

Seventh son of seventh son

Famous Irish faith healer to hold court in Mississauga

By NIAMH WALSH

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Danny Gallagher has been labelled many things, but he has never been called a fraud.

This 34-year-old faith healer, who will be coming to Mississauga, has travelled the world taking on the toughest cases — ones doctors have given up on — leaving a trail of "impossible" cures in his wake.

Gallagher hails from County Derry, Northern Ireland, and is the seventh son of a seventh son. According to Celtic legend, the seventh son possesses the power to heal people simply by touching them.

He came to Canada two weeks ago at the invitation of a Kleinburg woman who claims he cured her of cancer. Her son is now stricken with the disease and she wants Gallagher to see if he can help him.

Gallagher says he first discovered he held unique powers in a dream he had when he was 8 years old. In the vision, he cured a young girl who was near death by laying his hands on her. But for many years, he did not utilize his gift, because he was afraid that his life would no longer be his own.

He says all that changed when he performed his first cure on a tiny crippled girl in his hometown. The story of the cure was reported by the local newspaper and his life changed dramatically.

"I was no longer afraid of my gift, but I welcomed it. I knew I had to help the people that were considered incurable," he says.

For the past 15 years he has performed hundreds of miracle cures throughout the world. Newspapers in Australia, Germany, Holland, France, Singapore and South Africa have printed testimonies of his cures with doctor's documentations and medical certificates to back up the claims. The English newspaper *News of the World* follows and reports Gallagher's work around the world. Last year he visited Cleveland, Ohio, and was welcomed wholeheartedly by the community.

Gallagher says his most successful cures include the healing of a 25-year-old man who suffered from epidermolysis bullosa, a disease which leaves cysts and open sores on the skin's surface. After several sessions with Gallagher, the patient was diagnosed as disease free.

Another success was the case of a 40-year-old woman who had been blind for 22 years, who had sought the faith healer's help in desperation. Today, he keeps her walking cane as a testimony of the un-

contested fact that her sight was restored.

"I cannot cure everyone, and I won't see anyone that I feel I can't help," says Gallagher, who claims that the power does not come directly from him, but he merely acts as conductor for the Lord's powers.

"Many people are skeptical but they don't bother me at all. They soon change their minds when they have a problem."

Chris Tarrant, a renowned British television journalist witnessed the cure of a woman so severely stricken with arthritis that she almost crawled out of

a taxi to see Gallagher. This was recorded on a television program.

"Some skeptics say it's all psychological," says Gallagher, "but there have been too many people cured of disease to accept that theory."

He has been known to place his hands on infectious diseases, and not only has the infection cleared but Gallagher himself did not contract the disease. He has also had great success with high and low blood pressure, and different forms of arthritis.

This is Gallagher's first trip to Canada, and he finds the response lukewarm compared to the response in Europe where people flock to see him.

"I don't have an answer for it. Maybe Canadians see these things in a different way," he speculates.

Gallagher, who has several clinics throughout Southern Ireland, maintains that he never misleads anyone. He is honest with them from the beginning, and cannot promise a cure.

Donations are welcome but he insists that it is not a money making scheme. He pays most of his own expenses and is genuinely committed to helping as many as he can.

"I've been at it for 15 years, so it's not as if I've come out of nowhere," says Gallagher.

Each person is seen individually, and no one is encouraged to stop medical treatment.

When referring to his own life and what future lays ahead, Gallagher is unsure. "My life is like a stream. It goes so fast and in so many different directions that I really don't know where I'm headed," he says.

Tonight and tomorrow from 5-9 p.m. Gallagher will be at Le Jardin Banquet Hall, 8440 Highway 27 in Woodbridge. For more information call 464-0348 or 856-6854.

Friday night from 6-10 p.m. he will be at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre, 1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd.



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