

AEA Ministry Spotlight

Vol.1 Issue 2

[Booster Shots

...may be a frightening experience for some of us. Stepping from your comfort zone to help others can be as well. One of AEA's own, Author Rachele Hamlin, has a new book that explains how we can reach out to others and take part in the human healing process.

Ministering In-Depth Healing is a booster-shot to correct what goes wrong in church life today and it might prick or sting a little. But, you are sure to find something in it that makes you a better Christian. People who read it will want to keep it handy for reference later as they work with others. It's exciting, enjoyable reading that doesn't compromise its serious religious intent.

Intense study of the Bible and Early Church writings, combined with prayer and meditation, formed the background for a subject-by-subject look at how to succeed in living an amplified Christian life. The Biblical reasoning stands on its own merits leaving the reader free to retain whatever the Holy Spirit makes real to them personally. A wide perspective on matters pertaining to body, soul and spirit are unified under one embracing concept: namely, that we are all called to minister healing but that healing must reflect the Divine will of God for man.

Each chapter shows how to stop probable trouble before it happens. Distinct subject areas build on the each other very logically. Every chapter contains interesting, true stories and insights gained by Divine inspiration, personal observation and experience with people who are committed to in-depth healing. A special section on care and teaching units is included in the book. Not a miracle cure, this book is quite simply, a needed booster shot.

Where to get the book...

There are two websites you can order this book from:

1. www.amazon.com, type Rachele Hamlin, click Go.
2. www.xlibris.com, click Bookstore at left, Search at left, type Rachele Hamlin and click on the books title: Ministering In-Depth Healing



Plan Now!

Upcoming conferences

48TH Annual AEA Convention

Melbourne, Florida will host the 48th meeting of AEA members. The Convention will begin Wednesday evening, September 18th and conclude Friday, September 20th with a Noon luncheon.

All members are urged to come and experience what the Lord is doing through AEA. Please make your plans. The ministries of AEA will be giving their annual reports. Be there! [Make reservations now](#)
Call Tanny Latham at:
1-800-PSALM 23
(1-800-772-5623).

Third Annual Changing Seasons Women's Conference - New England

The conference will be held on Cape Cod, October 17, 18, and 19, 2002 at The Salvation Army Corps Community Center, 100 North Street, Hyannis, MA. The theme is "Embracing His Presence."

Please contact Michael and Barbara Gorss for further information: Phone 508-375-9125 Fax 508-375-9124 or email: chngseason@aol.com

AEA Ministry Spotlight features the work of AEA ministers in fulfilling the Lord's mandate to win the lost, feed the hungry, and care for the sick.

The Call For Universal Prayer

By Bishop Elisha A. Duncan
AEA Prayer Committee Chairman

Be a prayer partner with us. There is more trouble, struggle, trial and turmoil in the world today than in any other time in human history. When we think of 9/11/01, the Middle East, and the crisis everywhere, we must be drawn nearer to God in earnest united prayer. We are called upon to pray for all people. For our President, the Congress, the Governors, lawmakers and all who are in superior authority. 1 Timothy 1:1-3. There is no limit to prayer. Prayer is universal. O You who hear prayer, To You all flesh will come. Psalm 65:2

When we don't want to forfeit our peace, nor bear needless pain, we must go to God in prayer. Moses prayed for the people and God answered his prayer and made the water sweet. Exodus 15:23-26; Gideon prayed for Israel and God answered his prayer. Judges 6:36-40; Hannah prayed and the answer came. 1 Samuel 1:27; Solomon prayed for Israel and the answer came. 1 Kings 9:1-3; Elijah prayed and the answer came. 1 King 18:36-38; Ezra prayed and the answer came. Ezra 8:21-23.

The house of God is a house of prayer for all people. Isaiah 56:7. God hears and answers prayer. 2 Chronicles 7:12-15. Jesus said that men should always pray and not lose heart. Luke 18:1.

Let us be courageous, vigilant and strong in the Lord. Let us seek to put on His whole armour. Let us learn to lean and depend upon His mighty power, watching and waiting in prayer at all times. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man. Luke 21:36.

Prayer is a source of the fullness of joy in the Lord. John 16:23,24. Pray one for another. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18.

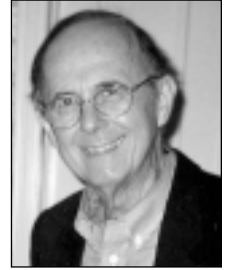
Prayer is precious. Revelation 5:8; Prayer ascends. Revelation 8:34. These are just some of the evidence of answered prayer. Earnest, fervent prayer will break the yoke and set the captive free. If we serve the Lord with all our hearts, and be in one accord, He will cause us to ride upon the high places of the earth. When we pray, He will hear us. When we cry, He will say, here I am. He will restore our health both physically and spiritually. Isaiah 58:6-12.

Let us be united in prayer, which is the key to open heaven's door. United we stand. We are your AEA prayer partners.

Email prayer requests to: eliduncan1@aol.com

AEA Board Welcomes New VP of Development

AEA welcomes Dr. Henry Dekker to the Board of Directors. Dr. Dekker is the former Chairman of Mitsubishi America. After retiring from the corporate world, Dr. Dekker trained and became an ordained minister and Christian counselor. He serves on the board of several strategic ministries and a seminary. Dr. Dekker will be Vice President of Development.



AEA Launches New Website

Visit us Online at: www.aeaintl.org
Discover AEA's different ministries, meet AEA leaders, and download our Communities of Care booklet.



Refuge of Hope Celebrates 10 Years

AEA congratulates Bishop Doctor Charles and Dr. Judy Farmer for their tenth anniversary as founders and leadership of The Refuge of Hope Disciple Center, an AEA Ministry in urban Washington DC. A formal celebration dinner was enjoyed by a full house with AEA ministry leaders from all over the USA represented.

MORE ▼

Find out about this wonderful inner city ministry by visiting: www.aeaintl.org/refugestory.html

How we re *helping* people.



Hope Manna has been involved in various community outreaches, crusades, grand openings and church programs to lift up the name of Jesus. Hope Manna has completed the Red Cross disaster training classes to be prepared to assist during a disaster.

Hope Manna networks with other agencies, organizations and ministries to assist individuals in their endeavor to move from where they are to where they desire to be. Also, referrals are made in regards to job and job training, housing assistance, financial assistance, and legal assistance.

Education

Hope Manna in collaborations with other LITERACY advocates is happy to announce that after three years of speaking out for the illiterate, efforts are being made to bring a solution to this problem. The GED Preparation Class is still available to assist individuals eighteen and above to prepare to take the Test. Tutors are needed for the Literacy and GED Preparation Classes.



Education during summer camp.



Clothing distribution .

Clothing

Hope Manna cannot express our appreciation for all who continue to give freely various items. Your contribution has helped individuals Dress for Success. Homeless people have change of clothing and people who would like to dress for church are delighted with the various suits, dresses, shoes, etc. GIFTS-IN-KIND through Vision DC and DC Learns, Inc. enable Hope Manna to meet the various material and physical needs of individuals. It is a pleasure to see the joy on the faces of individuals and they receive the items with knowledge that God loves each one and desires an abundant life for them.

Food

Food is distributed every Friday and on emergency basis. The Capital Area Food Bank continues to be a vital part of this ministry. Our desire is to serve nutritious food to help individuals have a healthy lifestyle.

To contact Hope Manna:

Call 202-388-0062 or write:
2001 Benning Road, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4725.

Communities of Care

When You Come Together

by Dr. Felicity Dale
Permission to reprint by the author.

What should we do when we get together? One of the important things to realize is that church as a small group is not like anything else you may have experienced as church. We get asked, Is it like a prayer meeting? We pray, but no, it is not like a prayer meeting. Is it a Bible study? No, it is not like a Bible study, although we will usually spend some time over the Word. Perhaps the greatest temptation we have is to make it a mini version of a larger meeting, where someone has been delegated to prepare some worship songs, another has a teaching, etc. If we do that, we have not gained much from meeting in a smaller group. Small group dynamics are totally different from those of a larger group.

Church is family. A normal family, gathered around the dinner table, does not have, for example, the mother say to the children, Now let's all listen to what Dad has to say, and then the father talks for 40 minutes explaining something that is not of much relevance to the kids. No. Normal family is interactive, participatory and intensely relevant to the people there. And church should be the same way. I Corinthians 11-14 talks about what we should do

when we come together. Chapter 12 spends much time explaining how vital every part of the body is, and how each part has a different function. This needs to be expressed in our times together. I Corinthians 14:26 is the key verse for our meetings. It says that when we come together, each one has a contribution to make. Whether a song, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation — everything must build up and edify the body.

According to Acts 2:42, when the believers came together, they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers. These are the four elements that we try to include in the times that we spend together.

The Apostles Teaching: Study of the Word

If our house churches are going to multiply rapidly, we will no longer have the luxury of taking several years to train a Bible teacher. Often, a new Christian will be leading something after only a short period. Paul faced this too—in some instances he moved on very quickly. For example, in Philippi he only stayed for several days. Therefore, we need to use an approach that al-

lows the Bible to teach itself, where even the youngest Christian is able to lead.

We evangelical Christians tend to emphasize the importance of good *teaching*. This is missing the point. The essential is that people are genuinely *learning and applying* Scripture to their everyday lives. Statistics show that we learn far more by actively participating than by hearing alone. Scientists tell us that we remember 20% of what we hear, 50% of what we see and hear and 70% of what we hear and see and then say ourselves. In house church, we have the opportunity to involve everyone. In New Testament times, teaching was far more interactive; for instance, the word used for Paul's lengthy teaching in Ephesus is the word *dialegomai*, from which we get our word dialogue (Acts 20:7). Jesus tells us that we are to teach new disciples to obey His commands. In a small group, there can be some kind of accountability built in. More than once, we have had people say to us that they learned more in just months of home church than they had in years of sitting listening to good sermons!

We try to spend little, if any, time in teaching in a formal fashion, but rather elect to

have interactive discussion of a Bible passage. Over the years, we have come back repeatedly to three different methods of Bible study that are discussed below. The method is not important, but the fact that the method leads to a participatory discussion is important. Each of the three methods requires a facilitator, whose responsibility is to make sure the study keeps moving, that everyone is taking part and that no one person (particularly the facilitator!) dominates. It is not the facilitator's job to answer questions that come up. Rather he should direct questions back to the group.

In this type of Bible study, everyone's opinions are valued and there is no such thing as a wrong answer. But what if someone starts teaching heresy? (Christians always seem worried by this possibility!) In dozens of these groups over the years, we have never seen one sidetracked by wrong teaching. Even with the youngest Christians someone always says, That doesn't seem right, if anything too outlandish comes up. The facilitator is trained to require some kind of scriptural backing for any opinion voiced.

Usually our churches study their way through a book. Sometimes as much as a

whole chapter will be covered in a session; more frequently, just a few verses. Because literacy may be a problem in some groups, we usually read only a couple of verses before stopping to discuss what we are learning. Then we will cover a few more verses.

METHOD I

A few verses are read, and then the group answers three questions.

What does it say?

What does it mean?

What difference does it make in my life?

You may wonder if there is any difference between questions one and two. But take the phrase from John 1 where it says, In the beginning was the Word. There is a huge amount of meaning in there that could get missed if the second question were not included. We use this method in our churches that meet in retirement homes. It is very simple and easy.

METHOD II

This is a modified Navigator's method. A couple of verses are read, and we look for things that correspond to three different symbols. The first is a question mark, which obviously symbolizes something a person does not understand. The second symbol is a candlestick and is used to represent something that sheds light, either on another passage of

Scripture, or else something that is going on in a person's life. The third symbol is an arrow, and stands for where God is piercing a person's heart—they know that they have heard from God and need to do something about it. So a person might say, I have a candlestick on this verse. This describes a situation that happened to me at work last week

We used this method to start our present group of churches. We pulled together a dozen non-Christian business people and studied the book of Proverbs, looking at principles relating to business and wealth. Over the course of the study, every person became a Christian!

METHOD III

The third method we learned from Robert Fitts.

In discussion Bible Study we simply read the Scripture, each taking turns reading a few verses, depending on how many people are present. While it is being read, everyone is invited to interrupt at any time and make a comment or ask a question. Alpha Omega Bible College

If it seems that too much is being read, then the facilitator will stop the person reading and ask, Does anyone have a comment? It is unusual for more than a few verses to be read before a discussion develops.

Our churches that meet in

the housing projects use this kind of study. The method used is not important. It is just a tool to accomplish the goal of a participatory Bible study. Here the Bible itself is the teacher, and everyone in the group is involved in both the teaching and learning process and the application of what is learned to daily life.

Are we saying there is no place for traditional teaching? Our experience is that the small meetings in homes are not the best place for extended lesson-type messages. If God has revealed some helpful or exciting truth, do share it—in a brief form. But the cold fact is that listening to long discourses does not turn people into teachers!

Our larger monthly meetings, where several house churches come together, have two main differences from the smaller meetings: First, the chances of getting to say something are definitely smaller. Over time, everyone can speak, but not in every large meeting. Second, the larger numbers often justify inviting in a gifted believer who has a powerful message or anointing.

Fellowship

Studies of early church history show that it was as much the love that Christians had for each other, as the actual message itself, that won so many to their

cause. That this love went across culture, religion, ethnic differences and even the slave/free barrier was a great testimony to all.

Just a casual reading of the New Testament forces one to the conclusion that the early disciples shared their lives together in a deep and meaningful way. In this country, and at this period in time, fellowship has tended to be superficial at best, and at times downright absent! How can we change this?

Jesus taught that the world would know we are Christians by our love for one another. The apostle John, described as the disciple whom Jesus loved, shared deeply on the nature of fellowship in his first letter. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other. An old song we used to sing in England went like this:

*Let us open up ourselves to one another,
Without fear of being hurt or turned away,
For we need to confess our weaknesses
To be covered by our brothers love,
To be real and learn our true identity.*

True fellowship is like this. It is being real with one another, loving and caring for one another, genuinely and without hypocrisy. It is knowing if someone is having difficulties because we are familiar with them

enough to recognize the signs. It is being willing to let down the masks we all put up (Yes, I m fine, thanks , with a bright smile when inside we are barely under control) and risking letting people know us as we really are. True fellowship takes time and commitment.

John s conclusion in his letter: It is hard to believe that you love God who you cannot see, if this is not being matched by love for your brothers and sisters who you can see.

Breaking of Bread

We have been involved in home style meetings now for most of the last 30 years, and we have come to the conclusion that there is one factor more important than any other in determin-

ing whether a group will be successful or not. Do they share meals when they get together? Those that eat together invariably do better than those that do not. Eating obviously played an important part in early church life, as it did in Jesus life. Some of Jesus most effective times with unbelievers included food, e.g. Zaccheus, Matthew s friends, etc. Many of the occasions described with His disciples involved a meal, e.g., the last supper, and His times with the disciples after His resurrection. Acts 2:46 reveals that the early church shared their meals daily with great joy. I Corinthians 11 tells of the problems that arose when some people failed to share the common meal, during which they re-

membered the Lord s death in the communion, appropriately.

Eating food together does something to the way that people relate with each other. We have found that it produces an informal atmosphere that makes it much easier for people to share their lives together. However, there are some guidelines that we use. As in everything else, we try to make it easy to duplicate. If a host family produces a gourmet meal, that makes it very intimidating for others who think they have to live up to that standard. In general, we have a simple potluck meal together. Everybody brings a contribution. If it is in the evening, we may have those who work just bring something that they can pick up at a

store, such as sodas or a dessert. Occasionally there are drawbacks to not organizing it more, such as the time when every single family brought some kind of pasta dish. But in general this approach works very well. We try to make sure that people help with the clean up, and if we know there are families who are struggling to make ends meet, the leftovers provide a sensitive way of helping them out. Our celebrations, when all of the local home churches come together, includes a meal, as do our leadership times. We love our meetings!

Mrs. Dale is a British family doctor, who with her husband Dr. Tony Dale, publish House2House magazine.



Chairman s Corner

with *E. John Reinhold*

I ask myself this question: How can the AEA be the most effective vehicle for carrying out the Lord s will in these last days? The answer to that question must include the following:

- 1) Continue to facilitate the creation and function of ministries the Lord is raising up to service the various parts of His body.
- 2) Encourage the leadership of our ministries to carry out the special callings the Lord has given them.
- 3) Network our fellowship to mentor, care, and give safe harbor to our Brother and Sister members.
- 4) Allow the Lord to steer this ministry toward being relevant in His Body.
- 5) Guard our association against the encroachment of

those entities that may deny our Constitutional Rights to practice our faith and carry out His Great Commission.

- 6) Seek those who wish to be part of a Body committed to His calling.

Now is the time to press forward for the Lord. With the rise of the faiths of Anti-Christ, like Islam, and the persecution of the church in places like China, Burma, Pakistan, the Arab World, Nepal and dozens of other nations, we cannot afford to become lethargic. Each and every one of us matters in God s plan to reach those He will call to Himself. Every day must count and every action needs to be weighed. Millions of people on this planet want Christians dead and tens of thousands are willing to pay the price to make it happen. We cannot falter. Our prayer must be that the very power that willed the universe into being will empower us to do those things necessary to win the lost, care for the needy, and love the unlovable.

Lord makes us relevant to your plan as individuals and as part of your Body.

~Amen

Christian Sexuality

By Paul and Laura Byerly

Where does a Christian go for information about sex that is both scripturally sound and scientifically accurate? Much of the church has been unwilling to deal with sex, leaving couples with the choice of ignorance and seeking information from the world.

When we, Paul and Lori Byerly, discovered this need for Godly sexual information, and a growing hunger for it, we knew we had to do something. And so in the fall of 1997, The Marriage Bed began working to provide Christians



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with a place to learn about and discuss marital sex within a Biblical framework. It started as an AOL homepage and has grown steadily from there. Today we have our own domain – www.themarriagebed.com/ - and a website that receives from 10,000 to 15,000 unique visitors each month. WE also host an e-mail discussion list with over 1200 members, we have two study lists, and provide daily tips on being a better spouse through our Generous Husband and Generous Wife e-mails.

It's been a wild and sometimes challenging ride, but God has blessed the ministry. We have had a number of pastors and medical personnel come along side, and we have made connections with other ministries that offer help on things ranging from infertility to impotence and pornography to adultery recovery.

Can a website or an e-list really have an impact on a person? Consider what some have said: Since I've been on this list and listened to you guys talk about how none of the stuff my dear husband has suggested is sinful and how God intends for us to enjoy sex with our spouse, I've begun to open up to suggestions.

And, I never realized before this how much hurt I was causing my husband by refusing to have sex with him. This list

and the website helped me to realize many, many things in the area of sex. And once I realized these things, my perspective about my husband and sex changed. I want to have sex with my husband now – in fact I would say that I need to have sex with him and when I don't, I feel lacking. Our wonderful marriage is even better because I am working through this problem area with my husband.

But does all of this really glorify God? Is it doing anything for the kingdom of God? YES! Witness the woman on our e-list who said: I stumbled across The Marriage Bed while doing research on whether or not I would have an affair or just get divorced. After reading many posts, I thought God led me to The Marriage Bed to give me hope that my marriage and sex life could be repaired and saved now I think God led me to The Marriage Bed to save my soul, my hubby's soul, and my children's souls.

As interest in what we do has grown, it has gone beyond our ability to support it as a spare time, spare change ministry. In February of this year we became a non-profit corporation, and became a ministry of the AEA. Our local church has committed to monthly support, and we have begun to receive donations from individuals. This has allowed us to scale back the work we do with our landscape and irrigation company and devote more time to the ministry. As we become freed from the day job we will be writing some books, producing curriculum for use by others, and doing more speaking engagements.

There is an emerging openness in the church to the reality that God created sex and called it good, and people are being set free from confusion and shame that is not of our Lord. We are seeing new ministers spring up to meet the needs of God's people in the area of sexual problems, and more and more pastors are looking for ways to provide their flocks with information and resources. Additionally, the American Association of Christian Counselors has just launched a major effort to educate its members so they can better help those struggling with sexual problems. We thank God for what He is doing in this area, and we are honored to be a part of that work.

[Donations to The Marriage Bed, Inc. are tax deductible. Checks or money orders can be sent to: The Marriage Bed, Inc., 6705 Hwy. 290 W., Suite 502-179, Austin, TX 78735-8407.](#)

What is most important in your life?

Forget about the platitudes, what are the most important areas in your life right now? Is it your retirement account, spouse, home, investments, security, children, business, promotion, hobbies, automobile, vacation, pets, food, entertainment? The scripture speaks of the fact that what-so-ever a man thinks in his heart so is he (or she).

The Christian ministry is not a game. The ministry is not about anything on the list above. The Christian ministry is about being a substitute for the Lord on this planet. It is about the Lord controlling the very fiber and muscle of our being and therefore being able to use us for His Kingdom's ends.

Each of us has been placed in some strategic role to accomplish His ends. We all have experiences in our past that are good and bad, but the role the Lord has for us could never be accomplished without them. We can only make a difference for the Kingdom if we are in the will of the Father. Through faith, let's allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to make the Lord's will the most important thing to seek and carry out. Matthew 6:33.

John Reinhold
AEA Chairman/CEO

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