

ARCHDEACON RON CORCORAN AND A NEW MINISTRY

Church of Our Lord's newsletter, *The Anchor*, talked with Archdeacon Ron Corcoran about his new ministry and put the following questions to him:

1.



Archdeacon Ron, you are launching a new ministry which you will call *Wounded Healers Ministry*. This is a very different work than being the parish priest of a large, vibrant community! How did the idea of such a venture come to you?

When I stepped down from full time ministry as a Parish Priest in 2015, I knew in my soul that there was one more task in ministry that God was calling me to do. I confess I felt a little bit like Abraham. "By Faith, Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went even though he did not know where he was going." (Heb 11:8)

At the time I left Church of Our Lord I was writing my life story and even at that time I was not sure that it would ever be published. But with lots of counsel from those who love and support us we felt convicted to publish. The book, *"Deliver Us From Evil,"* is now a reality. The subtitle of the book is: *"The Remarkable True Story of a Child's Abuse, Spiritual Deception and Ultimate Redemption."* One secular reviewer wrote: *"His memoir is not a woeful lament but a celebration of redemption, composed thoughtfully and showing a profound sense of gratitude. The author's viewpoint is decidedly religious, but he never proselytizes, and as a result, this book should appeal even to those readers who don't share his deep religious commitments. It is a story about forgiveness, repentance, reconciliation, suffering, healing and redemption, how God can take broken, sin-filled people and transform them into Wounded Healers for His Glory and Praise."*

The term "Wounded Healers," coined by the psychologist Carl Jung, reflects the view that those who have been wounded make the best healers. I think of the Catholic Priest, Henri Nouwen, who wrote a book entitled 'The Wounded Healer.' He himself suffered greatly and this book really epitomized for me what it means to be a "Wounded Healer." I have found that those who have suffered are able to weep with those who weep, because they understand what it means to hurt and to come

alongside another human being in their time of grief and sorrow. "Wounded Healers" are not necessarily 'counsellors', but they are 'listeners' and 'emphasisers' who can stand with and pray with those who are hurting. That is what this new ministry will be built on. It will be an opportunity for people to tell their stories, receive prayer, accept forgiveness, experience reconciliation, healing and hope for their future.

After I finished writing "Deliver Us From Evil" I sent it off to my Bishops - Bishop Charlie and Bishop Trevor - and with their support and blessing we felt moved by God to make it the focus of our new ministry. At our Annual Synod in October, Deirdre and I were commissioned by the Diocese to begin this new work. We now have about 20 open invitations to visit Anglican Churches all the way from the Arctic to Newfoundland. However, we felt it was most appropriate to return to do the first healing conference which will take place from January 22nd to 28th at Church Of Our Lord. I am so grateful for the support of the Rev. Rod Ellis and his staff as we carry out this first mission. Church Of Our Lord will be our pilot project and we are hoping and praying for lots of support from Anglican Network in Canada parishes for this first endeavour.

Although this work will have its beginning in the Anglican Network, it will not be restricted to the Network. I want to make it available to as many Churches and Community Centres or Schools as possible. The Staff and Board at Church of the Nazarene in Victoria (who have been extremely supportive of this work) have also commissioned us for this ministry. Pastor Gary Bennet truly believes in this ministry and the endorsement by him and his parish gives us credibility with other denominations in the city of Victoria. Our second conference will take place at the Church of the Nazarene during the week of February 19th to the 25th. We are very excited about these first two conferences. We will then travel to Ontario for three more conferences and the details are currently being worked out.

2.

How will this new ministry be made up? For instance, will you have a Board? If so, who will be your Board Members? Will you be a Registered Charity? Will you have By-Laws, a Statement of Faith, and so on?

These are very good questions. Currently we have a temporary Board as we move toward becoming a Registered Society or Ministry. We presently have five Board Members and the chair of our Board is the Rev. Dr.

Brett Cane who helped establish a similar healing ministry in Montreal in the 90's. The Rev. Dr. Gary Bennet is a member of the Board along with Dr. Sheila Sim, Doug Jackson our Treasurer (but not a member of the board), and Susan Plumpton who is our Secretary. I will be the Executive Director of the Ministry. Craig Davis, who was one of my Wardens at St. Matthias, is currently working at setting up our by-laws, our Statement of Faith, and early in the New Year we will be meeting with a Christian Lawyer to make sure we are dotting all the 'i's and crossing all the 't's. More Board Members will be added as time passes. We are in the process of becoming a Registered Charity with by-laws and all associated legal items.

3. Will you come under the umbrella of the Anglican Network in Canada?

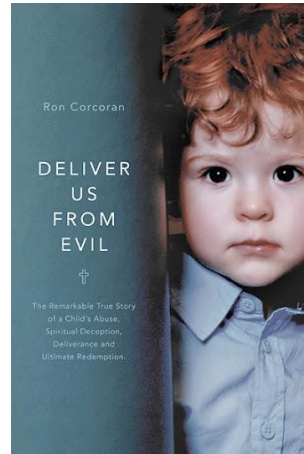
I remain the Archdeacon of Vancouver Island under the authority of the Anglican Network in Canada. This is extremely important to me and I have the full support of my bishops as we move into the future. As I mentioned above, our Bishops commissioned Deirdre and me last October at the annual Anglican Network in Canada Synod. In his Synod Charge, Bishop Charlie said: *"I highly commend to you Archdeacon Ron Corcoran's most recent book, Deliver Us From Evil. You will find it is a powerful testament to the glorious grace of our Lord. I hope you get a copy and read it. I thank God that Archdeacon Ron had the courage to write this story of redemption and new life in Jesus. I believe it has already been a catalyst for many to receive the Healing they need in Jesus. I anticipate there will be many ANiC congregations, and others, who will want to invite Archdeacon Ron and a small team with him, who are calling themselves WOUNDED HEALERS, to minister to individual congregations or groups of congregations, drawing on the experience of healing and redemption Archdeacon Ron writes of so wonderfully in this book."*

Bishop Trevor who wrote the first endorsement for the book said: *"It is compelling reading... It is miraculous that someone could come through so much adversity and yet be able to have had a successful ministry... I could not put the book down."*

It is my intention to offer this ministry to Anglican Network in Canada parishes across the country as well as any other Christian groups that would benefit from a week long healing conference.

At present the finances for this ministry are being managed through the Anglican Network In Canada offices and we are very grateful for their support as this ministry begins.

4. Describe if you will how you believe that you, Archdeacon Ron, are so eminently fitted for this new ministry? In other words, will you base much of your teaching on the healing, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption you describe so vividly in your book, "Deliver Us From Evil"?



I believe that God has equipped me and has spent many years investing in me in preparation for this ministry. When I look back on my early life, I think of the story of Joseph and I can say with him: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." (Gen 50:20) Yes, much of what will be discussed and shared at these conferences will come

from the book, but the conferences will have a very solid biblical foundation. Two founding Scriptures for this Ministry are from Isaiah 52:12 to Isaiah 53:12 and Isaiah 61:1-11.

5. Given the isolation, guilt feelings and shame of victims – How will the Ministry connect with them?

I cannot tell you the number of letters, emails and texts that I have received from people who have already been helped by this book. There are so many people who have stored up the wounds that others or they themselves have inflicted upon them. They want someone to relate to them and to understand the pain that they have experienced. By the grace of God I am able to do so. Although our encounters may not be *exactly alike* they are similar enough that by His grace genuine reconciliation, forgiveness, repentance and healing can take place. This is what Wounded Healers Ministry is about.

6. Recovery is a long process as your book describes – Will the Ministry be able to "be there" for the whole process for such victims?

Healing is very much like 'peeling' an onion. As we go through the healing process, God begins His transformation work to get to the very core or the 'real self' in each one of us. He peels off the wounds, the sins, the unforgiveness, the bitterness, anger and rage, and He replaces those sins with the tender loving fruit of the Holy Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, long-suffering, kindness and gentleness.

I would like to believe that Wounded Healers Ministry will be part of the process in any person's life - it will not be the whole process, but part of that process. We also will have counsellor resources available for those who need further work. All we are doing in this ministry is searching for what the Father is doing in each person's life and being a vessel for healing for that person. It is all done through Him and for His glory, honour and praise.

7. What is the make-up of the Mission team, and is there more than one team?

At the present moment, I have about 18 members on the Wounded Healers Ministry team. Some will be available for administrative tasks, some for intercession, and some for praying with and laying on of hands, to those to whom we will minister. We had a workshop on January 7th to equip and train those who will be anointing others with oil and praying for them. We will have a clearer idea of our needs after our pilot project at Church Of Our Lord. We ask for your prayers as we begin this work.

One of the things that is really important to me about this ministry is that I will be able to work 'hands-on' with Deirdre. For many years Deirdre has been the one who has quietly supported me in the background with her intercessions, counsel and wisdom. Now we have the opportunity to stand together in this new work and I am so looking forward to doing this with her. She will be travelling with me on this adventure and at present we think we have about three to five good years left to serve the Body of Christ in this way.

7. You have set the dates for your first two conferences? When and where will these be?

Will you be concentrating on the Island ANiC congregations mainly, or in time, will you be looking at the rest of Canada?

The first conference will take place at Church Of Our Lord starting on Sunday the 22nd of January. I will preach that Sunday at the three services and then the team will prepare Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in prayer and study.

We will gather on Thursday night the 26th of January and the first topic will be the various types of abuse along with a conversion story.

On Friday night the 27th of January, we will cover the topics of sin, forgiveness, repentance, reconciliation and confession.

On Saturday morning, January 28th, we will teach on suffering, and address the 'why' question.

On Saturday afternoon we will have teaching on healing, followed by anointing with oil, Communion and 'hands-on' ministry.

In each of the sessions mentioned above, handouts will be available for all the participants. Cost is \$75 per person or \$140 for couples. However, no person will be turned away through lack of finances. Lunch will also be provided on Saturday. This programme will be repeated at the Church of the Nazarene starting on Sunday February 19th, concluding on Saturday, February 25th.

8. What can be done to support you?

The primary requirement of any Christ centred ministry is prayer. It is my intention each time I do a conference to spend at least three or four days closeted in prayer and study. Those who are willing to support us in intercession are always welcome to the team. This work will not be effective unless it is soaked in prayer and humility.

Second, I am hoping that Clergy and others who have read the book will encourage people to register for the conference and to come expecting to receive healing and to have their lives changed. That is what a Jesus focused ministry does.

Third, good ministry costs good money. I am hoping that as people see the ministry unfold, they will be willing to give us a one-time gift or provide us with a monthly contribution. All monies received will be receipted for income tax purposes to donors.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you. I leave you with our Mission Statement: ***We seek to draw wounded people into an encounter with Jesus Christ, the Wounded Healer.*** Healing is one wounded healer telling another wounded healer where to find the Great Wounded Healer, Jesus Christ."