DEAR FRIENDS IN CANADA,

There has been much said recently regarding the healing of memories and a certain confusion that healing of the memories and "soul therapy" have interjected into the whole area of Christian healing. In reference to this, the article we have included in this newsletter from the London Healing Mission is most helpful. It is my feeling that when the Holy Spirit enters our hearts and lives in us at our personal invitation, we become new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17). The Lord completely makes us new and the old and previous moral and spiritual condition is passed away. How much raking up of the old life is necessary beyond that point seems to be a variable, but in most instances, it seems that God's healing virtue in the power of the Holy Spirit is sufficient to handle these matters. Certainly forgiveness, and the healing of past hurts occurs as a positive act of the Holy Spirit. Delving back into the past, even to the time when we were in our mother's womb seems to be an extreme in many instances. Healing at the altar of God through the laying on of hands, and anointing with oil, and Holy Communion should be sufficient in the majority of cases to take care of past problems and launch us into "newness of life." Granted, there are people with profound psychiatric problems who require various forms of Christian psychotherapy, perhaps this is where healing of memories and soul therapy are basically needed. However, for the average person involved in spiritual healing to become an explorer of patients' remote pasts with the use of imagination therapy and exorcism in conjunction with ministers or other talented individuals seems, in my opinion, a fad of the present which in most instances is neither necessary nor to be recommended. The implication is that various methods of delving into people's past are necessary for healing implying weakness in the efficacy of the Lord and the Holy Spirit to totally heal us. My personal belief is that this is certainly not the case and that "soul healing" requires rethinking and restructuring. Please read the article from the London Healing Mission with this in mind.

I'm hoping to see all of you at the upcoming September meeting of Christian Medical Foundation of Canada in Toronto, September 14 - 16, 1984, at the Sutton Place Hotel, 955 Bay Street. Dr. Don Denmark and the committee in Ontario are doing a wonderful job. Please invite doctors and nurses and those who are involved in the healing ministry, including laypeople who are interested in Christian Medicine and Nursing to by all means come to this most excellent Toronto meeting. God bless you 'til we see you at that time.

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EDITED MESSAGE
LONDON HEALING MISSION
MAY 1984

Dear Friends,

A friend in Wales says he remembers his old pastor, long since dead, stressing to him as a young man: "Do not strain your minds to understand. Believe that what God says in the Word is true. Act as though it were true. And you will find it is true. Then you will understand."

That was fifty years ago, my friend wrote, and he concluded his letter with these words: "We have proved it to be so." How often do we find, whilst ministering at the Mission, that people are having difficulty in really believing the basic fact of our Christian faith: if only they could accept that the Lord loves them!
A few weeks ago I spent half a morning ministering to a girl, and without seeming to get anywhere. I suggested at the end of the talk that she keep thanking Jesus for loving her and accepting her. You can imagine how thrilled I was, when, a few days later, I received a long letter, reading in part as follows: "You were right— I did need to thank Jesus for loving and accepting me. I only had to do it for a couple of days and things began to improve. I am now back to having quiet times—nearly two weeks now. I am making sure that I have one every day. That way, I shouldn't slip back to nothing. I now have a clearer understanding of Jesus's love for me and I can accept His complete forgiveness when I am disobedient. I used to spend most of my time feeling guilty, partly because I was unable to forgive myself, but also because I thought Jesus was still holding it against me, regardless of my repentance."

As I read the letter, I realized that, once again, here was someone who needed to absorb into her heart the truth that Jesus really does forgive her, that He accepts her, and that He loves her. It is so easy for us to give mental assent to this fundamental truth, but it is so much harder to accept it so that it becomes part of one's very being. The girl in question had an appalling history of rejection by her family. At the age of 14 her mother told her to go and live by herself in a caravan (camper) at the end of the garden, and said she was only allowed to come to the house once a day and then only to collect a bucket of cold water from the tap in the kitchen. It is small wonder that in her late twenties this girl has been having difficulties in accepting that anyone really loves her and that Jesus said: (John 6:37) "If anyone turns to me, I will never turn them away."

Often, as people leave here, we give them a prescription to help them overcome their difficulty. This is not a prescription for something to be taken, like many medicines are, three times a day after meals. It is a prescription for something to be put into effect at least fifty times a day. We say to them: "Continually, throughout the day, keep lifting your heart to Jesus, and say this simple prayer over and over again: "Thank you Jesus that You have forgiven me; that You accept me, and that You love me."

We may not feel like praying that prayer, but that does not matter; we can use our wills to pray it. As we keep praying that prayer, because it is true, it will gradually sink into our unconscious minds, so that in time it becomes a real spontaneous cry of joy from the heart: "Thank you Jesus that you have forgiven me!—that You accept me!—and that You love me!"

If we were repeating words which were manifestly untrue such as: "Thank you for making daffodils blue", the unconscious mind would reject them; but as we keep thanking the Lord for His forgiveness and His love, it is precisely because these things are true, that our unconscious mind gradually accepts them and absorbs them. We come to realize that He does indeed love us. The thought was put so nicely into verse many years ago:

"Said the Robin to the Sparrow
Can you tell me, Sir, I pray,
Why these anxious human beings
Rush round so all the day?

Said the Sparrow to the Robin
Sir, I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as care for you and me."