



*Edition 1
June 2009*

A Daily Meditation:

The three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) are largely about the historical Jesus who worked miracles, who taught, who promised us a new way of seeing, a new form of life.

In great part, although it is seldom pointed out, Paul is not talking about Jesus; Paul is talking about Christ. Paul hardly ever quotes the historical Jesus and never knew him in the flesh. Really rather shocking when you realize that his letters are one third of the New Testament!

We take Paul as a touchstone of orthodoxy, the central, foundational teacher of Christianity—and yet he hardly quotes Jesus! Something else is going on here, which has largely been off of the Christian radar. Paul has largely fallen in love with "the Christ", and it was Jesus who pointed him there. Most Christians still need to make the same movement, and to believe in both Jesus AND Christ. They are two distinct faith affirmations.

Daily Meditations

Adapted from the Cosmic Christ

Richard Rohr

www.cacradicalgrace.org

Checking our directions: a progress report following our 15th year review:

Last August, as you may remember, most of our staff and leaders of WellSpring programs met for an all-day 'review' of WellSpring, looking at where we've been and where we are heading as an ecumenical spirituality centre.

Some idea of the outcomes of that day's reflection was given to you in a Members' Letter in November. Now I would like to update you on what is happening so far as we wrestle with the key issues that emerged in August.

§ Strengthening the community of WellSpring.

As you will realize from what you are now reading, we're beginning a new-style Newsletter to complement the monthly 'Updates' that are emailed to people. While the Update contains reminders and recent information, the Newsletter will carry stories and descriptions of what has been happening in the community. We are also planning a couple of more light-hearted events that will bring members of the WellSpring community together.

§ Helping people to live their lives contemplatively.

Retreats and seminars, along with the Friday morning Meditation Group, continue to have this as their focus. In addition, we are now providing worship services to mark four special times in the church year. These are designed to provide a place for reflective worship in a contemplative style. (The next one is to celebrate Pentecost.)

§ Supporting leadership.

'Leaders' in this context include not only the Director, but also the leaders of our various programs and activities. A review of Peter's first 5 years as Director was completed in December – strongly affirming his leadership, by the way. In that review we identified some areas where support for him and for other key leaders could be better. The Board is currently discussing plans for improving that support.

§ Links with other spirituality centers and with interfaith networks.

Peter has already taken some steps to enhance these links, by becoming involved in a number of Boards of related centers and networks.

§ Re-sourcing.

While a number of ideas were suggested in August to build a stronger financial base, we are yet to determine how best to do this. The Finance Committee meets shortly to tackle this important question.

§ Clarifying our core business.

As always, this is the key task for us: financial resources and people resources must flow from our knowing

what is the 'heart' of WellSpring and what should be the directions for our future. The August conference ended with some key affirmations about WellSpring along with buckets of ideas! Now we're working as a Board towards developing these into a strategic plan for the next few years.

As you can see, there are a lot of strands to tie together in this process. We rely on God's guidance in our discerning of the way/s ahead. I'm sure you will be behind the Board and others as we seek God's directions for WellSpring. And if you have some responses to this update, they are welcome, too!

Neil Wright, Chair of the Board of WellSpring

The Ash Wednesday Service:

The Ash Wednesday service on the 25th February was a deeply moving experience for me. We gathered in silence in the dimly lit church - the prayer focus spread before us, and the music inviting us to stillness and contemplation.

In the prayer focus was a figure symbolic of worship and humility, surrounded by darkness and candle light.

We were guided through the liturgy with many pauses for silent reflection. After a call to worship we stood thoughtfully to affirm our faith, moving then to the introduction to Ash Wednesday. This was a time of grieving for our human failures, and the assurance of God's loving forgiveness. A meditation, "I am giving you me" followed, and this was read slowly and sensitively - a beautiful prayer of personal commitment.

As the ash was being distributed to each person, we were assured of the peace and comfort of the Lord's presence always as we sang the chant, "My peace I leave you"

The whole service was a lovely entrance to the journey through Lent.

Heather Telfer



Kinglake 14/02/09

Diarmuid O'Murchu:
Workshops - January 2009:

A Reflection on His Workshop, given at the Wellspring Centre.



When I reflect on what impinged on me during the workshops, two words spring to mind - shifts and enlargement. A major shift was the invitation to consider God as Goddess, continually giving birth, in preference to a male patriarchal figure. The benefits of abandoning dualistic frameworks were highlighted frequently e.g. rather than personal vs. impersonal to consider transpersonal. I can only realize my full potential when I am connected to all other forms of life which are, essentially, pure energy. Energy, which has resided in the language of physics, can be seen as the living Spirit of God.

I need to be able to hold paradox which is a contradiction that has meaning written underneath it. The wisdom to live with paradox is within us. It is the wisdom of the heart.

Coming to grips with a much longer time scale was exciting, seeing myself as an evolutionary product of 7 million years of human history. Some reconsideration of Incarnation is necessary when we accept that God has been with us in every stage of human development. One particular phrase "the lure of the future" resonated with me when Diarmuid spoke about being not just driven by the past but called forth by the future.

We were invited to replace the phrase "kingdom of God" with "companionship of empowerment" which seems to exemplify the work of Jesus. Diarmuid used many metaphors in his talks. Two that appealed immensely to me were the need for "hospice carers and midwives", i.e. we have an obligation to help the old order die well and we need people to help to give re-birth.

One of the more powerful segments of the workshop was when we met outside under some trees. We used the metaphor of how the tree receives its energy and we considered its rootedness. Diarmuid spoke of his Irish cultural and religious roots and how he uses them as a springboard to enable him to become a person of the cosmos.

I am a person who responds to symbols and I noticed on the trunk of the tree next to me a deep scar in the shape of an arched window enclosed by a circle. Immediately I saw it as a church window encircled by the cosmos but the important part was that the inner sign was WINDOW. And what is the function of a window? To let in the Light.

I felt as if the workshop has given me permission to be fully adult and to incorporate this extra learning alongside my Catholic faith.

Be Not Afraid.

By the grace of god we are where we are.

Spiritual Direction Formation:
A New Era:

The spiritual direction formation program has been running at WellSpring for fourteen years in the same format and time frame. It has been a formula that seems to have worked very well for those who can take time out during the working week and attend the regular weekly gatherings.

After receiving only a few registrations for the spiritual direction formation program at the end of last year, we were faced with working out where we should go from here. Several people had said to me over the last couple of years that they would consider doing the formation program if it was offered out of working hours. On the basis of having recently heard someone make this comment, the team decided to open up registrations to those interested in doing the formation program out of working hours.

The response to the invitation was overwhelming with a level of applications that justified offering a program to a full group of level 1 applicants. We thought we may get enough to run our regular Wednesday weekly program as well as an after hours program but the interest in the after hours program led to us only being able to offer the after hours program.

The new format involves regular monthly gatherings starting with a full weekend live-in workshop at the end of February which covers the equivalent of the first four weeks of lectures from the original program and three practical sessions of spiritual direction practice.

The group then gathers on the third Saturday of each month for a morning session based on the Wednesday morning formats we have been running. There are a couple of intensive fuller weekends that coincide with the third weekend gathering to make up the hours to match the original program.

This means that those in formation now take three years to complete their formation program in comparison to the two years in the previous program.

The year has started well with 13 people in formation including a majority of men for the first time in the 14 years of running the formation program.

We will be reviewing the future of the program later in the year with a view to making a decision about whether we continue to offer the new intakes the original program, the out of hour version or a combination of the two.

This is part of the transition the WellSpring program continues to move through and we look forward to where it is taking us and what God is saying to us in the process.

Treasurer Wanted:

After over 10 years of keeping the books and making sure the money lasts, John Sudholz is trying to really retire. John has been a very creative and thorough treasurer. He feels it is time for some fresh financial blood to be injected into the treasury position and so he is retiring from the treasurer's position and the Board as of the next AGM meeting in August.

So we are on the prowl for a new treasurer. Do you know of anyone who would be free to take on the role of treasurer for WellSpring? It would involve collecting money, processing accounts and reporting to the Board on a monthly basis. If you are interested, the next step might be to talk to Peter Bentley or to John himself.

If you do know someone else who may be interested in being treasurer, please contact Peter on 9885 0277.

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Director: Peter Bentley
Spiritual Direction: Kathryn Duncan
Program Co-ordinator: Marg Loftus
Volunteer Co-ordinator: Marg Loftus
Administration: Neil Savage

Programs & Contacts:

Reconciliation: Tim McCowan
Dream Network: Jean McGonigal
Retreats: Margaret Donald
Meditation: Peter Leaver
Celtic style Worship: Julie Renner
Taizé style Services: Andrew Woff
Men's Dinner: Margaret Loftus
Poetry Network: Elizabeth Lee
Enneagram Network: Margaret Biviano
Seminars: Margaret Loftus
Friday Prayer & Communion: Peter Bentley
Art: Lyn Vigo

June/July Dates:

See your [2009 Program](#) for further details.

June 3, 8.00-9.00pm, Taizé-style Prayer Around the Cross.

June 5, 12, 19, and 26, Fridays, Christian Meditation 10.00-11.00am.

June 9, Tuesday, Enneagram Network. 7.30-9.30pm. \$20/\$25.

June 11, Thursday, Dream Network. 1.00-3.00pm. \$10

June 12, Friday, Sophia Circles. 10.00am-12.30pm Judith Lynch. \$10

June 16, Tuesday, Kitchen Table Prayers, 10am-12.30pm Judith Lynch. \$15/20

June 18, Thursday, Retreat Day, 9.30am-1.00pm George Warren. \$15

June 18, Thursday, Celtic Style Worship Service. 8.00pm.

June 21-22, Saturday and Sunday: Enneagram II. Gordon Carter. \$120/\$140.

June 24, Wednesday, Life, the Universe and Everything! 7.30-9.30pm. Neil Savage. \$15/20.

July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, Fridays. Christian Meditation. 10.00-11.00am.

July 9, Thursday, Dream Network. 1.00-3.00. \$10.

July 10, Friday, Sophia Circles. 10am-12.30pm. Judith Lynch. \$10.

July 14, Tuesday, Enneagram Network. 7.30-9.30pm. \$20/\$25.

July 18, Saturday, Retreat Day. 9.30-3.30pm. Michael Mosley. \$25/\$30.

July 22, Wednesday, Life, the Universe and Everything! 7.30-9.30pm. Neil Savage. \$15/20.

July 28, Tuesday, Retreat Day. Bronwyn Checkley. 9.30-12.30. \$15.

July 28, Tuesday, Men's Dinner: Like seasons of the year... 6.15-8.30pm. John Stewart. \$30 includes dinner.

July 19-21, Sunday-Tuesday, Retreat: Gathering in Circles of Trust. Chris Page and Marg Loftus. 5.00pm Sunday to 2:30pm Tuesday. \$240/\$260