

The Christian Community In Canberra

July – August 2010

Demands of Change - Cheryl Nekvapil

Transformation of substance into healing medicine,-- or whole and living substance which enlivens the earth, plants, animals and us human beings - such activity demands a lot from a 'modern' person. It takes time. It takes contemplation, observation and inner reflection. It takes actually doing something earthy, practical with technical skill. We explored some of these demands at our 'Medicine For the Earth' conference with guidance from our presenters: the farmers - Beatrice Koenig, Peter Bottomley and Ginny Osbourne, and Darius Outhred; the teachers-- Tim Edmondson (also a gardener), Peter Stewart (also an artist) and James Wishart (also a baker); a priest - Cheryl Nekvapil; and a willing band of very active participants who all brought their own disciplines and insights to the theme.

We noted that an early process that happens with transformation is that original form of a substance is broken down before the new can be formed or arise - grain is ground into flour; water with biodynamic preparations added is stirred into chaos before it's ready to be spread; in the Sacrament of human consecration, we recognise our weaknesses and that makes us ready to offer soul and earth substance for transubstantiation.

In the season of St John, we are looking for a change of heart and mind, transformation, but before that, we meet this breaking down in some form as a start to the process-- while such experiences may be distinct as loss, disorientation, newness, relief, pain - they are also a beginning for change as take into ourselves what it means for us. We can take up what is 'broken down' as a sign that heralds opportunity to change our hearts and minds towards wholeness; heeding the teaching of John the Baptist sounding through to our times.

e e cummings expresses possible renewed, awakened sense through profound change:

*i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes*

*(I who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)*

*how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any--lifted from the no
of all nothing--human merely being
doubt unimaginal You?*

*(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*

Medicine For The Earth - Tim Edmondson

Transformation of substance was discussed, acted out, and praised at The Christian Community's Michelago Conference on the 8th May, commencing evening of the 7th. The Ingelara Farm hosted this event, providing warmth and facilities, pumpkins, garlic, and preparations, and received the Act of Consecration of Man on its soil. A large breadth of presentations, activities, ideas and discussions evolved. So many questions! How long is a piece of rope, and when did the Earth start? Was The Big Bang really big? If you stare through a swirling vortex, can you get to the 'other side'? What is the difference between the 'sides'? What is in the middle of a labyrinth? Why do we come out again? ('cause we wouldn't all fit, of course!)

I feel sure that Cheryl had organised this event especially for my sole soul benefit. I hope all the community felt the same way! A BIG thankyou to Cheryl and Peter Stewart for organising such a fab forum. Happy Transforming...

Medicine For The Earth - Mary Harris

A note about the enjoyable weekend at Ingelara.

I understood that we might have to 'rough it' a bit (eg no beds) so I was determined (in spite of my nigh on 82 years) to be in it all. I did take plenty of bedding for sleeping warmly on the floor. But, as it turned out,

there was a bed! With warm bedding I snuggled down, lay still on my back and knew nothing until it was daylight, a warm glow in my back, and thoroughly rested. When I told Paul he said "Don't discount the energy of this bio-dynamic farm". He was right! Exactly the right place was chosen to have a week-end retreat; the activities simply flowed.

Regular events in the community are outlined in the programme which was distributed and mailed out at the end of May 2010. As usual, reminders will be posted on the email group and noted in the Orana School Bulletin.

--SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP --

Sunday 18th July - 10.15am: Musical Morning: contact Elaine Goodman (62864759) or Cheryl Nekvapil for more information.

Sunday 1st August — 10.15 am: The Sunday Service for Children followed by a walk with the children, feeling and observing nature in winter round and about our Chapel.

Sunday 8th August — 10:15 am: **Presentation from Jayne and Joseph Tandi, and Cheryl Nekvapil on their recent trips to Europe** and the significant international events they attended in The Christian Community during May and June. Our view of our congregation changes when we experience it in the context of a national and international movement.

*******NOTE CHANGE OF DATES*******

Saturday 20th August 1.30pm - 4.30pm: **"Development of The Sense of Touch and A Sense of The Other"**: Talk and workshop with Margaret Shaw, author, teacher and therapist who lives in the Blue Mountains and is a regular guest speaker in our community. Margaret has focussed on child and personal development in the domain of the 12 senses for many years, and has recently taken up the theme again as she will share with us in this insightful and essential presentation. All welcome. Cost; Generous donation to The Christian Community.

Sunday 21st August—10.15 am: **"Encountering Evil and Doing the Good - Thoughts arising from the Biographies of Kaspar Hauser, Rudolf Steiner and Adolf Hitler"**. A talk by John Shaw from Sydney, in reference to themes he has shared with us over the years. The title is intriguing and the ideas will provoke further food for thought on a subject which we wrestle with as soon as we strive for the 'good'. John writes:

" I hope that I will stop speaking at the 40 minute mark and allow time for general discussion of what is a matter that should grip the interest of every person who is struggling with the problem of encountering evil and doing the good."

Sunday 29th August — 10.15 am: **Eurythmy Performance by Wanderlight Eurythmy Company - and musicians.**

Wanderlight Eurythmy Company performances, directed by Mark Neill, have been a special item on our programme in the past, and again we can enjoy what the company have brought on tour from Victoria. Eurythmy performances are rare indeed, and not to be missed! Further information will be available soon, but set the morning aside in your diary as a colourful event to delight us with story and movement; suitable for everyone. Cost: Generous donation to The Christian Community

Buteyko Breathing Course with John Wilson: refresher course can be held in August if we have enough people interested in participating. Register your interest & phone

Sarah Stringer on 6161 6088 BEFORE the end of July

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The Christian Community In Canberra has as its sole source of income donations and gifts from its members and friends

Contributions and gifts can be forwarded to Treasurer of the Canberra Community: PO Box 651, Civic Square ACT 2608 or paid into St George Bank Account: BSB 112-908, Account No. 050 589 095.

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BUTEYKO BREATHING COURSE

John and Jocelyn Wilson plan to run a Remedial Breathing Clinic in Canberra, at the Christian Community Chapel, over the nights of Mon 9th , Tue 10th and Thu 12th August. The Clinic will be for approximately 2 hours (6-8pm) on each of those nights with an individual consultation available on either Wed 11th or Thu 12th August. A brochure and a Medical History form to be filled out and returned to John and Jocelyn by 31 July; email: "John" <jgwconsult1@optusnet.com.au>

They need at least 10 individuals to be able to run the Clinic. We already have four definitely attending.

No money goes to John or Jocelyn, they do this for the benefit of the Christian Community. A donation of \$120 is requested to be made to the Christian Community in Canberra, by EFT, cheque or cash on the first night of the Clinic.

Further details for the Clinic will follow when numbers attending are confirmed.

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