

The Wind Call

The Christian Community
in and around Cape Town

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by Richard

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The Door and the Magical Key.

AS WE ENTER INTO THE ROUND OF ANOTHER YEAR there is in front of us all - individually and collectively - always a new door to a new possibility to be opened. In fact whichever way we look there are multiple doors which we could open and enter. It is also possible to ignore them all and just stay where we are and also remain the way we are. This option is called fear.

I would like to suggest that there is a master key to all of these doors which has a certain magical quality to it. A key which not only opens any door that presents itself to us, but the possession of which enables us to recognise the door in the first place. Without this magic key we are very unlikely to see any doors and so remain stuck and resigned to living in fear. The problem with this key is that we cannot simply possess it. It refuses to be possessed and demands to be continuously brought into existence through our own effort of will. Access to this magical key therefore becomes a way of being which we have to keep practicing until it becomes an acquired attribute of our normal daily soul life and our primary response to all that comes to meet us – good or bad. When we respond with key in hand so to speak, doors appear. When we respond without the key – no doors.

The name of this key is "gratitude and acceptance". These are such ordinary words just as keys are such ordinary things and yet they hold within them immense power for change. When practiced as a discipline they open the door to the spirit because they open up our hearts and our vision for what each situation has to reveal. Once we begin looking at all that we have and all that we are with gratitude and acceptance we are able to acknowledge that we are just where we need to be so as to make the next step of our journey towards wholeness. As we practice this our values and our sense of wealth change radically. True wealth for us ceases to have anything to do with what we own and begins to be a measure our depth of gratitude and acceptance of what is and the new steps that this key affords us. In short, we become less needy and more effective at life. This develops in us a new sense of trust in our own life and the path that it will take and we no longer need to be so anxious about what is to happen next or what we should be doing next. Our key and our trust never fail to open doors which shed new light on our lives and on the lives of those around us. The Epiphany Light of Grace?

Imagine the strength of a community of people who decided to practice this individually and collectively in the interest of the Good!

Richard Goodall.

A wonderful time in the Cape Town Christian Community.

IT WAS WONDERFUL, AFTER SERVING FOR 7 YEARS IN THE WINDHOEK CONGREGATION – five of them without a colleague - to be able to share in the life of another congregation and to work so closely and on such widely spread themes with my very special colleague, Richard Goodall.

I was received so warmly by everyone I met, I had the most comfortable and spacious room, I could help Richard with his load of work and I had time to work on my own inner projects. The outings to Camphill Village West Coast, to the sea, to Table Mountain, to the lovely homes with exquisite meals, to the Waldorf Schools, to the Centre of Creative

Education and the Anthroposophical Society, to the Timour Hall Cottage residents, to concerts and the theatre were abundant and highly appreciated.

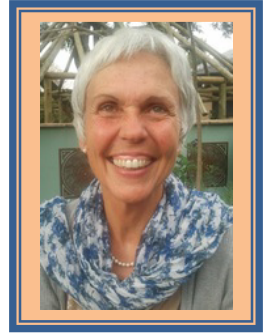
Cape Town presented itself to me as a place of extreme polarities. Nature and culture: the mystery of the mountain, the majesty of the two oceans, the greenness, the fairytale-like fireflies in Newlands and the hard work that is done in the Waldorf Schools, the Eurythmy training at the Centre for Creative Education, the work of the Anthroposophical Society and in The Christian Community; the beauty and the richness of the city and the poverty and distress of many people living there; the humour of the Capetonians and the threat of crime on their doorstep ...

I think I could not possibly have received and learned more in this short time than I had. And it felt good to digest and discuss my impressions with Marilize, as well as getting some background from her at our little lunch dates now and then in the library. And when Jackie Frylinck, who lives behind the church, once said to me, "It is so nice to see your light in the night up there above us," it was not only the light of my desk lamp, but also the light of my heart, that really fell in love with everything that was happening and living on your premises in Plumstead. I became a real admirer of your Timour Hall Cottage Community. I think they live in the most beautiful and special houses, they are making a great effort in building a true community, helping each other, reading together and visiting. And on top of that they are gifted with the care and presence of a nursing sister (Carole Penfold) and they support and carry out of their free will every activity that takes place in The Christian Community a real success story in my eyes!

I want to thank you with all my heart and I would love to come and work with you again. And I am very grateful that Rev. Michael Kientzler, who is standing in for me, made it possible for me to go to Cape Town and that he himself now can enjoy and enrich your energetic and dedicated congregational life. I could take a lot of inspiration and positivity from Cape Town to Windhoek and I hope it will bear some fruit in the future.

All my best wishes for your valuable work for our African continent!

Kine Voigts.

***Raffle draw on Advent Sunday, 27th November.***

FINALLY THE TIME ARRIVED for the raffle from our Fair in September to be drawn. Rev. Kine Voigts from Windhoek was asked to draw the names of the three lucky winners. They received some wonderful Dr Hauschka prizes.

First prize went to Desiree Taylor, second prize to Jennifer Karakashian and third prize to Sue de Moyencourt. Our warmest thanks go to Rachelle Napier who had offered and donated the prizes and also to all who supported this fundraiser.

Marilize.

Right: Kine drawing the names, with Rosemarie Enthoven on the left and community members in the background. Thanks to Charles Chouler for being the ready camera man.



OUR ANNUAL ADVENT FESTIVAL was held on Saturday, 26th November. Sue Nepgen taught the children how to make their candleholders on tables in the court yard before they were invited into the hall by Richard Goodall. There they found themselves in a “forest” with the fragrance of fresh pine branches and a path leading to the Angel in the centre. Thanks to Heike Prinz and her helpers for their artistic creation of the scene. A circle of family members, younger siblings and friends could share this event from their seats placed around the “forest”. This time we had Estelle Bryer telling the Advent story “*How the Tree bore a Star*” by Isabel Wyatt. The children were quiet as mice - even Levi, 5 month old baby of Lee Armstrong - didn’t make a sound right throughout (picture below left).

When it was time for each child to enter the circle to meet the Angel all sang together the timeless Christmas carols. What a beautiful and gentle introduction to Christmas and the Holy Nights! Thanks to Estelle, to the Angel (Holly Armstrong – granddaughter of Helen Baker and daughter of Lee), to Sue Nepgen as well as Heike and team. Thanks also to Carole Penfold and assistants who provided the refreshments and to Heike and Barbara for driving all the way to the Enthoven farm at Klapmuts to fetch a bakkie-load of pine branches donated by them. Marilize.



Top right: Johanna Oltmanns, one of our crafters, at the Christmas Craft table.

Centre right: The children, having placed their candles in the circle and the festival over, move out to the foyer for refreshments while the angel maintains a quiet presence.

Bottom right: Gnomes, angels, sheep and shepherds were some of the beautifully crafted items for sale.

Above: Sue Nepgen teaching the children how to make their candle holders.





Thanks to Malcolm Attfield and his keen eye for beauty in nature. He captured this flower from Estelle Bryer's garden at Timour Hall Cottages during the Holy Nights. Marilize.



Congratulations to Annette and Charles Chouler on their 38th wedding anniversary which was on 17th December (having been married by Rev. Evelyn Capel at Temple Lodge, London, on that date, the 3rd of Advent 1978).



Above: S.A. Regional Council Meeting held in Windhoek from 15 – 19 June 2016. Three of the participants, from left to right Glenda Tuckell, Peter Holman and Richard Goodall relaxing at Krumhuk Farm outside Windhoek.

Thanks to Kine and Michael.

IT WAS SUCH A TREAT to have Kine here in Cape Town with us from the middle of October until the beginning of December. We could all experience what a change having two priests brings to a community and the wealth of new possibilities that arise. Unfortunately Kine had to rush back home much earlier than planned due to the sudden death of her father.

Then on the 28th December Michael Kientzler, who had been standing in for Kine in Windhoek, joined us for 5 weeks and showered us with some of the fruits of over 40 years of experience as a priest in the most varied work situations. Michael's Holy Nights seminar to the theme of "The Sophia and the Dragon – the confrontation with evil in our time" was immensely rich and varied but also very accessible and left us all with much food for thought. Our deep gratitude to you both. We all hope that we will be able to do this again next year.

Richard Goodall.

Stained-glass Windows.

OVER THE LAST WEEKS we were all able to experience the warm and subtly changing depth in colour of the altar wall through the stained-glass effect crafted by Tanja Karakashian on the side windows. Through layering differently coloured transparency papers ranging from purple through to yellow this was accomplished in a really fine way. Unfortunately the colours fade quickly in the strong sunlight and the sheets of the paper peel off the window frames regularly.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have permanent stained-glass windows on either side of the altar? Does anybody have any idea of how we could accomplish that? Would anybody be inclined to donate some funds towards this project? A rough quote for three stained-glass window panes is estimated at R25 000.

Any other ideas or connections? Please speak to Christina Goodall or if you would like to make a donation please do so with the reference "Stained-glass Windows".

Christina Goodall.

Children's Camp Feedback.

WE ARE HAPPY TO SHARE some of the positive comments from children, helpers as well as the kitchen cooks. Special thanks to Mascha du Plessis (camp cook) and Kerstin Sieckmann (helper) for the beautiful photos they took at camp, some of which are displayed on the next few pages. Marilize.

From one of the Camp Cooks.

For me it was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. The children's singing was tops! Likewise was the cabaret on the last evening for which the children wrote their own stories and acts. It was a well-run camp and held in the capable hands of Richard Goodall from beginning to end. I take off my hat to the helpers who excelled themselves in their various tasks. Léza Sieckmann.

Being the camp cook's helper with Leza Sieckmann at the helm was a great honor for me. I loved every minute of it and Leza and I made such a good team. We were always on the same page but at the same time keeping each other sane in the busyness of it all! I loved cooking in a kitchen with a grass floor and didn't wear shoes for a week! The best was in the afternoon when we were cooking and the children were playing games. It felt so natural that the children should be playing while the cooks cook. We had loads of fun in the kitchen, figuring out how to use everything and being amazed at how big the pots and pans were to feed so many! Never mind the giant bags and tins of jam, mayonnaise, rice, olives, pasta and porridge!

Sitting and eating under the 100 year old oak tree was also a highlight for me. The children were all relaxed and happy to sit and chat around the tables. Groups of friends were split up to encourage all of the children to get to know each other and new friendships were formed. It was lovely to see how all ages got along and learned interesting things about each other. The whole camp was a truly special experience for me!

Thank you, Richard and the helpers, for making it all possible and so awesome for the children. Thank you, Leza and Pete, for hosting the camp on your beautiful farm. Thank you, Leza, for asking me to help cook and the universe for making it possible!

Mascha du Plessis



Above right: Léza-at-the-helm and Mascha, assistant-cook preparing food for an army.

Below right: Lunch time under the old oak while ambidextrous Claus serves with two hands.

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Camp Comments from helpers and children (cont.)

Milla du Plessis was the youngest camper and it was also her first camp "I really liked it and want to go every year from now on!"

Mateo du Plessis - this was his second camp: "The camp was awesome! I loved the fact that we could do Parkour in Claus's Parkour Park and I met and made some great new friends. The helpers were all very cool and I had a great time."

Thanks so much for a wonderful camp. The girls came back so happy and well-nurtured and insist that THIS was the best camp ever (same each time)!!

Sue Paterson-Jones (parent)

The camp this year was definitely the best one I've been to so far. There were a lot more new people to meet and the food was absolutely amazing. The activities were really fun and creative and the helpers were very helpful and enthusiastic. I'll definitely come back next year.

Leah Paterson-Jones.

Camp this year was an amazing experience. I loved every moment. I met so many new people. I probably laughed more at this camp than I did this year. Can't wait to go next year!

Isabella Paterson-Jones.

Rowan loved the camp. He was very tired afterwards but really looked like he'd come back taller. The food was good and capture-the-flag game was really nice. He definite wants to go again. He enjoyed being with friends from previous camps (it's his 3rd camp). The Parkour Course was also nice. **Clare Bell (parent)**

Top right:

Mateo and team displaying domestic skills in the outdoor scullery.

Middle: Afternoon tea time.

Below: Richard Goodall, being shadowed by Jasper, and doing his bit towards the entertainment.



A Camp Helper's Report.

This year we had a wonderful bunch of children full of energy and always willing to help and engage in discussion and interesting conversation. The children's insight into matters they may not even understand is incredible.

We played and played and played and I think that is what the camp is all about. From frisbee to capture-the-flag and many a rejuvenating dip in the dam to wash us of the day's dust. We built a village with clay collected from the backs of the dam and hunted high and low for treasures eventually found right under our feet.

Just like every year the food was delectable as well as wholesome and nutritious. We thank Léza and Masha profusely! Richard's story captured all our minds and hearts and as per usual the singing never stopped. We hosted one of the best cabaret nights I have ever seen with astounding performances all round!

Now we look forward to next year and to see you all there.

Guillaume Bruwer.

Camp Comments (cont.)

Thank you for the superlative camp this year ... the girls just loved it and we really appreciated your giving such a wonderful time to them (... and consequently to our family). Below are some words from the McIntosh sisterhood written by Phoebe.

Best, Bill McIntosh (parent)

Dear Richard and everyone who helped organize the camp,

I would like to say thank you to everyone for all the hard work they have done to make this camp happen. The things I liked most were building the clay houses in the forest because you could do anything you wanted with the clay. I also loved the frame making, tie dyeing and card making. It taught me so much. The Parkour was such fun and the coaster was amazing because you could do anything.

*I loved swimming in the dam. It was so cool and refreshing. And both tea times were lovely! I thought that the treasure hunt was fabulous and the cabaret was so funny – especially the singing audition. I loved story time and the hot chocolate. And the story about Alya and the Wolves is one of the best I've heard!!! And all the games were such fun especially Capture the Shoe! Love and many thanks, **Phoebe McIntosh**.*

Ruby Oliver's comments: "Everything on the camp was super fun! I can't wait for next year when I can go again..."♥

On the first day of camp I was welcomed by all the amazing helpers. The helpers gave me a number which I had no idea about but just went along with it, every one stood in a circle and the helpers explained what was going to happen. Having a buddy is a really good idea because you are able to connect with her/him and meet their friends.

It was nice that we got to sit in the same places when we ate but it was a good thing that the helpers mixed and matched us around because I got to meet different people. The food was amazing and healthy and gave me all the energy I needed. Activity time was to be creative with what you are doing and have fun. The hike was tiring and long and the blazing, hot sun shone on everyone, which wasn't so nice, but at the end of the day I was extremely proud of myself because I'm not really a hiking person.

One of the many reasons why I will come again next year is because of all the friends I made.

Grace Bradshaw.

**Thanks to the Camp Helpers.**

WE HAD ONE OF OUR BEST CAMPS ever last December largely due to the great team of young helpers who worked so hard and so well together to keep everything running smoothly. From old timers to first timers every one remained focused and enthused and a huge amount of fun was had by all. What a pleasure to see so many children just being children without any stress and pressure. Our new kitchen crew of Leza and Mascha were the stars of the week and excelled in their culinary skills, always served with a smile. Thanks to you all.

Richard Goodall.



Top: Working up a good appetite climbing the mountain.

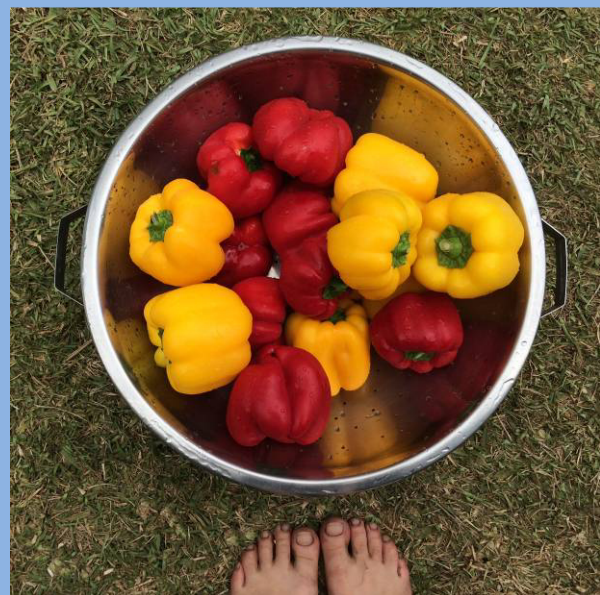
Bottom: Outing in bus to visit Camphill Village.



Above: The camp leader having time out while folding tea cloths, with Jasper in faithful attendance.

Middle: Camp buddies with tie-dyed T-shirts.

Below: Mascha captured this colourful fruit bowl & feet!



Camp Comments (cont.)

"It was a great space to relax and get to know new people! I really enjoyed the activities because we did lots of creative stuff I like. Everyone at camp had a really happy energy which reflected onto each other. I loved the food a lot as well and the stories that Richard and the helpers told. I hope I can be a spring helper too next year. I really enjoyed the camp. Thank you so much".

Sasha Blatcher.

Kai Marnewecke loved the camp and DEFINITELY wants to go again next year. He enjoyed the tie-dyeing, the picture framing, the hike, the swimming, the tent mates, the delicious food and all round the fun. Those are the things I have heard about from him already. Lore Marnewecke, (grandparent).

I liked the camp it was lots of fun. I loved the buddy system. It was very clever I also really liked all the helpers. The food was amazing. Thank you so much for everything. I made lots of new friends and that was great. The hike was lots of fun and I am definitely coming back next year.

Noah Bradshaw.

Luke loved the camp and came back raving and like most of them already looking forward to the next year. All of the best for the New Year and thanks (to the organizers) for all your hard work.

Kind regards, Emma Kriel.

Anya and Yolanda had a wonderful time! Both of them were singing camp songs, showing me dances and talking about the social dynamic of the camp for the entire week leading up to Christmas. Anya is so keen to become a helper; Yolanda wants to go next year- both asked if I could book immediately for the end of 2017! Both made connections with scholars from other schools as well as helpers. They loved the cabaret, the T-shirt dyeing. Thank you so very much for facilitating this- it made a lasting impression on them.

Love, Laura Engelke.

I really enjoyed going to this camp and I had a really great time. The food was really good!

Kaelin Day-Brown.

My First Journey to India.

(Submitted by Rob Small who experienced life in India briefly from 10 – 14th November 2016 and shares some of his observations and experiences with us here. Marilize.)

THANKS TO JULES ACKERMANN of the Acacia Fonds für

Entwicklungszusammenarbeit and to Joan Sleight of the Goetheanum Social Section who asked Jules to help, and who invited me to participate in and present at an International Social Networking Conference entitled Healthy Body, Healthy Society, Healthy Earth in November 2016. Thank you also to Sundeeep Kamath in India who made all the connections possible and cause all problems to disappear magically like a true Indian adept.

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Left: This picture, taken at the bus station in Bangalore on my arrival, symbolises in essence my whole wider experience of this trip. The materialised Western economic and technological life is energetically absorbed, often beautifully, and put right next to or mingled with the sacred. Technology is used vigorously to promote the sacred (with loud-speakers) as if economics and technology belong together with the sacred. And of course they do - in a way!

The rights life in the meantime seems to be in great flux, with the caste system still tangibly operative, although abolished. Judging from what I saw and heard (conversations, movies, observation and via my feelings) women and children are still largely treated by men as prized possessions or, which seems to suit many women and their children, revered as Treasures to protect at all costs. The historically new middle economic class appears to be more or less fully liberated with a mix of all classes, with women often taking leading roles. This mixed middle economic class appears to assume high status and influence over the (still trusting and naïve) peasant and working class, through the economy. This is perhaps very much how it must have been during the early 19th Century in England (a.k.a Downton Abbey) just after the 1st World War, when the upper classes had to rapidly get used to the idea that there was an economic middle class and that they were no longer just automatically held in awe by everyone.

There is a great (but seemingly gentle) tooting and roaring hubbub and busyness everywhere in the cities with seemingly no quiet outdoor spaces left. Yet the average person seems quite at ease, even poised and calm, while racing or ambling along as if all this hubbub and noise were entirely acceptable and the silences of the legendary (to me) ancient meditative life of the East, intact!

There is, under all of this modernity, a tangible devoutness, respectfulness and reverence in the soul of the people, who are clearly very proud of their heritage, cultural and technological achievements and their Humanness, despite the arrogant brutality of Colonialism. This respect and devoutness is just existentially there. It can be felt, even among the city traffic fumes, in the way people do not lose their tempers in the dancing, weaving super-crowded traffic lanes. Nor do people in general appear dismayed by destruction - quite the opposite in fact. "We can fix and do anything if we have the correct formula", seems to me to be the unspoken and absolute conviction and even joyful feeling, emanating on all sides. Lastly, there is clearly everywhere (except among the very poor who were not hugely in evidence except from a distance, or in sudden appearances, on my trip) a great enthusiasm (even delight!) for the modern economic and technological life and apparently endless energy to give to it. But it was a relief to arrive and stay at the quiet and spacious Catholic PILAR Institute in the rural areas, and founded in the name of the Franciscan Saint, Vincent Palloti.

(cont. on next page) ...

**Compost Pile as a Living Altar (left).**

The Prayer Rock, in the background, which was a sacred place long before Christianity arrived, blessed our compost piles which were completed on the second day, Saturday 12th, strictly according to methods taught by Peter Proctor. The way in which Bio-Dynamic practices have been taken up reflects once again the great energy and above all the deep devotion with which India seems to take everything up, with great attention to detail and a mixture of stern pride in individual mastery, deep respect for the teacher and gentle humility towards the Gods. This is a powerful mix in the right hands. But I perceived through conversations where problems were discussed, that, once strong leadership disappears, so does the new impulse tend to unravel, and return to old ways, waiting for a new leader.

The social exercises and workshops - building a leadership community: These exercises and workshops were the epicentre and living heartbeat of the 3-day conference. They related to three key social questions which I dare say are the core questions for our times: between Human Beings, between People and Nature and between People and the Divine: "Can I see you?" "Can I hear you?" "Can I know you?" These provided a perfect new listening and awakening space into which deep devotion could easily be poured and lively empathy between complete strangers cultivated and practiced.

I believe that, as a result of this a new enthusiasm for building a more cohesive community between the many highly individualistic leaders and practitioners who came to the conference, from within India and from without, was sown. Many of the participants had never met face to face before this conference! India is HUGE.

In conclusion, I was deeply stirred and inspired by this conference to engage more actively wherever possible with the Social Forum Process and I returned to South Africa with greater hope than before for the future of our social movement here. In particular my certainty was renewed and confirmed for the eventual success of our social farming movement in South Africa, of which I have been privileged to be a co-founder.

Rob Small - Farm & Garden National Trust.

WELCOME BACK TO JULIA O'LEARY who arrived back in Cape Town during the Holy Nights and easily blended into the community again. On the right she is with some of her hosts in Senegal, one of the last countries she visited during December 2016.

She writes on her blog: "What a wonderful relief to arrive in Dakar. CLEAN, CIVILISED and BEAUTIFUL, Dakar is surrounded by the sea like an island. The people are welcoming and friendly. We have met people working in agriculture, youth work, entrepreneur, health and education. Again we meet an enthusiasm towards the IPMT." (The Project she was involved with.)

Marilize.

(For more news see: www.juliaoleary021.blogspot.co.za.)

