



Restoration
MINISTRIES

He Restores My Soul - Autumn 2015

Dear Friends,

It is difficult to write about the world of 2015 without getting caught up in what can seem to be clichés. Wherever we look we find anguish, confusion, despair and uncertainty. There is the temptation to think that no period of history has been as violent, cruel and nightmarish as this present age. This, accompanied by the feelings of helplessness and disempowerment generated by both global and local news bulletins, can cause us to be overwhelmed. In such a scenario it is so important to take, as it were, a step back from the front line of negative bombardment and look for the signs of hope, for the good in others both around us and farther afield. Many have been so encouraged by Pope Francis declaring this incoming year to be the Year of Mercy. He himself not only speaks of it, he lives it. Jim Wallis of Sojourners, writing of the recent papal visit to the United States entitled his article, 'When a Visitor Changes Your Home.' We need to be awakened again to the power of one, that even one person who chooses the way of mercy, justice, truth and peace can change the world around them.

Some time ago I was reading about Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan from Vietnam. In 1975 he was arrested by the Communist government and imprisoned for 13 years, 9 of them being in solitary confinement. In the end, in 1991, he was exiled from his beloved country. In a small booklet entitled Five Loaves and Two Fish he speaks of the 'little' offering of his life which he gave in its entirety to Jesus, trusting him to do the rest. After his release the media wanted to hear from him stories of sensationalism about his

captivity, things that might stir people up to accuse, take revenge, incite opposition. Instead he chose the way of love, forgiveness and reconciliation, sharing his experiences of how he found Jesus in every moment of his daily life.

In my travels over the last couple of months, both in Ireland and beyond, I have been privileged to meet with remarkable people who refuse to get locked into despair, or to anaesthetise themselves from the pain of the world by simply being very busy so that there is no time to reflect. These people do not hit the headlines but in their 'little offering' are changing the world around them. They are image bearers of hope; they are mercy givers; they are peace makers and, in the unseen world, the communion of saints rejoices.

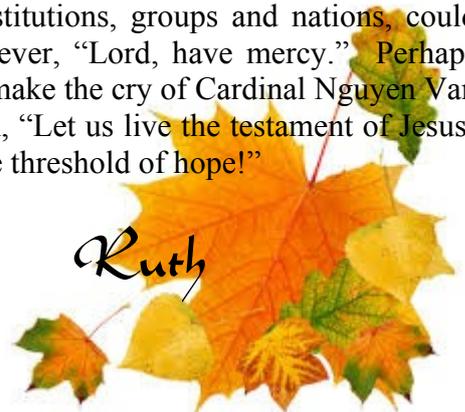


.....one person who chooses the way of mercy, justice, truth and peace can change the world around them.

Many of you, dear friends, are numbered among them. We are fast approaching Advent, the season of hope. As we live these days could we choose to look for the good around us and actively encourage it? And when we encounter

the shadows and the darkness working through individuals, institutions, groups and nations, could our prayer be ever, "Lord, have mercy." Perhaps also we could make the cry of Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan our own, "Let us live the testament of Jesus! Let us cross the threshold of hope!"

Ruth





ADVENT 2015

RM REFLECTION DAY

**“The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light...”**

**Saturday November 28, 2015
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
St Brigid's, Derryvolgie Avenue,
Belfast.
All welcome.**

Fr Des Quinn

We have been saddened by the death of Fr Des Quinn, brother of our dear Sister Jo. Des was a Columban priest who spent a large part of his priesthood in the Philippines. He has been a great friend and supporter of Restoration Ministries and we will miss him. Ruth and Eilish attended his funeral at St Columban's, Dalgan Park, Navan on September 23, 2015. On the front of the Order of Service were some words from Psalm 23 – ‘Surely goodness and kindness will follow me’. Wherever Des went, he left behind the fragrance of goodness and kindness and we know that the Lord's house will be his home for ever. We pray comfort and peace for Jo and the family circle at this hard and sad time.

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

29th January 2016

At 7.30 pm



**“A Celebration of Women's
Ministry and thanksgiving
for the 40th anniversary of
Ruth's ordination”**

VENUE

**Harmony Hill
Presbyterian Church.**



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We appreciate
your continuing
generosity .
Thank you!

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