

Dyan Cannon's new role - faith healer!

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT

ALLY McBEAL star Dyan Cannon has become a self-proclaimed faith healer - and, incredibly, many of her followers say she has miraculously cured them of AIDS and deafness.

STAR has learned that the actress, who has a recurring role as Judge Jennifer "Whipper" Cone on the Fox series, insists that God would never let diseases such as AIDS and cancer afflict her followers.

At a recent healing meeting of "God's Party with Dyan Cannon and You" (GPDC&U) held in an elegant function room on the CBS lot in L.A., Cannon, 64, was seen telling her followers they had been cured by just a hug.

"I am God's vessel, I am full of

'I will heal whatever ails you... you do not have cancer'

- ALLY McBEAL STAR TO REAL-LIFE PATIENT

God's love," she told her following of 200 people.

"God has made it possible for me to channel Jesus' love from Him to all of you."

The congregation, many with tears in their eyes, raised their arms in praise as they chanted along with Cannon, who wore black leather pants and was backed by an eight-person band and gospel singers.

Raising her arms toward heaven, she said: "The Holy Spirit gives me the Word of Knowledge, and I will heal whatever ails you. Through me you will feel the love of Jesus."

One by one, those seeking to be healed were ushered onto the stage.

An elderly, well-dressed woman told her: "My doctor says I have cancer. He says I need an operation and chemotherapy."

Cannon leaned her head back, closed her eyes and placed her

hands on both sides of the woman's head.

"Listen to me," she said sternly. "God loves you. God wouldn't let you have cancer. God would never have invented cancer. You do not have cancer!"

The woman fell backward into the arms of a waiting staff member, who laid her on the floor.

"Don't touch her," Cannon told him. "Leave her on the floor, she is receiving Jesus."

Next, a follower in his 30s came onstage and proclaimed he was deaf in one ear, but thanks to Cannon and the Lord Jesus Christ, he can now hear perfectly.

Then a woman in her 40s, who said her daughter was taken away from her because doctors thought she was mentally ill, hugged Cannon after hearing her healing words, and fell to the floor sobbing loudly.

"I feel Jesus inside me already," she said.

Another follower gushed: "I owe everything to Dyan. I had a terrible back injury and was taking 100 painkillers a week. Doctors couldn't help me. But Dyan healed me. Now I'm a marathon runner." Others say Cannon has cured them of AIDS.

One believer, who flew in from Canada with her three children to attend the meeting, claimed: "My mother was very sick and would be dead if she hadn't found God's Party. I had to come and see the woman who saved her life."

Cannon, who starred in the 1969 movie *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice* and 1978's *Heaven Can Wait*, is so convinced of her healing powers, she has taken her message to the cast and crew on *Ally McBeal*.

"It's as though she can't help herself," says one crew member. "Anytime anyone has anything wrong with them, she thinks she can cure them."

"Even though she has been told time and time again that people don't want to hear it, she will still talk about her miraculous cures."

And no matter where Cannon is, she flies in for twice-a-month GPDC&U meetings, which are open to the public.

No admission is charged, and



HEALING HANDS? Cannon preaches to followers who believe she is God's vessel and can heal them, then heartily hugs one of the group



Followers are saying she can perform miracles

free refreshments are served. Bibles and tapes are sold, and donations are welcome.

Cannon, who started the religion by hosting weekly Bible study groups in her BevHills home, says she wasn't always so spiritual.

"I had a Jewish mother and Christian father, and they used to fight over the meaning of God," explains the actress, who was once married to Cary Grant.

"I used to go into my back yard and pray to God to help me find the truth. I've tried it all: marijuana, alcohol, primal screaming, yoga, meditation, psychiatry, metaphysics and Gestalt therapy.

"Now I've found Jesus and feel

so overwhelmed by his unconditional love, I'm calm and happy. I fulfill my duty to God and Jesus by giving their love and healing to those who come to me."

But her astonishing claims have medical experts worried about the safety of her followers.

"Faith is an important part of dealing with diseases like AIDS, but it's dangerous to rely on faith alone for a life-threatening illness," warns Dr. Marc La Riviere, an infectious disease specialist at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in L.A.

"In my opinion, a true healer would never make such a blanket statement of cure."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI ★