



# InterACT

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

### DATEBOOK... Save the Date!

#### ACT International Conference

September 16-19, 2010  
ACT International Conference, Albuquerque New Mexico, USA  
Hilton Albuquerque  
1901 University Blvd. NE  
Tel: 1-505-884-2500  
Fax: 1-505-880-1196  
www.ACTHeals.org or contact Nicole Ritchey at 703-556-9222

#### Regional Meetings Southern California

February 25 - 28, 2010  
Lake San Marcos Resort  
Lake San Marcos, CA  
Contact: Roby Gallagher  
gallagher@sbcglobal.net or 714-538-0730

#### Northeast Retreat

April 16 - 18, 2010  
Espousal Center, Waltham, MA, Rev. Nigel Mumford  
Contact: Pat Hurd 603-882-1503, or Jackie Sitte 781-341-2100

#### Canada

April 29 - May 2, 2010  
Mt Carmel Spiritual Ctr., Niagara Falls, Ontario.  
Contact Vince Kirton at 416-492-9593 or vkirton@sympatico.ca

#### ACT Pilgrimage

October 5-14, 2010  
"Through the Spiritual Heart of France"  
Rev. Martin Bradbury, Rev. James Petrie  
Contact: Jennie Dodson  
Tel: 1-905-335-6902



### PRAYER WORKS!

As Christians we believe in a God of hope, one who can make a way where there is no way. As Act members we embrace hope through the charism of Intercessory Prayer. It is the key that avails much. Tremendous power is available through prayer. "Anyone who is full of the Spirit has the anointing to pray powerful prayers that produce miracles" (Charisma 1-2010 *Prayer That Works*.) We are reminded of England, during wartime. At nine PM each night thousands prayed simultaneously for peace. As is well known their prayers achieved much.

A vibrant example of prayer at work is Father Nigel Mumford's ongoing healings from his recent bout with H1N1. The prayers of his many friends (including ACT) are producing miraculous healings. The following adaptation, from Fr. Nigel, speaks volumes as to the power of healing prayer. "Lynn took me to the hospital today. It seems I was the first to have H1N1 at the hospital and they had paid close attention to my case so as to help others... We went to visit the ICU where I was for so long. The nurses were in tears as they met me... OK, so was I. It was very moving. I had a chance to thank

one of the three doctors who saved my life. That was so moving. They told me a man of 51 had died of it last week. I am so blessed to be alive. God is amazing... this continues to be an amazing journey."

Father Nigel adds, "After the hospital we went to the Spiritual Life Center. There were over 100 people there having lunch as I came in on my wheel chair. I got a standing ovation with many cheers... more tears... the out-pouring of love was overwhelming. Just amazing to see such genuine friendship and love. It has been a blessed day. So now I only have oxygen when I need it. I had a lot of anxiety over the removal of the feeding tube (the trach fell out on its own!) and so I feel great today....now all that is behind me... thanks be to God. Oh, how good it is to be alive... I feel like a different man... Jesus you ARE the healer! Of this I have no doubt at all. The trach surgeon said 'you know you have high connections', as he looked at the ceiling... referring to God. Today has been a deeply moving day. God bless you all, huge thanks for your prayers. PRAYER WORKS!"

(edited, Sr. Betty Igo)

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## Dear ACT Community

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Blessings to all in this New Year, 2010.

As we begin 2010 together in ACT please join me in reflecting on the vision and mission of ACT as recently restated to guide our 2010 – 2013 Strategic Plan:

**ACT VISION:** An international, Spirit-led Christian Community of healthcare professionals, clergy, and associates equipped to extend the healing presence, heart and mind of Jesus Christ to their colleagues, patients, clients and institutions.

**ACT MISSION:** To support ACT members with resources to achieve this vision, including healing prayer, mentoring, education and training, fostering their spiritual and professional growth.

With ACT's vision and mission in mind and with the consciousness at Christmas of receiving the birth of Jesus anew, I have been especially inspired by the following scripture.

**2 Corinthians 3: 5-6 (The Message).** His [God's] letter authorizes us to carry out this new plan of action. The plan wasn't written out with ink on paper... It is written with Spirit on spirit, His life on our lives.

The plans for ACT are written by the Spirit on our spirits. That which we write down in our Strategic Plan and SMARTY Goals are our best attempt to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit, our writing down of the inspirations and action steps that the Holy Spirit is moving us to implement. ***The ACT leadership has been inspired to ask each ACT member to recruit two new members in 2010. We have been moved to do this from our renewed conviction of ACT's role in the Kingdom and God's desire to transform healthcare.***

In engaging ACT's Vision, I have been blessed by these words from Bill Johnson (**Dreaming with God**, 2006, Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, Inc.):

The believer's inheritance is beyond human comprehension... He gave us a gift beyond comprehension because we have an assignment beyond reason. Jesus gave us all things because we would need all *things* to fulfill our call. ***He intends to fill the earth with His glory***, and His glorious Bride will play a role (Johnson, p. 170)...

We are to display the wisdom of God to be seen by all those in positions of power – including the principalities and powers in heavenly places...this company of believers is commissioned to bring heavenly answers to earthly problems. This will turn heads from the inferior wisdom of this world to the divine wisdom that answers the cry of the human heart (Johnson, p.165).

*Doug*

Douglas Schoeninger, PhD  
President ACT



## EDITOR'S NOTE

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Gloria Doino, MA

It takes a village to create each issue of InterACT. So, before the New Year settles in let us look back and thank all those who contributed in 2009. Writers, photographers, ongoing columnists, poets, news reporters, office staff...we depend on the talent of many to succeed. Myriad thanks. You have blessed us! Turn your sights, now, to another blessing, the 2010 ACT International Conference. Invite a friend. Respond to this issue's *Call for Workshop Abstracts*.

Participate. Then reflect on *The Mercy of God* as fellow member, Joan McHugh, shares heartfelt words from her new book. And lastly, be refreshed with *God's Heart for Healing* by pondering the Scriptures in Denise Dolff's article. In closing, Bob Sorge's *Secret Place* reminds us, "One of the most violent things you will ever do is wrestle down all of the competing elements in your calendar and consistently carve out time to pray." Godspeed this Lent.

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**InterACT NEXT DEADLINE:** *March 15, 2010* (Spring Issue) [storysunday@optonline.net](mailto:storysunday@optonline.net) (Editor's Desk)  
Mention InterACT in the subject line. *All submissions subject to editing.*

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# MERCY AT THE HOUR OF DEATH

By Joan Carter McHugh

My dad's favorite nurse, Daphne, called on a Sunday morning, saying that his blood pressure had dropped very low and that I had better fly to New York.



I had prepared for this moment for weeks, buying five rosaries to give to his nurses, hoping to interest them in saying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a prayer that Catholic's use to call on the Lord's mercy at the hour of death. My prayer that my dad would put his spiritual life in order had intensified in recent years. I now asked God for His mercy at the hour of death, and also that I could be with him when he died.

We took turns sitting in vigil beside my dad's bed, praying around the clock. He was near death but still alive. I whispered my love in his ear and encouraged him to go to Jesus, assuring him that I would catch up later. On the third morning Daphne signaled me that he was dying. She ran into the bathroom because she was afraid of death. I called her back, asking for her company and support. We continued praying in soft tones. I hugged and kissed my dad and marveled at the moment of death. He seemed to suck in air with such force that it jettisoned his spirit heavenward. He was gone.

About a month after my dad's death I missed him deeply. We had always been in touch by phone. He usually called every night around 7:30 just to check in. If we were traveling or even out of the country, I would call him. One evening I was standing in the kitchen and happened to glance at the digital clock on the oven; it was 7:30, the same time my dad used to phone. I thought, *I will never speak to my dad again*. I couldn't contain my grief and cried my eyes out. I prayed telling my dad how much I missed him.

That night I dreamed that I was on the phone with my son Tom Jr., when my dad interrupted, saying, "Joanie!" "Daddy, how are you?" I cried incredulously. "Wonderful" came his familiar voice saying, "I'm so happy. They are treating me like royalty here." Click. He was gone.

God in His great mercy was not only present when Daddy died, but He also enabled me to be with him. Then Jesus allowed my father to console me through the dream, confirming his peace and happiness. After that I could let go of my dad because I knew that he was home.

Adapted from *Dying to Live*, by member, Joan Carter Mchugh. Joan's compelling spiritual memoir serves as an invitation to find the emotional and spiritual roots of disease. At the same time, it offers encouragement to those suffering from any form of brokenness, to deepen their faith in the transforming power of Devine Love. Visit: [witnessministries.org](http://witnessministries.org) (ad page 7)

## SCRIPTURE HOUSE CHURCHES



It's hard to imagine a town today without several Churches present. Yet, for the early Christian a church, as we understand it, was unknown. How then did the Christians worship together? The Acts of the Apostles (2:46a) give us a brief snapshot. "Everyday they devoted themselves to meeting in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes." It appears the first Christians met in various homes to strengthen their faith by celebrating Eucharist, and praying together.

When Peter miraculously escaped from prison, with the help of an angel, where did he run? "He went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who is called Mark, where there were many people gathered in prayer." He must have known they would be there. Then there was Lydia's house Church. Paul and Silas had been seeking a place of prayer when they ran into Lydia and company. As Paul preached to them about Jesus, Lydia was profoundly touched and offered Paul and Silas lodging in her home. It soon became a hub of Christian activity. When Paul went to Ephesus, Prisca and Aquila accompanied him and eventually stayed on in Ephesus, where their home was used as a church. Paul speaks of yet another woman, Nympha, in Colossians 4:15. "Give greetings to the brothers in Laodicea and to Nypha and to the Church in her house." In addition, there were Philemon and Apphia a wealthy couple in Colossae who had become Christians through Paul and who likewise opened the doors of their home.

Without fully realizing it the faith of these early Christian men and women changed the people who came to their homes. The visitors, in turn, changed the world as the Church flourished. "Theirs was a generous spirit, dedicated to Christ, nurturing Christ's Church for endless generations." Belated thanks! (Adapted by Gloria Doyno from St. Anthony's messenger July '08)

# Association of Christian Therapists

## “Healing the Roots of Addiction: Inviting Jesus into the Pain”

“Be transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind” (Romans 12:2)



Hilton Albuquerque

September 16-19, 2010

Albuquerque, New Mexico

**RICHARD ROHR, OFM:** Founder of Center for Action and Contemplation. Considers the proclamation of the Gospel to be his primary call. Uses varied platforms to communicate this.

**DAVID MEE-LEE, MD:** leading expert in co-occurring substance abuse and mental disorders with over 30-years in program development. Delivers his message in jargon-free language.

**ALLEN BERGER, PhD:** Nationally recognized expert in the science of recovery and relationship therapy. Best known for his work on integrating modern psychotherapy/12 Step AA

**JACKIE SITTE, RN, CARN, LADC I:** long time ACT member, registered nurse, psychotherapist, published author, retreat/seminar leader, counselor, expertise in addictions.

*For more information visit our website at [www.actheals.org](http://www.actheals.org)  
or contact Nicole at 703-556-9222*

# HEALING EXCHANGE

## GOD'S HEART FOR HEALING

Denise Dolff, MA



Jesus healed for many reasons. In addition to opening the hearts of God's people toward God and giving glory to God, healing was the will of the Father. Right from the beginning, when God formed a covenant relationship with Israel, healing was part of the plan.

**Exodus 15:26** (NASB) And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, *I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer.*" **Exodus 23:25** (NASB) "But you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; *and I will remove sickness from your midst.* (author's italics, here and above).

Further, the tenderness of God's heart for healing is found in **Hosea 11:3-4**:

Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk. I took them in My arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of a man, with bonds of love, And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws; And I bent down and fed them.

The fulfillment of God's plan for healing is found in Jesus. Consider (Isaiah 35: 4-6; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4: 18-19; Matthew 11:5). The Gospels clearly document innumerable accounts of healings performed by Jesus. (Matthew 5:31; 8:16; Mark 5:24b-34; Matthew 9: 18-26; Luke 8:40-56; John 9: 1 - 7; Mark 1: 41-42; Luke 5: 12-16; Matthew 8: 1-4; Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 1: 1-10; Matthew 8: 14-17; Mark 1: 29-31; Luke 4: 38-39; Luke 4:40; Mark 1: 32-34; Matthew 9:27-30; Matthew 12: 9-14; Mark 3: 1-6; Luke 6:6-9; Matthew 15: 29-31; Luke 22: 50-52; Matthew 9: 32-33; Luke 13: 11-16; Matthew 9: 1-8; Luke 5 17-26; Mark 2: 1-12). The Book of Acts further documents that Jesus' followers continued his work of healing in the early church (Acts 3; Acts 5: 12-16).

In ACT, we have been called in a special way to participate in God's ongoing plan for healing. We are called to play our part in God's great commission to the church: Mark 16:15-18 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they

drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; *they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*"

To be effective in this, first we need to know and believe within ourselves that the Father desires healing, and become familiar with what God's Word says about healing. Next, we need to effectively communicate this truth to those who come for healing. We need to encourage them toward an expectant faith to believe what God desires for them. And we also need to understand the common blocks to healing. These will be the subject of the next "Healing Exchange". Dear Lord. Thank you for your heart's desire for healing. Help me cooperate with your grace as you use me to further your plan for the healing of those you bring to me. I pray in Jesus Name. Amen.

### LORD, GIVE HEALING TO YOUR BELOVED IN SLEEP

While I sleep, Lord Jesus,  
I ask you to cover my dreams and my  
Memories with your Holy Spirit.  
Bring about deep healing of  
Buried hurts and destructive attitudes that are  
known and Unknown to me.  
Heal all the injuries I have caused and  
Forgive me for them,  
as I forgive all who have hurt me.  
Reach back in my ancestry and  
bring your blessing,  
Forgiveness, and freedom to all of them  
and to me and mine.  
If I need to reconcile with anyone,  
take away my fear, and  
Provide the opportunity and courage,  
as you give me the  
Words and actions needed.  
If direct contact is not safe for  
Me, do it for me, Lord,  
that I may be at peace with them.  
You know where the pain is stored  
in my body and in my heart.  
Bring me new life where I have died.  
Help me to let go. Free  
Me of clinging to what I cannot change  
so that I, in your Strength,  
may have the courage and willingness to let the  
Death I have lived bring forth  
the new life you have prepared  
For me. With all my heart, Lord,  
I place my hope and trust in you  
And cling to you as you do your work  
in me while I sleep.  
Thank You, dearest Lord,  
for making all things new, including me.

Joan Lundell'01 (ACT Region 20)

# INSIDE ACT

**REGION 5** held a grand Epiphany gathering at the house of long time member and generous hostess, Nina Cowell. Nearly 2 dozen ACT

members (and potential members) sang to their heart's content as they Praised the Lord and delighted in sharing their most recent Spirit-led endeavors. Among them was Marilyn Dolcetti's sharing of a Diocesan Prayer Gathering she organized at her Church to usher in the New Year.

**REGION 10** The Hamilton Chapter held it's annual conference on Feb 20 with speakers, Rev. J. MacDonald and Carole Ward addressing the topic of "We Are More Than Conquerors". It was a spirit-filled day with prayer, reflection and personal growth. The annual White Mass, for healthcare professionals was held in December. During the White Mass, which had an excellent turnout, those in attendance asked for the support of the Holy Spirit in their professions. The ACT pilgrimage to Assisi led by Fr. Joe Scerbo / Jennie Dodson was a rousing success as they visited and prayed at the sites that were important to Francis and Claire. One of the pilgrims, Fr. Martin Bradbury is now joining ACT! Father Joe's latest project can be viewed at [www.tamingthewolf.com](http://www.tamingthewolf.com). Roman ACT coordinator, Fr. Alessandro Olivieri, met up with Fr. Joe in Rome. ACT's, Fr.

## click...

to learn more about our speakers for ACT International conference: 2010 visit their websites:  
Richard Rohr, OFM: [www.cacradicalgrace.org/aboutus/founder.html](http://www.cacradicalgrace.org/aboutus/founder.html)  
David Mee-Lee, MD: [www.davidmeelee.com/about/resources/bios.html](http://www.davidmeelee.com/about/resources/bios.html)  
Allen Berger, PhD: [www.abphd.com](http://www.abphd.com)  
Jackie Sitte, RN: [www.jacquelinesitte.com](http://www.jacquelinesitte.com)

## fyi...

Want to help speed a patient's recovery from surgery? The department of Horticulture, Recreation, and Forestry at Kansas State University has concluded from a current study that a flowering plant, preferably a potted plant, is a wise choice. Ninety patients recovering from an appendectomy were placed randomly in rooms with and without flowering plants. Those who stayed in the rooms with the plants reported less need for medication, lower blood pressure and heart rate, less pain and less anxiety and fatigue and better overall recovery than those without flowering plants. Go Plants!

Javier Hinojosa, Kenya, was also present on the Assisi pilgrimage. See DATEBOOK column for updates on plans for the next ACT pilgrimage to Lourdes, Oct 5-14, 2010. **REGION 10's** Denise Dolff and Katsey Long, **REGION 41**, went to Rwanda to minister to the broken, the poor, the ill and to pray for the land. They prayed for healing of churches, and especially prayed at several genocide sites. They found a great love for Jesus among the people. Over 10,000 people showed up for a healing service led by Father Ubald, at which Denise prayed, while Father translated. They described Rwanda as beautiful, 'the land of the hills where the saying is that God roams the earth during the day, but always comes back to Rwanda to sleep.' Welcome home Denise, Katsey and friend, Paul. We thank you for sharing your journey. Continued prayers. To view more about the trip



Joann Carter McHugh

visit: [www.missiontorwanda.blogspot.com](http://www.missiontorwanda.blogspot.com). **REGION 4** Mary Ashton reminds us of the Act tradition to pray for each other daily at noon. Please join her and others as they pray for ACT's members and needs. Renee Lavitt, **REGION 10**, also discerns a need to pray health and healing for ACT Leadership. Lastly, we welcome Joan Carter McHugh, (center photo) as she takes over this column next issue. Send your regional and personal news for INSIDE ACT to [witnessm@aol.com](mailto:witnessm@aol.com) or [storysunday@optonline.net](mailto:storysunday@optonline.net) (mention InterACT in subject line).

## book review...

CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY published by the Association of Christian Therapists. The writers in this volume have approached the subject of Christian Healing by asking how we as Christians understand the human person, human brokenness/wounding, and human healing/wholeness, in all dimensions of existence, body, mind and spirit. The book leads to a clearer understanding of how to apply Christian healing practices in healthcare while trusting in the love and mercy of God, manifest in Jesus Christ.

## announcing...

**The ACT HEALING MANUAL book, Christian Anthropology** is available through the online store, Pearl: \$14.99 to members, \$17.99 to non-members.

**THE JOURNAL OF CHRISTIAN HEALING**, 25-2 (the latest issue) is currently available on the website. "Ethics in Christian Healing" by Len Sperry, MD, PhD is featured in this issue.

# Association of Christian Therapists

## Call for Workshop Abstracts

2010 ACT international Conference  
Albuquerque, NM  
September 16-19, 2010

### **“Healing the Roots of Addiction: Inviting Jesus into the Pain”**

“Be transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind” (Romans 12:2)

The Conference Advisory Committee of ACT is pleased to invite your participation in 2010 International Conference by submitting an abstract for a workshop presentation with a focus on the above theme. We are also interested in workshops for participants who would like to learn how to integrate healing into their professional life.

The Workshop presenters will be asked to keep their oral presentation to a maximum of 45 minutes and allow 30 minutes for group discussion. Twelve workshops will be selected. We are especially interested in providing workshops that focus on the enrichment of the providers of care, as well as the presentations that deal with the needs of ministering to the body, mind, and spirit of these providers.

#### **Suggested Topics:**

##### **Integrated approaches working with addictions:**

Alcohol and other drugs, food, sexual, gambling, work, co-occurring mental disorders, co-dependency in other areas  
Case Studies – Research studies- Ethical Issues – Spiritual Growth

##### **Acceptance Process:**

Balance of topics/Relevance to Christian Spirituality - Presenters clinical experience and evidence-based practice -  
Potential to generate stimulating discussion; ability to produce a short article for publication.

##### **Guidelines for Abstract Submission:**

1. Describe topic and plan for conducting the workshop
2. Be clear, concise, and submit no more than 250 words
3. Specify objectives, raise questions for discussion, and include one or two take home “pearls”.
4. Provide Curriculum vitae
5. Submit to Conference Advisory Committee [ACTHeals@degnon.org](mailto:ACTHeals@degnon.org)
6. Fax: 703-556-8729

**Deadline – February 19, 2010**

Our deepest condolences to the family of Al Calabrese, one of the early teachers/mentors in ACT. He taught that “to love God was to love one another”. He went home to the Lord December 27, 2009. Beloved octogenarian, Fr. Stu Murphy, active for years in Canadian Act, and loved dearly by Region 10 members, died at year’s end and will be greatly missed. And to our dear Helen Bethel, fellow ACT member, we extend a loving embrace on the death of her son, Dan. May the healing power of the Lord flow over and through the families and friends of those who have gone before us.



# keep connected

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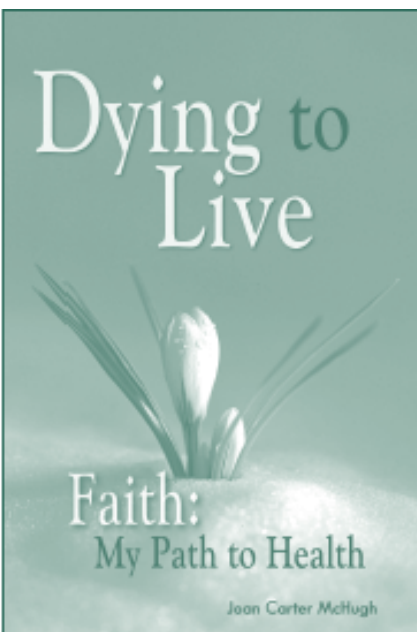


Association of Christian Therapists

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**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](http://www.actheals.org)

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## Dying to Live

## Faith: My Path to Health

Joan Carter McHugh

292 pages. Softcover. \$17.95 + S&H

*A gut-wrenching, sincere and profound witness of hope!*

—Ken Fung, M.D. Ph.D.

## Dying to Live Faith: My Path to Health

by Joan Carter McHugh



*Dying to Live* is Joan Carter McHugh's long-awaited spiritual memoir that contains a potpourri of wisdom about health, marriage, depression and prayer from a faith-filled, Catholic/Christian perspective. Accompany Joan on her search for healing from three life-threatening illnesses, and follow her on her inner journey where she finds the emotional and spiritual roots of disease that were making her sick.

*A deeply engaging story of determination and faith that will inspire and encourage those who face similar life-threatening challenges. It awakens trust in God's providential love when we open to it wholeheartedly.*

—Rev. Robert T. Sears, S.J., Ph.D.

*This book is not about a disease but about an experience. It contains much wisdom learned from the difficult journey of life, and how faith can produce true healing of one's life, and curing as a by-product.*

—Bernie Siegel, M.D.

Author of *Faith, Hope and Healing* and *365 Prescriptions for the Soul*

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