

little church

Big God

Part 1

Testimony from The Way Christian Fellowship

This booklet has been produced to record some of the amazing things God has been doing in Hunstanton. To Him we give all the glory.

If you are interested in finding out more, The Way Christian Fellowship meets at 11.00am on Sundays in Downs Close, Hunstanton – near The Police Station – in the former Magistrates Court.

Alternatively you might want to drop into The Mustard Seed on St Edmunds Terrace (beside the theatre).

Zac

An accident on an industrial construction site in 1979 had left Zac with damage to his sacro-iliac joints – where the spine and pelvis join. Sometimes they were OK, sometimes less so.

Sometimes he'd go years without medication, but other times he'd be on the maximum permitted levels of anti-inflammatories just to keep going. There did not seem any particular reason why it was bad or good.

In 2004, he got involved in the construction of the Mustard Seed. Since then there were few days when he was not on medication. Most days he'd not be able to go for more than a short stroll without pain and cramp in his legs, and be forced to just sit it out.

When we had the Argentinian pastors here Zac received prayer, and was healed – he thought. He was walking round putting the palms of his hands to the floor by way of demonstration of his healing. The next day he could hardly move again!

Many people prayed over the years for Zac's back. After further prayer we became convinced that the problem was an affliction, not an infirmity; that is it was something sent from outside to cause the problem, not just a failure to heal from the original injury.

Then one day watching Christian TV his wife heard mention of spirits of affliction. Putting two and two together, she prayed next morning for 'the spirit of affliction that was stopping the original injury from healing to be gone in the name of Jesus' and guess what! He's healed.

27 years he'd lived with that problem, but by the power of Jesus' name he has been healed. Praise God.

little church - About The Way Christian Fellowship

No one set out to start a church; in fact none of us had considered it. In February 1990, God brought together five families over the space of six weeks: it was a real surprise to us all. We started meeting in each others' homes, but soon decided that we needed a regular meeting place, so people could find the meeting. We started using 6 Wodehouse Road in Old Hunstanton, simply because it had the largest single room among our homes. Numbers varied, some came, others left. God brought people, and he took them away. In 1997 we started to use the Youth and Community Centre on Sandringham Road. Then in 1999 we bought the former Magistrates' Court in Downs Close, and converted that to a meeting place.

Throughout all these moves God was doing some amazing things among us.

God, like Jesus, is in the healing business and most of this booklet is merely a series of reports of what he has done among us.

Big God

In the bible we read in Psalm 8 verses 3 & 4:-

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

The psalmist says that God placed the stars in the sky with his fingers. What a big God!

It also says that He *cares* for each individual person. He knows every detail of our lives. It says He even knows the number of hairs on each of our heads. So we have a Big God but one who also cares for the finest details of our lives.

About Healing

We are not experts. God is.

As we read the life of Jesus in the gospels, it is obvious that it is his desire to see people healed in body, mind and spirit. Physical healing is just one aspect; he also released people from the effect of their sin, and he set them free from the control of demons. It is obvious from the bible that this should be normal church life today. At The Way we've seen aspects of all these things, but we are continually seeking to see more healings etc.

We do not know why God heals some people but others he doesn't. We do know he loves all people and wants everyone to come into a relationship with him. One factor that is evident in healings is faith; someone has to believe that God heals, before he does it. It can be the person praying or the person receiving prayer, but faith needs to be exercised. Obviously, if you have seen people healed or have already experienced healing, then it is easier to exercise that faith. Sometimes God has given a conviction in our hearts about either a condition that someone has that he wants to heal, or about a person who needs healing that we are unaware of when he gives us the word. This is called a word of knowledge and there are a few of those in the testimonies included in this booklet. Other times someone asks to be prayed with and God heals them.

There are times when God heals people who don't even believe in him or his healing, but He still does it, as if to show the person the reality of Jesus. There are some examples of those in here too.

The one thing all these healings have in common is that they are done in the name of Jesus. And when healing is given by God there is no charge by men. It is a free gift.

In the various accounts that follow many of the names have been changed to protect individuals. But where people specifically wanted to be identified their real names have been used but they are included alphabetically.

Yvonne

Yvonne is another senior member of The Fellowship. She has had eye problems, including cataracts and glaucoma. As we've pointed out elsewhere God doesn't always heal everything.

But when her eye pressures were rising (that is her glaucoma was not in control) she asked for prayer. The pressures immediately went down to normal – though Yvonne was still taking the eye-drops to control them. Then her vision field test started to improve. She had had a thick dark ring in the test all round both eyes indicating serious loss of peripheral vision. Over the months this progressively reduced and now the doctor has taken her of all medication for glaucoma. Her most recent vision field test shows perfect recovery in one eye and near-perfect in the other.

God is good!

William

William was about 75 when he joined The Fellowship in 1992. A former marine and London dock-worker he and his wife had retired to Hunstanton.

He has had a series of medical situations since he passed his 80th birthday. First in 2001 he had a prostate operation that developed complications. As a result the doctors said he would be incapacitated for the rest of his life. But they did not know our God. William was healed and went home without any incapacity.

Then in 2003 they replaced his knee. But the expectation of the doctors was that he'd never walk again. So we prayed! Imagine the cheer when William walked back into The Fellowship a couple of months later.

In 2005, he fell and broke a hip, which required a joint replacement. Again the doctors said he'd never walk again. Again we prayed, and guess what! William is still able to walk around his bungalow, albeit with a frame.

Annie

In 1990 Annie was in her mid-60's. She had glaucoma, and I felt that we were to anoint her with oil (olive oil – it's a biblical practice still used in many churches today as a symbol of God's Spirit), and I presumed that this would be for healing of her glaucoma.

We duly did this in a mid-week prayer meeting.

Annie never had facial neuralgia again! She had suffered from it for a number of years. We cannot second-guess God; He is sovereign, we merely have to obey and see Him work!

Annie now in her 80's lives in Australia with her family.

This was the first healing we saw in The Fellowship.

Barrie

Barrie – that’s me! I was diagnosed in 1993 by my optician to have glaucoma. He tested my eye pressures and then said could I come back tomorrow for more tests. He did a fields test and said I’d significant sight loss over my right eye and some but less over my left eye. He sent me to my doctor because the pressures were so high in the eyes (double the normal values) that it seemed urgent in someone of my age (49 at the time). The doctor confirmed the pressures, and arranged for me to see the hospital specialists on an urgent basis.

The hospital confirmed the pressures and the vision loss in tests on two separate days. So that was five days of tests in three different places all saying “Glaucoma”. There is no cure for glaucoma. The medical profession can give eye-drop treatments that reduce the pressures but the vision loss is permanent because the retina has died where the sight is gone. This is described as central nervous system tissue, and that does not regenerate.

I remembered that my grand-mother being blind so I rang my aunt to ask what her problem had been. She had had glaucoma, and she’d gone blind at the age of 55. So I was saying if it was not treated I’d be blind at 55 too, because glaucoma is an inherited problem.

The day before I was due to go to the hospital to get my first prescription we had an evening prayer meeting. My wife asked for prayer for my eyes, but I stopped it because I knew I had to repent of having accepted this inherited disease. So I prayed to ask God to forgive my lack of faith. I then received the prayer. Nothing dramatic happened. I didn’t feel anything.

I went to the hospital next day and just as a check before giving me my prescription, he checked the pressures again. They were normal! The hospital tests continued regularly for 9 months but I never had any medication. Further the lost vision came back over the next few months and now my visual field tests show complete restoration. My hospital notes include the phrase “healed by prayer”.

Victor

At the age of 2-years old Victor developed hay-fever and asthma. He had it every year to a greater or lesser extent and it interfered with his education losing many summers of tuition.

In April 2003, now aged over 40, with symptoms of hay fever starting, Victor decided to pray for himself. He said that as a Christian he did not need to accept this affliction on his body and commanded it to leave him. Victor had learned that as a Christian his inheritance is from God, and God didn’t want him ill.

He says the only time it has ever come back again was when he told someone about this. Something was said that brought a doubt into his mind. Immediately the symptoms tried to come back, but he rebuked them in Jesus’ name and they went away.

Una

Una suffered serious nerve damage to her foot in late 2001. She was having to walk with a stick for support.

In mid 2004, there was a conference with a number of senior pastors from Argentina organised in Hunstanton Town Hall. Una was in the team of people organising it.

One night there was the opportunity to receive prayer for healing. Una went forward, was prayed for and when the pain left, she knew immediately that her ankle was healed. She got rid of the stick that evening and has not needed one since.

Chris

Chris was a man I met in the street. It was carnival day in Hunstanton and I was walking from our flat down to The Mustard Seed, a coffee shop we run in the centre of the tourist area.

As I walked along there was a man leaning on one of the handrails and looking out to sea. As I approached he turned and said to me “Hello, how are you?” I thought “How do I know you or you know me?” but I managed to say something like “Fine, thanks!” without breaking step because I had some materials to take to the shop.

When I came out of the shop again with some give away materials to pass out to the crowd, I saw he was still there. So I wandered across to him and said “ Do I know you?”. It turned out to be a case of mistaken identity; he thought I was someone else. But anyway it allowed us to get into conversation. He declined my offer of a free cold drink round at the shop. He was waiting there for his wife and family to return. He could hardly move because his back was so painful. That was why he was resting on the railing.

I shared with him how we believed in healing, how God had healed my eyes a few years before in response to a simple prayer. I offered to pray for him there and then. He accepted my offer. I prayed, he thanked me but made no specific comment about feeling anything change.

That was the last I saw of him. He did telephone about three hours later wanting to know what was happening. After I left him, he walked round Hunstanton for two hours, and went home by car, stopping off to get food on the way. He was able to get in and out of the car easily, and was able to bend down to touch the floor that he hadn't been able to so for months.

There is one footnote to this story. I have had back problems similar to Chris's for 25 years. I have been prayed for a numerous times, but I'm still not healed, though God does enable me to do what I have to do.

Debbie

Debbie came to The Way in the early 90's. She had moved house with her husband from the Lake District to Thornham, about 5 miles away. She had come to Wodehouse Road and introduced herself the previous year indicating she was going to come to live in the area, but we'd not heard from her again.

It was about 15 months later, on her first visit to a meeting of the Fellowship that God gave a word of knowledge. Some-one was in the room who had been involved in a serious accident and while their body had been healed they still had a fractured spirit.

Debbie had to leave the meeting before it ended and she whispered to the person sitting beside her to say that the word was for her.

We later found out that in moving to the area they had had a serious road accident, and Debbie was first in hospital, and then at home for months. She was the driver in the family - her husband had never learned - so she was used to driving long distances. Even though her body had been healed, the fear and trauma had not and her spirit was still damaged. It had been all she could do to drive those 5 miles from Thornham to Old Hunstanton.

The following week she drove about 200miles back to Penrith in Cumbria.

Tim

Tim owns a restaurant in one of the villages nearby. Like many young men he doesn't go to the doctor as soon as he should. He had been feeling poorly for a few months. He suspected he had cancer because one of his barmen had just been diagnosed with it.

He was found one morning by his wife, collapsed in their living room. He was rushed to hospital and his wife and mother went along too. He was found to have diabetes, but his liver and kidneys were not functioning properly so the hospital wanted to take him to another ward.

As he was being prepared for the transfer his heart stopped. The monitor he was attached to showed that. The doctors tried a number of times to restart it, without success. They ushered his wife out but his mother, a member of The Fellowship, found she could not move her feet. The senior doctor signalled to his team that they would make two or three more attempts. When his mum saw this she just prayed 'Lord, I can't do anything about this. It's over to you', at which point she says the monitor burst into life again. Tim's heart had restarted.

She said 'It's a miracle!' and the doctors agreed.

This happened in October 2006. Tim is still recovering, but tests have confirmed that he has no permanent nerve damage which was serious concern because his heart was stopped so long.

Sandra

In early 2002 Sandra was found to have high blood pressure and was given a course of medication for six months. In this time she developed a persistent cough. The doctor was concerned enough by this to have her X-rayed at hospital.

It was decided that the cough was a side effect of the medication, so she was given an alternative medicine to see if that would relieve it. It did but she still had some irritation.

It was at this point she asked for prayer. We prayed for God to bring her blood pressure to normal, not for the cough to go, because if the blood pressure was normal she would not need the medication. It was normal immediately and she has not had any further treatment since that time. Her blood pressure is still normal.

Edna

Edna, in her late 70's in 2005, was taken into hospital with an undiagnosed problem, obviously affecting the brain.

On the Sunday, her son was called from The Fellowship meeting to go to her bedside because they expected her to die within hours. The symptoms were such that she was being treated for meningitis. A scan had shown a large amount of fluid round her brain.

However when her son left the meeting we started to pray for Edna. We had two words of knowledge:- "Command the bleeding to stop" and "This will not end in death". Bleeding like that is not associated with meningitis but with a stroke.

So we commanded, and we gave thanks, though we were a bit subdued!

It transpired that she had had a massive stroke. The fluid that had been seen in the scan was blood. Not only did she survive but she has no reduced function in her limbs. She walked with a stick before, and she does now. The doctors said with such a stroke it would normally have left severe impairment or paralysis, and they were calling her a miracle!

Faith

Faith was a young lady who came to us in 2004. She was tormented in her mind, not sleeping properly and having nightmares when she did. A couple of times she'd turn up early in the morning wanting prayer.

God was very gracious with her. With a series of times of prayer and confession she was totally restored to be the happy young lady her family remembered.

We ended up baptising Faith in the sea one September Sunday. She didn't attend another fellowship meeting because she went off that week for a year's training in Christian evangelism with an international Christian organisation called "Youth With a Mission".

We have seen her since and been in contact. She continues to be the restored young lady who left us three years ago.

Rita

Rita's daughter joined the Fellowship for a while in 2002-04. During that time we had a guest dinner one Saturday and she brought all her family to that. They were visiting from Essex.

On the Sunday they all attended the service. God gave a word that there were three conditions that he wanted to heal that day. They all involved pain – chest, lower back and knee. Many people responded for these, but Rita had all three conditions. The following week she was due to have an assessment at hospital ahead of a knee replacement.

But that day her chest, back and knee were all healed and she never had the operation. We still have contact with Rita's daughter and she still has the original joint. Praise God!

We found out subsequently that Rita had been diagnosed with arthritis at the age of 32, and the doctors had forecast she would be needing a wheelchair by the time she was 50. She was 66 when she had visited the Fellowship and the hospital still check her knee every year. At the last check she was told that if they did replace the knee it would be no better than the one she already had!

Mr Q

Mr Q writes:-

I was sent to boarding school in the mid 50's, close to my 11th birthday. For the subsequent 50 years I had problems relating to people. I always felt somewhat isolated from those around me, though I have had a happy marriage of over 35 years and have 3 brilliant children.

However in early 2006 I went to a conference in Toronto, where I heard a Christian evangelist, who is also a chief of the Cree Indian nation, describe the traumas he'd been through having been sent to boarding school, and the amazing healing that had occurred for him a few years before. He'd experienced God's love envelop him. I thought "You're the reason I'm here!" and asked him to pray for me to receive similar healing. As he prayed I had my eyes closed initially. I felt his arms around me. Then I knelt down and his arms were still around me. Then I realised I could hear him across the other side of the room, though I could still feel arms around me. So I glanced round enough to know there was nobody anywhere near me as I knelt there, but the arms were still around me for a good 15 minutes! The arms of God, extending to me the love I'd never experienced as a boy. The damage of 7 years at boarding school was removed in a single hour!

But the second night I got home I felt God showed me that my problems actually stemmed from when I was four and my brother was born. I was taken away to family friends about 100 miles from my home for a month because my mother had no family to help her. When you are only four, that is a long way and a long time! I felt abandoned.

One day, soon after I got home, I went to my mother for a cuddle, but she was busy with my brother and all she said was "Don't be silly!" At that moment I received rejection: so at the age of four I received abandonment and rejection. What God showed me was something like a tear running through my life history from that moment right upto my marriage, affecting all my attempts to build friendships with people. And because by the time of my marriage I expected problems in this area, it had affected relationships even after my marriage too. But that night, God healed the abandonment, isolation and rejection.

Graham's Story

Graham came to The Fellowship in 1998, but his story begins several years before. He writes as follows.

'Picture a young man returned from university after one month due to deep depression and mental illness. Someone who always tried to please everyone had now disappointed everyone especially himself. What started as months of counselling and anti-depressants turned into years and then a decade. No-one could have tried harder to get better but it was beyond his power. Depression turned into despair and self loathing. To punish himself he would exercise hard and not eat enough. His illness had taken a long time coming and he was told it would be a long job to get well. Just as well he didn't know how long.

Much love from his family, who did the best they could to understand, and long term medical help was not shifting the problem, in fact it was getting worse. He had become very introverted, frightened and unhealthily dependant on his parents. Medically it seemed there was little hope and problem management became the plan. Despite everything though the young man had not given up his love for God, and God, it seemed, had not given up on him.

Enter a rescue agent, a young woman with a promise from God and lots of guts. God had given her love for this man who didn't know how to love himself. It was not easy, he had no hope and little love of his own. He found it hard to receive her love but God had put stage one of His escape plan into place. God's love shown through her began to earn a trust that he had found it very hard to give. Tentatively he began to let other people into his life and found he was shown love and care when he expected rejection. Before he had only wanted people to pray from a distance, but now he was willing to receive prayer ministry from people who had proved themselves trustworthy.

Continued ↗

Although he had nothing to offer, no job and no money, the couple took a risk on God's promise and their love. It would be nice to say that after they were married everything was peaches and cream. It wasn't. There were hard times when they cried out to God for mercy, but there was now a shaft of light into that dark place and nothing could keep it out. God had shown the young man an exit to the hole and he started to climb towards it with strength he did not know he had. Love and prayer was pushing out fear, and inner healing was beginning to show on the outside.

Imagine now a couple who are full of life and hope and laughter, who are living for the glory of God. Think of them enjoying good things together with their families and friends, smiling when things go wrong and rejoicing when things go right.

It's like a fairy tale but it is also the truth because God loves to rescue broken people.'

Penny

Penny started coming to The Fellowship in 2002.

In 2006, aged in her mid-60's she asked for prayer for her eyes, which she duly received.

Nine months later she casually said her glaucoma had been healed when we'd prayed for her. We did not recall her mentioning glaucoma previously, but again she was due to go to hospital to be given her prescription for eyes drops, but when she went the doctors checked the pressures only to find them normal.

They have remained normal at each of her subsequent quarterly checks.

Olivia

One night in 2003 Olivia who lives alone fell down a flight of stairs. In the process she dislocated her shoulder and knocked herself out. When she was finally found next morning, she was taken to hospital.

The doctors put the dislocated shoulder back in place, but said it had been so severe and the nerves so stretched that her arm would be effectively useless. At best she could expect to be able to flex her elbow a bit but the hand would be unable to be used again – ever! They arranged a course of physiotherapy for her.

But the doctors don't always know what God says. He said she should come for prayer for healing at every meeting that she attended in the Fellowship. So if she went to the prayer meeting she received prayer for her shoulder. If she came on Sunday she would receive prayer. For a number of weeks running into months, we prayed but the level of recovery seemed little. However one time the physio-therapist noticed there was a small amount more movement.

This increased our faith and we continued to pray. By the end of a year her arm was fully functioning with the exception of her ring and little finger that would not open properly. After a few weeks more of prayer she is left with only a reminder of what happened. Her little finger does not straighten properly. Otherwise she has full ability to use her 'useless arm' and, as if to prove it, she regularly serves in The Mustard Seed!

Hattie

In 2004 Hattie was suffering serious internal pain. The doctor sent her to hospital where an ultrasound scan revealed she had gall stones. The hospital wanted to do further tests (X-ray) to determine the way forward medically.

Between the diagnosis and the second appointment she asked for prayer. As we prayed, the pain left her.

A few days later she went for the more sensitive X-ray examination at the hospital. The doctors could find no trace of gall stones.

Since the prayer she has had no recurrence of the pain.

Isobel

Isobel came to the fellowship in 2000. She is partly-sighted having had a series of failed eye operations. This problem is compounded by her having serious glaucoma.

She was faced with a further eye operation because her eye pressures were too high and were not being controlled by medication. It was at this point that she requested prayer. God touched her eyes the pressures came down, and not she had not had the operation.

There is often a question why God will heal the immediate symptom without giving a complete healing to a part of the body. Why her eyes are not fully restored. Why other people who have had glaucoma healed supernaturally still need to use spectacles. We have no answers to this except to say it is in God's sovereign grace what he does and what he does not do. And we can be grateful when he does anything for us.

Natalie

Natalie had shingles twice in 2006. As many people will testify, shingles can be a very painful illness that can last months.

She first asked for prayer early in the year. It took a week for the pain and rash to go.

Then months later we turned up at her house for a planned meeting and she was suffering again with it in her hair, making it very painful even to comb it. Not only was there rash, but blisters also.

Again we prayed and anointed her with oil. This time it was better next morning, and to prove it she came to the early prayer meeting! God is good!

Mollie

Mollie lives in Hunstanton and normally attends the Union church. However, some of her friends were attending The Way so she came along to “The Alpha Course” with them. This is a course designed as an introduction to Christianity by an Anglican church in London and it has recently been used world-wide. One session deals with healing.

Mollie asked for prayer for her legs. She'd had cancer and the treatment had left the doctors with the question as to whether to amputate them!

So we prayed in Jesus name, God healed her, and today about 15 years later you can still see Mollie walking round Hunstanton.

Incidentally Alpha is a great way to learn about true Christianity in a non-threatening environment. If you like to find out more about Alpha you can ring or drop into the Mustard Seed to ask about it.

We have seen other healings during the course too, like the mum who asked for prayer for her son who'd just been found to be seriously dyslexic. The next week he was re-tested and there was no dyslexia there at all!

Julie

Julie was the wife of a successful business man in the town. Things started to go wrong for her when her husband died suddenly on Boxing Day in the late 80's. She was left as the mother of five children at various stages in their schooling, and her life slowly fell apart.

Depression caused her to be hospitalised. When she came out she was not really able to cope, and she used more alcohol than was wise at that time.

She first came to our awareness when she responded to an advertisement for the Alpha course. But she never actually attended, having gone looking for the building in the wrong street. Finally she did turn up and sat in the back row of the church, saying how peaceful it was. This was before the start of the service when we had about 6 or 8 first and pre-school children letting off steam!

Progressively over about four years she has allowed God to minister to her healing for her damaged emotions, and she has stopped using alcohol as a crutch. Finally God dealt with the shock of her husband's death, ministering His love to her. Now she is a dedicated and active member of the church, and a witness to her family of the love of God.

Katherine

Katherine joined The Fellowship in the late 90's having been a church-goer for all her life. She had even led services in her former church.

One icy Thursday morning in 2002 she fell and broke her forearm. She managed to call a friend who took her to the hospital for treatment. The X-ray showed a clean break but because it was too swollen it could not be plastered then. So they made a splint and strapped it and gave her an appointment for the following Tuesday to have it plastered.

She got a lift to the Sunday service, and during the meeting we prayed for healing for her.

She duly went back for her Tuesday appointment. Before plastering it the doctor wanted to ensure it was in the right place so he had another X-ray done. There was no fracture, not even the tell-tale shadow such as an old fracture gives.

But, just in case he'd missed something, the doctor still insisted on plastering her forearm!

Laura

Laura is a stroke victim. The Fellowship first made contact with her in 2001 when we were visiting homes, and she asked for prayer for her dog. Well, the dog recovered for a while – it was old – but Laura decided to come along to the Fellowship.

She lives life to the full as far as is possible for her. She went to on holiday to Portugal, but had an embolism in her leg. So she ended up in intensive care in a Portuguese hospital, not knowing a word of the language. But she prayed for a man in the next bed in the ITU, who was not expected to make it through the night, and he recovered and was sent home in a few days!

Laura is another glaucoma sufferer. She came for prayer because her pressures were high, and she was going to hospital to have a more severe treatment prescribed. But after prayer, the pressures were normal again, and no further treatment was required. In fact she now has no treatment at all for glaucoma.