

WOUNDED HEALERS

DECEMBER 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant...I am sure that most of you recognize these words from Mary’s song commonly called ‘The Magnificat.’ Prior to the singing of this song, Mary received a call from the Lord to bear God’s only Son and out of obedience, Mary said to the Lord: “I am the Lord’s Servant, may it be to me as you have said.” (Luke Chapter 1)

I continue to believe that God called and has given birth to the Wounded Healers Ministries, and like Mary, we are trying to be obedient and faithful to that call. The Board and Team are so very grateful for the grace and abundant blessings he continues to pour out on us. We are all aware of the privilege we have in ministering in his name and we don’t take his gifts and call for granted. We continue to carry on our work in the lives of those who have been wounded. This year was less busy in terms of conferences as we held only one in Victoria this past Spring. I would call this conference a ‘second level’ in terms of deeper healing. At this second conference we had the opportunity to share testimonies and new, very engaging speakers were part of our program. The Pastor of the Church followed up the conference with a lovely letter of endorsement. It reads in part: *“The ministry that you and your team provided last month to our church family and community at the Wounded Healers Conference was stellar! Considering your fruitful ministry to us last year, my expectations were high as we went into this year’s conference. I have to say that those high expectations were more than exceeded.”* What a joy to receive such positive feedback from those we are trying to reach. The second area we focussed on in 2018 was with individuals who needed restoration and healing in their lives, marriages and ministries. We continue to marvel at God’s superlative care for those he sends to us.

This newsletter is to extend to all of you the joys of Christmas and will bring you up to date with a few items regarding the Wounded Healers Ministries (WHM).

First, we spoke last year about applying for a charitable registration number for income tax purposes for WHM. However, after much discussion and prayer, we approached The Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC), who currently does our receipting and invoicing, and asked if we could remain under their umbrella. They graciously consented and will continue to provide Administrative Assistance. In addition, Bishop Trevor Walters has agreed to join our Board. Bishop Trevor is extremely gifted with insights and wisdom regarding this kind of ministry and his presence is a tremendous blessing. He will be our link to ANiC and will be available to attend conferences and give input when required.

Second, this past year, Deirdre and I spent the months of July and August in central Canada. I had the privilege of taking a colleague’s place while he was on sabbatical. I preached at this very gifted Church for five weeks. It also gave Deirdre and I the opportunity to do follow up with many people who had attended a WHM Conference at this Church in the fall of 2017.

Third, one of the areas where we have heavily invested in 2018 is in caring for the souls of those who have been wounded. This past year we have witnessed the restoration of marriages, the healing of memories, freedom from guilt, shame, anxiety and grief in the lives of many wounded people. The Board has taken the liberty this year of hiring a part-time ‘prayer minister’ who provides me with a great deal of assistance in ‘listening to’ and ‘praying with’ individuals on a one-on-one basis. One of the dangers of the kind of ministry is, of course, ‘burn-out’ and it is wonderful to have a very gifted helper participate in this work. Everyone we have sent to our ‘prayer-minister’ has experienced great change in their lives and isn’t that what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about. **“He is the one who has performed mighty deeds with his arm...He has filled the hungry with good things...” (Luke 1:51.53)**

Fourth, this past month we had a Board meeting and in this next year we have decided to take WHM in a slightly different direction. We will still be doing the work of healing wounded souls, but our primary emphasis will focus on **FORGIVENESS**. We find that hiding beneath the wounds of so many is the need to forgive and receive forgiveness and that is where we are going to direct our energies in 2019. Plans are coming together to hold evening workshops dealing with the questions: What is Forgiveness? What Forgiveness Isn't, and Receiving forgiveness, and Forgiving Yourself. If there is enough interest, these evening gatherings will be followed up by a weekend Seminar or Conference dealing with more difficult issues of forgiveness such as: How do you forgive your parents, spouse, children, grandchildren, siblings, friends and yourself. Can you forgive infidelity or what some may consider the unforgiveable sins? We will also address, forgiving God, the church and institutions. We will look very closely at Reconciliation, what it means and what it does not mean. Finally, we will teach and equip with some very practical tools that will assist people on their road to forgiveness and genuine reconciliation. We are hoping to help people become living examples of what it means to be '*forgiving*' people and thus our Churches will become '*forgiving Churches*.' What a wonderful witness to the community around us if this goal can be realized. We believe that this slight change in direction for WHM is coming from the Holy Spirit and we are trusting that the Lord will open the doors for the correct locations for evening talks and conferences.

The Board and team Members know that this ministry would not be possible without your prayers and continued support. As leaders of this vital ministry Deirdre and I are very conscious of God's grace, as well as your prayers and encouragement.

No doubt this may be one of many Christmas letters you will receive this year asking for your support. Yes, we are always in need of prayers and if you have any financial resources to invest in this ministry, they will be deeply appreciated. However, I always remind you that your **primary** obligation is to your home Church where you receive your teaching, nurturing and pastoral care. After that comes the poor and those in need. If after you fulfill those Biblical obligations and still have a surplus of funds, please remember us as part of your annual gift giving. All gifts and cheques are to be directed to ANiC who is authorized to issue income tax receipts on our behalf. They can be contacted toll free at: 1-866-351-2642 and they can easily walk you through the process. Tax Receipts will be issued from WHM in the new calendar year.

We continue to be very grateful for a whole team of volunteers, but we need to acknowledge the work of Sheri Eisenhuth (Administrator at The Church of the Nazarene) along with Cathy Hallam (Administrator of WHM). In addition, we are very thankful for the Rev. Dr. Brett Cane (Chairman of the Board of WHM) as well as all the board members who have blessed us with their prayer support and encouragement as this ministry moves forward. The Church of the Nazarene under the leadership of Pastor Gary Bennett has been so helpful and encouraging. We love our close partnership with them and with ANiC. We are extremely thankful to both organizations.

In closing, may God bless you abundantly during this Advent and Christmas Season! We hope and pray that 2019 be a year filled with God's joy and abundant blessings. Who knows? Yes, I did say this last year but... maybe this will be the year that He returns! Come Lord Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Ron Corcoran +
Archdeacon Emeritus
Executive Director, Wounded Healers Ministry

