

Healing Ministry Proposal

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We are a non-denominational church. Everyone has come from different backgrounds of belief. Our pastor comes from a baptist background. There is one particular woman who comes from a pentecostal background. This is what you find in non denominational churches, people from very different walks. I think what is found in non denominational churches is an openness. This is due to people having come from different denominations. I think that it's safe to say that there isn't a strong belief in healing. However, there are pockets of belief. It is not an impossible task by any means. It does require several phases, if you will, as well as much communication and checking in. It would feel very much like building from the ground up.

The idea would be to unify the church into a set of specific beliefs on healing. These are some of the same things that the initial group would be a part of. Churches oftentimes have a breakdown of their basic beliefs. That is what is needed but for healing specifically. The core beliefs would be, number one, it is provided in the atonement. "This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."¹ This is repeated in Isaiah 53:4. Number two would be that it is a benefit of God, it's a part of who he is. "Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,"² Number three being that we are supposed to pray for the sick. This is a non-negotiable. "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

³Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Because this is the first attempt at a healing ministry, you'll want to have success and see

1 Matthew 8:17

2 Psalm 103:2-3

3 James 5:14-16

progress. There are a couple of things that one can do to set the ministry up for success. Some of these things are obvious. You'll want a group of people who are of course committed to Jesus himself. It is important to have a group of people who have a desire to see the lost found as well as a desire to administer healing to the body of Christ. This group should have a belief that healing is for now. The reason why it is ideal to have such a group of people is that they will be more likely to persevere.

As for training, the idea would be to have a singular initial group of people. Singular is emphasized because expansion and growth is possible. This group could eventually become leaders themselves. You would have trained leaders for growth in the future. However, growth of that size may not be necessary. Regardless, you would have a group of well trained people for the job. This initial group would have a two week intensive which would be to solidify their theology on healing. They can meet everyday for teaching as well as practice. There would be a morning session of about three hours. During this time one may open up with the typical introductions and prayers. This is followed by the teaching of the day. Some of the topics would be how to pray for people, healing is for now, why some say that healing is not for now, counter arguments, why we heal, how to pray for people, as well as how to display the love of Christ in every situation.

There would be an afternoon session where you go outside and pray for people. The model for a healing prayer would be to first and foremost listen to the Holy Spirit. Every single situation is different. We have to be willing to listen to him because he is the teacher. We can only learn and get better as we lean on him for help. The second thing would be to be patient and calm, God is not worried and not in a rush. Sometimes we are too quick to end a prayer and move on because we think God is not doing anything. Third, simply pray for healing. There is no

magic way to do so. Lastly, lead with kindness and love. The last thing we would want someone to do is to leave feeling badly. If nothing can be done in the moment then at least they can be treated well.

The group should be split further. They can go in groups of two to three people. “And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.”⁴ They can be sent out to separate parts of Brooklyn. And spend the afternoon praying for people. I would encourage them to do so in whichever way is most natural. This might be through receiving words of knowledge but it might also just be by setting up a sign for prayer. It’s important to break people out of their comfort zone. That is why they should do this everyday in the afternoon. Initially, breaking people out of their comfort zone encourages bravery. People will quickly realize that it is as simple as beginning. They will also realize that this type of ministry simply doesn’t work without the Holy Spirit. This will foster a dependence on the Holy Spirit. Afterwards the groups can come back together and discuss as well as dismiss.

After two weeks of this we can begin to introduce this same group into the church setting. In this church, we can offer prayer for healing during communion on a weekly basis. This gives a rather limited time, really the space of one song to pray. This could be ten minutes at most. However, if more time is needed they can continue as the rest of the church is dismissed. This type of ministry is different from the more evangelistic approach. In order to continue to foster that approach, the group could pray for people once a month. In this way, they can grow in administering the healing of God.

Ideally, this group would reconvene and discuss how the ministry is going. There is a need for encouragement. The group itself needs ministering to, ministry from the leader as well as ministry to each other. Having a group of individuals who are committed is important. These

people will want to go out of their way to grow. Each person's commitment would be to pray for people at the end of the service as well as to attend the monthly meeting. Here they will evangelize as well as get together for a personal time of encouragement. Worship, prayer, and fellowship will be had. Fellowship and friendship, community is a vital part of the Christian walk. We were never meant to do it alone. This is to teach people that as we continue to follow Christ we will need others by our side. He calls us to do impossible things but demands that we completely lean on him. Not only that but he will place others around you because it is not good for man to be alone. Fostering this type of environment will only add to this healing space.

Another important aspect is that the congregation should be spoken to. There should be teaching on the topic of healing. The main purpose would be to establish a biblical precedent for healing. However it does not need to be as immersive as the two week intensive. To promote an overall atmosphere of healing one may even wish to implement healing services. These special services can be held once a year. Of course, such an event is not necessary.

All of these are plans that could be subject to change and adjustment as they actually unfold. Sometimes certain groups of people will require a step back or a step forward due to something unforeseen. Regardless, a plan is deeply useful.

Work Cited

The Holy Bible, New International Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2008.