

**APRIL 2016**

We are an Easter people, and "Alleluia" is our song!

St. Augustine

My dear friends,

Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

These are not just words to be recited; they are our words, they define our way of living in this world. What do they mean to you? How does Jesus' triumph over death create life in you and point you forward? Sometimes the way forward seems cloudy or frightening, as if our goals, prayers or aspirations fall on deaf ears. As I am writing it is Wednesday in Easter week, and the first lesson appointed for today is from the Book of Acts, 3:1-10. Peter and John encounter a man who had been lame from birth sitting in front of the Temple, asking for alms. Peter says to the man "You have asked for money, I don't have any money to give you. But I do have something and I'm going to share it with you." In the name of Jesus, Peter healed the man and for the first time in his life he jumped up and walked. The lame man didn't get what he asked for, but what he did receive was much, much better.

Does this sound familiar to you?

We pray "*Dear God, please give me ...*" (insert whatever it is that you want).

We hear: "*No, not now.*"

But what God is really saying is: "*I love you so much. So much, in fact, that I am going to give you something much, much better than what you asked for. You may have your prayers answered, or maybe they just can't be answered in the way you want, right now. Trust me. I love you, and I want only the best for you and I am with you.*"

Living as an Easter Person is a combination of hope and reality. We live, we move, we hope and we pray. Sometimes we see prayers answered; sometimes it seems as if life only presents challenges. God listens to each one of us, individually, uniquely. Through it all we say "Alleluia!" Because we know that Christ is risen, that God is with us.

Your Sister in Christ,

Mother Bonnie+

*In Hebrew bible "Hallelujah" is a two-word phrase.*

*"Hallelu" is the verb "praise" and "Jah" is God the Creator.*

*It means more than "praise God". It implies a joyous praise in song, to boast in God.*