

Editorial

From the midnight of 4th April, the Greenwich clock has started counting out the last 1000 days of the 20th century by the second. All sorts of predictions are being made about the year 2000. It is being looked forward to with dread by some who see it as the end of the world, and with anticipation by others for whom it is the opening of some sort of magical new era. Our response at this time of transition must be to enter into a process in which there is serious commitment for re-visioning. Inevitably, it will demand changes. Changes of any sort naturally meet with resistance from certain sections in any society because changes involve uncertainties and therefore, create fear and anxiety. When values that challenge the status-quo are introduced, they will definitely bring strong protest and resistance from those who are profited by the existing conditions. Many times the people who stand for justice, love and peace may be apparent losers, and such defeats often bring frustration, temptation and may lead them to withdraw. Therefore, one major concern is how can we affirm our faith in the midst of all these changes.

Christian faith is intrinsically missionary, or it denies its very *raison d'être*. The centre of this faith is the affirmation of life. Jesus made it explicit in his proclamation that "I have come that they may have life, may have it in all its fullness" (John 10:10). Life is intrinsic in the created order and needs only to become actualised in its fullness for each individual. God intends fullness of life for the human community. To proclaim the "Good News" in the world where forces of death are operating, and where injustice, oppression, hunger prevail, requires a radical commitment.

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