



# The Wind Call

The Christian Community in and around Cape Town.  
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Above: Waldorf Easter Art.

## Children of the Light.

### Ordination Issue.

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For the very dramatic sunset and full moon rising on Holy Saturday evening many people climbed the mountains around the Peninsular to have an unimpeded view of this spectacular event which was as close to Easter as is possible. Climbing the mountain one was fully aware of the Christ being's descent at the same time into the very depths of the earth – there to overcome the stranglehold of the forces of darkness on the human soul.

For those climbing up Lion's Head the ascent and descent is particularly poignant. They climbed to the top in the full light of the sun and were able to watch it set in the west. A few minutes later the very large full moon rose majestically in the east above the Hottentot Holland Mountains. Then they had to make their way down by moonlight. But halfway down they have to walk around to the west side of the mountain and therefore into the shadow of the mountain where even the moonlight is lost to them and they are in the dark. From then on they have to use their own source of light.

Walking with the aid of a torch means that you have to focus on the beam of light in front of you all the time if you are to find your way in safety.

This is very much a picture of Mankind's journey over the ages. That journey also began in the full light of the sun. As the human soul began to fall more and more out of an awareness of the spiritual world around it, so the light of the spiritual sun was lost to consciousness. From then on mankind had to manage with only the reflected light of the sun via the moon. With time even this began to fade until eventually the only soul sustenance from the spiritual world was

through custom and tradition but with an ever dwindling degree of understanding. Now we are in the shade of the mountain as were the people descending from Lion's Head and there is darkness. There is a somewhat desperate attempt to fill the void left by the departing light with distraction, material goods and endless novelty of new experiences – but none of these relieve the sense of loneliness and lack of fulfillment experienced by so many.

In this state we, as human beings, are cut off from the source of life and therefore unable to be truly creative or to play any kind of meaningful role in being co-creators of the rightful future for humanity - unable to unite with the world's evolving. This is a source of great suffering and of uncertainty and fear.

Like those on the mountain we need to find our own source of light to find our way and yet we know that we cannot produce this light out of ourselves. Through Christ's death and resurrection he re-established the connection between the human soul and the guiding light of the spiritual Sun. He rolled away the stone of pure materialism from the tomb of the human soul and thereby empowered us to find once again our own access to the creative light that directs us and illuminates the way ahead for each and every one of us.

The fact that this deed took place for all of humanity is a cosmic creative reality which belongs to the divine world order. However whether it becomes a reality for each of us in our lives or not is a matter of our freedom. We are on the one hand governed by a cosmic order but on the other hand we are free beings and so it is left to us to be receptive to the fruits of the Resurrection or not.

The availability of this new source of light has to do with the reappearance of the Christ in the Etheric realm – the realm of life and life forces in the world.

The one way to become aware of His renewed nearness is to work at totally accepting our own life situation as it is and at owning it fully. We are not victims of circumstance but rather architects of destiny. If we accept our lives then we also accept the one who allotted to us this particular destiny and with whom we are related in our inmost being. When we learn to love karma in this way we also learn to know the Christ and so enable him to reveal His light in our souls. We are not meant to do it all alone but rather with the help which the spiritual world can let stream into us all the time if we would only let it.

We are all creative artists and the greatest work of art that we can create is ourselves as bearers of the light of Resurrection in the world – as children of the Light.

Richard Goodall.

## ***Introduction by Andreas van Breda.***

**“Everything is the same and yet everything is different...”** These words have accompanied me in the days since the Ordination celebration in March and continue to inspire. For those of us who have not met, my name is Andreas van Breda and hereby a little introduction of who I am and my path to being sent by the Circle of Seven to the Cape Town Community.

I was born in Berlin, Germany, third child to Peter and Dorothea van Breda and the family moved to Johannesburg when I was 18 months old. I look back with great fondness on my childhood and feel blessed to have grown up as we did; a golden time filled with stories, song and dance. Having completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and Botany, I left to see the world, travelling in Europe before settling in Norway. I found work in a little mountain hotel, isolated from the world at the top of the Bergen railway line and developed a passion for hospitality which later lead me to apply at a hotel in London where I would spend the next eight years, progressing through various levels as hotelier.

London felt like the middle of the world as people from the Arts, Culture, Sport and Politics moved through our doors. And I worked with a diverse group of colleagues and cared for people from all parts of society as guests. Hospitality is a wonderful profession; its essence is to understand individual human beings and discover and meet their needs.

Although I appreciated my daily work, I began to sense another question surfacing again and again - the priesthood. It is a question I’ve carried for most of my adult life and eventually led me to explore a weekend module at the English Seminary (in Chicago at the time). For whatever reason the experience did not drive me to action, but looking back, I realise how a door was opened and with the passing of time has remained so.

As providence would have it I re-connected with Tanya Karakashian on that trip, a friend from South Africa and we were married a few years later. It was our wish to start a family and we decided South Africa was the place we could best do that and we moved to Cape Town. Our son, Ara, arrived soon after and Sahar and Nava followed; they are 10, 9 and 4 respectively and attend Michael Oak Waldorf School (*picture of family on right*). Tanya has



a degree in Fine Art and teaches Art and Handwork at the school. Parenthood is an extraordinary gift. Each child arrives with their own story and we feel proud when we recognise something of ourselves in them. Of course we also have to accept the imperfections in the reflected mirror and are grateful for the opportunity to confront and transform them in ourselves.

Leaving the hotel industry, I worked as a project manager which involved a lot of travel and became ever more demanding and in time I had an overwhelming sense to search for meaning in my life. With a little more life experience, I began to look at the world more earnestly and the question of the priesthood appeared again, more strongly. I finally started a conversation to explore this question seriously with our priest. 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. It has been a wonderfully inspiring process and I am humbled by the support and care which so many people have expressed in a myriad of ways and appreciate the warm encouragement from the Communities here and abroad. More than ever in the current global situation I am convinced that a relationship to the Spiritual world is an essential part of our human development. The questions of health, of life, of dying, of the human being, of community make no sense without the Divine. I feel a deep sense of grace that I have had the privilege to grow up in the stream of Anthroposophy and the insights of Rudolph Steiner. I could not imagine having walked thus far without a relationship to the sacraments and feel blessed to be able to do so.

In the days before the Ordination, because of one, another and finally all of the Circle of Seven falling ill, it felt at times like shifting sands below my feet. Vicke von Behr's presence in Cape Town gave the firm ground for me to stand opposite at the altar on the Saturday. It was a profound and moving experience; in part overwhelming in its magnitude, but at the same time deeply confirming. My sincere thanks to the extraordinary outpouring of love and goodwill from the Community, both present and those who were not able to be there on the day. The arrangements for the Ordination weekend were by their nature last minute and came about through collaboration of a large number of people. The planning, communication, the catering, the music, the inner preparation of the weekend, all required huge sacrifice and work by so many people. I'd like to acknowledge that and extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone!

When Tanya and I expected our first child, we prepared for the arrival of our baby. We observed others who had gone before, read and imagined how it would be and noted what we wished for our children.

But it's only when we held our child in our arms, looking with shining eyes, that we began to learn to be parents. So too with priesthood. We prepare ourselves as best we can, observe others who have gone before, read and imagine how it can be and/but finally it is in the doing that one learns the priestly task. I greatly look forward to working in the Cape Town Congregation, with those near and far, living with the questions of our times and seeking to create the fertile ground for spiritual seeds to take hold.

With thanks and warm regards, Andreas.



*The priests who attended the Ordination from left to right: Peter van Breda (U.K), Kine Voigts (Windhoek, Namibia), Michaël Merle (Johannesburg/Hillcrest (KZN), Vicke von Behr (Retired Oberlenker (Germany), Rafal Novak (Poland/USA), Reingard Knausenberger (Lenker, Johannesburg), Andreas van Breda (newly ordained priest, Cape Town), Richard Goodall (Cape Town), Andreas von Wehren (Germany), Neville Adams (retired priest Germany ex Cape Town). .*

### ***Ordination Celebration Weekend Report.***

**SOUTHERN AFRICA'S THIRD CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PRIEST ORDINATION** took place this past weekend, 24 and 25 March, 2022 in Plumstead, Cape Town. Andreas van Breda was ordained in a very uplifting, reverent service on Saturday morning, amid much community participation and support. Congregants, families, and priests (partly completely different ones to what had been planned, due to covid!) arrived from England, Germany, USA, Namibia as well as from around South Africa. The Karakashians and Van Breda family members made up a large contingent.



A new painted altar picture was hung in the church. A large tent appeared in the church garden and became filled with tables and chairs. The coming together of community members was soon taking place in its shade - whether renewing old friendships, catching up, or getting to know new friends, having important conversations, sharing insights and memories.

The first gathering inside the church on Friday afternoon filled it to bursting, and we had a wonderful four part preparation for being present and participating in the ordination service the following morning. There was also time to workshop some questions to bring awareness around the Being of the Community, the Angel of the Community, and how we meet this. When it was time to share the workshops the picture of a magnifying glass was given - with its ability to focus sunlight, for instance, into a point ever smaller and more



*Our priest, Richard Goodall (left) and Philip Karakashian.*

*Below: Priests Andreas von Wehren & Rafal Novak*



**Above:** *Retired Erzoerlenker Vicke von Behr and Philip Karakashian, Tanya's father.*



intense, until something new appears - a flame, which needs to be nurtured and tended if it is to burn bright.

And with all that, the Angels certainly were on hand to carry Vicke von Behr, Andreas van Breda and the congregation through a most beautifully reverent ordination service, flanked by nine priests, including the ordinand's father, Rev. Peter van Breda. It was very moving to hear people speak to Andreas during the celebratory festival that followed - my impression was that everyone was deeply touched, in ways that connected us all far beyond the personal. There were musical offerings and circle dancing as well.

We gathered anew on Sunday morning to witness and carry the first Act of Consecration of Man as celebrated by our newest priest - another moment that felt imbued by the Spiritual World around our community. After

church Rev. Vicke von Behr spoke about the founding, 100 years ago in 1922, of the Christian Community Church, which was not founded on old traditions, but rather on free participation, and on the striving for the human being to become aware of and work from the Christ-given capacities within each of us. He gave us verses from Revelations, and spoke about the Spiritual World both giving us the roles of priests and kings in our individual capacities, and also needing the nourishment of our future oriented spiritual deeds as earthly humans.

Meals and teas were served in the big tent in between events, and to close there was another workshop centered around the coming 100 years in the Christian Community. All left uplifted, and enriched, knowing we had participated in a truly inspired community happening, and that we were joined not just by the Beings connected with our congregation, but by members who couldn't attend in person from around the world, as well as by the enormous efforts especially, of Reingard and the Community of Cape Town in the planning and organization.

Sonnya Holtz, Johannesburg.

#### **The Participants who attended the Ordination Weekend 2022.**



#### ***Further feedback from participants.***

*'If ye love me, keep my commandments' and 'The Image of Man I beheld' were ardently rehearsed by us, the choir members, for the Ordination of Andreas van Breda. It was a community of notes sung mostly in four parts. Our meter guide and encourager, Christina*

*Goodall, held the space for a beautiful sound that I felt privileged to be part of.*

*Eastlynne Nelson-Tansley.*

**Although I find it difficult to speak about myself** I feel deepest heartfelt gratitude for experiencing a priest ordination here in Cape Town. I became a member of the Christian Community in Hamburg on 1st November 1956. I have my membership card, signed by Dr Johannes Hemleben and another signatory whose name I cannot make out. When I arrived on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1957 in Cape Town there was not yet a Christian Community here. In January 1965 I returned to Germany and came back to South Africa in January 1966. Later in that year the Christian Community began its work in the Jan Prinz Day Centre with Rev. Heinz Maurer. And now at the end of my long life I was allowed to witness the Ordination of Rev. Andreas van Breda, a South African in Cape Town. It is the most amazing happening in my life, a blessing guided from above. I have no words to express my gratitude, my deepest thankfulness and I know that the future of our Movement in this part of the world will flourish and grow. Greetings and lots of love, Helga Ackermann. *(Picture above: Four generations together on Easter Sunday: Anette Bestwick, matriarch Helga Ackermann, Michelle and her daughter.)*



**Attending the Ordination** of Andreas Van Breda was a privilege in enabling me to witness the entire process, through careful explanation by the community of ordained priests of what to expect in the Ordination itself, and thereby appreciate each detail of the vestments and the words spoken, and gestures made. Hearing members of the Van Breda family speak about Andreas and his faithful domestic helper Mary whom he had a close bond with, and her daughter, Martha who was a baby when Andreas was a child, added richness and humility in a uniquely South African flavor to the event. The music, the varied presentations and circle dancing provided warm social interaction and enjoyment for everyone, including the priests who came from far. The deeper, more esoteric aspect of the Act of Consecration left me with much food for thought. The small group discussions were most helpful in enabling constructive comments, questions and concerns about the future of the Christian Community locally and worldwide where hope lies.

*Charles Chouler.*

**As one of the very first children** to have been christened by a Christian Community priest in South Africa in March 1959 (by a visiting priest, Rev. Peter Roth who came to South Africa to perform the marriage of Renate Koenig and Julian Sleight!), it has been a life-long wish of mine to attend an ordination! This was to have happened in September 2017 when Michael Merle was ordained in Johannesburg. Sadly I was prevented by destiny from being there due to a serious neck injury sustained in a car accident in August 2017. Hence great was my joy recently to be a part of the very special event of the Ordination of Andreas van Breda by Rev. Vicke von



Behr. It was such an uplifting, soul nourishing experience, for which I am truly thankful, especially as a spiritual deed here in Cape Town! Annette Chouler (Bienewitz)

***Attending the Sacrament of Ordination** of Andreas van Breda will remain in my heart as one of the highlights in my life. It was an immensely powerful event filled with great joy. The joy was also in meeting up with community friends from long ago. With Andreas growing up in the Johannesburg Community and now living in Cape Town, the feeling of community really spanned the southern tip of Africa and I know that news of this incredibly special event will be carried and shared into other communities by everyone who visited from afar. My life has been blessed and enriched for being part of this celebration and sacrament.*

*Warm wishes, Anne-Marié Winkelman.*

***From Neville Adams, ex Cape Town and retired in Germany.***

**It is strange to wake up one day** and realise that you are the oldest in a group of colleagues! This conference with the Ordination as its focus and the start of the priestly work of Andreas was the most moving experience in all the years of my life as a priest. In June it will be 54 years since I was ordained in Stuttgart, more than half the life of The Christian Community. *(Right: Happy reunion for Neville and Annette Chouler on the first day of the Ordination.)*



This Ordination brought together people from all the congregations in which I have worked in southern Africa: Johannesburg, KZN, Cape Town and Windhoek. It was as if the Angel of Southern Africa was rejoicing with us.

I have a tic about counting: stairs, people and so on. In the vestry before the Ordination began I counted the colleagues present - NINE. So I knew that something special was taking place. One priest to represent each of the Nine Angelic Hierarchies, and one Ordinand to include the 10th Hierarchy - Mankind. Many felt as did I, that this was a very powerful experience.

It was also a clear indication when the Circle of Seven was not able to be present and that Vick von Behr, who has a very special place in the hearts of the South Africans, was then asked to ordain Andreas. This Blessing will ray out into all the congregations and the work of The Christian Community.

Warm greetings, Neville Adams.

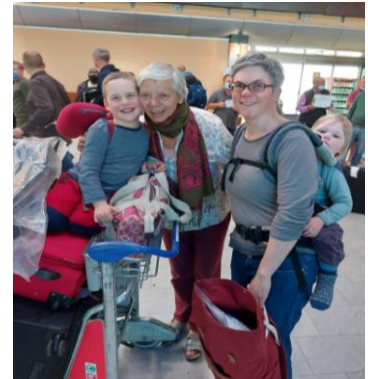
***The Ordination Weekend** was beyond compare with any other festival experience. It was deeply spiritual, with a grave sense of commitment by the community towards the future becoming of our Christian Community.*

*Carole Penfold.*

### ***Family visits during the Easter time.***

- **Barbara Herbert** has gone to Germany to visit her son, Simon, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. Enjoy the visit, Barbara!
- **Florin Goodall** has visited his family and left for Germany again on Easter Monday. It was a happy reunion, especially as he and his sister, Melissa, had not seen each other for 5 years. Au revoir, Florin!
- **Theresa Klee** and two of her three sons visited her parents, Annette and Charles Chouler, to enjoy a few weeks of reconnecting with the family. *(Right: Annette, Theresa & sons).*
- **May Munroe**, church secretary, is on a two month visit to her daughter, Julia, in Portugal. We wish her an interesting and happy visiting time in Portugal and Spain. *(Right: May and her daughter Julia in Madrid.)*
- **Yvonne Herrington-Bruwer** returned home just before Easter after a stint of work in U.K. Welcome back also to her.

Marilize.



### ***Easter Weekend.***

**DURING HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WEEKEND** we were once more privileged to be on the receiving end of Richard Goodall's talks and contemplations. There were profound ideas for everyone to consider, from the precise order and thoughtful gestures of each part of the Act of Consecration of Man to the enriching interlude after our Silent Supper on Maundy

Thursday evening. We were gently steered into looking at the Mystery of Golgotha with new eyes. During the silence of the simple supper by candle light it occurred to me that we were a small group together for the same purpose, but that all over the world other groups, large and small, would be doing the same. We are not on an island. We are not a single reed cut off from the reed bed, as the poet Rumi expressed it. In spite of the somberness of the occasion it was a comforting realization. Indeed, it was a suitable introduction of what was to follow over the following few days. For us it was also a special celebratory Easter because after many years we had two priests again. Thank you to our newly ordained priest, Andreas van Breda, for his steady and warm presence throughout the weekend's events, including the early morning Easter walk in the Cecilia Forest. We are indeed blessed as a community.

Marilize.



### ***Baptism.***

Our son, Brodie, was baptised on Easter Sunday. It was such a beautiful uplifting and opening experience for us, for Brodie's godparents, and for our extended family. Most of them have never been to the Christian Community Church before, and they felt welcome and found the baptism itself very moving. Having Brodie baptised on Easter day felt particularly significant after his recent health journey. We have waited for three years to take this step, but the moment when it came felt so right – perhaps it was important that his new

kidney was baptised too! Sincere thanks to Richard and to the community who held us through the day.

With much love, Nicola and Ian Rijsdijk.

*(Picture above: Brodie flanked by his mom, Nicola and dad, Ian with godparents far left and far right. )*

### ***Confirmation.***

The Confirmation this year will be celebrated on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of May**. The following 10 young people will be confirmed: Brodie Rijsdijk, Zara Wutscher, Freya Oliver, Sophia Pearl Hamann, Jan Sebastian van Eeden, Milan van Eeden, Holly Pryor, Elinor Hansen, Victoria Emily Hollesen, Josphe Munyaradzi Hollesen. As usual we will be counting on your presence and your support in carrying the substance of this very special event in these children's lives.

**There will be no children's service on that Sunday.**

### ***First Service for Class One children.***

There will be a preparation for the **parents and children** in **Class One** who would like to attend the Children's Service on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 10:00**. Their **first story and service** will be at **09:00 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May**.

Richard Goodall.

### ***THANKS.***

A big thank you to:

- **Christina and the choir** for all the singing around the ordination and Easter. It enriched both immensely. Anon.
- Also thank you to **Rosemarie and Anne-Marie** for organizing the new curtains for the foyer doors



*Waldorf Painting: Angelic Choir by Sally Quillin.*

in time for the ordination.

- A thank you to **the whole community** who helped to prepare and also carry the whole process of Andreas's ordination especially in the service itself where the quality of listening and inner participation was extraordinarily strong and focused. It was indeed a blessed event in the life of the Christian Community on the continent of Africa. Richard Goodall.



### ***A Blessed Easter.***

An Easter surprise for Rosemarie Enthoven! A succulent plant which had been gifted to her had been living on her sheltered verandah for a long time, without much change. Then unexpectedly it produced this stunning flower in time for Easter. Marilize.

### ***Church Fair on 13th August.***

*Please diarise this date for our Church Fair. In due course further mails will be sent out in connection with arrangements and meeting times.*

*Fair Organisers.*

### ***A New Life in Plettenberg Bay.***

I HAVE LANDED SO HAPPILY with my being 'intact'. The farm is peaceful and the air is pure. I walk my dog twice a day all around and she is getting used to sights and smells. As yet no real farming is done but the veggie garden grows with help from the two labourers whom my son-in-law inherited from the previous owner and they have basic knowledge and a strong routine for each day of the week.

We are determinedly using only organic material, and Claire has already got rid of aphids using organic spray. I think Avice is on hand should we need her – she has already visited me on the farm. We are feeling our way as to what the land might ask for ... personally I would like a few chickens and a few cows ... but we shall see and go slowly with livestock. But it is the most exciting challenge and lifestyle change of our lives and we are all enjoying it. Time will tell.

I will send a photograph when my own cottage is completed and I have moved in. So lots to do and think about, aided and abetted by the ever-present help of the Spiritual World, and all of you who have been and are so much a part of our lives. Thus far the farm grows two acres of bamboo and honey bush tea. A delightful seed swapping morning at the school four Sundays ago allowed me to experience the local enthusiasm of like-minded land people keen to share their seed growing successes – and failures. A building sense of true community exists and is so welcoming and friendly. Carole Penfold.