

# Restoration Ministries



He restores my soul

JUNE 2010

*Dear Friends,*

This will be our last newsletter until September. As I look back over the year, it is easier to remember, locally and globally, many of the negative things that have happened in individual lives, in the Church, in politics, in natural disasters. Certain things, in their trauma, anguish and sense of unbearable loss, stand out starkly against a backdrop of thousands of events, both small and large, that have threatened to engulf us in a tidal wave of despair. I'm thinking of the earthquake in Haiti and its long aftermath, and all the other forgotten earthquakes of the last months, the mining disasters, the unending, seemingly insoluble agony of the Middle East, the relentless war in Afghanistan, the heightening tension with awful potential between North and South Korea, the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the inexplicable horror in Cumbria. Add to that the continuing effects of economic recession world wide, the 'promise' of a further tightening of belts at home, the increasing alienation of certain areas within the city of Belfast and other cities nation-wide, the drift away from and disillusionment with Church as people have known it – and all the tragedies of illness, broken relationships and bereavement with which people we know have had to struggle. So I could go on with a litany that would be never ending, all of these things demanding our attention, our prayer, our care, our giving, our presence, our awareness. We are not only responsible for our own little community, but, in the twenty-first century, we are, whether we like it or not, citizens of the world.

We are also, however, citizens of another Kingdom – the Kingdom of Heaven. This Kingdom is not wishful thinking or a useful tool to enable us to abdicate from the world in which we have been placed at this particular time. It is a Kingdom with a very definite citizens' charter, summarized in the beatitudes in Matthew Ch.5. This is where Jesus, addressing the whole of life, challenges us, saying in effect, "Let this be your attitude." He then goes on to list the way we, as Christians, are

commissioned to live in this 'now' – which is all that we have been given.

Thank God for those who, in these days, are taking that charter seriously, and who, in all the long years, have been faithful to that calling. They are here in Ireland, and in every part of the world, people of outrageous hope who keep on keeping on, who never give up, who know that the Kingdom is already here, but, paradoxically, is yet to come. They are those who have been seized by vision, who have dared to dream and have been willing to put their lives on the line to turn their dream into reality. For all of them, among whom many of you who read this are numbered, we give thanks to God.

## THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst  
for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for righteousness sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10

St. Francis, as he lay dying, said to his brothers and sisters, "Let us begin again for up to now we have done nothing." What a place to be in – a place of humility, a place of outrageous hope and a place from which to dream. We begin again with the convic-

tion that no prayer goes unheard, that no little act of compassion or kindness is without effect, that no word spoken in truth will fail to bear fruit. Actually all of these 'little' things, anointed by the Spirit, are the work of the Kingdom and will produce a harvest far greater than we could ever imagine. To do them is within the scope of each one of us. Not to do them is to diminish the dream and to settle for less, less than what God has in mind for us and for the world.

As I pray rest and refreshment for all of you, giving thanks to God for your support and faithfulness, I pray also that, during these months of summer, you will dare, once again, to dream and

that, as you do, you will be seized with an outrageous hope that, in each of your situations, it is possible to begin again and to incarnate your God-given dreams as citizens of that other Kingdom that is closer to us than we know. Be encouraged. We are surrounded by a huge crowd of witnesses, all urging us on. So let's 'run' with perseverance and with joy, looking unto Jesus.

*Have a great summer.*

*Ruth*

**Divine Healing Ministries** are holding a Day of Prayer on The Transforming Power of Revival on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> in St. Anne's Cathedral from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm. As in previous years there will be different people leading each half-hour session during the day.

**DIVINE HEALING MINISTRIES**

**Day of Prayer for our Land**

**St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast**  
**Saturday, June 26th, 2010**

**'The Transforming Power of Revival'**

**Programme of Sessions**

COMMENCING	SPEAKER
10.30AM	REV. JIM REA
11.00AM	REV. BRIAN ANDERSON
11.30AM	V. REV. DR. GODFREY BROWN
12.00 NOON	MR. DAVID O'CONNOR
12.30PM	MRS. JOAN WEIR
1.00PM	REV. DR. RUTH PATTERSON
1.30PM	REV. MIKE MCCANN
2.00PM	REV. CANON TOM KEIGHTLEY
2.30PM	SR. EIBHLEEN HEGARTY
3.00PM	BRO. DAVID JARDINE

Refreshments will be available in the Cathedral Hall throughout the event.

**PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US IN PRAYER FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL OR PART OF THE DAY.**

Further information: Tel: 028 9031 1532  
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Web address: [divinehealingministries.wordpress@liveone.net](http://divinehealingministries.wordpress@liveone.net)



**Monthly Meeting**

Monday June 21, 2010  
at 7.30 pm.

**Please note change of date and time.**

**Special guest: Derek Poole**

Derek Poole is the Director of LINC – Local Initiative for Needy Communities, a North Belfast base initiative focusing on the post conflict needs of local communities. Derek has been working for Peace, Reconciliation and Social Justice in NI therefore active in many Local bridge building initiatives for over 30 years.

Derek is a long-standing and trusted friend of Restoration Ministries, someone who has a prophetic voice for these days. We have asked Derek to come and 'dare to dream' with us for Ireland, Church and World. His theme is – *'I have a Dream.'*

**RIP**

We are greatly saddened to announce the death of yet another 'Friend' of Restoration Ministries. David Stevens, Leader of the Corrymeela Community died on Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. He had been diagnosed with cancer just before Easter. He had shown remarkable spirit, courage and faith and was still working. His sudden death has come as a great shock to his family and friends and to the wider family of the Corrymeela Community. We ask you to pray for them. We would wish, in whatever way we can, to offer our support and love not just now but in the confused, bereft and lonely days ahead.

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