

Restoration Ministries

HE RESTORES MY SOUL -
HEALING THE BROKEN HEARTED

Happy
New
Year!

Dear Friends,

We have left 2006 behind forever and have stepped over the threshold into 2007. Some will have done so joyously and full of expectancy and energy as they eagerly embrace the life that each day brings. Others will have done so hesitatingly, fearful of the uncharted road that stretches ahead of them. What this year will hold we do not know. On the local scene we hope for an agreement between political parties that will result in our devolved legislative assembly being fully up and running once again. We hope for new beginnings in our educational, health, business and religious institutions, beginnings that would signal resurrection for much that is at present weary, depressed, inadequate and ineffective. On a global level we hope for more than we can put into words – an end to the killing in Iraq and Afghanistan, peace in the Middle East, freedom, security and hope for so many tortured lands and peoples, conservation of natural resources so that there will still be a wonderful world for our children and grandchildren to inherit. Yet as soon as we start to think like that, we know that it is not all going to happen in 2007. That thought can become so overwhelming that we could easily become swamped by feelings of powerlessness and despair.

As people of faith we have at times found it hard to keep hope alive. We have believed for revival and renewal and haven't seen it – yet. We have believed for peace with justice and haven't experienced it – yet. We have believed that we in Ireland have a destiny under God to fulfil in the whole area of reconciliation, of restoring hospitality and that destiny seems to have been put on the back burner. Perhaps in the midst of all the pressures we are experiencing in our lives, and we all have them, maybe the whole idea of having a destiny has disappeared. Last year I heard someone say, "Somebody or something can delay your destiny, but they cannot kill it off." God says through the prophet, "How can you say that the Lord does not see your troubles? How can you say God refuses to hear your case? Have you never heard or understood? Don't you know that God is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth? He never grows faint or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding." What we have hoped for and prayed for and believed for may be slow in coming, but it's on its way and it's going to be personally delivered by the Spirit from a God who understands, who has heard and is already answering the cry, who never grows faint or weary. Paul says in his letter to the Romans, "So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." It's a bit much, don't you think? Yet as Christian people we are called to put ourselves continually in the place of overflowing. How can we overflow with hope, we who are so often weary, pressurized and overburdened by the needs all around us and within us? Well, we

Over-
flow
with
hope

can't – on our own! We are to overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our hope comes from God. As we open ourselves to receive it in faith, then the Holy Spirit empowers and nurtures the gift within us, and his supply is endless. By his empowering we become bearers of hope to others. It will overflow from those whose hearts are held captive by hope and who never give up because they have surrendered themselves to the Holy Spirit's power. And in that empowering comes a peace that the world cannot give or take away, because we know that all things are in his hands and the ultimate responsibility is his, not ours.

So for me the peace that Jesus talks about comes when I know, in the Spirit, that I am walking, however stumblingly, my path of destiny. Maybe you're tired. Perhaps you're weary after praying so long and working so hard for what at times can seem to be relatively few results. Remember – somebody can delay your destiny but they cannot kill it off. Remember "He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers strength to the weak." And remember: "Even youths will become exhausted and young men will give up. But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

Ruth

You are the God who makes
all things new
You bring hope to the despairing
light to those in darkness
peace to the troubled
Answer the cry of this anguished, wonderful earth
And make us new, by your Spirit
that we may live
as light bearers,
hope givers
and peace makers.

Amen

A
prayer
for
2007

Dates
for
your
diary

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 29 Jan 2007

8.00 pm

Special service in this season
of prayer for Christian Unity

Service will conclude with an anointing
for healing for those who wish to receive

LENTEN REFLECTION

DAY

Saturday 10 March 2007

2.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

An opportunity to prepare for the
Easter Season.

Facilitators:

Rev Ruth Patterson

Noreen O' Rourke

Contact
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