



The Dove

Newsletter of the Association of Christian Therapists March 2010

Southern California ACT Conference

The best one-word description of the 2010 Southern California ACT Conference, which was held in Lake San Marcos February 25-28, would be “WOW.”

One hundred ACT brothers and sisters gathered to hear three incredible featured speakers: Dr. Michael Brescia, the Rev. Dr. Russ Parker, and Sharon Froom. In addition to these inspiring speakers, we had powerful Masses and healing services, a profoundly wonderful play, and a chance to exchange stories and prayers with others in our specialty groups. Between events, there were the ever-present kisses, hugs, and

blessings for one another which have always characterized ACT get-togethers.

Dr. Michael Brescia, co-founder and executive director of the Calvary Hospital in Bronx, New York, kept us engrossed with stories of his work at Calvary, which is the nation’s only hospital devoted exclusively to caring for the dying. Patients, who are often suffering alone and forgotten, with horrific diseases, are loved and cared for, no matter what their circumstances, until they have the final victory and rest in peace.

The Rev. Dr. Russ Parker, an Anglican priest from the UK, kept us laughing and crying with tales of his journey, and the work of his Acorn Foundation, which teaches listening skills worldwide. Russ is a storyteller with a style similar to Garrison Keillor’s. He had us on the edges of our chairs everytime he spoke. Like Michael Brescia, his journey shows us his hunger for Jesus and passion to serve. As healers with the Heart of Jesus, we were all re-energized by these two servants.

Sharon Froom shared her insights from her long-term work with survivors of childhood abuse. She has designed tools for recovery which she generously offered to us in our ministries. Her directness and common sense were both appreciated greatly.

A conference is not a true ACT conference without Spirit Alive, the talented singing group that led us in worship before every event. These loving, gifted Christian musicians are long time ACT friends. They played our favorite praise songs and introduced us to new ones. They have a spirit of joy that freely flows from their music.

We had two healing events in San Marcos. On Friday night, Fr. Pat Crowley celebrated Mass and then did individual blessings, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Georgiana Rodiger, Region 21 Co-coordinator. On Saturday night, the Rev. D. Joe Johnson led the service, again assisted by Dr. Rodiger. Most conference attendees came to both events, twice-blessed. Many had profound healing and new infillings of God's Spirit.

The Healer with the Heart of Jesus awards were given to Doug Schoeninger, ACT President, and Lori Mountain for their deeply committed, ongoing service to ACT. Both are models of servanthood.

The conference officially welcomed new members from both Regions 21 and 43. It was wonderful to see all the new faces and watch their awed reactions to the conference activities. We were reminded of the joy we felt at our first conferences.

The Conference Committee worked tirelessly before and during the event to make sure everything ran as flawlessly as possible. A simple thank you to these people seems quite inadequate for all their loving labors. Blessings and gratitude to Chuck Weber, Marilee Walker, Roby and Lawrie Gallagher, Georgia Connor, Cathy Easton, Al Nyland, Sr. Margaret Devlin, Francisco and Marcela Alcalá, Bernadette and Anthony St. James, Rosalie Proffer, Mary Green, Gladys Bustos, Rita Cornyn and Paula Manning.

(article submitted by Dr. Shirley Cox)

Prayer Warrior Reports
Roby and Lawrie Gallagher are so faithful in sending us petitions and thanksgivings each week. This week Lawrie wrote, "Many of us experienced healings from the conference. I never got to be prayed over and felt a little gyped until I realized that my neck (that has been hurting for years) no longer hurt! PTL. I had heard of people praying over others being healed but never imagined experiencing it." Our Lord gives "worshipful thanks" to His servants. Thanks for sharing your healing. It strengthens all of us in our ministries.

Sharon Froom (a speaker at ACT Conference) wrote: "The ACT Conference was particularly

satisfying for me. The warm welcome I received both professionally and personally was very touching. The passion and caring of the participants was infectious.”

Halfway through Lent

May the Season bring each of us a harvest of the Spirit. “The Spirit brings...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

(Galatians 5:22,23)

Joyce Hugget in her book Approaching Easter remarks that “as we examine these gifts one by one and compare our lives with these spontaneous manifestations of the Spirit’s presence, we shall quickly discover the kind of prayer we need to pray in order that we might become more Christ-like in our behavior and attitudes.” Hugget quotes Mother Teresa, “Let no one even come to you without coming away better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness to the poor, to children, to the poor, to all who suffer and are lonely, give always a happy smile. Give them not only your care, but also your heart.”

As healers with the Heart of Christ, I found these words encouraging and challenging. Let us continue to pray for each other during this holy season.

In her book, Through the Eyes of My Heart, Shirley Cox wrote these poems which have helped many to pray.

Lamb

One lamb,
a bit stupid,
a bit curious
a bit ornery,
mostly oblivious
would wander to the edge of the fold
and wish her world
were bigger.

So the Shepherd
opened the gate
and she trotted off,
mostly oblivious
(Unbeknown to her,
He stayed with her.

With joy
she explored,
tasted
sniffed,
rubbed against
watched,
mostly oblivious.

She was happy
warm,
contented,
eager.

But night came
with its sounds
and chill,
its emptiness

loneliness,
jumbled memories
and the lamb was afraid.

She looked for a
place to hide,
another lamb
to cuddle,
a voice to soothe,
a place of safety,
now sharply aware,
still stupid,
but no longer oblivious

She turned,
saw the Shepherd,
leapt into
His outstretched arms.

The Foal of a Donkey

Shirley writes: I had fun writing this one.
I seem to write easily from the position
of an ass.

I saw the two men in rags
approach.
They untied me.
They said the man with the bright
eyes
Needed me.
I didn't understand why.
I'm the foal of a donkey,
Not easy to look at
Not too bright
Don't do much
But he chose me anyway, wanted
to ride me,
I'd never carried anyone before.

He was gentle,
I knew what He needed though He
didn't speak.
He was a light burden
But I could feel His heavy heart.
I'm an outcast;
I knew he was too.

We rode into Jerusalem.
The people were packed together
shouting
throwing things in front of me.
I would have been frightened
and run away
Except He needed me
and was with me
and I was at peace.

I still don't know why he chose me
On my best days,
I'm stupid and ornery
and accomplish very little.
But I could tell that I was special
to Him;
I could see myself reflected in His
eyes
and I was beautiful
and that was enough.

**A blessed Holy Week and Easter
to you and yours.**

Hope to see everyone on April 11
at Georgie's 1:00 p.m.-RSVP
Shirley 792-3062. See flyer sent
by Gallaghers for more
information.