

the Word a Yaad

Reflections with

the Servite Sisters in Jamaica

Feb—Mar 2016



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To be truly human means accepting the humbling fact that we are limited and essentially poor. If we take the time to reflect on the journey of our life, we will see that we don't always "get it right": we make mistakes or unwise choices, ill-health, hurts, disappointments, anxiety and confusion become unwelcome companions on the journey. At times like these, we often feel that we are in a desert place with nothing to see or feel but the dry waterless wasteland of insecurity, loneliness and confusion. We would rather do without these difficult times. But not even Jesus was exempt from these desert times on his human journey -(see Lk 4:1-13)

It is precisely in our limitations and poverty - our struggles, frustrations, pain and sufferings, — that God's presence is most powerfully experienced—for

"it is when I am weak that I am strong" (1Cor 12:10).

Horatio is a 27 yr- old young man who has lived on the streets of Kingston from 11 years of age. This has been his "yaad" where his experience of life has been insecurity, homelessness, joblessness. Recently the Sunday newspaper interviewed him and he had this to share: *"Better must come for me, because I am working for better—but right now I just accept it."*

Horatio enrolled himself in the YMCA where he is learning the skill of barbering— and it is on this skill that his hope for a better future rests. Somewhere, somehow in this cruel desert of life on the streets of the city, he is connecting to God's word deep within him: *"There is MORE to life than this... reach out for it!"*

Mary - Companion on our journey of life

Mary too, had her desert places (cf Mark 3:20-35). Imagine her anxiety and fear when she saw her son courting danger by the way he chose to live. Imagine her confusion and frustration when she failed and felt helpless in rescuing him from his "madness". Being the mother of a son like Jesus could not have been easy. She must have often found herself in a desert with only her faith in a faithful God to sustain her



Have you noticed that the flowering bougainvillea is at its most beautiful during dry climate?

LENT is a time to learn the lessons of desert places

CONTINUE TO REFLECT.....

- ◇ Identify one aspect of your personal life that you find difficult / challenging
- ◇ In prayer, listen to God speaking to you through this....and allow the Spirit to lead you to experience this aspect of your life in a life-giving way..... God speaks to you:

"I set before you Life and Death ...choose Life that you may live".