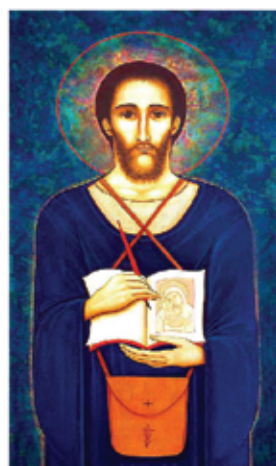


# Restoration Ministries

## HE RESTORES MY SOUL - HEALING THE BROKEN HEARTED

*Dear Friends,*

Nearly every organisation, business, religious order, or church nowadays has their mission statement, that is, they set down very clearly what they believe are their aims and objectives, their purpose and their goal. They seek to convey in as clear and concise a manner as possible what it is they are about. Jesus began his public ministry with a remarkable mission statement, one that he embodied in his very being. After his baptism by



*Monthly Meetings -  
following the gospel of St Luke*

John, he was led – by the Spirit - into the wilderness where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. This was his first major testing prior to his emerging on to a very public stage. In his humanity this was where Jesus wrestled with his shadow side, or, if you like, faced his demons and won through so that when he came up out of the wilderness, he was someone of total maturity, integrity and clarity of vision. He went into the wilderness full of the Holy Spirit. He returned from the wilderness filled with the Holy Spirit's power. With his teaching and healing ministry he soon made a name for himself throughout Galilee and then he paid a visit to the town where he had grown up, the place where everybody knew him, or thought they knew him, to Nazareth. On the Sabbath,

as he did every week, he went to the synagogue, and was asked to read the scripture for the day. What he read was what we now know as the first few verses of Isaiah Chapter 61. "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me,

because the Lord has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken hearted and to announce that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favour has come."

The first words he utters after the reading are, "This Scripture has come true today before your very eyes!" In essence he was his own mission statement and was declaring to those among whom he'd lived and played and worked and worshipped, those whose communal joys and sorrows he had shared that he was God's embodiment of Good News for them. Of course he must have known that they wouldn't believe him. He pre-empted their accusations by telling them that no prophet was ever welcome or accepted in his own hometown. Because they thought they had him boxed and labelled, they couldn't take it when he stepped outside their attempts to restrict him. These Nazarenes were not bad people. In all probability they were good religious people who went to 'church' every Sunday, who observed all the religious rules and regulations, who were longing for the coming of the Messiah, for God to lift them up out of their poverty, oppression and despair, but, when the moment came, they failed to recognise it or grasp it because it didn't come in the way

they were expecting. It came through the normal, the ordinary, the familiar presence of Jesus. God's mission statement, in the presence of his Son was there in their own synagogue and they couldn't see the wood for the trees, they couldn't allow their minds to be blown open, their hearts to rise, their faith expectancy to well up because they thought they knew what was of God and what was not, how the Messiah would appear and what he would be like. They couldn't move beyond the fixed boundaries of centuries. Rather than face their own limited understanding, their own prejudice, their own brokenness and despair, they project it outwards on to the itinerant preacher and seek to destroy him.

Our theme for this year is "Healing the Broken Hearted." As part of that theme we are holding a healing service here each month. We're basing all our teachings on the Gospel of Luke, Luke who wrote for the marginalized, for women, for the foreigners. We hope you'll come and bring others with you. But we hope you'll do more than that. We hope that in the weeks in between you'll pray. Pray not just for these services but for one another that we may not be like that congregation in Nazareth, but that we might be open to the God of the unexpected, the God for whom nothing is impossible, the God who can bring recovery to the tired and worn out, comfort to those who mourn, hope to the despairing, peace to the tormented, forgiveness to the burdened and healing to the sick and broken hearted.

And may God's healing and peace be with you wherever you are in the world today.

*Ruth*

## Dates For Your Dairy

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### Monthly Meetings

### Hospitality Evenings

#### Services for Healing

**This year our Hospitality Evenings are specifically for young people between the ages of 17 - 30. If you know of any young person who would like to receive an invite please contact the office. Our first evening is on:**

Monday

30th October 2006

8.00 pm

**Monday November 13**

**at 7.30 pm**

Monday

27th November 2006

8.00 pm

**Our guest speaker is the Ulster poet and playwright Damien Gorman**

### Day of Reflection

Saturday

2nd December

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