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Healing through the centuries: models for understanding

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Healing Through the Centuries

Ronald A. N. Kydd

Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers Inc., 1998

237 pages

Ronald Kydd, a Canadian Pentecostal professor, is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. Kydd has been involved in international Pentecostal-Roman Catholic discussions and was an official delegate to the Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order in 1993. Little wonder that the site of that conference, the historic pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostele, Spain, receives mention (121) as he discusses the healing quality of relics (a strange topic for a Pentecostal, one no doubt would think!).

This is in many ways a very scholarly book. It has many footnotes and it covers a broad variety of healing models, not only through the centuries but from many locales in the world. Many of these sites the author has personally visited and, in some instances, he has interviewed key individuals on location. The book contains many facts—good for those interested in trivia. For instance, do you know who was proclaimed the patron saint of Canada in 1624? Check page 85 for that answer!

Following an introductory survey of healing in the New Testament, the book is organized around six healing models through history: confrontational, intercessory, reliquarial, incubational, revelational, and soteriological. For each of these six there is a brief conclusion. Then, at the end of the book, there was what I felt to be an all too brief conclusion. One might have hoped for more here. A fine bibliography is included. The book ends with a reference index of names and topics as well as an index of scriptural references.

Any pastor or lay person would profit from reading this book. The book will not resolve for anyone the ultimate issue of why and how miraculous healings may take place, but it does give the reader insights into the history and background of this issue which will always capture the imagination of the sincerely pious Christian.

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