

House of Praise Church & Hedges and Hi-Ways Outreach



Monthly Newsletter-October 2011

They Call Me "Dr. Doug"

Personal testimonies of where God has brought me from.....

"Physician Heal thyself!" (Luke 4:23).

GREETINGS AND BLESSINGS, MY Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer!!! **WHAT AN HONOR!!!**

A few weeks ago, I **thought** that I was *volunteering* to write this month's newsletter, but God was already ahead of me. Two months ago, He had revealed to Pastor Carmen that I was to write OCTOBER'S NEWSLETTER. (**Amos 3:7**).

Since that time, I've prayed about what the Lord would have me to say. I feel particularly led to share **one of my testimonies**. I'm not really sure where the Lord is going to have me go with it. However, I hope and pray that you may gain some insight, encouragement, or perhaps a few smiles, as you are reading it. Seeing that neither of us knows where this is going, let's just go together, shall we?... ..

Let us begin with the definition of "Doctor". Mr. Webster says that it is: 1) one who is trained in the **"Healing Arts and licensed to Practice"**; 2) one who is **EQUIPPED** for remedying an **"emergency situation"**, 3) to repair, mend, to make others different; and, 4) a person who has "earned" the Highest academic degree awarded by a college/university, in a specified discipline.

Well, according to MAN'S natural qualifications, **"I QUALIFY"**.

I've been a **"Natural" doctor for 28 years** and for most of that time, being a doctor was **more than** JUST A "JOB TITLE" for me. It was a **significant** part of how **I thought of myself**. I don't recall the first time I was called **"Doctor"**, but I know that I liked the sound of it. And, *it felt good!* After a while, I started to **"believe my own press"**. I sensed my head sticking up **"HIGHER"** than usual, my neck a little stiffer than usual, and my chest **"Sticking Out"** a little further, than usual, every time I was called, "Doctor".

I found myself **"Adopting"** an air of **false humility**, I tried to keep **"Pridefulness"** hidden, yet, I held onto the **"inner belief"** that I was a **much better doctor than all of my colleagues** (*except for a very few*). As if I had anything to do with the **gifts** that God gave to me, which enabled me to make a living at being a doctor! I couldn't see myself,

the way that "God" saw me. Well, Proverbs 16:18 did not lie - **"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."**

Listen, every thing is **first natural, then Spiritual**. I have learned that whatever your passion is, that you are attracted to, (in the natural), is probably **"your destiny's assignment", to bring about a spiritual difference, in the world**. Well, *I was a Doctor in the natural, so how hard could it be for me to be a Spiritual Doctor? (Preacher, minister, evangelist, Pastor, teacher, etc.). Little did I know, that before God can use us to bring a spiritual HEALING to anyone else, we must first be Healed ourselves.*

For 20 years or more, I had been able to prescribe, and help patients to be healed. I saw many become "different" right before my eyes, as they were mended and , repaired (**physically**), in the natural. Yet, as a **"Spiritual Doctor"**, **I just did not qualify**. You see, I had not, yet, been **well trained in the Spiritual Arts of Healing**. I had not studied to show myself approved, (in order to be a **licensed workman**), unto God, in the natural or spiritual realm. (2 Timothy 2:15). And, I certainly was not **EQUIPPED** to bring about **Spiritual REMEDIES in "Emergency Situations"**. *I was not even able to help my own self, because I could not SEE MYSELF. The "I" in the middle of "p-r- I -d-e" stood, too tall. How easy it is to become INTOXICATED by the praises of men. Addicted to patients' appreciative and flattering words! (Ephesians 5:6).*

Sometimes, it may take a **"Few" trips** to the **"PIG PEN"**, before we learn that we really were **NOT READY** to receive **"Our Inheritance"**, when we first **demand**ed that our Father give it to us. After the prodigal son returned home to his Father, He said, **"Father, I am not even fit to be your son, just MAKE ME YOUR SERVANT"!!** (Luke 15:19). Too many "spiritual doctors" jump up and run, before time, and they do not have the anointing, characteristics, training, teaching, expertise, love or skills to administer or prescribe needed remedies, to a lost, hurting and dying world. Healing is not just for the physical body. We need to be **equipped**, by God **HIMSELF**, with all of the **"HELP"** that the world needs. (spiritually, mentally, emotionally, financially, sexually and socially).

You see, I got saved 23 years ago. I sang in **numerous choirs and praise teams** at a large Baptist church, in one of the most prominent and affluent communities, for 9 years. I attended Sunday school fairly regularly. Yet, I didn't really know **"squat"** (absolutely nothing), about God's Word or His character. *I knew nothing about "how to pray" or "why to even bother to pray"!* **Most definitely, I did not know that I could have an "intimate (personal), relationship" with God**. That is, until the Lord sent me a **new patient** by the name of: [AKA - Pastor Carmen], in late November of 1998.

My (**now, ex- wife**) and I filed bankruptcy, only to have it dismissed about 9 months later. **This was shortly before meeting Pastor Carmen**. Not long after that, my ex-wife informed me that she "no longer" had any **feelings for me**. This was, in actuality, the death "knell" to that marriage, although I didn't understand it at the time. Also, I had no idea, at that time, that Pastor Carmen would become the best (**human**) friend that I've

ever had, *but God did!* You see, He put her in my life right in time! He saw all of this coming and He knew that I would need a “*Godly*” *sounding board, a spiritual counselor, a prayer partner, and a few years later, a Pastor.*

You see, what I **didn’t understand at that time**, *but I do now*, is that Pastor Carmen would “*only*” *say those things*, which **the Lord would have her to speak**. So, even though I didn’t understand the *depth of the walk* that she had with the Lord, I knew that this lady was “**THE REAL DEAL!**” We had some really *good conversations about God* during her *frequent and lengthy* visits to my office.

So, when my life fell apart, at my ex-wife’s pronouncement of, (“I want a divorce”), it was *only natural* that I sought help from this “true woman of God”, which I did for many days, nights, and months. She used to tell me, “**Dr. Doug...God’s really got me wearing you**”. As I’ve come to learn, when God has Pastor Carmen “**wear**” someone, **IT IS NO JOKE!!!** That simply means that God puts a **burden** on her heart *CONCERNING YOU*, and *she does not Stop praying* until she gets a “breakthrough” for you. (**Galatians 6:2**). I thank God for her **willingness** to “**bombard heaven**”, with effectually fervent prayers, which do avail much (**James 5:16**)! If you have ever had her “**wear**” you, then, you know *exactly* what I mean! *PRAISE GOD, PRAYER WORKS!*

I remember a phone conversation that she and I had during that time...it went something like this...“**Pastor Carmen, it seems to me that the most important characteristic that we can possess before God is humility**; and it seems like God will forgive almost anything, as long as we are **genuinely humble**.” *She quietly responded, “That’s true”*. (Hey, Brothers, Have you ever noticed that we sometimes have the best advice, **for ourselves**, already within us?) The problem is that we don’t tend to see ourselves as needing it; it’s always for “someone else”. We give ‘good advice’ and write ‘wonderful’ prescriptions for others, but we **refuse to take our own advice or medicine**. Of course, everyone knows that “**DOCTORS ARE THE WORST PATIENTS, AMEN?** (smile) Moving right along.....

In January of 2001, Pastor Carmen invited me to attend a Saturday night prayer meeting. I was curious and I went. That was my first taste of the “**real Holy Ghost**”, and, I guess you could say that **I got hooked**, because I’ve been coming back ever since! Oh, taste and see, that the Lord is GOOD! (**Psalm 34:8**).

One of the things that the Lord, through Pastor Carmen, would say *every week* was, “**If you’re chosen, you really have no choice**”. And every time, (*though only to myself and not out loud*), I would think, “**Surely, I have a choice!**”. Well, after a couple of months of this, **Mr. Holy Spirit apparently got pretty fed up with my thoughts, because I heard clearly in my spirit, “OK...here’s your choice...you can walk away right now and I remove My hand of blessing from your life!”** I immediately yelled out loud, “**W-o-o-a-h-h...NO Lord, I’m not going anywhere!**” At that point, I noticed that everybody in the room was looking at me as if I had lost my mind. But as far as I was concerned, this was a **no-brainer**. No, *I did not lose my mind; I just “swapped” it for the*

mind of Christ. (Philippians 2:5). HIS mind became MY mind, and HIS will became MY will. You see, if I was going through the sheer hell, (that I was going through, at that time), **with God's hand of blessing** on my life, I surely *did NOT* want to find out what it would be like **without it!** That pretty much got me "locked in" **on this ministry path.** For over 10 years, now, the Lord has been revealing Himself to me more and more. Oh, I will never pretend that every day has been "smooth sailing". I have found out, that when ever WE HAVE a problem, God will never allow anyone to "SPOON FEED" us the ANSWER. He will put someone in our lives that will put us on the correct path, and even give us the right tools that we need. However, we must "Dig" deep, for ourselves. Search the scriptures, (as we pray), believe, receive, confess, and apply the Healing Balm of Gilead, to ourselves. (John 5:39). In other words, "PHYSICIAN" HEAL THYSELF!" Oh, yes, there have been times, too numerous to count, that I've given place to some stupid, demonic spirit, causing me, once again, to grieve Mr. Holy Spirit. Still, I can truly say that **I KNOW God is merciful, because He has been so incredibly merciful to me!!!**

Another *favorite Pastor Carmen saying* was, **"God does not have a problem finding ways to discipline us!"** I guess I had to find out the truth of that statement the hard way, because I surely went through a "boatload of beat-downs", (not literal), during the past decade. Just one example...I was scheduled to go to court for a child support hearing, about 8 or 9 years ago, and I felt strongly in **my spirit** that God was having me to **represent myself.** It would be very accurate and an understatement, to say that I questioned this, even though I was determined to obey God. However, I knew I was in trouble when the first thing out of the judge's mouth was.....

Judge: Mr. Doug, you are a Doctor, right?

Me: (Having a pretty good idea where he was going with this, I answered) "Yes, sir".

Judge: Doctor, you **do know** what they say about lawyers who represent themselves, don't you?

Me: "Yes, sir". (OK - the man just called me something worse than a **fool** right out of the chute, because the phrase he was referring to was, **"The lawyer who represents himself, has a 'fool' for a client"**).

I promise that **I am not exaggerating** when I tell you that it only went downhill from there. When *the man threatened me with jail for contempt of court*, that was all she wrote. **I was done!** I guess I do not need to say, "his ruling was NOT exactly favorable for me!" I imagine that there are probably some of you that can relate to this experience, but here's the **real point...**

Though it took a number of years, a lot of pain, a lot of money, and a lot of getting humbled, I *finally* got to the place where I was thankful for all of it! You see, I had to go through a lot of "FIRES" to get all of the "various types of hell" that was in me, **out of me.** And, even though *this is an ongoing process* (**no, I'm not yet perfected**), and even

though it doesn't feel good to have God *burst your bubble, step on your feet, shine the light of truth on the darkness in you, expose the devil in you* (you get the idea), I've finally come to a place where **I don't resist or despise the chastening of the Lord anymore. I don't justify, I don't argue, I don't get offended, I don't try to accuse someone else, etc.** I just say "**ouch**", *cry* if necessary, *wipe my tears and blow my nose, acknowledge my transgression(s), ask for forgiveness and repent!* I eventually dust myself off and get on with it, determined to get and keep my deliverance, from this newly "exposed" spirit. I sometimes have to remind myself that, it really is a good thing when I get "whipped" by God, because if He didn't, *I wouldn't be His child but rather a bastard (Hebrews 12:5-11).* In fact, though I am still 'smarting' from a "whippin'" from tonight's service (9/14/11), I know that **"if I can take it, I can make it"**. I encourage you, brothers and sisters, if you have not already made this determination in your heart; it is **imperative** that you do so! Stop resisting, hating authority, and allowing PRIDE to stick it's ugly head UP, and just **YIELD** and say **"YES, Lord!"**

In fact, the Lord gave me this insight **just tonight**. Have you ever wondered why Jesus included, **"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."** (**Matthew 5:4**) **in the beatitudes?** Was He ONLY talking about experiencing the mourning process, as we go through the **death** of someone close? I think He was also recognizing in this statement, that when we "get busted" by God, for something that is NOT PLEASING TO Him, that is INSIDE of us, IT HAS GOT TO GO. This could very well be something that we're used to having in us, but, maybe not even recognizing that it's not acceptable in God's sight. Then, when we finally get confronted and chastened by God, **it's painful. Getting PRUNED hurts!** But we **must die to this thing, and get it gone (hopefully) once and for all.** Yet, even in this, God is merciful and gives us comfort; even the **"peaceable fruit of righteousness"** (**Hebrews 12:11**)!!!

So, here's the bottom line...

If we are going to bear fruit for God and make it into His Kingdom, seeing and hearing Him welcome us in with a, **"Well done!"**, we have 2 choices:

1. **Voluntarily** fall on the Rock, allowing Him to **break us** up into pieces.
2. Have the Rock fall on us, **grinding us** into powder.

A lot of people **misquote** this one, saying that, "After the Rock falls on you, you get crushed". Oh, no, no, no...getting ground into powder means that *after* you get crushed, our great God looks, to see if there are still any **"recognizable lumps"** and then HE proceeds to *grind* His big "giant sized foot," (back and forth on you), until He is able to lift up His foot and not make out any recognizable lumps, **with only pure powder remaining.** (**Matthew 21:42-44**). As I told my children many years ago, I don't recommend choice #2. Just go ahead and humble down and go with choice #1. This one I had to learn the hard way. **My suggestion? Become wise and learn from a (former) fool! Go ahead!! Get radical! Be "Bold" and take the "I" out of Pride.**

I learned how to have a "Healing Service" by myself, right in my own home, car, or walking down a trail at midnight. You can do it too, right there in your cell. All you need is Jesus. You and HE are the MAJORITY!

All of these years that I was rebelling, still rooting around in the Pig Pen, God was trying to prepare me to become, NOT JUST A DOCTOR, BUT HIS DOCTOR! His Healer! His practitioner that would bring "EMERGENCY HEALING" TO A HURTING, BROKEN, AND DYING WORLD. God is not finished with any of us yet. He has great PLANS for our futures. (Jeremiah 29:11).

How WONDERFUL is our God, that He will use those of us, who was the "CAUSE OF SOMEONE'S PAIN, YESTERDAY..... TO BE THE CAUSE OF SOMEONE'S HEALING TODAY AND TOMORROW!!!! So, go ahead, "PHYSICIANS", heal your own selves!!!!!!

I hope that you have enjoyed this little sojourn into my past, and I pray that you too will share with us (Hedges & HiWays) and others around you, testimonies of God's goodness and mercy, demonstrated in your life. May we all strive 24-7 to hear Him say, "Well done my good and faithful servant..."!!!! (Matthew 25:21)

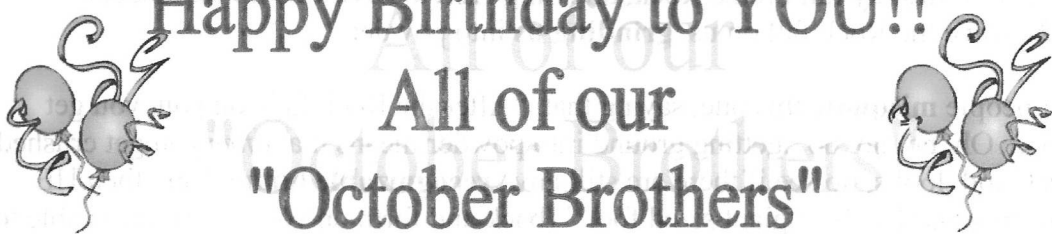
The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

***In Christ Jesus,
Dr. Doug***

Happy Birthday to YOU!!
All of our
"October Brothers"



WE LOVE YOU!!!