Few people know the origins of the Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry Program (HTSM) -- that Janet Mentgen named the program -- that I started the program during my tenure as the Administrator of the Healing Touch Program -- and that HTSM was a program offered by the Colorado Center for Healing Touch before Janet spun it off as a separate program.

Why a separate approach to energy healing you might ask? Perhaps a little background might help you understand why this program was developed.

As the first administrator of Healing Touch, my role was to work with instructors and coordinators around the country to set up HT classes. On most weekends I would be somewhere in the country teaching HT classes. I began to see a pattern of students asking me how Healing Touch fit with their faith or they wanted advice on how to present this work to their minister or priest.

I explored this with Janet in 1996, wondering if another approach would be helpful particularly in churches. A year later she agreed that we needed to start a separate program -- Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry -- to meet those needs.

It seems that many students had also approached her requesting that the language be tweaked enough to help them secure a healing ministry of Healing Touch in their churches. Please let me say -- starting a Judeo-Christian program in no way negates any other spiritual approach to energy healing. However, many Christians have lost sight of their history of healing and needed assistance to reclaim healing in Christianity. Our program was to specifically address this issue.

In order to develop the HTSM program I needed to resign as the administrator of HT and devote my time to curriculum development. We planned three courses for the curriculum—an introductory course, a Level 1 and a Level 2 course. Janet wanted the latter two courses acceptable for certification in HT which meant nothing could be added or subtracted—only the language could be changed.

The introductory course would tell our Judeo-Christian story of healing and how we lost sight of it in history and show how the basic Healing Touch Sequence is actually the “laying-on-of-hands” practiced by the Early Christian church.

Within four months, I was teaching full classes and looking for other instructors to join me. That was in 1997. The following year, Janet met with me to tell me I was to be solely responsible for directing the HTSM program as she was unable to direct both.
the HTSM program and the Healing Touch program.

Eleven years later, we have 16 teachers and have taught 850 classes with well over 10,000 participants. Courses are taught not only in churches, but in hospitals, hospices, and other institutional settings. We have helped Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Disciples, Congregational, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Unity, Unitarian, Evangelical and Moravian churches to look at healing ministries for their congregations.

What is different about the Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry program? For one, our program is scriptural in nature and based in prayer. The early Christians were phenomenal healers as attested to in the Acts of the Apostles. What made them so successful? I believe it is because they had innocently tapped into three forms of vibrational healing—only they did not have a language to describe this phenomenon. They prayed, laid-on hands and anointed with oil all who were sick. These three vibrational “techniques” form the basis for the HTSM approach to energy healing.

In 2004, the year before Janet died, she and I discussed the need to further develop the curriculum in the HTSM program which would take us beyond certification in HT. She agreed that the time had come for us to be on our own to further grow and expand what was currently being offered. The floodgates were suddenly opened and our curriculum began to blossom. It now encompasses two major programs under the name Institute of Spiritual Healing & Aromatherapy.

The first program is the Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry program which has five core workshops leading to a certificate of completion as a Healing Practitioner. The advanced program adds two additional courses and a mentorship leading to an advanced healing practitioner certificate. We have recently become an approved program by The American Association of Drugless Practitioners (AADP), Commission on accreditation, meaning that those who complete our advanced program can now apply for certification as healing practitioners.

Our second program is our certification in clinical aromatherapy which is a 240 hour course of study leading to a national certification. There are three courses within this program with over 300 students in the process of completing their certifications. This program is approved for certification by the National Association of Holistic Aromatherapy (NAHA) and the Alliance of International Aromatherapists (AIA).

Our work has spread throughout the United States and we have offered courses in Canada, the island of Trinidad, Italy, South Africa and India. All of our courses are approved to offer nursing and massage therapy continuing education. Our students can obtain certification in clinical aromatherapy and now our HTSM students are able to access certification for the first time.

We are not standing still—the internet is the next teacher and we are adapting by offering teleconferences on various subjects, mp3 files, CDs, eBooks as well as hard copy books about our work. We are reaching out to as many people as we can to spread the work of healing. Janet would be proud. For more information go to www.ISHAhealing.com.

Linda’s Bio:
Linda is first of all, a holistic nurse, healer and teacher. She comes to this work with a rich background in clinical nursing, education and administration. She is the founder and director of both the Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry and the Certification in Clinical Aromatherapy programs. Linda has a private healing practice in the Denver, CO area, teaches both nationally and internationally and is sought after as a national inspirational speaker for many organizations. Linda is passionate about following the Spirit’s guidance to restore healing to Christianity. She is the author of Called into Healing, Reclaiming our Judeo-Christian Legacy of Healing Touch 2nd Revised Ed., (2006), Healing Oils Healing Hands, Discovering the Power of Prayer, Hands On Healing and Anointing, (2003), Essential Oils for Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Health, (2005). LindaSmith@ISHAhealing.com