

Justice That Transforms: Restorative Justice — “Not Enough!”

Dedication

Dedicated to my friend and mentor, Ruth Morris (1933 - 2001). I say more about her in the Preface; and for Chapter 3, I draw heavily on a book she co-edited with W. Gordon West: *The Case for Penal Abolition*. That inspired a departure from my earlier *Volumes*, that have only *Volume* numbers for sub-titles.

Ruth’s was ever an uncompromising voice about the “*crime of punishment*” (Karl Menninger) meted out by criminal (in)justice systems in Canada and worldwide — above all, use of the brutal horrors of imprisonment. Hers was also a “*voice in the wilderness*,” to be sure. But such voices have been/must be ever recurring, so that, as the writer of the Book of Hebrews (11:4 in KJV) states:

4By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was just, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

And Ruth lived indeed a “just life” by faith (Habakkuk 2:4; Hebrews 10:38) — faith too that crumbling prison walls in her words were the “wave of the future” — The Ultimate “*Jailbreak*.” For in Jesus’ dramatic announcement in the Book of Luke (chapter 4), about *Kingdom already/to Come*, his words have ever been *the ultimate cry to break down those prison walls!*:

17And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

**He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,**

**to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

Yes, indeed of Ruth: she, “*being dead yet speaketh!*” Amen.