

After pouring out her heart, He'd responded with pure affection. Gentle yet aggressive love. If Jesus' aim was simply to heal her, He would have kept walking after she touched Him, for she was healed instantly. If that was all he was concerned about, He wouldn't have stopped, turned around, asked the question. He wouldn't have looked straight at her, talked to her, listened. But He did all those things. He wanted to let her talk. To tell her story. He wanted to call her "Daughter". For that is when her heart was healed.

He wanted to heal more than her body. His aim all along was to heal her heart.

I can picture Him looking her in the eyes as He talked to her. And making her look into His. The healing began as, face-to-face, His love was visible, and it resonated within her soul. It broke down walls. Shattered barriers. Smashed through the defenses she'd lived behind for so long. His love broke through with a simple gaze, a listening ear, and undivided attention.

It wouldn't have helped if He healed her physically, but left her to still carry the hurt from her 12 years of rejection and disgrace. Despite her physical healing, she probably would have continued to stay holed up in her house. She would have been the same cowering little girl she always was, still dragging her bag of shame behind her. But as Jesus looked into her eyes, He saw the woman He created her to be, and He wasn't content to leave her drowning in her emotional pain.



n't content to leave her drowning in her emotional pain.

The greatest healing isn't the miraculous cure of her incurable disease.

It is the passionate healing of her heart.

God's primary concern is still the condition of hearts. Physical health and a blessed life pale in comparison with a restored soul. God's heart hurts for our hurting hearts. He still brings love, grace, and healing through a touch of the hem of His robe. And we are the hem of His robe.

Written by Cheryl Mong contributor to HeartCry

Making Our Prayer Meetings and Quiet Times into Encounters with God

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly..." Col. 3:16a



The PMT desires to offer in the HeartCry prayer and opportunities from time to time to meet God in His Word, building a lifetime of encounters with God through prayer meetings and quiet times. The important reasons for having these times of prayer are:

- (1) God wants to meet with us.
- (2) We need these personal encounters to know God better and to become like Him.
- (3) The world needs to see Christ in us.

May we delight in our meetings and growing relationships with God through Christ and His Spirit!



Prayer Requests

"I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isa. 41:10b)

"Father, may Your comfort and Your presence, strengthen, help, and uphold our following brothers and sisters in Christ with a compassionate touch of Your healing hand on their hearts and their bodies: Sandra Yeager, Cheryl Mong, Jeannette Inman, Rev. David Bailey and Rev. Daniel DeSchoolmeester. In Christ's Name and Power through the Holy Spirit." Amen!



HeartCry



January 2011

Passionate Healing of the Heart



The woman bled for 12 years straight.

Physician after physician shrugged his shoulders. She'd given up all hope of ever getting better. But then she heard about Jesus. The miracle worker. Desperate, she knew she had to get to Him. As she clawed her way through the crowd on her hands and knees, she carried with her much more than her illness. She carried shame.

As if in a bag over her shoulder, she dragged along a heavy burden of rejection and fear. She's referred to as the "woman with the issue of blood", but her issues ran much deeper than that. Her physical ailment made her an outcast in her own culture. Her emotional hurts and scars were far worse than her physical ones. Finally catching up to Jesus, she reached out and frantically, yet faintly, grabbed the hem of His robe. Immediately, she was healed. Jesus turned around and faced the crowd. *"Who touched Me?"*

She told Him the whole truth. She told Him why she had touched Him and how she had been instantly healed. Jesus cared



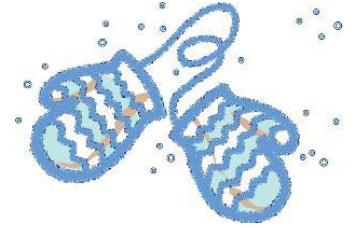
enough to listen to her story. The *long* version. He just let her talk. He was on His way to heal a dying girl. People were rushing Him. Pressing Him. Insisting He keep going before it's too late. But He silenced them long enough for her to tell her story.

When she finished talking, He responded by calling her "Daughter". It's the only time recorded that He addressed someone that way. The love she felt in that one simple word must have been overwhelming.



PRAYER MOBILIZATION TEAM
of the Evangelical Congregational Church

MAKING PRAYER MEETINGS INTO DYNAMIC ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD



Dear Pastor or Prayer Class Leader,

If your prayer meetings or adult Sunday School classes have become poorly attended and kind of boring you may want to consider the following method. Ask your group to read a Scripture passage during the week and ask them to prayerfully answer the questions below before their next class. Each person should get alone with God in silence and solitude and meditate on His Word for about 15-20 minutes per day until all the questions are answered.

At the next class come with your own answers and lead the class in a discussion of everyone's responses. It is helpful to use application Bibles and a commentary to answer some of the tough questions. I have found this method to be so effective that I have used it for all of my small groups. Try this with one of the following readings: Old Testament—**Psalm 46**; Gospels—**John 4:1-26**, or New Testament—**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**.

Rev. Bryan Dever (Zion, Annville)

What did God say to me? List 2-5 main points or summarize the reading:

What questions do I have? What words do I need to look up? _____

What is God telling me to do? _____

What has God promised to me? _____

What is the most meaningful verse to you? Rewrite it as it is, or rewrite it in your own words? _____

What have I learned about God's character? How has the reading uncovered how God thinks, feels, and behaves toward you and others? _____

Write a 1 or 2 sentence prayer in response to God: _____
