

The Man in the Hole

By Alan W. Gruning, D.O.

There once was a very nice man named Ordinary who was a very good person. He went for a walk one day in his neighborhood and fell down a very deep hole he did not see. He was cut, scraped, bruised and hurting. He looked around and saw only dirt and some trash thrown down the hole. He looked up and saw only the light of day at the top of the hole.

Ordinary said, "I'll get myself out of this problem" and tried to climb the steep walls of the hole. However, he kept slipping back to the bottom. He soon realized that, on his own, he couldn't get out of the hole. He then fell into deep despair.

Ordinary thought, "How will I ever get to the top before the light is gone?"

He shouted up, "Can anyone up there please help me?"

A crowd assembled around the hole.

The government representative threw money down the hole and said he would return with many other workers, after he studied the problem, to throw more money down the hole. After all, that is the government's job.

The scientist said it would take some time to devise the technology to get Ordinary out of the hole. Perhaps if he waited long enough, he reasoned, Ordinary would evolve wings and fly out on his own. After all, if we can't get him out of there, or he can't get out on his own, there is no hope.

A holistic doctor offered to spend time talking to Ordinary about his lifestyle and his blocked detox pathways. He threw down some homeopathic preparations and detoxification supplements, which seemed to make Ordinary feel better, but only for a little while. He offered to hypnotize Ordinary so he would believe he was out of the hole.

A psychotherapist was there who offered to talk to Ordinary about his lack of self-esteem and need to shed guilt over falling down the hole. These were holding him back from being able to climb out of the hole on his own.

A new age healer and Reiki master threw down some crystals and offered to do energy techniques that would help Ordinary heal so he could get out of the hole on his own.

A famous self-help celebrity threw down a copy of his book and invited Ordinary to a seminar where he could learn proven techniques to get out of the hole on his own, be happy and wealthy, and retire early.

Some religious leaders were also there.

A Rabbi said he would pray to God for Ordinary. He must be down the hole for disobeying God's Law and needed to repent. He threw a copy of the Torah down the hole and told Ordinary to read, pray, and keep The Law.

A Hindu priest said that Ordinary needed more meditation and yoga to transcend this world and save himself. If he was down the hole, it must be due to bad karma and it would be better if he died so perhaps he would be reincarnated as an animal that could get out. He then threw down several idols of Hindu deities and told Ordinary to worship them.

A Buddhist leader said that Ordinary must have been very selfish to be suffering in the hole. He shouted down the Eightfold Path to help him eliminate his cravings, achieve enlightenment, and enter Nirvana while still in the hole. He threw down a statue of Buddha and told Ordinary to worship him.

A follower of Confucius looked down the hole and said, "Man is in hole; man must get out of hole." He said Ordinary was obviously there for not following the Five Virtues and called them down to him. He drew a hexagram and threw it down the hole. He then told Ordinary to worship his ancestors.

A Muslim said Allah had judged Ordinary and must not love him. He needed to confess, pray, fast and give and maybe Allah would be merciful and he would be delivered from the hole he was in. He threw down a copy of the Koran and told Ordinary to read it, obey Mohammed and worship Allah.

Some Mormon missionaries came by and threw down a copy of the Book of Mormon and told Ordinary he needed to learn the words of Joseph Smith that he had received from the angel Moroni. He would get out of the hole when he became a Mormon and followed all their rituals and works. In fact, he would become the god of his own world.

A Jehovah's Witness was there and was asked what he thought could be done about the man in the hole. He threw Watchtower literature down the hole. Since he hadn't memorized an answer to Ordinary's problem, he headed back to the kingdom hall to ask an elder what the Watchtower said he should think about this. The elder returned and shouted down to Ordinary that if he followed the Watchtower, he could earn the right to stay in the hole.

Some Christians from a nearby church came by and offered to pray for Ordinary in the hole. They told him that he must have committed some grave sins to be down there and needed to repent so God would forgive him and give him the strength to get out of the hole on his own. They threw down a Bible for Ordinary to read.

Ordinary looked around at all of the books, idols and trash in the hole with him. He was so confused. Who was right? He became very anxious. The light was fading and he could not climb up the sides of the hole no matter how hard he tried. "I will never get out of this hole and will probably die here," thought Ordinary. He became very depressed.

From the back of the crowd assembled around the hole, a man gently pushed through the onlookers and those meaning to help. It was Jesus. He got to the edge of the hole and looked down to see Ordinary trapped in the dark. He had compassion for him and jumped down into the hole.

"Don't be afraid. I am here and will help you," Jesus said. He cleaned up Ordinary's wounds and gave him something to drink.

"Follow me and I will get you out of this awful place," said Jesus.

"I have tried and tried and I can't get up these walls. How are we going to get out of here?" asked Ordinary.

Jesus reached out His right hand and looked into Ordinary's eyes. "Trust me, My son."

"I have never been very religious," said Ordinary.

"That is ok. Neither am I," said Jesus.

Ordinary thought about it. Jesus was the only one who cared enough to get down in the hole with him. He had cleaned him up and given him something to drink. Ordinary felt a sense of hope now with Jesus there and he knew somehow that Jesus could get him out of this hole. He reached out his hand and put it in the right hand of Jesus. "I trust you," Ordinary said.

Jesus gave him a huge smile and then hugged Ordinary. Together, they climbed the walls of the hole. It was a lot easier now than when he had tried to climb out himself.

When they got to the top, the crowd had gone. They had moved on to another hole with someone trapped in it to offer help to them.

“What can I ever do to thank you for rescuing me from that hole I was in, Jesus?” asked Ordinary.

“Follow Me and spend time with Me. Read My Word, the Bible. Talk with Me about everything. I want to be with you all the time and guide your life so that you won’t fall down other holes that the enemy has prepared.” He pointed to a person off in the distance, digging a hole. Ordinary could tell somehow this person was evil and was digging holes to trap others like him.

“Why did you jump down into the hole to help me out? There are billions of people in this world. Why do you care about me?” asked Ordinary.

“Because I love you!” said Jesus.

Ordinary invited Jesus to his home to have dinner with him.

While they were sitting together, Jesus said, “I have plans for you, Ordinary. When you have recovered from being in the hole and are ready, I want to send you out to encourage people that have fallen into holes. You can tell them that you know the way out. They can’t get out on their own. They need Me to help them out. I am their Healer and Savior and want to be their Lord. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Ordinary understood now what good would come from his time in the hole. He could help others that had fallen in holes. He felt a sense of peace and purpose he had not had before. And he knew Jesus would always be with him on this journey.

Epilogue

Having a chronic illness like CIRS can seem like you have fallen down a deep, dark hole and you can’t get out. The Lord has put me in your life to help you get out. Heaven knows He does not need my help but has chosen to use me. Jesus is the true Healer. While we work on your physical healing, please consider developing a relationship with Jesus for your emotional and spiritual healing. You can contact me for more information or go to peacewithgod.net

May the Lord bless you!