

Restoration Ministries



He restores my soul

June 2009

Dear Friends,

At the end of May I returned from two months' sabbatical into a week of glorious weather which always causes peoples' spirits to rise. I had spent most of May in the Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre near Newry, Co. Down. What a peaceful, beautiful and hospitable place in which to reflect and to write! Thank you for all your prayers. I managed to write the book that had been on my mind and heart for some time. It is called 'Looking Back to Tomorrow

(A Spirituality for Between the Times.)'



Arthur's story- in pictures!

I hope, if all is well, that it will be launched in the early Autumn. When I drove back into Thornhill Road – which had been widened and improved during my absence - I realised afresh what a peaceful, beautiful and hospitable place Restoration House is also. I know that many people who come here always remark on the sense of peace that they experience. I believe that that is the result of all the prayer that has gone on here over the years but also the loving care lavished on the property, not least the garden by faithful volunteers. We have always said that we like to think that the house and the grounds welcome people as well as the 'inmates!' We are so grateful for all the volunteers over the years who have given of their time and talents to make this place into what it is today. I want to mention one in particular.

As I was on sabbatical, this is my first opportunity to let you know that Arthur is not well. He has been one of the faithful ones who, for about eighteen years has quietly worked in the garden, painted, created, mended and prayed without ceasing. Up until very recently when he has not been able to be with us due to failing health, Arthur would walk around the house and the grounds before he left each day, anointing the door posts and gate posts, praying protection over the property and all who were here. You will see in the photographs a little summary of where Arthur's story is woven into the fabric of Restoration Ministries' story. Wherever we look there are signs of his handiwork. We give thanks to God for him and for all his faithful service and I know you will join with me in praying for him a deep sense of peace and assurance of being held in the heart of God and the hearts of all those who care for him at this stage of his journey.

All of you who read this will have at least one little thread of your story woven into the fabric of the story that is Restoration Ministries and it, in turn, is written into yours. It is good, maybe especially in the season of Pentecost, to pause and reflect how, often in the most surprising of ways, God has caused our paths to cross, and to remind ourselves that we are all part of the one body, interconnected through the Holy Spirit. I thank God for each one of you, for the gift that you are, not just to Restoration Ministries but to your particular sphere of being, of doing, of loving. What wonderful stories are being written in the third dimension just because you are alive, you are aware and you have allowed yourselves to be grasped by a vision. Over the weeks of summer, go well, rest well, and may God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be your centre, be your song, be your strength – and the wind in your sails!

Ruth

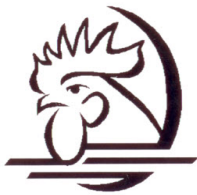




Eithne, who has been a much valued colleague here for the past thirteen years is retiring at the end of June. Somehow I cannot equate the words 'retirement' and 'Eithne.' For various reasons she feels it is time for her to leave her post here, but I believe she will never be far from us. She has brought her whole self to the work here. She has exercised her many gifts in very creative ways. I have valued her role as PA to myself more than words can say. We have all benefited hugely from her computer skills, in particular the design of our monthly newsletter and the many handouts produced for retreats, reflection days and conferences. 'That will do fine' has never been a phrase in Eithne's vocabulary. All she does has to be the best it can be, and her best is well nigh perfect. One of the things we will miss the most is her great ability to see the funny side of many happenings and events. Her sense of humour is second to none. But so also is her professionalism in all that she does. Over the years, as she would herself acknowledge, Eithne has been on a spiritual journey along with the rest of us. I pay tribute to her courage, her openness and her total commitment to and love for the God who has chosen and called her and who will continue to pilgrim with her wherever the future takes her. A hundred thousand thanks, Eithne, our grateful love and God be with you on the next stage of your journey,

Moving on!!

Ruth and the family of Restoration Ministries.



Church Growth Croatia & Bosnia are opening a charity shop at 40 Main Street, Crumlin

GIVE+TAKE

Quality goods
Charity prices

Supporting the people of Bosnia and Croatia

We are currently fitting out and gathering stock ready for trading at the end of January 2009.

How can you help?

Please pray that the shop will be beneficial, not only to supporting our Mission, but also to the local community.

Your unwanted useable stuff is needed: adult & children's clothes, books, CDs, furniture, jewellery, toys, games etc. House clearances and collection can be arranged.

Have you a few hours to volunteer to help in the shop, to sort or to serve?

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 10am - 4.30pm

Please contact Ann & Stuart Graham at:
10 Grange Road, Nutts Corner, Crumlin
Email: stuartni@aol.com
Tel: 028 9082 5303
Mobile: 07803 753 069

Monday 22nd June
Monthly Meeting
& end of year celebration

Dinner will be served at 7.30pm

Title: Emerging From Sabbatical
Facilitator: Rev Ruth Patterson
For catering - please contact the office

Thought for the summer

Though we live in a world that thinks of ending,

*That always seems about to give in,
Something that will not acknowledge conclusion,*

Insists that we forever begin.

- Brendan Kennelly, 'Begin'