

Prayer Campaign for November Election Launches Wednesday

Participants in The 40 Days to Pray the Vote campaign will receive a daily e-mail with a prayer topic, a related Bible verse, inspirational photo and written prayer all targeting vital aspects of the upcoming election.



[] More than 7,000 people have signed up to participate in the first of four 40-day national prayer cycles for the 2008 presidential election.

Sponsored by the nonprofit Presidential Prayer Team, the 40 Days to Pray the Vote campaign, which officially launched today, will e-mail participants each morning with a prayer topic that targets a vital aspect of the upcoming election. It will also include a related Bible verse, inspirational photo and written prayer.

Through Election Day on Nov. 4, leaders of the initiative hope to join believers across the nation in prayer for both the next president and also for specific political issues facing our country.

“Together, we will make this the most prayed-for election in the nation’s history,” said John Lind, president of the Presidential Prayer Team.

He added that the significance of prayer for this time in American history is “crucial.”

Only a few weeks after Sept. 11, 2001, the Presidential Prayer Team was formed with the purpose of encouraging Americans to pray daily for the president, his cabinet and other leaders in the nation.

Now garnering millions of members, including Michael W. Smith, Thomas Kinkade, Jack Hayford, John Maxwell, Henry Blackaby,

David Jeremiah and Ron Blue, the Arizona-based ministry hopes to encourage Americans to fulfill a biblical mandate.

“Christ will speak where a prayer call invites Him,” Hayford said on the Prayer Team’s Web site. “It is every believer’s call to prayerfully hold up the arms of those who lead, that peace may keep and fill their souls, and that peace and peacemaking may issue through their leadership.(1 Timothy 2:1-3).”–**Felicia Mann**

Australian Evangelist Helps Prostitutes Find Hope, Healing

Once a prostitute and drug addict, Bronwen Healy is helping women discover the unconditional love of Christ.



[] After spending years addicted to heroin and working as a prostitute to support her habit, Australian evangelist Bronwen Healy is helping women caught in the sex industry find freedom through Christ.

Through her Hope Foundation based in Brisbane, Healy offers women the same hope she found, using what she calls “consistent Christ-centered connection and care.” The ministry helps meet women’s practical needs, and runs special events to pamper, feed and comfort the often-overlooked women in the sex industry, many of whom have been victims of domestic abuse.

Healy’s message is simple: “Please realize that there’s hope, that you’re not alone, and that you do have a destiny and a future,” she tells women. “You are loved, valued and created with a purpose.”

Unlike many others who have battled addiction, Healy did not begin using drugs after a life of abuse or hardship. She was reared by loving parents, attended a private girls school and studied diligently to gain admission to college.

But during her second year of college she began experimenting with marijuana and before long had moved on to speed and ecstasy. Then her boyfriend introduced her to heroin, and within two weeks she was hooked. She began using every day. "The addiction very soon became like a wild animal that needed to be fed," she said.

To pay for the heroin, she began stealing from her parents, friends and co-workers. The day her employer fired her for theft, she turned to prostitution to fund her habit. "It was that afternoon that I made a phone call to an escort agency, and they asked me to start that night," Healy said. "I had officially given up the will to live by that stage. I was no longer my own person. I was now a complete slave to the heroin that I believed I needed to survive."

A confronting visit from her mother brought a halt to the downward spiral. "'Bronwen, I've been looking for your name in the death notices,'" Healy remembers her mother telling her. "It was then that I decided I needed to change."

In 1999, having just turned 24, Healy began to seek a permanent life change. A doctor recommended a Christian rehabilitation center, and after several weeks in the program, Healy became a Christian. Having tried for six years to break her dependency on heroin on her own, Healy said she knew she needed supernatural help. "From that moment on I gave control of my life over to Jesus," she said.

Today the 33-year-old is married with three daughters. "My life has not just turned around, it has changed into something absolutely beautiful," she said. "It truly is nothing short of a miracle."

Healy's testimony, which she recounts in her autobiography, *Trophy of Grace*, has captured the attention of several

ministry leaders, including Crystal Cathedral pastor Robert H. Schuller, who twice interviewed her for his *Hour of Power* TV program.

Los Angeles Dream Center pastor Matthew Barnett said Healy's story "shows how great the love of God is for each one of us " *Barbara Wentroble, founder of International Breakthrough Ministries in Texas*, describes Healy as "sincere, passionate and full of the fire of God."

"Bronwen has a radical love for Jesus and His women," Wentroble told Charisma. "[She] brings hope to the hopeless and gives them dignity in life. Bronwen helps women discover their value as a child of God. She is very sensitive and an amazing woman."

This year Hope Foundation is taking steps toward establishing a drop-in center in the inner city of Brisbane, where women who work in the sex industry can wash their clothes, enjoy a meal, make phone calls to loved ones, use the Internet to look for jobs, seek God in prayer, and learn arts, crafts and photography. "We want these women to be accepted and valued beyond measure," Healy said.

Mary, who was a victim of domestic violence, said Hope Foundation has given her the courage to move forward with her life. "I have always believed in Jesus, but mostly hated and blamed Him for everything," she said. "With ongoing support, a part of me believes that the real relationship I crave with Him will materialize, much like all of my needs are being met before my eyes."

Margaret, a former drug addict and prostitute, said Hope Foundation showed her another way to live. "I will never look back," she wrote in a letter to the ministry. "Thank you for being Jesus to me. Now I am free to be Him to other people."—**Mark Badham in Queensland, Australia**

Teens Lead a 'Rebelution'

Twin brothers, Alex and Brett Harris, tell youth to rebel against low expectations. They say their message has resonated profoundly with teenagers.



[] Twins Alex and Brett Harris have a message for their generation: Do hard things. Teens are often encouraged to view adolescence as a time to goof off, the brothers say. But youth should see their teen years as a time to prepare for their life's purpose. "A lot of young people have in their hearts that there is more to life than what youth culture is selling them," Alex says.

To counter the effects of what they see as society's low expectations of youth, the Harris twins have started what they call a "rebelution," using their Web site, , to challenge youth to seek God's purpose for their lives and begin walking in it as teens. In addition to hosting the popular site, the home-schooled younger brothers of I Kissed Dating Goodbye author Joshua Harris published their ideas in a book, Do Hard Things, which released in April.

They say their message has resonated profoundly with other teens. Brett says one young woman wrote them, describing herself as a rebel without a cause. But after hearing their challenge she rededicated her life to Christ and began working with two nongovernmental organizations as an advocate for sexually exploited children. "We're trying to show our generation a better way," Brett says. "Excellence is cool. Having a heart to share the gospel, help the oppressed is cool."—**Adrienne Gaines**

Dr. Donald Colbert, M.D.

by Dr. Donald Colbert, M.D.

At a Glance

Cultivate a thankful heart.

Eliminate "What if?" thinking.

Pray and let go of your worries.

Question: I have suffered with anxiety for much of my life. I have been prescribed many medications, and I've become addicted to some of them. Is there any hope that I'll ever be able to control my anxiety?

G.P., Bethesda, Maryland

Answer: Anxiety is so common that it is often referred to as the "common cold of mental illness." The true key to overcoming anxiousness, and the worrying that spawns it, is to learn to meditate on the Word of God instead of worrisome thoughts. Doing so enables you to cast down imaginations that promote anxiety and are contrary to the Word of God.

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" (2 Cor. 10:4, NKJV).

Worry is the opposite of faith. Without faith it is impossible for us to please God (see Heb. 11:6). So it is important not only to your mental health but also to your spiritual health that you subdue anxious thoughts. It's like changing the channel of your mind from The Worry Channel to The Faith Channel!

Pastor and author Rick Warren writes in his best-selling book *The Purpose-Driven Life*: "When you think about a problem over and over ... that is called worry. Whereas meditating on God's word is simply thinking about the answer over and over."

I'm sure you've seen a bumper sticker or a plaque that read "Let Go, Let God" or "One Day at a Time." Maybe you've seen "The Serenity Prayer," a portion of which reads: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference."

These message-statements are meaningful to millions of people and popular with those who suffer from anxiety, depression and various addictions. Why? Because when put into practice, they work! They inspire people to "mindfulness," which is an important technique for overcoming anxiety. Mindfulness involves letting go of any thought that is unrelated to the present moment.

It is exemplified in people we know who seem to live "in the moment"—those whose credo is always: "Enjoy life. Live each day as if it were your last." We might laugh at the free spirit they exude, but secretly we long to share in their freedom from worry and fear.

I recommend that you learn to focus your attention on the present, which includes the people and the scenery around you. Refuse to fret about the future or worry about the past. When an anxious or worrisome thought pops into your head, refocus your mind. For more information, refer to my new book, *Stress Less (Siloam)*.

I also recommend that you practice the following steps to help you regain your peace of mind.

Cultivate a thankful heart. Voicing gratitude and praise to God is also a great way to practice mindfulness. "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18). Of course, this will take a little practice, but don't despair. It eventually will become a habit leading to peace just as, for many, worrying has become a habit leading to anxiety.

Eliminate “What if?” thinking. Ultimately, asking yourself “What if?” isn't a healthy mental exercise. Most of us tend to carry this kind of thinking too far. In the end, we imagine the worst-case scenario and have fueled worry and added only anxiety to our thought life.

Thinking about it will only drive you to distraction. Focus instead on what you can do in the present moment to benefit yourself and those around you.

Pray and let go of your worries. First Peter 5:7 tells us to cast all our cares (or worries) on Jesus. We are also told in Philippians 4:6 to be anxious for nothing. Practice meditating on these passages of God's Word.

Other Bible passages that I recommend for your meditation are Psalms 23, 91; Ephesians 6; and 1 Corinthians 13. Allow the Word of God to help you slam the door on worry and feed your faith. As Psalm 118:24 says, “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Those are words to think about—and live by.

Donald Colbert, M.D., is a family physician and nutrition expert. His many books, including his newest, *Stress Less*, are available from Siloam at or at . If you have a question for Dr. Colbert, write him at Doctor's Orders, 600 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, FL 32746.

Missionary to America Holding

Communion in All 50 States

Healing evangelist Larry Huggins will travel more than 50,000 highway miles this year to serve communion on the steps of the capitol buildings of each U.S. state capital.



[] A healing evangelist who has held crusades across the globe says God called him back to America late last year to spend 2008 serving communion every Saturday morning on the steps of the capitol buildings of each U.S. state capital.

“I believe very literally in the blood of Jesus, it’s not just symbolic,” said Larry Huggins, who launched his Seal America Campaign () one bitterly cold morning in Madison, Wis., in January. “There is a revelation of Jesus in communion that we’re not grasping sometimes.”

Huggins’ national communion initiative will travel more than 50,000 highway miles this year, culminating Dec. 20 on the steps of the nation’s Capitol in Washington, D.C. He said that so far the gatherings have drawn as little as a handful of people in Charleston, ., to more than 200 in Lansing, Mich.

Though the Tulsa, missionary, who has ministered in nearly 70 nations, said he has no idea what to expect as a final result of the campaign, he is adamant about following what he believes God told him to do.

“I told the Lord: ‘I’ll go no matter what, even if I’m all alone, I’ll show up every Saturday at 11:23 a.m.’” said Huggins, who used the 11th chapter and the 23rd verse of 1 Corinthians, a well-known Scripture on communion, to select a specific time.

“I’m a missionary to America right now; I’m on assignment; I have no quitting sense,” he said. “We will come, rain or shine. We will make no speeches. We will make no demands. We will humble ourselves and plead the blood of the Lamb, for we believe in the mercy of God to forgive, to heal our hearts and

to seal our land.”

Huggins said he normally experiences “reverse culture shock” whenever he returns to his homeland because “I come back with the perspective of someone who lives outside America.”

To his awareness, no other such initiative has ever taken place in U.S. history and he believes his obedience in crisscrossing the country could have far-reaching consequences.

“You could call this seat of your pants or led by the Spirit,” he chuckled. “I prefer to call it led by the Spirit. This has been totally different than anything I’ve ever done or that God has asked me to do.

“We Christians are the majority, and as we stand together, the rest of the nation will take notice, and we will all reap the benefits of living in a land that's been sealed by the blood.”

Though a few politicians have participated in the nationwide initiative Huggins said they come as Christians and not as opportunists with political statements. “Everyone’s goal is to apply the blood of Jesus to the capitals and lay our hands on the buildings.

“America is at a crossroads,” he declared. “The solution is in the cup, the blood of Jesus.”

Huggins said he has the support of many leaders, including Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland and Rodney Howard-Browne. The Seal America Campaign held communion in Phoenix last week and will travel to Sacramento, Calif., this weekend.—**PAUL STEVEN GHIRINGHELLI**

Daughter of Steven Curtis Chapman Dies After Being Struck by SUV

The 5-year-old daughter of Christian singer Steven Curtis Chapman was killed Wednesday afternoon after being struck by an SUV driven by her teenage brother in Franklin, Tenn.



[] The 5-year-old daughter of Grammy-winning Christian singer Steven Curtis Chapman was killed Wednesday afternoon after being struck by an SUV driven by her teenage brother in the family's driveway in Franklin, Tenn.

Maria Sue was the youngest of Chapman's six children and one of three adopted by Chapman and his wife, Mary Beth.

In 1997 the couple's biological daughter began encouraging her parents to consider adoption. The Chapmans eventually adopted three girls from China and began Shaohannah's Hope, a ministry that financially assists thousands of couples in adoption.

"Shaohannah's Hope exists to enable children living without the love and hope of an earthly family to be adopted into 'covenant homes,'" Chapman and his wife state on their Web site. "These families can provide not only the love and support needed for this life, but also provide a child with the knowledge of God's plan for his or her eternal life with a forever family called the body of Christ."

Chapman, 45, recently released a book titled *Cinderella: The Love of a Daddy and His Princess*. His single "Cinderella"—a song about a father-daughter relationship—has soared up the charts.

Chapman has been awarded numerous musical accolades during his career—five Grammys, 54 Dove Awards and 44 No. 1 singles in Christian music.

The visitation will be held May 23 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the memorial service will be May 24 at 11 a.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church located at 2323 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, Tenn.

Lakeland Outpouring Reaches 50-Day Milestone

After 50 consecutive days of revival meetings, what is known as the Lakeland Outpouring shows no signs of slowing. It has already outgrown three venues.



[] On Wednesday night thousands hoping to experience God's presence waited for doors to open at the Lakeland Center, an 8,000-seat sports arena in Lakeland, Fla.

After 50 consecutive days of revival meetings, what is known as the Lakeland Outpouring shows no signs of slowing, having outgrown three venues since a 32-year-old Canadian evangelist named Todd Bentley visited Ignited Church on April 2 and the next day encountered in his hotel room what he said was an angel.

"The last 50 days have been like heaven on earth," Bentley told *Charisma*. "I have never been so hungry for God."

Placing his global itinerary on hold, Bentley said he plans to remain in Lakeland, a city of about 90,000 between Orlando and Tampa, for as long as God wants him to. "I have never been in such intense glory," said the tattooed evangelist, "nor witnessed so many miracles and healings in America."

"I would say in the last week we have touched a new realm of miracles," he said. "There were more testimonies of people

coming out of wheelchairs [on Monday night] than in any other meeting.”

Euphoric worship and claims of miracles have added to the excitement in Lakeland and have prompted some to fly in from across the country and even from abroad.

Fire marshals closed the doors to capacity crowds last month at the 700-seat Ignited Church, locking out hundreds of people who waited in the church parking lot until after midnight to receive prayer from Bentley.

Meetings relocated to a larger facility on April 24. Venues have since included an arena, a field and a stadium. More than 10,000 have reportedly filled venues during weekend meetings. Starting next week, services will be held at an “air-dome” near a regional airport.

“I could never have dreamed that each day the anointing could grow any stronger and continue [this way],” Stephen Strader, senior pastor at Ignited Church, told *Charisma*.

John Arnott, senior pastor of Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, where a spiritual outpouring began in 1994, was at Tuesday night’s service with his wife, Carol. Bentley honored the couple for sharing “the father heart of God” with the world. Arnott later blessed the Lakeland meetings.

“Todd, it’s just amazing what God is doing here ... it’s being talked about around the world,” Arnott said. “Carol and I are here tonight to absolutely bless this, with everything in us.”

Worship lasted three hours that evening. “I feel like I’m under a shower right now. Is it raining in here?” Bentley asked his associates on stage at one point.

One woman sobbed facedown on the cement floor. A man with outstretched arms slowly turned in circles where he stood. A loud chorus in the air above them—“Less of me and more of you, less of me and more of you. I am thirsty, hungry, desperate for your presence”—reverberated inside the giant-sized

auditorium.

“You’re in heaven’s atmosphere tonight,” Bentley said. “I feel the same fire I felt when I first got saved ... there’s only one thing I want—the presence of Jesus. I just want Jesus. I’ll lay anything down.”

The meetings have been broadcast live on GOD TV, opening the meetings to millions of potential viewers worldwide. Strader said 1.2 million separate computers have logged on to watch services online.

One YouTube video of the Lakeland meetings was ranked as the eighth most viewed video in the world, according to Bentley.

Hundreds are claiming healing from various ailments, including deafness, cancer, tumors and paralysis. There are also unconfirmed reports of the dead coming back to life.

One of the cases involves a 3-year-old girl, dead for two days, who allegedly woke up and coughed as she was being wheeled into a room to have her organs harvested, Strader said. The hospital denied the report.

Another case involves a woman in West Virginia who had three heart attacks last Saturday, but was revived after family members had made the decision to pull her breathing tube. The woman’s niece, Darla Pence, told *Charisma* she received prayers of “healing, revival and restoration for your family” one week prior to her aunt’s heart attacks from someone who had been to Lakeland.

Pence said that since her aunt’s miraculous recovery, nine family members have come to the Lord.

As word has spread of the Lakeland Outpouring, various circles within the Spirit-filled community have been hesitant to fully acknowledge what is happening in Lakeland as a genuine move of God.

Jack Hayford, president of the International Church of the

Foursquare Gospel, said it's important to "guard our souls from being either gullible, doubt-prone or resistant to whatever God may seek to do."

"With time," he said, "whatever is taking place in Lakeland and through activities issuing from its happenings, will either verify or discredit the source of its manifestations."

Bentley said on Tuesday that TheCall founder Lou Engle phoned him from Kansas City, Mo., to let him know they were praying for him.

John Kilpatrick, who pastored Brownsville Assembly during the Pensacola Revival of the 1990s, visited Lakeland recently to lend Bentley his support.

Kilpatrick told *Charisma* last month that he planned to visit Lakeland as soon as possible in order to encourage Bentley. "It saddened me that many weren't willing to at least come and check things out," he said of his early meetings in the 1990s with revivalist Steve Hill. "I made a vow before God that if revival ever broke out again, no matter where it was, that I'd at least go."

Bentley said he's grateful and even surprised by the attention. "I am absolutely blown away by how many thousands of pastors and leaders have come to receive impartation," he said.

"Sometimes I think people think that I think that I know what I'm doing," he said Tuesday. "But what God does is sovereign. I wish I could duplicate things, or just turn on the miracles, but I can't."

Bentley places a strong emphasis on taking "the anointing" from the worship services and out into the streets. People have reported many salvations and healings taking place in local parking lots, restaurants and malls throughout Lakeland.

GOD TV made a financial appeal to its viewers today to "keep this revival going" for another 40 days. "It is in complete obedience to the will of the Father that we are extending

coverage of this mighty move of God ... all at great expense," stated Rory and Wendy Alec, co-founders of GOD TV. "Now we feel challenged of the Father to commit to broadcast a further 40 days. But we can only do this with your help."

Bentley said meetings would continue for however long God's "glory" continues to manifest. **-Paul Steven Ghiringhelli in Lakeland, Fla.**

Christians, Jews Mark Israel's 60-year Anniversary at UN

Christian and Jewish leaders gathered at U.N. headquarters in midtown Manhattan recently to celebrate Israel's 60-year anniversary.



[] In a show of solidarity, Christian and Jewish leaders gathered at U.N. headquarters in midtown Manhattan last Thursday to celebrate Israel's 60-year anniversary.

"I do not know of any other point in history when Jews and Christians have joined together at the United Nations in this way," said Robert Stearns, co-sponsor of the fourth annual Jerusalem Prayer Banquet.

The banquet was held in the U.N.'s ritzy Delegates Dining Room and drew more than 500 guests of the Jewish and Christian communities. Stearns, who heads New York-based Eagles' Wings Ministries, said the evening was a rare chance for Jews and Christians to articulate their support for Israel at the "seat of global influence."

Referring to the largely unopposed rise of Nazi Germany ahead

of World War II, Stearns declared: "We will never allow the sin of silence of the church in the 1930s to be repeated again—not on our watch."

Following the war, on May 14, 1948, U.N. General Assembly Resolution 181 deeded the Jewish homeland to a tiny remnant of Jews, many of them survivors of concentration camps established under Adolf Hitler.

Keynote addresses were delivered at the banquet by Asaf Shariv, Israeli consul general to New York; John Hagee, founder of Christians United for Israel; and Shlomo Riskin, chief rabbi of Efrat in Israel, a city where he just launched his Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation.

Daniel Müller, senior pastor of the Pentecostal-based Missionswerk, the second-largest church in Germany, declared at the banquet that he and his family have stood with Israel for more than 20 years, despite lingering anti-Semitic sentiment in Germany. Meanwhile, Hagee challenged the crowd to secure peace and change the course of history through prayer and not just political action.

The day after the banquet leaders met at the Israeli Consulate in New York to discuss the current crisis in the Middle East and how to continue to strengthen Jewish-Christian relations. Michael Little, president of CBN, said the meeting was "inspirational and educational."

Later the same day a citywide Jerusalem Prayer Rally was held at Evangel Church in Queens. In addition to Stearns and local pastors, prayer leader Lou Engle brought a word of encouragement and prayer for Israel and the Jewish people.

—PAUL STEVEN GHIRINGHELLI

Christians Rally to Aid Chinese During Earthquake Aftermath

Franklin Graham's ministry Samaritan's Purse was given official authorization by the Chinese government to send supplies to help the people left homeless by the May 12 earthquake and subsequent tremors.



[] On Monday Samaritan's Purse, a Christian humanitarian aid ministry led by Franklin Graham, was given official authorization by the Chinese government to send supplies to help the nearly 4.8 million people left homeless by the May 12 earthquake and subsequent tremors.

Later this week, Samaritan's Purse will airlift water filtration units, hygiene packets, medical kits, blankets, and other emergency supplies to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province and one of the hardest hit regions.

They will also airlift plastic rolls to cover at least 14,000 families and arrange for other shipments from Bangkok, Thailand, and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates to deliver more water filtration filters and tablets.

Graham, who was actually in China at the time of the earthquake and saw 1,250 people receive salvation at an outreach the day before, vowed to support the many families affected by the disaster.

"We want to do anything we can to assist with this crisis, so we are committing funds for initial support of the local church as they assist with the relief efforts," Graham said. "I would ask all Christians in the United States to pray for the people of China and the church here as they reach out to their fellow citizens with God's love and compassion."

Richard Cai, pastor of Thanksgiving Christian Church in Chengdu, met with his congregation Sunday to intercede on the country's behalf and encourage congregants to help the less fortunate victims of the earthquake, reported National Public Radio (NPR).

Displaced from their normal meeting place, more than 30 congregants met in a Christian social service office to find solace in the midst of the calamity. The group listened to a sermon taken from Genesis 18 about how Abraham interceded on behalf of Sodom.

"The Bible tells us ... we will experience all sorts of difficulties and setbacks. These are unavoidable," Cai said. "But we are fortunate that throughout, God is always with us."

By the end of the church service, NPR reported that the small congregation had given 17,000 Yuan, which is the equivalent of 80 U.S. dollars per person, a large amount for a working-class Chinese community.

"Our mission will not be shaken," Cai said. "It is a mission from heaven."

The ministry plans to use the money to buy medicine and medical instruments and deliver them and other supplies to some of the hardest hit regions.

Doctors Prescribe Spiritual Healing™ for Sickness

More than 200 Christian doctors from 38 countries gathered in Norway for the 5th International Medical Conference. The health professionals examined actual case studies of

miracles that were presented by various respected doctors as well as some patients.



[] Some 200 Christian doctors and medical professionals from more than 38 nations say medicine alone cannot deal with some of today's worst illnesses and that "spiritual healing" is the remedy needed in the 21st century.

Medics from places like Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, China, Indonesia, the U.S. and Vietnam gathered in Trondheim, Norway, May 14-25 for the 5th International Medical Conference organized by the World Christian Doctors Network (WCDN).

The theme of the event was "Spirituality and Medicine," and the medical professionals examined actual case studies of miracles that were presented by various respected doctors as well as some patients. The case studies of miracles they had experienced were flashed onto a big screen and then, after each presentation, were closely analyzed by their colleagues. The cases ranged from a man being raised from the dead to a detached retina being healed and a woman who received healing after being incapacitated when she was kicked by a horse.

"Doctors are the most credible people to testify to God's healing powers," said Honduras-born doctor Armando Pineda, who is now based in Florida and is director of the WCDN USA. "We need to realize that miracles are far more contagious than any disease."

Dr. Jenis av Rana, director of WCDN Scandinavia and a general practitioner in the Faroe Islands, said Christian doctors have a privilege like few others: "In addition to the help that medical science has to offer we have the complete help, which only the Savior brings –the help He won on the cross when He, for our sake, won the complete and eternally valid freedom from everything our adversary tries to put on us. As believers it is our responsibility, in addition to providing medical or surgical aid, to bring them the complete help,

which only the Savior can bring. [We must] be bold in this.”

The most dramatic part of the conference was when Dr. Chauncey W. Crandall IV, who serves at the Palm Beach Cardiovascular Clinic in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., recounted how a patient who had died and was being prepared for the morgue was brought back to life after prayer. “This has been a wonderful experience for me as being with so many other doctors who believe as I do in God’s healing power,” Crandall said. “Sometimes you feel so alone, and now I realize that there are many of us in the medical profession.”

A surprising part of the conference was when the doctors who were not feeling well themselves lined up to be prayed for by other doctors, including Crandall. During an altar call, one doctor committed his life to Christ. “This conference has been like a Christian holiday for me because we have been given a lot of proof of the power of God today,” said Mikhail Morgulis, chairman of the Spiritual Diplomacy Project and a well-known journalist originally from Ukraine. “These resource items from our medical friends are a contemporary demonstration of miracles and show that miracles didn’t cease some 2,000 years ago, but our God is still working today.”

The next doctors' conference has been slated for Kiev, Ukraine, in May 2009. **-Dan Wooding**