



Dear Friends,

In this Newsletter we thought it would be good to share with you, especially those of you who could not be with us, what a joyful evening we had on September 24 at the launch of the new book. It was wonderful to welcome over one hundred people, from very diverse backgrounds, to Restoration House. The event was so ably chaired by one of our directors, Michael Fitch. Maura Hyland, Director of Veritas and Baroness Nuala O'Loan made inspired and moving contributions, and Catherine Vincent's catering left nothing to be desired.

For those of you who do not have a copy of the book, or even if you do but are still wondering what it is about, I thought it might be appropriate to share a little of the thought behind it. It is primarily a book for people who already believe, those who have already journeyed a little – or a lot – but for whom, at this present time, there are many difficulties, doubts and unanswered questions. It is a book for those who are, perhaps, disillusioned or weary or wondering where the energy and the vision will come from to enable them to keep on keeping on. At a time in the history of this island, of the world and of the Church when so much of what once seemed certain, solid and safe appears to be crumbling, it is an awesome thing to realize that the mantle of being a bridge between the times falls upon such unlikely people as us, we who call ourselves the people of God. How can we be bearers of hope, carriers of the vision, prophetic voices, restorers of waste places when we ourselves feel devoid of hope, when the vision 'tarries,' when the voice of the prophet is silent, and when the waste places in our world and in the Church seem to mirror the waste places within ourselves? How can we be a bridge between what has been and what is yet to be, a bridge that will enable others to cross over into a place of hope, of purpose, of resurrection when in between there falls the shadow not only of world events and our own vulnerabilities and mortality, but also the awareness of what being such a bridge might cost us?

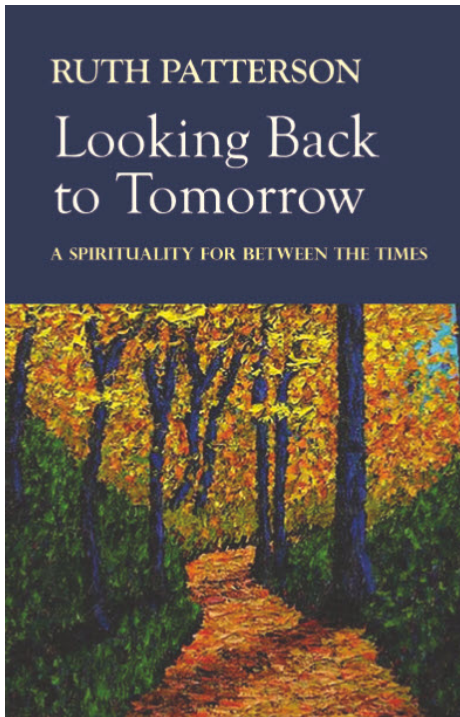
For me, the key lies in looking back to tomorrow, to look again at some of our ancestors in faith who, in their honest wrestling with the events of their day and with the God who called them into relationship, forged a spirituality that is timeless in its application. What they hoped for, what they dreamt of, what they lived and died for culminated in the incarnation of God, the 'I Am,' – the coming of Jesus. How we bear witness to God-with-us and God-yet-to-come, how we live between the times is crucial. I believe that the only way to incarnate the story and so convey that sense of wonder, is for us to take on board fully the fact that, as Richard Rohr reminds us, God is choosing us now and now and now.

We need a radical spirituality for the living of these days - radical really meaning that we go back to our roots - in order to be re-envisioned, inspired, encouraged and, perhaps even re-commissioned to be image bearers of Good News – not necessarily any more learning, but a great deal more awareness! Maybe what we need above everything else is to simply, yet profoundly, rediscover or recognize for the first time, just how much we are loved. Out of that awareness all things become possible, even being a bridge between the times.

Ruth



For your information



Following the very successful launch of Ruth's recent book we now have copies for sale in the office at £8.45. The book can be purchased in most leading bookstores and also from Veritas direct at Euro 9.95.

We are pleased to announce that on Thursday 22nd October Ruth will accept an award from Reality Magazine - the Redemptorist publication for: 'Religious Book/Author of the Year' for "Looking Back to Tomorrow - A Spirituality For Between the Times.

On Thursday 29th October Ruth and few representatives from the Friends of Restoration Ministries travel to Dublin at the invitation of President McAleese to officially present her with a copy of Ruth's latest book at Aras an Uachtarain.

Dates for your diary

Monthly Meeting

Monday 26 October 2009
At 8.00 pm

LOOKING BACK TO TOMORROW

Facilitator: Rev Ruth Patterson

Advent Reflection Day

Saturday 28 November 2009

2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

How Far is it to Bethlehem?

Facilitator: Rev Ruth Patterson

E - Mail



With the increasing cost of postage, we are grateful to those who receive the Newsletter via e-mail and once again we would encourage more 'Friends' to take up this option. Each month we will send you a reminder that it is available to read.

We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the Monthly Reflections for 2009 - 2010 can be viewed on line.

The Faith & Friendship booklets for 2009 - 2010 containing the above reflections are now sold out.

Tel No: 028 90621867

Email: office@restorationministries.co.uk

Web: www.restorationministries.co.uk