

MAY 2009



Restoration
MINISTRIES

HE RESTORES MY SOUL

Dear Friends,

Lately I have been reflecting with *Seven Sacred Pauses* by Macrina Wiederkehr and have found so many phrases, prayers and reflections that mirror my experience of Restoration Ministries that I am going to borrow them.

Restoration Ministries is a refuge for mind, soul and body. A visit there could prompt this: "Sacred is the pause that draws us into stillness. Nourishing are the moments when we step away from busyness. Teach us the wisdom of pausing. Reveal to us the goodness of stopping to breathe. Bring to our memory the truth that we are the temple out of which you pour gifts into the world. We are the temple from which we sing our songs (and songs loom large in RM). We are the temple out of which you bless. Enable us to listen to the renewal you are trying to bring about in us and through us." Anyone with any experience of Restoration Ministries will recognise it in many of the phrases of that passage and I feel I could stop now and invite reflection on them.

"Breathing spells for the soul." Most of us are familiar with the story of the tribesmen accompanying westerners through the Kalahari desert. Not used to the speed at which the travellers wished to go the tribesmen suddenly stopped and point blank refused to go any further. They explained that they had to wait for their souls to catch up. At some stage all of us experience the need for a breathing space for the soul. And we know where to go to find one. And these pauses, these sacred pauses, become treasured anointing in a busy life. Contact with Restoration Ministries helps us to add the wise act of pausing to our to-do list.

Praise is a word that I am, of course, familiar with in our Catholic tradition but we do not use it with same familiarity or facility as in the Reformed Tradition. Contact with Restoration Ministries helps me resonate to the following:

I have the potential of becoming a living praise.
With my glance I give praise.
With my breath I give praise.
With grateful heart I give praise.
In the sorrows of life I give praise.
In the joy of the moment I give praise.
With my voice I give praise.
With my silence I give praise.
My desire to live this day well gives praise.

And there are echoes of Restoration Ministries all over that litany.

Many visit Restoration House for many different reasons and we all lift up our faces towards the ointment of restoration and experience:



Monsignor Tom Toner -
Catholic Priest - is a Director
in Restoration Ministries'
He is currently working in
St Teresa's Parish on the
Glen Road in Belfast.

deep healing;
 deep watching;
 deep waiting;
 deep listening;

and come away awakened - to hope, to joy, to love and to new insights,
 and we come away rejoicing:

in the marrow of my bones I rejoice;
 from the centre of my soul I rejoice;
 In my heart of hearts I rejoice;
 from the home of my body I rejoice;
 with all my being I rejoice.

This is what Restoration Ministries can do for the pilgrim.

As I said before I am using the words of Macrina Wiederkehr to express my experience of Restoration Ministries and my last words from her I put into the mouth of Ruth and all who work for Restoration Ministries. This is how they speak to me and to our world:

We will believe the truth about ourselves no matter how beautiful it is.
 We believe in our power to transform indifference into love.
 We believe we have an amazing gift to keep hope alive in the face of despair.
 We believe we have the remarkable skill of deleting bitterness from our lives.
 We believe in our potential to live with non-violent hearts.
 We believe in our passion to speak the truth even when it isn't popular.
 We believe we have the strength of will to be at peace in a world of violence.
 We believe in our miraculous capacity for unconditional love.

And for all that is beautiful in Restoration Ministries I give thanks and praise. *Tom*

**Day of Prayer to launch
 Seven years of Prayer for Revival
 St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast
 Saturday, June 20th, 2009
 (10:30am - 3:30pm)**

10.30am	Rev. Jim Rea Shankill Road Methodist Church
11.00am	The Right Rev. Harold Millar Bishop of Down & Dromore
11.30am	David O'Connor Koinonia Community
12.00noon	Margaret Clarke Transformations Ireland
12.30pm	Rev. Niall & Mrs Gerry Griffin Past Directors of S.O.M.A. Ireland
1.00pm	Pastor David (Packie) Hamilton Pastor of Heaton Chapel, Manchester
1.30pm	Michael Perrott Founder of Christian Guidelines
2.00pm	Rev. Ruth Patterson Director of Restoration Ministries
2.30pm	Very Rev. Ciaran Dallat P.P. Sacred Heart Church, Oldpark Rd, Belfast
3.00pm	Rev. Brother David Jardine SSF Director of Divine Healing Ministries

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AT ANY TIME
 DURING THE DAY! (Secure Car Parking and
 Refreshments will be available throughout the day.)**

Further Information: Tel: 028 9031 1532
 email: divinehealing@live.co.uk
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Please Note
 Monthly Meeting

Monday
 25th May 2009
 At
 8.00 pm

All Welcome

*We are delighted
 that
 Kelvin & Evaline
 McCracken
 Director & Friends
 of the ministry
 have agreed to
 facilitate this
 Monthly Meeting*