



The Wind Call

NOVEMBER 2020 – JANUARY 2021

The Christian Community in and
around Cape Town

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The Guardian of the Offering

We are well aware of the fact that we need to move our bodies to remain healthy. When we exercise our muscles and bones by walking or running we are at the same time exercising our heart and circulatory system and also our lungs and respiratory system. This we need to do if we are not to become stiff and sclerotic. Although such exercise has a very positive effect on our mood and feeling about ourselves and life in general, it is still confined to the physical body only. This is only one aspect of maintaining our feeling of equilibrium in life.

Our soul and spiritual life also needs to be exercised if I want to really feel well in myself and in the world. How do I do this? The muscles and bones of our soul/spiritual life are faith and knowledge. These both need daily exercising just as my physical body does. Again – how do I do this?

The first thing to become fully aware of is just how dependent I really am on all that surrounds me. The earth, the atmosphere, the world of water, the natural world and the elemental world that belongs to it, other people, and above all – the spiritual world in all its complexity of differentiation and expression. Without all of this I simply wouldn't be.

Such a realization is truly humbling. All that I am dependent on lives in the expectation that I not only exist, but that I also become meaningfully creative and that I make a constructive contribution to the further existence and evolving of the earth. In this regard I am also dependent on something other than what I am within my earthly self. I need to exist in a physical body on earth so that I can offer myself as a place where creativity for the unfolding of the future can take place.

It is only when I offer my soul in this way that the creative impulse for the future can work in and through me. Offering in this way is an act of faith and is at the same time the key that unlocks the world of infinite possibility and allows it to manifest as earthly reality. It is the most valuable and precious space there is in the world. Christ unites His offering power with our offering gesture inspiring, enlightening and directing us. The son God creates in and through us! Michael is the guardian of this hallowed space of offering so as to keep it free from intrusion by negative forces. It is to protect this space that he holds the dragon at bay.

Such indwelling of Christ in us leads to knowledge through inner experience. It also leads us onto paths that we would not otherwise have considered taking and so we need courage to follow them.

Humility and courage make possible the indwelling of Christ who carries faith and knowledge into our souls. Humility to offer and courage to act are the soul exercises for the strengthening of faith and knowledge which in turn direct us along a path on which we feel relevant to the future of the greater whole and are able to master our fears and stand at peace with the world no matter what. This inner exercising is what makes us Michaelic.

Richard Goodall.



Richard Goodall, Bodhi Snel, Francesca McCann Pereira, Ruby Oliver and Reingard Knausenberger.

Confirmations 2020

The Confirmation Service was held on Sunday 11th October. There were 3 Confirmands this year: Bodhi Snel , Francesca McCann Pereira and Ruby Oliver pictured above with Richard Goodall and Reingard Knausenberger. Our thanks go to Reingard who came down from Johannesburg to celebrate the service.

Some feedback from the Parents :

“The confirmation process for our daughter Ruby was very special for our whole family. The experience of confirmation will be with Ruby for the rest of her life. We are all very grateful to Richard and Reingard for holding this sacred process with intention and compassion.”

Delphine Oliver

"Growing up in the Dutch Reformed Church during the Apartheid years was a confusing time for me. I instinctively rejected the idea of Afrikaner Nationalism and the way the church was used to promote racist policies. As a youngster I did not yet know people like Beyers Naude and as a result, to stay true to my own spirit, I had to reject the church completely and find my own way forward. I refused my own confirmation journey in our local church, which created a bit of a scandal for my parents, the minister and my own community. Christianity was tainted for me, I was in the spiritual wilderness, and I ended up taking a long road back to my own authentic spirituality via Buddhism, depth psychology and also, since having children, Anthroposophy. Sending my children to a Waldorf school and being part of the Waldorf community has been a very healing experience for me. At home we practice an eclectic mix of spiritual traditions, honouring ancestors, honouring the Buddha's enlightenment on the Wesak Full moon in May; celebrating Diwali, supporting friends and colleagues during the Holy Month of Ramadan, and of course through the Festivals, especially Easter and Christmas, a re-connection with the Christ-child.

Of course my own two sons reject all of this now as 'spiritual non-sense' as they are growing up and exploring their own paths, one through nature, the other through science. To be able to find a sacred initiation journey for my boys, beyond the constraints and contradictions of conventional Christianity, without the need to accept any dogma or doctrine, in freedom, to connect them to their own spirits and individual destinies and inquiries, have been the greatest gift to me. I will always be grateful to Richard and the Christian Community for this generosity and grace. It is a trite saying that it takes a village to raise a child. It takes an elder, a wise deeply spiritual person, to put certain profound existential questions to our children, cynical and all-knowing as they often are on the brink of adulthood, and attempt, through these questions to plant the seeds which can sprout when the time is right and become the spiritual nourishment they need when it is called upon. In my experience as a parent, these are questions and encounters they will not experience (or tolerate) anywhere else on their journey toward adulthood, and they will not be called upon to engage with these questions and become accountable for them by anyone they do not respect. Throughout the Confirmation Journey, and especially this past year cycle, (despite the COVID disruptions) during which the parents were invited by Richard to witness the teachings on a Sunday morning before the Children Service, the power of the transmission of his teachings were made very clear to me. For months we worked with the Confirmation Verse and the Our Father prayer, word by word, and Richard illuminated our entire curriculum as spiritual beings, as if pulling aside veil upon veil upon veil, and providing a glimpse into the unknowable. How does one grow? What is life? What happens when you sleep? What inspires you? Why are you here? What is the relationship between this piece of dead wood that makes up this table and the living tree it once was? Richard's storytelling is compelling, his life experiences vast, his eyes always sparkly and his chuckle always at the ready as he invites the children into their own inner worlds. In our Westernised lives, ritual is in short

supply and we often have to make our own. The weekly ritual of the Children Service, and the older members of the congregation who attend so faithfully, is an anchor for the Confirmation Journey. As a family who thought of ourselves as 'outsiders', we only joined in during the Confirmation Year, but for children who grow up in the Christian Community and start attending at a young age, it must be an immense strengthening of their spirits. The actual confirmation weekend, with its own rituals and the witnessing and attendance of and by family and godparents is a golden memory which will last forever. The one bathed in autumn light, and this year, unusually, blessed by Spring.

It might be a struggle to get the boys back to church anytime soon. Maybe this is true for many parents who are attempting to safeguard their children's spiritual initiation and education during these times. But as Reingard said during our preparation meeting for the Confirmation Service a few weeks ago, there is much symbolism for her that the first communion which will be served after this Covid disruption, will be to the young Confirmants. I believe they have come into this world with a fore-knowledge of what is required of them at this time that the world faces so much, and I believe they will know what to do when called upon, and I trust they will remember what connects the beautiful wood-grained table to the living tree."

Ilze Olckers

Mother to Arusha (Confirmed May 2017) and Bodhi (October 2020)

Confirmation for 2020 – 2021.

I will have a first parents evening for people who are interested to have their children confirmed next year **at 19:30 on Wednesday evening 18th November.** The children need to have turned 14 years of age before April 2021.

Richard Goodall.

Andreas van Breda who is studying to be a priest has written this for us about his experience :

A brief outline of my unfolding path...

A group of children at the Moonlight Market in Bryanston were comparing notes of their future career ambitions. I was one of them and remember giving my answer with the same certainty as the other

children. My answer, however, seemed to rouse a more curious response than the ones before. "I will be a priest!" is, I suppose, an audacious aim for a 6 year old.

Well, I had to forget that statement for a few years and went through school, university and the school-of-life before engaging with it again. I have lived with the question of the Priesthood for most of my adult life. Whilst living in London, I attended the North America Seminary (in Chicago then) as an exploratory trip. It was a long-weekend program, open to anybody, with a particular theme and allowed the participants a glimpse into Seminary life. It was a wonderfully enriching time but for whatever reason the experience did not drive me to action. Nonetheless, looking back, I realise how a door was opened and with the passing of time has remained so.

As time went on, a little more life experience and the gift of parenthood, I began to look at the world more earnestly and the question of the priesthood appeared again, more strongly. I had ruminated on it for a long time and finally started a conversation with Richard, then Reingard and finally Vike von Behr. These conversations evolved and it became clear that it was a path I had the intention of following and felt blessed to have the support of the regional Synod as well as Tanya (my wife). How this was going to be possible needed careful thought and I am grateful to the leadership of the Christian Community for supporting my somewhat unconventional program which began about a year and a half ago. Of course Michaël Merle has set something of a precedent, but my personal circumstances were different to his and I am enormously appreciative that it has been possible to begin my training and studies.

It has been and IS a wonderfully inspiring process, with a few nerves and unknowns thrown in for good measure. I feel 'engaged' on this path and committed to preparing myself for Ordination, whilst cognisant that that is not my sole decision.

I have been touched and humbled by the support and care which so many people have expressed in a myriad of ways and appreciate the warm encouragement from our Communities in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Windhoek.

I am underway, with much more to come and look forward to the next steps on this path. With thanks and gratitude.

Andreas van Breda

Children's camp 2020.

With heavy hearts we (all the camp helpers) have come to the realization that we will not be able to have a children's camp this year at all. It would simply not be possible to comply with even the most lenient of covid regulations given the way that the camp functions. We will certainly pick up the impulse again next year by which time the situation will hopefully be quite different. We are all very sorry for

the disappointment amongst our wonderful campers and wish you all a great holiday. Stay safe. Richard Goodall.

Rev. Reingard Knausenberger's visit.

Reingard will be in Cape Town and staying at the church from 27th October until 17th November. Please note that this is mainly to have a break from her heavy schedule and to rest. Apart from the services on Sunday 1st November she will not be celebrating or officially working. Please respect her need for this undisturbed space.

Richard away.

Richard will be in Europe until November 7th. He will be here again for the Sunday services on the 8th and then be away for the inside of the following week for his annual retreat, returning to Cape Town on Sat 14th November.

An update from the Trustees

Monthly financials: Our accountant does a sterling job of getting our monthly figures back to us very quickly. The bottom line is that by the end of September we had an annual deficit of R45 000. This does not include the R10,500 which we owe to the Region and which will increase monthly by that sum until such time as we are in a position to repay the full outstanding amount and are able to pay our normal monthly dues again.

Roof: As you know, a letter went out regarding an appeal for funds to replace the roof of the church building. Many thanks to all those who have so far contributed to the fund, which currently stands at R11 450. We are looking at different options of how to resolve the roof problem.

Main road property: There was a ramshackle structure on the property which has now been taken down and carted away. The rest of the property has also been cleared. Thanks to René and Anette for doing this. We still do not have a tenant but are in conversation with an agent to either let it or sell it whichever happens first.

Funeral fund: As we all know, funerals have become a costly affair. It is estimated that an average funeral now costs in the region of R20 000 (this includes charges for a basic funeral by Constantiaberg Funeral Home plus the suggested amount to be paid to the church). The Trustees have set up a funeral fund into which you can pay for your funeral. The interest earned on this fund goes towards the church as a small fundraising initiative. Please contact any Trustee for further details.

In closing, we wish to thank everyone for continuing with their contributions as best they can.

Kind regards

The Trustees.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

christiancocpt@gmail.com

Flowers

As we are still unable to have Tea and Cake after our services, please consider making a Donation towards the Flowers for the Church.

Either put it in an envelope marked Flowers and put it in the Contribution box in the foyer or hand it directly to Barbara Herbert.

