

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.

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## Light in darkness

By Ian Cowie (Chaplain 1976-88)

The writings here are not meant to be ordinary poems. They are 'lines of thought', in which each line is there to set off a train of thought. What matters is not what you read here, but what goes on in your own mind when the printed line runs out. If you are in the dark just now, perhaps following some of the lines here will set you on the road to light again.

### Light in darkness

Passing through darkness, deep darkness,  
I thought I was alone... nobody seemed to be with me.  
Even those closest to me seemed to have light  
    while I stumbled on in darkness,  
    a darkness which seemed to have no end.  
Then a stray beam of light shone in the darkness,  
    shone for a moment and was lost.  
Yet in that moment it revealed a face,  
    a Face I knew but dared not name.  
Someone was beside me in the darkness,  
Someone is sharing it with me  
    I know that I am not alone.  
When the darkness passes and the light dawns, as I know it will,  
I shall see the marks of the nails in his hands,  
    and traces of bloody sweat on His brow.  
The Face beside mine in the darkness is not afraid,  
    He has been this way before,  
    He knows it well.  
Though I have forgotten so much,  
    He has not forgotten His word:

**"When you pass through the depths I will be with you.  
I will not fail you nor forsake you.  
Fear not... I am with you".**

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**Former CFH Resources can be found at:**

[www.st-cuthberts.net](http://www.st-cuthberts.net) | [www.mindandsoul.info](http://www.mindandsoul.info)  
[www.emmaushouse-edinburgh.co.uk](http://www.emmaushouse-edinburgh.co.uk)

## New Birth

(John chapter 3)

For somebody who needed to make a new beginning.

I have lived all my life  
under the shadow of other people.  
But now I shall stand on my own  
in the light of God's love.  
Constantly comparing myself with others  
I have crippled my soul.  
But now I shall be myself. as God made me,  
and my soul will begin to grow straight again.  
My mind is clogged with other people's ideas  
about God, about goodness and about life.  
But now I have a mind of my own.  
and it is between God and me from now on.  
I shall make mistakes. I'm not sinless.  
But God and I will deal with that.  
Since God forgives,  
let others condemn if they want to.  
Tying myself in knots,  
nobody was able to love me.  
I am finding myself, so that. I can forget myself,  
and love will begin to flow again.  
Heavenly Father, I think I'm being born again!  
I feel shaky and hesitant  
But at least I know that I'm going to start living,  
and you are making all things new,  
even me!

## Resurrection and Life

Brother Robert Schutz said,  
that life *"is a succession of little deaths  
followed by the beginnings of a resurrection"*.

Blessed be God  
for all the little deaths that I have died,  
for the accident which taught me the frailty of my flesh,  
for the operation which faced me with my mortality.  
for the broken love-affair which turned my heart to stone,  
for the bereavement which emptied my life of meaning.

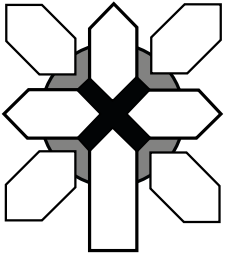
Blessed be God  
for each beginning of a resurrection,  
for the discovery of the strength of the spirit in this flesh,  
for the awareness of undying love holding me firmly,  
for the re-kindling of a new and purified love,  
for the revelation of a universe filled with the Glory of God.

Blessed be God for all the little deaths that I have died,  
Blessed be God for each beginning of a resurrection.  
Blessed be God for all whose hands were raised to wound me,  
Blessed be God for all who shared in resurrecting me.  
In dying and in being resurrected I face the future.  
I will not shut my heart  
    against the crushing load of the world's sin and sorrow.  
    Christ will bear me up.  
I will not turn away from the one who wounds me,  
    Christ will heal us both.  
I will embrace that which kills me,  
    Christ uses it to bring me home.  
Blessed be God for resurrection and for life.

## Heart-Cry

When I was a baby I learned two lessons:  
You get attention by 'being good', ... but also by 'being bad'.  
As a child my efforts to be good failed to register,  
And so the conclusion was obvious.  
As an adult my family take my 'goodness' for granted,  
My attempts to please are exploited, my protests ignored.  
I cannot scream and rage any more so I get, depressed.  
I'm afraid that I might do something really bad... even suicide.  
My body found a way of getting regular attention,  
But now my doctor wearies and my family have heard it all before.  
    I fear  
    that nothingness  
    is round the corner.  
    Is there no answer?  
I AM your answer child.  
Before the world began I cherished the thought of you.  
In the womb I watched you grow, I rejoiced at your birth.  
Through childhood my special angels guarded you.  
In one heart after another I sought to kindle your love for me.  
In the secret place of your soul I have never ceased to work.  
In your sorrows and hurts I was afflicted, in your joys I rejoiced.  
By your sins I was wounded, I counted them all as my own.  
Each hidden victory set heaven dancing with delight,  
Each defeat registered more deeply than you have ever dreamt.  
Every detail of your life, the very hairs on your head,  
    matters to me,  
And what I have planned for you is beyond your imagining.  
No need to attract my attention, only to discover it.  
Find your comfort in me and take the pressure off your family.  
Your religion has been part of your 'good child' act,  
But now we must enter into communion, you and I.  
When my love shines out of you, others will be drawn to you.  
You will forget yourself as you respond to them.

I AM  
Listen child,  
fear not,  
life is round the corner.



# Credo

*used by the*

***Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland)***

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## **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.

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