



The Wind Call

The Christian Community in and around

Cape Town Aug – Oct 2023

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The Key to Peace and the Future.

APART FROM THOSE who make huge profits from conflict and war everyone would far rather live in a state of peace than one of war or conflict. Why is it that this deep seated desire seems to be so difficult to realize? Why is it that even if there is no obvious conflict between people there seems to be so much conflict within people? How can this wish be fulfilled within and between us?

When we hear that the Christ says that He stands at peace with the world and that we could do likewise because He gives it to us – what does He mean? He does not say that He is happy with the state of the world or that he is content with how things are developing in the world. What does ‘peace with the world’ mean?

The peace spoken of here does not mean the absence of war but rather an inner state of being whatever the outer circumstances may be. It can only come about through being able to understand how current events stand in relationship to the whole stream of human and earthly development.

Just as a parent who understands child development can peacefully deal with a little child who has a tantrum because they know that it is an inevitable stage of their child’s development – so too can Christ understand all that goes wrong in the world as an inevitable stage of development towards I-consciousness.

(Cont. on page 2)

This requires far more than a narrow view of current affairs. It demands a very wide-angled perspective of human development. Above all it requires an appreciation of the significance of the incarnation of Christ and His overcoming of death through which transubstantiation became an earthly reality.

The fact that the fall of the human being out of his spiritual reality into ever denser entanglement with matter can be arrested and turned around into a gradual reawakening to spiritual reality, as a direct result of the mystery of Golgotha changes the whole perspective for the future. A new confession and a new faith of the spiritual world in the 'becoming' of the human being is only a possibility because of the fact that transubstantiation lives as a potential in which every human being can engage.

Peace with the world is a matter of allowing this Christ perspective to live in our thinking. He is the one who makes this peace a possibility for those who actively enter onto the journey of "walking with Him". This is not passive awaiting for peace to descend on us, but rather willful striving to unite with He who creates this inner peace. It stands to reason that we can only participate in this peace if we allow His thinking to live in us – to think in us.

This is what makes Peter's confession of Christ of such significance. Confession means that Peter not only momentarily recognizes the Christ for who he is but also commits himself to Him. He recognizes that a relationship to Christ is the key to the rightful future becoming of the human being and the key to standing at peace with the world - no matter what the outer situation might be. It is Lazarus, not Peter, who experiences what this actually means for the human soul. Christ achieved this peace through dying and resurrecting again from death. Lazarus experiences Christ following this same path of death and resurrection within his own soul.

We all can receive the peace of which Christ speaks by allowing Him to die and resurrect in our thinking. We can regularly let go of what we think we know and dwell for a while in a place of unknowing into which we invite the Christ and in which we practice deep "heart listening". When we learn to nurture such a living, inner relationship to Christ as a daily practice (which gradually becomes a way of being) - His peace can live in our thinking and feeling and we too can stand at peace with the world.

Richard Goodall.

SERVING.

Anyone wishing to learn how to serve for the Act of Consecration of Man either in English or in German or for the Children's Service – please contact Andreas van Breda at 076 075 1734.



REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING, WINDHOEK, JULY 2023.

from left to right standing: Richard Cox, Elna Kuehhirt, Glenda Tuckell, John-Peter Gernaat, Michaël Merle, Hazel Fornali, Richard Goodall and Sharon Cox.

Seated: Reingard Knausenberger, Nicola Rijsijk, Andreas van Breda, Kine Voigts & Benjamin Shernick.

In the middle of a wintery and cold July, people from all the congregations of the Southern Africa region made their way to Windhoek, Namibia. This annual gathering of the Regional Council moves to a different city each year and is as much about attending to the business of the day, as it is about meeting and engaging with our sister congregations. Cape Town was well represented by Richard Cox as our Community representative and Nicola Rijsdijk who kindly stepped in to take the minutes. The

Council has the responsibility to hold the overall picture of the Southern African Region in mind and seeks to foster relationships between the different Communities. Our deliberations were full and varied and included meetings with the Windhoek community to collectively work on a theme in conversation-groups and have an opportunity to really experience and share with each other. We were warmly cared for by our Namibian hosts and thank the community most graciously for their hospitality. Andreas van Breda.

Visit of Rev. Oliver Steinrueck on 26th - 30th April 2023.

After the service on Sunday, 30th April, Rev Oliver Steinrueck introduced himself as our new regional link in succession to Rev. Vicke von Behr. He himself was Lenker for the North American Region for many years before being called to serve as Oberlenker and be part of the Circle of Seven (the world-wide 'steering' group for The Christian Community based in Berlin, Germany). He had just come from visiting our communities in Johannesburg and Windhoek in order to gain an impression and more tangible understanding of our Southern African Region, as he has never been to Africa. (Cont. on page 4) ...



Priests of the Southern African Region met with Oliver Steinrueck in a synod in Johannesburg. Thanks to John-Peter Gernaat for this picture. From left to right: Andreas van Breda, Kine Voigts, Michaël Merle, Reingard Knausenberger, Richard Goodall and Oliver Steinrueck.

On this Sunday he introduced the conversation by describing how the Christian Community was founded in 1922 in Dornach, Switzerland. At that time many new movements were ready to be born out of the impulses given through Rudolf Steiner, e.g. for agriculture, governance, medicine and pedagogy, to name but a few. The founding of the Christian Community was unique and different in as much as it was not just a 'renewal movement' of religious practice as it has been, but a completely new shift in consciousness where the individual becomes a participating co-creator; it is not only a receiver of blessings but a giver as well.

It slowly became clear to the first becoming priests that this was also about creating a vessel to receive and care for a spiritual being which would need earnest commitment and a clear structure. To that end one could say concentric circles were created: Erz-Oberlenker, Oberlenker, Lenker, congregational priest. The Circle of Seven is the coherent form to carry a world-wide consciousness. A Lenker carries the consciousness of a particular region. Through this structure the celebration at the altar is ensured in the communities world-wide. There is a kind of centre and periphery, yet every time we participate in a sacrament at the altar, we *are in the centre* of The Christian Community.

Oliver then posed a number of stimulating questions:

- What is the right way to incarnate a spiritual religious impulse here in this African Region? What is its culture?
- A central question: what is the human being? How can I be a proper human being?

This needs to be found again. Artificial Intelligence especially is a threat to mankind in the way it can dehumanize the human being.

This was followed by lively participation of the congregation in sharing how we experience Christianity in our part of Africa. A contribution by Reingard Knausenberger, our Lenker, rounded off an hour well spent by adding a perspective unique to South Africa as being called the Rainbow Nation. A rainbow shows how very different colours appear together as individual qualities and yet together as one image, as opposed to the description of the USA being a 'melting pot'. She encouraged us to 'own our difference' and to speak out confidently about who we are as a Christian Community, what we do, how we think, what we strive for and not be shy and apologetic about it.

Our warmest thanks go to Oliver Steinrueck, who gave us valuable insights into the work of the Circle of Seven, and to our own priests present in our meeting.

Being aware of what activities are happening in another part of the world in order to back us here in our region, so that we can participate in the Act of Consecration of Man is a sobering thought. And being reminded that this service is celebrated each day continually as the sun rises until it sets around the world is hugely comforting.

Marilize King.

(With thanks to Reingard Knausenberger for her editing.)

Confirmations 7 May 2023

IT'S BEEN A MEANINGFUL JOURNEY preparing the children for their Confirmation Sacrament. The service was spiritually very soul fulfilling. The impact of the three priests in attendance with their focus on the eight confirmants, gave the service such a meaningful presence, as our children prepare to cross the threshold from childhood to youth. Our heartfelt thanks to Richard, Reingard & Andreas.

With deep gratitude, Karen Schrieder.



Above: The communal lunch for the confirmed children held after the service on Sunday.

Thanks to Karen Schrieder for these lovely pictures of the group.

Above from left to right: Our Lenker, Reingard Knausenberger, Amelie O'Hagan, Olivia Roux, Lilly Stevens, Lara Schrieder, Nicholas Schrieder, Boyd Copeland, Rogan Samuelssun, Gabriel Leedenberg and our Priest, Richard Goodall, who celebrated the Confirmation Service.

Confirmations (cont.) ...

OUR SON, GABRIEL LEEDENBERG, was confirmed on Sunday 7th May, along with seven others, all coming from Michael Oak and Constantia Waldorf Schools. Both of our children started attending children's services when they were in Class 1, and it has been a Sunday morning ritual most weeks for us since then. We have enjoyed the many Festivals we have been part of every year - Advent, Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, St John and Michaelmas. These have lived as seeds of light within the children, an offering that is so beautiful and so valuable - seeds waiting to be awakened as an invitation and inspiration to participate in life as whole human beings.



After almost a year of preparation in confirmation classes with Richard, the time arrived for the confirmation weekend. On Saturday the parents, godparents and children met with Reingard and Richard for a final preparation. As parents, we also busied ourselves with tea and dinner preparations for the following day. There was a feeling of excitement in the air, and some convincing in our family that, yes, it was necessary to wear shoes for the service!

On Sunday the congregation joined with us all to bear witness to this special confirmation ceremony. It was a profound and moving experience as the children's journey from childhood towards youth is celebrated. In the evening we met again, just the families, and shared a meal together. After this we came together in the church hall and parents were offered the space to share a few words dedicated to their child. The experience of this celebration had a wholeness beauty that we are most grateful for. Our warmest thanks to Reingard, Richard and Andreas for guiding our children through this process with such care and reverence.

With love, Alison and Glen.

Ascension Weekend Conference, “Amidst Uncertainty”, at Dozen Sanctuary 18 - 21 May 2023.

EVERY MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY looked forward to the Annual Family Retreat, even though we did not know what to expect of our time there. Our memories of the event four years ago when we attended with two children had faded somewhat. We arrived early and spent some time exploring the area.



Of course, Joshua and Simon headed straight for the water, swimming and collecting shells from the very first moment. They would have loved to have played there all afternoon but the car had to be unpacked and we wanted to settle into our holiday quarters. Since bunk beds were already a hit with the boys, we did not spend much time deliberating who would sleep where! The conference participants gathered together for the first time at 17h30, welcomed by the sound of music to which we danced a polonaise. This was followed by a short game to get to know each other, and then Christian Bartholl officially opened the conference. Sometime later we heard that fifty adults had attended, amongst whom were four priests, respectively from Hamburg and Lübeck.



At first it was a little strange to meet so many new people all at once, but already at dinner the first evening, connections were being made “so you know so and so” and “yes, I was at this or that conference” and so on. To begin with our family sat together as five, but already on the second day both Joshua and Simon were sitting elsewhere with new-found friends around their own age and a little older. It is always interesting for me to observe how community comes about and in what situations all the generations can co-exist harmoniously. I enjoyed those activities most of all where every age group could participate equally fruitfully and happily alongside each other—at mealtimes, while dancing or singing, listening to stories or boating. It was wonderful to see how children and adults alike (including Nikolaus, my husband!) practiced the unicycle or learned to ride it for the first time, or dared to venture to the heights by climbing on stacked crates. There were many different activities and possibilities to meet others, be it whilst boating, doing eurythmy or painting together, in conversation in the work groups, or in the evenings at our “all-night cafe”.

One of the older participants commented that the program had been organised in such a way that he felt completely free but at the same time able to participate more intensely in the process where personally appropriate. I chose the work group entitled “Tightrope walker in turbulent times: How do I find my ‘I’ in uncertain times?”, led by Edda Hansel from Lübeck. After the round of introductions it became clear that everyone present was experiencing some kind of crisis or upheaval in their lives or a phase of inner searching.

(Cont. page 8) ...

Edda Hansel brought three images from the Gospels for us to consider with respect to our own lives. Trust is an important motif arising from the “walking on water” image in Matthew 14: 22-2. In this instance the apostles’ level of inner awakening is put to the test. Peter is the only apostle who goes out to meet Jesus on the water, but his doubt and uncertainty cause him to sink into the water again. At the very moment he asks for help, Jesus Christ reaches out a helping hand to him.



Theresa and Nikolaus’s children from left to right: Simon (6), Philipp (his 3rd birthday) and Joshua (8).

In the Revelation of John 10: 1-11, we find the image of an angel who constantly transforms.

Shrouded in clouds, the angel has a face like the sun and a rainbow above its head; the right foot is poised upon the moving seas whilst the left foot stands firmly on the earth; the angel holds a small book that must be digested before its message can be proclaimed. At first the book tastes as sweet as honey, and then wholesomely bitter. This immense image helps us to understand, for example, the value of silent observation as a first step in a personal or community process: Just as John listens before writing down what he has seen and perceived, so we too can take on this practice, only thereafter going on to process the newly experienced content until it has ripened within ourselves and matured enough to be shared with others.

These are just a few thoughts about the work that we undertook together in the workshop. Our days began with the Act of Consecration of Man and ended with the “Close of Day” during the retreat. Nikolaus and I mostly attended different activities and were thus able to appreciate the diverse offering quite independently. A wonderful gift! The children looked after themselves most of the time, happily occupied by playing with their new friends. In this way each one of us benefited from the retreat’s rich offerings, and we all returned home happy and fulfilled. The family retreat will take place during Whitsun next year at Christianlyst an der Schlei. Perhaps a few more families from Ottersberg will be able to join in.

Theresa Klee (nee Chouler)

(Theresa is the third-eldest child of Charles and Annette Chouler. She and family are part of the Ottersberg Christian Community in north Germany.)

Confirmations 2024.

Any parents who would like their children to join this year’s confirmation class – please contact Richard 0847221881. It is a wonderful journey of exploration for these young people as they approach adulthood.

Perspectives.

Dear Friends,

The English-speaking world of the Christian Community publishes a quarterly newsletter called ***Perspectives*** and is available as an E-subscription or a hard copy which is posted to a central location i.e. the Church in Plumstead in our case.

It contains a myriad of articles and contributions from a great variety of priests and other writers from around the world on a wide range of themes which are most often very thoughtful and inspiring.

The cost of a printed copy is R420 per annum, including postage, or R260 per annum for a digital copy. Please contact John-Peter Gernaat at the Church Office in Johannesburg for further information: perspectives@thechristiancommunity.org.za.

Please find a link below of the most recent digital copy of ***Perspectives*** which is free to view:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18QtrDuUoaXhoG4ID7MN_a3Vch_KMvHCn/view?usp=sharing

Regards, Andreas van Breda.

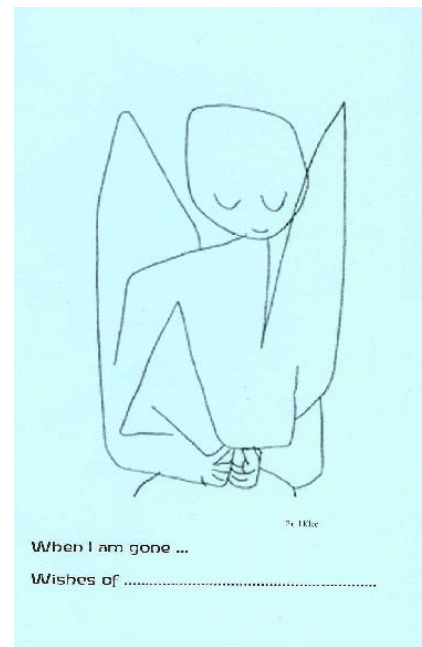
When I am gone ...

Who of us have all our paper work sorted out for the time when we step over the threshold? In my opinion, few of us are organised so well that all is in order.

And so, when I stumbled upon a little booklet at one of my visits to the Johannesburg Community, I decided this ought to be of help to our community as well. It raises all the points/questions that might come up after our passing and, if you so wish, you can acquire a copy via our priests or me and try and get your house in order. (Cost is R30.) Wishing you a long life!

Rosemarie Enthoven

Tel +27 083 354 4872 e-mail: pippin@adept.co.za



Church Fair 2023

Dear All,

Our Fair is at the end of next month and **Jenni Brassington** will be heading up the organising again. Please can everyone give her their support. I will be sending out messages and requests every week until the Fair so please let me know if anyone else needs a general message sent out.

Nearly New Stall.

For contributions to the nearly new stall, please Whatsapp:

Jeanette Kane [072 645 2945](tel:0726452945) or

Gideon Malherbe [082 853 9368](tel:0828539368) or

Richard Cox [084 259 4284](tel:0842594284).

Contributions can be brought to the church and put into the storeroom in the foyer on a **Thursday between 9am and 3pm when May is in the office.**

Tea and Cake Stall.

For contributions or to help on the stall please Whatsapp:

Caroline Hurner [076 979 9388](tel:0769799388) or

May Munroe [083 318 0818](tel:0833180818) or

Jenny Wyeth [084 686 4470](tel:0846864470)

Book Stall.

We are also looking for contributions and also more people to help run the stall.

Deli Stall.

For contributions or to help on the stall please Whatsapp:

Nicola Rijdsjik [072 210 2499](tel:0722102499) or

Louise Bassett [082 649 7674](tel:0826497674)

Craft Activities.

We are looking for people to help with Craft Activities.

Please whatsapp Jenni Brassington [082 661 6080](tel:0826616080)

Kind regards, May Munroe, Secretary. (Contact details on front page of Wind Call.)



Please note: It is preferable to use the church office cell phone number (see front page) or else whatsapp Jenni Brassington at [082 661 6080](tel:0826616080).