

October 2020

Dear friend

At this time of the year, as I see the leaves changing colour and the various shades of green, yellow, red and brown, I think of a holiday, with Joan, in Iowa, one of the midwestern states of America. The range of colours was spectacular, and people would drive for miles to see these amazing displays of nature. However, my memories aren't just of the amazing array of colours, but of walking on a carpet of dry leaves, or even walking ankle deep through dry leaves that had fallen layer on layer.

Each one of us has our own special memories as we look back over the years. Memories of good times, encouraging times, but memories, too, of challenging times and difficult times. Each of us has our memories of the past seven months, the highs and the lows. May our positive memories be a blessing to us, may they encourage and sustain us, and may we know God's renewing presence and power where we have painful memories and experiences.

The Bible assures us that God loves and cares for each one of us. Do talk to God about your experiences. Ask Him to help you, ask Him to heal the hurts, pains and disappointments of the past, to break the hold any negative experiences and memories are having on your life.

He wants to bring healing into our brokenness, to help us forgive others, to help us forgive ourselves, to enable us to know His forgiveness as we come to Him in repentance and faith.

**Healing into our  
brokenness!**

Each of us, in our own way, has experienced hurt and pain, disappointments and frustrations, we have regrets about things we have done, as well as things we haven't done. We can't go back and change what has happened, but our past does not have to determine our future.

When the People of Israel were living as exiles in Babylon, God spoke to them through the prophet Jeremiah. He assured them that He hadn't forgotten them and hadn't given up on them.

God said, 'I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

No matter who we are and no matter what we have experienced, God wants us to know that he is a God who forgives, a God who restores and renews. He is the One who gives us hope and a future. We can know a restored relationship with God through faith in Christ as our Saviour and know the presence of the Holy Spirit with us and in us.

**Hope and  
a future!**

When we are followers of Christ, part of the Holy Spirit's role is to progressively make us more like Christ, to transform us into the people God wants us to be, and help us do what God wants us to do. He equips, encourages and empowers, He corrects, consoles and comforts, He teaches, trains and transforms. Although we'll still experience challenges and difficulties, we are not on our own, He is with us.

In the coming days, I pray that you will be aware of His presence as you entrust your life and your future to Him, that you will experience his renewing power bringing healing and hope, and that you will know His peace now and always.

Yours for the sake of Christ



(Please see overleaf.)

Included in this mailing is information about the Bible 2020 readings, the Bible readings for November and December, a summary of the Parish Accounts for 2019, our Harvest Offering and a Special Gift Day.