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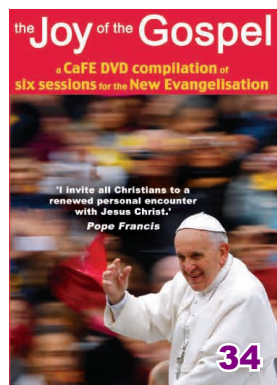
# GOOD NEWS

*Catholic Charismatic Renewal Serving The Church*



## Into The New Season

Damian Stayne



Front cover: Made to worship

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by Kristina Cooper

We are about to start Lent and the year has begun well. In January it was announced that Pope Francis is going to speak at the national Italian charismatic renewal conference organised by Rinnovamento nello Spirito in June. Then in one of his daily homilies from Santa Marta, the Pope announced that praise is not just for charismatics but for everyone! This sign of favour from the top cannot but encourage a greater openness in the Church to the message of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR). Damian Stayne, the founder of the Cor et Lumen Christi community has been tracking the work of the Holy Spirit for many years. In 2009 the Holy Spirit gave him a prophetic word about a new season of the Spirit coming which would be characterised by humility, unity and faith for the miraculous. He reflects on the signs that he has seen in the world and the Church of this happening. Patti Gallagher Mansfield, who was one of the participants of the famous Duquesne weekend which launched the CCR into the Catholic Church in 1967, was one of the speakers at the ICCRS Prophetic consultation in Israel last November. Here she gave a powerful meditation in the Garden of Gethsemane about what she felt the Lord was saying to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal at this time. We reprint this reflection – “Four Words from the Garden”. If you remember, as Michelle Moran reported in her article in the last issue, there was a dramatic intervention of the Lord at this conference when the electric power which had gone off was suddenly restored as the participants were repenting of relying on their own strength rather than depending on the Lord. This month we hear some short reflections from the other participants from the UK and Ireland who were there and what they felt the Lord was saying through what happened.

We continue our series on the Word of God with an article by Fr. Fio Mascarenhas SJ, founder of the Catholic Bible school in India who writes about the key role that the word of God has played in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Pat Kennedy, who is known for her prophetic gifting with the word of God, shares how she discovered she had this gift and how God uses her in it. We also hear a wonderful testimony of the healing power of the word of God, when David Carroll a member of the Cockfosters Healing team was led to go and visit John Lynch, a friend in a coma, and proclaim the word to him and the amazing healing that resulted.

At the heart of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is the experience known as Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which brings alive people's

Christian Faith. One of the key ways to transmit this grace is the Life in the Spirit Seminars, but is everyone who does the seminars Baptised in the Spirit? If not why not? And what can leaders of the seminars do, if they suspect this has not happened? Michelle Moran, Charles Whitehead and Fr Chris Thomas all give their advice.

Many people have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, particularly in more recent years through conferences like Celebrate, which this year celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Notable for its exceptional children's and young people's ministry, Celebrate has been so popular that it has given birth to numerous weekends with the same vision too. In this issue we hear the Celebrate story and how the Holy Spirit has been working through even the problems that the organising team has faced to make it what it is today. One of the fruits of Celebrate has been a whole generation of accomplished young people who have emerged ready to serve the Church. One of these is Joe Wells, a young worship leader who shares his vision for worship with us.

Although there are less Charismatic prayer groups than there used to be. Some are still going strong after 40 years. One of these is the prayer group in Aberdeen started by Helen and Jamus Smith. Helen looks back at all the blessings that she has experienced. One of those who was blessed through his association with the group is Doug Duncan, who now leads the House of Bread, another prayer group in Aberdeen. Since his retirement he has also become a chaplain with the Apostleship of the Sea and he tells his story. We can sometimes fear getting old and particularly going into care, but Bob Balkam, former English NSC chairman, who now lives in a care facility with his wife Laurin, shares his encouraging testimony of coping with a spouse with Alzheimer's. This testimony links very much into Fr Chris Thomas' reflection about power, and that the fullness of life depends on letting go and trusting in God rather than relying on one's own power. We also hear about the recent Catholic Travellers' Renewal Mission weekend supported by volunteers from the Kent DST, the CCR Office and the Westminster Cathedral prayer group, which was a wonderful experience for all concerned and an example of the riches a marginalised group like the Travellers have to offer the Church. As usual we also have our regular Other Half column by Sue Whitehead, Resources page, Coming Events and special Irish pages for our Irish readers.

**GOODNEWS** is a bimonthly Catholic magazine drawing from the insights of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, but seeking to serve the whole Church. Through its teaching articles and testimonies of what God is doing in our countries at this present time, Goodnews seeks to help the general reader experience and understand the importance of the charismatic dimension of the Christian life, which the Pope in 1998 underlined as co-essential to the Church's hierarchical dimension. Through its coming events section, it enables readers to find out about good retreats, conferences, events and seminars that will help them grow in their spiritual life.

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# Over the threshold Into the new season

**Damian Stayne tracks the working of the Holy Spirit and believes he has seen the fulfilment of a prophetic Word the Lord gave him in 2009**



**Damian Stayne is the founder of the “Cor Et Lumen Christi” Community and has an international preaching and healing ministry.**

In this article I would like to reflect upon a prophecy I gave which was published in Goodnews in May/June 2009 in an article called ‘On the Threshold of a New Season.’ This expressed my belief that we were about to break through into a new phase that would be characterised by humility, unity and faith for the miraculous, underpinned by deep prayer and purity of life. It stated that by 2012 we would be in a quite different spiritual environment and by 2014 established in the new season.

Let’s look at one or two things the Lord did in the 3 years from 2009. Firstly that autumn an astonishing 300,000 people visited the relics of St Therese of Lisieux as they travelled around the UK. This is a staggering number by any estimates in a country of only 1,000,000 practicing Catholics.

## Papal visit brought the Catholic Church in England and Wales into a new place

Then in 2010 the Papal visit. Although I have written about this before (Signs of Revival issue May/June 2011) it is important here to recall just how bad things were prior to his coming. Many had thought the visit ill timed because the Church was still reeling from the paedophile scandals. The celebrity atheists were on the crest of a wave and the government had to change the law because of the very serious threat from atheists that they would attempt a citizen’s arrest of the Pope. Richard Dawkins, perhaps the world’s most famous atheist, had described Pope Benedict as a “leering old villain in a frock”. Many joined the mockery and attack. Even Yahoo News featured jokes at the Pope’s expense, so confident was the media of the public’s bad feeling against him and the Church. However the visit was an astonishing success with more than 575,000 turning out to see him. The Pope’s

humility and meekness simply sidelined his enemies. Following the visit Archbishop Longley of Birmingham said the visit “brought the Catholic Church in England and Wales into a different and new place...” The Home Missions desk of the Bishops conference stated that it has resulted in a “new mission era” in Britain.

During his visit Pope Benedict himself said that England and Europe “stands at the threshold of a new age” confirming the truth that we were “On the Threshold of a New Season.”

## The coming of the Glory cloud

I have since discovered that William Seymour and Charles Parham, generally accepted as the fathers of the Pentecostal revival in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, independently prophesied a future revival. This revival would begin around 2009 and be characterised by the manifestation of God’s Glory Cloud and great miracles. Both of these manifestations would be seen not in one place but all over the world. What is remarkable is that this is now beginning to happen. In 2011 a Glory Cloud was seen by hundreds and filmed in Bethel church in California and is increasingly being witnessed at other Christian gatherings, even in Christian homes. It has also been appearing in England and two friends of mine have been present and witnessed it themselves. This signals a very significant shift in the manifestation of God’s presence among his people across the churches. Certainly these were historic breakthroughs and many across the world were sensing the spiritual atmosphere was really changing, but none of us were prepared for how God was about to act in the next two years.

## Election of Pope Francis – a miracle of humility

Having become the scapegoat for the crimes of a tiny minority of the Church and bearing upon himself the widespread loathing and contempt aimed at the Church, Pope Benedict then by retiring outsmarted all God’s enemies in an outstanding act of humility. Like the scapegoat of the Old Testament, he disappeared from public gaze carrying away all the guilt with him into the desert

of his now hidden life. This brilliant, selfless and humble act left the way clear for the explosion onto the world stage of Pope Francis whose first act was one of humility as he bowed before the crowd asking for prayer. He was instantly popular, throwing the Church’s enemies into confusion and injecting a remarkable new confidence into the faithful. Who would have believed within a matter of months that the Catholic Pope would be Time Magazine Man of the Year. Even Sir Elton John, certainly no friend of the Church, described Pope Francis as “a miracle of humility”.

## Historic ecumenical breakthroughs

There have been great ecumenical moments in history but what we were about to witness was unprecedented. The presence of the Patriarch of Constantinople, (the ‘First among equals’ among the Patriarchs of the Orthodox Church) at the inaugural Mass of Pope Francis was one such event. This has not happened since the tragic split between Orthodox and Catholics in 1051. Not for a 1000 years! How beautiful were the photos of the two of them embracing. Not only this but many Evangelicals and Pentecostal leaders around the world also responded with joy at the election of Pope Francis. Furthermore the leader of the Coptic Church Pope Tawadros II met with Pope Francis and they agreed to have a day each year when both churches celebrate what they have in common. But historic breakthroughs have not only been with the Orthodox, Evangelical Pentecostal and Coptic churches but also with the Anglicans. As we read in the last issue of Goodnews the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, invited Chemin Neuf, a Catholic Charismatic community with an ecumenical vocation, to live in his own home in Lambeth Palace! Next year Pope Francis will be meeting with the Patriarch Kirill I of Moscow, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church of 150 million believers, representing about half of all Orthodox in the world. This has never happened before. Patriarch Kirill recently said “Never before have our churches had so many things in common”. These are miraculous events in the history of God’s people in the area of unity.

## Great shift in faith for the miraculous

Not only has there been remarkable and miraculous manifestations of the Spirit in unity and humility but also in a great shift in faith for the miraculous. Even Pope Francis has exhorted us to pray for miracles. I have been attending an ecumenical gathering of leaders for around 10 years. Five years ago, I and another man, were asked to share our experience of healing miracles which at the time were considered very uncommon. When this same man shared again this year, there was general agreement among the group that God is now doing far more healing miracles. This experience seems to be recurring among many Christian streams even for some to the

point of raising the dead. Resurrection miracles have taken place throughout the history of the Church. However there has been an extraordinary multiplication of them recently. One highly respected ministry, Iris Ministry run by Heidi and Roland Baker, reports 450 resurrections mostly in the last 5 years! This was verified for me in an email by Randy Clark, a close friend of theirs, whom I know is very careful about statistics. I myself know two people who have raised the dead. There is no record of so many resurrections in any other era of church history.

## Prophetic consultation in Bethlehem – sign



Top: William J Seymour  
Bottom: Charles Parham



It has been wonderful seeing these signs of the ‘new season’ in God’s Church but I did not feel that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal had yet crossed the threshold. For 10 years now I had been earnestly waiting for a sign that this had happened. I felt like Simeon in the temple watching attentively for the appearing of the Messiah. Then on November 15<sup>th</sup> last year ICCRS held its Prophetic Consultation in Bethlehem which Michelle Moran reported on in the last issue. A friend of mine who was present sent me a text informing me that the leaders had repented and the Lord had given a word for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal “You have no more power - come to me” at which exact moment the electrical power, which had been lost for some hours, instantaneously burst into life. When I read this I knew immediately that this was the sign I’d been waiting for. We were no longer waiting but had stepped over the threshold. Like Joshua our feet are now on the Jordan and the waters are parting. And if to confirm this absolutely, in June this year Pope Francis will attend and preach at a huge event organised explicitly by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Olympic Stadium in Rome.

So here we are 5 years on from 2009 and by God’s grace undoubtedly in a new season in the Christian Churches and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Like Joshua we will have new battles to come but I believe we can aspire to greater victories. I believe we will now see, as we commit ourselves to prayer and

purity of life, a major accelerating increase of the manifestation of the Kingdom in humility, unity and faith for the miraculous as this New Season unfolds.

*“Many prophets and kings longed to see what you see but did not see it, hear what you hear but did not hear it” (Lk 10:24.).* What a privilege to be chosen by the Lord to be alive as a Christian today.

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# Four words from the Garden



Patti Gallagher Mansfield's reflection in the Garden of Gethsemane, given during the ICCRS Prophetic Consultation in Israel in November 2013, on what she senses that the Lord is saying to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Jesus, true God and true man, has a Sacred Heart and a human heart as well. Here in the Garden we hear the cry of his human heart for friendship, for support, love, prayer. Even the three who were with him on Mt. Tabor, who witnessed his glory, fell asleep and left him alone in his agony. In this place his blood first fell to the ground for you and for me.

## Watch and pray!

"Watch and pray!" Jesus cries out. "Be on the alert! The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Could you not watch one hour?" This cry of Jesus must go forth from this place as a prophetic

word for the Charismatic Renewal. One hour! One hour to be with Jesus. One hour to strengthen the bonds of love, friendship and intimacy with the Lord. If we're not faithful to spending at least one hour a day watching and praying, how will we ever be able to endure what is to come?

Our visit to Gethsemane is a call to intimacy with the sufferings of Jesus. In the early days of the Renewal, during moments of exuberant praise and joy, I would sense the Lord Jesus approach me, place his arm around me with great intimacy and say, "Get on your knees and pray. This joy is not for you. In order for others to know this joy, you must pay the price." It wasn't a harsh word, but rather a sign of intimacy and friendship. Brothers and sisters, if we want others to know the joy of the outpouring of the Spirit, we must get on our knees, uniting our sufferings to those of Jesus and be willing to pay the price.

## Get Ready!

"In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and earthenware, and some for noble use, some

for ignoble. If any one purifies himself from what is ignoble, then he will be a vessel for noble use, consecrated and useful to the master of the house, ready for any good work" (1 Timothy 2:20-21)

On the Duquesne Weekend, when David Mangan and I told our advisor that we wanted to renew our sacrament of Confirmation, he asked us this question, "Are you ready?" The Lord still has much to do with and through us and he wants us to get ready. How? First of all, by humility and purity of heart. If our hearts are not purified, we can find ourselves praying, "My name be hallowed. My kingdom come. My will be done." It can be much more subtle than that for us in the Renewal, but when we speak more about our own ministries, our music, our communities, our movement than we do about the Lord Jesus Himself, then we are in trouble. We must be careful that our names and our titles don't become our chief preoccupation so that we expend more energy trying to preserve our own positions and advance our own causes than we spend lifting up the name of Jesus. I love this passage from Isaiah, "Your Name and your title are the desire of our souls. O Lord, it is you who have accomplished all that we have done" (Is. 26: 8).

Pope Francis has been warning about spiritual worldliness which affects not only the clergy but us in the laity as well. On Pentecost, he gently chided that instead of chanting his name, "Francis. Francis," it would please him more to hear, "Jesus. Jesus."

A concrete way to grow in humility and purity of heart is to appropriate the blood of Jesus in the sacrament of reconciliation. Before I stand up to speak to others about the Lord, I always try to make a good confession and let the blood of Christ cleanse me. I'm so aware of how easy it is to spoil his work by my vanity and pride. Let his blood cleanse you when you receive him in the Eucharist. Get ready to be useful for the master of the house.

## Settle It Now!

St. Alphonsus Ligouri tells us that we should determine ahead of time to accept the manner of our death. "If we live, we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's (Rm. 14:8). Settle it now.

Blessed John Paul II wrote "The believer who has seriously pondered his Christian vocation, including what Revelation has to say about the possibility of martyrdom, cannot exclude it from his own life's horizon." Does this mean that you and I are going to die martyrs? I don't know? Will some of us in the Renewal shed our blood for Christ? Possibly. But whether we shed our blood or not, every one of us will be called to be a martyr, a witness.

Years ago I wrote an article entitled, "Of Motherhood and Martyrdom", when I was bearing a child just before my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. I encountered much hostility during that pregnancy

from those who do not value human life. Today, to choose to be a mother is to choose to be a witness. Today, to choose to be married - one man and one woman for life - is to be a witness. You who are celibate, priests, religious: to choose to be faithful to your life's commitment is to be a witness.

We need to settle it now. Today would have been my mother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was living with us at the end of her life and she died in my arms. After they took her body away I knelt in our bedroom where she expired and kissed the floor. I knew that Jesus himself had been there. I knew that the Mother of Jesus had been there. Don't we ask her in every Hail Mary, "Pray for us now and at the hour of our death?" I remember it was a very solemn moment as I said to the Lord, "I don't know how much time I have left on this earth. It may be days, weeks, months, years, decades. But however long it may be, I want to live it all for you. Use me for your Kingdom."

## Tremble!

"Tremble before him all the earth" (Ps. 96:9). In this Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus said, "I am he," the guards fell to the ground like dead men. Tremble before him all the earth! On the Duquesne Weekend when I entered the chapel on February 18, 1967, as I knelt before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I trembled before his majesty. During this prophetic consultation there were moments when I trembled. The Lord says, "This is the man to whom I will look, he that is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word" (Is. 66:2). Trembling before the Lord refers to much more than a physical response; it's a spiritual response that acknowledges his holiness. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:30).

What is Jesus saying to us today? "My friends, watch and pray. Get ready by purifying yourselves in my blood. Settle it now. Alive or dead, you belong to me. Be in awe of me. Tremble before me. Be afraid of touching my glory and spoiling the beauty of my work. Keep your head to the ground just like I did when I knelt in this Garden and said, "Not my will, but yours be done."

St. Philip Neri, used to teach his followers to pray this way, "Lord, keep your hand on my head this day or surely, this Judas will betray you." Let us go forward with no illusions about ourselves. We are nothing, proud nothings and less than nothing. If the Lord in his great mercy has accomplished anything through us, our prayer groups, communities, ministries, publications, through ICCRS, through the many expressions of the Charismatic Renewal around the world, to him and to him alone belong all the glory, all the honor and all the praise. Amen.

**Patti Gallagher Mansfield was a participant at the famous Duquesne weekend in 1967. She had been a leader, writer and speaker in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal ever since, as well as a wife and mother.**



# ICCRS Prophetic Consultation, Bethlehem

The dramatic way the Lord intervened at the ICCRS Prophetic Consultation in Bethlehem last November (2013) had a profound effect on all those there. In the last Goodnews (Jan/Feb 2014), Michelle Moran, the ICCRS President shared her thoughts. In this issue we ask other members of the group who went from the UK and Ireland to share what they felt the Lord said to them through what happened and how it has affected their thinking since.



**GED FARRELL (Chairperson Scottish NST)**

I feel the days we spent in Bethlehem will be very important for Renewal and for the Church in the coming months and years ahead. One hundred and sixty delegates from all parts of the world gathered in the Holy Land in an atmosphere that was full of the sense of the brooding of the Spirit over his creation. There was a real sense of His people waiting expectantly on the Lord and actively seeking what the Lord was saying prophetically to us. This sense of expectancy is something we have been experiencing in gatherings in Scotland and the other home countries for some time now and the scripture that has been coming through very strongly is from Isaiah 9: 2-7 *'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined'* it goes on to say *'they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest'; '...for the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor you have broken..'*

For much of the past year, many of us in the Catholic Church in Scotland have felt under the rod of the oppressor due to the scandals that have been raging around us. So for me the Lord was saying two things, firstly that He hasn't forgotten us and that under the freedom that He brings and His Lordship we can expect great things to happen. The second thing that came to me strongly when the lights were out, was that we all need to truly know God is in charge and the sooner we get out of the way and let Him get on with things the sooner we'll see amazing things happen!!



**EDDIE DROZDZIAK (English NSC)**

Four things touched me very deeply:

- The lights coming on - the Lord telling us it's His power;
- Mary Healy's reflections on the charisms and Baptism in the Spirit, in particular when she said, "we need to give the Holy Spirit room to act however the Spirit wants to act; it might be messy!";
- Patti Mansfield's reflections in the Garden of Gethsemane when she encouraged us to watch, pray and be alert, to get ready and purify ourselves, and to be in awe of the Lord;
- What happened in the Upper Room, especially, for me, the words, "Do not look back. I have loosed the things that are holding you. I am sending you in the freedom and power of the Spirit. Go! Transform the world".

So, I'm looking forward and setting my eyes on the Lord as I open myself to the power of the Lord and watch him change the world.

**SR BRIDGET DUNNE (Irish NSC Chairwoman)**

It was a privileged time of grace in a privileged place. We were there first and foremost to listen to God, to wait on Him, to be open to what He wanted to do among us. It was an adventure in faith. We were challenged to look at things in a new way, to keep moving on, to look towards the future with a new boldness. The Lord wants to move through us to a new era, with His power more manifest among us. We are not to be afraid. We are not to focus on the past, good though that might have been. The Lord is doing a new thing; He is empowering us for mission, for reaching out, for spreading the grace of Baptism in the Spirit. We are to bring people to a personal encounter with Jesus. The need for further formation is important and must be ongoing. We were reminded of the place of prophetic intercession, waiting on the Lord's concerns, not our own. The call to ecumenism was strong. This is not an optional extra, but essential to the life of the Church and we have been given a special grace in this area. Our praise of God is a gift that opens us to wisdom and discernment. The Lord asks us to be ready, to be ready to move in a new way, in the power of His Spirit, who promises to be with us and gift us for the journey ahead.



**MARGARET FARRELL (Scottish NST)** The whole experience, I have come to realise, has begun a process which keeps surprising me with pop up memories and new insights. I remember the men constructing the huge Christmas tree, the Palestinian waiters serving us in the café and the information on the hoardings about life in the West Bank Territories, as I heard the words from Isaiah *"Faithfully he brings true justice; He will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, For the islands are awaiting his law."*

And then from Acts *"The truth I have now come to realise is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him."*

More than ever, thanks to that call to Bethlehem, the reminder to live always in the power of God, and the chance to walk in the footsteps of the Lord, I see more deeply the need to accept the wonderful love of God in all things, and to surrender more and more to that wonderful God who *"does not have favourites"* and *"brings true justice"*. I pray that all my brothers and sisters living in strife can come to know the power of God's love in all things.



**CHARLES WHITEHEAD (English NSC Life Member)**

I went to Bethlehem without any specific agenda, but with a very strong desire to hear from the Lord for myself as well as for the CCR. During our time there the theme of "power" touched me deeply, and I identified strongly with the clear message "you have no more power" and the challenge "without Me, you can do nothing". I recognised that in the CCR we no longer have the power we once had - why is this, I asked?

For an answer the Lord showed me I need look no further than myself. Where once I would have stepped out in faith, trusting in the Lord's supernatural power and allowing Him time to act, now too often I think I know what to do and how to do it, so I trust in myself more than in the Lord. The result? Not much happens. "You need to change" were the Lord's clear words to me. So I left Bethlehem determined to change, to go back to how it was in the early days after I was baptised in the Holy Spirit, to wait on the Lord and give Him time to move in His Spirit, to let His power flow - to let Him act in power in me and through me as He chooses.

As a result I have a new expectation, a new excitement and a new commitment to let God be God and do things His way - the power is flowing again! I'm filled with a new peace, a new joy, a new hope - and it's absolutely wonderful!



**IAN YARDLEY (Chair of Network)** My experience in Israel was of the Lord's power and ability to work through us. It made me realise in a deeper way the responsibility we have in the Charismatic Renewal to swim out into deeper waters, to ensure that we never become comfortable in seeking the Lord. That we are always relying fully on Jesus in both our ministry and our personal lives.

I found the prophecy given about the need for repentance - both for our actions and lack of action - and the need to repent for our lack of faith, massively significant. All too often, we settle for what we have always known. So often we say 'Jesus, I believe' without ever asking ourselves, 'What is the depth of my belief? What level? Do I, in all honesty, doubt this?' We read the promises of God in scripture but never seem to truly accept that these promises are for us! They should be a reality of our lives every single day. The Lord is calling the Renewal, the Church and each of us to step out in faith and be real with him about how much faith we truly have in his promises. Where we are lacking, he is inviting us to repent, pray for more faith, and take action.

In Israel, I also realised that nothing but the sovereign move of God will transform our world. Through this, I was hit by the huge way in which He has called us to share in His plan! It is a privilege to live in these times, when God would give His people such power to make an impact upon His children. This call requires nothing less than the total dedication of our lives."



**ANN DROZDZIAK** Among the many, many words given and events experienced during the prophetic consultation, the following are what have stirred my spirit: The unexpected lengthy praise session in the Upper Room where I felt the group, as one, raised the whole world to The Lord and Mary Healy's words on reading the signs of the times. She said "People reject the light that comes from God and there is, therefore, a fierce battle going on for this generation - a tsunami of secularisation (US Bishop at Bishop's Synod). And The Lord is preparing the Church for a tsunami of the Holy Spirit. We have gone back to 1<sup>st</sup> century spiritual darkness with people in deep bondage. Pressure against authentic Christian faith will be experienced more and more. What will take the Church forward against all this? - a New Pentecost - Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We need to be people who walk in the supernatural day by day. Expect miracles. The Lord will empower us".

*"Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest!"* (John 4:35)

Lord we trust in you. Thank you for your trust in us.

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**ELIZABETH DANBY** (*Treasurer Scottish NST*) From the moment I arrived in Bethlehem, I could sense that this was a very special place and that great things were going to happen. There were many highlights but the thing that stood out for me most was the day we spent in Jerusalem. Walking the Way of the Cross was like being transported back 2000 years. There was a sense of the Lord's presence with us along the way but what was outstanding was the time spent in the Upper Room. It was like being there in person, standing next to the disciples – I had goose bumps all over and by the end of the day was physically and mentally drained. I feel I had given my all but I received much more in return. Since coming back home I think that I have changed for the better and this has been confirmed by other people who have said, 'There's something really different about you? Long may it continue!



**WILL DESMOND** (*Sion Youth Ministry member*.) Many people have asked me what effect the trip to the Holy Land has had on my life. I respond that I feel more of a 'complete' Christian having been immersed in the culture of Jesus. I have found, when attending these types of gatherings in the past, that I don't appreciate and recognise the importance of the world-view until I'm in it. Not only was my experience in Bethlehem one of being reminded again that there is much beyond my own little world but also that God is sovereignly moving in power and unity on a world scale and to be part of this tremendous move of God is a great honour. As I stood on a beach of the sea of Galilee I started to realise the normal and yet sensational life the disciples lived and to which we are called. Experiences like this led me to realise that as charismatics and as a Church, the Lord is once again challenging us to live naturally supernaturally. More than anything I sensed the Lord reminding me that it is in no way about the Renewal making a name for itself, that we were never called to become an entity in and of ourselves but our mission still remains to permeate and serve the Church. Where we have perhaps faced barriers in the past, maybe the time has come once again to place our feet in the Jordan and allow the grace of the Lord to carry us forward to the time of revival that he has so faithfully promised us.

# Pastoral Q&A

**A Goodnews reader wrote asking some questions about Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Life in the Spirit seminars. We asked Michelle Moran, Fr Chris Thomas and Charles Whitehead, three leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal who have a lot of experience in running the Life in the Spirit Seminars, how they would answer.**

**Q1: At the end of the Life in the Spirit seminars, how do you know if people have or have not been baptised in the Holy Spirit?**



**MICHELLE MORAN:** For some people something very tangible happens. It's like the 'penny drops' and they begin to see things in a new way. This isn't always a feeling although some people do 'feel' a sense of transformation.

For other people, transformation and coming to new life in Christ is a slower more gradual process. Therefore it may be too soon at the end of the seminars to know how this is progressing. This is why follow up is so essential. The seeds which are planted during a Life in the Spirit Seminar often take much longer to germinate in our spiritually cold climate.



**CHARLES WHITEHEAD:** When someone is prayed with for Baptism in the Holy Spirit it may happen that they show immediate signs of the action of the Spirit - joy, praise, speaking in tongues etc. But quite often there are little or no immediate signs of change and the evidence that the Spirit is at work gradually appears over the following days or weeks. The person may slowly become aware of a new desire or enthusiasm for prayer, a new joy in praising God, a hunger to read the Scriptures, to receive the Sacraments, and perhaps an inner peace they had not known before. So we sometimes have to wait patiently as the fruit slowly grows and becomes evident.



**FR CHRIS THOMAS:** I would take the stance that if Baptism in the Spirit has been prayed for then the outpouring of the Spirit has been given. God never refuses the Spirit so I always presume that the Baptism in the Spirit has taken place. It is never about nice feelings. They come and go. Sometimes it can take years for the Baptism in the Spirit to really be released in a person's life.

**Q2: What are the most common reasons why people are not baptised in the Holy Spirit?**

**MICHELLE MORAN:** Sometimes we do not emphasise enough the need to be expectant. To really believe in faith that the Lord wants to do something new in our lives. We present Life in the Spirit as a nice little addition to our Christian life, like a cherry on top of a cake rather than a totally life-changing transformative experience like yeast in the dough. We should build things up each week and encourage people to prepare well for Baptism in the Spirit. To go to confession in order to approach things with a clean heart and open hands.

**CHARLES WHITEHEAD:** When someone does not experience any changes at all it can be that they have not been baptised in the Holy Spirit because of serious, recognised but unconfessed, sin in their lives. Or perhaps because in ignorance they expected to find a short-cut to personal holiness, or wrongly thought it would show what wonderful people they were! In other words, their motives were selfish and wrong. Sometimes there is fear of what may happen which means a person is not really open to the Spirit, or there may be pride which makes them think they really don't need or won't get anything more unless they have worked hard to earn it. Some feel unworthy of such a wonderful gift from God, whilst others just have a vague hope that something will happen but lack the faith to fully trust Jesus to pour out his Spirit.

**FR CHRIS THOMAS:** I think the question for me is not why people are 'not baptised in the Spirit' but why they don't allow the Baptism in the Spirit to bear fruit. There is a subtle difference between the two. One presumes that it hasn't happened. The other that it has but there are blockages which make it less than it could be or to seem almost non-existent.

The blockages can come from painful memories, fear, lack of forgiveness, inability to trust and it can take a long process of healing before the seed that is planted begins to grow.

Why do we not see hugely changed lives, the gifts being used etc...? Often it's because people don't want to really change and therefore they can't be changed. They are not desperate for God. They might be desperate for God to heal them or to bless them but not God for God's sake. Sometimes the gifts aren't used because people are afraid or don't see the need of the gifts or because they don't understand them.

**Q3: What should the leadership team do to help those people who have not been baptised in the Holy Spirit?**

**MICHELLE MORAN:** People attend Life in the Spirit seminars for a variety of reasons. Surprisingly as things progress some do not actually want to be baptised in the Spirit. We have to allow people to enter in or not as they feel led so it is important to encourage but not to force things. The team should expect in faith that those who truly desired Baptism in the Spirit have received it and do all they can to keep journeying with people or enable them to find a place where their newly empowered life can be further fanned into a flame.

**CHARLES WHITEHEAD:** The leaders really need to address all these wrong motives and to build up people's faith and expectation, making sure that they really know how much God loves them and how much he desires to pour his Holy Spirit into their lives, so that they are fully open to the prayer for Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**FR CHRIS THOMAS:** I think follow up with good teaching on the Christian life is essential after a process involving the Baptism in the Spirit has taken place to encourage people to enter into the fullness of the life in the Spirit. There is teaching needed on what it means to be part of the Church, the need for daily prayer and scripture reading, the purpose and value of the spiritual gifts and the challenge to evangelise.

# The Word for me



**Pat Kennedy shares on how God uses the Scriptures to speak to her.**

When I was young Catholics did not read the Bible and we rarely heard the Old Testament read. We had little purple bible story books in primary school and that was about it. When I was around seven years old I bought a bible from a girl, having a jumble sale, for 3 pence. When I took it home my mother was appalled that I had brought a non-catholic bible into the house. It went in the bin and I went straight to bed with no tea.

When I was older and married, God came into my life at a very difficult time - just in time, one might say. Against my better judgement I went to a charismatic prayer meeting looking for the priest I was told could help me. His name was Fr Sean Conaty. I did not find the prayer group a comfortable place but it was there that God spoke to me and changed my life. I noticed that all of those who attended carried a bible. It seemed like a sign of belonging, and so not wishing to stand out as different, I asked for a bible for Christmas. It is the same one I use today.

The first time I opened it, it was as if an inner light on the page shone through a selection of words. It was as if I had met an old friend again. Each word had life and meaning. At one meeting I shared a passage of scripture and afterwards people came up and said how meaningful it had been for them. I found that during prayer, questions about life or situations would arise, and I would receive a word directly answering them. Fr Sean explained it all to me as a gift, a Charism to be used to serve others. Later I was invited onto the service team of the prayer group and then on to the Diocesan Service Team, because they told me that I had a good gift of discernment, especially in using the word of God.

"The word of God is alive and active" it says in Hebrews (4.12). I have learned this to be true in my own life. I journal, reflect and never act without taking direction from the word of God. When my husband took ill in 1984 everyone said he would be healed. The St Vincent de Paul Society took his cause for the beatification of Frederick Ozanam. But I knew this was not to be because I received a clear word from the bible that he would not recover. Thus I knew that my role was to prepare my children for that fact. He died within 5 weeks of coming home. We had just finished a

Mass by his bedside. He was peaceful and pain free. He might not have been healed but we, as a family, knew that this was his miracle. The packed funeral became a celebration of his life.

Before his illness I had problems in my school. I was moved from the department that I loved, and I decided to leave. The Word, however, told me to, "*stay in the country to which I have exiled you, pray on its behalf, since on its good, yours depends.*" Jer. 29:7. So I stayed. Within a short time we learned of my husband's terminal illness and I learned the meaning of the Word I had received. I went and told the head that I needed to resign so I could nurse him at home. But when I had returned from the hospital that lunchtime, I found that all the staff, including the head, had signed up to cover my timetable. I was told to go and take as long as it took!

The gift of the Word is often used by the Lord as a confirmation for the gifting of others in a prayer team. It can confirm a picture and prophesy, or a feeling of the member of the group. So often it saves time by pinpointing exactly where the healing prayer needs to be focused.

I now have an expectant faith based on my experience, that God will give me a Word. God wants to act in His mind, not necessarily mine. My role is to co-operate and to be a channel for Him. I have confidence in my gift,

but I know it is not down to me - and yet it is down to me to believe and to act upon it.

Because of this gift I came to work with Fr Sean in his ministry of healing, deliverance and occasional exorcism, both in this country, Ireland and abroad. I began to work alongside him and to learn what my part of the ministry was, as well as the general ministry of lay people in the Church. I remember one time, Fr Sean, I and another friend prayed for a priest of another denomination. I did not know the priest nor what his problem was, as it was confidential, but as soon as we began to pray I received a Word which pinpointed the problem exactly. On many occasions the word has continued to highlight problems unspoken, to allow healing to take place. The word has brought the light of life into my life and into the lives of others through this gift. This is its purpose. My bible travels everywhere with me. St Augustine speaks for me when he says: "Let your word be my delight. May the inner secrets of your words be laid open to me...these are the treasures I seek in your word."

**"Let your word be my delight..  
May the inner secrets of your  
words be laid open to me..  
these are the treasures I seek  
in your word"**

## THE HEALING POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Cockfosters prayer group in North London has a well established healing ministry. The team prays for people at the prayer meeting every Monday night and on Thursdays after the morning Mass. Some of the team also visit those in hospital and one lady has a texting ministry and texts prayer requests to the members of the team. Last year John Lynch, one of the members of the prayer group was rushed to intensive care following a brain hemorrhage. All he remembers, he says, is going to bed on March 20<sup>th</sup> and waking up 5 weeks later, with no recollection of what had happened.

He was told later that his landlady had found him unconscious in his bed the following morning, and he was rushed to Chase Farm hospital. He comments, "I was in very a bad way as my heart, kidneys and liver had started to fail and I had contracted pneumonia. The hospital, thinking this was the end and I only had hours to live, phoned my family in Ireland to come over immediately. My four brothers and sisters and some of their children dropped everything and all turned up, dressed in black, at the hospital."

The Cockfosters prayer group, however, as soon as they heard the news, had begun praying for John. John's surgeon decided that his only chance was a risky operation to drain fluid from the brain. This was done and John was put in an induced coma and sent to intensive care to recover. The prognosis, however, was not good, and it was felt that even if John did survive, he would be paralysed down the right side and would need 24 hour care. David Carroll, one of the members of the Cockfosters prayer group, felt the Lord prompting him to go and visit John in the hospital. By a quirk of fate David had the same name as John's daughter's fiancé so the family let him in. David comments, "The Lord often uses me to visit people in care home and hospitals who are incapacitated, in comas, or suffering from Alzheimers' or paralysed and who need people to pray for them. John was a friend anyway so it seemed natural to go. I always do the same thing when I visit the sick. I sing the psalms, I read the Mass readings of the Day and I speak out loud the Word of God to them. Even with those who seem totally incapacitated, I often see a small response when the Word of God is proclaimed to them, even if this is not obvious to others."

He continues, "John's family were wonderful. His ex wife and daughter were there a lot and his brothers and sisters took it in turns to come over from Ireland every weekend to be with him. I used to go and pray with John every day for between half an hour and two hours depending on who else was there. The family appreciated this. Eileen Shaunessey, who is the leader of the Cockfosters healing ministry had told me to pray the gospel passage Luke 7:11-17, which is the resurrection of the son of the widow of Nain. And so I did this every day in faith and trusted that John would not die but get well.

David continues "I remember one time John's daughter Kate, who was to be married on 18<sup>th</sup> May getting very despondent, and I found myself saying 'Don't worry he will walk you down the aisle.' At the time this seemed impossible, but in fact John made an amazing recovery, and did walk his daughter down the aisle, with the aid of only a stick, when she got married some weeks later. When John left the Royal Hospital to go to Chase Farm for physiotherapy and rehabilitation I felt my job was done and he was well on the road to recovery and I wasn't needed any more."

He adds "What I did for John is something I have done for other people and I have seen many times the power of the gospel to bring life and healing. What you see above all is peace and blessing for the family even if the person doesn't survive. There is one young woman, who has been in a coma for 30 months, whom I go and visit twice a week and pray for. I believe that one day she will be healed and I am called to be faithful and proclaim the word to her."

John Lynch has made a full recovery and no longer even needs a stick and has returned to normal living. He comments, "I have struggled with health issues all my life, and had five serious open heart operations so it is a miracle that I am still alive at 66. I thank God and believe this is because of the power of prayer and the protection of Our Lady, who has helped me throughout my life. I know Jesus has a purpose for me and I look forward to learning more of his plan for me in the future."

**Even with those who seem  
incapacitated I often see a small  
response when the Word of God  
is proclaimed to them.**



# Catholic Charismatic Renewal & God's WORD



**Fr Fio Mascarenhas SJ, the Chairman of the Catholic Bible Institute, Mumbai, and Former Director and Chairman of ICCRS, Rome, reflects on the key role that the word of God has played in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal**

The spread of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) to almost every country of the world has brought over a hundred million Catholics to experience a remarkable spiritual renewal of their Christian lives. One important sign of the vitality of this post-Vatican II move of the Holy Spirit, as mentioned by Blessed John Paul II and his successors, is a deep love for the word of God. In 1981 the Pope declared to the Leaders' Conference, "In 1975, my venerable predecessor Paul VI addressed the International Charismatic Congress which assembled here in Rome, and described this movement as 'a chance for the Church and for the world'; and the six years since that Congress have borne out the hope that inspired his vision! The Church has seen the fruits of your devotion to prayer in a deepened commitment to holiness of life and love for the word of God..." Pope Benedict XVI as well has commented several times that the CCR is "a unique gift of the Lord and a precious resource for the life of the Church." And our winsome Pope Francis recently declared that, from his own personal experience, the CCR is "truly a grace of the Spirit, and necessary for the good of the Church."

## The CCR is first of all an ecclesial "movement of faith" rather than just of charismatic gifts

A major reason for this success of the CCR is the centrality of the word of God in its teaching and formation programmes. The CCR is first of all an ecclesial "movement of faith" rather than just of charismatic gifts. This is because the people who come to charismatic prayer groups primarily discover new faith, and thereby become open to the charisms and the prayer of praise. "Now faith comes from... the word of Christ" (Rom 10:17), and since the Life in the Spirit Seminars are truly saturated with the word of God, proclaimed with freshness and conviction, and strengthened by personal witness to the truth of God's word just proclaimed, they are powerfully used by the Holy Spirit to bring the gift of faith to its participants. This gift of faith resulting from "hearing" the word of God (Fr Raniero Cantalamessa calls the word of God an "auricular sacrament") leads in turn to a deeper "love for the word of God."

Furthermore, from the very beginning, all national and international CCR conferences and retreats have used some relevant text of Scripture as their theme, with the keynote and other talks all developing its rich scriptural content. This practice has influenced

other organisations in the Church to do the same, so that the prominence given to the word of God is becoming more widespread among God's People. Also, the CCR has pioneered innumerable scripture-based songs (in all languages) which have become very popular and are in general use in many parishes. As for formation programmes, in India we started the first Catholic Charismatic Bible School for lay people in 1979 (Fr Rufus would boast it was the only such residential school in the whole world), and for several years it ran 9-month residential courses teaching a Catholic interpretation of every book in the Bible. We changed its name in 1998 to the Catholic Bible Institute, Mumbai, so it could cater to the whole Church (and not just the CCR), and it is still offering both one month live-in courses, and evening non-residential courses. A few thousand lay people have benefited significantly from them, and in turn are sharing the word of God in several parishes and dioceses of India, Asia, and the world.

## Scripture has an inbuilt power: it is a dynamic, creative reality which effects what it proclaims

Jesus himself pointed out, "It is the spirit that gives life... the words I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (Jn.6:63). And the Second Vatican Council used very strong words to teach Catholics about the power of scripture: "Such is the force and power of the word of God that it can serve the Church's children as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life ... Just as from constant attendance at the eucharistic mystery the life of the Church draws increase, so a new impulse of spiritual life may be expected from an increased devotion to the word of God" (Dei Verbum, 21, 26). Unlike any other literature, Scripture has an in-built power: it is a dynamic, creative reality which effects what it proclaims! It is therefore the Holy Spirit's favorite tool for fashioning willing disciples into the image and likeness of Jesus.

## Danger of Catholic fundamentalism while interpreting the Scriptures

However, much needs to be done still! The famous words of our Cardinal Suenens were repeated by Benedict XVI, that many Catholics "have been sacramentalised but not yet evangelised." It is we Catholics, therefore, who are most in need of the New Evangelisation, to foster growth in faith and to strengthen our Christian identity. This can happen wonderfully if we promote a vivid devotion to the word of God: "If the practice of Lectio Divina is promoted with efficacy, I am convinced that it will produce a new spiritual springtime in the Church" (Benedict XVI). On the other hand, the danger of Catholic fundamentalism while interpreting the Scriptures (even in the case of otherwise good Catholics) is very real. The 2008 Synod of Bishops (in which I had the privilege

of participating as an "expert") was convened to study how effective "Dei Verbum" had been in the life and mission of the Church. Its preparatory document stated that "though many positive things have clearly taken place in the People of God... some things pose problems." One of the main concerns mentioned was the allure of various forms of fundamentalism. Then, the post-Synodal Exhortation "Verbum Domini" urged all believers to pursue greater understanding of the Church's teaching concerning Scripture and knowledge of the appropriate Catholic interpretive methods. But sadly, the parishes, and the CCR, have still to respond decisively to this urgent call of the Church! (Meanwhile, almost 30% of Catholics in Brazil have left to join the Pentecostal sects). Whereas the CCR has brought a real renewal for millions of Catholics in terms of prayer and the charisms, it is yet to offer adequate training in solid bible-study on a regular and systematic basis to its people. (For example, our people must be helped to see that there is no contradiction between modern findings of science and the biblical revelation).

## We Should not be satisfied with a pious love for the Word of God

Serious bible-study calls for commitment and hard work, and we should not be satisfied with a pious "love for the word of God" which expresses itself only in reading some comforting scripture texts in an arbitrary way whenever we are in the mood! The CCR must do much more to help our people become "scripture literate" by investing time, energy and money for such training, and perhaps even more than we do for other charismatic programmes. "We must train people to read and meditate on the word of God: this must become their staple diet, so that, through their own experience, the faithful will see that the words of Jesus are spirit and life" (Benedict XVI to CELAM, May 13, 2007). I believe that if the CCR leadership and members take the lead in doing this as a high priority, we will fulfill even better the Pope's grand words that the CCR is "a precious resource for the life of the whole Church."

*Note: God's Word (upper case "W") is Jesus Christ himself, whereas God's word (lower case "w") refers to the word of God in written form (as in the Bible). This is how biblical texts about the word of God (as in Heb.4:12) and references to the word of God in Benedict XVI's Verbum Domini are printed. Unfortunately, many journals routinely print references to the word of God with an upper case W!*

# The Other Half



Sue Whitehead

The New Year has come – and we're still here! This is good news as it means that God has not finished with us yet. That is VERY encouraging as it means that possibly this year, I will manage to grow more like Jesus and tell more people about Him. I know so many people who are not yet walking with Him that I am not praying for an imminent Second Coming!

It will be wonderful if 2014 is the year when Christians display by their lives the glory and grace of God who loves His world so much. Pope Francis has given us all a challenge - "Proclaim the Good news joyfully" - in his exhortation Evangelii Gaudium. He says so many things which bring us up short as we read them and he doesn't use the sort of language we are used to hearing from a Pope. He uses everyday expressions which we might say ourselves – if we were writing to friends to encourage them in their faith and their personal relationship with Jesus. If you haven't bought a copy yet – get one today!

I have a feeling that many Christians of different traditions will want to respond to Pope Francis's words. "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ ..." (para 3) is how he starts! He often interchanges the phrases "people of God", "every Christian" and "the Church" which seems to me to show an important acceptance of all baptised Christians. We all acknowledge that our witness to the world is damaged by the divisions amongst us but as we make evangelising a priority, that which unites us becomes more important than that which divides. It is music to my protestant ears to hear a call to evangelise those who need our Saviour. To witness by our words and actions, that "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

How exciting is that? What could be better news? It should make every day a good day – another opportunity to make Him known and loved. Towards the end of his exhortation, Pope Francis devotes a chapter to Spirit-filled Evangelisers. He says "Spirit-filled evangelisers means evangelisers fearlessly open to the working of the Holy Spirit." (para 259) "They are evangelisers who pray and work" (para 262). That's us – isn't it?

Let me finish with this statement from Pope Francis. "Jesus wants evangelisers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence" (para 259).

And in paragraph 120 of Evangelii Gaudium he simply asks us "So what are we waiting for?"

© Sue Whitehead



# Living the Gospel in a nursing home

Many of us today fear getting old and particularly losing our independence and having to go into residential care. As Christians, however, we need never fear the future because God is always with us and has a purpose for us and can use all the circumstances of our lives for our spiritual growth. Recently I read some wonderful testimonies in the Madonna House newspaper "Restoration" of those witnessing in care facilities and the hope and joy those working there can bring. One Madonna House member, who was elderly, was also asked if he would be willing to go and live in a residential home, as part of his apostolate. This he agreed to do, and teamed up with another resident where the two had an amazing impact on the atmosphere of the home.

In the light of these testimonies I was fascinated by a Christmas letter I received from Bob Balkam, who used to edit the Goodnews before me and who was the first chairman of the National Service Committee for CCR in England. He and his wife Laurin retired to the United States in the mid 1980s. Bob (now in his 90s) and Laurin, as he explained in his letter, now both live in a care facility, but this has not dimmed his zeal for the gospel, and he told me that his grand-daughter was bringing a friend to visit him, so he could explain about the Renewal to her. His journey in recent years, has not been without its difficulties but I found his letter so encouraging that I asked his permission to share it with Goodnews readers, which he willingly agreed to do. (KC)



My wife, Laurin, was diagnosed with vascular dementia in April, 2009. At the time we were living in a 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. It was ideally designed and equipped for our needs, including caregiving. Afterwards I took on the role of caregiver. At first I found it little more burdensome than as if she had a bad cold. Pretty soon

however, I realized we needed more help and we hired a care assistant seven days a week.

Laurin and Tabitha, her carer, used to regularly take walks. However, Laurin preferred my care. After the adjustment settled, Tabitha was doing the laundry and the housecleaning -- I was doing the rest: grocery shopping, planning, preparing and, in time, serving Laurin's meals - in bed. After a while, the distance from the kitchen stove to Laurin's bed resembled crossing Manhattan from the East River to the Hudson. During this progression, Laurin gradually ate less and less and became weaker and weaker. She spent more of her time in her night clothes and in bed. At one time I found myself resenting her, but quickly caught myself and corrected it to the fact that I was resenting her illness -- but the effect was all too similar.

For me, the result was that in the thirty days prior to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011, I was in Shady Grove Hospital three times, the third time with a mini stroke. After discharge, the neurologist told me that if I didn't get some rest I would have another stroke. With some reluctance I came into Assisted Living at Ingleside at King Farm, a Continuing Care Retirement Community here

in Rockville, for two weeks respite. Two years later I am still here! I still don't have the stamina I had before the stroke. A month after I came in to Ingleside our children brought Laurin into Memory Care, here, moving in furniture and pictures before she arrived. She balked at first, but stayed and really adjusted by the end of the first week, thanks to the help of the staff. Since that time, we have both experienced "The Transformation at Ingleside". In retrospect I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that I would not be alive if we hadn't come in when we did. Laurin gained 14 pounds in a short time after her arrival and she is now very much her old self. Since her arrival, she has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and although her memory loss has continued, most of the time she is happy.

In sharp contrast to my earlier feeling of resentment for Laurin's illness, I have discovered a depth of love for her that I never knew before. I have told her numerous times: "Honey, you are being cared for here. I am being cared for as well. All we have to do when we are together is to love each other." Since we have been here we have celebrated our 71<sup>st</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversaries.

Apart from some absence of energy after the mini stroke, my health is much improved from when I arrived. The friendships I have made among both staff and residents are quite unlike those of any similar period in my life. Our eight children who all live within 15 miles, comment on it frequently. So, life has changed in ways that I would not have chosen but the Lord has given His gifts -- of His choice -- I have just been a little slow in recognising their ultimate value. Did I recently read that St Teresa of Avila and Mother Teresa both welcomed sufferings because they would bring them closer to the Lord? I can believe it. I cannot welcome them yet.

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### ENGLAND

#### ARTS AND PLAYS

**18<sup>th</sup> APRIL WINTERHALL PASSION OF CHRIST** ( Good Friday FREE PERFORMANCE at 12noon & 3.15pm in Trafalgar Square, London. [www.passionofjesus-traffic.co.uk](http://www.passionofjesus-traffic.co.uk) tel 01793 418299

**20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE WINTERSHALL LIFE OF CHRIST** at GLASTONBURY ABBEY, (Friday 2.30pm & 6.30pm / Sat 6.30pm. Adults £10 and children £8 Further details 01793 418299 . [www.wintershall-estate.com](http://www.wintershall-estate.com)

**TENTEN THEATRE** Uses drama to communicate Gospel values -- programmes for parishes, schools & young offenders. Contact Tenten Theatre, PO Box 49063 New Southgate, London N11 1YU. Call 0845 388 3162 or see website [www.tenten-theatre.co.uk](http://www.tenten-theatre.co.uk)

**STEVE MURRAY MIME ARTIST** -- gospel mimes & ministry for schools/parishes/conferences. Write to **BEHOLD MINSITRIES, 1 Church Green, Roxwell, Essex, CM1 4NZ** . E: [behold@btinternet.com](mailto:behold@btinternet.com) tel 07967 043287 or 01245 248584

#### COMMUNITIES

**ALABARE HOUSE OF PRAYER** Ecumenical lay community in Salisbury. Groups /individual retreat. Details: John Proctor, 15 Tollgate Road, Salisbury, SP1 2JA tel/fax 01722 340206 or 501586 [www.alabare.org](http://www.alabare.org)

**CENACOLO COMMUNITY** - Support prayer groups for those affected by family members

being involved in drugs. Meetings in Liverpool, Coventry, Birmingham, London and Brighton. **Cenacolo Community UK, Doddington Green, Dodding Holme, Mealbank, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9DH tel 01539 736222 or email cenacolouk@gmail.com www.cenacolouk.org**

**EMMAUS COMMUNITY OF PRAYER** -- Every Sunday 7.30pm-9pm (all welcome) at St Patrick's Church, Marshside Road, Southport PR9 9TJ. Call Archie Cameron 01704 224286

**VERBUM DEI COMMUNITY** - Contact: Verbum Dei Retreat Centre, Rosary Cottage, Nunnery Lane, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight PO30 1YT Tel 01983 529554

#### DAYS OF RENEWAL

**ALTON 22<sup>nd</sup> March (tba)/26<sup>th</sup> April/ 31<sup>st</sup> May** at St Lucy's Convent, Medstead, Hants, 11am-4.30pm. Rev Foley 0118 933 3420

**CARLISLE Last Saturdays. 29<sup>th</sup> March** (Gillian Nixon); **26<sup>th</sup> April** (Gerry Nelson); **31<sup>st</sup> May** (tba) 11am-4 pm. St Edmund's, Orton Road, Call Janice Tel 01768 868489

**CHILWORTH. Surrey 17<sup>th</sup> May "Faith, Life & Transformation** (Derek Williams) St Augustine's Abbey, Sample Oak Lane, GU4 8QR Mass, prayer and praise, talks. Bring packed lunch. Details 01483 899360

**HARROGATE 8<sup>th</sup> March** (Frank McDermott) **12<sup>th</sup> April** (Mrs Pat Brown), **10<sup>th</sup> May** (Rev Katherine Tucker) 12-4pm at St. Aelred's Church Hall, Woodlands Drive, Harrogate HG27BE Bring shared lunch Tel 01423 870789

**LONDON 15<sup>th</sup> March 12<sup>th</sup> April (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat) 17<sup>th</sup> May** 10am-5pm St Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston, NW1 1TA [www.dayofrenewal.co.uk](http://www.dayofrenewal.co.uk) Contact 077677 65262

**MARANATHA** (Birmingham) Tel 0161 748 4858 info @ [maranathacommunity.org.uk](http://maranathacommunity.org.uk)

**LONDON BARKING 22<sup>nd</sup> March Sehion Convention. 8am-4pm at Oasis banqueting Suite, 6-8 Thames Road, IG11 0HZ. Fr Jose Antyankulam 0747 280 1507**

**PRESTON 15<sup>th</sup> March (tba) 14<sup>th</sup> June (tba).** 10am-4pm St Clare's RC Church, Sharoe Green Lane North, Fulwood, PR2 9HH. Bring lunch. Call Bernard 01539 563391

**WEST BROMWICH SEHION 2<sup>nd</sup> SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March** (Ros Powell) **12<sup>th</sup> April (tba) 10<sup>th</sup> May** (CHANGE OF VENUE FOR MAY ONLY -- CSN International Exhibition Conference Centre, 238 Highgate Rd, Birmingham B12 8ED) **14<sup>th</sup> June** (Damian Stayne -- Miracle Day) 8am-4pm. Rosary, Mass, Praise & worship, talks, confessions, prayer ministry, children & youth ministry at Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, B70 7JW. (nearest BR station Sandywell and Dudley BR station 2 mins walk). Call 07503 522671 / 07545 780095

#### DISCIPLESHIP/TRAINING

**21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> APRIL SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION FOR TEENAGERS** (12-17 years old) at Cefn Lea Park, Wales SY16 4AJ led by SEHION (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Ministry) Call Jackson 0788 9756688 or E: [jacksonjose1986@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonjose1986@gmail.com)