



TEACHING: Palanca Attacks

by Mike Flynn

If you are a person who has been to Cursillo (or Walk to Emmaus), you'll be familiar with the practice of palanca. In that event, this article will be review and challenge for you. If you've not been to Cursillo, this will be an introduction to a new way of ministering to others.

When I first went to Cursillo in 1973, I was deeply ministered to by the gifts of palanca which were given to me during the event. Sometimes the palanca was an action that leaders on the team engaged in for us participants. Sometimes it was a card or bookmark or poem or something written. Sometimes it was a note from someone I'd never met stating that they were fasting and praying for me.

At the end of the Cursillo, they let participants say a few words. All I could think to say was, "Thank God for crowbars!" This was due to a definition of palanca they had given which included the idea of a lever. The palanca they had ministered to me had pried loose a lot of junk and washed it away in a river of love.

A few weeks later there appeared at my house a crowbar which had been painted bronze and mounted on green velvet, bordered by a nice wood frame, with a wood plaque engraved with these words: "Thank God for crowbars." I sat down with this gift on my lap and waves of the

love of God washed over me again and again. That crowbar still hangs on the wall in my office, always ready to remind me of its power in my heart.

On another occasion a neighborhood child slipped into our church and left a plastic crucifix with 5 beads on a string near the altar with this note:

Prest,
Please except
this ½ a Roseary.
Love always

That "priest", "accept" and "rosary" were misspelled made it all the more charming. As I held it in my hand, again it was waves of the love of God that washed over me. Its immediate impact was to urge me to exclaim: "Who can I do this to?" For, you see, love isn't so much to be paid back as passed on.

Perhaps you've heard my story of taking my whole congregation across the street to a Presbyterian Church and invading them one Sunday morning (told in *Inner Healing*, p.196-99) God used that 10 minute visit to heal that congregation of a current hurt, which freed them to go forward in their service to Him. And the effect on my people? One fellow gleefully rubbed his hands together and exclaimed, "Can we do it to the Catholics?" It was such fun to bless someone that his reaction was to want to do it to others too. A further result is that pastors in that town decided to invade each others churches. After a dozen such inva-

sions, it was reported that the number of people in that town who go to church had risen 40%. You never know the full extent of the results that God has in mind when He first tells you to do something.

From these examples you get the idea that a palanca attack is the dumping of unexpected love on someone else. When possible, palanca should be anonymous; the result is that the recipient/s have to look to someone else to bless instead of passing it back to you.

Palanca is free. It is generous. It is effusive. It may be carefully thought out and administered. It is fun. And it is effective. Once when I was invited to speak at another church one Sunday evening, the Lord directed me to bring along a team that would wash the feet of participants. There were too many people present to do them all, so I just pointed out those the Lord seemed to land my eyes on and invited them forward. Then team members gently washed and dried their feet while keeping silence. Two weeks later the pastor told me with amazement that all the opponents of his leadership had been the ones whose feet

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FreshWind Talks Titles

FreshWind Ministries

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FreshWind Scheduled Events

DATE	PLACE	EVENT	CONTACT
Sept 20 1-5pm	Grace ELCA, Huntington Beach CA	Healing Seminar	714-897-0361
Sept 21	Grace ELCA 8:45, 10:30am	Preaching on Matt 25	714-897-0361
Sept 27	Grace ELCA, 6pm	Preaching on Love	714-897-0361
Sept 28	Grace ELCA, 8:45, 10:30am	Preaching on Love	714-897-0361
Oct 9	Ch. of Apostles, Katy TX 12-3	Clergy luncheon: Getting, birthing & managing vision	281-392-3310
Oct 10	Ch. of Apostles, 10am	Staff: Maintaining unity, resolving conflicts	"
Oct 10-11	Ch. of Apostles Fri 7pm Sat 9am Sat 10:30am Sat 2pm Sat 7pm	Catching the Wind Getting on Board Setting the Sails Learning to Tack Workshops Putting Out the Spinnaker	
Oct 12	Ch. of Apostles 8 & 10:30am	Upskilling the Crew	
Oct 24-26	St. Philips, Charleston SC at Kanuga Conf. Center, Hendersonville NC	Empowerment of the Holy Spirit	843-722-7734
Nov 7-9	Goleta Healing Rooms	The Healing Course	805-637-4042

(Teaching from Page 1)

we washed, and that all of them had come singly to his office to repent of their lack of cooperation. Now that's God at work!

So my questions to you are such as these:

- who might you seek to bless?
- what would really do the job?
- what do you have to do to prepare a palanca attack?
- can you do it alone or do you need to bring along collaborators?
- when would be the best time to do it?
- will you actually do it and not just think about it?

There is a promise about the effectiveness of love in I Cor. 13:8. It says, "Love never fails." The Greek word that is translated "never" is a quadruple negative literally meaning "not never at no time no how." We can take great encouragement from that promise. Sooner or later, if we pour

out God's agape love, it will achieve its full purposes in the lives of those we seek to bless.

And to do that is to lose your life. That is, you'll be doing something totally for someone else rather than for you. But Jesus said that if you lose your life for His sake, you'll gain it. My testimony is that this is true to the max!

**Freshwind Talks Titles
are listed here
for potential clients.**

**Look over the list
and see if it
sparks interest
for your organization.**

Bits of Feedback

“Dear Bishop Duncan, You asked me to keep you informed on the Festival with Steve Wingfield. It took place on the South Shore of Moraine State Park on June 13-15. We had over 45,000 people come over the 3 days and at the 7 events where the Gospel was given, 335 people came forward to be prayed for. ... This was a result of Mike Flynn’s meeting with a small group of clergy at the Y over 3 years ago. It was a great success and many people want to have it next year.” --Fr. Bruce G

“Bones has changed my life. Really that’s the take home for my congregation. I’ve preached for 2 Sundays now and my senior warden said, ‘Wow! You’re preaching Jesus!’ Of course I always thought I was, but my commitment and faith have been renewed. I have a prayer life beyond perfunctory again, and parishioners are seeing & hearing the difference and they’re expecting things to happen. It’s very exciting.” --Fr. Steve S. [Note: “Bones” is shorthand for the program I’ve done with Fr. Alan Hansen called Yes These Bones Can Live.]

“First, I want to thank you for an absolutely wonderful experience of learning during your time at Nashotah House. I was blessed each day with some teaching and on some days some profound insights that will have proved to be life-changing for me. Your stories were especially enlightening and proved to be a tremendous benefit to your teaching. Again, thanks.” -- Bill D. [referring to our program, “Congregational Revitalization”]

Re: the Healing Course: “Michael and I loved being there and learned some new things. It is always wonderful to be in the presence of the Holy Spirit--always! We met several people that had never really expe-

rienced the presence or the healing power of God! I loved seeing that light bulb go on over their heads and seeing the looks cross their faces: ‘Wow! What WAS that???’

--Cari T.

Addressed to we 3 presenters at Nashotah: “I want to especially thank you for ALL the teaching time, all the instruction, your two week commitment for me/us, the students of Nashotah House. Thank you for getting to know us, to flow with us in the Holy Spirit and all the personal ministry. I know you must be tired, but I hope it is a good tired, for all you gave and received from us here. I truly hope it was a marvelous and full experience for all three of you.” --Susan B.

“Mike, my wife and I were part of your Healing Seminar this past weekend. I just want to thank you for your time and sacrifice. It was and will continue to be a great blessing to us and the ministry God is working out through us. I especially appreciated your openness and transparency, a practice that is often lacking in these types of courses. As an evangelical I was encouraged by the ‘main line’ denominations represented. I have found it hard to not see these folks as ‘little children,’ crutched by their liturgical practices. But my eyes and heart were opened and corrected through relationship in the practicums.” --Kevin M.

Leaders Corner.

Back in the mid 80’s the Lord had me mention my sins by title during some sermons. He did this periodically for about 2 years, and I often wondered why. Was it to crush my pride, always ready to raise its head? Was it to humble me? And I vacillated between saying “I’ll never do that again!” and “O God, are You going to make me do it this week?” This was about 5 years before I

wrote my first book, Holy Vulnerability.

Then the Lord got great numbers of my leaders involved in hands-on powerful ministry. This initially came from His having directed me to apprentice myself to John Wimber and then do the stuff he demonstrated in my own church. Once we were healing the sick every Sunday and doing power ministry wherever we could, invitations began surging in from all over the place. In the next 11 years we did 150 conferences in 20 states and several Pacific Rim countries. In them all, my lay leaders exercised wonderful, powerful ministry.

Finally, during a review session, several of these leaders mentioned that they had been freed to try out power ministry because of my confessions in the pulpit. “What?!” I exclaimed, “what do you mean?” Various persons spoke up. And one guy summarized their and his comments with a statement something like this: “Well, if God can use you--and you’ve done sins like that--then He must be able to use us. You haven’t got more going for you because you’re clergy than we do.”

And the light came on.

When it did come time to write that first book, it was clear that I was to direct the reader’s attention to vulnerability because God uses it to do wonderful things in and through us. Scores of leaders have written me, saying that that book has changed their lives. I prefer having that result than nourishing a shallow protection of my reputation by not disclosing such things.

The Lord told St. Paul, “when you’re weak, then I’m strong.” One well-used priest used to say that this means, “Lead from weakness.” I would add: “you’ll be glad you did.”

FreshWind Talks Titles

[ALL CAPS are conference or theme titles; words not in caps are titles of individual talks. Many talks can be rearranged to fit other themes.]

A COURSE IN MINISTRY
Overview of Jesus' Healing Ministry
Healing and the Kingdom of God
A Five-Step Model of Ministry
Emotional Healing
Dealing with the Demonic
Having Faith for Healing
Calling Down the Holy Spirit
Chronic and Difficult Conditions
The Dying
Developing a Healing Ministry in a Local Church
Finding the Right Style of Ministry for your Church
Ministry Team Values
Post-Ministry Guidelines

CATCH THE WIND
Get on Board - the Holy Spirit at work today
Setting the Sails - Seeing things God's way
Catching the Wind - harnessing the wind of the Spirit
Learning to Tack - not everything is smooth sailing
Put Out the Spinnaker - running before the wind
Upskilling the Crew - making disciples

COLLABORATING WITH THE SPIRIT
Being Filled with the Spirit: what it is and isn't
Calling Down the Holy Spirit on Individuals and Groups
Discovering, Understanding, and Developing Spiritual Gifts
Fellowship with the Holy Spirit
Faith and the Spirit

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD
Intimacy with the Lord
Intimacy that Brings Holiness & Outreach
Holiness in prayer, Scripture, Faith and Power
Intercessory Prayer--Standing in the Gap
Persevering in Prayer
Prayer as Tool for Breakthrough and Liberty

FAITH AND FEAR
Biblical Anthropology 101
Fear, the Enemy of Ministry
The True Nature of Having Faith
Methods by Which to Release Effective Faith
Growing in Faith

FINANCIAL FREEDOM SERIES
Debt
Greed and Generosity
Investing
Work
Giving
Tithing

FRESH WIND OF THE SPIRIT
Practicing the Presence
Hearing God's Voice
Collaborating with the Spirit
Jesus' Top Four Commands to Us

GROWING A CHURCH THROUGH POWER MINISTRY
Words, Works and The Kingdom of God
The Five-Step Healing Model
Words of Knowledge: The Key to Responsiveness
Care and Feeding of Healing Ministries
Optional additions:
Inner Healing
Deliverance
Accommodating Healing in Liturgical or Non-liturgical Services

HOW CAN I SURRENDER TO JESUS WITHOUT BLOWING UP MY LIFE?
The Character of God: can He be trusted?
Healing Past Fatherhood Hurts
Fear vs. Faith
Ways to Experiment in Faith with Integrity

HEARING THE STILL, SMALL VOICE
Our Need for Guidance
The Use of Scripture in Guidance
Hearing from God through the Natural
Hearing God through the Supernatural.

INTIMACY WITH JESUS
Invitation to Intimacy
Methods of Intimacy with God
Intimacy with Believers
Dealing with Hindrances to Intimacy
Anointing for Intimacy
Practicing the Presence

LEADERSHIP
Birthing Change
Vision: Getting, Enacting, and Managing It
Developing Lay Ministries
Stresses in Leadership
Leadership and Spiritual Warfare
Building the Church from the Bottom Up
Peter, Paul & John: the 3 models for ministry
Handling Resistance to Leadership
Style—the Unconscious Includer/Excluder
Two Kinds of Authority: *Imperium & Auctoritas*
Cross-denominational Unity's Power
Character Issues
Courage & Faith in Leadership
Accountability, Honesty, Integrity
Leading in Times of Crisis

LET NOTHING BE WASTED
Not Wasting His Power
Not Wasting His Forgiveness
Not Wasting Himself
Not Wasting His Love

LOVE
The Seven P's of Love
Greater love has no one... (what it means to lose one's life)
The Sequence of the Four Loves
Love and the Law
Unfailing Love
Love Never Fails: Stories of love

MARRIAGE COMMUNICATION
Scripture on Marriage
Catching Miscommunication: The Projection Graph
Differences in Temperament, Gender, Personal History
Intimacy

MATTHEW 25

Help the Poor or Go to Hell
The Six Ministries of Mt. 25
How to take in strangers
Feeding the hungry
Visiting the sick
Visiting the imprisoned
Clothing the naked
Refreshing the thirsty

THE NEW CREATION

God and You Personally
God and Your Group/Cell
God and Your Church
God and Your City

POWER MINISTRY CONFERENCE

The Kingdom of God
Holiness and Prayer
Prayer and Mission
The Five Steps of Healing
Inner Healing
Having Faith for Healing

POWER MINISTRY II

Spiritual Warfare
Calling Down the Holy Spirit
Power and Authority
Values in the Healing Ministry
Set My People Free
Faith and Power

POWER MINISTRY III

Demonstrating the Spirit's
Power
Developing a Healing Ministry
Without Blowing Up Your
Church
The Seven Steps in Developing
Lay Ministers
Having Faith for Healing
Growing in the Spirit's Power

PRAYER AND REVIVAL

Growing in Prayer
Praying for Souls
Preparing the Nets
Prayer and Power
Workshops:
Developing Small Groups
Leading Vital Prayer Meetings
Healing the Wounded
Ministering to the Poor

RECAPTURING THE SUPERNATURAL

Displaying the Spirit's Power
Worldview: Discovering the
filters through which we see or
don't see the supernatural
Calling Down the Holy Spirit

God's Addiction to Incarnality:
how the natural and supernatural
interact in you
Disciple-making: investing in
others by God
Listening to God with Courage
Healing as the Mainstay of the
Spirit's Power
Power and Character

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Discovering Spiritual Gifts
Releasing Your Spiritual Gifts
How Anointing Works

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Satan's Four Basic Attacks
Preemptive Protection Prayer
The Believer's Authority
Strategic Intercession

STAGES OF PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH

STAGES OF CORPORATE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

STRENGTHEN FOR SERVICE
How God Works in One-on-One
Encounters
A Five Step Model of Ministry
Four Models of Successful
Evangelism

(URBANA '90 Notes)

Self-Acceptance
Understanding the Power of
Forgiveness
Holiness and the Healing of
Sexuality
Equipping for Ministry

(URBANA '93 Notes)

Barriers to God's Love
Forgiveness: The Key to Loving
Others
The Healing of Sexuality
Devotional Listening
Principles of Effective
Intercession

WORLDVIEW

Becoming Aware of Our
Worldview
When Worldviews Change
Paradigm Shift
Jesus' Worldview

WORSHIP

Biblical Concepts and Behaviors
of Worship
Letting the Spirit Lead Worship
Integrating the Spirit and
Liturgy

Music

[Stand-alone Talks. Many of the
above talks can stand alone as
well]

Accountability

Adopting Jesus' Worldview

Anointing

The Authority to Minister

As the Father is to the Son, so is
the Son to the Believer

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Four Great Commissions

God's View of Cities: what it
means for your church

How To Find a Meditation Style
That Fits You

Jesus on Scripture

The Sheepskin of Jesus

The Tree of Life and the Tree of
the Knowledge of Good and
Evil

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