

Committee on the Ministry of Healing

The Ministry of Healing Committee met on a number of occasions during the year to discuss ways in which it could encourage the Healing Ministry to be part of the worship service.

Churches which have invited some members to share on this subject have encouraged the Committee. On at least two occasions when an invitation was issued to come forward for prayer ministry, quite a number responded.

The Committee believes that there are many people who attend our Churches frequently who are still unaware of the depth and meaning of the healing ministry. Many are surprised when they learn of the various aspects of healing such as the healing of memories, where perhaps someone may be burdened by the guilt of past hurts, or the stress of broken relationships, as well as physical and spiritual healing.

In November 2003 members of the Healing Committee held a Health Awareness Service in Seymour Street Methodist Church, Lisburn. Various members of the congregation spoke of their own role in the Health Service. Consultant physicians, nurses, Occupational Therapists and Home Care Workers all spoke of the need for prayer in the many contacts they make in their daily routine. This made us aware that we are all God's workers and He needs us all to witness and work for Him.

The Committee organised a Conference in May 2004 in the Christian Renewal Centre, Rostrevor, with the theme "Address the Stress". The Conference helped those who attended to see how to cope with stress in daily life, with an emphasis on stress involved with our work for God both in and outside the Church, while at the same time still finding time and energy for family and work commitments. The speakers at the Conference were Dr. Stephen Best, Mr. David Bolton and Mrs. Sheelagh Montgomery. Mrs. Helen Shiel demonstrated some exercises to help people relax and cope with stressful situations.

Sunday 6th February 2005 is designated as Ministry of Healing Sunday for the Connexion. It is hoped that this, or a suitable alternative, will be used to deepen the awareness of the healing ministry.

AGENDA

1. The Conference receives the report.
2. The Conference appoints as its representatives on the Churches Council for Health and Healing in Ireland: Dr. Helen Fullerton, Rev. William Scott, Rev. Dr. J. Turner, Rev. Dr. L. Glenny.
3. The Conference recommends that Sunday, 6 February 2005 be observed as Ministry of Healing Sunday.