

REPORTS

Healing and the Quaker Tradition – a testimony on healing? – an extract from a Minute taken on a talk given by *Alan Pearce* at Bournemouth and Swanage Monthly Meeting, 15. 4. 2000.

In our morning session today Alan Pearce from the Friends Fellowship of Healing spoke to 40 Friends of his understanding of God and his experience of prayer being used in healing.

God is a mystery, to be reached not by understanding but by love. We are his children, enfolded in his love. Prayer begins with an awareness of God. We can pray *into* God and so become channels through which his light and love can flow to the world. Healing prayer works alongside surgery and medicine, not seeking necessarily a cure, but reaching out towards wholeness and serenity. Healing prayer can be offered individually but prayer in a group is stronger as members are linked at the deepest levels. This is an act of communion and upholding, rather than beseeching.

Alan pointed out how health and healing were central to the ministry of Jesus, who was always ready to show compassion which so often led on to prayer, distance healing or healing by touch. This tradition had been largely lost by the church, but has been regained over the last 40 years. He spoke of George Fox's *Book of Miracles*, with 150 instances of healing, and how healing was a part, an essential part of the Christian ministry offered by early Friends. This led on to a description of the formation of the Friends Fellowship of Healing in 1935 and the extent of its present work.

There followed a centring exercise using a visual stimulus, then one with the verbal stimulus *Be still and know that my healing power within you is making you whole*, leading to a deep time of prayer devoted to distance healing. The group then divided into pairs to experience a simple practice of contact healing.

We thank Alan Pearce for taking us to a deep place.

Brian Hawkins