

FROM THE MISSION FIELD



THE MIRACLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING

By Elizabeth Stitt

One day when my companion and I went to visit a recent convert in Colombo, Brazil, the house was full of family members. It was crowded, but they still invited us to share a message. We were about to start when the convert's brother came in. He was not a member of our Church and was not happy about our visit. He seemed to find any way he could to contradict us.

He had a notebook of all the members of his congregation and their sicknesses. He asked us if we believed in the gift of healing. "Of course we do," we replied. "Well then," he continued, "I've healed all

the people in this notebook. How many people have you healed?"

We tried to explain the priesthood, faith, and how things happen according to God's will, but after a few moments, we felt like we had been cornered and attacked.

Then "in the very moment" (D&C 100:6) we needed it, the Spirit whispered what to say. I explained that while we do believe in healing, our work as missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was to bring spiritual healing to those we taught, which healing is available only through accepting the Atonement of Jesus Christ through faith, repentance,

baptism by immersion, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

So while we believe in physical healing, we explained, the most important healing is spiritual healing. And that kind of healing was the kind we saw every day. It really didn't matter if people were healed physically if they didn't repent and change their lives to follow Christ.

As the Spirit guided us to respond in a calm manner, the tension in the room dispersed, the brother stopped trying to fight, and we were able to share our message.

Months later, after finishing my mission, I read this statement in the *Liahona* from John Tanner's missionary journal: "Conversion is the greatest miracle. It is even more wonderful than healing the sick or raising the dead. For while a person who is healed will eventually fall sick again and ultimately die, the miracle of conversion can last forever and affect the eternities for the convert as well as for his or her posterity. Whole generations are healed and redeemed from death through the miracle of conversion."¹

How grateful I am that the Spirit prompted two somewhat trapped missionaries to remember our purpose was the saving of souls. ■

NOTE

1. John Tanner, quoted in Susan W. Tanner, "Helping New Converts Stay Strong," *Liahona*, Feb. 2009, 21; *Ensign*, Feb. 2009, 23.