



Scotland Letter: "The time of trial"

[Scottish CPT reservist Jan Benvie wrote this letter to other CPTers struggling with how the media has been treating the rescue of Harmeet Sooden, Jim Loney and Norman Kember.]

forwarded by Nancy Hawkins

Monday 27th March 2006

It's been a busy, and sometimes emotionally bruising weekend, but that's not always bad because it is often when we feel at our most vulnerable that we are more open to God's voice.

I was thinking about Norman tonight as I was walking the dogs (the first long walk I have had time for in four days!) and also thinking about the lesson I had taught this afternoon in class about the crucifixion and resurrection. (School finishes here on Friday, but Easter will be over by the time we return.)

And it came to me that Norman's story is not unlike the Easter story. When he was missing in Iraq he was hailed in the media as this wonderful, silver haired, gentle, peaceful man, just as Jesus was hailed by the crowds as He rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Whilst Norman's crucifixion by the media is (thankfully) metaphorical, it has been done with no less ill intent than our Lord's. The wonderful, gentle man is now a silly, ungrateful old fool, to be hung out and dried.

We know that the powers that be, the establishment, want to bolster their own image whilst discrediting anything Norman or CPT may say about what is really happening in Iraq.

We can move forward together through these difficult times confident that we are indeed walking In the Way of Christ.

"Do not bring me to the time of trial, but deliver me from evil." God does not bring us to the time of trial, the world does that, but He will, if we are open to Him, deliver us from evil.

In peace,

Jan

"Let us not be disheartened, as though human realities made impossible the accomplishments of God's plans"

-Oscar Romero

