

# NEWSLETTER

*Community of Adian and Hilda Australia*

Australian Wattle Acacia

# Welcome

**BY BRUCE CHALLONER**

EDITOR

What a great joy it is to see the blossoms on the trees and the spring flowers starting to bloom. It is a time to marvel at God's creation blossom after cold nights and winter days. I find that God is talking to me, reassuring me that regardless what trials and tribulations I might go through, he lightens up my life with his creation.

Spring has this great mystery of newness. How a rose plant pruned back to stalk stumps growing out of the ground, to budding green foliage and eventually, a rainbow of vibrant colours as a rose plant flowers. I have always stood in awe of God revealing himself from his creation. How often, in the business of life, do we fail to stop and smell the roses! The sweet scent reminds me of the Holy Spirit. Reminding me he still is there, still working, still loving with his sweet aroma.

Belden Lane in his book, *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes* talks about the difference between habitat and *habitus* (where one lives and how one practices a habit of being). Belden suggests that due to our modern technological society, we have lost the connection between habitat and *habitus* and therefore the spiritual component between us and mother earth. In other words, we not only do not stop to smell the roses, we do not even know they are there, let alone how to smell them.

Spring has the sense of new beginnings, when flowering buds burst forth from sticks of wood and here in Australia, lambs frolic in the fields, but not yet, too far from mothers side.

When was the last time you found a quiet place outdoors and sat in silence, surrounded by the majesty of God. It doesn't have to be Spring, it can also be in the depths of winter, the scorching heat of summer or the cooling days of Autumn. What do you feel, hear, smell or taste? Did feel the beat of a busy bee against your skin? Or look at your feet to discover the world of ants and bugs.

The first people in Australia knew about spirituality and its connection to the earth thousands of years before the second people arrived. We have much to learn about how to reconnect spiritually to God's creation. How in the middle of an empty Australian desert, can my soul blossom as Spring?

Australian Magpie



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## Annual Renewal

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Each year, on the 17th November, St Hilda's Day (Hildatide), a Voyager reads or reviews their Personal Application of the Way of Life in the days leading up to the annual renewal. Please use the Community of Aidan and Hilda Handbook, page 39 for further directions.

It is also the time for annual renewal of fees for Friends, Explorers or Voyagers of Aidan and Hilda Australia. The fees for 2019 are as

follows. For Explorers or Voyagers : For those working full time \$100 each. If it is for Husband/wife then the combined fee is \$150. For Pensioners and unemployed, it is \$40. If it is for husband/wife then the combined fee is \$60.

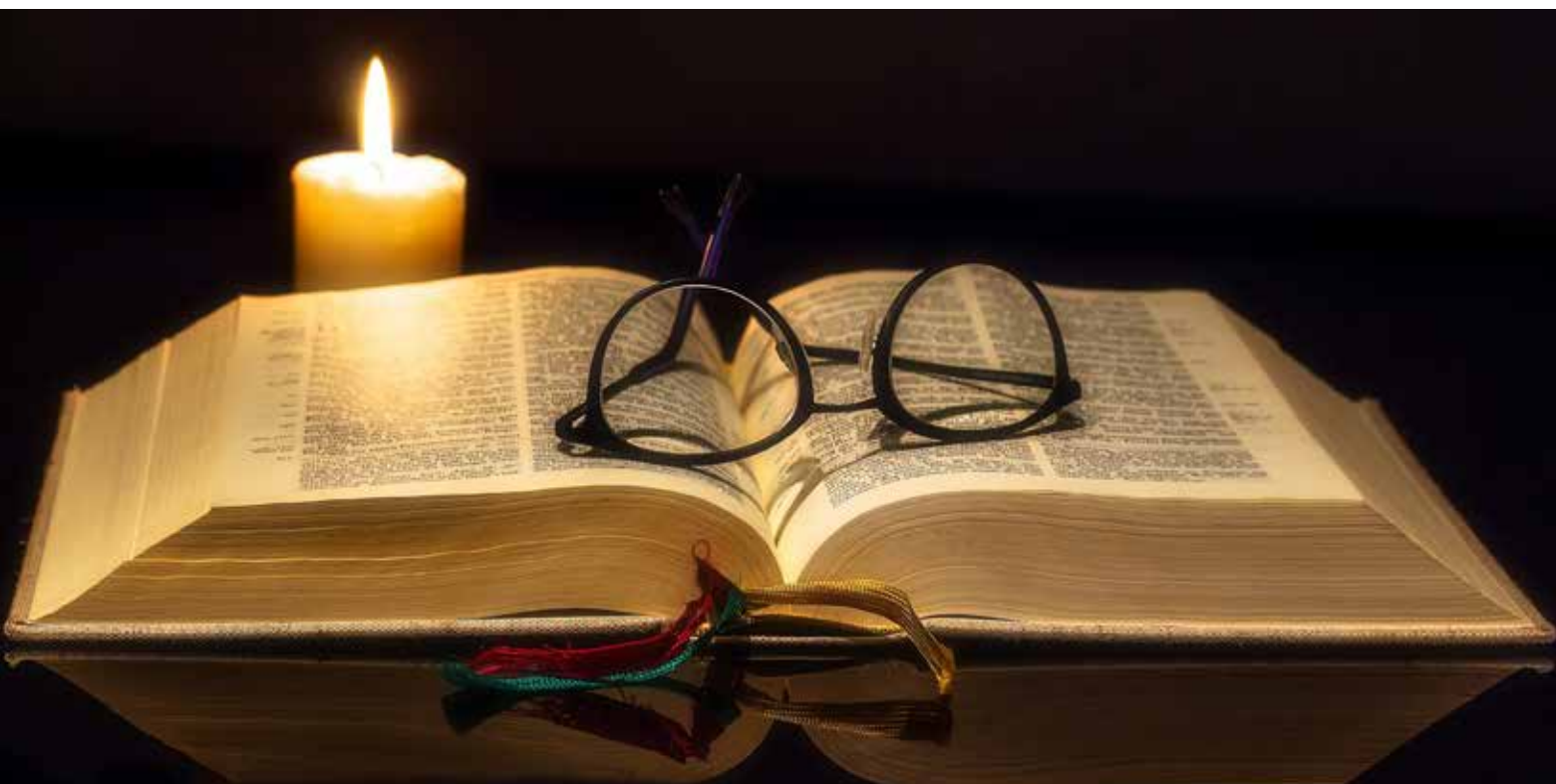
If you are an Enquirer or Friend of Aidan and Hilda and would like to make a donation, then send to bank details following. If this fee would cause

hardship, give whatever you can. Prayerfully consider a donation.

Fees are used to purchase material, as well as the up-keep of the Community. With Simon Reeds visit in October, there will be expenses organising this event with travel and accommodation.

Bank transfer details are:  
Bendigo Bank BSB 633000  
Account 156903775

If you have any queries please contact the Editor, Bruce Challoner at [challoner@bigpond.com](mailto:challoner@bigpond.com) or call 0400546449.



# The 'How To' of James

**BY BRUCE CHALLONER**  
LARA, VICTORIA

Let's turn our attention to James 4: and continue our series on the "How To' of James. Chapter 4, verses 1-3 'How To Pray Without Pride'

The passage talks about quarrels and arguments and their lusts for earthly things they do not have. Remember, this letter is to a Christian church. Then they wonder why prayer appears so fruitless. Verse 3 tells us, 'you ask, but do not receive because of wrong motives'.

James continues to return to the topic of pride throughout

his writings. What is Pride?

In Australia, we had a very successful TV comedy called 'Kath and Kim'. The sitcom was a story of a cheery, suburban middle-aged mother and her self-indulgent daughter living in Fountain Lakes, Victoria. When Kath, the mother wanted her daughter's attention, she would say, 'Look at me. Look at me'.

A simple definition of pride would be a person telling the world around them, 'Look at me'. Wanting thanks

from others for doing a task. Recognition of importance to others. Desiring superiority over another. Needing to win at anything, including an argument. Having to prove others wrong and them right or telling others how wrong someone else is and how good they are.

It is a person finding faults in others, criticising others, a harsh, judgmental spirit. A superficial spirit that does one thing in public and the other in private. A defensive spirit that refuses to acknowledge any of their wrongs as it is always the other person's fault, while the 'Look at me' is without saying it, 'Am I not better than them?'

The opposite to 'Look at me' would be humility - 'Don't look at me'.

The early desert fathers saw pride as the first offspring of the devil, such was the focus needed to warn so strongly against it in so many writings. These writings were influenced by James words.

John Cassian (360-435AD) writings On the Eight Vices On Pride explains: "Our eighth struggle is against the demon of pride, a most sinister demon, fiercer than all that have been discussed. Up till now. He attacks the perfect above all and seeks to destroy those who have mounted almost to the heights of holiness. Just as a deadly plague destroys not just one member of the body, but the whole of it, so pride corrupts the whole soul, not just part of it. Each of the other passions that trouble the soul, attacks and tries to overcome the single virtue which is opposed to it, and so it darkens and troubles the soul only partially. But the passion of pride darkens the soul completely and leads to its utter downfall".

For the Christian today, prayer is not normally seen as a place where Pride resides, but remember, James is speaking from experience and knew how much pride filtered into prayer.

I wonder how many of us have been to a prayer session that was actually a gossip session. Everyone talked about everyone else's sins (but not their own) and how they (the other person)

needed the help of God so much. By the end of the so called, 'prayer session', you knew everything about everyone else in the church, but nothing about the person praying.

James was no stranger to prayer. In a book, written outside of the Bible, a historic document called Commentaries on the Acts of the Church, written about 150AD says:

"James, the Lord's brother, ... was permitted to enter the holy place: for he did not wear any woollen garment, but fine linen only. He alone, I say, was wont to go into the temple: and he used to be found kneeling on his knees, begging forgiveness for the people- so that the skin of his knees became horny like that of a camel's, by reason of his constantly bending the knee in adoration to God, and begging forgiveness for the people".

From early writings, we can say James, the first martyr, knew about prayer.

From verse 4:1 to verse 9

### How to be Humble

Interwoven in the first nine verses James introduces us to the opposite of pride - humility.

Verse 4 says "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"

For example. If you went by the world's definition of being successful today, you would have traits such as being self-determined, self-reliance, self-confident, strong willpower, passion to succeed.

Using God's view of humility we discover the opposites - success for the Christian means there is no self, (that has to go); long suffering (not after instant gratification), faithful to God, gentle, kind, loving, peaceful, humble - notice, no quarrels or arguments.

Verse 6: Because humility was understood to the Jewish Christians, James quotes Proverbs 3:34 "Surely He scorns the scornful, But, gives grace to the humble." On the topic of humility passages such as Jeremiah 9:23-24 were also well known to the Jews.

They would only boast if the outcome was of the Lord.

The word humble has an interesting New Testament twist. The word does not imply an attitude dependent solely on the human will (self has no part in humility). Humility or being humble is used as a sign of salvation and can also mean "meek". It is a word used by James that insinuates an action given by God when a person works at being conformed to his image. James is NOT talking about a human temperament or desire. He is talking about what we receive from a loving God.



When we apply this understanding to Scripture, we can never read Matthew 5:5 the same way again. 'Blessed are the *meek*, For they shall inherit the earth'.

Your Bible version may replace meek with gentle, humble, blessed or mourn. Same Greek word, same insinuation, just different translation.

The state of being humble is given to us by God as we conform to his image.

If you ever travel to Bethlehem as a pilgrim, and you go to the Basilica of the Nativity, make sure you go to the Nativity Square side of the Basilica, and enter through the Door of Humility. It still retains this ancient portal, which is a tiny doorway barely a meter and a half high. Its lowness was meant to prevent anyone from entering on horseback, to protect this holy site. The reduced dimensions of this doorway challenges visitors today with a message: "We must bend down; spiritually we must as it were, go on foot, in order to pass through the portal of faith and encounter the God who is so different from our prejudices and opinions – the God who conceals himself in the humility of a newborn baby."

Re-read James with a good commentary to help you gain insights into what God is saying to you about pride and humility.

## Reflections on James

Here are some questions to reflect on. The ones in black are on Pride and the ones in white are on Humility. At the end is a saying to ponder over.

If Christ showed us humility by allowing himself to be beaten and hung on a cross, what ways can we show humility today?

What specific acts of his humility can we become in relationships with family and friends?

What specific human traits do you show such as stubbornness, anger, pride, or jealousy, that can be worked at putting off? Write a list of at least ten.

May this be your daily prayer. "Lord put me into situations in which I am to practice your humility."

Remember your last disagreement with someone. What was the outcome? What pride did you experience in the other person and yourself?

What sacrifices can you make in the coming week to be more humble? Make a list of five sacrifices. They can be really simple as "listen to the other person without interjecting"; "admit immediately you know you were wrong"; "back out of any argument you find yourself in"; "clean up without being asked"; are just a few of the many sacrifices that can be made.

Ask a close personal friend to list five prideful traits they see in you. Without any justification, write the five down and reflect on ways you can change them to humility.

The saying, "pride goes before a fall" or 'pride comes before a fall' taken from Proverbs 16:18, implies things going wrong. What falls have you experienced with Pride. List at least five.

And the saying to ponder over:

The beginning of greatness is to be little, the increase of greatness is to be less, and the perfection of greatness is to be nothing. - What ways can you apply this saying in your life?

# Visit by Simon Reed

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Simon Reed is minister of two Anglican churches in multicultural West London, where he has lived for over 20 years. He is also one of the three Guardians of the Community of Aidan and Hilda, and is Chairman of their Caim Council.

The visit is to see in what ways the Community can be helped and to discover the unique situation within Australia. His guidance and support will be invaluable for our future directions.

Friends, followers and members of the Community

in Australia may have the opportunity to speak with Simon on any issue. Please look at the times for the State he is visiting and contact Bruce Challoner at [challoner@bigpond.com](mailto:challoner@bigpond.com) or ring his mobile 0400546449 if you would like time with Simon.

Tuesday 15th October	Arrive Sydney PM
Wednesday 16th October	Newcastle for day and evening.
Thursday 17th October	Train Newcastle/Sydney/Canberra
Friday 18th October	Canberra
Saturday 19th	Canberra
Sunday 20th October	Canberra
Monday 21st October	Fly Canberra to Brisbane
Tuesday 22nd October	Brisbane
Wednesday 23rd October	Brisbane
Thursday 24th October	Fly Brisbane to Melbourne
Friday 25th October	Melbourne
Saturday 26th October	Melbourne
Sunday 27th October	Melbourne
Monday 28th October	Melbourne to Adelaide
Tuesday 29th October	Adelaide
Wednesday 30th October	Adelaide
Wednesday 30th October	Evening - fly Adelaide to London
Thursday 31st October	London

A program of venues and times will be released by the end of the month. Look on our website [www.aidanandhilda.org.au](http://www.aidanandhilda.org.au) for further details.



Black Cockatoo by Budgme



Koala family by Fotoshop Tofs



## Prayer For Spring

Glorious creator of the Seasons, we thank you for the time of Spring. We stand in awe at the way you bring forth new life from the soil, animals and insects. We marvel at the way you can turn an empty desert into a rainbow of colours of blooming flowers. Lord take our hearts, our minds, our souls and create a new and vibrant change that is honouring to you. Allow your Spring to well up within us.

## Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, your heart's desire is for families, for you gave us your Son so that we may become part of your family. We pray for families on this earth that are shattered and broken by war, poverty, abuse and unforeseen circumstances. May your loving tears wash over the heartache and suffering. May they experience a touch from you and know of your love for them.

## Prayer for the Elderly

Gracious life giver, we pray for the elderly. Ones healthy and sick, active and inactive, strong or fragil. All need your support and care in the afternoon hours of life. May they know of your love, even in the last moments of their life on earth. Allow your Holy Spirit to show them calmness, peace, love and serenity. May they be surrounded by loving and caring family members and friends and never loneliness.



Canberra October 2013

A word for when you find yourself in difficult circumstances and are struggling to see your way through - Author Unknown

Is there no other way open,  
 God,

Except through sorrow, pain,  
 and loss,

To stamp Christ's likeness on  
 my soul

No other way except the  
 cross?

And then a voice stills all my  
 soul

As stilled the waves of  
 Galilee,

"Can you not bear the  
 furnace heat

If in the flames I walk with  
 you?

"I bore the cross. I know its  
 weight.

I drank the cup I hold for  
 you.

Can you not follow where I  
 lead

I'll give you strength. Lean  
 hard on Me."



# Aboriginal Dreamtime

## *Trawloolway - Tasmania*

One of our creation stories tells how Moinee, a wombat-ancestor, took some earth up to the sky and used it to fashion Parlevar, the first Trouwernen, who looked like a man but who had a tail like a kangaroo and legs without knee-joints. This meant that Parlevar could not lie down to sleep and was in great discomfort. Luckily, the star-ancestor, Dromerdeener, took pity on Parlevar by removing his tail and creating knee-joints.

This made life far more comfortable for Parlevar! Parlevar lived in the sky with Moinee and Dromerdeener for a very long time, but eventually he decided to come to the earth by walking down the lore-way we know as the Milky War. Moinee eventually followed and, in order to protect Parlevar, fought against many evil spirits, including the terrifying Wrageowrapper.

Moinee also set about moulding the land so that it

would provide sustenance and a pleasant habitation for Parlevar. In this he was helped but two other creator-ancestors. Laller, the ant-ancestor, made great big dents in the ground which would become lakes. When Moinee's many other children fell to the earth in the form of rain, they also set about shaping the land. When their work in the landscape was finished, they lay down to form mountains, and small islands around the coast of Trouwerner. Moinee himself became a large rock at Kribbiggerr

(Cox Bight) in the far south of Trouwerner. Thus the presence of our ancestors remains in the landscape, and in the many animals and plants they brought into being.

*Gondwana Theology by Garry Worete Deverell, page 11 - as told by Woorraddy, an elder of the Nuenonne people of Bruny Island, and Manalargenna, my ancestor from the Trawloolway people of the North-East, to George Augustus Robertson, a lay Anglican preacher, who was appointed the 'Protector of Aborigines'.*

Dunes - North Eastern Tasmania - Tas Gov.



# Book Review: Gondwana Theology

Gondwana Theology by Garry Worete Deverell is a challenging book about the relationship between indigenous aboriginals and the arrival of white men to Australia, whom Garry calls the first and second people.

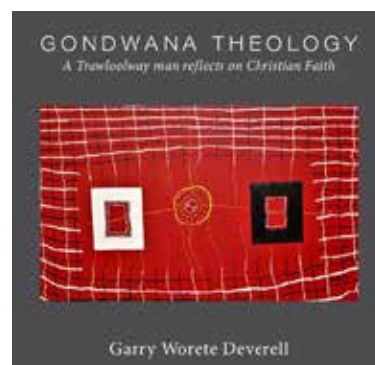
Down through Australian history the 'second' people have seen themselves as the 'superior' of the two, with little understanding of the culture or spiritual nature of the 'first' people.

Garry is an Anglican minister in Melbourne seeking to bring the two together as equal. Garry asks the question, "What will it require of each of us to live together well in the land?"

He attempts to address the issues that would stop this

from happening and what is needed for it to happen.

He addresses the word 'spirituality' from an Aboriginal understanding, explaining from a Christian perspective the land is not a dwelling place for humans to buy, sell, take or do whatever they want, but actually is the spiritual resting place of their creator-ancestors and is found in every "river, mountain, sea, and a myriad of animals and plants". The earth is a vibrant, living organism that needs our respect and care. In a sense, as found in Genesis, the Spirit of God was present in all he created. The land of aboriginal people is a living, breathing religious text. With a deep spiritual understanding that is often missed by the 'second'



people since their arrival.

The chapters are on First Peoples Spirituality, Towards a Theology of First Peoples Spirituality, The Unfinished Business of Reconciliation, On Racism and the Trinity and A Letter to My First Nations Sisters and Brothers Concerning the Church.

The last section of the book is on 'A Christian Eucharist for Gondwana' and contains a full service (in the Anglican tradition) but uses language better suited for Australian Lifestyles. Garry writes with compassion and in places anger (rightfully so), at the ways the first peoples of this nation have been treated.

We need to come together as one nation to show, for the first time, mercy, help, justice and love that both 1st and 2nd peoples may finally be free. Nothing less will do. All together, loving as Christ intended us to.

Preminghana/Mt Cameron West - North East Tasmania - Tas Gov.







Sorrento, Victoria

## Joining the Community

If you would like more information on the Community of Aidan and Hilda Australia, drop me an email at [challoner@bigpond.com](mailto:challoner@bigpond.com). I will send you a brochure with further information. You can also look at our website at [aidanandhilda.org.au](http://aidanandhilda.org.au) If you have someone you know who is interested, we can add them to our mailing list to be sent newsletters and further information.

## Waymarks of Life Website by Ray Simpson

Ray Simpson has created a website of daily readings on Aidan and Hilda. The site [www.waymarksoflife.com](http://www.waymarksoflife.com). An email is sent each day for seven days, then seven days for reflection, then the cycle starts again. The course is self-guided, but students may add insights and resources to the Facebook page (only for those that sign-up for the emails).



Canberra October 2013



Canberra October 2013

## Articles for Newsletter

If anyone would like to write an article for the newsletter or a book review, send us an email (See last page). We are also compiling Australian prayers and stories of Australian Christians who have blessed others as an example of a life in service to Christ. Any prayer or story would be gratefully received.

## Daily Rhythm

We are also on the lookout on how Christians seek to establish a daily rhythm of prayer. Included in this are the prayers you use for different situations, as well as daily communication with God. Remember, prayer does not need to have speech. It can be silent. Let us know how you establish rhythm so we can share the different ways.

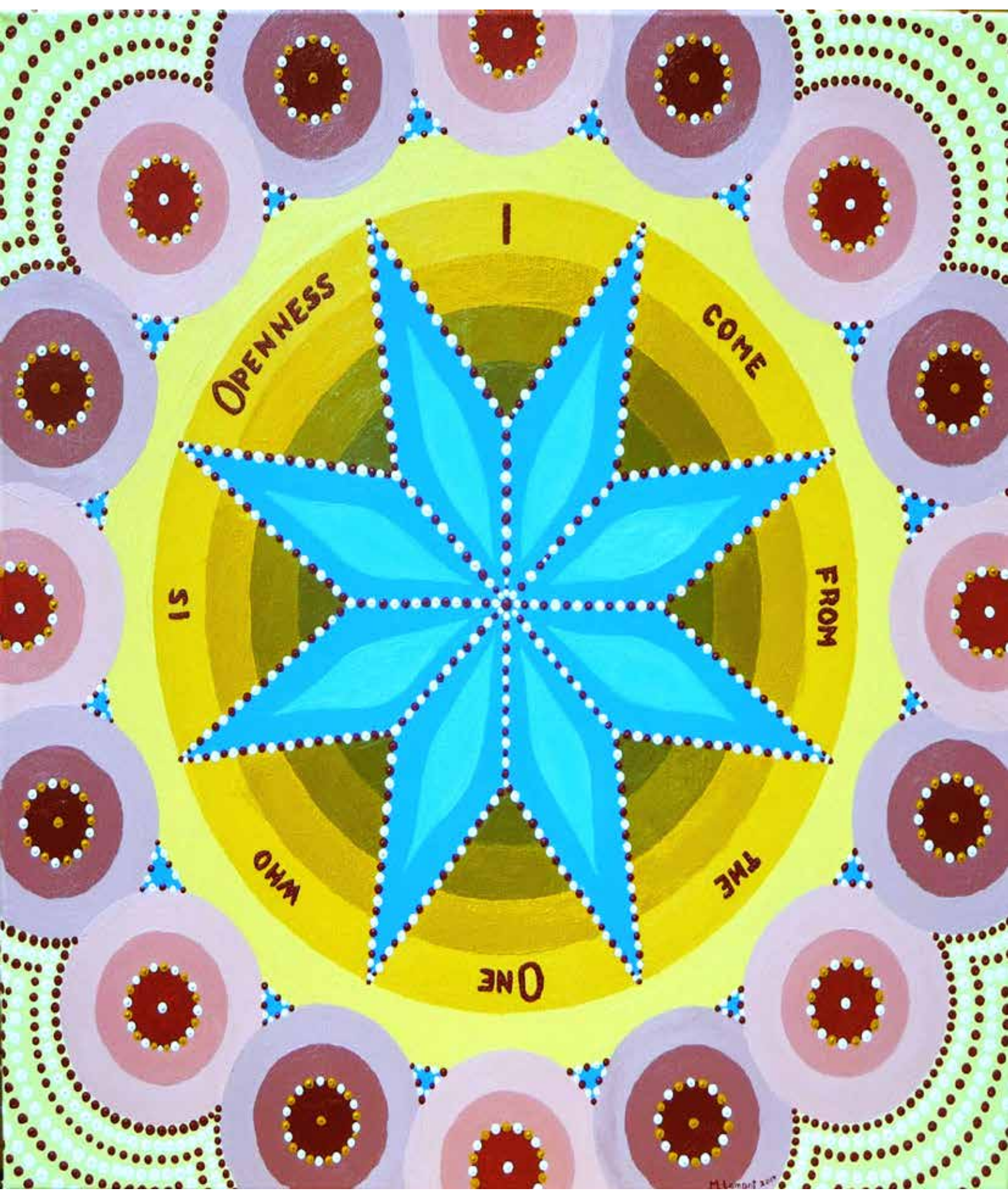


Cobram, Victoria 2016

## Our Soul

Our soul can be likened to an onion. Our soul is encrusted with layers of sin. Each one has to be peeled off through confession and forgiveness. We cannot join in union with God at the centre until all the layers have been peeled away.





# Openness Mandala

**BY MATT LAMONT**

NEWCASTLE, NSW

This painting was inspired by Logion 61 of the Gospel of Thomas as translated by Jean Yves Leloup. In this short wisdom parable Yeshua (Jesus) is asked by his host Salome who he is and where he comes from. His reply is:

I come from the One who is Openness

This striking statement seems to capture the very essence of He who speaks it. His utterance appears to invite us into not only openness but also oneness, unity and perhaps even into the mystery of what is called the Kingdom of God or the peaceable kingdom of Isaiah. Leloup says that Openness, 'as the least blasphemous name for God', is the 'Infinite Space within the very heart of space, containing all and contained by nothing'. As unexpected as it may seem the traditions that have sprouted up in response to the life of Jesus direct us, at least in part, towards his capacity for openness. We are not simply to observe or imitate this openness but embody it even through our limitations, resistances and hardships.

I remember a Friend telling me that at a certain point in

her journey she had simply decided 'to be open'. This meant that she would be open to spiritual wisdom no matter its source and how it came to her. This did not mean an abandonment of discernment or reflection but taking the time to attend to what had been given to her.

How common it seems for writings of a theological or spiritual nature to explore how we can open up. Further along in the same logion from the Gospel of Thomas Yeshua indicates what follows from openness in contrast to division. When disciples are open, they are filled with light. When they are divided they are filled with darkness.

In the painting the eight pointed star contains eight diamonds to indicate that openness expands awareness in all directions seen and unseen. This radical openness seems to carry the quality of immensity. One small glimpse is enough to sense its potential.

May you be well. May you be open and at peace.

## Reflections on Openness

Take the time to reflect on the following points.

What does 'openness' mean to you?

In light of what Leloup's definition of 'Openness', define 'Openness' in one sentence.

The New American Standard Bible says in Acts 28:31 "preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered." Compare with other versions. What does this passage imply?

Using your sentence on 'Openness' towards yourself, what changes in your own life do you need to make to be 'open' towards God?

If you were to draw out your understanding on 'Openness', what would your drawing look like and what elements would you include. Discuss your drawing with your soul friend.



# TheEnd!

Our logo, the Southern Cross is considered Australia's oldest symbol.

Australia's Indigenous cosmology has understood its spiritual significance for millennia.

As Christians, the Southern Cross reminds us of Jesus Christ and his love for all of us. The Southern Cross shines its brightness only in darkness.

# NEXT!

Our next newsletter will be on the Summer Solstice which is Saturday, 22nd December 2018 (Southern Hemisphere).

Gum Tree Blossoms - Philip Barrington

## Disclaimer

The material published in this newsletter is intended for general information only and is not legal advice or other professional advice. While care and consideration has been taken in the creation of the material in this newsletter, we do not warrant, represent or guarantee that the material published is in all respects accurate, complete and current. To the extent permitted by law, we exclude any liability, including any liability for negligence, for any loss or damage arising from reliance on material on this website.

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