

THE INTERNATIONAL
ORDER of ST. LUKE
— THE PHYSICIAN —



Running a Chapter

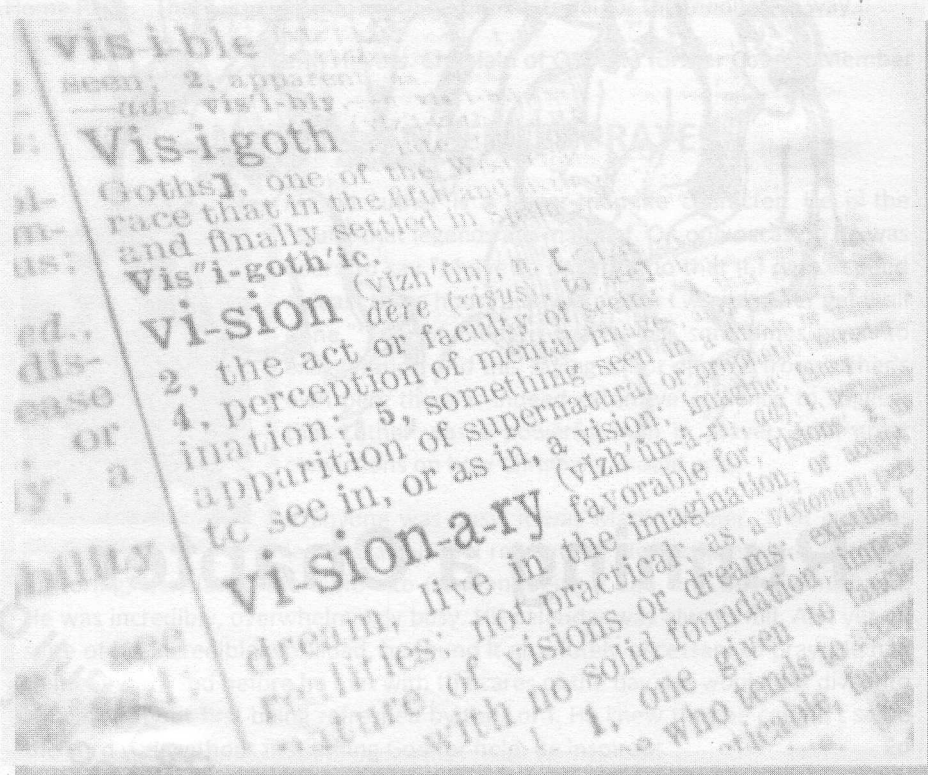
12 Page Pull Out
Booklet

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Order of St. Luke believe healing to be an essential part of the teaching and practice of our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the Gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles. They desire to bring back this teaching to its rightful place within the Christian Church through constructive teaching and through co-operation with those Clergy and Ministers and members of the Medical Profession who trust in the mercy and love of God.

Since the beginnings of the Church purpose-driven small groups have repeatedly been instrumental in times of spiritual renewal. The Order of St. Luke recognises this God-given means and uses one of it's ancient and exciting formats – the Chapter meeting!

But first, an important word about 'vision'.



A VISION OF SHALOM HEALING

For any Chapter to get off the ground, it needs to have a clear and exciting reason for its existence. This is nothing less than the renewal of Christianity itself, of life as God intended it to be!

Healing is about restoring and establishing harmonious relationships in all dimensions - with God, ourselves, others and the physical world. The Bible has a word for it – “Shalom” or “peace”. But although the word “peace” (Hb: *shalom*, Gk: *eirene*) appears over 500 times in scripture, this theme and its implications has been largely overlooked.

Most know that the Hebrew word *shalom* is understood around the world to mean "peace." However, "peace" is only one small part of it's meaning. According to Strong's Concordance 7965 *Shalom* means completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety soundness, tranquillity, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord. Shalom comes from the root verb “shalom” meaning to be complete, perfect and full. In other words, healing in all areas of life!

The Shalom of God's Kingdom is most fully expressed in and experienced through the life, teaching, death and rising again of Jesus Messiah (the Christ). He is the ‘Prince of Shalom’ and of His Shalom there will be no end (Isaiah 9:6-7). His self-sacrificial dying was for our Shalom (Isaiah 53:5), making possible reconciliation with God and of all fractured relationships. Through Jesus, God makes possible liberation from all that destroys Shalom in the lives of individuals, families, communities, people and nature. This totally transforming experience of Shalom is on offer through trusting in Him.

So **Shalom is a vision of life as God always wanted it to be.** THE ORDER OF ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN comprises Christians who feel impelled to make the Ministry of Shalom Healing a regular part of their own life and vocation, and to restore it to the Churches Ministry.

Purpose driven small groups or Chapters are the ideal grass roots catalysts for such change.

