

Restoration

Bringing peace of mind in a troubled world

Newsletter—Christmas 2007



The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the
shadow of death
a light has dawned ...
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be upon his
shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

Restoration is alive and well – the past year has been one of ploughing the field as it were, getting everything ready for the new season; and we believe this will be true of 2008.

As some of you will remember, we had hoped to run two more pilot courses following the successful course that was held in 2006. We came into contact with the Beacon Community Church, Maidstone; this church has a heart for the people who live around it and runs a number of community projects. They are interested in running a *Restoration* course.

However, it quickly became apparent that we needed to do a lot of work in getting the course material written up to produce a manual so that the course can be run by others, particularly churches, who wish to support people with emotional and mental health difficulties.

Kathy Lewis and Jo Wheeler have been working away on the manual for a good part of this year and I am pleased to say that we can now pass it on in draft form to the

people who will be involved in the next two courses. Again, they will be pilot courses and we will now be able to get feedback on the effectiveness of the manual as well as the course itself. Our thanks to Kathy and Jo for undertaking this work alongside all the other things they do.

We are also looking to run another course in Tunbridge Wells for Hope 2008.

This is a national initiative that is worked out at a local level. The challenge is for churches to engage in mission in creative and co-operative ways. We will be looking, along with the churches in Tunbridge Wells, to support them in reaching out to any people who go to our churches who would like some help in dealing with their emotional and mental health needs.

We have seen many of those who joined us for the course in 2006 venturing out in life and taking more responsibility for their lives. For some we believe this is partly as a direct result of some of the things learned on the *Restoration* course, and we praise the Lord for it. We are aware too that there has been great sadness for others and we would ask you to pray for all those whom *Restoration* comes into contact with.

At the beginning of this newsletter I have used words written by Isaiah the prophet about a nation that had experienced the despair and darkness of life ...

"The people who have seen a great light ... for unto us a child is born". Whether we walk in great darkness or experience the ups and downs of life, the good news of Christmas is that God's gift to the world, and that means each one of us, is the gift of his son Jesus. I hope we will be able to know God's love this Christmas, experiencing afresh the healing and wholeness that God has for each one of us.

Please pray:

- ❖ For the contacts we make, that they will prove to be fruitful.
- ❖ We need people who will join us who have the skills to publicise *Restoration*.
- ❖ For an ever-increasing group of people who will pray for the work.

Martin Granger

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