

He restores my soul

Dear Friends

As we approach Advent, it seems very appropriate that we have reached this point on our journey through the twenty third psalm. *"He lets me rest in green meadows. He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength."* Perhaps in the past year we haven't experienced much of the green meadows or peaceful streams, but they have been there. I don't think we would be here either physically or spiritually if we hadn't, in sometimes unexpected ways and unexpected places experienced moments of that special sort of rest and peace that then enables us to rise up again and be on our way as a ministry. There have been many such graced moments. I can think of the special hours when we have been watching the videos on St. John together, or the Wednesday prayer, or the moments when we are covenanted with others to pray each day at twelve noon, and other times when we have experienced the refreshment of simply being listened to and taken seriously. All of these things and many others have initiated us into the secret of abiding in Jesus and allowing him to abide in us, in order that we might have strength for the journey. It is so important, not only that we seek out those resting places and avail ourselves of them, both collectively and individually, but also that we then provide opportunities for others, roadside inns, if you like, where they can rest and recognise that they are in the presence of a God who knows their every need and who desires to be their resting place as well. That is one of our primary callings along this road that we have chosen to travel, and is at the heart of restoration. *"Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me to revive my drooping spirit."* That's the way another version puts it. Our whole community of Northern Ireland needs its strength renewed, its drooping spirit revived, its soul restored. And our



community is the collective sum of thousands of individuals for whom the last thirty-six years have been too much, perhaps including ourselves. In human terms we are very weary. When we started out on this road in the late 1980s, it was with an enthusiasm, a conviction and an energy that we could, under the guidance of the Spirit of God, lead people, especially those who were in leadership and those who had in any way been diminished by the conflict, along a road of restoration towards the wholeness that God had in mind for them. Many people have been touched, blessed, restored in ways that they and we never expected. We ourselves have been blessed also, and been led ever more deeply in our understanding of what healing and reconciliation and restoration is all about. But at this point in time, it's as if we ourselves, and perhaps all those everywhere in the world who are travelling a similar road, need a major work of restoration in order that we might with renewed energy, enthusiasm and conviction move on to the next stage, whatever that is. *"He restores my soul"* are the words at the heart of our ministry. As we reclaim them for ourselves and others, I believe we are going to see more and more drooping spirits coming to our particular roadside inn for the prayer, the listening, the hospitality that are the heartbeats of Restoration Ministries.

"You lay me down in green meadows; you bring me to rest by calm waters. In you my spirit is restored."

Each day during Advent at our twelve noon prayer we will especially remember all of you who are friends of the ministry, wherever you are in the world, that you will experience that rest and that restoration.

Ruth



MONTHLY MEETING - MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2005 AT 8.00 PM

This year we are journeying through the gospel of John with Jean Vanier using video and reflection. As our next monthly meeting marks the 1st Monday in Advent we are also having

A SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR HEALING

This invitation is open to all - even if you have not been able to attend our regular monthly meetings. It is an opportunity to bring our collective and individual needs to God during this season of hope.



DAY OF REFLECTION SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER FROM 2.30 PM - 6.00 PM

In response to all those who have asked us to provide an opportunity to have space away from business Ruth will facilitate an Advent Journey.

ALL WELCOME

Please Note Open House - Every Wednesday 12 noon - 2.00 pm



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION MONDAY 19th DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM

We would love to see all of our friends come and celebrate this evening with us here in Restoration House. If you can't come all year we would appreciate your joining with us in singing carols, hearing the Christmas story and meeting with each other over supper. Our theme is:

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

NEWSPLETTER ONLINE

We would like to thank all those who have requested that, in order to save on postage, they would be happy to receive our newsletter via e-mail. This is the first month we have put this into operation and we hope it is successful. Send us your e-mail address if you would like to receive your newsletters this way.



Contact us

Restoration Ministries
4 Thornhill Road, Dunmurry
Northern Ireland BT17 9EJ

T 028 9062 1867
E office@restorationministries.co.uk
W www.restorationministries.co.uk

