

# THE HEALING OF CARLY ALKEMA



Most of the following story has been taken from the magazine  
“De Levensstroom” from Jan Zijlstra.  
I know evangelist Jan Zijlstra as well as the Alkema family personally  
and have checked the facts of this story.

## 1. A life of misery

After many visits to doctors in her childhood Carly Alkema from Dokkum, The Netherlands, proved to have the illness of Hirschsprung. What does it mean to have this congenital disease? Part of the walls of the bowel and the sphincter of the anus lack the necessary nerve cells so that the normal movement of faeces towards the colon is hampered and a normal bowel movement nearly impossible.

Carly’s life would be torture. Yet she was able to marry Frans in 1972.

They even had three children: Nathalie, Ritske and Timothy.

In all three pregnancies Carly developed toxemia.

It is a miracle that all three children were born healthy.

In Timothy’s pregnancy the toxemia lasted the full 9 months.

After his birth Carly’s health deteriorated badly. She even looked death in the eye.

With a strict diet and injections she was able to survive.

She took one meal a day and drank liters of water, because only then the bowels were sufficiently rinsed. When the poisoning in her body increased, Carly prepared herself for death.

About five or six times a month she had serious bleedings in her bowels with excruciating pain.

Carly received a stoma, an artificial opening in her abdomen.

The doctors wanted to see if the pain would decrease.

During the next operation a big part of her bowel was taken out.

Later she was operated on again and the stoma was reversed.

Three years in a row Carly was in and out of the theatre for operations.

Because of the process of increasing toxication her adrenal glands started to malfunction.

The exhaustion that resulted from this was combated by intramuscular injections.

Besides terrible pains in her abdomen and back, Carly also had excruciating headaches.

If ever she went outside -which didn’t happen often - she tired so quickly that she had to sit down. Carly had a special stick that could be opened into a small stool for her to sit on.

After the stoma had been taken away Carly had to use a special instrument to rinse her bowels. For this she also had a special shower. The continual rinsing widened and weakened her bowels and gave her more misery.

A normal bowel movement had become phenomena.

All throughout this time Carly could not look after her household and for years the family received household help.

Carly and Frans were Christians, who despite their difficult situation did not lose their trust in God. Earnestly they chose Jesus Christ as the Lord of their lives.

They experienced God's help during these hard years.

In the meantime their son Ritske became seriously ill.

During a sports lesson on 29 March 1994 he got a serious whiplash.

He had to make a strange turn with his neck during a so-called snake movement.

At that moment his neck snapped.

Frans fetched him from school, but at home Ritske became acutely unwell and was transported to the hospital in Dokkum.

After a few days the doctors said it was serious. A nerve in the neck proved to be pinched.

Paralysis set in and Ritske lost the feeling in his body.

After several examinations the diagnosis of a serious whiplash was made.

The snake-movement had caused swelling in his neck and blocked the nerves.

Hence the paralysis. Ritske has no nerve sensations and no reflexes on the left side of his body. He received a neck-brace, but this did not prevent the changing paralyses and temporary malfunctions of his muscles.

Ritske's life was in shambles. The boy, who could do anything before, was not able to do anything. The pinched nerves gave him terrible headaches that tortured him day and night.

There was loss of concentration and memory loss. Every day he was exhausted and stressed.

His neck-brace had to be worn 24 hours a day, even when washing himself.

His left hand refused to work when wanting to lift things.

Sleeping was difficult in a hanging and half-sitting position; the neck-brace didn't make it possible for him to lie down.

It wasn't strange that he was declared unfit for work.

Of course everything that was medically possible was done for him, but to no avail.

Several operations were done to alleviate the pain, but nothing helped.

As if this wasn't enough Ritske developed a brain tumor and also looked death in the eye.

Several epileptic fits a day were the result and at night he was incontinent.

Because of his epilepsy his behaviour became aggressive.

There were problems with his short-term memory, the pain was terrible and the doctors said that he would lose his speech.

Because Ritske could not bear light, he wore sunglasses.

Because it was clear that the end of his life on earth was approaching, Ritske started to say goodbye to people.

In 2001 the doctors said that he had entered a very serious phase of his illness.

He had been prepared for this and though his whole world was falling apart, his faith in God had not been lost

In June 2001 together with his family he chose a place to be buried. Ritske wanted to know where his body would be laid. He also arranged the program for his funeral service.

## **2. Touched by God**

It was Ritske's brother, Timothy, who pointed out to Ritske and his mother that Jan Zijlstra held healing campaigns in the country.

At first Carly was not at all interested. She was afraid that miracles of healing had something to do with the occult.

For 18 months she resisted. However, when she saw videos of the services it was evident that Jan Zijlstra was a real Christian, that he confessed Jesus as Lord, preached a true gospel, that he laid hands on people in the name of Jesus and that he renounced the occult.

Carly gave up her resistance.

One weekend from 24 till 26 August Jan Zijlstra had healing services in Dokkum, Carly's home town. That weekend had been planned by the Alkema family as a valedictory weekend, because Ritske's health was deteriorating fast.

Just to be sure Frans and Carly asked the elders of their church to check out the services on Friday and Saturday in order to know if this work of Jan Zijlstra was from God.

The elders gave the green light.

And so it happened that the family, Ritske's girlfriend, Maaïke, included went on Sunday night, the 26<sup>th</sup> to the service.

It was extremely hot that night. Yet the hall was so full that the family could not sit together. Jan Zijlstra preached that night on the Greeks who came to Jesus' disciple, Philip, and said: "We want to see Jesus" (John 12:20,21).

The preacher emphasized that people should not come for him, not even for the miracle, but for Jesus, the one and only Saviour and Healer.

After the sermon many people came forward who wanted to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord. After this the healing service started.

That night the Alkema's saw God at work. They saw how many were touched by his power. When Frans and Carly saw these many healings, their faith in a miracle increased.

The first of the family who had his turn was Ritske.

There he stood on the platform with his whiplash and his tumor.

The evangelist asked him: "What are you going to do if God heals you?" "Then I will give my whole life in his hands and I will serve him," Ritske said resolutely.

First Zijlstra laid hands on him in Jesus' name for the whiplash and Ritske was immediately healed.



All the misery connected to this whiplash disappeared. "It is gone!" Ritske shouted. The preacher put another question to him: "If Jesus could do this, can he heal your tumor also?" He then laid hands on his head and commanded the tumor to shrink and die by the power of God. "The pain has gone", Ritske said.

"I feel that my neck is healed and my head feels good."

For the parents these were emotional moments. Carly: “When I looked at Ritske, I knew that God had touched him.

His radiant smile spoke clearly.

While this happened I myself was touched by the Lord.

Tears flowed on my cheeks and my heart was jubilant.

I felt the Lord so close to me. When Ritske returned from the follow-up room he was radiant and fell into the arms of his family. “I do not feel any pain anymore, my neck is healed. Mum, dad, I feel I have been touched by the Lord!”

There were many sick people that night; for hours prayers were offered in the name of Jesus.

Late that evening there still was a row of sick people in the full and extremely hot hall.

Carly still had not been prayed for, but she was so happy that she forgot the time.

At 1 a.m. she was still standing in the line of people.

Carly: “I couldn’t stand any more, so I sat down, the pain was unbearable.

While Brother Zijlstra was praying for people in the line, he suddenly said: “There is someone here with a serious bowel disease; come forward immediately!” And there I stood; I felt so close to Jesus and so safe.”

When Jan Zijlstra looked at Carly, he saw how sick she was and what years of misery she had experienced.

She told him that she had Hirschsprung disease, that her bowels didn’t work and that her body was gradually being poisoned. Zijlstra told her about a small boy.

God had done a miracle and created new nerve cells for him. “Carly”, he asked, “if God could make new nerve cells for this boy, can he do that for you?” “Yes, certainly”, she answered.

He pointed at the stick that supported her. “Where do you need that for?” “I use this for sitting, because I cannot stand. Everything in my body hurts, I am exhausted.”

“I lay my hands on you, Carly, so that your blood, your legs and all that is sick in your body **be healed in Jesus’ name! God’s power is on you, Carly!**”

Carly: “The moment he said that, something incredible happened. A wholesome healing power flowed through my whole body. It was such a wonderful touch and feeling. Waves of God’s power steadily flowed through me.

I felt the pain in my back leave and immediately I received a strong back.

Evangelist Zijlstra encouraged me: “You can walk now, walk in Jesus’ name!” I walked in the aisle to and fro. I had no pain! I could walk normally! **“Thank you, Jesus”** I said.



Zijlstra called her and asked: “If God can let you walk again, can he also give you new nerve cells?” Then he started speaking to her body in the name of Jesus.

Carly: “once again I felt the great power of God all over me.

I heard him say that God would do creative work in me, that new cells would be made, that there would be a natural urge for bowel movements.

I had to lay my hands on my abdomen and he laid his hands on mine and **prayed in the name of Jesus**. At this moment the touch of Jesus was ten times as strong as before.

I felt how my abdomen was flushed with his power; it seemed as if an explosion took place in my abdomen.

Everything in there was shaking. Jan Zijlstra noticed it: "Carly, you are getting new bowels. Hey, Carly, everything is moving!"

Later other people said they could see my abdomen tremble.

Then my whole body began to tremble and the pain at every spot in my body where the poisoning was having an effect left my head, my back, my arms and my legs.

All misery was gone in one single moment; I felt God's power flow through me. All the tiredness left, **Jesus had healed me!**"



Carly stood there, overcome with emotion. She could hardly understand what had happened. She felt a completely new person. All her life she had never known what it was like to be healthy,

but it had to be what she felt now. She walked herself to the follow-up room, waving her stick with a beautiful smile.

Her son Timothy shouted: "Skip, mum!" She had always said: "MY time of skipping and dancing will come, in heaven". But now she skipped full of joy.

"We arrived home at 2 a.m.", Carly said, "but we couldn't sleep.

All of us again and again thanked God for the miracles he had done. At daylight we fell asleep"

When Carly stood up and thanked the Lord once again for all he had done, she went to the toilet. For the first time in her life she felt a normal urge for a bowel movement.

The new nerve cells, which she had never had before and because of which she had never been able to push, stimulated her bowels in a natural way.

She shouted for joy: "I have been to the toilet in a normal way!" Resolutely she looked for the flag and raised it outside.

That was the moment that the whole street began wondering what had happened to the Alkema's.

The next day Ritske too was overwhelmed.

For the first time in seven years his neck was normal again.

All the results of the terrible whiplash and the life threatening brain tumor had gone.

The unbearable pains, the symptoms of paralysis, the epileptic fits and incontinence had disappeared. He could bear the light in his eyes, so that the dark glasses were unnecessary.

He could concentrate again and the memory loss had also gone.

He started thinking how he could arrange his life again. Instead of thinking about his funeral he appointed a date for his marriage to Maaïke.

On April 2002 Ritske and Maaïke were married.

He felt as energetic as before.

The doctors were puzzled in Ritske's and Carly's case.

They couldn't do else but state that both had been completely healed. Also now, in 2004, both are still healthy.

Two weeks after her healing a new anus was created in Carly's body and a whole that had been there beside it was closed.

For six weeks Carly could not sleep because the power of God's touch remained on her.

After the creation of a new anus, the movement in her abdomen finished.

Whereas before she was dead tired, now she had enormous energy. She wrote a book at night during those weeks.

Their healing was the talk of the day in the city of Dokkum. In many churches people talked about these miracles. Because of these miracles many started to serve God.

Carly and Frans have become faithful workers in the salvation and healing campaigns of Jan Zijlstra. Whenever Carly has a chance, she testifies to the wonderful healing power of God.

### **3. A dream**

During the year 2003 a new development took place in the life of Frans and Carly. Their lives were in a flurry of activities.

They were used by God in many ways that testified of him and his miraculous deeds.

It became a daily ministry. In the daily prayer meeting in their home they prayed the prayer of Jabez (1 Chron. 4:10): "Oh, that thou wouldst bless me and enlarge my border....", because they wanted more from God.

They prayed that God would show them what his plan and purpose was with their lives.

They prayed: "Lord, here in the Netherlands there is so much to do!" However, time and again God's call came to their hearts; there were verses from the Bible that God gave them (Acts 13:47; 22:21; Psalm 32:8) that pointed in the same direction.

That's why there came a moment that they proclaimed that they would go to Africa. When and how, they did not know.

Every day they prayed that God would show them the way.

At that time Frans and Carly did a lot of follow-up ministry.

One time they worked for five day in the campaign "The miraculous power of God" in Utrecht (October 2003).

I myself led several meetings, but the preaching and prophetic and healing ministry was taken care of by three Nigerian evangelists: Victor Emminike, who with his wife Judith holds campaigns all over the world, Sunday Adelaya, founder and pastor of the biggest church in Europe (a church of 20 000 Christians in Kiev) and Prince Gideon, pastor of a church in Nigeria.

During a prophetic meeting to his surprise Frans was called out of the big audience and received a prophecy that confirmed his and Carly's missionary call.

It is certain that the preacher involved knew nothing about Frans and Carly.

They were told that they would go to a foreign country, that Frans would be a teacher of God's Word that they had to improve their English and so on.

That was the last confirmation they needed and they started to contact various mission organizations.

The Lord led them step by step and after consultation with WEC (Worldwide Evangelism for Christ) they decided to join this interdenominational organisation. It was quite an experience for Carly to be declared medically fit after a medical examination.

WEC International is an organisation with over 1700 workers from fifty different countries, who work in multicultural teams. They work among ninety people groups that are unreached with the gospel, but also in many other places. For Frans and Carly the choice was made to work among the Zulu people of South Africa and particularly among street children whose parents have died of aids. They are now busy studying English and Zulu!

Frans and Carly are just ordinary people, who believe that God has done great things in their family. These things – healings, prophetic messages – cannot be explained naturally. Not every Christian experiences such spectacular healings like Frans and Carly. However, Christians are people who know God’s hand on their lives, often in a wonderful way. For them God is a daily, practical reality.

NB from the translator, May 2007:

Frans and Carly have ministered for one and a half year among the Zulu people in South Africa, particularly among the children and young people. They are teaching and preaching. Frans is giving vocational training to teenage boys and Carly is visiting people suffering from aids. They have tremendous energy and are untiring in their efforts to reach people with the Good News.



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End of the year 2007 the Lord told them to start their own organization. The Lord called them in a dream to go to Knysna in South Africa. Frans and Carly are the founders of “Immanuel Ministries” .