

4000 at School of Healing in Chennai, India

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From the beginning it was clear that this would be a definitive event.

My brother Rob Fergusson flew in from Australia to preach at the School. Rob is senior associate pastor to Brian Houston at Hillsong, Sydney, having been principal of their Bible College for many years. This was our first time to minister together since he was instrumental in my own salvation in 1979. It was great to have him with us, and of course his messages both delighted and dovetailed perfectly with my own. God was truly at work!

The healings begin

God has always led me to begin these Schools of Healing with a demonstration. While this may appear contrived, it



achieves two things – it challenges my own faith (a good place to start) and proves God's faithfulness! The first is always scary; the latter always a cause for rejoicing! This was to be no different. We began with a call for all those suffering back pain. About 100 stood and those near them stretched forth healing hands. After five minutes almost one third claimed to be healed, including one older man who testified from the platform that he had suffered for five years. He would play a key role later on!

Next was a word of knowledge for a lady with a cataract. We called her to the stage, and discovered her left eye needed healing. I prayed, and she was sufficiently improved to be able to read, which she couldn't before. Two of our team came to pray – a further improvement. Then I felt the Holy Spirit say, 'You've tried, now let me do it!' So I laid my hand on her forehead, and said, 'Come, Holy Spirit!' She fell and after 5 minutes stood up totally healed! 'I had an operation in my left eye,' she remarked, 'but for my right eye I've been trusting God.' Her faith had made her well.

At the end of the first day the delegates prayed for each other in threes, and many were healed. Faith was rising!

As this School was so large, and as we were short of time, we couldn't send out our delegates into the streets during the morning sessions, as usual. Chennai, with 10 million, is huge. So on the second day they used the evening to heal the sick at home, or wherever they could find them.

Wonderful testimonies

On the final morning, the testimonies poured in! One pair had gone to the local hospital, found a lady waiting for a leg operation. She was totally healed after they prayed, and walked home! And our man healed on the first day was bursting with his story. He had gone to the home of his house-owners – a well-to-do Hindu couple whom he knew were suffering, he from a painful hip, she from bad knees. He explained that he was a School of Healing delegate and had just been healed himself! Could he pray for them?

They graciously agreed, and were both instantly healed. So excited were they that they actually attended the whole final day of the School, radiant in the front row beside their tenant. Not only did they publicly confess that Jesus had healed them, they were not ashamed to be seen raising their hands in thanksgiving during the worship! Jesus said, 'Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.' Hallelujah!

Airport Open Air

On our second evening, about 800 gathered in an open compound, one wall of which was the boundary of Chennai airport. Every five minutes we had to stop preaching while the next plane took off!

Rob spoke first, on how to be free from fear, which was very apt in a culture riddled with superstition. Later when I

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School of Healing in Chennai (cont.)

made the altar call almost 100 crowded to the front to receive Jesus. There surely is nothing so rewarding! Many were healed too. God gave me a word of knowledge for a man with a short, twisted left leg. He didn't appear, but at the end of the meeting a pastor introduced himself, saying that the word was for him, he felt his leg grow and straighten, and he is now healed!

Two more great Schools

The following week another School of Healing in Madurai saw 150 attend, and people were healed from the start. A lady totally deaf in her left ear had her hearing restored as we were able to verify to everyone's great joy, not least her own! Another man silently wept to discover that his five years of back-pain were over. Surely the Lord delights to heal his children! What a privilege to share in his joy!

We sent the delegates into the streets on the second day, and it wasn't long before one pair returned bringing an old man with them. 'Who is this?' we asked. 'Oh,' they explained, 'He couldn't walk, but we prayed for him, and now he is walking! So we brought him here to show you!' Praise the Lord!

Another couple found a 75 year old lady in the street unable to walk. Doctors had taken a piece of her thigh to fill a hole in her foot, but it hadn't healed. They prayed, and it was, instantly! Her daughter, 50, was also with her. She had made a vow to an idol two years earlier, and since that time her left hand hadn't worked. Again they prayed in the Name of Jesus, and she was totally delivered!

Arupukottai

The second School was to be at Arupukottai, a small town a long hour's drive from Madurai. The countryside was lush green from late monsoons, and the full 'tanks' hummed with dragonflies. We arrived in a power cut to an unexpected 250 who crammed the hall with enthusiasm. And immediately God began to heal. One lady was healed of cloudy eyesight, another of arthritis, and 2 young lads also testified to healing. The next day, when we sent them out, one couple reported finding a boy dumb from birth, who after prayer began to speak – the first word of his life was 'Jesus!' •