience and were embraced wonderfully by conference participants", said Doug. "It is a joy to see them grow in Jesus and in healing ministry."

Doug plays golf often and his one "addiction" is the golf channel. He enjoys writing, putting thoughts into words, whether others read it or not. In his words, "The Lord tends to speak to me in words/thoughts so I enjoy listening to him and writing down what I hear."

Doug eagerly awaits working with the whole Board, including newly appointed members; President-Elect Cheryl Marsh, Mary Chakkalackal and Marilyn Dolcetti. We add our "Welcome" to his.



THANK YOU!

THANKS, Forrest Yanke, for your superb work as recent president of ACT. We look forward to your continued voice on the Board as Past-President. Your many gifts and contributions are greatly appreciated.

THANKS AS WELL to multi-talented **Renee Lavitt, Charles Zeiders** and **Fr. Joseph Mary Marshall** as they leave the ACT Board of Directors. They will be greatly missed. And finally, thanks to our new members for joining. Godspeed on your journey with ACT!

REGIONAL HEARTBEAT

Continued from page 6

Lorena Barrera, writes to say her contact with ACT members nurtures her willingness to grow and learn and do what is needed to help the sick. An ACT sponsored Mass was held in Huesteca which Lorena described in glowing terms. **Nepal** boasts new members, Merlin Arockiasamy, a Jesuit seminarian living in Kathmandu, and Prem Limbu who is the Advocacy Director in Nepal for recovering addicts. From **India**, a young priest named Fr. Joseph Mary, says that he rides his motorcycle into the countryside where he ministers to the people in a variety of ways. He keeps in touch with our own Father Joe Scerbo on a regular basis. Father Scerbo, in turn, reports what a blessing it has been to pray with all of these men and their people.

CONDOLENCES



Father Patrick Hussey, S.J. died on August 5. We extend our condolences to the Jesuit community and to the many people who formed his spiritual family, of which ACT was a part, in particular Region 10, Canada. Many will remember Fr. Pat's participation at the Canadian conference held last April. Fr. Pat was a faithful prayer warrior for ACT's needs.

Kathleen Kelly, an ACT member, who had been on the prayer line, died the morning of September 2, of lung cancer.

Father Lawrence James Faye passed away recently. Father Faye was a past speaker at the ACT International Conference in 1980.

May they all rest in peace with the Lord they loved so well.

A-M-E-N!

Psalm for Now

Announce to me, Oh Lord,
your Presence.
Let me see your face
in everyone I meet,
everything I see.
Still the thoughts that scare me
in this time of change,
this season of un-ease.
Hold my need to know.
Surround my questions
with your patience.
Keep me in quiet faith,
the peace that goes beyond
my understanding.
Beat your heart in mine:
the certainty
of love's transforming grace.
Source of absolute abundance.
I trust in you.

Jean E. Taddonio

click . . .

. . . Our Online Community is invited to read the latest issue of **The Journal of Christian Healing** on the ACT website <http://www.actheals.org/>



thought . . .

"Forgiveness does not mean putting someone on probation." (anonymous)

sights and sounds . . .



Be touched by the sights and sounds of the ACT International Conference '08.

Order DVD's and VHS tapes through Robin Caccese: 137 Proudfoot Dr., Birdsboro, PA 19508 or rcaccese@enter.net and Audio

cassettes and CDs from Vince Kirton: Postal Box 3437, Markham, ON L3R 4G7 Canada or e-mail vkirton@simpatico.ca. Order forms available.

book review . . .

In *A Friendship Like No Other: Experiencing God's Amazing Embrace* (Loyola Press), renowned spiritual director Rev. William Barry, S.J. explores the path to becoming a friend of God. Grounded in Biblical tradition, this book offers a fresh approach to relating to God.



keep connected

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Association of Christian Therapists
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McLean, VA 22101-3906

REMINDER: Use your member number (DIRECTLY next to your last name) to access the members only section of the ACT website at www.actheals.org

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