

# **JIM C – HEALTH TERMS**

## **MONDAY - 04/6/2009**

### **HOW DID THE TERM “*DISEASE*” ORIGINATE?**

***Definition (Infoplease):*** A disordered or incorrectly functioning organ, part, structure, or system of the body resulting from the effect of genetic or developmental errors, infection, poisons, nutritional deficiency or imbalance, toxicity, or unfavorable environmental factors; illness; sickness; ailment.

***Online Etymology:*** circa1330, "discomfort," from Old French *desaise*, from des- "without, away" + *aise* "ease." Sense of "sickness, illness" first recorded 1393; the word still sometimes was used in its literal sense early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

- **Late 16<sup>th</sup> Century** – The development of microscopes
- **19<sup>th</sup> Century** - Louis Pasteur and others discovered role played by microorganisms in infection; thus, people began to recognize the importance of sanitation and cleanliness.
- **19<sup>th</sup> Century** - The study of cellular pathology by Rudolf Virchow helped to establish the true nature of disease.
- **20<sup>th</sup> Century** - the importance of vitamins and other nutrients in preventing disease was recognized.

**Conventional Wisdom:** Disease = A medical disorder in humans

**Moment of Zen:** It is much less costly, in terms of both human suffering and economics, to prevent disease than to treat it.