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**Pneumatology and Neuroplasticity: Healing of Memories**

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**Abstract**

Drawing on the concept of plasticity in the development of human persons, and upon pneumatology, I will explore how God, through the Holy Spirit and God's people, brings new life to children and young people. The ability of human person's to discover resilience even in the midst of deepest suffering and anguish is a sign of God's faithfulness and of God's ability to bring healing in the midst of trauma. Such resilience lies within humans by virtue of their created-ness, but the healing of body, mind or spirit is ultimately an eschatological reality, only partially realised in this current life.

It is this eschatological dimension which brings this discussion into a missiological framework. Mission concerns God's gracious benevolence being expressed and experienced by people such that they become God's people, not only in terms of belonging to, but also in becoming like God. Thus, the Christian community is called by God to re-enact the story of Jesus in the midst of human misery, in the messy places and spaces where we find ravaged people. It is the sick who need a doctor, not the healthy. The Christian community is also to be the Body of Christ, the community in which healing can be experienced through the loving acceptance of a family created and inspired by God. This communal experience becomes is the hermeneutic of the Good News.

Our calling is to go to the sick with the wholesomeness and winsomeness that comes from a life devoted to following the subsistence-level carpenter from Nazareth.