

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Whispers of the Spirit

The period of Lent we find ourselves in at present, provides for us a time to reflect on the life of Jesus, the Sacred Path he walked, his death and message of resurrection and the 'new life' that can be found in relationship with the Divine. The Gospels tell us stories of this time, each a little different from the other as you might expect. In the opening article of this Edition, found on page 8, Rick Sarre provides a thought-provoking version of events surrounding the Last Supper, clearly articulating the symbolism of why we continue to share in the 'Lord's supper' on a regular basis. The sharing of bread and wine raises our path of discipleship to a place of awareness regularly, reconnecting us to the One who is the source of All, lighting our path.

In her article "Living Jesus: Moving toward the peaceful One", found on page 20, Katie Harmon-McLaughlin talks about how "Paying attention to what is happening within us is not an exercise in private spirituality. Rather, it is a critical practice for disciples who desire to root their lives in the same source as the One they seek." I have found this to be an 'absolute truth' in my own life.

Several months ago I was helping out at a kids program one morning at my local congregation. It had been in full swing for about 15 minutes or so when I felt a rush of emotions come over me. My thoughts were drawn to a dear friend who I knew was going through some personal struggles. I attempted to re-engage with the children and parents. It was a really joyous time; children dancing, singing and attempting to do all the actions to the songs; parents not used to this kind of activity, stepping outside their comfort zones, doing the same. I did my best to remain present with those surrounding me, all the while aware of this sense of urgency to go to my friend, justifying to myself that I could pop over after, when this had finished. But inspired words flooded my thoughts and I could no longer deny the call. I excused myself, apologised to everyone, and left.

I knocked on her front door, and waited somewhat impatiently, not knowing the situation I was walking into. My friend opened the door still dressed in her pyjamas, looking drawn and weary. She flung open the screen door and threw her arms around my neck, sobbing, whispering



to me that she had just been praying that God would send her the peace she needed, "And here you are" she said. We spent the next hour or so together, expressing and listening, clarifying and feeling, finding peace.

This Sacred Path on which we walk is full of these moments, yet too often we gloss over feelings that momentarily come over us or thoughts that pop into our head about someone we know. We might acknowledge the thought and even say to ourselves, "yeah, I must catch up with them soon", but then we move on.

Distractions are real and right in front of us. We have responsibilities and commitments, but the challenge for those of us who choose to be disciples of The Christ is to recognise these moments and see them not just as serendipitous or coincidental, but rather as instruction and guidance as to how to "be" on the Sacred Path. These moments are a direct consequence of the relationship we have built with the Divine.

Michael Wright in his article titled "Sacred Space" articulates another example of what some might see as coincidence, but as a follower of Jesus I read this story through a different lens; one that sees movement of the Spirit, acknowledgment of that movement and blessings that flowed as a result.

In her interview with Scott Murphy, Linda Booth's questions draw answers that provide real, tangible examples of how Community of Christ is 'being' the Body of Christ during a time in history when organized religions are transitioning and transforming. Likewise, "Doorways", by Anne Bonnefin, reminds us that when we fail to walk through new doorways, we potentially miss the opportunity for joy in great abundance. Alice's kid's corner poetically reflects upon the many ways we connect and build upon our relationship with God and challenges us to think about how we teach this to our young ones.

It's my hope that as you journey through this Edition of the Herald, that your awareness of the Spirit as it speaks to you, prompts you, and calls you into new ways of living out your discipleship, is heightened. May this season of Lent be a time of awakening and of transformation for you, as it was for the One we follow.

Leigh Lonsdale

Editorial Team