

# Live stream



acorn  
wholeness for all



**Prayer Requests can be sent to:**

Email: [info@acornchristian.org](mailto:info@acornchristian.org)

DM on Twitter: [@acornchristian](https://twitter.com/acornchristian)

00:04

# Acorn Christian Foundation

## School of Healing 2 June

# The Life and Ministry of Francis Scott MacNutt: 1925 - 2020

# School of Healing 2

Engage:

[www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)



DM: info@acornchristian

Zoom



# School of Healing 1st Year

13th June @ 10:00am BST  
**Healing in Church History**



~ a Zoom event ~

# School of Healing 2nd Year

**John G. Lake**

**1870 - 1935**

**July 4th 10:00 BST**

**~ a Zoom event ~**





# Coffee Pods

6 part series podcast in June  
inspire - enable - explore



## COFFEE PODS

A PODCAST SERIES EXPLORING BIG  
QUESTIONS ON CHRISTIAN HEALING.

FIND AT [WWW.ACORNCHRISTIAN.ORG](http://WWW.ACORNCHRISTIAN.ORG)

**The BIG questions on Christian  
Healing.  
Details: [www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)**





# Acorn: Listening

## Applied Listening Practice (Module 2)

17 & 18 June

(2 mornings 10:00 - 12:30 BST)

via Zoom



# Do Not Be Anxious

~ find a secure place in God  
in times that are less than easy and  
in moments where we feel vulnerable ~

Date: Thursday, June 25th

Time: 10:00 - 12:30

Where: Zoom



[www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)



# Worship: Loving God



worship.

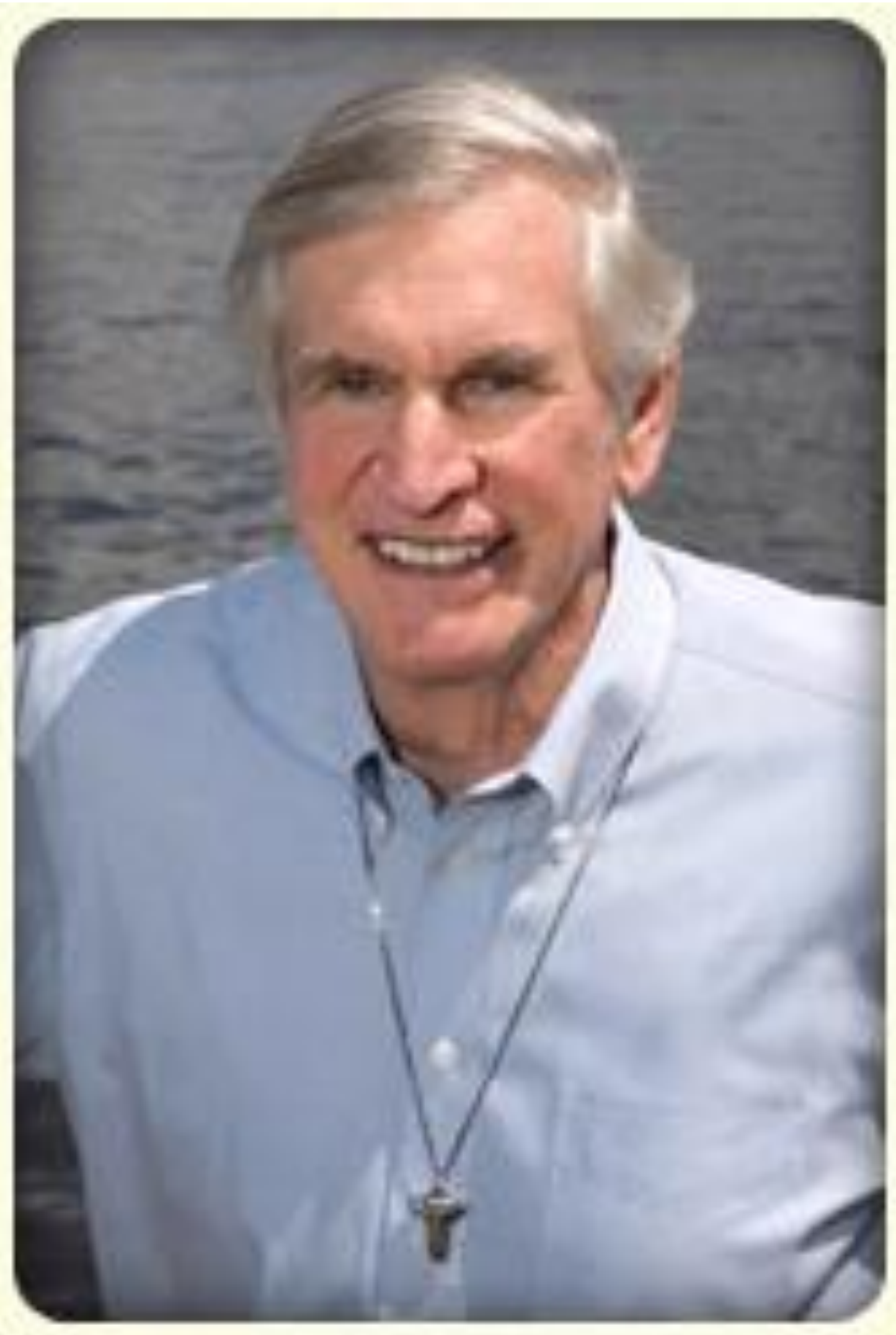




worship.

# The Life and Ministry of Francis Scott MacNutt

challenge : courage : compassion



# Acorn School of Healing 2



[www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)

## Programme:

10:00: Part 1 - **Life and Background**

10:30: Break

10:40: Part 2 - **Influences / Inner Healing**

11:10: Break

11:20: Part 3 - **Theology / Methodology**

11:50: Break

12:00: Part 4 - **Healing Ministry in Jesus' name**

12:30: Close



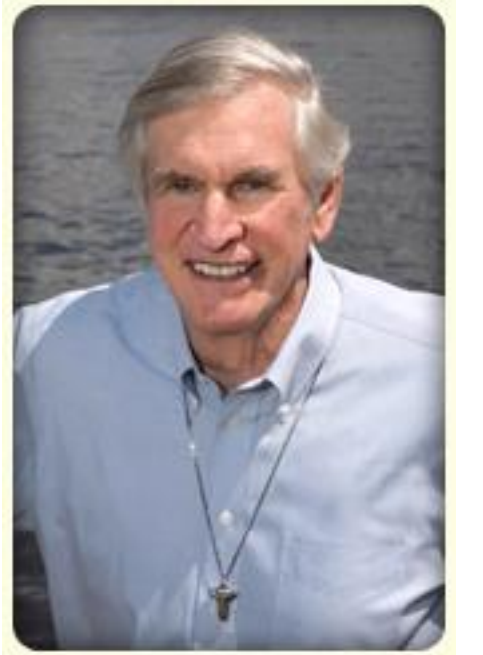
**William Marrion Branham**



# Part One: Life and Background

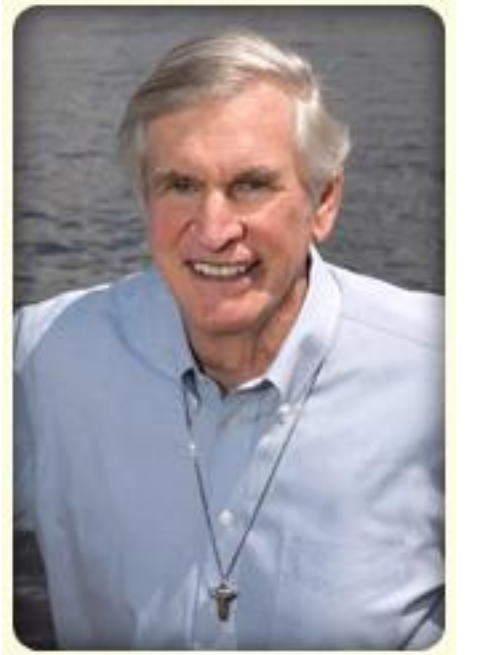
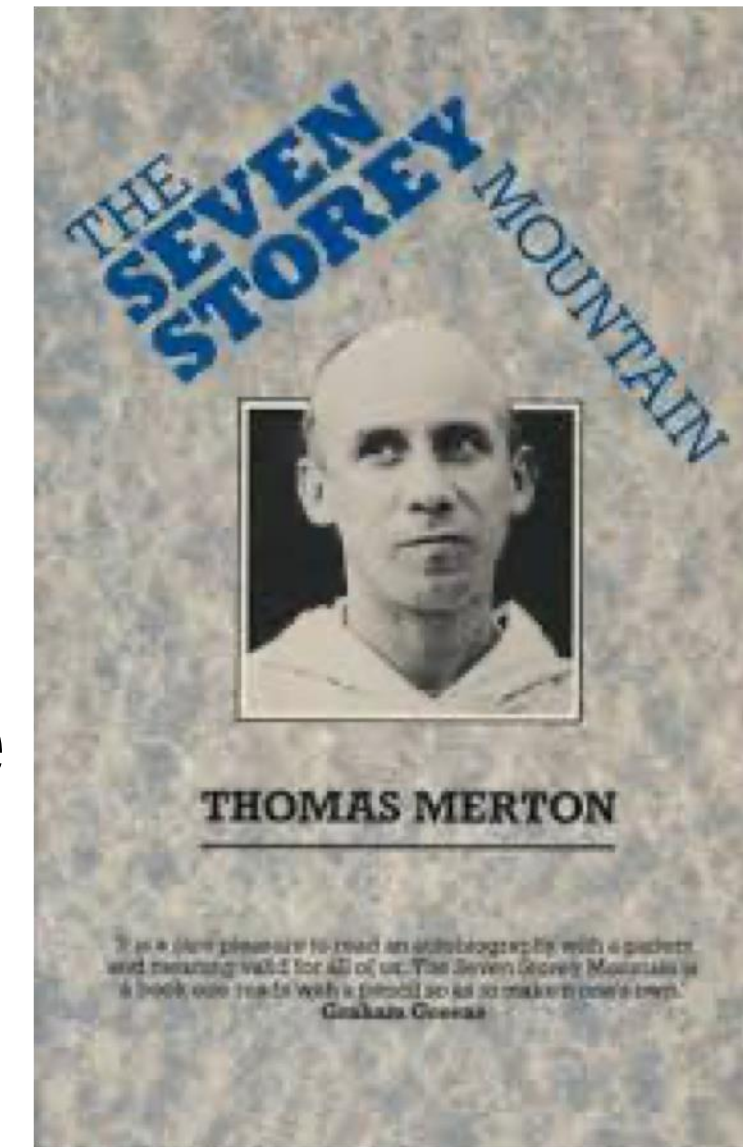
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- Francis was born in St. Louis, Missouri on April 22nd, 1925.
- He inherited his parents' creativity and intellect
- Studied at Harvard University.
- Francis' father was a deeply religious man who instilled into Francis a sincere love and reverence for the Church.
- World War II arrived - Francis joined the Army Medical Corps
- After his war service, he returned to Harvard, completed a degree in English, graduating with honours
- Studied for a Master's degree in Speech and Drama at Catholic University of America in Washington D. C.



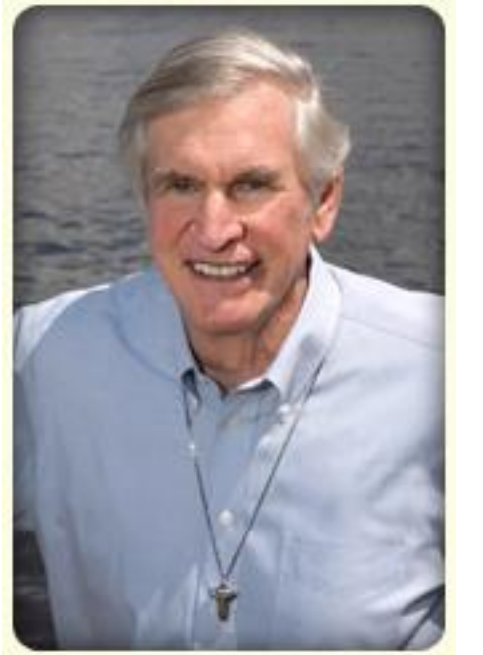
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- At Catholic University, he found inspiration in Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain*
- Felt a call from God to the priesthood.
- In 1956 He was ordained as a Dominican priest
- Completed his Ph.D. in Theology from Aquinas Institute of Theology where he appointed Professor of Preaching
- In 1965 he founded the journal "Preaching"
- Authored the book "Evaluating Preaching Effectiveness"
- He taught at a seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.
- 1966 he moved to St Louis to become Executive Director of the National Catholic Preaching Conference



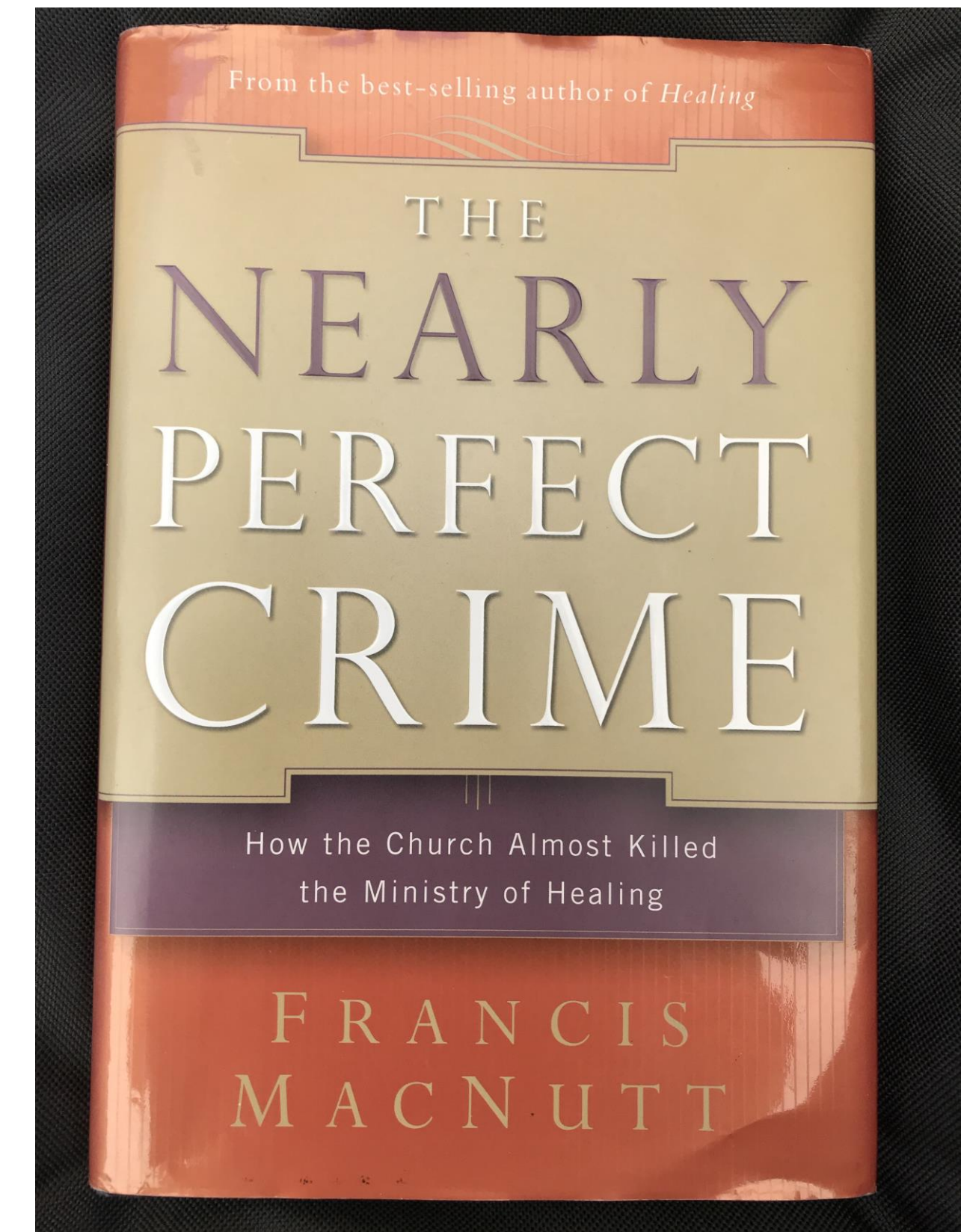
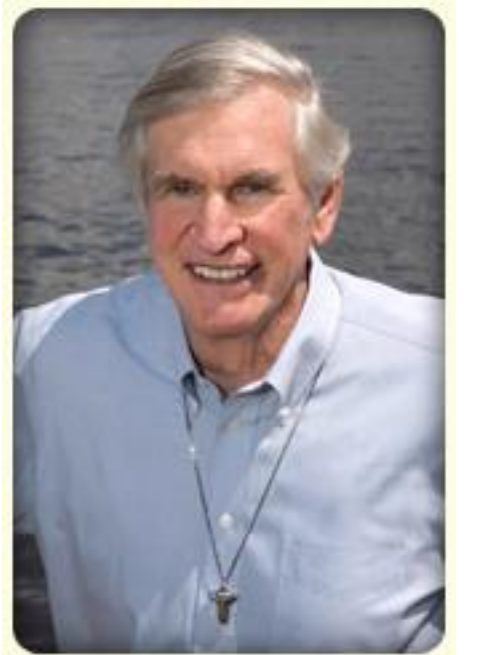
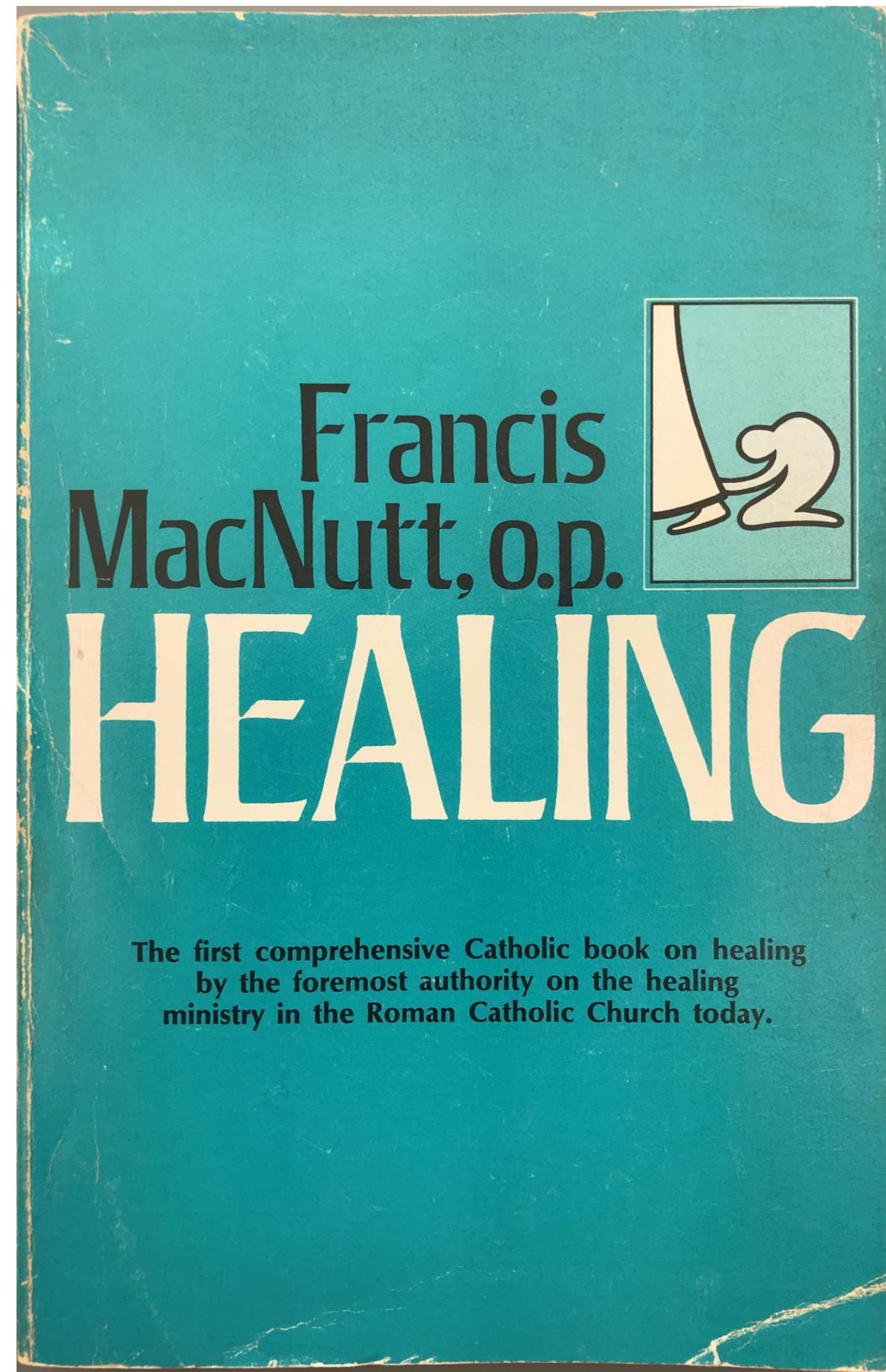
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- In 1967, Francis' life took a dramatic and unexpected turn when he experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at a Camp Farthest Out conference.
- There he met **Agnes Sanford**, a pioneer in the healing prayer and pastoral care movement, **who became his mentor**,
- He also met Rev. Tommy Tyson, a Methodist minister and leader in the Charismatic movement
- He founded Merton House in St. Louis, a non-profit ministry that focused on life in the Holy Spirit and healing prayer, as well as living with and among the poor.
- Francis possessed a unique ability to bridge the gap between different Christian streams
- He was a regular speaker in both Catholic and Protestant circles.



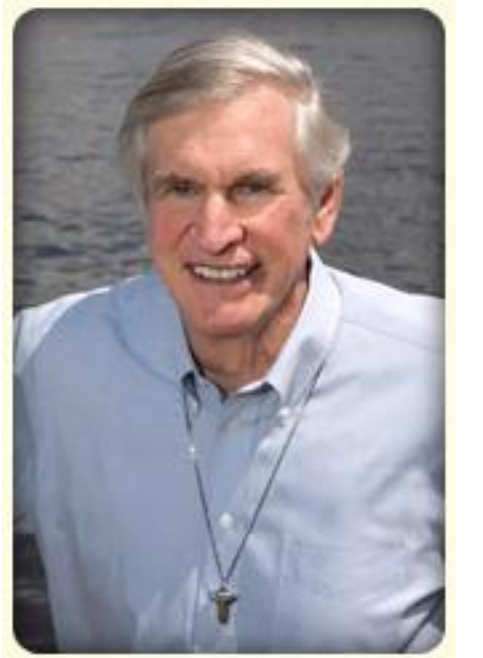
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- In 1974, he wrote *Healing*, a book which has been used throughout the world by churches, seminaries and lay people.
- It remains a classic text on all aspects of the ministry of healing prayer.
- Another good read is “*The Nearly Perfect Crime*”!



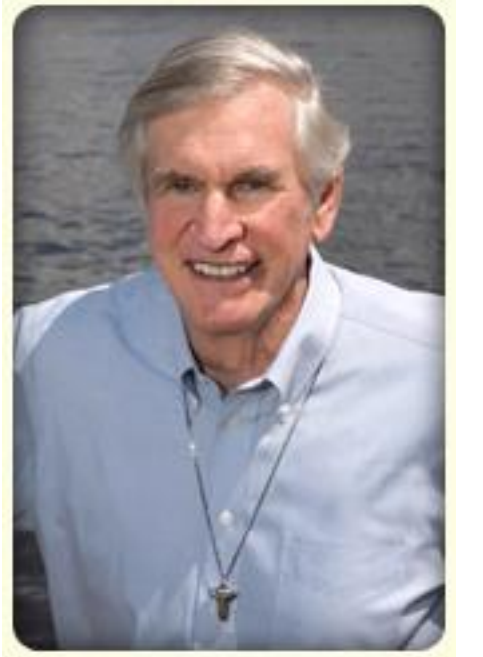
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- In 1975, speaking at the World Conference on the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, Francis met Judith Carole Sewell, 23 years his junior.
- She was a psychotherapist and missionary - leading a local house of prayer.
- They crossed paths several times over the next few years and formed a strong friendship



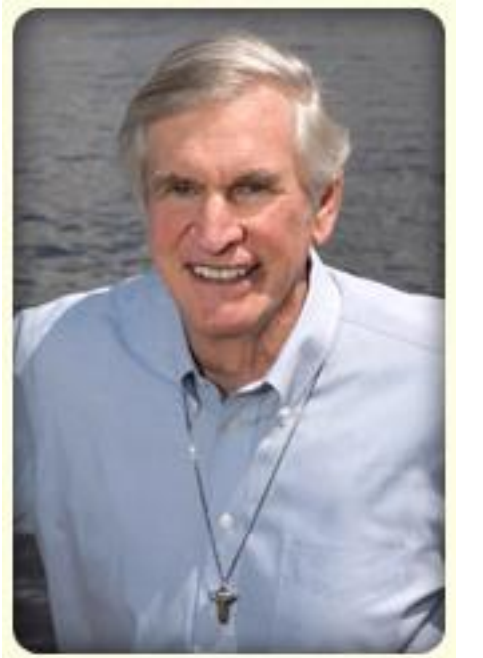
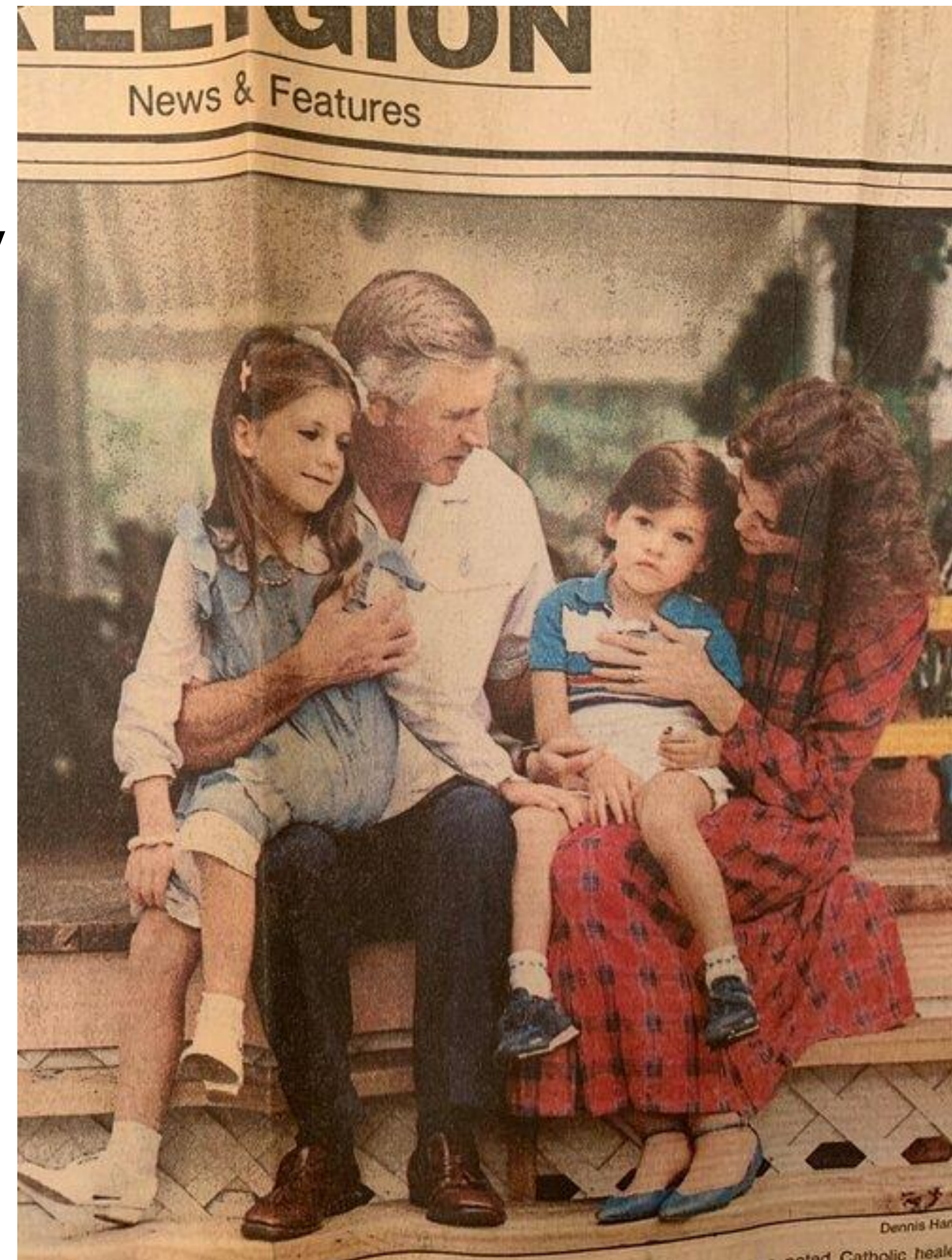
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- MacNutt knew that, as a married man, he would be forbidden to celebrate the sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church ever again.
- When he got word that he would be excommunicated and not even able to receive the sacraments as a lay person, he flew to Chicago to plead his case before the provincial leader of the Dominican order.
- He was hoping he could be laicised and allowed to revert to being a lay person.
- He was 54 at this point
- Unfortunately, Pope John Paul II had just been installed and had shut the door on priestly dispensations worldwide.



# Francis Scott MacNutt

- Francis and Judith MacNutt married in a United Methodist Church in Clearwater in 1980 at a small ceremony attended by only a few friends.
- Judith gave birth to a daughter, Rachel, then a son, David.
- The blending of Francis and Judith's spiritual gifts created a unique healing ministry.
- Their combined ministry of teaching and praying for physical and emotional healing, brought completeness to their individual ministries.



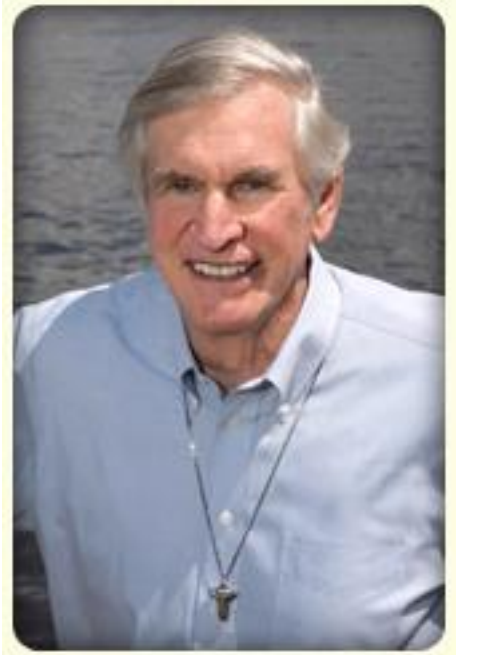


# Francis Scott MacNutt

- A statement from the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal that ran in the April 1980 issue of *New Covenant* magazine, which was the voice of the renewal.
- The statement said in part:

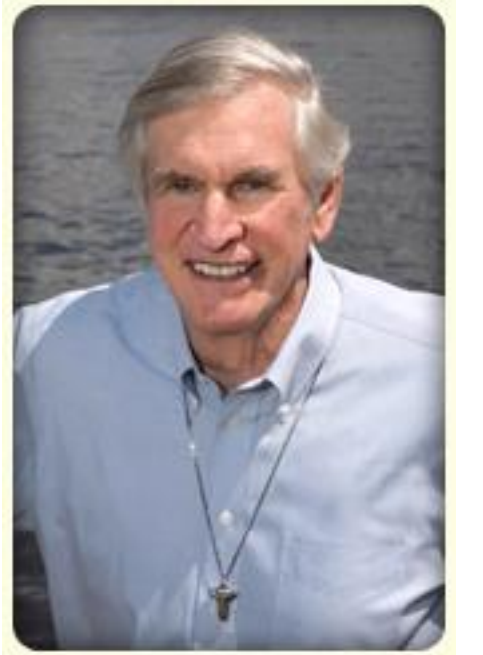
*“Francis’s decision to leave the priesthood without laicisation and to marry saddens us greatly. We know that his action is objectively, seriously wrong and we believe that for him it is a tremendous personal mistake...*

*We strongly believe in the principles of obedience in the Catholic Church and we cannot support what Francis has done ...*



# Francis Scott MacNutt

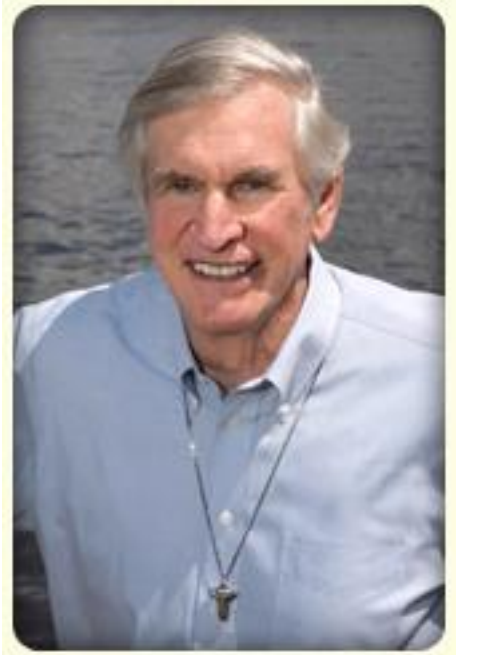
- In 1993, he did get a dispensation from the Catholic Church and a separate wedding ceremony was performed by the bishop of the (Catholic) Diocese of St. Augustine.
- MacNutt's name was not brought up during the recent debate (2020) among Catholics, about allowing married priests in the far reaches of the Amazon
- He will be known for his work in healing, but he was even more of a pioneer as a married priest.



“I think celibacy is good, but not the connection of that with the priesthood. The question is: Why can't married people be ordained? I couldn't see the point of mandatory celibacy in the church.”

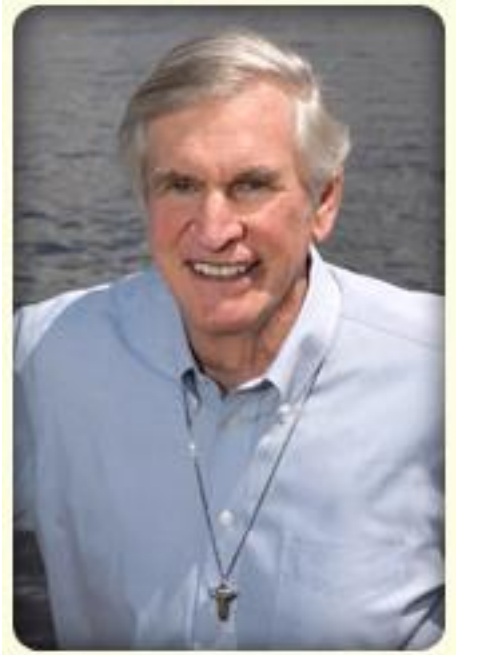
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- Their own ministry website points out that there has been a deep reconciliation between the MacNuttts and the Catholic Church, and they are both in good standing with the Church.
- In addition, they enjoy an excellent relationship with their Catholic Bishop and with the leaders in the national and international Catholic Charismatic Renewal.
- Interestingly, his ministry and speaking invitations actually grew after his marriage.



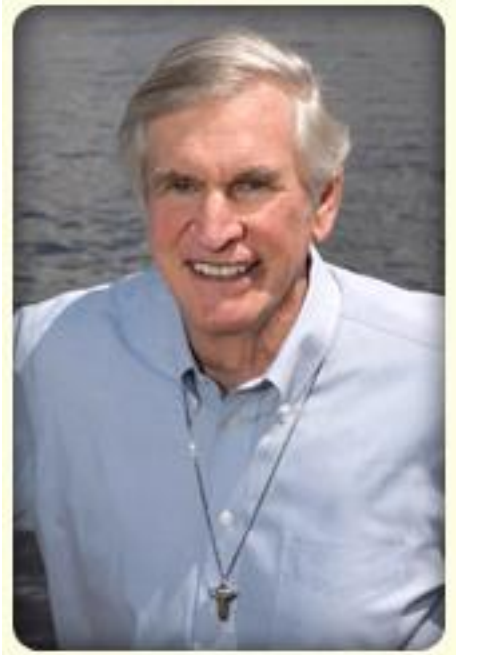
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- In 1976, Francis became a founder of the Association of Christian Therapists, whose purpose was to bring healing prayer into the medical profession.
- In 1977, Francis was one of the speakers at the famous Conference on Charismatic Renewal at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium.
- In 1980 they founded Christian Healing Ministries in Clearwater, Florida.



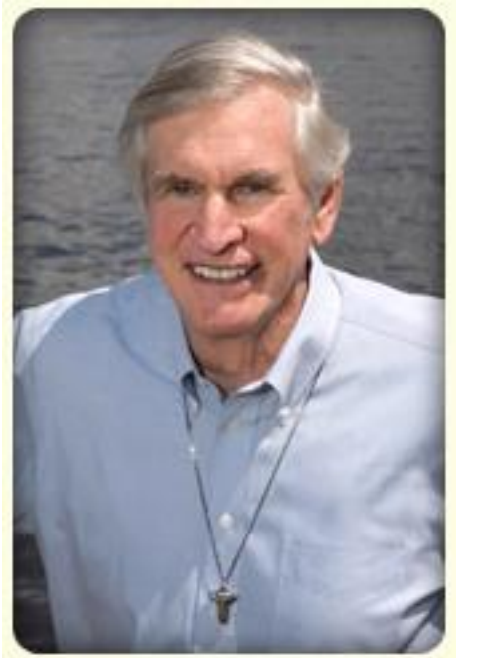
# Francis Scott MacNutt

- In 1987, they relocated from Clearwater to Jacksonville at the invitation of the Diocese of Florida and Bishop Frank Cerveney to operate an ecumenical healing centre in conjunction with the diocese, which has operated for 40 years.
- In 2007, around 500 Catholic charismatic priests and lay leaders from the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal (50 countries) journeyed to Jacksonville to learn from Francis and Judith in the Schools of Healing Prayer.
- Christian Healing Ministries has educated and trained thousands as prayer ministers through their ongoing School of Healing Prayer.



# Francis Scott MacNutt

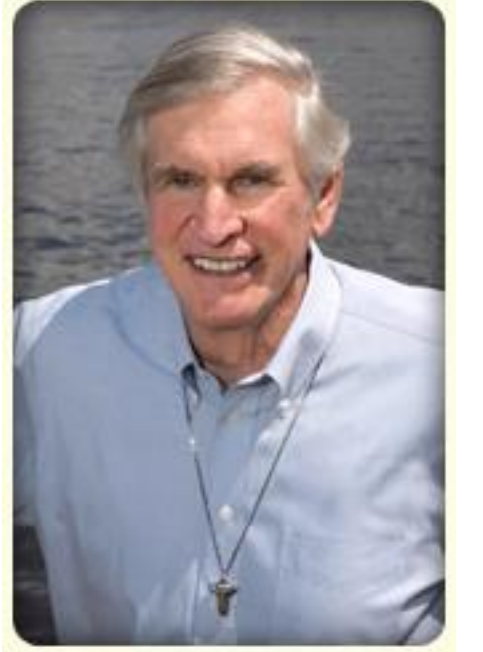
- In 2008, Francis named Judith his successor as President of CHM, and Francis was made President Emeritus.
- Into his 80s, he was confined to a wheelchair and in a lot of physical discomfort, yet retained a gracious demeanour
- He died January 12th, 2020 after a short illness, aged 94.
- A memorial service was held at St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville, FL, on Sunday, February 9th 2020.



# Part Two: Influences / Inner Healing (healing of the memories )

# Francis Scott MacNutt / Agnes Sanford

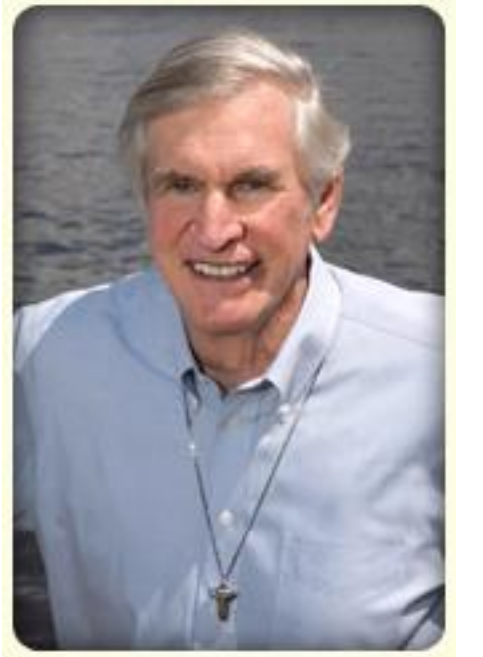
- Agnes Sanford was born in 1897.
- The daughter of a Presbyterian missionary in China, and eventually, the wife of an Episcopal rector
- Viewed as one of the pre-eminent ‘spiritual healers’ of the 20th century.
- Her first book, *The Healing Light*, established her as a leading lay healer and minister within the Christian church.
- Since its original 1947 publication, *The Healing Light* has sold over half a million copies.





# Agnes Sanford

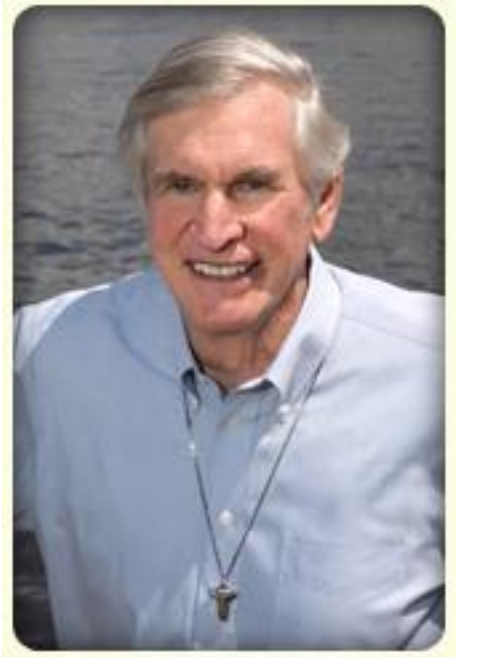
- Suffered from severe, recurrent depressions for many years.
- Finally began to break out of her chronic depression after a Protestant clergyman laid his hands on her head and prayed for her.
- For the next year, she wrote, she went about her work repeating to herself, hourly and daily, the same prayer:
- “Lord have mercy on me, and fill me with Your Holy Spirit.”
- Gradually the depressions vanished, and she was finally free



# Agnes Sanford

## **Acorn does not necessarily fully endorse all this teaching**

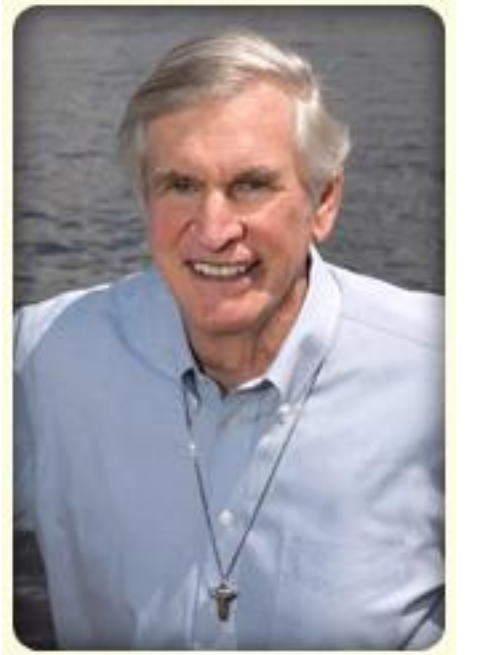
- Founded The Agnes Sanford School of Pastoral Care in 1958, providing hands-on training in the Christian healing ministry for clergy and lay persons for nearly 50 years.
- She taught the principles of prayer and healing are universal - they are included in all religions, yet transcend all religions.



# Agnes Sanford

## Acorn does not necessarily fully endorse all this teaching

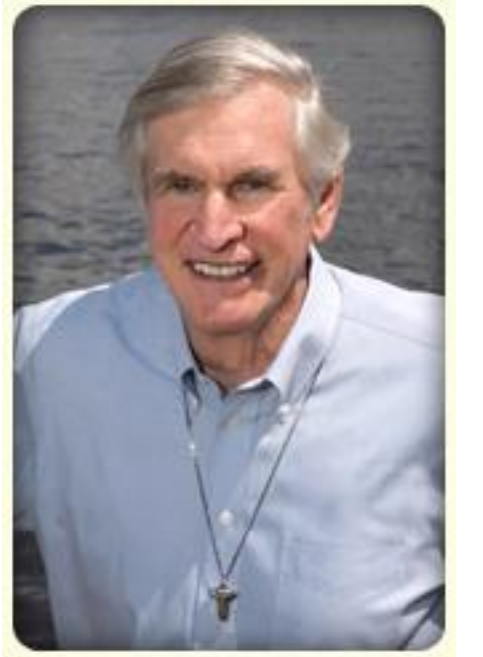
- She said Jesus stood in church services all over Christendom with his hands tied behind his back because neither ministers nor people expected him to do anything.
- People who prayed had to expect miracles.
- This required them to pray down the voice of doubt within them based on old hurts, griefs, and failures.
- “There is more in the Bible than mere information. A spiritual energy we call faith, seems to connect with the very book itself.”



# Agnes Sanford

## Acorn does not necessarily fully endorse all this teaching

- She believed “experience comes before theology.”
- Taught various visualisation techniques which became the key to her inner healing teaching and practice.
  - You visualise a situation in the past, then visualise Jesus coming into the circumstance to solve the problem.
  - You could forgive another's sins through visualisation.



# Agnes Sanford

**Acorn does not necessarily fully endorse all this teaching**

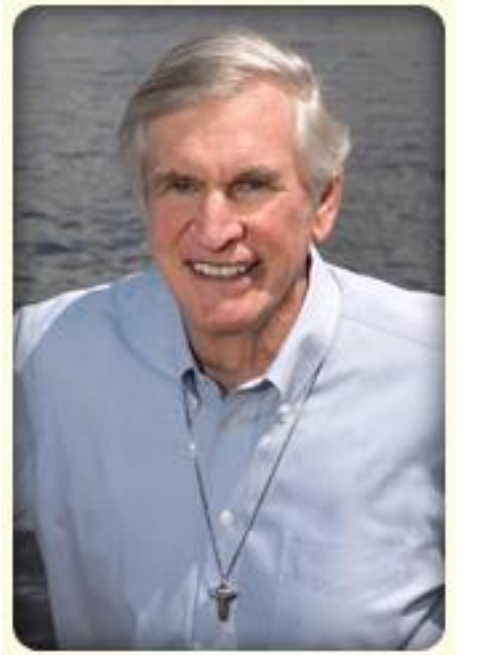
•She stated

*“I believe imagination is one of the most important keys to effective praying . . .*

*God touches me through my imagination . . .*

*Imagination is one of the keys to the relationship of prayer with God.”*

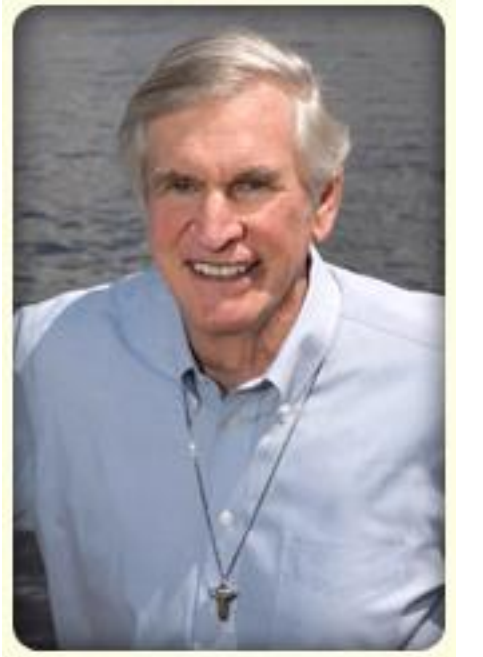
*“Prayer through the imagination . . . picturing the healing.”*



# Agnes Sanford

## Acorn does not necessarily fully endorse all this teaching

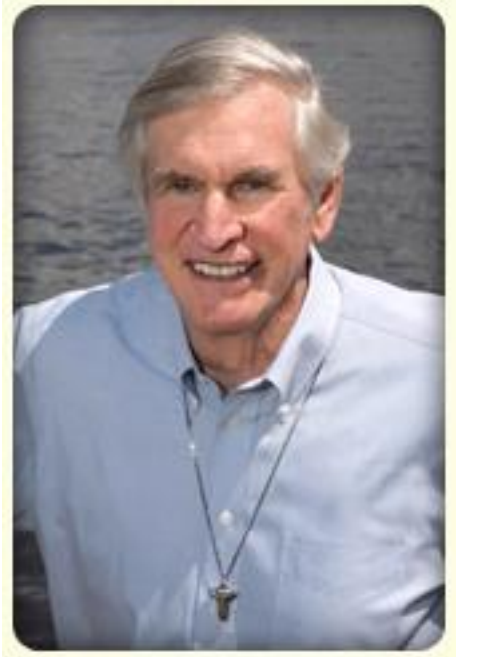
- She also promoted Jungian psychotherapy, and believed Jesus became a part of the collective unconscious of the human race.
- Sanford called God “primal energy,” “the very life-force existing in a radiation of an energy ... from which all things evolved,”
- “God ... made everything out of Himself and He put a part of Himself into everything”
- She called Jesus “that most profound of psychiatrists.”
- Sanford's pastor was Morton Kelsey who studied at the C.G. Jung Institute near Zurich.



# Agnes Sanford

## Acorn does not necessarily fully endorse all this teaching

- Pioneered teaching for the "healing of memories"
- Part of the "positive thinking" movement - she presented God's healing work as following the laws of nature and positive thinking
- She believed that God could work through "good" spirits and the spirits of people who have died; she taught that God used some mediums to heal
- She believed that angels and dead saints could "speak and act in and through us."
- Not something the MacNutts would have necessarily endorsed**
- She died in February 1982 after 35 years of ministry.

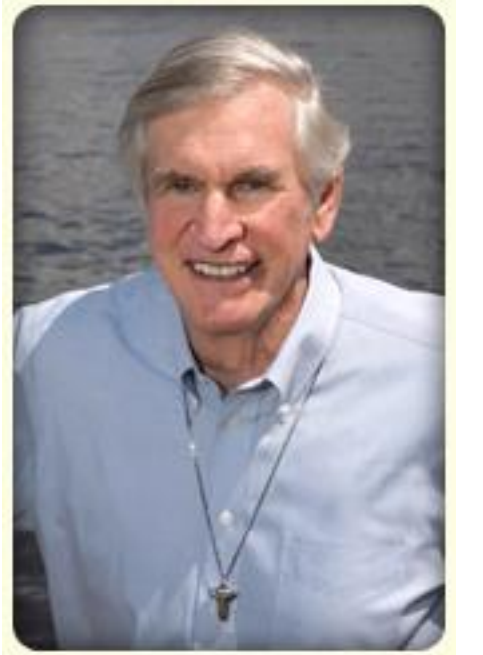


# Francis Scott MacNutt

## Why include this?

Their own Ministry website states:

*“What we do exclude, by the very nature of our ministry as Christians, is anything that goes counter to established Christian truth, as well as any kind of healing that relies upon a spiritual power other than that of Jesus Christ (e.g., spiritualism).”*

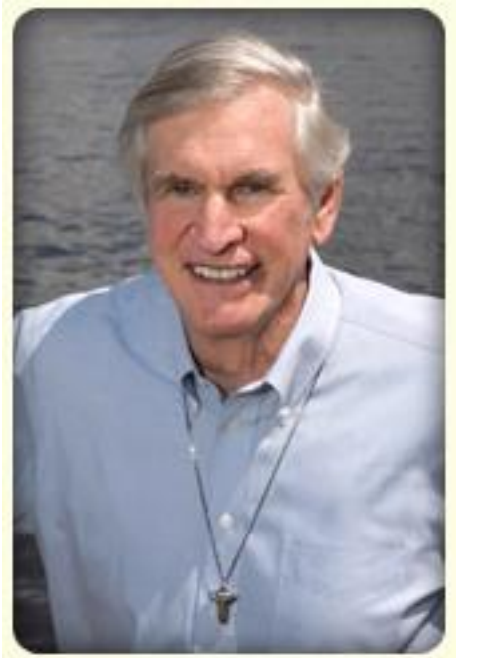




# Francis Scott MacNutt / Inner Healing

## Healing of the Memories

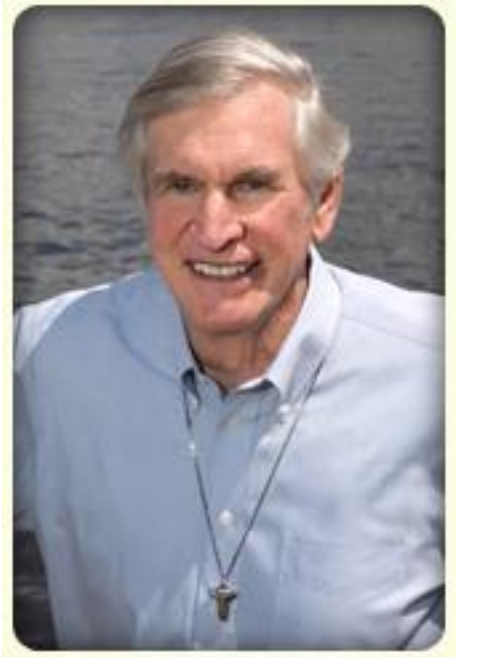
- For the things we feel wrong inside us our first port of call is often prayer and repentance - but our 'pain' can remain, ongoing
- It touches actions, words and attitudes but not the things that are seated deep into our subconscious. Problems that have become 'involuntary'.
- The answers for these moments can be psychiatry or counselling, or spiritual direction or a mixture of both - whatever is at the root of the problem.
- Warning: know your limits!



# Francis Scott MacNutt / Inner Healing

## Healing of the Memories

- We are deeply affected not only by what we do but by what happens to us
  - Even prenatal events
  - May rob us of peace, the experience of love and the ability to trust later in life.
1. The process of healing where Jesus can take the memories of the past and heal us from the wounds that still remain and affect our present lives
  2. Fill with his love all the places in us that have been empty for so long. once they have been healed and drained of the poison of past hurts and **resentment**



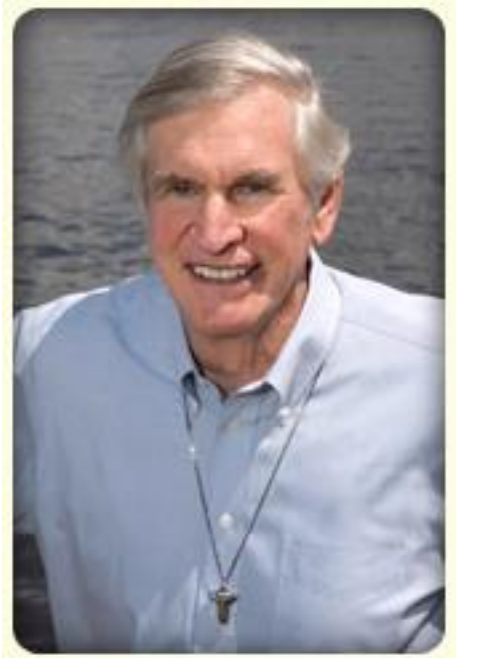
# Francis Scott MacNutt / Inner Healing / The Process

**The process involves two things:**

**1. Bringing to light** the things that have hurt us - usually best done with another person. The healing process of being listened to!!

- Usually good questions help:
  - When did this begin? / What was happening at the time?
  - Do you have any idea why / What might have caused it?
- Word of Knowledge - without 'suggesting' causes
- Discerning of spirits - without 'frightening' people

**2. Praying the Lord to heal** the binding effects of the hurtful incidents of the past

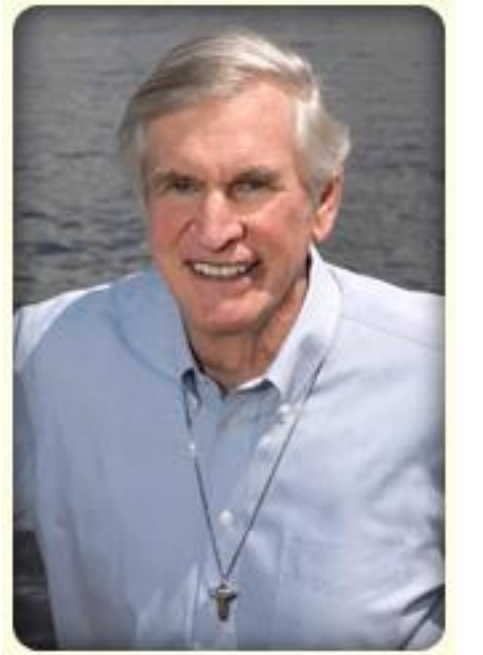


# Part Three: Theology / Methodology

# Francis Scott MacNutt

## **Vision:**

To make Christian healing prayer a way of life in families, churches, and medical professions.



## **Mission:**

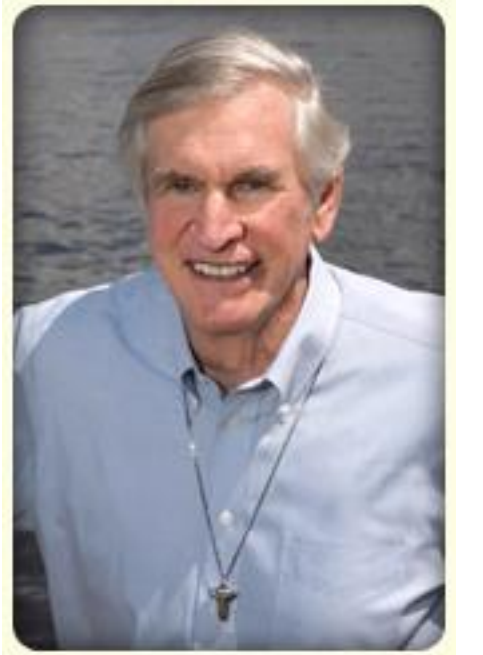
To be a visible presence of Jesus' desire to heal in the world today by:

- Providing healing prayer for the sick
- Training for those who want to learn to pray
- Lending leadership support to pastors, churches and seminaries
- Offering a bookstore and resource centre for ministry and training materials
- Expanding the role of healing prayer in medical professions

# Francis Scott MacNutt

## Doctrinal Statement #1

Affirm the historic Christian beliefs as contained in the creeds (the Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed), we stress in particular the need for the power of the Holy Spirit,



We also affirm the value of the medical and counselling fields, since they too are ways in which God's healing power is manifested.

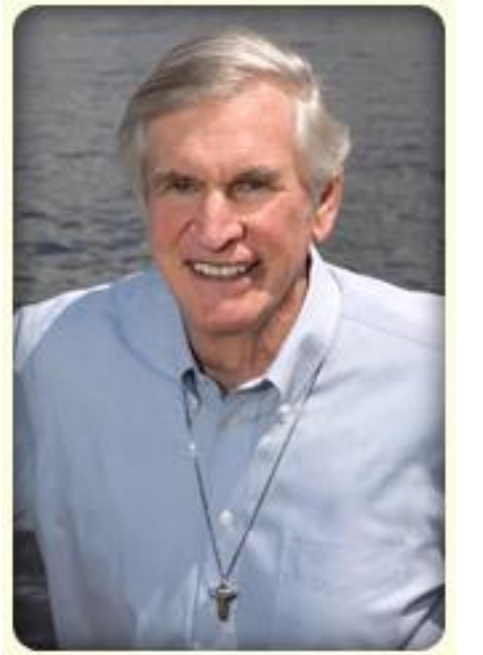
Beyond medicine and human means, we believe God can work miracles of healing through Jesus Christ,

Explicitly Christian and accept Sacred Scripture as our guide and norm.

# Francis Scott MacNutt

## Doctrinal Statement #2

We do not want to further divide (denominations) but to bring together all strands of Christian truth. (Not starting a church!)



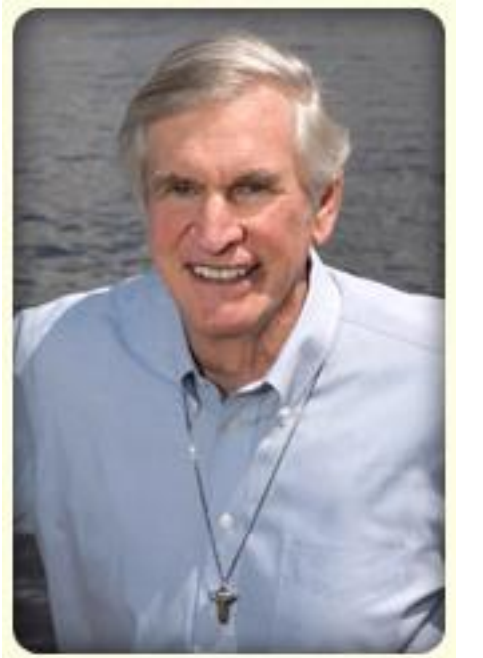
What we do exclude, by the very nature of our ministry as Christians, is anything that goes counter to established Christian truth, as well as any kind of healing that relies upon a spiritual power other than that of Jesus Christ (e.g., spiritualism).

We pray that our courses on prayer for healing draw students closer to our Lord and His Holy Spirit.

# Francis Scott MacNutt

## Four attitudes to Healing

- Healing is simply man's responsibility - God does not intervene - we do it all ourselves
- Healing is possible but extraordinary
- **Healing is ordinary and normative, but does not always take place**
- Healing always takes place if there is faith





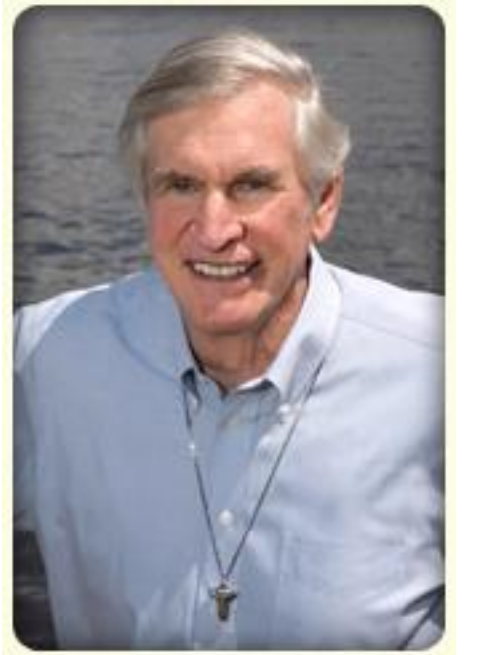
# Francis Scott MacNutt - “Healing”

## Three kinds of Sickness (Healing p162/3)

- Sickness of our spirit - caused by our own personal sin (NB - other people’s sin / national sin?)
- Emotional sickness and problems (eg anxiety) - caused by the emotional hurts of our past - this was a significant part of his ministry
- Physical sickness in our bones (body) - caused by disease or accidents

### **Healing ministry would also include areas of:**

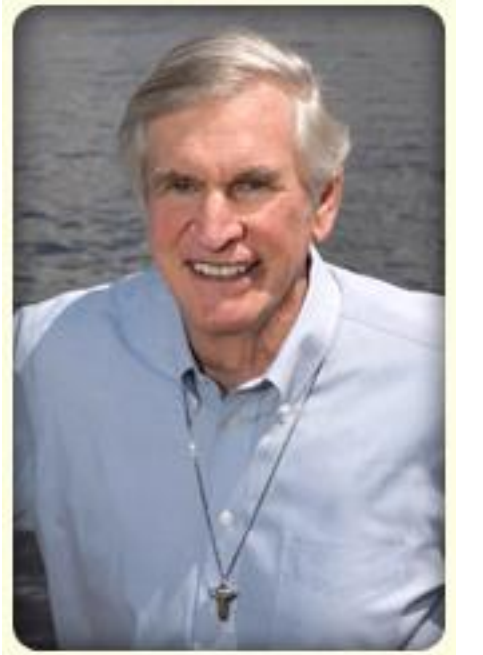
- Dealing with the demonic
- Dealing with the issue of those dead or dying



# Francis Scott MacNutt - “Healing”

## Four basic prayer methods

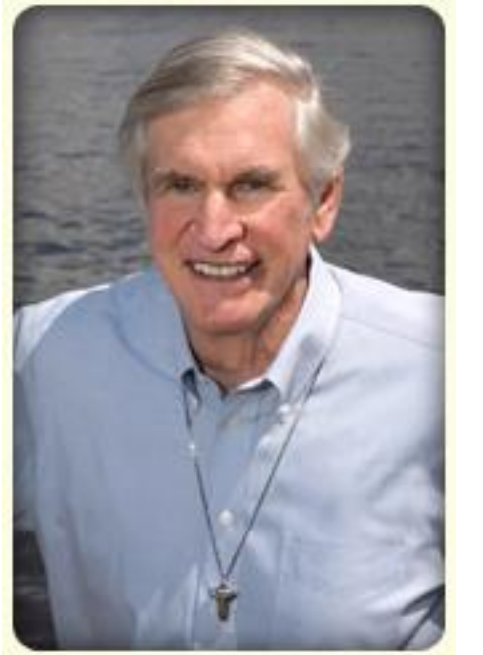
- **Prayer for repentance** - (for personal sin)
- **Prayer for inner healing** - (healing of the memories / for emotional problems)
- **Prayer for physical healing** (for physical sickness)
- **Prayer for deliverance** (exorcism) - for demonic oppression)



# Part Four : Healing Ministry in Jesus' name

# Francis Scott MacNutt

“An exciting discovery about one of the ways that the Lord heals people.” - **A Healing Story**



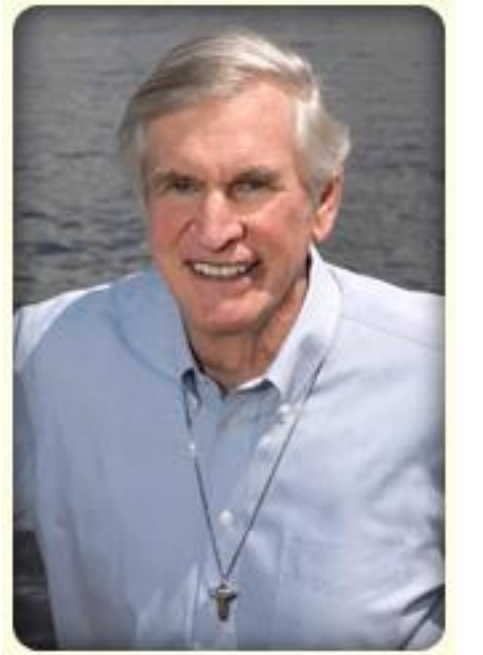
## Healing praxis

1. Connecting people locally - there are exceptions!
2. Several gathering, praying for some hours with the couple
3. Looking for an external sign - how is this going?
4. Engaged in heart as well as in ministry
5. Things can come back - we may have to pray again; again.
6. Healing is sometimes a battle - the enemy does not fight 'fair'.
7. We have to commit to the long game in Jesus' name.

# Francis Scott MacNutt

## PRAYER FOR CUTTING-FREE (To be said following ministry)

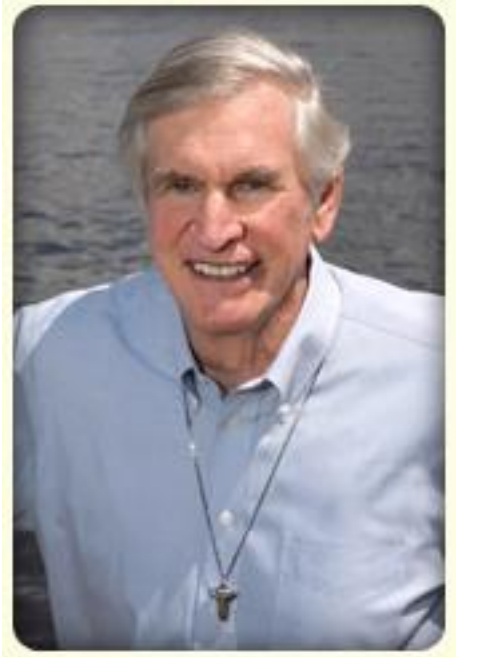
(CHM website)



Lord Jesus, thank you for sharing with us your wonderful ministry of healing and deliverance. Thank you for the healings we have seen and experienced today. We realise that the sickness and evil we encounter is more than our humanity can bear, so cleanse us of any sadness, negativity or despair that we may have picked up.

If our ministry has tempted us to anger, impatience or lust, cleanse us of those temptations and replace them with love, joy and peace.

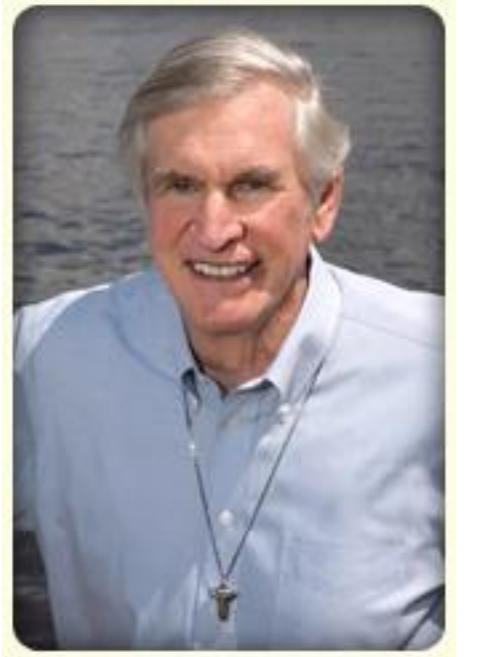
# Francis Scott MacNutt



If any evil spirits have attached themselves to us or oppressed us in any way, we command you, spirits of earth, air, fire, water, the netherworld or the satanic forces of nature, to depart—now—and go straight to Jesus Christ for him to deal with you as he will.

Come Holy Spirit: renew us—fill us anew with your power, your life and your joy. Strengthen us where we have felt weak and clothe us with your light. Fill us with life.

# Francis Scott MacNutt

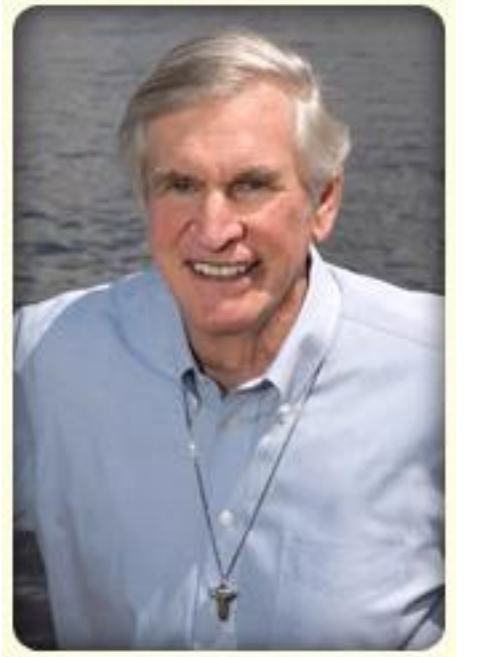


Lord Jesus, please send your holy angels to minister to us and our families—guard us and protect us from all sickness, harm and accidents. (Give us a safe trip home.)

We praise you now and forever, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we ask these things in Jesus' Holy Name that he may be glorified.  
Amen.

# Francis Scott MacNutt - Theology and Practice

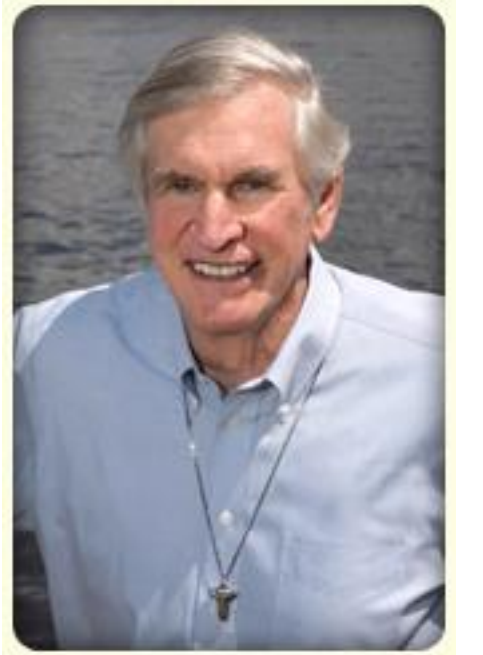
- The grace of God - sharing his ministry with us
- Interventionist - what we have seen today
- We are not supposed to 'bear' these things ourselves
- Things can 'cling' to us
- We need God to cleanse us after ministry
- We have authority in Christ - we command
- Jesus is the ultimate authority - every knee
- The Holy Spirit can be invited to draw near





# Francis Scott MacNutt

- God is a life-giving Spirit
- We need His power - life - joy (important for afterwards)
- Ministry can leave us feeling weakened - we need the strength only God can give
- There is interaction between heaven and earth
- The angels are sent to minister to us and to give us protection in His name
- Families can feel the impact of our ministering
- The glory is God's alone





**Next month:**

**John G. Lake**

**(1870 - 1935)**

**HEALING ROOMS & ROOM FOR  
HEALING**

**July 4th 10:00 BST at  
'Acorn Christian Foundation' on  
YouTube**



# School of Healing 1st Year

13th June @ 10:00am BST  
**Healing in Church History**  
at 'Acorn Christian Foundation'  
on Zoom



# Coffee Pods

6 part series podcast in June  
inspire - enable - explore



**The BIG questions on Christian  
Healing.  
Details: [www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)**



# Acorn: Listening

## Applied Listening Practice (Module 2)

17 & 18 June

(2 mornings 10:00 - 12:30 BST)

via Zoom



# Do Not Be Anxious

~ find a secure place in God  
in times that are less than easy and  
in moments where we feel vulnerable ~



Date: Thursday June 25th

Time: 10:00 - 12:30

Where: Zoom

Details: [www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)

# **Acorn Christian Foundation**

## **School of Healing 2**

### **Thank you for being with us today**



**Prayer Requests can be sent to:**

Email: [info@acornchristian.org](mailto:info@acornchristian.org)

DM on Twitter: [@acornchristian](https://twitter.com/acornchristian)



# Live stream



acorn  
wholeness for all