



Of Seeds and Flowers



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William R. Pfeiffer - Director

Mary's Field, Ltd. - PO Box 99 - Hebron, CT 06248 - 860.530.1253 - support@marysfieldltd.com - [Facebook.com/MarysField](https://www.facebook.com/MarysField)

INDIAN HEALING STORY - ABSOLUTE MUST READ

This is the most amazing true story I have ever read. Francis MacNutt, Ph.D, Harvard, relates this experience in his classic, classic book "Healing" (Ave Maria Press, 1974). He was going to put the story at the beginning of the book to catch the reader's attention but the publishers felt it was too much to handle for most readers. Late in the book there would be more understanding.

Father MacNutt was going to Blue Cloud Benedictine Abbey in South Dakota to give a retreat to 45 Catholic priests. There was a charismatic prayer group of Indians that met once a week at the Abbey to pray. Father MacNutt asked the prior, Father Odilo Burkhardt, O.S.B. if some members of the prayer group would share their experiences with the priests. Father Odilo said that, no, the Indians would be too embarrassed to do so.

One evening as father MacNutt was finishing his talk Father Odilo went to answer the door bell. Three Indians came to borrow some books from the Abbey library. Father Odilo, on returning said the Indians might want to share a recent healing experience despite their habitual reticence.

The three Indians were Simon Keeble, his wife, Lucy, and Nancy, a young woman about 20 years old.

The following is a transcription from a tape of their sharing. The

rhythm, style and grammar have not been changed. The first to speak was Mrs. Lucy Keeble.

I like to praise my Lord every day for what he has done for me. I used to be a wicked woman: I liked to gossip, and go around telling peoples, hate peoples, and talk about them and do things like that. But one time I needed prayer, and the people, they come and they prayed for me. And Jesus set me free from all the things, all the bad things I was going through, especially the Indian dances, all the witchcraft and everything I've done. He set me free when I opened my heart and dedicated my life to the Lord. He healed me from many things; he healed me from my sickness. Every time I get sick I pray and then he hears me.



Last Sunday we was up to Minneapolis and we went to a healing service. And just when we got there-my boy was with me-he said, "Mom, I got a toothache. They are having a healing service over there. Why don't we go over there?" So we went over there. He went up

and this man prayed for him. And right there Jesus filled seven of his tooth that had cavities. He filled them with silver. This is really so.

That's how powerful Jesus is. He can set you free from all your troubles, all your miseries. I never read a bible when I was out in the world. (I'm in the world, but, you know, when I was out there having a good time and things.) But when I'm closer to walking with Jesus, that's when he showed me many things-all the miracles he could do. Really have faith in Jesus! And this is what he has done Sunday for my son. He healed my son, filled his cavities, and he come home. There are some other things he has done; you can't believe it! How Jesus could work-how he was healing those persons.

I was setting there watching them-how the peoples are going in line, and they get healed. And how powerful Jesus is, because I have that touch from him. When that man touch me like that, I just went out of myself. So he can fill you if you have faith in him and give yourself to him and open your heart to him. He'll come in. He'll fill you with the Holy Spirit. Next to speak was Nancy, the young woman, dressed in the slacks in which she had been working all day. What was most convincing about her testimony was the fact that she was shy and didn't like to talk: she was just saying it because that's the way it was. I didn't believe that

Jesus can heal anybody. I didn't believe, because I have never seen anything happen like that, but these people from Minneapolis took me up there. We went to the prayer meeting, and we walked in the door. I sat down.

I was sitting there, and the man that was standing up there come up to me and told me to come up front. He said, "You don't believe: you never did really accept Jesus. I want to pray for you." I didn't say nothing. I just stood there. He said, "Do you have any fillings?" I said, "No," and he said, "Do you have gold fillings?" I said, "No." He said, "Do you have any cavities?" I said, "Yes, but I am going to go to a dentist." He said, "Well, I'm going to pray for you. I want you to put your mind on Jesus. Forget everything else." I did what he said, and he started praying for me. I started feeling funny-you know, shaking inside and getting hot. Then he looked in my mouth and said, "You have never had any gold filling or silver filling?" I said, "No," so he called a lady up there and told her to look in my mouth. She say the top part of my mouth had gold in it and the bottom had silver fillings. I still didn't believe him. He knew that, so he told me to go home and look in the mirror. I went back home that night, and I looked in the mirror. I could see the gold and the silver. I went to the dentist; the dentist said, "You sure have some unusual fillings." That's when I started believing. I know it takes a lot from a person to really try to follow the way of the Lord. And it takes a lot to stand up and tell you people about him. Father Odilo had just said a prayer for the Indians of the Dakotas and was about to conclude the meeting, when Mr. Simon Keeble asked to speak.

He began: You read Acts 1: 1-9.

Jesus goes out 40 days, And nobody knows what he does How many prayers he uses, How many faiths and loves he got. You read that; you will see. But you in your own heart You really believe in him. He will show you right off, God can heal you! But it is the person-you-who will heal. You have to forgive the sick man yourself, and to give him time: You ask him, "Do you have faith?" "Do you love God?" And he answers, "Yes, yes, sure!" You question him. You tell him he must leave all his sins at the bottom. You ask him again, "Do you believe him?" He says, "Yes." Then you go touch him and you heal him right now. Powerful how Jesus acts!

I found that out. It comes through here (pointing to his heart). I can feel it-just like you get hold of electricity. Is all in your body-makes you sweat. Then gets you warm and touch you.

And you can heal. We heal quite a few people in Sisseton. They sometimes backslide and that's bad.

Jesus don't like that. But Jesus forgives; He likes the sinner. He don't want nobody die. He wants to be good to everybody. Now, who likes Jesus? Raise your hand! (Here the priests didn't know what to expect. They all raise their hands hesitantly.) How many of you ever heal anybody? (Here only about two hands went up.)

How come? How come you know Jesus and you no heal nobody? (Dead silence.)

The question, can it be true? confronts us all, as it did those 45 priests that evening. With most cures that we hear about we can imagine a natural process being speeded up; we often harbor a deep-down suspicion that perhaps a natural explanation can be found for what happens. But the filling of teeth? How

can we visualize and explain that? The call for a practical decision: "How come you know Jesus and no heal nobody?" Dr. Francis MacNutt said, "The question was taken seriously by at least one priest who began from that day to pray for the sick, and now has seen for himself. Francis, who we are proud to call friend, has since prayed for thousands and thousands of hurting people and been the instrument of God's healing ministry. One day, in Coopersburg, Pa., I, Bill Pfeiffer, remember watching a leg grow as Francis prayed. Why be surprised by a few cavities being filled with gold when the same God, as the scientists are now saying, He hung out ONE TRILLION galaxies.

"Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the savior of the world" (In 4:42).

And so we ask, "What does all of this have to do with me?" Do you believe that YOUR God is that involved, loving and caring for His people and for YOU PERSONALLY? Do you let Jesus establish in your heart who you ARE in the light of His wild, unconditional, passionate love for you? If God had a wallet your picture would be in it. Have you ever experienced yourself as the JOY OF GOD? Are you alive to the fact that He dwells IN YOU?

Most Christians are living half lives when they are designed for unlimited **happiness**, the enjoyment of **all truth** and **life without end**.

If this and of all of the above is true it is true for you and me and for everyone, everywhere. We have to deal with it. "Act on this word. If all you do is listen to it, you are deceiving yourselves." James 1: 22. **Reflect, pray and do whatever He tells you!**

Vision and Reality

The Catholic Church and Child Abuse

Can you imagine a bishop or priest standing before a congregation and giving them the following instruction. I found some of these thoughts in the NCR July 3rd issue.

1. If you commit a serious sin against the community your first obligation is to conceal it.
2. If an accuser comes forward, deny the offense and condemn the accuser a someone who wants to ruin your good name.
3. If that doesn't quiet the accuser, offer payment for the person's silence.
4. If that fails, hire the best lawyers in town.
5. And if, finally you have no escape, go to settlement and give the "generic apology" to anyone who may have been hurt by your "mistakes". (Gee, now that I think of it, this also sounds like Hillary Clinton!!)

This scenario is unthinkable but it has been repeated over and over in the Catholic Church for the past thirty years to the mortally, death dealing detriment of the community, to religion, in general, and to our country.

These leaders have put aside the little children that Jesus summoned to His lap. They put aside the God of love and compassion and truth and mercy and life that they so ardently preached. They chose the worldly solutions to their sinfulness over the humble, simple, Christ-like wisdom solutions of the gospel. There is no right way to do the wrong thing. "The sword you use to slay your enemy must first pass through your own heart." Thomas Merton

And remember: Only about 4% off Catholic priests were involved in the abuse of children. Most priests work very diligently at being good and faithful servants of the people of God. Think of the number of priests that have had to change their gentle and loving relationship and ministry with young people because of the actions of the few. The pain for everyone has been and continues to be enormous.

If I were Pope I would make every Cardinal and Bishop make a totally silent retreat for 30 days; wait a month for the effects to settle deep into their hearts, and then, meet to discuss how they will serve the deepest needs of their people with the deepest mercy and love.

On June 22nd I retired after 40 years of teaching High School students. Because of limited service in some years and non transferable service from Pa., I will get only 45 % of my pension. I will be 78 in August. It is a "new season" in my life and I have to be obedient to the call. We all have to accept the spirit of the age that we are or be in a constant insecure, tense relationship with real life.

I taught to supplement our small income from Mary's Field. Your "love gifts" over the years kept our heads above water. Your help, from time to time- only if the Lord provides- would be most appreciated. Thank you! Thank you!! You are always in our hearts and daily prayers.



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Speaking Softly

PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES ,and the rest of America's compulsive workers. Let it drip into your heart, take hold and flower!

Thank you for creating a world that includes time for fun and play and laughter. Teach us to have more fun.

Forgive us for all the times we take life too seriously, letting the trials and troubles of each day blind us to the excitement and joy that surround us. Help us to find the balance between hard work and play. Remind us that for six days you created, and on the seventh day you rested. Show us how to rest and relax and play.

Place in our hearts a sparkling laughter that can lighten the heaviest burden. Give us a contagious enthusiasm for all that is good and right and pure. Let our laughter lift each other up. Let it spread beyond ourselves to those with whom we come in contact, lifting their spirits and pointing them to the source of all hope.

Return us to the time in our marriage when fun and play and laughter seemed so natural. Amen.

“There is a time for everything, a season for every activity in heaven...a time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.”

- *Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 4.*

“When you laugh, aside from the endorphin rush, there's also a spiritual opening. You're not so tight inside yourself. That opening I've found to be a real gift, in people being able to absorb genuine spirituality.”

- *Rabbi Sydney Mintz*

