**Weekly Devotion**

*Week 1 (4th Oct – 10th Oct 2020)*

Jesus embraced suffering, pain, betrayal, and death itself to not only draw us to Himself but to reconcile us to God. He left no loose ends, no dead ends. Everything was transformational, including our position in Him was established. At the cross, Jesus not only became the sin and the problem, but He identified, and continues to, with our pain, lack, suffering and betrayals.

He does not stand separate from us, from our humanity, frailties, conflicts, struggles and our wounds; but He instead enters into them all. He is our Wounded Healer!

Henri Nouwen puts it so well when he wrote, “Nobody escapes being wounded. We all are wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. The main question is not “How can we hide our wounds?” so we don’t have to be embarrassed, but “How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?” When our wounds cease to be a source of shame, and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers.

Jesus is God’s wounded healer: through his wounds we are healed. Jesus’ suffering and death brought joy and life. His humiliation brought glory; his rejection brought a community of love. As followers of Jesus we can also allow our wounds to bring healing to others."

Jesus gave us faith, love and hope. The healing potential within each of us comes from God! Christ is in us; His Holy Spirit fills us.

Many leaders put up the strong front of faith before people, communicating that it is all OK. Let us not be delusional- we are mortal humans- we hurt, get lonely, encounter betrayals just like anyone else. The challenge is, to be honest, taking the risk of admitting and allowing God to use others to heal and encourage us.

Church members on the other hand, should not put their leaders on pedestals where it becomes impossible for the leader to talk about their own frailties. Many expect their leaders to be overcomers in every department of life. They need a practical perspective of not only the frailty and humanity of their leaders but stand in the place of intercession, support and encouragement, bringing even, as wounded healers, healing to wounded leaders.