

Network for Intercession Newsletter January-February 2012

Dear Friends,

Firstly we pray that you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and that the Lord truly was born into your heart once more during this season.

January is always a time to look at my life, at how I spend my time and for me to ask myself a painful question: how much is God at the centre of my life?

We have received the words and images below which we share with you. I would encourage you to continue to share these with us by sending them directly to Chris and myself at our email address or by post if that is more convenient to you.

A few people have been in touch speaking about a 'great shaking' both spiritually and in the world. There are words like *"your winter will rise with great force and for some it will present times of great suffering... therefore be attentive, be prepared and be in a state of grace"*.

Also: *"return to Jesus only in him will you find the strength to face what is to come..."*

These words call us to conversion and repentance. We need to pray for people to turn to the Lord for a softening of hearts.

From Sandra Hobson an image she received a while back with confirmations recently of its continued relevance: *"About four years ago I was at New Dawn and was given a vision of the Virgin Mary with the world beneath her mantle. When I came to paint this, I at first started with a baby breaking from the world and with his hand up going towards Our Lady. I then saw the image of another baby, curled on the left hand side of the earth and when I had finished defining the image, it had one hand covering its face, and the other hand stretched out towards the left hand, nearly touching, of the baby who was breaking from the earth towards Our Lady."*

For me this means that the children of this world who do not know Our Lady or her Son are stretching out their hand in need towards us the children who know Mary and her Son and who have outstretched our hands towards her.

I believe that this powerful image echoes the words that have also been received recently: *"There are now many millions who are actually inside our Church who are now presiding over a spiritual holocaust of souls on the outside of the Church."*

In 2017 we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Michelle Moran has recently written about the 3 main areas that were identified in the last ICCRS council meeting as important areas to concentrate on in preparation for this Golden Jubilee.

Firstly, a Jubilee is traditionally a time of proclamation of freedom. For CCR this proclamation is a "testimony to the freedom of the Spirit that all of us have received through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit". Our focus should be on being Fire starters,

encouraging the baptism in the Spirit to as many people as possible.

Secondly, we should give priority leading up to the Jubilee to formation, so that people can "go deeper and become more mature in the spirit". We should also pay attention to growing in the gifts and charisms that the Lord has given us". It is these gifts and charisms that equip us for mission.

Thirdly, a call to spread the spirituality of Pentecost through prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation. A vital component of this spirituality of Pentecost is to readiness to move out in evangelisation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The words above that we have received seem to suggest an urgent need to focus on the task of evangelisation, of welcoming the lost. This accords with the areas of preparation identified by ICCRS for the Golden Jubilee of CCR.

In her article Michelle also says that "intercession is the need of the hour" therefore let us be renewed in our commitment to intercede powerfully for the CCR and the jubilee preparations.

We have also been asked to pray for the following specific items:

- 1) Please pray for the re-location of the Good News office; there are some practical difficulties to do with the building which need to be sorted out re the move to the Servite Church in Fulham Road. Many of us sense the Lord really would like us to be back on the Fulham Road so pray for a smooth resolution to the difficulties or for suitable alternative premises to be found quickly.
- 2) For the Moment of Opportunity CCR leaders conference, 31st Jan – 1st Feb, that it may be a time of blessing, inspiration and encouragement to those attending.
- 3) For the NSC meeting 1st – 3rd Feb, that the Lord will continue to lead us forward as we serve the CCR in this country.
- 4) For some important dialogues in the Vatican regarding issues relating to Charismatic Renewal taking place on 27th and 28th Jan.
- 5) For the challenging financial situation faced by ICCRS, that our efforts to raise sufficient funds to support the work of the Charismatic Renewal internationally would bear fruit.
- 6) For our nation, as we prepare to host the Olympics, and for specific projects like the Joshua Camp which will be training people to be evangelising through ministry and service during the Olympics.
- 7) Finally, please pray for healing for Michelle Moran who has recently been diagnosed with a chest disease affecting her immune system.

God bless you all,

Espe & Chris