



"Sent to Heal is an indispensable reference text combining a blend of information and teaching that is comprehensive and enlightening."

— Rev. Jim Holbeck
St. Andrew's Healing Ministry
Sydney

"Sent to Heal is a very valuable gift to the Order of St. Luke in North America but also a valuable resource for anyone wanting to respond to Jesus' mandate 'to heal the sick.'"

— Ven. Lawrence W. Mitchell
North American Director
Order of St. Luke

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Who stole the healing ministry of the church?

There was a time, not so long ago, when many churches held healing services in addition to, or as part of, regular Sunday services. Now it seems that over the past decade or so this ministry of the church has virtually disappeared. Or at the very least it has become the preserve of some Pentecostal churches with their particular understanding of what it involves.

The loss of the healing ministry from other traditions means not only the loss of an important corporate activity of God's people, in offering prayer for physical, emotional and spiritual healing but also the loss of a constant, public reminder to Christians and the wider community of the fact that there are dimensions of life which lie outside human control.

One wonders about the reasons behind the loss of this ministry. Does it indicate anything about the confidence of those engaged in public ministry? Is it a more general indicator of a loss of spiritual vitality? Or is it perhaps a concession to the common notion that only that which can be achieved scientifically or technologically and with measurable outcomes is of any real value?

With this in mind it is good to be able to commend the book *Sent to Heal: a handbook on Christian healing* written by Uniting Church minister Harold Taylor. In the interests of openness I declare that he is a friend and former colleague in theological education but that in no way alters the fact that this is one of the most comprehensive and theologically and pastorally helpful books that one could wish for.

The fact that the author has been active in the healing ministry for a long time and was formerly Warden of the healing ministry known as the Order of St Luke enhances the value of the book.

This is a book which deals with health and healing in the broadest possible context. It deals with both good health and with suffering; it covers issues related to both prayer and science; and it looks at personal and social dimensions of healing. It is a balanced book which is both biblical and pastoral in approach.

It is also a substantial book in both size (436 pages) and content. It is suitable for use as a text book as well as for individual use and group study and contains many case-studies and discussion questions. It was first published in Australia but its value has been recognised overseas and it has been revised and re-published (2007) by Speedwell Press in the USA where it has already undergone its third printing. It would be great to see comparable interest in this important ministry here. It is available locally from the **Order of St Luke (Unit 112, 100 Harold St Wantina, 3152, Ph. 98375097).**

This review by Brian Edgar first appeared in ACCCatalyst (Australia - March 2008).

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SENT TO HEAL
A Handbook on Christian Healing

HAROLD TAYLOR



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In a world full of illness, brokenness, disease, suffering, death, and despair, the church offers the good news of Christ the Healer.

Yet the subject of Christian healing engenders a world of responses—everything from enthusiastic support to complete rejection and skepticism. Healing ministry calls for hope, faith, compassionate caring, and joyful service; but must also deal with confusion, doubt, disappointment, and unanswered questions. Through a sea of interpretations and methods, *Sent to Heal* steers a course which is biblical and balanced. Designed as a core textbook for members of the International Order of St. Luke, *Sent to Heal* is a course of study for any Christian caregiver who is interested in the healing vocation of the church.

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About the author



THE REV. DR. HAROLD TAYLOR is a retired Uniting Church minister in Melbourne, Australia. After training for the Methodist ministry in the early 1950s, Harold served in two Methodist parishes. In 1960, the family moved to Papua New Guinea, and were involved in cross-cultural ministries for 16 years. From 1977 to 1996, Harold Taylor served as a staff member of the Bible College of Victoria, teaching and writing in the areas of missiology and pastoral care and counseling, and serving as Development and Education officer with the Order of St. Luke in Australia. In retirement Harold has focused on new ways of sharing the gospel with spiritual seekers and others who are attracted to various expressions of spirituality but who do not recognize or confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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