



*Above: Waldorf Art – pinterest.com*

# The Wind Call

The Christian Community in and around

Cape Town: Nov. 2022 – Jan. 2023

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## ***A hopeful glance to the Future.***

**October 2022.**

**AUTUMN IN GERMANY** emerges gradually: the sun rises that bit later every day, the air is fresh and somewhat cool and the leaves on the trees burst into bright colours of red, orange and gold, a last flourish before the winter comes.

In this festive mood 2 356 people from 38 countries descended upon the Logos Conference in Dortmund, in celebration of the Christian Community's Centenary and with a hopeful glance towards the future. Both young and old were to share five intense and joyful days together, having travelled from all corners of the world.

The Conference took place on the sprawling grounds of the George Waldorf School & Pedagogical Centre, surrounded by leafy woods. Several tents were erected to house the large gatherings and provide a place to meet and eat.

We were welcomed with festive cheer and heard an inspiring talk from a young Dutch priest, Mathijs van Alstein, who described how in 1922, the Word found a completely new expression in the world. It was in this year that the BBC launched a news service and suddenly, through speaking into a microphone, people were reached in their homes and could listen to the news on a radio - a groundbreaking experience, no doubt. Of course in the same year, a different Word began to speak and shine into the world also, in the form of the renewed Mass, the Act of Consecration of Man. For the first time, a very different language came into being, a new kind of religious activity, beginning a new relationship to the spiritual world in the founding of the Christian Community.

Mathijs went on to describe two pillars of our Movement of Religious Renewal: on the one hand we may experience how essential the need for **form** is: the physical structures of the churches, the vestments and their changing colours in the festival year, the forms of the Sacraments themselves. And on the other hand, equally as essential is the continual need for **movement**: the conscious celebration of the festivals anew, the striving to develop new thoughts, new impulses, welcoming original ideas and being authentic in our changing relating. And with a view to the future, he warned against becoming a closed, isolationist community, but rather, like the honey-bee who, yes, is working in the hive for its health and vitality, but then goes out into the world, pollinating flowers and trees so that new life may emerge. With this inspiring picture, the Conference began.



By far the most difficult decision to make in these days was what not to participate in. There were more workshops and talks to choose from than was possible to attend, with a great variety of themes, one more interesting than the next. And each was rich and inspiring, filled with thought and conversation, working with a myriad of questions of our time, of the Human Being and of the Earth.

The 'free-time' between the organised events was filled with dancing circles, singing youth groups from different parts of the world and lots and lots of human encounters. Everywhere people were in conversation; some for the first time, somehow having found one another in a crowd, and many warm reunions of old friends. The warmth and joy of these encounters were palpable and are surely the creative substance that can radiate into the many parts of the world to which each person has by now returned.

A further hallmark of the Conference was the celebrating of the Act of Consecration of Man each morning. Several altars were erected in different rooms on the School grounds to accommodate the large number of participants. Each day the Eucharist sounded from the altar, celebrated in nine different languages over these days. In addition four candidates who had been prepared to take up the task of priesthood, were ordained, one on each day. Every Conference participant had an opportunity to take part in one of these Ordinations, which took place in the large school hall. These events were filled with reverence, with joy and with great hope. Our founding began with Ordinations; perhaps marking the Centenary milestone with Ordinations was most fitting.



**Left:** Conference programs.

(Cont. next page .....)

And as we said farewell at the closing ceremony on the last morning with singing, a diverting mime act and parting words, each person began to think of the next part of their journey perhaps with new questions. What will the next 100 years bring? How are we to be in the new world? What do I need to access it, and what is my contribution?

The Christian Community is indeed a Being which spans the continents of the world, and of which we may feel a part. And also a Spiritual Being, which takes great interest in our work as a congregation. In the cool autumn air in Dortmund, (but also experienced in all the congregations around the world), the Christian Community's Centenary was worthily celebrated. We can look back at our beginning, remembering the Founders who formed the vehicle for this Being to draw near and form a sense of where and who we are today as well as gain a hopeful glance into the future.

In directing our souls-eye with what radiates forth from our altars, then and now, we may in a true Michaelic sense, each individually feel the earnestness of our own responsibility in cultivating a relationship with the Being of Christ, for the development of Man on the Earth and into the future.

Andreas van Breda.



**Picture left:** So many participants!

**Left bottom:** Tea break in the autumn sun.

**Above:** Conference participants in Dortmund. The soft light and pretty trees are eye-openers for those of us who have not yet visited Germany.



# Fair 2022 Feedback.

According to weather reports, it was to be a dull, rainy winter's day. When asked if we should postpone the event, Richard Goodall assured us it would be sunny and beautiful, and that is exactly what it was! During set up the evening before, we were even blessed by a magnificent rainbow arching from the top of the tent to the church. (See picture below right.)

Our Family Fair has been a tradition for so many years, making the preparation a joy, no fuss, just pure and genuine offering of goodwill and participation. It felt as if the community came together like little root children popping their heads out at the arrival of the spring sun!

It was a joyous occasion which saw so many children happily darting about as they discovered one activity after another to engage in, from crafts, to candle making, a puppet show and circus acts.

There was endless chatting as friends caught up whilst browsing at the deli, plants, books, gifts and 'nearly-new' stalls, followed by a wholesome lunch, lemonade, boerewors rolls and cake and coffee.

Light music filled the church and all the while tucked away was the option for a calming foot massage.

Our Family Fair was a hustle and bustle, fun-filled with laughter, enquiry, a spirit of giving and serving, popcorn and ice bites and so much more. Thank you to everyone who participated in whichever way they saw fit.

Jenni Brassington, Coordinator.



**From left to right:** Andrienne Milne at the Juices; Estelle Bryer arriving to enjoy the event; rainbow above the church just before the opening of the Fair (taken by Jenni).

## **Feedback (Cont.)**

This year's Fair was a feast for the senses and the soul! A warm and wonderful community event where new and old acquaintances connected in beautifully prepared spaces around joyful activities and delectable treats. The flowing conversation and radiant glow from smiles on people's faces reminded me why this is such a special annual event.

Gideon Malherbe.



**Clockwise from top:** The team at the Nearly New table: Gideon Malherbe, Howard Dobson and Richard Cox; Etienne & Yvonne Bruwer, inimitable in cheerful aprons at the Boerewors Rolls; Elizabeth Straube holding the Recycling Art banner; colourful soft toys created by Heike & helpers and beautifully crafted stars to welcome visitors at the front door.





**Fair (cont.) ...**



**Pictures from top left clockwise:** The Ticket Sellers in the marquee Anette Bestwick and Rene Navarro; Paola Mondati-Muirhead at the vegetable stall; Lionel Chanarin, our professional juggler and games person; Anne-Marie Winkelman at the Lunch Table, Jenni Brassington (Fair Organizer) and Melissa Goodall's stall with shell crafts.



**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Jenni Brassington (picture left) who was the engine behind the very well planned and organized build-up to and execution of the Fair this year. Jenni was new on the block of the church fair and handled it like a true pro. Well done and many thanks Jenni!  
Richard Goodall.

## ***The Centenary Celebrations of the Christian Community Worldwide 16 – 18 September 2022 – Feedback.***

**T**he Centenary Celebration Weekend opened a warm and colourful space for personal sharing and reflection centered around the Act of Consecration of Man. The presentations were insightful and brought a deepened sense of belonging to a worldwide movement of individuals sharing a valuable future-oriented purpose. I most enjoyed the eurythmy, circle dancing and singing! thank you to all who offered their time and talent and giving us such a special weekend.

Gideon Malherbe.

*(Thanks for the lovely group photo, Gideon! Marilize.)*



### ***From Carole Penfold.***

**MY SHORT VISIT TO CAPE TOWN** in September was focused on the Centenary Celebrations of our Christian Community Worldwide. In contemplating this event I became evermore grateful to the Priests, not only in our region but worldwide for their life-giving and dedicated support to their Priestly calling. Without them our lives would become more and more barren. The wonderful creation of our three days together was both richly endowed with content as well as fulfilling - a lasting memory.

The Eurythmy was so uplifting, using the Evolutionary Sequence of sounds, and Michelle Kaplan's research in finding the appropriate poems and verses to embellish the sounds we were moving to was nothing short of brilliant. This has left a lasting impression with me. Thank you, Michelle.

*(Cont. Next page ...)*



Our conversations were around the three questions:

- What do I need to be able to meet the future constructively?
- What must I do to be able to access what I need?
- What is my intention for the future?

These conversations I constantly refer to and remember, for their sharing was both deep and insightful. Through all this time it is important to remember that we need each other if we are going to fulfill our destinies. The "other's" experiences and lives are as important to share as being alone with our own meditation. And I realise more and more, how much courage and strength I need to become more open to the other person - and to develop our LISTENING skills for each other; so much more enriching than talking.

The final day and experience of the circle dancing led to much joining together in joyous movement and music and was so beautifully shared by everyone who had something to bring and share. And deep thanks go to Caroline who held the space for us all to enjoy.



*Marian Penfold from Prince Albert in  
happy reunion with Annette Chouler.*

Our Christian Community is as much dependent on The Act of Consecration of Man, as it is on our growing relationships with each ...'warts and all'... as the saying goes. My final understanding of our rich community life is that our Priests, at the helm of our Community, are only as able and willing to assist us in our growing and becoming, as we are willing to nurture each other.

And as we grow in this way we become full of courage to go into the world and spread our Christian lives into a world now dangerously devoid of spirit and soul, and re-enliven it in the hearts and minds of every soul we meet thus bringing Love into our daily connections. This is what I personally took away with me from this most enlivening time together.

With love and gratitude, Carole Penfold.

### ***We may hope.***

**ALL WHO WERE ABLE** to participate in the September celebrations of the Cape Town Community will agree that Richard and Andreas put together a vibrantly nourishing programme for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of the Christian Community here on earth.

There was, as always, much to digest in the way of spiritually inspired and challenging pictures, and carefully considered gifts of insight from both Richard and Andreas. The programme was designed to assist that 'digestive' process, in that there were many short breaks of the culinary



kind, many guided conversations in groups of two (one of Richard's customary 'specialities' for growing courage and seed-like listening, both essential for strengthening community) as well as lots of movement and song.

Michelle had put together a beautiful eurythmy allegory, presented in stages throughout the weekend, which we all helped to co-create under her gentle, inspiring guidance, an experience both growth-ful and graceful. Caroline Hurner led us in circle dancing towards the end of the festivities, moving our souls in a rather different, wonderfully head-free way.

In between, we were drawn back into heart-thinking and head-warming by Richard and Andreas, and then once again a breathing space was allowed with tea, movement or singing, led by Christina Goodall.

The overall theme of the celebrations was about creating, becoming, and planting seeds for the future, in itself an act of faith and courage. For me personally, this is summarised by the words: We may hope.

Thank you to all who were there in body and spirit, and to the priests for their apparently unquenchable enthusiasm. One of the great blessings of community is that we may all hope, together. Truly, we are not alone.

Shirley Marais.

***Gabriele Feiter's thoughts on the Celebrations and how she experienced it.***

- Connectedness and celebration – How are we connected? – How do we celebrate?
- Listening to who we are and how we found our way to the Christian Community.
- Listening back into the history of the Christian Community.
- Listening forward into the future and into what will help us step into this future.
- Contemplations, thoughts, words.
- Eurythmy taking us into the being of a seed; Eurythmy creating the space into which this seed can unfold;
- Eurythmy letting us move to courageously meet the challenges awaiting us.
- Singing, dancing, conversations.
- Sharing, laughing, opening our hearts.
- Welcoming the future.
- Thank you for creating the space to connect and celebrate!

Thank you to all who were willing to share their experiences. Marilize.

### ***Richard's visits to some of our rural members in Southern Cape.***

Our one time trustee chairman, **Leigh Sax**, is now a very happy “farmer Leigh” in Bonnievale where he works a small farm with grapes, luzern and a household veggie garden on the banks of the Breede River. Part of his land is dedicated to a gardening project which he and his friend, Helen, set up - training local women to make compost and to grow veggies organically for their families and to sell. The free land and all their gardening needs are provided for them until they are more self-sufficient. The women carry kilos and kilos of very impressive looking veggies away every week.



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**Riaan and Helen van Zyl** have moved from Stellenbosch and have bought a gem of a 100 hectare farm on top of the mountain above Piketberg. It is a very beautiful area with views all the way to the coast from their house, magnificent sunsets and clean mountain air. About 30% of the land is just wild and the rest is under apples and pears, flowers and pasture.

They are determined to convert the farm into a productive Biodynamic operation and have just introduced five very pretty young Swiss ladies (cows) to this end. There is a great deal to be done including setting up a dairy from scratch. Riaan still keeps his tree business going and Helen is very involved in biodynamic training courses for local students.

Richard Goodall.





## ***Farewell of Family Muirhead.***



**On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022** we had a farewell tea in the foyer for Bruce, Paola and Noah Muirhead. There were mixed feelings of sadness to see them leaving for Italy, which was going to be their new home, and joy for them that they had entered on a new journey of exploring life in all its unknown facets. Amidst all their adjustments to a new life Paola found the time to write us a message and send a few pictures (see below). Thanks, Paola, and our warmest wishes go to you and your family. We look forward to further updates in the future. Marilize.

*Dearest All,*

*We have landed in Italy a little less than two months ago and it feels like a lifetime and at the same time it feels like we have just landed.*

*Adjusting to living in Italy is still a process for us. As we landed, we dived straight into our new lives and routines. The new school's year started on the 15th September for Noah and myself and we both really enjoy our little Village Forest School in Montaldo. Noah is in his element as the school is a real forest school with many classes out in nature, forest walks every week and horse riding. Noah has also started rowing on the river Po with his friend Otis and, somehow, became soccer crazy, overnight! Bruce has set up his office at home and he had to start working pretty much immediately but he does have a beautiful view of the surrounding hills from his office window. Bruce has also made huge progress in learning Italian; I believe that he has morning conversations with nonna Regi (who is our landlord's mum who lives in the same house as our landlords). I am finding my feet as a class teacher, I have a class of 13 children and I co-*

*teach with my English colleague, Gabrielle. We have three Italian children in the class, three bilingual children and seven English speaking children. Children and families are from all over the world.*

*We all love walking around, we are in a rural area and the safety aspect is amazing! Noah and I can walk to and from the school and all around and our only worry is not to cross paths with a cinghiale (wild boar)!*

*We miss the Christian Community and all our beautiful friends in Cape Town and I miss serving so much!*

*One beautiful and peculiar thing of Italy that I had forgotten is the sound of the campane (church bells) that accompany you throughout the day and night; no need for a watch here, the bells will remind you of the time, every hour and every half an hour!*

*With much love from all of us  
Bruce, Noah and Paola.*



***Above from left to right:*** Bruce, Noah and Paola in their new home; Noah and friends celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in the dappled light of a northern Italian forest; Noah and friend seemingly collecting pumpkins!

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A warm thank you to **Patrick Enthoven** for the many beautiful photos he took at the Fair. In due course they will be uploaded onto our website.

Marilize.



## ***Children's camp 2022.***

**THE CHILDREN'S CAMP** will take place this year on the Wildgarten farm outside of Stanford from December 12<sup>th</sup> until December 19<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping for a full camp this year so if you know of families with children between the ages of 10 and 14 who would like to come please get them to email Delphine Oliver at [delphine.oliver@gamil.com](mailto:delphine.oliver@gamil.com)

We have an enthusiastic team of camp helpers and two new cooks – a mother and daughter team – Liesl and Layla. Let us pray for friendly weather!

Richard Goodall.

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## ***Raffle drawn on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September during the Centenary Weekend.***

On Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the 2<sup>nd</sup> raffle from the Fair was drawn. Annette Chouler was the lucky winner of a bottle of olives, one of the speciality products made by Christina Goodall. On the picture Christina is handing it over to Annette surrounded by community members. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize, a coffee machine, will be drawn on Advent Sunday.

Marilize.



*Our church and marquee in the wintry morning sun ready for the opening of our Fair.*