

THE MINISTRY OF
HEALING HEARTS, REGINA
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NOVEMBER 20, 2006
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY 1
INSTRUCTOR:
BLAIR ROBERTS

Summary of Ministry Interviewed

The services of Healing Hearts Ministry in Regina include Sunday morning worship service, weekly meetings consisting of Men's, Women's, and Children's small groups. There are many opportunities to serve the church as a member. Each one's gifts are recognized and are invaluable to the building up of the church. There are special small groups serving the needs of the abused, and otherwise hurting folk. An outgoing leadership connects the church to many other missions organizations, schools and churches, all of which encourage the Healing Hearts Ministry in its undying commitment to people. A unique service provided to church attendees is a coffee table at the back, to which one can go at any time for refills. The frankness with which the service is conducted is inviting in a world of people that so want to hide from embarrassment behind masks of various sorts. Real healing and real problems are addressed right in the service, in a sharing time that can be too intense for any dabblers in religion.

The percentage of race in the congregation is about 50% Caucasian and 50% First Nations. A large number of children in the church would provide an adult to child ratio of nearly the same percentage as the statistic above. Each and every one is viewed as having unbelievable worth, being created in the image of God, and is ministered to with this in mind. Hearts are brought to the healing touch of Jesus, and growth takes place as this Christ-centered ministry and church community serves the Lord.

Evaluation of Ministry Interviewed

Regina is blessed by the ministry of Healing Hearts, a church whose focus, goal, and mission statement is “bringing the healing touch of Jesus to wounded hearts.”¹ They are a group that excels in honesty and transparency, providing the much needed service of love in understanding people whose hearts have been broken by various forms of addiction, abuse, etc. The hurting people for whom the Healing Hearts ministry exists could be a much larger group, if more individuals were willing to admit to their hurt and seek true healing that only comes by the touch of Jesus. As it is, H.H. church ministers to the needs of all kinds of people, many of whom are from the North Central community in Regina.

The structure of the leadership follows a “modified elders model.”¹ Each of the pastors, or ministers, has equal authority, and is accountable to the others. If one has an idea for ministry, he carries it through with the others’ support. The high-involvement of the congregation serves to set this church apart. Pastor Walter said that by the third Sunday of an individual’s attendance, he usually asks that person what his or her involvement in the church is going to be. How one uses one’s gifts is essential to the whole church body; and the pastoral staff yearns to see faithful servants, freed from bondage to brokenness, administering God’s gracious gifts in their various forms.

The practical nature of the ministry is centered on healing. Counseling, teaching life-skills, supporting the fight against addictions, and working on community integration for those who have come out of prison are all services provided to believers and non-

believers alike. The value of Healing Hearts Ministry is affirmed by the Regina Police, and by the whole community by being named “the church for North-Central.”¹ With the high level of directness, it is easy for the church to confront troublemakers, and manipulators. There are those whose felt needs could go on being met forever without their real needs ever being addressed. The difficulty of teaching life-skills is complicated by the fact that a lot of folks don’t own their own houses, and have a low sense of responsibility, so the teaching can truly be from ground zero. The conviction that every individual “is created in God’s image and has unbelievable worth,”¹ drives the empowerment ministry that is founded on the belief that change is possible in people’s lives, and that with motivation and direction, basic principles can be applied to form faithful servants, ministering in various capacities.

A simple, one word answer that wasn’t “Jesus” issued from the mouth of one interviewee when asked what was most effective in his ministry. Prayer. The converse proved true that the lack of prayer brought what was least effective. The commitment to God through prayer glorifies the One who is really doing the work of healing hearts. The longevity of ministry is essential in both interviewees’ experience. Years of commitment and labour bring years of fruit, and countless blessings from God. The ministry excels in flexibility by which it survives, and the Holy Spirit is evident in the lives of those in the ministry, whether they sit in the congregation, or bear the “pastor” label.

¹ All quotations are taken from interview with ministers Walter Selke and Spurgeon Root, November 19, 2006.