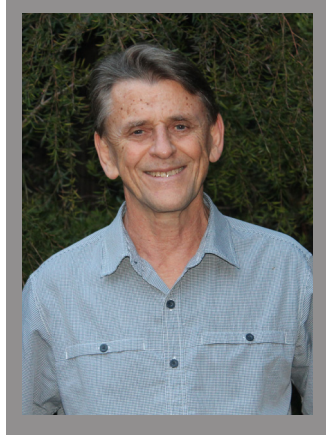


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

For everyone born

Following the Christchurch massacre in 2019 Farid Ahmed, the husband of one of the victims, gained worldwide attention when he publicly stated that he forgave the gunman who had murdered his wife and 50 other Muslims. At the time of the massacre Farid was confined to a wheelchair. Farid subsequently published a book titled, *Husna's Story: My Wife, The Christchurch Massacre and My Journey to Forgiveness* in which he relates how his wife, after ensuring the safety of women and children around her, was shot and killed when she went to look for Farid in his wheelchair. Farid said that one of the reasons why he wrote the book was that, "I wanted to show that despite the horror and hatred of 15 March 2019, love, peace and harmony should prevail, not hatred or anger."



Our theme in this issue is Pursuing Peace: for everyone born. Recalling Farid and Husna's story made me think about the sort of qualitative change in behaviour that faith can produce. Studies into people like Husna, who exhibit extreme altruism find that they have high levels of empathy enabling them to experience how others are feeling and combine this with a strong desire to alleviate the suffering of others. Such people feel what is right without having to think about it.

From this issue onwards the Australian Herald will be published bi-monthly with May/June being the next issue. Among the articles in the current issue are several that reflect the transforming and motivating power of faith. People who both feel and think about what is right. Mimi Brunsdon interviews Matthew Bolton on his work with non-government organisations trying to mitigate the effects of inhumane weapons and the arm's trade and particularly his work with the International Campaign

to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Rick Collins writes of the inspiration he has received from the life and writings of Paulo Friere author of *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* where he finds 'A tenderness that recognised the power in each of us to become catalysts for change, and to move our communities, societies and world closer to transformation'. Community of Christ President Steve Veazey reflects on who alternative processes for achieving common consent can respect and honour the

worth of all concluding that, 'Our faithful engagement as a sacred community will help us find a pathway on nonviolence that keeps us following Jesus the peaceful One.'

Faith also can be expressed in literature and in music which can affect who and how we are. Anne Bonnefin challenges us to try to write a poem or create some artwork for peace and sets out the steps involved in writing a French Pantoum for those who want to try. Kristie Woodward writes on Songs/Musicals that have inspired her while Rick Sarre writes of books that have changed his life.

Recalling the forgiveness shown by Farid Ahmed of course made me think of the forgiving love shown by Jesus, the crucified one, the epitome of extreme altruism. Hopefully, reading and reflecting on the content of this issue will assist each of us to appreciate the transforming power of God's love and forgiveness for everyone born.

John Taylor

Editorial team member