

The Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland) worked from the early 1950's to support and spread the healing ministry within churches and to encourage engagement with the medical profession. To further these aims a centre was run in Edinburgh where people could come for prayer, listening and healing. A loving and supportive prayer community formed, which came to an end in 2011. This document is part of a legacy of resources which we hope will support others in their engagement with the healing ministry. More archived material is available to the public at the National Library of Scotland.

Listening to God

Based on "Learning to Listen" Acorn Listening Course. Acorn Christian Foundation.

Listening to God with each other in groups of three (speak, listen, share, pray).

Some of you will be familiar with this way of praying for each other, listening to God for each other, and for some of you this will probably be new. Please be sensitive to one another and support one another in your group.

What we are doing is praying for one another in turn, holding them in God's light ... God's embrace. If this is new for you, it can sometimes be helpful to imagine the person prayed for being held in God's love and then praying for them. Simply wait. Do not try to DO anything. Just wait and see if the words of a hymn, a picture, a text of scripture, a feeling or words come to you. Then, at the appropriate moment, share simply what came to you... NOT what YOU think it means. Offer this to the person being prayed for as a gift. If you have heard something important for them, God will help them understand what it means.

Agree on who will take responsibility for keeping time. We need to be disciplined about time. (30 minutes in total, roughly 10 minutes each, shared as below).

1. In turn SHARE something for which you would like prayer, something that has come out of the morning that you would like to bring to God or simply, without explanation, ask for prayer. (1 min)
2. The others simply LISTEN, without discussing or asking questions. Then all wait in silence before God and LISTEN concerning the situation or person. (3-5 min)
3. If anyone is given a word, thought, Bible verse, picture, SPEAK it out as simply as you can, without discussion. Trust

Former CFH Resources can be found at:

www.st-cuthberts.net | www.mindandsoul.info
www.emmaushouse-edinburgh.co.uk

that the person who is being prayed for will be given insight as to the relevance of what has been said. If nothing is given, stay in silence. (2 min)

4. One person then PRAYS, committing the situation or person to God. (1-3 min)

5. When you are ready, the next person begins. If there is time at the end, spend a few minutes reflecting on what happened.

This is not a time for discussion. Speak quietly so as not to disturb others, or go into another room.

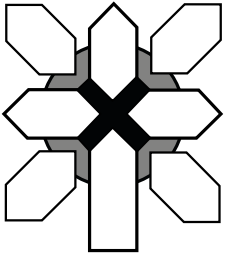
PLEASE NOTE - WHAT IS SHARED IS CONFIDENTIAL.

If anyone has any concerns for themselves or others in the group, please speak to the Leader who introduced this session.

In turn SHARE something for which you require prayer, this could be a situation, a person or something that has arisen today and which you would like to bring to God.

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Credo

used by the

Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland)

The Christian Fellowship of Healing:

is united in its commitment to the practice of prayer as the foundation of all our ministry.

Prayer is the means through which we believe the Holy Spirit can use us, here and now, to continue the practice of healing incarnated by Jesus.

is an ecumenical group of Christians who openly embraces a range of theological understanding and language to describe 'how' God heals.

We accept that health and healing can and does come through medicine, counselling, complementary therapies and other means. This does not negate the real contribution of prayer, rather it upholds the role of prayer to support individuals to listen to the Holy Spirit within them, guiding them, facilitating health and healing.

is committed to being alongside people who are suffering and experiencing pain, struggle and distress whatever their background.

We acknowledge that suffering faces us all and challenges our understanding and belief. Yet we can, with integrity, offer reassurance of God's loving presence accompanying every human being as seen in Christ who has shown us the capacity of God to be vulnerable even to the point of death. Living in and from this truth of the ever present loving God we respond as authentically as possible from our hearts, and we can offer an understanding of the range of meaning of healing which includes miracles.

is convinced of the importance of the varied aspects of healing displayed by Jesus in the miracle stories.

This includes an intense personal encounter with Jesus; affirmation of the individual as a person of value, physical healing, restoration of meaning and purpose, social inclusion; as well as challenge to those in power; confronting rigid thinking and lack of compassion. We believe all these components are aspects of the transforming love of God and reflect the wholeness Jesus calls us into. We see healing as deeply linked with the Christian tradition of vocation through which the living God calls each of us to discover and fulfil our potential.

is united in our understanding that healing in the New Testament includes wholeness.

This links the transforming love that effects miracles with the transforming love that brings the disciples through their fear and resistances into their ministry of apostleship. Our experience is that the practice of prayer in small groups, with a commitment to sharing and listening, enables those of us offering healing prayer to grow in ourselves and in our capacity to experience and share God's love. This includes the reality that some people have a gift of healing and a greater capacity than average to bring about healing.
