

Serving God in Norway ✓

- Discovering New Gifts While Helping Others

By sis Carrine Ng

In my spiritual walk with God, I learn to appreciate the joy of serving and giving. The Bible says, "We are to love our neighbours as ourselves". You will be amazed how God will bless us more, even with spiritual gifts that we least expected when we put His teachings into practice. But first, we must start working on them.

The story begins with Estelle, one of my fellow sisters in Christ in Norway, who has experienced harsh pregnancy since the beginning of the year. She was hospitalised and was unable to eat or rest well for seven whole weeks. She vomited everything she consumed. She was on drip for that entire period. Even until days before her delivery, she has to be cautious of the things she eat to ensure that what she consumed will not aggravate her appetite. One cannot visualize the agony she is going through without the ability to consume for a long period especially when she has a baby in her womb.

The Women Bible Study Group has decided to do their best to bring comfort to her and her family. We demonstrated God's love by each of us volunteering to prepare meals for them every other day to lighten the burden of her, and her husband, who still has a three year old son to look after. Unlike Singapore, dining out in Norway is considered an extravagant affair for most of us; so we have to resort to home cooking most of the time.

God has placed upon my heart to help her. This was my very first experience to serve God as a Christian. I recalled preparing chicken congee for her and a few other simple dishes for her family. My husband and I packed and delivered the food to them.

I met up with her one day. To my surprise, she shared that the congee I prepared was the first dish that she was able to consume after seven weeks of "fast" in the hospital. She added that the congee tasted similar to what her mother used to prepare for her back in Australia. I felt touched. God is good. I am convinced that He works through us to bring hope and joy to people who are in need.

God has not only build up our friendship, at the same time, blessed me with another talent, cooking. Estelle and her family have acknowledged my cooking skill, something which I can never imagine myself to possess. I never knew that my cooking brings such joy and comfort to her and her family. I realise later that it is not about the ingredients I used to prepare the food but rather the heart of love that God has given to me to care for others. My husband Darien has since named this congee, "The anointed porridge".

From then on, whenever any of our fellow brothers or sisters are not well, they will get a share of this "anointed porridge". They recovered soon after consuming it. I give glory to God for demonstrating His healing power through my finished product.

I received an email from Estelle that she has delivered a healthy baby girl on 16th October. I thank God that I have the privilege to be part of her testimony. To God be the Glory!

Mark 9:35 Jesus said, "if anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." Servanthood is first in Jesus mind when he taught the disciples the importance of servanthood.

GOD IS ALSO AN ORTHOPAEDIC

By Rev Doug

"The blind receive their sight and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them." Matthew 11:5

While these words apply to our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, they also apply today to certain faithful servants that He has chosen who are full of the Holy Spirit. Jesus passed this gift to His disciples (now apostles), and they in turn passed them on to their disciples, and our Lord passed this gift down to Paul at a later date. One example is Stephen who was chosen by the apostles as a deacon to the people.

And Stephen, full of faith and power [the Holy Spirit's] did great wonders and signs among the people. Acts 6:8

In talking about Spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 Paul mentions the gift of healing in verse nine.

to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit,

Did you notice gifts of healing are mentioned in the same verse as faith? Healings, if they don't bring the testimony of salvation are a blessing, but salvation a much greater blessing. We can only live so many years on earth before our bodies will eventually wear out and die. In Psalm 90:10 Moses says, "The days of our lives are seventy years; and by reason of strength they are eighty years." But our soul lives on forever. Without the Good News Gospel and belief in Jesus as our Lord and Savior a soul will spend eternity in hell, but with Christ we are guaranteed life everlasting!

Healing is a touchy subject with some because many attested healings are simply fraudulent and not Divine. In America many "so-called" healers have been exposed making many skeptical that this gift of the Holy Spirit still exists. For many years preaching for conservative denominations I myself was skeptical until I saw that Divine healing really exists. However, I have participated in many healings and now know that this gift really exists, especially in my thirteen years of ministry in the Philippines. But sorry to say, I have seen a fair share of hucksters trying to promote themselves and not the Great Healer who gives us this great gift.

Earlier this year I was able to meet Pastor Alicia in the Philippines and witness her great gift of healing. She is not a fraud - she is the real deal. I can tell you first hand because when she prayed for my broken arm it was healed at once. It had been over two months that my arm was broken and I was still in great pain. The cast had been removed and my arm was worse and not better. It was so bad that I couldn't even lift it. On one Sunday morning in Santa Maria, Pangasinan at Harvesters Christian Mission church Pastor was praying over the people and people were being both saved and healed. At the end she prayed for my arm which was broken in three places.

I felt an anointing as she prayed over my arm, and like the bones in Ezekiel 37 I felt bones growing in my arm. My arm is completely recovered and good as ever. She didn't touch my arm keeping her hands distant. This is important because so many have tried to manipulate others with their hands. It is very common that some will literally push people down to the ground so it would look like they were slaying them in the Spirit. And these are usually the type that takes full credit for everything denying the Lord and His power. But Pastor Alicia is different. She told me she makes sure that nobody falls to the ground by her pushing or manipulating them". She wants them to fall being full of the Holy Spirit's power and not her own.

Many were healed that day and many were overcome by the Holy Spirit's power. In Third World countries Divine healing is so greatly needed because most people cannot afford medical treatment. And for the richer nations that can afford treatment, God's healing is much greater. And with Divine healing come the foundation of salvation saving the soul. Remember faith and healing was mentioned in the same verse. For unbelievers healing is a testimony for them to believe, and to believers Divine healing is great to strengthen their faith.

If healing was not for today and only the apostles Paul would not have mentioned it as a gift from God. God wants us to heal bodies and save souls. I believe that Pastor Alicia genuinely has this gift and many people are being healed, and most importantly saved, through her ministry, and I am looking to serve the Lord with her in the future.

To another faith by the same Spirit, to another the gift of healing by the same Spirit.

Rev Douglas Bennett
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