

# HEALING IN THE REDEMPTION OF JESUS CHRIST

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**SPECIAL TWO-QUARTER ISSUE DEVOTED TO THE BIBLICAL TEACHING  
OF HEALING IN THE REDEMPTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

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## Healing: The Backdoor To Evangelism



## Randy Lane Bunch

Randy has served as church planter, pastor, author, professor, traveling minister, and

now as founder of Connecting Point Communications, a digital media ministry that reaches around the world. The television outreach is now broadcasting into 182 nations, and people from around the world log onto the ministry website, [randylanebunch.org](http://randylanebunch.org), to download the teaching resources, many of which are available free of charge.

In addition to the television broadcast, there is also a podcast, blog, online healing school, and the ministry magazine, which are all available on the site. The various episodes of Connecting Point, which air around the world, can be found on the ministry **YouTube** channel. See more at [randylanebunch.org](http://randylanebunch.org).



## Debra Gaskill

Debra was taught that tragic accidents and terminal illness were God's way of teaching people a lesson.

Not until she received a few life-changing miracles did she begin to study God's Word and learn the truth that healing is a redemptive benefit for every believer, but too many don't know how to receive it. Today, one of her primary assignments is to teach healing and how to live in divine health.

Her podcast, blog, and healing videos can be found on her website, [debragaskill.com](http://debragaskill.com). Her podcast is also available on iTunes, Google Podcast, Spotify, and Stitcher. She is a writer for We Connect Online Magazine and has a channel on Life Network For Women TV.

# FIRST WORD

Dr. Randy Lane Bunch, **Editor**

In the year 1984, God did a wonderful work in my life. That was the year I was filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. To say that this had a dramatic impact on my life would be a major understatement. Soon, God began to use me in the gifts of the Spirit, which continue to operate in our life and ministry to the present day.

Perhaps nothing, however, was any more significant that year than when God supernaturally spoke to me regarding the healing ministry. He said things to me then that I could in no way fully understand until much later in life. However, everything He intimated to me in that word regarding the healing ministry has certainly come to pass. Specifically, the Lord said to me, “In the last days, the ministry of divine healing will come under tremendous attack, and I have called you to stand in the defense of that ministry.” The wording was specific and had a particular meaning that I would realize as I grew in my understanding of this unusual calling.

It wasn't until years later while learning Christian apologetics that I learned that the Greek word, *apologia*, means “to make a defense” much like a lawyer does when he makes his case before a jury. How does he do that? He uses evidence and testimony. I had always noticed that whenever I taught on the subject of healing that my approach was very much like a lawyer, building my case from the evidence of God's Word and the testimony of those who had



experienced healing through our ministry. Only in recent years did I put it all together, that what God was saying to me all those years before was that He was calling me to be an apologist for the subject of divine healing - particularly the truth of healing in the redemption of Jesus Christ.

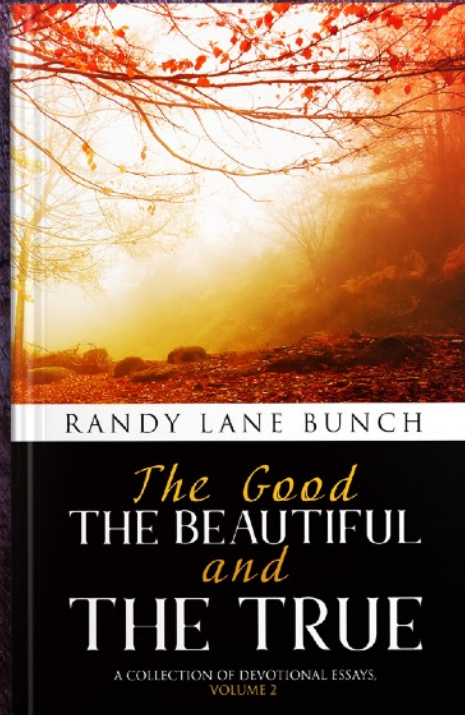
Rather than a peripheral doctrine or a side issue, healing goes to the very heart of the gospel, demonstrating Jesus' victory over sin and death. Today, we see hundreds healed by the power of God as the good news of our complete salvation through Christ registers on the hearts of the hearers. In just our Skype Crusades alone, which we ran in the nation of Pakistan for about two years, we saw hundreds if not thousands healed as they heard the good news of Jesus Christ. From India we have testimonies that are nothing short of those recorded in the book of Acts. Indeed, the Acts of the Holy Spirit are still being carried out through those who preach the good news of a salvation for both body and spirit! Be blessed and healed as you read!



# TRUTH

FOR OUR  
TURBULENT TIMES

NEVER BEFORE HAS  
IT BEEN MORE  
IMPORTANT TO  
KNOW WHAT YOU  
BELIEVE AND WHY.



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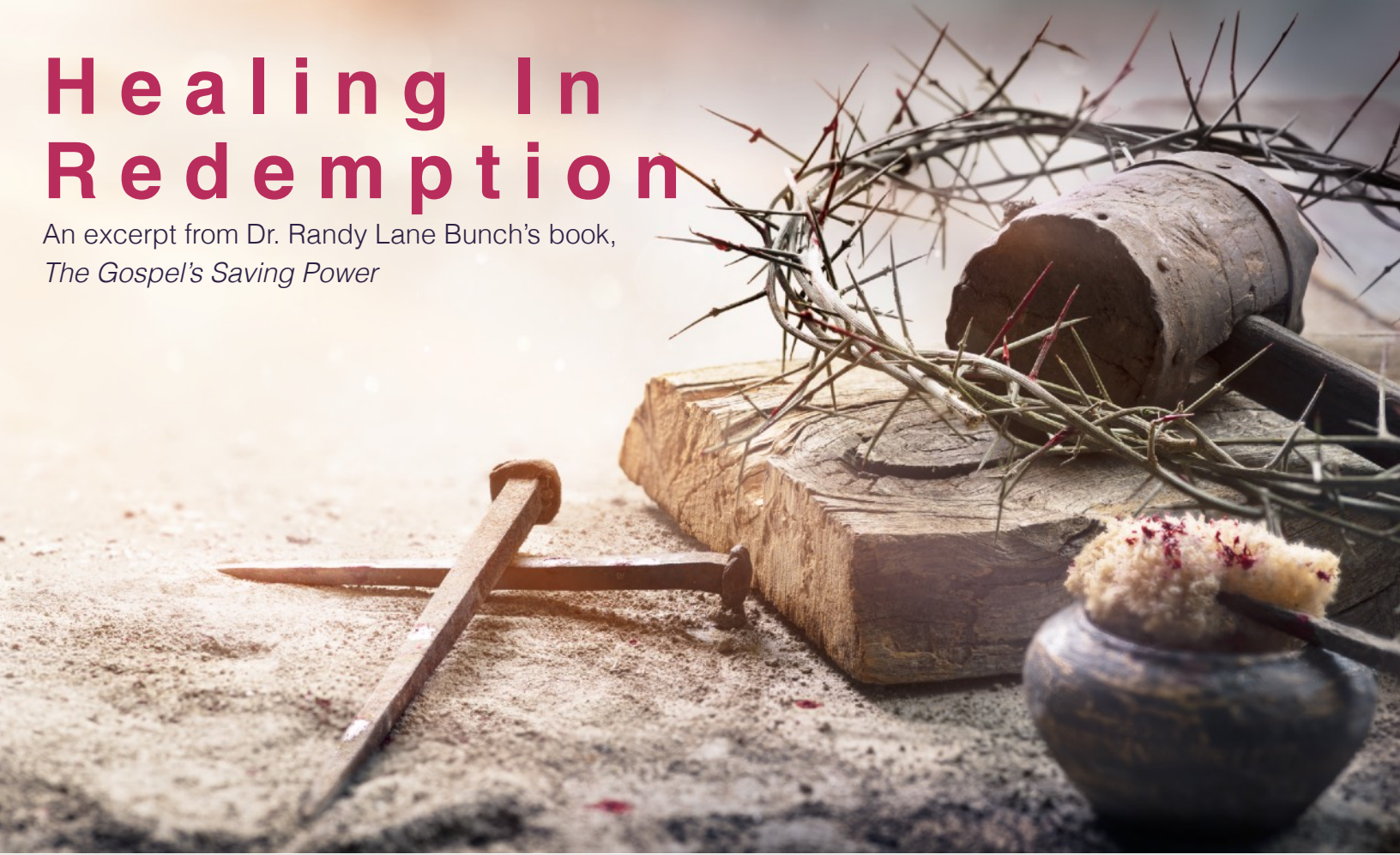
World Ministry Fellowship is a cooperative fellowship of Christian ministers and churches that provides its members community and fellowship, credentials and oversight, as well as professional development and empowerment.

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# Healing In Redemption

An excerpt from Dr. Randy Lane Bunch's book,  
*The Gospel's Saving Power*



**W**ho has believed our report?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,  
And as a root out of dry ground.  
He has no form or comeliness;  
And when we see Him,  
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.  
He is despised and rejected by men,  
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.  
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.  
Surely He has borne our griefs  
And carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:1-5

While we will primarily look at verses 4 and 5 of this chapter, it is too beautiful a passage not to look at more of these verses which tell the greatest love story ever told, of a guiltless Savior who would take our guilt upon Himself and become the object of God's wrath that we might be declared righteous in God's sight. This passage, particularly verses 4 and 5, reveal the comprehensive salvation that God made available to us in Christ's redemptive work. Most often, when talking about healing, people will point to Isaiah 53:5.

But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Here again, we see a full salvation for the total man. There is forgiveness of our sins to provide salvation by grace, peace for our soul (which answers the needs of our mind and emotions), and healing for our physical bodies – a complete salvation! In his own epistle, Peter refers to this passage when writing about Christ's vicarious death on the cross.

“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)

However, I believe that it is verse 4 that gives us a more complete message on the subject of healing in the atonement. The

key is seeing it in the original Hebrew rather than in our English translations, as they do not tell the full tale.

Surely He has borne our griefs  
And carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten by God, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4)

At first glance, this might not seem to be a message on healing in the atonement except perhaps in the most indirect way. Sickness *does* bring grief and sorrow, but that by itself would be slim scriptural evidence to establish healing in the atonement.

However, the Hebrew words translated “griefs” and “sorrows” are *kholee* and *makob* and should be translated “sickness” and “pains.” Here are some places in the Old Testament where they are translated as such.

And the Lord will take away from you all sickness (*kholee*), and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you. (Deuteronomy 7:15)

Also every sickness (*kholee*) and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the Lord bring upon you until you are destroyed. (Deuteronomy 28:61)

This is the writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness (*kholee*)... (Isaiah 38:9)

Man is also chastened with pain (*makob*) on his bed, And with strong pain in many of his bones... (Job 33:19)

Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed. Wail for her! Take balm for her pain (*makob*); Perhaps she may be healed. (Jeremiah 51:8)

These examples show clearly enough that these same words, translated “griefs” and “sorrows” in Isaiah 53:4, should have been translated “sickness” and “pains.” Many of the literal translations by some of our greatest Hebrew scholars have translated these words to reflect this idea.

Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, And our pains—he hath carried them, And we—we have esteemed him plagued, Smitten of God, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4, Young’s Literal Translation)

But only our disease did he bear himself, and our pains he carried... (Isaiah 53:4, Leeser’s Translation)

Surely our sicknesses he carried, and as for our pains he bare the burden of them... (Isaiah 53:4, Rotherham Emphasized Translation)

While this scholarship is valuable in helping to confirm the true meaning of these Hebrew words, *kholee* and *makob*, we have an even stronger proof of their meaning. Matthew, writing years later about the healing ministry of Jesus, and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, quotes Isaiah 53:4 and leaves no question as to the meaning of these words and this verse.

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might

be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.” (Matthew 8:16-17)

No one disputes the fact that Matthew is quoting here from Isaiah 53:4, as any center column reference in any reference edition Bible will confirm. But what’s most important is that Matthew’s use of Isaiah 53:4 leaves no question that the context of the verse is Christ’s bearing of our sicknesses and pains on the cross. Matthew’s use of this verse during Christ’s earthly healing ministry is simply showing that these healings came on the basis of the redemption Christ would provide through His death on the cross. Whether these benefits were administered before or after Jesus actually died is not an issue, since in the mind of God, Christ was “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 5:8).

Again, healing is part and parcel of the redemption. Christ’s bearing of our sicknesses was not some separate act from His dying for our sins. Sickness and disease is a physical result of the spiritual death that Adam introduced into man’s experience through his sin. As some have said, “Sin is the root and sickness is the fruit.” When Jesus died, totally satisfying our debt before God, balancing the scales of divine justice, He released us judicially from the affects of sin physically and spiritually, temporally and eternally.

Another thing to observe in the lines of Isaiah 53:4 are the verbs translated “borne” and “carried.”



“They are the Hebrew words *nasa* and *sabal*, and both carry the meaning of “bearing something as a punishment or chastisement.” These same words, describing Jesus’ bearing of our sicknesses and pains, are also used in this same chapter to describe His bearing of our sins as well.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,  
For He shall bear (*sabal*) their iniquities.  
(Isaiah 53:11)

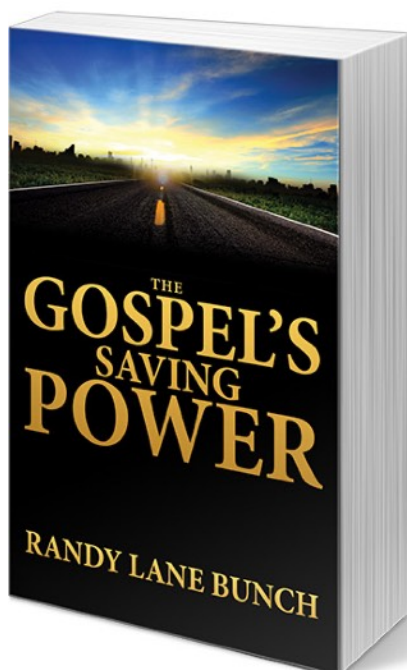
And He was numbered with the transgressors,  
And He bore (*nasa*) the sin of many...  
(Isaiah 53:12)

Again, the use of these verbs to describe both Jesus’ sacrificial bearing of our sins and our sicknesses prove that when He died as our substitute to pay the full penalty for our sins, He provided both forgiveness for our sins and healing for our bodies. As David said in Psalm 103:3, “Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases...” This dual benefit is

often called the “double cure” and is underscored in passages where the twin benefits of forgiveness and healing are seen to go hand in hand, as in James 5:14-16 and others.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.  
(James 5:14-16)

Having seen how Jesus’ death paid the full penalty for sin and released us from its power, it should be easy to see why both forgiveness and healing would come together when faith is exercised toward God. We can preach with great confidence then that the healing of our bodies as well as the forgiveness of our sins, is available through the redemption of Jesus Christ.



## *THE GOSPEL'S SAVING POWER*

This book by Dr. Randy Lane Bunch deals with the comprehensive scope of the salvation that Christ purchased for us through redemption. Pastor Randy shares from both God’s Word and his own personal experience to teach about the life-changing power of God available in the gospel. It is available on [Amazon](#), [Apple iBooks](#), and [Barnes & Noble](#).





# Dying To Live

## Caitlin Hashim

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We are so happy for our good friend, Caitlin Hashim, who has just released her new album, Dying To Live, available now on iTunes, Spotify, Google Music, and Amazon Music.

Get your copy today!

# We Are Available For You!

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Dr. Randy is available to speak at your church or ministry event! Simply contact him at [info@connectingpc.org](mailto:info@connectingpc.org) to arrange an online meeting to discuss the details of your upcoming event or church service.

Whether you are looking for teaching ministry or a dynamic move of the Holy Spirit, Dr. Randy has traveled extensively in his more than 35 years of active ministry, and is excited about the opportunity to minister to your congregation or ministry group. Please allow up to seven days for us to respond to your request!





## THE GREATEST PROPHECY EVER GIVEN

By Debra Gaskill

It seems like two things are happening in the church world right now: First, there are A LOT of prophecies being spoken—like, *really* a lot. Second, people are waiting with great expectation to see the prophetic words come to pass. Hearing a prophetic word is sort of like watching a movie trailer. It's a glimpse of what is coming, but you want the movie to actually hit the theater!

I'm going to share one of the greatest prophecies that has ever been declared. It is recorded in Isaiah 53:4-5. "Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses) And carried our sorrows (pains); Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

There it is, the prophetic word Isaiah declared that gave a glimpse into the redemptive plan for the physical body.

Then...some exciting, jubilant words were recorded in Matthew 8:17, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses." And there is opening night--the FULFILLMENT of what Isaiah prophesied. It is no longer off in the future. It has arrived.

Jesus came. Jesus healed. He healed all. He took away every sickness and every pain. Where did He take them? Far away from the people. Isaiah's prophecy—the spoken words declared under divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit—came to pass exactly as it had been foretold. What took place in Matthew 8:17 is exactly what had been promised in Isaiah 53!

And, wait, it gets better... I Peter 2:24 says, "who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes. YOU WERE HEALED." This beautiful scripture tells us that Isaiah's prophetic word came to pass and we can look back at it, stand on it, declare it, and take ownership of it because it is ours right now for the taking. Healing belongs to us.



When someone says something we agree with, we tell them, “You nailed it!” Well, Jesus nailed a note to the cross saying, “It Is Finished”. He nailed it. He nailed sickness. He nailed disease, He nailed pain. He paid the price for all of them and nailed the note declaring that the great prophecy spoken by Isaiah was fulfilled.

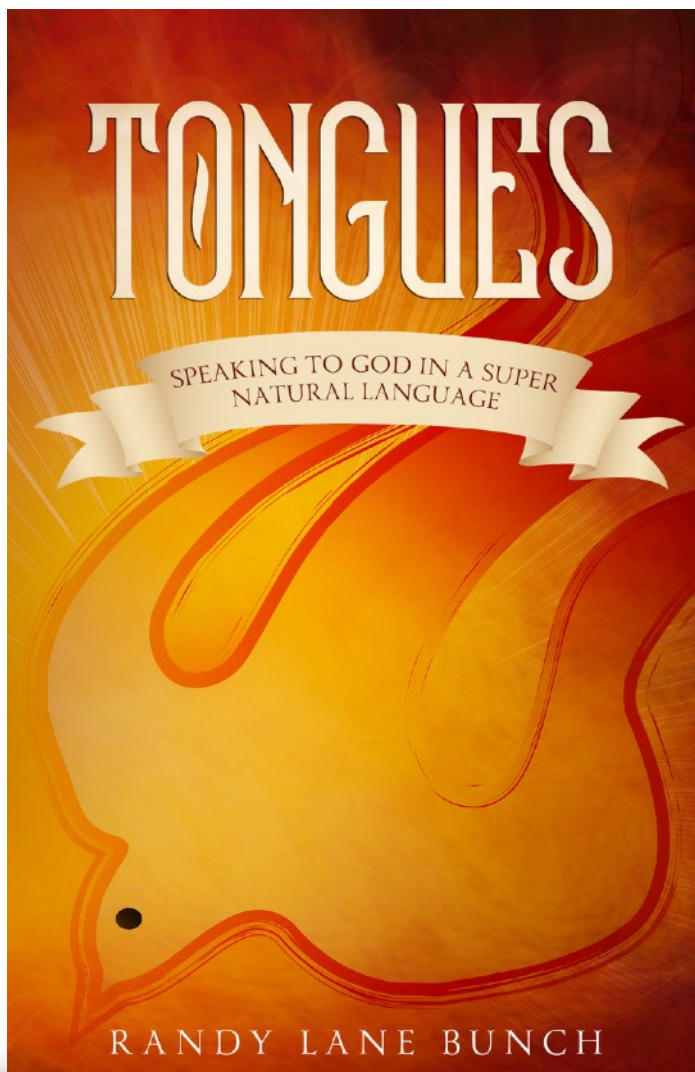
If you are suffering from anything...I mean anything...in your body today, give this prophecy your time and attention. Declare it and make it personal. How? Declare this:

“Jesus, you came, you took the punishment, you received those wounds and paid the price for me to be healed of

all sickness and all pain. I agree with this prophetic word, I believe it was fulfilled by You. I receive healing for my body now. I receive the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. I receive healing. I receive wholeness. I receive your finished work in my body.” Now begin to rejoice that you are mending from this moment.

Thank God for this beautiful, loving, powerful, majestic prophecy that Jesus fulfilled for you. See yourself as a recipient of this divinely inspired word. Take it, it’s yours. He nailed it for you.

Go to [debragaskill.com](http://debragaskill.com) for more from Debra Gaskill.



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### Clear Teaching On A Controversial Subject

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There is perhaps no subject that has suffered more abuse than speaking with other tongues, and yet it holds the promise of great spiritual blessing, both to the individual believer as well as to the body of Christ in general. Sharing from both the Word of God and his own experience, Dr. Randy Lane Bunch helps to shed scriptural light on what has been for many a confusing issue.

If you have had questions on this important Bible subject, this book will help to answer those questions and give much needed insight as to how to have God’s power in your life.

To purchase your copy of *Tongues: Speaking To God In A Supernatural Language*, simply go online to [Amazon](http://Amazon), [Barnes & Noble](http://Barnes & Noble), or [Apple iBooks](http://Apple iBooks). (Paperback available only through Amazon). You can also find links on the website, at [randylanebunch.org](http://randylanebunch.org).



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In addition to ministering internationally in various live online events, Dr. Randy also broadcasts on a number of television stations around the world. You can catch his program, Connecting Point, each Monday at 10 am (PST) on **King Television** out of Pakistan, as well as on **Kingdom Building TV** out of the United States at 3 pm (PST).

We love hearing from our viewers! Let us know how the program has been a blessing to you by emailing us at [info@connectingpc.org](mailto:info@connectingpc.org).



# HEALING TESTIMONIES

Stories of Healing Miracles From Our Years in Media Ministry

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**In our more than 35 years of ministry, we've received many healing testimonies. Some of them have been dramatic, while some have simply been a personal blessing to the recipient. Each, however, testify to God's complete victory over the power of sin and death through the finished work of Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. The stories we share here have one common denominator: they all occurred through our media ministry, demonstrating that the power of the gospel brings salvation to the physical body as well as to the spirit.**

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Good news from far away is like cold water to the thirsty.  
Proverbs 25:25 (NLT)

\*Dear Sir,

I do not know how to address you, as I come from a Hindu family. I heard little about Jesus Christ and never believed much of his miracles.

I used to make fun of people that they were cured by Jesus Christ. I was sick and in bed and I was changing my TV channel. There was not much interesting thing on television and I got annoyed and was changing the channels as mad man, but in few minutes it did not work.

To my surprise, I saw someone (I saw your name and email at the end of the show) was telling about Christ and he can heal anyone. I was stunned as I was having pain on my knees and could not walk for weeks.

But when the prayer was offered to Jesus to heal the sick people, I said, "Jesus, heal me." When you finished the offering of prayer to Jesus I felt a great touch from

someone and I saw a hand took me out of my bed and made me to walk. I thought it was dream. But it is 4th day and I am walking without any pain on my knee.

"I saw your email at the end of the show and I thought of sending my gratitude to you. Now what must (I) do? Is there anyone here that can help me to know what I have to do? I offer prayer that Jesus works through you. I am expecting a reply soon.

Your friend

Ponraj"

...

Dear Respected Sir Randy Bunch,

In God's name, I write to you. I am Mrs. Ganapathy, a home maker. I do not know computer but my daughter Devi knows.

"This is the first letter I ever wrote to anyone. I did not write even to my own family so far because we are raised in a

strict Hindu family. We are not allowed to talk to strangers. We do not look into other men.

You may think, why I write this letter to you. I am writing this for one good reason. My mother had eye problem in her left eye and we spent large money for her hospital expenses. But no doctor was able to cure her. She had lost her sight in the left eye.

My mother likes to watch television and she was changing the channel. She tried to change in to other but the remote was not working and you were speaking. My mother called my daughter (her granddaughter) and asked her what is the preaching about as she was curious to see a white man saying something which caught her attention. My daughter was translating for her with her little knowledge.

“But we got the message. We heard that Jesus can heal the sick. So my mother, my daughter and myself prayed to Jesus to heal her left eye.

It was so marvelous. After you said prayer to Jesus, my mother said she saw Jesus touching her, though she did not have any idea about Jesus. She was healed instantly. Now she has vision in her both eyes and she quit watching other TV programs and likes to watch yours every time.

We all thank you, thank Jesus. Do you have any picture of Jesus so we can keep and worship Him? We do not know anything about Jesus and how to offer or say or ask Jesus.

So inform us as what we must do. With

folded hands we give our thanks from our hearts.

Faithfully,

Ganapathy Sivasamy

...

I have been watching Pastor Randy (on) Kingdom TV for the last 2 months and it gave me to increase my faith. I have a brother who has mental problem for 8 years. He was taken to many doctors, but no result. He was like a child and we had to do everything for him like feeding, bathing, dressing, and so on.

When I was watching Pastor Randy's message on healing, I brought my brother near the TV. When he was praying for the sick I also prayed with him and put my hand (on him) and prayed for him. I did not see any change at that time. But the next morning he was sitting quietly and was brushing his teeth. He talked normally after 8 years.

We all shed tears thanking the Lord and Pastor Randy for bringing healing and joy to our family.

Jesus, bless Pastor Randy

Kuppusamy, Punnai Nager.

...

My daughter Jasmine was admitted in the hospital for brain fever. She was suffering with much pain. The doctors gave drips but it seemed she was in great agony.

We used to record your healing messages that come on Kingdom TV. So, we decided





to play your message in the hospital so she and we all can hear and increase our faith to heal her. We brought the TV and VCR and played your message, and we all knelt down and prayed when you started praying for the sick.

As soon as we finished the prayer we saw our daughter opened her eyes and was praising. Not only that 2 other patients in adjacent room also were healed from their illness. Thanks to you and God. God bless you Pastor for your love for the sick people.

James, Neyyoor

...

Dear Pastor Randy,

Trust that you got my earlier email. The Lord is working and we have people calling and letters keep coming.

Just now a lady came and told that she heard you were preaching about a woman

with an issue of blood. This lady had the same problem and she was abandoned by the doctors and she became very, very weak (and) fragile.

Almost she hated to live as she thought she was a burden to her family. When she (she is Hindu) heard that the woman had 12 years of issue of blood problem, she turned the volume high and was listening. After the message when you prayed, she without her knowledge knelt down and (was) shouting to Jesus for her healing.

She said it was so powerful that she felt a touch and immediately she was cured from the problem. She is Hindu and it is not easy for her to testify like this but she did. She wanted me to write this to you...

See you in April. Bless you.

Love,  
Velu

*\*All from our ministry in India in the mid-2000's*

#### \*June 2019 Outreach

Greetings to you, dear pastor. What an awesome time! We had 133 souls get saved and give their hearts to the lord, and a great work of the Lord (in) people receiving miracles. Praise God for all (His) work! One person who was practicing black magic for 18 years (his family was also doing black magic for 4 generations) gave his heart to the lord. There was a one person who had heartbeat problems (it beat too fast), and the Lord healed him, and now his heartbeat became normal. Another person had pain in his kidney and the Lord healed him. They had previously performed a test and the Doctor had said to him he needed an operation, but the Lord healed him. One lady's fingers would not move, and the Lord healed her, and she started moving her fingers! She had had that problem for the last 3 years, but the Lord healed her, praise God!

...

#### July 2019 Outreach

238 souls got saved and 43 healings. There was one lady that got healed from kidney pain, and one person repented from black magic, praise God! One person was unable to walk because of pain in his back from birth, and he got healed.

...

#### August 2019 Outreach

Greetings to your dear brother. We are praying for you and have an awesome report. Many people got healed and many people received miracles. We had 153

people get saved and many people were touched by the message.

Three people repented from black magic, and there was a one lady that got healed from a tumor. There was a one girl who was unable to hear out of one ear and God healed her, and she was able to hear.

There was one man who had backbone pain and he got healed there. One person was having pain in his heart and God healed him. He was not completely healed but 60% percent healed.

...

#### December 2019 Outreach

Greetings to you, dear pastor. What an awesome report! The team reached the village over 3 hours away, and the Lord did a great work in this small village. 61 people gave their hearts to the Lord. One man had been suffering with a tumor in his stomach. The doctor scheduled him for an operation, but when he attend the meeting, the Lord healed him. He went to the hospital for the operation, and the doctor asked him, "How are you doing?" He said, "I am feeling good and have no pain!" They did tests and there was no more tumor, praise God! He has given his heart to the Lord, and other people in his family received Christ as well. 17 people got healed from different kinds of body pain as well, praise God!

...

#### January 2020 Outreach

Greetings to you, dear pastor. What a blessing! 88 people gave their hearts to



the Lord, and there were awesome testimonies! This is the village popular for black magic, and many many people learn and practice black magic there. 3 people who were teachers of black magic repented that night when they heard the Word of the Lord and saw a miracle when one girl who had a tumor on her arm was healed by God. Also, there was a man who was having heat in his feet. He took many, many medications, but was no better. But he attend the meeting and received prayer and got healed. From that day to now he doesn't have any heat, praise God! There were 62 people healed from different kinds of body pains as well. Praise God!

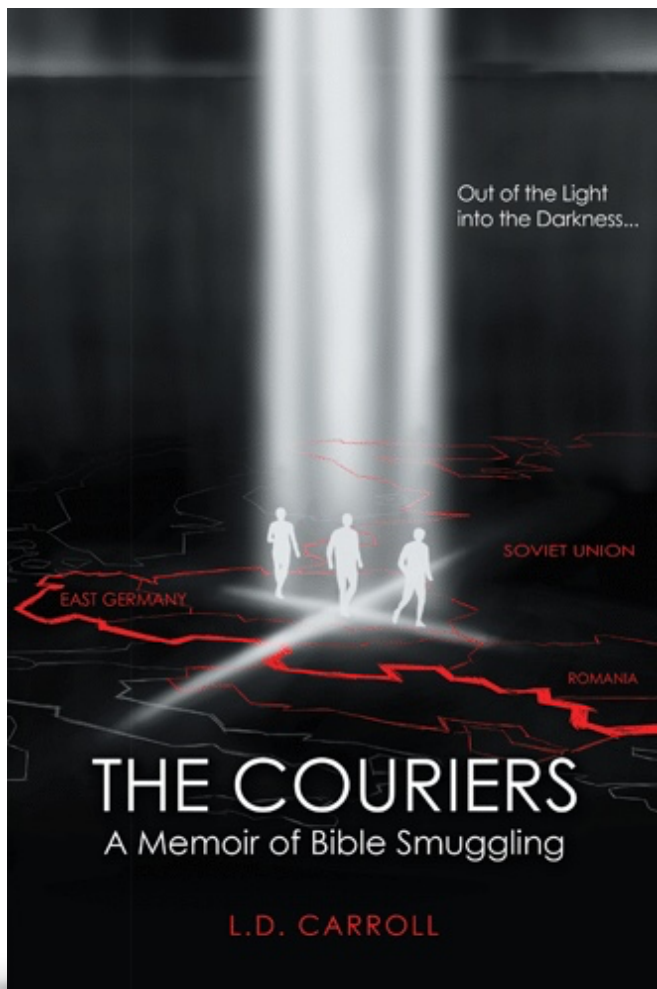
*\*These testimonies came from the Skype Crusades we did in smaller villages outside a major metropolitan city in Pakistan. Over a two year period of time we saw thousands saved and healed of various conditions by the power of God.*

These represent only a small fraction of the testimonies we have received over the years, and they don't include any regarding our broadcast which now reaches into at least 182 nations of the world. We have received a number of powerful testimonies, though we only get a small portion of people who actually call in to share their stories.

Only in heaven will we know the full story of how God is impacting lives through the ministry of Connecting Point Communications and other ministries who are reaching the nations for Christ.

If you would like to partner with us, you can make your tax-deductible contribution by going to [randylanebunch.org/donate](http://randylanebunch.org/donate). Your gift can enable us to continue this ministry and possibly widen the platform the Lord has so graciously given to us! May the Lord richly bless you as you give!





# THE COURIERS

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**A Memoir of Bible Smuggling**

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**by L.D. Carroll**

*The Couriers* is one man's memoirs of his and others' service in a time of Communist oppression against the Christian faith. In this book, Lawrence recounts his experiences taking Bibles and other Christian materials to believers behind the Iron Curtain.

Many today, who did not live during the time of Soviet oppression, are not aware of just how restricted religious freedom was in those nations under Communist rule.

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# The Gospel's Healing Power

Dr. Randy Lane Bunch



FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO **SALVATION** FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE GREEK.

ROMANS 1:16 (NKJV)

“Are you saved?” If you grew up in a church like I did, you might have had this question asked of you, or you might have asked it of others. In fact, if you grew up in our church, you heard it a lot! For us, the main issue was to get people saved and ready for heaven. In fact, it sometimes seemed as though it was the *only* issue. While I’m sure it was discussed more than I remember as a young child growing up in our evangelical church, I don’t remember a lot of discussions or sermons on discipleship, but there were an innumerable number of them that focussed on the issue of salvation, and for us salvation meant pretty much one thing: asking Jesus Christ into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior.

Let me be quick to say that there was nothing wrong with our emphasis on wanting people to receive the new birth (a term we didn’t use nearly as much as our go-to phrase, “getting saved”), but it seems like we might have been a bit myopic and limited on our focus and understanding of salvation. Certainly, God is not willing that any should perish in their sins, and He wants everyone to come into a saving knowledge of Christ (see 2 Peter 3:9), but what exactly does it mean to “get saved,” and how does one do it?

We know that our righteousness is based on faith in the finished work of Christ and not our works (see Ephesians 2:8-9). Hearing the gospel, believing the gospel, and personally appropriating the promise of salvation is explained in various passages in Paul’s epistles and elsewhere throughout the New Testament. Perhaps

the most succinct passage is in Paul’s epistle to the Romans, where Paul says:

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Romans 10:5-13, NKJV).

Again, the New Testament preaches a faith-based righteousness or salvation that comes from putting our trust in Christ who has secured the gift of salvation through His redemptive work on our behalf. If we believe Christ took our place in death, satisfying our debt, we can call upon Him in faith and receive freely the salvation He has provided. Our response to His grace involves a turning from our own self-willed, self sufficiency and wholly relying upon Him as Lord and Savior. This is how we are saved spiritually.



So far so good. Except for perhaps some semantical bantering, most evangelicals are with me so far. However, for many, this is as far as salvation goes. We get born again, and that's it - that is until we get to heaven. Then we receive the rest of our inheritance, which we're pretty sure includes a mansion, paradise, and the presence of God forever. To me, that sounds a lot more like a

great retirement

package than it does the abundant life Jesus came to give us in the here and now (see John 10:10). If spiritual salvation is the only benefit we really get this side of heaven, what do we do with passages like

2 Peter 1:1-4 where we're told that "His divine power has given to us *all things* pertaining to life and godliness...through the knowledge of him...by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises..." What do we do with verses like Psalm 23:5, which is a picture of the one for whom the "Lord is my shepherd," and tells us "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Who ever heard of just one item on a banquet table set for guests? Nor is this a heavenly table, since we're to enjoy this bounty God has provided for us through Christ "in the presence of our enemies." Even a cursory glance at Old Testament Israel and the covenant God made with them clearly demonstrates that their hope was not just to go to heaven when they died.

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**"Even a cursory glance at Old Testament Israel and the covenant God made with them clearly demonstrates that their hope was not just to go to heaven when they died."**

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Evidently, there is more to this salvation than just the hope of an eternal future in God's presence with some really amazing perks. Indeed, there is. We have a hope for both this life as well as the one to come.

In his reference edition Bible, C.I. Scofield gave a definition for the word *salvation*. In his comment on Romans 1:16, which we referenced at the top of this article, he says:

The Hebrew and Greek words for "salvation" imply the ideas of deliverance, safety, preservation, *healing* and soundness: "Salvation" is the great inclusive word of the gospel, gathering into itself all the redemptive acts and

processes: as justification, redemption, grace, propitiation, imputation, forgiveness, sanctification and glorification...<sup>1</sup>

In other words, one could say that this word translated "salvation" (*soteria* in the Greek), includes all the benefits of redemption, which as we can see from this definition, is very comprehensive. Indeed, we have a full salvation afforded us through the redemption of Jesus Christ (see Romans 8:32).

The word "saved" (*sozo* in the Greek) is likewise used much more broadly than sometimes understood. For example, we're very familiar with Romans 10:9-10, which we quoted earlier, which tells us that if we confess Jesus as Lord and believe in our heart God raised him the from dead we'll be saved (*sozo*). However, this same word

is used again and again to refer to physical healing (see Mark 5:34, Mark 10:52, Acts 14:9, and James 4:14-15). For example, when Jesus tells the woman with the issue of blood, “Daughter, your faith has *made you well...*” it’s the Greek word *sozo*. What He literally told her was, “Daughter, your faith has saved you in a physical sense.” In fact, in each of these cases where people experienced the physical “salvation” of healing, they acted in faith and appropriated a covenantal provision already available to them. Let’s look at one of these instances. In Acts 14:5-10, we read about Paul and his traveling companions.

And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. And they were preaching the gospel there. And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked. (Acts 14:5-10, NKJV)

We make the mistake of saying things like, “Oh! Isn’t it wonderful how Paul healed this crippled man!” But in reality, Paul did nothing of the sort. Paul did three things to help this man get healed.

- 1) Paul preached the gospel. What is the gospel? It’s the power of God to save,

deliver and heal! It includes all the “redemptive acts and processes,” as C.I. Scofield tells us.

- 2) Paul saw the man had faith to be healed. Once again, the Greek word used here is *sozo*. Pauls saw the man had faith to be saved in a physical sense. Why? Because he believed what he heard - the gospel! The amazing thing here is that for the man to have faith to be healed (which he did), Paul *had* to be preaching a gospel that included healing!
- 3) Paul assisted the man in acting on what he believed. It’s an amazing reality that the man “had faith to be healed” but was still sitting there crippled. Why? Because faith without action is dead! We have to personally respond to the gospel message to appropriate its benefits.

As soon as the man acted on the gospel, putting “feet to his faith,” he was healed! Over the years, we’ve seen this same scenario repeated time and again.

I once ministered on the subject of healing at a retreat center in New Hampshire. One woman testified to me that she had had tremendous back pain when she came to the meeting, but as she lifted her hands toward heaven in an act of faith, receiving the full salvation God had provided her, a warm tingly feeling hit her uplifted hands, went down her body, and healed her back. Friends, we indeed have a full salvation that includes the “saving” of our body!

<sup>1</sup>C.I. Scofield, D.D., The New Scofield Reference Bible (Oxford University Press, Inc., 1967), page 1211.



# LAST WORD

Dr. Randy Lane Bunch

## HEALING: THE BACKDOOR TO EVANGELISM



But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:5, NKJV)

As one whose ministry is primarily focussed on the teaching of the Word, verses like the one given by the apostle Paul to his young protégée, Timothy, always made me more than a little uneasy. I did not have any discernible gifts or abilities as an evangelist (save for a moment of grace God showed me while ministering at a rescue mission), and I had always felt inadequate when it came to this aspect of ministry. Sure, I saw people saved from time to time, but I never felt that evangelism was a particular strength of mine. I shared my faith like any layperson might, and a few were saved in this way. Where I saw the greatest fruit in my own ministry was in teaching the Word and getting believers established in the truth.

One day, while at a church in northern California where I was scheduled to speak, God spoke a word to my heart about this issue. He said to me, “Healing will be your backdoor to evangelism.” He followed this up with four reasons why this would be so:

- 1) Healing addresses a universal need. We all know people who have been sick or died of illness. As Raymond T. Richie once said, “Healing is God’s dinner bell. When you ring it, people will come running.”
- 2) Healing is a demonstration of the Lord’s compassion. Jesus was moved with compassion and healed the sick. While any miraculous sign might confirm the gospel, healing also demonstrates the love and compassion of Christ.
- 3) Healing is an evidence of cancelled sin. When Jesus forgave the sins of the paralyzed man born on the stretcher in Mark 2:1-11, He demonstrated his power to forgive by healing the crippled man. Because he had the authority to forgive, he could also “commute the sentence of sickness,” which the Jews believed was the result of personal sin.
- 4) Healing is a sign that confirms the gospel. Jesus specified healing as a sign (Mark 16:15-20). Such signs are our heavenly credentials demonstrating our message is from God. Thank God, He is still a healing Jesus today!

# Connecting Point

# Media Resources

From the beginning it has been our vision to provide a resource-rich website and materials that will minister to the needs of God's people. From the "Media" link in the main menu on our site, [randylanebunch.org](http://randylanebunch.org), you can access our podcast, find links to our YouTube channel, as well as read our blog, access our Healing School materials, and much more. The best part? It's all free!



## Connecting Point Communications

Connecting Point Communications is reaching the nations with the good news of Jesus Christ. We would love to include you among those who are helping us to reach the world through our television broadcast, *Connecting Point*, as well as the other resources people are taking advantage of on our website each and every day. Simply go to [randylanebunch.org/donate](http://randylanebunch.org/donate) to make your tax-deductible contribution today!

Remember, Dr. Randy is available to speak at your church or ministry event. To contact him, simply email him at [info@connectinpc.org](mailto:info@connectinpc.org). Please allow at least one week for responses on all requests.

