

The Wind Call

The Christian Community in and around
Cape Town: May – July 2024
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WHEN FACED WITH two statements which seem to clearly contradict each other we would normally think that one of the statements must be true and the other false. However this is not always the case. Sometimes when one digs a little deeper one finds that the contradiction is only apparent because it is viewed with a limited understanding of what is being said. The Gospels have many such apparent contradictions in them.

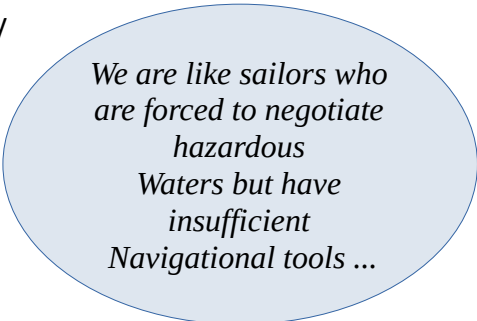
How for instance do we understand the fact that in John 14:27 Christ says to his disciples "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." – while in Matthew 10:34 he says "Do not think that I come to bring peace on earth. I do not bring peace, but a sword." Added to this is the repeated mention of his peace in the Act of Consecration of Man – "I stand at peace with the world" and also the peace blessing in the communion. Does Christ bring peace or not?

Perhaps the real question here is "what do we understand by peace?" Is peace simply the absence of all conflict and all difficulty in life? Is it a passive state of soul where nothing bothers or disturbs us? Or is it not possible that we can attain peace even in the midst of great turmoil?

We are living in a time in which the possibility of there being no conflict and no upheaval in the world seems extremely remote. We are challenged on a daily basis with social, political, educational, medical, nutritional, and many other questions and situations which demand of us that we make decisions and choices. How do we make those decisions when there is so much

untruth and deception in the world? How can we know what is true and what is not? How can we be sure of what is good and what is bad? What measuring stick do we have to help us make these decisions and choices?

We are like sailors who are forced to negotiate hazardous waters but have insufficient navigational tools. Surely if we had those tools we would be able to safely navigate our way with a sense of peace and confidence despite the presence of all the perils. Perhaps we can understand the “sword” which Christ brings - *not* as a weapon - but as just such a navigational instrument.



*We are like sailors who
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In Ephesians 6 we read of the sword as being part of the spiritual powers of God which we are to put on as an armour. This armour is a life-giving power, a strength drawn down from the strength of Christ. Here the sword is described as the word that comes from God – the Logos. This cosmic, creative word of which the whole of the creation is an expression is our means of discernment when we allow it to live in our souls. It is our navigational instrument in the midst of all the challenges that the world throws at us. This ability to face all the turmoil and difficulties of life clothed with and filled with the logos is a heightened form of peace.

In the light of this the apparent contradiction dissolves - as what Christ is really saying in Matthew 10:34 - is that He doesn't remove all the problems, He gives us the strength to deal with them and resolve them.

This heightened form of peace is the product of continuous inner activity in which we offer our soul forces up as an instrument enabling Christ to work through us into the world and by means of which we can become discerning, creative human beings.

Richard Goodall.

Reingard Knausenberger's Retirement Celebration.

Sunday, 10th March, marked the 50th anniversary of the Day of Ordination of Rev. Reingard Knausenberger. The day also marked her stepping back from carrying the responsibilities of a community and entering her retirement as a priest. Our Lenker, Rev. Oliver Steinrueck, was here to celebrate the occasion with Reingard and the community. The celebrations were held in the Community Garden with coffee, tea and a wide selection of sweet and savoury treats. Reingard received gifts from the community, her colleagues and also the other communities

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in the Region where she had served as Lenker for 17 years. The photos below show the handing over of gifts and accompanying speeches.

Peter-John Gernaat, Administrator, Johannesburg.

(Thanks to Peter-John Gernaat for the lovely pictures.)

A great deal of love and gratitude streamed towards Reingard from all present at the celebration of her many years of service as Lenker in our region especially for all the help and support that she has provided for countless people over the years. Her huge effort in building up our regional structures and legal framework over and above all that was demanded of her by the Johannesburg community was gratefully acknowledged. There is still much that she can offer to the well-being of our region in her new status.

Richard Goodall.



Pictures above left: Johannesburg priest, Rev. Michael Merle, speaking at Reingard's celebration.



Above right: The Oberlenker, Rev. Oliver Steinrueck, handing over a gift to Reingard.

Right: Reingard talking to the congregation in the beautiful church garden.



Colwyn Grant McPherson Ovenstone (02/08/1949 – 03/02/2024).

On the 2nd of February 2024 Grant Ovenstone received the Anointing at Constantiaberg Hospital and crossed the threshold the following day with his adult children and one grandson around him. His funeral was held on the 10th of February at the Church in Plumstead with people in attendance from the many walks of his life.

Grant was born in Claremont, Cape Town on the 2nd of August 1949 and had three siblings. He grew up in a splendid house surrounded by the sound of music. He learnt to play the piano at an early age, a passion which accompanied him for the rest of his life.

After school he left to see the world, found Anthroposophy and began studying Eurythmy soon after. He would perform and teach on-and-off in various places in Europe in the years that followed.



Grant was married to Elizabeth Ovenstone and the marriage produced five children: Simon, Andreas, Martin, Jonas and Illona. Amongst other things, continual moving of house was a disruptive feature of family life and the marriage suffered, with Grant eventually returning to South Africa. A sixth child, Michael would arrive, Rowena Bell being his mother.

Grant would put his energy into reading, writing, listening to opera and playing music. He found companionship in a long relationship with Noy Pullen and together they dedicated much of their time in working for the Anthroposophical Society and its members. He was an active member in our Community as a server as well as for Timour Hall Cottages.

Grant was a quiet man who preferred to be in the background even when some wished for him to be closer. He was quick with a jest and beamed in the light-hearted. We

may think upon him now in that other place, quietly playing at his piano, gently touching the keys, playing. Godspeed Grant.

Andreas van Breda.

Did you know....

Our little band of crafters worked very hard this past year and earned a whopping R17,600 for the community coffers. They are but a few and we extend our grateful thanks for their busy hands. If you are inclined to do knitting and sewing, or have some other skills to offer, please speak with either Wilma or Barbara and join them. The group meets every Friday afternoon from 15h00-17h00.

Rosemarie Enthoven.

Gathering for Estelle Bryer.

Dear Estelle had a nasty fall in mid-January, damaging her arm. This has caused a significant curtailment to her active life. She recovered quickly, and when she returned to church on one Sunday in mid-February, Heike Prins and I had an idea to hold a surprise bring-and-share tea gathering for her to cheer her up and cheer her on.

We decided to keep it small so that it could be an intimate *sharing* by those who have been touched in their lives by Estelle's presence over the years.

With Sam Brown's and Julia O'Leary's help we gathered playgroup and kindergarten teachers, eurhythmists and puppeteers from the field of Estelle's rich and varied life. The day chosen for the tea gathering was Saturday afternoon, 9th of March. It was a lovely surprise for Estelle to arrive and be welcomed by so many old friends and a table groaning with delicious eats that everyone had brought along. However the tea paled from existence as we shared one by one, our heartfelt gratitude for what Estelle's presence has meant in our lives. This was wonderful to witness.

Her work in early childhood reflects her deep connection to, and understanding of, the very young child and the importance of nourishing their little souls. Estelle seemed deeply touched by these sharings. Particularly, her work in developing puppetry was shared in the form of delightful anecdotes from the original puppeteers at the Rainbow Puppet Theatre, Carol and her daughter Alison.



It clearly stirred up memories for Estelle as she shared how the theatre was conceived in Dornach and then built in Cape Town many years ago. It was astonishing to hear how many children and adults have experienced her magical puppet shows from her glove puppet shows to 'pocket puppet Granny' shows and so much more. It was a truly heart-warming occasion for me and I'm sure for all who attended, and hopefully Estelle went home with a full heart.

Jenny Wyeth.

In gratitude for all Estelle has brought to the world and to our community through her beautiful creative ability in Education, Puppetry, performances for the elderly and especially Eurythmy

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therapy which flowed through all she did, I presented her with the Stella Star Estelle the Rose Bryer and the Golden Heart which is always available to all as it shines. Julia O'Leary.

Graham Alexander Scannell born 14th December 1956 – died 23rd February 2024.

(Extracts made by Marilize from the address by Rev. Richard Goodall on 27th February 2024.)

Graham Scannell was born on 14th December 1956 in Salisbury, Rhodesia. His father was a prominent journalist and his mother was later to run a speech and drama school in their house. Throughout his childhood he was involved in plays and public speaking and he won his first public speaking award at the age of 12 when he spoke about the first heart transplant by Chris Barnard.

The family moved to Zambia and then to Johannesburg and his first attempt at directing a play was in his matric year at Kempton Park High School.



As a university student he also became a fervent campaigner against conscription and against apartheid. He did a BA in Psychology at UCT and honours at Rhodes. These were dark years in the country and for him personally during which he began to really question the meaning and the direction of his life. He had already embarked on a spiritual search during which he read copious books on religion, philosophy and spirituality. He found the most peace in a Buddhist retreat centre where he learned to meditate and contemplate life in a new way.

On his return to Cape Town he became aware of a great shortage of teachers and soon landed a teaching job in a Mitchell's Plain school. This was a turning point in his life. He discovered that if he loved his students, they loved him back. However this time was short lived as he had to leave the school by government decree. That was when he took a post at Michael Oak as an English and Drama teacher in 1986. He had already discovered Anthroposophy by this time but now he could steep himself in the whole educational and child developmental aspect of it. He

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loved every moment of this and he knew that he had found his home, his purpose and his community. He became an assistant to George Sobotsky one of the founding teachers of Michael Oak and under his guidance he directed his first Shakespeare play – Macbeth. This was the beginning of his long career of play directing at Michael Oak.

Then in 1991 he met his wife-to-be Diane through a mutual friend. A flame was kindled which grew stronger and stronger over the next 32 years. Diane was teaching dance in various places and in 1992 she joined Michael Oak on a part time basis. In the country's momentous year of transition in 1994 they were married on the 6th November. Four years later their son Omri was born and a year after that they began to work together on the production of Shakespeare plays at Michael Oak. *(Photo right: Graham and a young Omri – a happy father-son moment.)*

It was his positive attitude to life that enabled him to be so positive about his growing illness over the last years. He knew for almost a year that he would eventually succumb to it but he wanted to be fruitfully active in life for as long as he possibly could. He only gave up on this idea in the last week of his life. Then he set about his final task of directing his own passing with due consideration for all involved. He died on 23rd February 2024.

Richard Goodall.



Belated thanks about the Celebration for the Dead during November 2023.

I'd like to express my thanks to the team that came together to create a deep and meaningful celebration: John Coates, Howard and Sheilagh Dobson, Estelle Bryer and the beautiful lyre ensemble of Christiane Janowsky, Gabrielle Feiter, Barbara Herbert and Christina Goodall.

Also to all of you who brought your loved ones in heart and mind to the ceremony, which ended in a mood of quiet, reverent peace and gratitude.

I felt blessed to have been a part of such a festival.

Adrienne Milne.

***Please diarise Saturday, 7th September 2024
10h00 - 14h00 for our Family Fair.
More information nearer to the time.***

The value of the Sacrament of Consultation for everyone.

The idea that the Sacrament of Consultation is **only** to be made use of when one is facing difficulties or a crisis of some kind is the wrong idea.

It is far more in line with the intention behind this sacrament when we think of it as general soul/spiritual maintenance to be celebrated and experienced regularly - no matter what is going on in our lives.

It is a gesture of offering which opens us up to our highest God-given will and thereby keeps us on track with what our lives are all about. It develops within us a heart sense organ with which we learn to differentiate between what is particularly relevant and what is irrelevant for our unique life's path - in all that comes towards us every day. In this way we begin to live more effectively, decisively and with greater purpose.

Repeatedly experiencing this sacrament (perhaps every three months) awakens in us a sense of deep peace in the knowledge that we are doing what we came into this life to do. We learn to sustain a connection to our own will of incarnation. At the same time we become better at learning to offer the spiritual world a place in our soul into and through which it can work into the world. This in turn means that the more people who participate in this sacrament – the greater the offering substance in the Act of Consecration of Man becomes and therefore the greater the possibility for the spiritual world to work into the periphery of our community and bring about its growth.



Therefore the Sacrament of Consultation is both individually healing and at the same time community building. It is there for the asking. Just ask.

Richard Goodall.

Special sacraments held in this last quarter.

Funeral Service for Grant Ovenstone and Graham Scannell.

Baptism of Alina Blöchliger, Payton Rogatschnig and Noah von Maltitz.

The young people that will be **Confirmed on Sunday 28th** are:
Noah von Maltitz, Damian Coetzee, Payton Rogatschnig and Fynn Oliver.

Andreas van Breda.