

RAINBOW CONNECTION

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

August 2022

A Reflection from the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Lee Weissel

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.

Isaiah 6:1-7

Running into God

I love this section of Isaiah as it has all the makings of a rags-to-riches story. We are familiar with the role of the prophet in the temple of God, and in this story we see that king Uzziah has died, so dutiful Isaiah goes to the temple to offer prayers. He does so in a right and proper manner, but in the process runs into the living God of Israel. King Uzziah was generally a good king. He brought peace and prosperity in his reign, but we know this led the people to forget about God. One of the criticisms Isaiah levels at the people of Israel is that many have multiple homes when so many among them are homeless. His preaching brings out the inconsistencies between their statements that they believe, and their actions which say otherwise.

But in this interaction, Isaiah seems to be in the same boat – doing the religious thing, but not expecting its object to appear. And when God appears it is mighty indeed. The author uses the words Holy, Holy, Holy (a three placement of the same word). This is significant in the Hebrew language which often uses a word doubled to emphasize it. For example, to describe or emphasize a large pit, the word pit would be repeated. We would get the translation as pit pit, and know the author is telling us it is a big pit. Here though the word holy is tripled, thus emphasizing something incredibly important, and that is the Holy Nature of God. When this perfection is seen, Isaiah can immediately see his own unworthiness to be in the presence of God and cowers.

His own statement speaks volumes when he declares he is a man of unclean lips. As a prophet, his reputation and livelihood are based around his speaking ability. In running into God, he realises his own shortcomings and sinfulness. What he had worked hard at, developed and prided himself on, he now, in the presence of God counts as rags and unclean. Anticipating his demise, one of the seraphim flies a coal from the altar and touches it to Isaiah's lips. This action created by God changes Isaiah. It deals with the deep chasm between Isaiah and God caused by Isaiah's sin. It is atonement.

Isaiah's response is immediate. He is made new. The rags of his own efforts are transformed by the riches of God's grace. When God asks whom he should send to a thankless and faithless community, the transformation of Isaiah causes him to sing out – "Send me!"

Is this not the story of Cursillo? How in our various religious communities we go about the right and proper function of prayer and worship – and we desire in our heart to meet the living presence of God. On Cursillo weekends, do we not hear of people experiencing profound encounters, encounters that cause us to re-evaluate the direction we might be travelling in, or have our vision expanded of the glory of God and the purpose of the church in our region. And when God says 'Who shall I send?' How many respond 'Here I am, send me!'

For us as Cursillistas, we carry these encounters with us every day – whether the turning upside down reality of Isaiah, or the still, small voice in Elijah – as the power of the Holy Spirit moves through us testifying to the risen Christ, our single desire is that all should know the Lord as well. As we work in our parishes and ministry units, may we continue to live out our calling.

De Colores

Lee



A Message from Ruth Thomas, our DLD

Proverbs 16:3 “Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established”. Prayer is the wonderful starting point for all our Cursillo plans for future gatherings. We give thanks for the joy and blessings that were present during MW34 and look forward to an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at MW35 which is planned for April 27th – 30th April 2023 at Blue Lagoon Campsite, Dodges Ferry. Please prayerfully consider who you may sponsor to attend and pray for those who will be on Team.

We give thanks for the successful Mini Ultreya on Friday 13th May, held during the late afternoon so that people could call in after work, at St James’, New Town. Judy Maplestone’s talk on Hope was well received by all. It was a delight to be joined by 3 new Cursillistas (George Humphrey, Dahoo He and Becky Cui) from MW34.

June disappeared in a blur with covid altering my plans to attend Synod in Launceston and assist in various ways. Many thanks to Margaret and Jon Hosford (MW34) who stepped in at short notice to fill the gap. Your assistance was deeply appreciated.

July 16th Ultreya at Lindisfarne Anglican was a day of rejoicing in God’s love and considering the relevant theme of Anne Brown’s talk “Love Your Neighbour”. It prompted active discussions in the Floating Group Reunions with several sharing concerns. It was an excellent opportunity to pray and support each other.

I look forward to the next Ultreya at Deloraine on 3rd September. May God richly bless all those who attend. It looks like the Far Northern Ultreya on Flinders Island will occur on Feb 25th 2023 – almost 3 years since it was first planned to occur! We Praise God that despite covid’s interruption we will still get a chance to meet in person.

There is more to come in 2022 but 2023 is already looking full of promise. May God continue to bless you richly.

De Colores, Ruth



Mini Ultreya May 13, St James New Town



Ultreya July 16, Lindisfarne Anglican



FAREWELL TO ELAINE DAVIES

We've recently received the sad news that Mrs Elaine Davies, who attended Women's 13 in 2003, and was on Team in 2006 for Women's 19, passed away on Monday 1st August at the age of 85.

We thank You dearest Father for the life of Elaine, and for the hope we have that we will see her again. We ask that You would bring comfort to Elaine's family and friends; may You be their light and peace at this time. Amen



FOR SALE

Cursillo has a SONY Overhead Projector that requires RS 232 connections with 2009 Windows/Macintosh operating instructions available for sale.

What offer?

Please contact Ruth Thomas by emailing

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