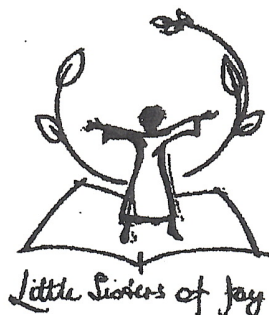


'In the JOY of the Lord is your stronghold' (Nehemiah 8:10)



Friends of the Little Sisters of Joy

A community of prayer, peace and reconciliation.

Newsletter No 5
Spring 2005

My dear Friends,

On the 1st December 2004 came the first snow. A sense of purity and a new beginning. My dream of a community of prayer and reconciliation took a new turn.

An ecumenical *community* of women living together from different Christian traditions is beginning to emerge. In about 3 years time we hope to set up a base further afield. Some of us may be from the Anglican, Catholic, Russian Orthodox and Evangelical traditions. We aim to have an outreach in the community where we live, as well as a vibrant prayer life.

Alongside this I have established an ecumenical *foundation* for peace and reconciliation and written a short foundational statement about building bridges of peace.

'The harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace'

(Letter of St James 3:18)



I am in the process of acquiring patrons and I hope that this foundation will be something to which everyone, of all faiths and none, can contribute. I may in the future work alongside peace organisation that may not necessarily have a religious dimension, in the belief that we are working towards the same end.

On December 13th 2004 the Michaelhouse Centre in Cambridge put on an exhibition of linocuts by Israeli and Palestinian children on the theme of peace. I was invited to open the exhibition with a selection of songs in Hebrew and English on the same theme and I felt privileged to do so.

IMAGES OF HOPE

The occasion was quite informal and the audience sat and enjoyed a glass of wine in true cafe style. It reminded me of days in the 60's when I used to sing in restaurants. On one occasion my friend and I got sacked for singing protest songs instead of gentle background music!

Which leads me on to the concert I will have done by the time you get this Newsletter. Another Concert for Peace and Reconciliation, this time it takes place in Pembroke Chapel, by kind permission of the Dean. It is a very beautiful building and the first one to be built in Cambridge by Christopher Wren. It is intimate, with a perfect acoustic, and there will be melodies from the Sabbath liturgy, American and English music and two Polish songs. Challenging words but the tunes are fun !

My travels will be taking me to Taize this April. Taize is an ecumenical community of Brothers, founded during the 2nd World War by Brother Roger as a living symbol of Peace and Reconciliation. Its simplicity and beautiful liturgy has become popular with young people from all over the world. I hope to have some peace there, as well as learning some useful lessons about an ecumenical community.

For all these journeys-I envisage quite a few in the future - I need money. If you feel you are able to make a small contribution, words cannot say how grateful I would be, as maintaining these international links is vital The money would also help towards publishing my autobiography which is due out in October.

Please make cheques (sent to me) payable to ' The Little Sisters of Joy' or here are my bank details: (I hope that soon we will have a charitable status).



Bank: Lloyds TSB Bank plc, Cattle Market
Account no: 02032934
Sort Code: 30-91-74
Account name: The Little Sisters of Joy

So – two new trees have been planted! As we walk in the steps of Jesus on the way to the Cross this Easter, let us never forget the power of Resurrection in our troubled world.

'It is a tree of life to those who grasp it; All its ways are pleasant and all its paths are peace '

Shalom uveracha, Peace and Blessing.

Gila

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