

Volume 2, Issue 3

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SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW THE VISION GOD
HAS PLACED ON YOUR HEART

His Way Newsletter

Are Ye Healed by Doctors Stripes?

By Doug Cook

Last edition we included a little humorous statistic about doctors and gun owners. If you didn't get the opportunity, please read it on the back page of our last newsletter archived on our website under "News." I found it very amusing, but it also sent me on a quest for more information about the medical establishment. I was amazed at some scary statistics that were readily available on the internet. Humor me for a moment while I alert you on some of this shocking data mostly exhumed from the medical establishments' own publications.

The Journal of the American Medical Association Vol. 284 July 26, 2000 reports that **doctors are the third leading cause of death** in the U.S., causing 250,000 deaths every year from iatrogenic causes! "Iatrogenic" is defined as "induced in a patient by a physician's activity, manner, or therapy; Used especially of a complication of treatment," (Would this be what is referred to as malpractice?)

Tuesday, April 8 (HealthDay News) – From 2004 through 2006, patient safety errors resulted in 238,337 potentially preventable deaths of U.S. Medicare patients and cost the Medicare program \$8.8 billion, according to

the fifth annual Patient Safety in American Hospitals Study. The overall medical error rate was about 3 percent for all Medicare patients, which works out to about 1.1 million patient safety incidents during the three years included in the analysis...

Thursday April 24, 2008 in The Guardian, written by Ian Sample, science correspondent -- More than half of blood transfusions may do more harm than good, with some patients facing a six-fold greater risk of dying following surgery because of transfusions, doctors warn today. Fears over the safety of blood transfusions have prompted some physicians to recommend they are used only as a last resort, with hospitals urged to be more selective over which patients receive blood. According to a report in New Scientist today, the National Institutes of Health, the US government's largest medical funder, has launched a review into the safety of the procedure. Bruce Spiess, a cardiac anesthetist at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, America, told the magazine: "Probably 40%-60% of blood transfusions are not good for the patients."

On May 1, 2008 CNN ran an article entitled "Don't let a hospital kill you." It was about a young

*** Comments Welcome ***

We welcome the opportunity to give you, the reader, a chance to interpose your opinions on the subjects covered in our newsletters. In future issues, we will be adding a new section entitled "From Our Readers." If you wish to express your opinion — pro or con — please E-mail your civil comments to: opinion@emeraldministries.com

Only initials will be used if the comments are published.

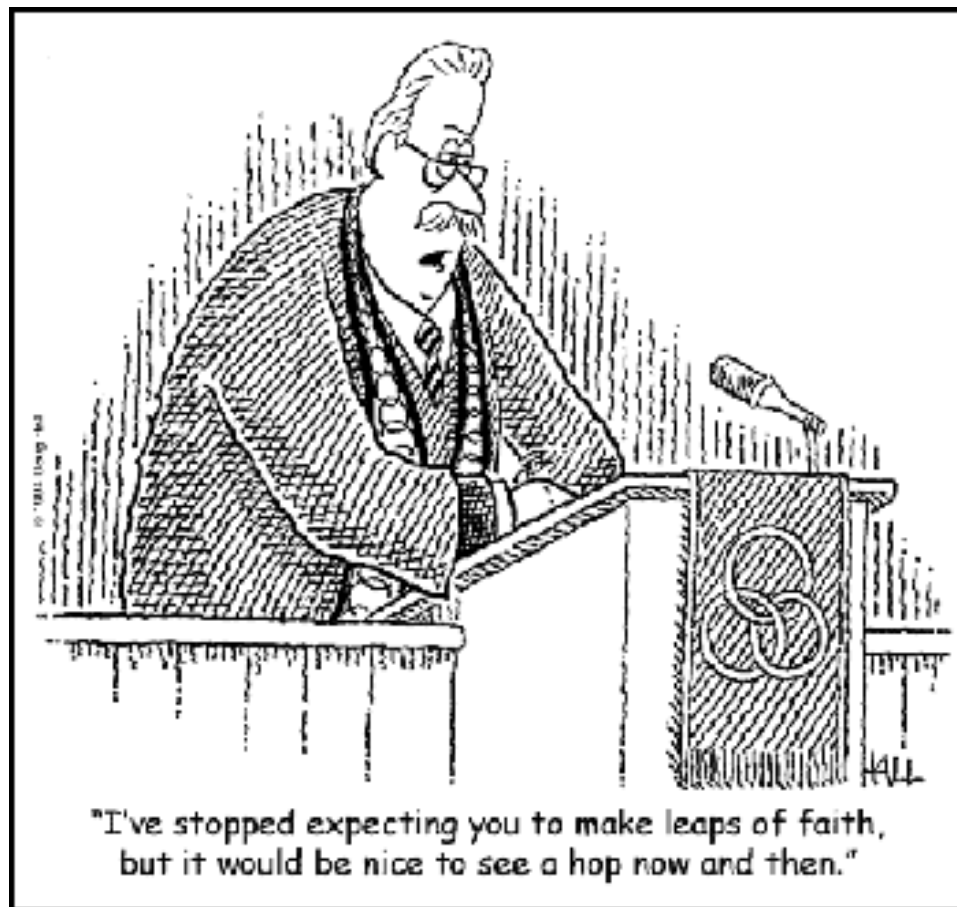
man that “died at age 27 from a bacterial infection he got while being treated for skydiving injuries. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, Josh is one of 99,000 people who die each year because of infections acquired in the hospital.”

I went to the CDC website to check their sources and here is an excerpt of their report about healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). “In 2002, the estimated number of HAIs in U.S. hospitals, adjusted to include federal facilities, was approximately 1.7 million: ... The estimated deaths associated with HAIs in U.S. hospitals were 98,987: of these, 35,967 were for pneumonia, 30,665 for bloodstream infections, 13,088 for urinary tract infections, 8,205 for surgical site infections, and 11,062 for infections of other sites.”

WOW! These statistics really give new meaning to the word medical “practice.” I might add that these hospitals then charge you and your insurance company to cure the infection they, in essence, gave you! Does increased revenues from infections provide the proper motivation to keep the hospitals disinfected? This gives the impression of a grievous conflict of interest. Luke 8:43 says, “And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,” Seems they had the exact same medical “practice” going on in Jesus day as we have in our society today. Solomon was right in Ecclesiastes 1:9-10, “*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is*

that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.” History just keeps repeating itself again and again.

because of reliance on religious rituals and documentation sufficient to determine the cause of death.” An assumption could be to believe this atheist might have a propensity to accumulate as many cases as possible to prove his point against believing in the God of the bible.



In order to be fair we need to take a look at the “faith healing” side of the equation. Although mainstream media loves to crucify anyone who allows their child to die while believing for Jesus to heal them, the actual statistics are much harder to locate. But, here is one from an atheist website (friendlyatheist.com). “172 children who died between 1975 and 1995 were identified by referral or record search. Criteria for inclusion were evidence that parents withheld medical care

Let’s see! That’s 172 deaths in 20 years (8.6 per year) from “religious medical negligence.” Now compare that to only 1 year’s “medical malpractice negligence” which includes 250,000 deaths from doctors, 119,169 deaths from Medicare, 90,000 deaths from hospital-associated infections, and 1.7 million infections acquired while in the hospital. Normal, rational thinking would have to point towards us being negligent if we don’t trust in Jesus.

Continued on page 4

Paul's Perspective

Christ the Healer

By Paul Armento

The 39th anniversary of the first ever American moonshot is rapidly upon us. When mission commander Neil Armstrong made his descent from the landing craft and wrote his name in history by setting foot on it's surface, Commander Armstrong was misquoted as saying "... one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". Because of the rather primitive microwave communication technology of that day, it was not easily heard when he pronounced "a" in his statement, rendering the much more accurate quote "...one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind", which not only makes more sense, but just so happens to be grammatically correct! This is the example I would use in comparison to what is widely accepted by many in modern times when it comes to misunderstanding Christ, that is, Christ as savior exclusively.

There is arguably few moments that take place in the human experience that require more faith than when an individual comes to the saving knowledge of Christ and accepts him as their personal lord and savior. I believe with certainty that we as God's children must exercise like faith when we recognize Christ as healer. Scripture clearly indicates that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Likewise, it seems difficult to imagine that anyone could have the faith to believe in Jesus for their personal salvation and rely on him for the destination of their eternal soul, yet deny him the ability to heal their mortal bodies.

The ancient Hebrew prophet Isaiah foretold of how Christ would ultimately be a healer of mankind when he stated: "But he (Christ) was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his

stripes we are healed." As with any endeavor concerning matters of faith, it is clear that there's no substitute for scripture. It can then be said that our spiritual success as believers in Christ rests squarely on our personal connection to God's holy word, the bible. If we can have faith to believe in part of it, it then stands complete to exercise faith in its entire contents, including scriptures of healing.

Comments Welcome

Contribute to the section

"From Our Readers"

Coming soon to future editions.

Everyone has opinions where
The Word is concerned!

Even though God may not
agree with our theology,
His "Love covers a
multitude of faults."

Please E-mail opinions to:
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The good news of the gospel, therefore, is not exclusive to salvation. Among other divine attributes, we can count on Christ for our physical healing. Granted that any healing miracle in large part is due to just exactly what it is we have the faith to believe God for, but take certainty in the knowledge that this is God's intention. God's word teaches us that Jesus was with God at the beginning of time, that all things created were created by him for his pleasure. Since we are Christ's by design, it becomes easier to understand that it is completely within his ability to assume the role granted to him by God as "the great physician". Christ was quoted many times as stating "let it be done to you according to your faith".

In conclusion, among the most compelling accounts of healing by faith contained in scripture appears in the 14th chapter of Matthew where we read about a woman who needed a healing touch from Christ. Her faith allowed that if she could simply touch the clothing that Jesus was wearing, she would receive her complete healing. This is direct evidence that substantiates the dramatic effects of personal faith on personal healing, since when her hand touched his clothing she was instantly healed of an illness she had suffered with for many years. My bible says that healing glorifies God!

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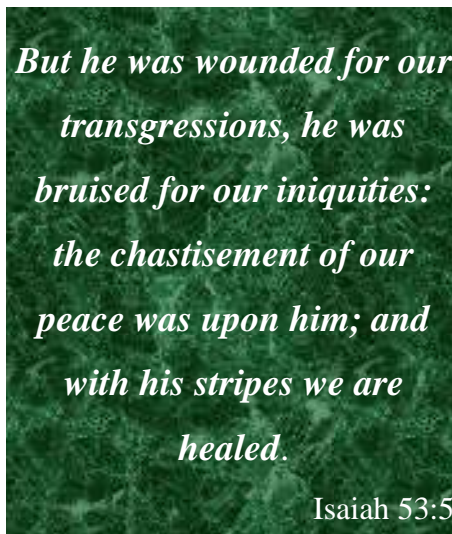
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Although these statistics raise many questions about doctors, it elicits a more critical question about believers. Why do so many "mature Christians" flock to the "third leading cause of death" every time they have a pain or a runny nose? Probably because they're following the "pastors" teaching "Jesus heals through doctors so do all you can do and let God do the rest." Yet there is not one case recorded in the bible of Jesus or the apostles ever sending anyone to Dr. Luke to get their healing. Neither is there any situation in the bible where anyone is told to go mix some special herbs together or take a drug to receive healing, in fact, the only time the Greek word "Pharmacia" is used in the bible was in association with sorcery (witch doctors). The reason most pastors support doctors and health insurance is because they're most likely making excuses for their own personal lack of trusting in the completed work of salvation at the cross.

Please don't misunderstand me, I'm not against doctors who sometimes help in the healing process, especially for the unsaved and baby Christians. I personally know some very godly, Christian doctors. But at some point in our growth we need to truly trust God

for our healing – it's part of the gift of salvation. I've had many believers, who were walking with the Lord for 30 years or more, tell me their faith is not where mine is yet. Then the question would be, at what point, before you die of old age, do you begin believing that part of the gift of salvation?



I'm not telling anyone to stay away from the doctor. If your faith and belief is in doctors, then that's where you need to go. I've personally taken several Christians to doctors who wanted to go to them. But, if your faith is in Jesus, then we need to go to Him. I'm not saying you won't have aches, pains, and symptoms by trusting God for healing, because you will. There will be times of testing as the evil

one tries to get your faith turned back towards man's ways. I've had my share of trips to the doctor before my faith was at the point of trusting completely in the finished work of salvation. God develops our faith walk from glory to glory, one step at a time, and I haven't fully arrived yet. But, I had to quit listening to the preaching in the churches by pastors with grand health insurance policies and begin believing what the bible said. It required me to give up my health insurance, something scores of these pastors don't seem to be able to do. How can we ever fully develop our faith and trust in the Lord if we still have security blankets we're holding on to?

The word says, "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed*" 1 Peter 2:24. "Were healed" is past tense, looking back to the completed work of the cross, not looking forward to what Jesus is going to do with our future healing. If we truly comprehend that we've already been healed, why go to the medical establishment to pay enormous amounts for something we already freely possess?

By whose stripes are you healed?