

THE HEALING MISSION
Sermon Series: Part one “The Haiti Series”
Malachi 4: 1-6 –Communion
The Church of the Covenant

Back in February I returned to Haiti, but I went by myself. Basically, a trip was cancelled that I was scheduled to attend. I think some people thought, “So why is Stu still going?” I went because I had such a clear assignment from the Lord as I was praying. There were two parts to that assignment: one was healing and the other was about someone’s call into the gospel ministry. I could have also cancelled; my Mother had been sick; there were many reasons to do so. But I had such a compelling feeling that the Lord wanted me to go. I discovered the Healing Mission of the Lord Jesus Christ when I arrived.

A young man who I had met previously, Youby, his Father, T-res, had just had surgery. He was diagnosed with colon cancer and had part of his colon removed. He was sent home from the hospital immediately because his family had no more money for his care. He was sent home after major abdominal surgery with no medicine, no antibiotics, no pain medication. Surgery, home, then nothing. I knew I was supposed to visit Youby’s Father and for reasons beyond his health that I did not yet know. So I went with a group of young people and a translator, Loubens, to Youby’s house. Loubens had lost his Mother the year before to breast cancer, is a strong Christian who also helps lead the youth group. So we enter into Youby’s home, a tiny mud brick home with a dirt floor and a tin roof, and on a small cot right next to the door is T-res Youby’s Father. He is in a great deal of pain. They are afraid he is going to die. I understand why God has sent me to Haiti. So I offer to pray for him. I take his hand and the others gather around. For about ten minutes I just ask them to pray inviting Jesus to be present. I speak and invoke the name above every name. The name at which everything, including disease and death, will one day finally bow. And I wait. I wait for Jesus to show up. And of course, HE does. It is not my praying that has Him show up. I am nothing in relation to what is about to happen. But I know how God works. And we wait again, praying everything in the name of Jesus. And I am led to lay hands on T-res. And the Living presence of Jesus, flooding that room with His love, compassion, power and healing, does a work. I knew exactly what had happened. And so did everyone else in that room. Youby’s Father was healed. And Youby’s faith and that of his family was strengthened and deepened. And the young man Loubens saw firsthand what the Lord can do. I had been given some money by a generous member of our church and I gave Youby \$100 to buy medicine and to take his Father back to the doctor for follow up. When he went back to the doctor the doctor was amazed that he was healed. And then about a month later T-res, Youby’s Father, stood up at a church service at the New Testament Mission and told everyone that Jesus had healed him. When I went back in April I saw him in person and saw a totally healed man. Amazing, miraculous, almost beyond belief, this HEALING MISSION OF JESUS.

Youby goes to church every Sunday now. Loubens spoke to me about feeling called to go into ministry. God ministered to Louben’s heart in relation to the loss of his own Mother. Many, many beautiful things happened because of what the Lord did. But it wasn’t about me; it was about Jesus.

About a month ago, Youby’s Mother had a stroke. She was paralyzed on one half of her body. She is only 53 years old. And Youby contacted me and of course I am praying for Youby’s Mother. I have sent money for physical therapy and for her to go to the doctor. Here, if someone can get to a hospital in 20 minutes they can administer a drug to stop the progression of a stroke. But there in Lacroix they don’t have that medicine. So people are paralyzed and people die.

So why did the Lord heal Youby's Father but not Youby's Mother? Why did the Lord take Louben's Mother but not Youby's Father? Why does the Lord heal this person and not that person? All of these people are strong Christians, none better nor worse. Why does the Lord show mercy on one and not the other? Why didn't Jesus when He walked the face of the earth snap His fingers and heal everyone in the world? Why do some countries, like the US, have medicine and medical science and hospitals, that heal, and other countries, like Haiti, do not? Why, Lord, why?

I do not know. I do not know why the Lord chooses to show mercy on whom the Lord shows mercy. I do not know why the Lord chose to heal Youby's Father but not his Mother. I do not know. But healing is always a sign of the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God into our midst. I know this will sound ridiculous, but after 35 years of ministry I finally figured out that God created the world and it was GOOD. He placed humanity in a perfect garden with no disease and no death. People living long lives and for eternity, without sickness, disease, pain, debilitating decline is the way the world was meant to be. God set it up that way. It is meant to be perfect and without pain nor death. It's hard for us to even imagine that to be the way it is supposed to be. No, the world seems filled with cancer and disease, and strokes, decline and death. But that's not the way the Lord set it up to be; that's how it has become. So healing, whether through ordinary means like doctors, or extraordinary means like miracles, is a SIGN. It is a sign of the way the world is meant to be. When Jesus walked the face of the earth and healed people 2,000 years ago it was a SIGN. When a doctor or nurse travels to Haiti and discovers that their precise specialty is exactly, incongruously and providentially what this precise person right in front of them needs, and the person is healed because they came on a healing mission, that is a SIGN of God breaking into the world to remind people of the way life is supposed to be. When we pray and miraculously, some wonderful combination of medical science and faith and prayer combine to do some mighty miraculous work of healing, that is a SIGN of God breaking into the world to remind us that HE wants the world to be disease free. As it says in Isaiah 63: 9, "*In all this affliction, HE (God) was afflicted*". He feels our affliction and pain; HE wants us to be healed; HE is at work in the world to remind us that HE wants the world to be healed in Jesus' name. Yes, in the United States but in poor countries like Haiti also. Healing is His will for us, not pain, not cancer, not disease, not strokes, HEALING in the name of Jesus.

Healing is the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God into our midst. Healing in the here and now is the reminder from the Almighty that there is a day a'comin' when death and disease will be no more. When suffering and pain shall cease. When the Kingdom of God in the person of Jesus Christ will arrive in all its fullness to once and for all heal and restore a broken and hurting world. As our scripture declares: "*The sun of righteousness (the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ) will rise with healing in its wings.*" (Malachi 4: 2) At the end of all days, when all we see comes to conclusion in the love of God, the sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ, shall rise, and He shall rise with healing in His wings. And all the disease and pain and suffering will be healed in the name of Jesus, once and for all. What a glorious day that will be!

Oh, and by the way, this table is a SIGN as well. Come to Jesus, invoke the name of Jesus, receive Him as we receive this sacrament. Maybe today is the beginning of healing for you in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen and Amen.

*By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, Pennsylvania
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!*