

## **Guidelines**

for a

### **School of Healing**

with

**JF Ministries**

#### **Introduction**

These brief guidelines are designed to assist those preparing a School of Healing at which John Fergusson or others from JF Ministries will speak. They are not definitive rules but intended as suggestions, based on our experience from previous Schools.

It is our view that God has commanded every Christian to heal the sick. We have been given this privilege and responsibility, but very often we are not exercising them either in our meetings or in our everyday lives. We believe that this is largely because most Christians don't realise they can or should be healing the sick. Many don't think God can use them, and if they do, they are afraid nothing will happen, or don't know how to get started! Some have tried but have had some bad experiences, or been criticised for 'getting people's hopes up'!

We have trained tens of thousands of 'ordinary' believers, and know that God uses everyone who is willing to be used. We see many people healed during the Schools, by God's grace. Some of the greatest miracles have taken place on the streets under the hands of total 'beginners'. Cripples have walked, the blind received their sight, the deaf their hearing, drunks have been sobered and brought to Christ. Many delegates have been healed too! God uses the experienced and inexperienced, older people and children, men and women equally.

The School of Healing is not a theological or theoretical study for the education of students or teachers. It is a practical, hands-on series of seminars *for every Christian believer* regardless of denomination, qualification or spiritual maturity, designed to teach the 'ordinary' Christian how to heal the sick. During the School there will be opportunities for practice, both with other delegates, and if possible by going out to visit sick people and minister healing to them.

The School is very flexible. It can be held over one evening, or can take up to three or even four full mornings. Most Schools run for three mornings of two sessions each morning, giving six sessions. The final session is usually set aside for outreach, that is the delegates visit the streets, hospitals, relatives, or anywhere the sick may be found. Normally they will then return to give testimony of what the Lord has done.

#### **Invitation**

We respond to invitation, and are happy to work with a single church or house group, but obviously prefer to hold larger Schools with a group of churches working in unity (see Psalm 133), as there will be greater blessing there! If we minister at house groups, we ask for the invitation to come from or be ratified by the pastor of the church to which the group belongs, as we want to work under authority.

In most countries, we don't know the local culture, laws, language or customs. We come as servants to the local church. As a consequence, we prefer to understand that the event is not actually a JF Ministries event, i.e. we are not the hosts, but the invited speakers. With this understanding, the hosts are the local team who invite us to come.

#### **Promotion**

JFM have prepared a DVD / video for promotion, which can be shown at pastors meetings or copied and sent to pastors and leaders of those churches that might wish to be involved. Feel free to ask for copies of this in either DVD or VHS video format. It is in English language, and runs for about 5 minutes.

A brochure can be printed and circulated which is a very effective means of publicity. Depending on the local culture, this needs to be done from several weeks to months before the event if possible. If registration is being required, the brochure can have a registration form attached.

We do not usually recommend publicity that will go to the general public as our target audience is Christian believers. However, church newsletters, Christian radio, and other means that reach Christians are valuable. But far the best way is to encourage and involve the pastors themselves, as their enthusiasm will cause them to urge their congregations to attend.

## **Venue**

The Schools are normally held in churches, as the facilities required will be there, and if the host church is generous enough to offer their facility, it is usually cheaper than renting a hall. But the School can be held in homes or even the open air.

## **Committee**

Depending on the size of the event, it may be necessary to form a committee to coordinate the event. Some of the details that will need to be planned for include venue, publicity, registration, worship, hospitality, transport, toilets, ushering, sound and lighting, and finance. In a large School, one committee member might take responsibility for each of these areas. Those familiar with organising Christian events will understand the usual requirements. We therefore will focus more on those items that are of particular importance to the School.

## **School of Healing Manual**

The Schools use a Manual, a copy of which is given to each delegate. While it is not essential, it is a very helpful tool. Where necessary, we can arrange to translate and print the Manual into the local language. JFM is usually able to cover the cost of this. Currently Manuals are available in English, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Telegu & Kinyawanda, Nepali & Pakistani Urdu.

## **Registration**

Whether delegates are registered or not is left to the discretion of the organisers. However, it is of greater value to the delegates if they are able to attend the whole School and not just one or two sessions. While we would not want to make full attendance compulsory, registration with an accompanying fee does help to motivate delegates to attend the whole event, and also raises valuable revenue for the event.

## **Hospitality & Transport**

In a few countries it is expected that the host organisation covers the cost of delegates' meals, travel and accommodation. JF Ministries doesn't wish to ignore culture, but we have a limited budget, and wish to train the maximum number of people with the funds that we have. If our budget is consumed by giving delegates nice meals, it means that we may have to hold fewer Schools of Healing! Therefore our general principle is that we prefer not to be asked to cover the costs of meals, travel and accommodation of delegates except in exceptional circumstances, or where pre-arranged with the organisers. It is therefore suggested that where these costs are inevitable, a suitable registration fee is set, or a sponsor found to cover these costs. For more details, see under Finance.

## **Worship**

Worship is always a good way to begin any Christian event, and we encourage perhaps half an hour of worship at the beginning of each day. The style and songs are the choice of the local team, and we have no preferences. It is good to have the worship team as delegates so that they are available throughout the School.

## **Sound system**

It is vital that every delegate can hear the message! Most church sound systems are adequate for speaking. However, our experience is that most church sound systems are poorly adjusted! Many are either turned up too loud, or have the base and treble too high. The speaking voice uses mid-tone range, and this area should therefore be emphasized.

Loudspeakers are usually best placed as high as possible, well above the level of the congregation.

As we do a lot of practical demonstrating as well as walking throughout the congregation to take testimonies, we prefer a hand-held radio microphone, or high quality lapel microphone. If cable microphones are the only option, please make sure the cable is long enough to reach the back of the audience.

It is good to record the event on tape, CD or video if possible, as it can be used to train others. The local team are welcome to do this, and JF Ministries hold no copyrights on such material, though do ask for a complete set of copies.

## Venue preparation

It is welcoming if the venue is prepared nicely, and adds to the value of the event in the eyes of the delegates. Simple but effective decorations include a banner outside the event, one inside over the platform, and Scripture banners around the walls. Scriptures may be taken from the last pages of the Manual.

## Visiting the sick

During the final day, we usually recommend that delegates visit the sick for ministry. We usually send them out two by two, and they may visit hospitals or clinics, relatives or friends, streets or shopping malls, or wherever the sick may be found. If any of these might be sensitive places, it is good if the organisers can ask permission ahead of time to avoid embarrassment or difficulties. We also ask the delegates to use wisdom and respect – once we heard of teams of male delegates entering a labour ward!

## Translators

The JFM team only speak in English and will need good translators. If the School is running for 6 or more sessions, two translators will be a minimum requirement. John Fergusson's ministry is dynamic, and we love to work with translators who are willing to move around!

## Team Accommodation

John Fergusson is well travelled, and content to accept whatever accommodation is provided. He doesn't need the best hotel, and is happy to stay with a family if need be. If the local organisers are booking a hotel for him, please choose one that is clean, the staff speak some English if possible, and the facilities are in good working order. A working internet connection is a blessing if available!

## Programme

Times and days of the week are fully flexible, and can be designed to fit in with whatever suits the local situation. The following examples are just an illustration and not intended to be strict schedules. Some suggested programmes are:

### Two evening event

#### Day 1

7.00 – 7.30	Worship
7.30 – 8.30	Session 1
8.30 – 9.00	Practical Ministry
9.00 – 10.00	Session 2

#### Day 2

7.00 – 7.30	Worship
7.30 – 8.30	Session 1
8.30 – 9.00	Session 2
9.00 – 10.00	Practical Ministry

### Three day event

#### Day 1 & 2

9.00 – 9.30	Worship
9.30 – 11.00	Session 1
11.00 – 11.30	Break
11.30 – 1.00	Session 2

#### Day 3

9.00 – 9.30	Worship
9.30 – 10.30	Session 1
10.30 – 12.30	Practical Ministry
12.30 – 1.00	Closing session

## **Finance**

JFM is a small organisation with limited resources. However, in circumstances where the host team is unable to cover the costs of the event, JFM is willing to contribute towards the costs.

Firstly, we can usually offer to cover the costs of translating and printing a small run (say, 1,000) of the School of Healing Manual. This will often be in the order of US\$500 – US\$800 in total.

Secondly, most Schools of up to a few hundred delegates will cost from around US\$500 to US\$1,500, and we may be able to offer up to 50% - 80% of the overall cost. The balance can be raised through delegate registration, taking offerings during the meetings, contribution from local churches and private donations. It is our experience that where the local organisers are willing to make a financial commitment towards the event, they receive a greater blessing. This is another reason that JFM prefers not to host the event, but ask that it be the responsibility of the local team. See also under **Hospitality & Transport**.

Finally, we are willing to cover the costs of our own accommodation and travel expenses.

Obviously, any of the above expenses that can be covered locally releases our own funds to hold further Schools of Healing elsewhere, so many others will be blessed also!

JFM  
Auckland  
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