

## ***A Comparison of Healers' Working Environments by Saima D'Adam***



Healers are able to work in a wide variety of locations and settings. Each one challenges the healer in its own unique way. In order to see what the healer is presented with I would like to describe my experience of giving healing in the following locations:

- Exhibitions
- Private practice
- Healing centres and Spiritualist Churches
- Hospitals'

### **Exhibitions**

(e.g. Mind Body Spirit)

- Full healer members and probationers are able to volunteer
- Ideal location for probationers to gain experience of working with the public
- Exhibition stand is busy, noisy and lacks privacy
- Restricted space for healers to work
- People coming for healing are relatively well, some just inquisitive or there for a day out
- Interruptions during healing are rare apart from the noisy environment
- Healing sessions are relatively short.
- Donations based
- The aim of the exhibition is to make the public aware of healing. It also acts as an advertisement for your organisation and to recruit new members.

## **Private Practice**

- Usually run by full healer members.
- You have the freedom and control over creating your own environment. It can be as peaceful and calming as required and can be cleansed and prepared for each individual patient.
- You can choose when to see a patient.
- The patient chooses to visit the healer
- Patients are ill but not ill enough to be hospitalised.
- Once healing commences there are no interruptions.
- Healer usually works alone
- Charging structure determined by the healer

## **Healing centres and Spiritualist churches**

- These venues are very similar, one is clearly in a church and healing centres are in a variety of locations.
- Excellent for probationers (trainees) to practise the act of healing in a secure environment with full healer members on hand if needed
- Some freedom to create your own healing environment. It will usually be relaxed, quiet and comfortable.
- Patients come voluntarily to the centre and are mobile. Some may just be coming to experience healing.
- Once healing has begun there usually won't be any interruptions.
- The number of patients fluctuates depending on the season! Very few patients will come out on a winters night!
- Donation based
- The centres and Spiritualist Churches are ideal for probationers to learn and practically work on people. If there aren't many patients, then the healers can give healing to each other. There is always an accredited healer present for guidance.

## **Hospitals**

- To work in a hospital you have to be a full Healer member for at least 2 years.
- It's a job so you need to go through the interview process unlike exhibitions or healing centres where you volunteer.
- You have to get used to the wards and their routine e.g the teams of doctors doing their ward rounds, cleaners, time of lunch etc.

- This is very different from working on your own and you need to be able to interact with different people working along side you such as Doctors, Nurses, catering staff, patients and their relatives.
- Healers must approach the patients. This is where hospital healing is so different from working in private practice where the patients chooses to visit you. In hospital you have to ask the patient if they would like healing.
- Introduce healing to the patient. They may have never heard of it so you must clearly and simply explain what it is and, most importantly, how it can help them.
- Some patients may choose not to have healing. If this is the case then you accept their decision graciously and move on to offer healing to another patient as appropriate.
- The majority of patients are happy to receive healing, so the next step is to create some space to allow physical contact with the patient. It is important to know that the space around each bed in an open bay area is very limited. The patient will be connected, via a Hickman or PICC line, to a pump delivering chemotherapy, fluids or bloods. There may also be a bag attached which will have internal fluids being drained and the patient's belongings will surround them.
- Given that they are in this confined space, this is where you need to adapt your therapy to suit the situation and position of the patient.
- The same procedure is followed as if the patient is in a room. Sometimes patients have to be isolated because they have an infection but healing can still be given wearing plastic gloves and an apron.
- Now compare this setting to a private practice where the therapy room has been created with healing in mind and cleansed and prepared for each patient.
- Once healing has begun there may be interruptions due to a pump beeping or a porter may come to take the patient for X-rays etc. These interruptions will not happen in healing centres or private practice but are not unusual in hospital.
- Healing must be completed within the 30 minutes protocol as others will be waiting to see the patient.
- In this manner you will see between 6 -8 patients in a day, which is usually more people than you would see in private practice or healing centres

- Working in this acute care environment you can really see the difference healing makes. In my experience hospital healing is the most challenging and yet the most rewarding environment that I have worked in. I would not have been able to see these patients in any other setting since they would have been physically unable to get to a healer especially at this point in their lives when they need to be hospitalised.

This is precisely where healing is needed: to work alongside conventional medicine to support the patient in whatever way we can whether it be emotionally, physically or spiritually."

**Saima D'Adam, June 2008**