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A Weekly Devotional from the
South Green Street Church of Christ

Modern Day Faith Healers

by Steve Higginbotham

While a student at Freed-Hardeman College in 1983, I heard that Oral Roberts, the famed "faith healer" was going to have a healing service in Jackson, TN, which was just about 15 miles from school. So I asked my "wife-to-be" out on a date, and we attended the event (she still razzes me about our exciting dates). One of the things I remember the most about that "healing service" was that just prior to the conclusion, Mr. Roberts had everyone in the building stand up. Then he prayed a prayer, telling all of us that God had completely healed all of us from the top of our heads to the bottom of our feet. Following this prayer, the service was over and people began filing out. But do you know what I was doing? I was trying to count how many people were leaving, like myself, with my their eye glasses on. Seems that no one in the assembly was healed of that malady.

Fast forward 20 years. This past weekend, Richard Roberts, son of Oral Roberts, was scheduled to hold a healing session for more than 2000 followers at the Elmer S. McVety Centre in Toronto, Canada. However, the event was cancelled at the last minute. Do you know why? Due to the World Health Organization issuing a travel advisory for Toronto because of the number of SARS cases reported there, the Roberts organization cancelled the event for fear of exposure to the SARS virus! Can you believe that?

Seems to me that rather than canceling the event, if he has the powers he claims to have, that's exactly where he needed to be! What do you think?