



# The Wind Call

The Christian Community in and around  
Cape Town: August – October 2022

39 Timour Hall Road, Plumstead 7800  
Tel (021)762-0450 e-mail: [christiancocpt@gmail.com](mailto:christiancocpt@gmail.com)  
[www.thechristiancommunity.org.za](http://www.thechristiancommunity.org.za)

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## **Leading Thought.**

**WHAT MIGHT THE CALL** to change mean in our time? For the most fascinating exercise in social observation on how human beings respond to change, may I suggest spending a little time in a hotel lobby at breakfast.

Here, it was my experience over several years, that change is a most unwelcome friend. Most of our regular guests eat exactly the same breakfast or had a particular request that changed very little over years. So much so, that I can still rattle off several of their breakfast orders to this day: Mr Bartley, Table 23, three morning newspapers ready on arrival, a bowl of fruit salad, no berries, sliced banana (freshly sliced, don’t forget..), followed by a rack of mixed toast with honey and marmalade on the side. But rather more interestingly was what would happen if any one of these details were out of place. In a word, chaos ensued, and it would usually throw the restaurant manager, dealing

with the fallout, significantly enough to make sure the oversight didn’t happen again. We are creatures of habit and change in all spheres of life is most often challenging.

This was probably not the change St John was calling for in the desert, but he calls for change nonetheless. Of course we all have habits, the good ones we like to keep, the others we can work at transforming. But I want to say, John’s question lies deeper. John calls to “change our hearts and minds”. He spoke these words centuries ago, yet we still hear the call. Does his call not ask us to deepen our awareness of what it means to be a human being, individually and of our destiny with others and the worlds evolving? On the one hand, when we use the word ‘Human’ in our language, we mean that we are fallible. For example we may say: “he is a wonderful leader, but he makes mistakes, he’s only

human.” Here we recognise that an integral part of being a human being is that we are often found wanting, we make errors, even fail. It is in our very make up. And yet when we describe the very highest quality in a person we speak of their ‘humanity’. For example: “her kindness was a wonderful expression of her humanity”. Or if someone is asking for assistance in a desperate situation they are appealing to our ‘humanity’. Here, ‘humanity’ is a description of an aspirational quality, an almost golden ideal, the very best of our human nature. And of course both of these elements are true of us as human beings.

On the one hand, having the ability to make mistakes is an important quality. If we didn’t have the ability of getting it wrong, erring, we wouldn’t have freedom. We need the ability to make poor decisions, to go astray; it is an essential part of being human. And as an ideal, we may seek evermore to work towards our Humanity. The Trinitarian epistle encourages us to be “Conscious of our Humanity”. And when we are conscious of what it means to be a Human Being and our Humanity, we may begin to sense the Triune God in our souls. At the Baptism in the Jordan, John witnesses the Holy Spirit descending and remaining over Jesus who is the Christ. This event, which we scarce can fathom, is the beginning of a new creative process in human development. The indwelling of the Spirit will become the indwelling of Christ in every human being. It is through this living power that we may work in the world with others. In this, we are continually at work, preparing the ground for the Divine to be born in me. And as the world evolves, and as the Human being evolves, the questions of our time change also. Can I hear the questions of our time and can I serve at His table? May I be an instrument of the Divine that Gods Will may be done, through me.

***“Here we recognize that an integral part of being a human being is that ... we make errors, even fail.”***

Andreas van Breda.

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***This is a report from our two priests in the Ukraine that was circulated to all our Christian Community priests so that we can keep them and their communities and the whole situation in our thoughts and prayers.***

**H**erewith I am again sending to you a report by Tatiana Nechytailo and Andrei Ziltsov. The report of Tatiana Nechytailo is dated March 31st, that of Andrei Ziltsov April 5. Every day the situation is different. Nevertheless, the report from March 31st is not outdated, because Tatiana Nechytailo describes what precious future forces can be released under the enormous burden of events. At that time, the terrible events in Butscha were not yet known, but they are now reaching the community, because people associated with the community can now come back from these areas and, with great difficulty tell what they have experienced. Being able to talk about what they have experienced is a very first form of healing. Andrej Ziltsov also gives possible future perspectives.

Best regards, Stephan Meyer.

*(Cont. next page) ...*

**A**nother week of war is over. Some extraordinary things have already become ordinary. On Tuesday after the Act Consecration of Man we worked in the garden. It was very noisy. There were many explosions, every five minutes the sirens wailed for the air raid alarm. The air raid alarm has such strength that every person in every blockhouse in the neighborhood should hear it. This sound cannot be ignored, it permeates the whole being. But we planted flowers anyway. We do not go into the bunker after every alarm, we do not react to every explosion.

But there are always surprises, and they are very positive. Never in my life have I experienced such a kind of brotherhood and such a willingness to help. It happens everywhere, in small and big situations. Each person is ready to do for the other what is good for him. Confidence in the unknown, the experience of spiritual guidance, the possibility to give one's own strength to others, all this amazes and inspires. I have the feeling that we now have the possibility to look into our human future. And it is a very beautiful future. A concrete example from last week:

Our family had decided that my mother will move to France, because caring for her in Kiev has become almost impossible. When I said that publicly, immediately many people came up to me to help me. To get from my house to the main railway station is already a story.

Out of eight bridges in Kiev, only two are currently working. Instead of 40 minutes, the journey can now take four hours. The lines at the block posts are huge. But when the volunteers heard that we were going to the main station with such an old woman, immediately we could go on without a delay, and no one in the queue objected. In every station - there were three on my trip - there was a lot of coffee. Everyone could eat and drink everything without paying. Even on the train the volunteers gave food and water to everyone. In Poland everything was prepared in the same way with many tables of food, but also for the pets and what they needed. Many people were in the train with the animals, which they held in their hands. It seemed that the dogs and the cats also forgot their problems - all of them were in one carriage, in one compartment without any fight. Because my mother cannot move freely, the volunteers carried her on their hands into the train and out of it.

If something should happen, it was not necessary to look for someone to help; no, the men were there, saw what was needed and helped in the moment. Our payment was just hugs, laughter and the wish that everything would be okay soon. In the stations there were quite a lot of young people, women and men, who explained every question and accompanied every little thing. People carry themselves differently. I don't know how it works, but everyone has become much stronger because they give their strength to others. I experience it as Christ Power and you can say 'the Christ is now working in Ukraine'. He now shines in every person. That surprises and inspires and it is something that I will never forget.

Besides this shining picture, I also want to describe a dark picture which I will also not forget. Just at the moment when our train was passing next to an oil station, two rockets hit the ground. It was an incredibly powerful explosion. The trees next to the track were torched in a second, and so were all the surrounding houses. Our train passed through this burning forest and the burning city - just through fire. This went on for about five to seven minutes, but everything is still alive in front of my eyes and in my

ears: how the children shouted, how the train conductor was screaming ... This is impossible - how can they be together, such horror and such love.

After one day I came back to Kiev. My dear city, in which everything around is full of scars and ruins, we nevertheless celebrate and also celebrate our community. We feel now how important it is for the whole world to love, to pray and to nurture and fight for the freedom of every single human being.

Tatiana Nechytailo  
31 March 2022

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### ***Whitsun Festival.***

**O**n Sunday 5th June, a group of parents prepared the Church to celebrate Whitsun. The children were guided through crafting a flame-coloured paper-spiral which was carefully balanced on a wooden block with two candles. These were later placed by each child in the festival room before the central point in the church, of streaming fire-like ribbons and spiralling doves.

We heard a beautiful story of "Tim and his Hallelujah-Bird", where he realised how each word he spoke could either fall to the ground from his mouth like a dull bird, or had the potential of becoming a wondrous colourful bird, a messenger, a song of praise. We sang and could behold how our lit spirals gently turned. Each child received a flame-crown from an autumn branch and walked into the world with a new song in their heart.

Andreas van Breda.



*(Cont. on next page) ...*

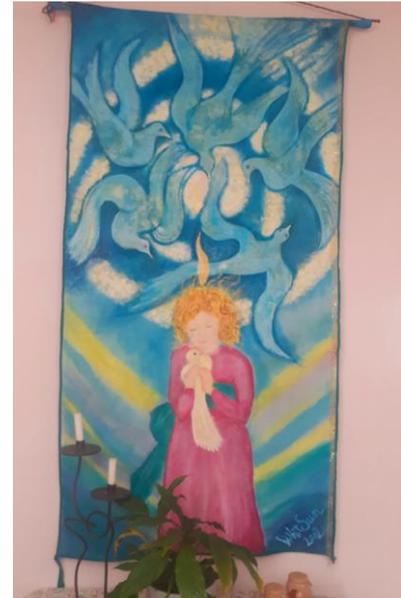


**Whitsun** (cont. from previous page) ...

**Left and right:** Enthusiastic participants creating beautiful crafts for Whitsun with some parents and Richard Goodall in the background.

**Bottom Left:** Andreas van Breda and parent, Paula Megaw in the background with Ara van Breda and Arthur Megaw at the table.

**Bottom right:** This wall hanging was painted by Anu Muirhead and kindly loaned to us for our Whitsun Festival.



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### ***Celebration of the Centenary of The Christian Community.***

**On Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> September** we would like to have a conference of cultural activities, contemplations and conversations to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Christian Community and to look at the future of its development in our region and what this might mean for each one of us. A spiritual impulse which reaches a 100 year milestone needs to be internalized as a personal impulse of individuals who embrace it as their own if it is to last another century. Richard Goodall.

## **Confirmation 2022.**



**The Confirmations** were held on Sunday, 8th May 2022, for the above children: Zara Wutcher; Holly Pryor; Freya Oliver; Victoria Knuth Hollesen; Joseph Knuth Hollesen; Elinor Hansen; Sophie Hamann; Brodie Rijdsijk and Milan van Eeden and Jan van Eeden. They are flanked by Richard Goodall on the left and Reingardt Knausenberger, Lenker, on the right.



**Above:** The children enjoy a meal together after the event. **Right:** Heike Prinz with her twin grandsons, Mila and Jan van Eeden, in their garden.

## ***Confirmations 2022 (cont.) ...***

**OUR CONFIRMATION JOURNEY** started during lockdown, 2021. Our first gatherings took place at our house where we listened with rapture as Richard shared his stories, inspirations and wisdom - the parents as riveted as the children by the luminosity of what was shared.

Some weeks later, classes took place at the church just before the children's service, with the parents again sitting in on the sessions. My husband, Ralph, had sat in on my older son's lessons during his confirmation process and would return with happy and clear eyes. This time, it was my turn to accompany our child on this journey. It was a blessing to learn from Richard and to witness the children's process. To have them receive and experience this sacred wisdom so early on in their lives. Their participation was lively and light-hearted. They also asked deep questions which Richard honoured with his attention. After almost a year, the process culminated in the confirmation itself which was heartfully led by Reingardt with a beautiful service by Andreas, followed by a celebratory lunch.

Many years ago I attended the Bar Mitzvah of my friend's son. I was moved by the community's honouring of the child as part of that ritual and wished that all children crossing their threshold into adulthood could receive the gift of a community's witnessing. The most special part of the confirmation day for me was exactly this - a chance to honour the child. To confirm who s/he is. To say I see you. I love you.

Thank you, so much, Richard and Reingardt and Andreas. Thank you, Delphine, for all the helpful communication. Thank you for the parents and to the children. May this process hold and anchor them spiritually through the beauty and challenge before them.

With love, Patty



***Left:*** Ralph and Patty Hamann with Sophie.

***Right from left to right:*** Sophie's dad, Ralph, brother Noah, grandmother and aunt flanking Sophie and mom, Patty.



## **News from Plettenberg Bay.**

***We received the following news from Carole Penfold about her new life with her children on a farm in Plettenberg Bay.***

Dear Friends,

There's lots of un-worked land here. First was to get my cottage habitable and, with Claire's help, I am feeling more at home.

Now we go to the garden. I hope to get veggie boxes bit by bit and establish some veggies. I have the bio-dynamic preparations. The main house also has a vegetable garden so I have sown seeds there as

well.

I may be able to help with piano playing for eurythmy at the local Waldorf School. To that end I'm meeting Yvette Worrall (teacher) today. And we are having lovely warm sunshine today as well.

I hear from a group chat about some farmers here who are battling with the use of chemicals on their land. We have had that here too. However, we have received good advice from Avice Hindmarch, bio-dynamic farmer, and ours is a long-term project. And I'm surviving so far!

With love to all, Carole.



**Picture top right:** Partial view of the land where Carole and family now live.

**Picture below:** A valuable historical picture, sent by Carole, of our church land circa 1995 before our church was built. In the foreground is John Penfold taking a picture of our new church board. He was fully involved in the process of obtaining the new property and getting the building work started. Our archives will be enriched by this. And for those who were not part of our community at the time this helps to highlight how much progress we have made so far.

Marilize.

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### **Au Revoir.**

With heavy hearts we must announce the imminent departure of Paula, Bruce and Noah Muirhead from our community and from our country as they head off for a very different future in the North of Italy. We wish them well on this new exciting adventure in idyllic rural surroundings but at the same time we will miss them all greatly. Richard Goodall.

***Jilla Benneyworth 05/05/1938 – 19/06/2022.***

Jilla was born on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1938 in a little mining town with the wonderfully South African name, Daggerfontein in rural South Africa. Living close to nature, she discovered its endless beauty and experienced its wildness. There she was at her happiest.

She met and married Dennis Benneyworth in 1964 and his work as a salesman for a multinational corporation would later take them to Nairobi in Kenya where two of their sons were born. There she discovered a love for birds, flowers and plants and became an avid gardener. This love of beauty also found expression in her many artistic pursuits which she happily shared with a wide circle of friends.



*A loving mother with an enormous heart, a caring and sensitive soul.*

Dennis' work brought them to Cape Town where their youngest son was born and where Jilla met the Waldorf School and anthroposophy which became part of her searching way-of-being in the world. She was a searcher who was looking for an alternate way. She found her way into pottery, became a keen painter, writing prose and stories as well. This led to her holding pottery and art classes. There one could on various days find a group of students painting with avid concentration around the table in a room with an entire glass wall looking onto the garden.

Such was the artistic beauty of Jilla and Dennis' family home. Jilla passed in away on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022 after a long illness born with courage and dignity.

Marilize.

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***The Children's Camp.***

The Children's camp this year is planned to run from **December 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>**. The helpers will set out on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December to set up and prepare everything. All children between the ages of 10 and 14 are welcome to apply. Booking will begin from October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Richard Goodall.

# Family Fair 13 August 2022

Dear Friends,

**WE ARE DELIGHTED** to announce that our annual Christian Community Family Fair is back and will be happening on **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022, from 10am to 3pm**. Please come and celebrate the day with your friends and family.

There will be a tent with **childrens' activities, crafts, nearly new items, second hand books, plants, deli and bakery goods, quiche & salad, boerewors rolls, tea & coffee, cake, popcorn, music, a secret raffle,** and more ....



Our Fair is run on goodwill and individual offerings. Please consider contributing in any way you can, either by way of **children's activities, providing plants, second hand books, quiche & salad, cakes, deli/bakery items etc.**

**Contact Jenni Brassington on the church cell phone number 079 264 832 for more information.**



Dear Friends,

## **The Fair is happening in two weeks' time!**

Having lunch at our Fair has always been a highlight for so many Fair visitors. Apart from the obvious reason being the wonderful variety of delicious homemade quiches and fresh, appetising salads, people are also keen for social opportunities and renewed interactions. Priced at R60 per plate, it is great value for money.

Therefore, we once again appeal to you to support the lunch stall with your extraordinary selection of quiches and salads.



Please remember to jot down the main ingredients on a little piece of paper and place it on top of the quiche before dropping it off. This makes it easier when serving customers with particular dietary requirements. Thanking you.

Kind regards, Anne-Marié. Tel.: [082-885 0624](tel:082-8850624)