

## From the Minister

Yves Congar was just 10 years old when World War I began and the French town, Sedan, where he lived was invaded by the German army and then occupied for much of the war.. His father was among the men deported by the Germans to Lithuania. His mother, Lucie Congar encouraged him to keep a diary and what resulted was a lucid description of a military occupation, complete with written narrative and coloured sketches. They provide a unique historical insight into the war from a child's point of view. What he witnessed had such a profound effect on him that he felt called to bring to others the hope of Christ; Encouraged by a local priest Daniel Lallement, Congar entered the diocesan seminary, becoming a Dominican friar, priest, and theologian.

Centuries earlier the prophet Jeremiah was an eyewitness to the invasion of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. He wrote down his observations in his 'diary'—the book of Lamentations. Despite these distressing times, the prophet found hope in the heart of God. He wrote:

"Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, because His  
compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness"  
—Lamentations 3:22-23

We continue to see invasions, occupations and war in our world, and we continue to hold those places in prayer. But also personally we may face times of trouble which effect our lives. But these times of trouble do not last forever. We can choose to allow ourselves to become over run by these things, or like Yves and Jeremiah, turn instead to God, and find there a support and solace. For we have a hope beyond that of the world: a faithful heavenly Father. The Lord's compassions are new every morning, and His faithfulness is great!

Rev Rick