



What is God saying in the crucible of Hurricane Michael?

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Gloria Tipton

As a member of ACTheals, let us take a reflective look at about what brings you back to the ACTheals gatherings time and time again? Is it a place to reconcile the many daily crucibles of our life? Some of us come back to see like-minded friends and associates that remind us of Jesus' healing power today, in the past, and Jesus' love to continue to do so in the future. We all can recall the many ways Jesus' healing love lifted our spirits, challenged our minds and emotions as we rested in this most sacred time of gathering. We practiced following the truth as found in the Berean Study Bible, Hebrews 24-26, ... "Let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not neglect meeting together as some have made a habit but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching."

Although David and I were unable to attend the recent 2018 ACTheals October International conference due to hurricane Michael coming through Panama City, Florida we certainly experienced God's faithfulness to answered prayers amid the destructive aftermath. ACTheals friends and associates sent emails, phoned with thoughts of encouragement, and affirmation of their concern...we KNEW we were not alone in

the destruction. I hope this sharing lends some wisdom given to me from a friend.

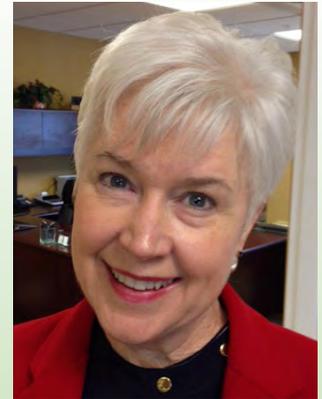
I am continually asking this question, "What is God saying?" about hurricane Michael.

Nanny-Nanny-Boo-Boo. Hurricane Michael was headed straight toward landfall somewhere along the coast of Florida. At the last moment, a turn toward Panama City left many residents bewildered as to where to go for safety. Most of Panama City Beach residents, like ourselves sought safety in the Panama City downtown area because the beach always encounters the worst of any storm. Some "good" Christians credited their prayers for turning that hurricane away from them. It did and slammed into Panama City, not so much the beach area.

Were the Christians praying in Panama City not as good as the Christians in the Panama City Beach areas? Was this a prayer contest? Did God decide to spare the good community of surrounding areas so that he could dump on the heathens in Panama City, Tyndall Air Force Base, and Mexico Beach? That answer seems all wrong.

Humility. *At such a time as this, God teaches us humility. We are not masters of our own fate. We are entirely dependent on him. God's response to Job and his complaints humbled him (Job 38). Compared to God's*

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Gloria Tipton
ACTheals President

Dr. Gloria Tipton, LCSW, BCD joined ACTheals in 1985 as an associate member. She retired after over 30 years as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Florida. Retirement permits more time for living out her Catholic faith. Today she grows in love because of her marriage of 46 years, her children, and grandsons. Drgloriast@knology.net

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VISION of ACTheals: to be an international, ecumenical association of Christian healthcare professionals, clergy, and associates equipped to extend the healing of the Holy Spirit to their institutions, patients, clients, and colleagues, under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

MISSION of ACTheals: to enable healthcare professionals, clergy, and associates to experience the healing power of the Holy Spirit and to extend it through their work and ministry.

Your comments, suggestions, and submissions are appreciated. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles. Your name can be withheld by request, but please include a contact phone or email. We also request a current digital photo with your submission, or, if possible, a photo from our files would be used.

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Janet Johnson, MD

at the 2018 International Conference, in Baltimore

**Robert S.
Rohde, Ph.D**



Robert S. Rohde, Ph.D has been an Associate Member of ACTheals since February 1978. He served on the Board for 7 years, and as Secretary for 6 of them. He is currently co-chair of the membership committee. Robert S Rohde, PhD, is a physicist and worked for the Department of the Army. He is presently retired.

By Robert S. Rohde, Ph.D

Janet Johnson, MD., is a pediatrician in Hyattsville, MD. Her extensive background can be found in the ACTheals October 2018 conference brochure. As one of three featured conference speakers and the only medical practitioner, *she gave what I would describe as the best talk and workshop on integrating prayer into a medical practice, that I have ever heard at any of the conferences.* The theme was **Integrating Christ-Centered Healing in Healthcare**, and she nailed it. I became a member in February 1978, and have attended about 80% of the conferences. I have never heard a health care professional talk about praying with all of her patients at each

continued on next page



Janet Johnson, MD

session in the detail she did, and describe at length the positive impact of prayer on the rest of the patient session. And, when I asked at her workshop if she records the prayer work in her client notes, she responded, laughing, that she did. She pointed out that she often has to tell her financial administrator which part of the session to charge for!

If you did not attend her talk and/or workshop, I would highly recommend that you purchase the DVD or other media when available. You will not be disappointed. ACT was founded in 1975 primarily by health care providers and clergy seeking to learn how to integrate healing prayer into their practices, as well as associates leading healing ministries in charismatic prayer groups. That is what brought all of them to the McNutt workshops on Staten Island, NY. Janet Johnson represents the ideal member that all ACTheals health care providers should strive to emulate. She gets it. She knows how to do it. She has responded to the prophecy! It's really simple. Praise God!



Marywood retreat participants

A Nurse's musings on the 2018 International Conference

Diana Pfeiffer, RN



Diana Pfeiffer, RN, is a certified hospice nurse. She has been a member of ACTheals since 1996, and is currently Chair of the Nurse Specialty group.

By Diana Pfeiffer

Our solidarity is in Jesus Christ and in Christ Crucified. Through His life, death and resurrection new life springs forth. Per NAB John 10:10 "A thief comes only to steal, slaughter and destroy; I came that they MAY have life and have it more abundantly". We grow in that new life through prayer, communal worship and holistic healing for ourselves and others.

As ACTheals members we come together for SEW (support, empower and worship) meetings. We praise our Lord through song, Scripture, prophecy, and praying for healing of our woundedness. We grow in the Spirit, and have a lot of fun and enjoy good food doing so!

Our international conference speakers taught us how to obtain and grow in the new life of Christ. Fr. Richard McAlear, O.M.I. emphasized that un-forgiveness towards God, self and others is a primary

block to physical, emotional and/or spiritual healing. Other blocks are deep traumas caused by all forms of abuse. Rev. Nigel W.E. Mumford highlighted PTSD, resulting from man's inhumanity to man, as it occurs especially during times of war. Dr Janet Johnson presented a heart-warming speech on giving hope to others. Hope comes in many forms: a smile, comforting touch, a glance from a beloved one, sharing Christ with family members, associates, clients and patients. All speakers emphasized that love is the greatest gift we can bring to anyone.

All matter. The good news is that we are children of God who are cherished beyond all comprehension. Our Lord gave His life for us. He will do anything to help us attain the fullness of life promised in John 10:10. This was the message I received from the conference. To the best of my ability, I will listen, love and pray, bringing that good news to all.

SAVE THE DATE!!!



2019 ACTheals International Conference

Come to the Living Water:

A Deeper Experience of Prayer and Healing in Healthcare

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters.” Isaiah 55:1

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FEATURED PLENARY SPEAKERS

Susanne Baars, PhD, LPC-S, LMFT, LCDC

Warren M. Greene, MD

Denise Dolff, MA



The Holy Spirit in Clinical Practice

Douglas W. Schoeninger, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist and President of the Institute for Christian Healing in West Chester, PA. He holds a PhD from the University of Wisconsin, 1965. Doug studied Client Centered Therapy with Carl Rogers, has extensive training in Contextual Family Therapy with Ivan Nagy and Barbara Krasner, and worked for years with Kenneth McAll in the field of family tree healing. He has been a member of the Association of Christian Therapists since 1977, and served as editor of *The Journal of Christian Healing*, Chair of the Spiritual Life Committee, Chair of the Governance Council, interim Coordinator of Region 3 and ACT President. He currently coordinates the work of the ACT Healing Manual Team, and edits *The Journal of Christian Healing*.

Doug is currently deeply involved in writing the generational healing process in his family. He shares here a few excerpts. The title *Healing Seven Generations* came to him in 2017 when four generations of Schoeningers gathered at an address in Schwabisch Hall, Germany, where his Great-grandparents had lived and where his Grandfather was born and raised.

Healing Seven Generations

How I Remember My Childhood Relationship with My Father

By Douglas Schoeninger, PhD

I recall my anguish and shame, even desperation, as I listened to my father's (Irvin William's) repeated dinner table complaints and laments about receiving unfair treatment, being taken advantage of or being left out or behind at work as others gained attention or advancement. I hated his portrayal of himself as a victim. At times I would challenge his views, point out what another's side might be, as if my life depended on it. I felt "less" when he felt less. My social worth seemed tied to his. I was conflicted. Privately my mother would ask me to understand his pain, his depression, and go easy on him. My Grandfather Wilhelm, his father, committed suicide when my father was seven. There was a basis for his feeling treated unfairly and for having no sense of voice. I could feel his agony and yet felt weakened and diminished by his expressions of helplessness. So, I would alternately listen and challenge.

I knew, even as a boy of 7 or 8, that his perceptions were skewed, that others had their side and viewpoint different from his. I would challenge him to see others' perspectives and to imagine others' situations, though I regretted triggering the terror he seemed to suffer as a consequence. Once he accused me of trying to kill him so intense was his pain. Maybe the worst for me was never sensing his response to me. I experienced him responding to an imagined reality that was not me. At times I was assaultive, attacking his behavior, trying to end my humiliation. Yet I was a son trying to heal my father and reaching for him to end the impact of his social alienation on me. I did not know how to tell my side to him or to my mother, to speak what I was experiencing. And my siblings (there were four of us) seemed always silent, frozen, hoping I would stop, frightened as to where this was leading. And we did not know to inquire of each other. Perhaps following my mother's way, who invariably represented my father's side, we all remained hidden from each other. And this way persisted into adult life right through my mother's death when I was 20. I remained hidden.

In my 20s I invested in control, carefully managing my image and all emotions. I insisted on acting mature. I invested in a psychology of determinism. I was terrified of being seen, discovered, of revealing my hated vulnerabilities and weaknesses. Finally, at age 31 I was mired in depression, feeling lost, worthless, enervated, incapable of fulfillment.

Early experiences had fostered in me a passion for fairness, for searching out the value in each person's point of view, and to finally speak my side. Depressed but hungry for connection, I initiated conversations with my father and siblings, began speaking my experience and sought their memories. At my initiative my father agreed to travel to Germany with me to search for his father's childhood, his father's story. This search with him began to water my inner desert, self-reproach and loneliness. Gradually life and light began sparking through real exchange and real embrace. I lent my father motivation to find his father's roots and beginnings. He acted on my expressed desire and his own unconscious longing.

Searching for my Grandfather, 1979

In the summer of 1979, my father joined me on a trip to Germany to connect with our German relatives and to visit the town of my grandfather Wilhelm's birth and early childhood, Schwabisch-Hall.

In early October, for one week, my father and I traveled southern Germany, Bavaria and Swabia, with an added excursion to Schoeningen, (in north central Germany, Helmstedt District of Lower Saxony), the town

from which our family name is derived.

As we drove from Munich, Bavaria, to Schwabisch-Hall, in Baden-Württemberg, my father turned to me and said, "Where do you get this family feeling? I don't have that." I replied, "I don't know. It's just there." He said this in an envious way, as if he wished he had this also. He seemed agitated as I tried to describe my "family feeling" to him. This reminded me of other times when he seemed jealous of me and my experiences. I thought about his father's suicide.

My father shared with me his vivid, visual memory of his father hanging, saying he had no feeling as he told me. Of course, he was cut off from this "family feeling." I put my hand on his shoulder and this seemed to calm him. We were able to talk peacefully. "I get it, he feels abandoned when my experience differs from his."

We arrived in Schwabisch-Hall, a beautiful old city, undamaged by the war. We found a room in a gasthaus, Drei Koenig, at the center of town. The morning that we were to seek family records at the city archives and church archives, I was anxious, not sure how I would communicate clearly to the officials there. Dad was up early ready to go, seemingly undeterred by the task we were about. I thought, "Okay you don't feel it. but you are eager to do it."

We secured family records at the city archives and Evangelisch Church archives. We learned that grandfather's mother, Wilhelmina, had died when Wilhelm was 4.

We visited St Katerina Evangelisch Church where my great-grandparents had been married. We touched the baptismal font at St Katerina, the one used to baptize my grandfather Wilhelm and his siblings. I prayed for grandfather as I touched the font imagining his

baptism and asking that God's love heal his wounds and restore him. I was imagining his childhood and reaching out to him with compassion.

We walked the streets of Schwabisch-Hall, that Wilhelm would have walked as a child. **I imagined him as a child distraught at his mother's death. I prayed for him picturing Jesus walking with him then, comforting him.**

Later our cousins shared with us what their grandfather Emil, my grandfather Wilhelm's oldest brother, had told them about family life after their mother's death. "After great-grandmother Louisa Wilhelmina's death, great-grandfather Adolph remarried. His new wife, now the children's stepmother, did not want his children and was cruel to them." I can only imagine how this added to Wilhelm's grief and confusion as he transitioned from a loving mother to a stepmother who did not want him around. My unanswered questions are many. How were the other children affected? How did they cope? What happened among them? Did the older children care for the younger ones? Did great-grandfather withdraw in his grief and become docile to his new wife. How did the children relate with their father after their mother's death?

We also traveled south to the German Alps and across to Switzerland to see a sculpture, a lion carved into a rock formation on the shores of Lake Lucerne. My father remembered his father showing him this sculpture during their visit to Germany in the summer of 1913 when my father was seven. He was eager to show me this sculpture.

They returned to the USA August 28, 1913. Grandfather Wilhelm hung himself on October 10, 1913.

To Germany 2017

Dear Family,

Anticipating our journey to Germany this summer 2017, I am reliving 1979.

I am reexperiencing that time with my father and I am feeling a desire to feel close to grandfather Wilhelm whom I never "knew." In part, this summer's journey is for me a pilgrimage to remember him and honor him and to say to him, "You are not forgotten." And to share with you, my children, including Scott and Monica, my grandchildren, including Quincy and Catherine, and great grandchildren, this legacy, which, through me, is also yours.

As I prepare for our Germany trip, and especially our day in Schwabisch Hall, the impact of my Grandfather Wilhelm's suicide when my Dad was 7 is coming forward in me. Going to Schwabisch Hall is the closest that I can come to Grandfather Wilhelm. Walking the streets of Schwabisch Hall where he walked as a child brings me close to him as a vulnerable child. Being with him in my imagination in the place that he lived and experienced his mother's death when he was 4, brings me to his side in his hurt and confusion. I try to identify with him. As I imagine their grief, I "feel" my grandfather's and great-grandfather's losses. I realize that I have more forgiveness to do. As I walk those streets again, I will be forgiving him more completely for abandoning my father when dad was 7 and for the way in which my father's loss of his father placed too heavy a burden on me when I was young, the burden to supply my father the security and love that he had lost so early. I will be forgiving my Great-grandfather who remarried very soon after my Great-grandmother's death, and to a woman who did not want his children around.

So, I ask you to join me in this forgiveness process, as we have all been indirectly impacted, and carry an awareness that I am making this trip "home" to find him and more completely forgive him.

Love you,

Dad, Grandpa, GGPa, Doug

2017 in Schwabisch-Hall

July 2017, I am standing with 4 generations, my children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren, at the address where GGPa and GF Wilhelm lived in Schwabisch-Hall. It is now 7 Neues Strasse. I sense GF Wilhelm at age 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ just after his mother died. Alone, lonely. I am feeling care and compassion for him and happy to be present to him in this way. I forgive him again for leaving my father, and through my father for leaving us. I invite my children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren to join me in forgiving him. I forgive my GGF Adolf for withdrawing from his children after my GGM died.

Returning to Munich later that day in the van we had hired, I ask Monica, my son's wife, what she sensed there. She reported an awareness of GF as a young boy feeling alone. She described to me what she envisioned, GF wearing a child's lederhosen. Later she explained further that as she prayed, she also sensed my grandfather's happiness that I had sought him out to learn of his life and grateful for my desire to know him.

As Monica spoke, I felt released into an intimacy with GF Wilhelm. I felt connected to him. And as I pray for him, seeing Jesus with him, I feel his loving presence with me, Jesus offering my Grandfather's presence to me.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 11: 2-3

by Denise Dolff M.A.

**Denise
Dolff M.A.**



Denise Dolff, M.A. (Psychology) is the immediate Past President of ACTheals, a member of the Board of Directors, and consultant to the Board and the Executive Committee. She is a retired Christ-centered psychotherapist with a focus on severely abused and traumatized patients, and also intergenerational healing. She has travelled to Rwanda on four occasions, ministering with Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, and is a qualified teacher of Christian Listening.

The next of our discernment gifts, as given in Isaiah, is the Gift of Understanding. As a reminder, *Understanding, working together with Knowledge, Counsel and Wisdom are the bases of what we more generally refer to as the gift of discernment .i.e. insight into God's will in regard to any situation or event.* This is not to be confused with the Corinthian gift of discernment of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10) which is an aid in identifying what is not of God.

The Gift of Understanding

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us to grasp the meaning of the truths of our Christian commitment. By faith we believe them, but by Understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive (what some may refer to as mere religion), but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the true faith that is in us. And because of Understanding, we desire to grow in our knowledge of God, walking only in God's ways. It prompts us to "Choose life, so that you and your descendants may live, loving the lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him" (Deuteronomy 30: (19-20).

Understanding empowers us to penetrate more deeply into the meaning and beauty of God's revelation, enabling us to desire and choose God above anyone or anything else. It opens us to see Jesus in others,

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me' (Matthew 25:40) and comes alive in us with a renewed prayer life and desire for the things of God. I will light the lamp of understanding in your heart and it will not go out. 2 Esdras 14: 25 (nrsv).

Another attribute of this gift is noted in Saul's conversion (Acts 9: 17-18), for Understanding removes the scales from our eyes, so to speak, enabling us to see more deeply, and comprehend familiar scripture passages in a new way Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:31-32). It is the 'aha' we experience when we now know something at a different level than we have known it before, and is what the crowds marveled at when Jesus taught. When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law (Matthew 7: 28-29).

Understanding manifests in a peace, serenity of spirit, and often joy, awesome wonder, as we experience God's word and truth more profoundly for you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8: 32)

Prayer: Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light of Your Light; and in the light of glory to have a clear vision of You and the Father and the Son. Amen.

From Darkness to Resurrection

Al Nyland,
Ph.D.



Al Nyland, Ph.D. is a member of ACTheals since 1981. His education is in Biology, Health Education, Spiritual Direction, Special Education, and Counseling Psychology. He serves in ACTheals as the chair of the International Conference Committee and Co-chair of the Council of Regional Coordinators. He is semi-retired and works conducting groups at a psychiatric hospital in Pasadena, California.

By Al Nyland, Ph.D.

“Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness. Christ in me arise with Your power and Your strength. Christ in me pour out Your blessing and healing. Christ in me arise and I shall rise with You.” (Christ in me arise, Trevor Thomson, 2008, Published by Spirit and Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.)

These words from the song composed by the music director at my local parish in Pasadena, California resonate with my experience at the ACTheals Southeast Region and Leadership Retreat held February 15 through 17, 2019 at Marywood Retreat and Conference Center in St. Johns, Florida. I have been to many retreats and days of renewal in my lifetime and came away from this retreat with the thought that it was the best one I had experienced. “Why?”, you and I may ask.

First, I was able to be at the retreat without having any obligations to fulfill, only to myself. And lastly and of the most importance, the retreat touched my spirit in a different, most welcomed, manner. Often, retreats can be very didactic, “heady”, and left brain oriented. The retreat master, Father J. Michael Sparough, SJ combined not only his Jesuit theological training, but as a graduate of Yale School of Drama, he presented a most creative, artistic, and much appreciated right-brained presentation. At last, a retreat that can balance out my brain, my body, and my spirit.

As we were approaching the Lenten season at this retreat, the topic of “The Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John: a dramatization of John’s Passion and Resurrection Gospel Narrative” prepared us for our Lenten journey. The music, body movements in prayer and praise, and dramatic presentation led us towards healing. It opened our hearts toward the loving and merciful embrace of God.

The music was led by Ashley Breaux, a local young musician, who led us into praise, worship, and healing. In addition, meditative music was presented. The recorded music of Michael John Poirier helped us process our journey along Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

Father Sparough led us in incorporating body movements into our praying of the Lord’s Prayer, giving heart-felt meaning to the words, not just a mere recitation. A foot washing ritual rooted us in our personal presentation of our being forgiven as we forgive others. Father Sparough interspersed our journey with his personal journey, his poetry, and reflective questions and time for sharing leading us increasingly deeper into the healing journey.

As we journeyed with St. John’s Gospel, Father Sparough shared his poetry pieces moving through “Darkness” to “God’s Gentle Gaze of Love” to “Trust” to “Love One Another” to his personal experience of God’s Love in “Because of the Love of My Mother” to our personal Examen in “Peter, Do You Love Me?”. All our reflections and poems lead us to “Easter Sunday Mourning” that brings our mourning to the “Joy of Resurrection”.

Father Sparough’s dramatization of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection and reflections opened my heart and my spirit to the experiences of the Sacraments of Eucharist and of Reconciliation and the prayer teams.

In these, with the experience of the weekend and the personal reflections and Examen, I came to the sacraments and the individualized prayer with a deeper sense of repentance and embrace of God’s love, mercy and forgiveness. With the prayer team, I experienced and recalled the deep moments in my life of God’s presence and all-embracing love.

I thank ACTheals and Father Sparough for your ministries.

A section from Fr. Sparough’s poem “The Joy of the Resurrection” sums up the message of the weekend.

*“Our joy grows with us like a mustard seed
Conceived in secret in hearts that believe.*

*For we reap so much more,
so much more, than we’ve sown
Thru a power so much greater,
always greater, than our own.*

Let us rejoice in the joy of the resurrection!

(J. Michael Sparough, SJ)

NEW MEMBERS

ACTheals

Courtney Lipscomb, Driftwood, Texas, Divine Mercy counseling program.

Rob Rhiel, Associates Specialty Group, Delaware Valley Region, Ms. Lipscomb, Psychotherapists Specialty Group, S. Central Region.

Rev. Flavio Gillio, Religious/Clergy Specialty Group, Northern New England Region.

Jean F. Flanders, Nurses Specialty Group, Mid-Atlantic Region.

DEATHS

ACTheals

Dr. Georgia Conners on 1/20/19. Psychotherapists Specialty Group, Los Angeles Region.

Jerome W. Hayward on 2/24/19. (Husband of Rosemary Hayward) South East Region.

Helen Duffy on 2/27/19. (Wife of Dr. Jack Duffy, DDS., former longtime Wisconsin Regional Coordinator).

Eternal Rest
Grant Unto Them O Lord,
and let Perpetual Light
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen

NOTE: Why not view the Member resources available in "Documents," and Library? To view Documents, sign in, open Member Center, proceed to "ACTheals Documents," and view documents for each group.

NOTE: ACTheals needs a new editor for -
The Journal Of Christian Healing
*Please contact Doug Schoeninger
if interested.*

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Lenten Renewal for ALL Christians?

Jesus fasted for 40 days out in the desert. So too is the Lenten season in Catholicism, a 40 day period of fasting and spiritual cleansing in preparation for the Passion of Christ. This practice can be embraced by *all Christians who believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to suffer, die on the Cross and redeem us for eternal life.*

Not all Christians, however, realize the significance of the period of Lent for deeper prayer, Scriptural reflection, reconciliation, self-denial, and almsgiving. Their emphasis was primarily on the Resurrection alone. With the absence of a deeper appreciation of Christ's agony on his way to Calvary, came the dismissal of the preparation for Good Friday and Easter, thereby identifying Lent as primarily a Catholic period of prayer, sacrifice, and renewal even though we are **all** called to "put away the old self", ... and put

on the new self .." Ephesians 4:22-24

*Despite varying views, we are **all** in the desert of trials and tribulations, and need the renewal offered through the spiritual practices of Lent.* Setting time for reflection on the Passion and fasting from distractions, could introduce the silence needed to hear the inner voice of the Holy Spirit in one's journey towards self-renewal. It is through passage from self-joy to a Lenten period of self-denial, that one would heighten the joy of celebrating the Risen Christ at Easter.

Incidentally, fasting and self-denial, is practiced to a deeper extent in the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church. It is the norm to have fasts for a marriage partner or for each other, for employment, examination and business success, healing from illness, family reunification, and even as a thanksgiving for favors received.

Alphiene Anthraper, M.A.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

continued from front page

greatness, Job was insignificant. When we look at that hurricane's wind and pounding rain, its strength in power we cannot but marvel at the power and greatness of our God. All our human pride evaporates. During the many gatherings of ACTheals members, God's mighty love for each person is palatable and a visceral presence devastates our human pride. When our human pride crumbles, we are left with more self-awareness that God alone gives life and death, plenty and poverty, health and sickness, the comfortableness of living and hardships to living, or sunshine and rain. I'm confident all of you have witnessed two extraordinary men of integrity tirelessly bring inner freedom from pride or arrogance to all encounters within ACTheals gathering. Jim Demar of New York, and Francis Hymel of Texas, both psychotherapists usher into any situation during ACTheals gatherings much serenity of heart and mind entirely dependent on God.

Grace. If God gave us what we deserved, we would all burn in the depths of hell because of our sins. Without Christ, we have no standing before God (Eph. 2:1-10). With the destruction such as Hurricane Michael, we are reminded of how dependent we are on our saving God. He daily shows his people his undeserved favor. Our faith tells us that because of God's love for us in Christ, his people will experience the grace through the months and years ahead as the community, rebuilds physically, emotionally and spiritually. *Where does the inner strength and resolve come from to move forward? Certainly it is not in one person's knowledge, political power, position in life, or monetary resources.* Their inner strength comes from the small still voice within each person's soul resting in God's holy will, "Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me. (Matt. 26-39). "Nevertheless, not my will but thy will be done." I'm sure you have noticed God's abundant healing graces

with Deborah Kalinyak of Florida, Chair of the Psychotherapist Specialty Group, and Melissa McKinney of Florida, Co-chair of the Specialty Groups.

Repentance. In the book of Revelation, we see God using these events to call a sinful, rebellious world to turn away from the destructive course of their lives. As Job found, when we have all that is important to us stripped away, our only place to turn is our God. When we do so, what we find is his grace that is just enough manna for the day. How many times have you noticed Ann Arcieri of Michigan, who serves on the Word Gift Team, quick to invite God to forgive, as well as another person if there is any possibility of offending another. Anne Behneman of Maryland, currently serving as an ACTheals Director always leads the Directors into prayers of repentance thereby opening more of God's mercy into meetings.

Love. Christians are the most generous people on the face of the planet. When disaster strikes, they are among the first to respond. We saw it in Panama City as Christians from all over the country have rendered aid and supplies. *Prayers are being lifted on their behalf. These times give the opportunity to love others as he has loved us. All division of orthodoxy and orthopraxy give way to unity among the body of Christ.* How many times have you witnessed Mary Jo, a retired nurse and Joe Duddie, ACTheals website assistance, of Connecticut. Glow with Jesus' love.

Others. I have found in ministry to the suffering and dying that what God is doing is not only ministering to the sick, but to family, friends, and others who care about this person. He so often speaks to those who mourn about their need for him and his grace. It is important to minister to the people of Panama City. It is also important to see God's hands ministering to the family and friends of those whose loved ones are suffering through this recovery. Yes, you have seen and heard Frances Begonia, OSL and Tony Begonia, OSL of Florida lead ACTheals members into the

ministry of caring about others during their workshop presentations.

Outreach. The believers of all faiths in Panama City have an opportunity to share their Savior with their friends and neighbors. It is times like this that people are most receptive to the gospel. As they rebuild, Christians will have times and places where they can show how Christ is working in their lives. Through these conversations, the Holy Spirit will have ample opportunity to work in the hearts of those who need him. ACTheals members attending the many workshops presented by Charles Zeiders, PsyD, of Pennsylvania, challenge ACTheals members to move into the little-known area of forensic spiritual abuse within church leadership. In the power of the Holy Spirit, Charles assists all attendees to find descriptive words of the unthinkable; thereby preparing the way for the Holy Trinity to speak life in the darkness to all God's children.

Every ACTheals member has met destruction, devastation, lost hope, faith, and at times distant love of God within him/herself or those we are called to provide the truth of the gospel. 1 John 4:19, "Beloved, we love God because he first loved us." Our language to all people is to be like Jesus' words found in the Catholic Bible, Luke 4:14-18 as the Holy Spirit inspires our hearts with words from Isaiah, "The spirit of the Lord has been given to me for he has anointed me he has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind give new sight, and to proclaim a year of favor... Luke 4:22 .And they were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

Suggested Article of Interest :

Spiritual and Psychological Interventions with Trauma Populations in the Caribbean by Ben Keyes

ACTheals website in the bookstore:
Store Home > 2015 IC Workshop 7:
--CD: Benjamin B. Keyes, PhD, EdD



ACTheals (Acts 4:8-10 NIV)

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Lenten Greetings to all Members and Subscribers.

Within these few pages, InterACT Spring 2019 invites you first, to join a reflection with Gloria Tipton on the aftermath last year of Hurricane Michael in Florida. It then continues with articles by Robert Rohde, Diana Phieffer and Al Nyland, which highlight the 2018 Conference as well as the retreat at Marywood, Florida. Next, join Denise Dolff as she expounds the Gift of Understanding. Then, travel with Doug Schoeninger as he leads you through his in-depth article on "Healing Seven Generations." Finally, there is an invitation for *all* Christians to experience the soothing renewal of Lent.

Your comments, suggestions, articles, poems and photos are welcomed. Please do include a short biodata and recent headshot with your submission to minimize further requests. Unless you are submitting the feature article, it is preferable that your article not exceed 950 words.

The next deadline for submissions is June 15, 2019.

Please send your submissions to nvaccaro@actheals.org

Peace,

*Alphiene Anthraper, MA
Editor, InterACT*