



# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL

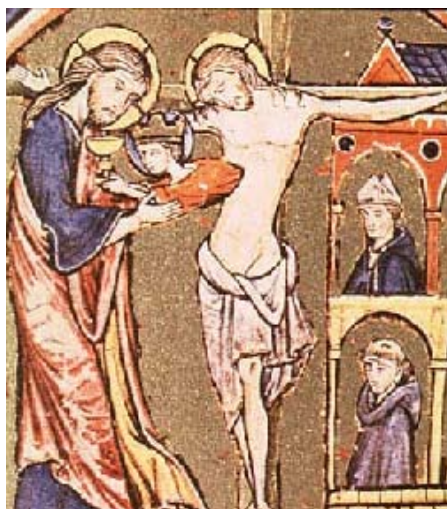
## North American Newsletter

Volume 20, Nr. 1, Spring 2012

[www.thechristiancommunity.org](http://www.thechristiancommunity.org)  
[www.christiancommunityseminary.org](http://www.christiancommunityseminary.org)  
[www.facebook.com/thechristiancommunity](http://www.facebook.com/thechristiancommunity)

### Ordinations

On the weekend of March 16-18, 2012, three candidates will be consecrated for the priesthood. The first Ordination will be on March 16th in the Taconic-Berkshire Community, for Darryl Coonan (Australia). The second Ordination for Paul Newton (UK/USA) will take place in Spring Valley, NY on Saturday March 17th as will the third also in Spring Valley for Ann Burfeind (USA) on Sunday, March 18th. All three candidates completed their first year of training at the North American Seminary, and spent their subsequent years in Germany. This is only the third ordination celebrated on this continent since the founding of The Christian Community in North America in 1948.



The program for the Hillsdale ordination of Darryl Coonan includes a talk on Thurs, March 15 at 7:30 PM, "Why the World Needs Priests", by Rev. Jim Hinde.

The program for the Spring Valley ordinations will include an address on Friday, March 16 at 7:30 PM by Rev. Christward Kroener, member of the Circle of Seven, "To Be a Becoming One: Priesthood in the 21st Century". The ordination of Paul Newton on Sat Mar 17 will be followed by a light lunch, and includes a festive hour with music, and two short contributions by Rev. Patrick Kennedy and Rev Nora Minassian. Saturday's festivities will conclude with a supper at the Threefold Café. Sunday's ordination of Ann Burfeind will be followed by a light lunch

and conclude mid afternoon with a festive closing and music.

Witnessing an Ordination can be a moving and powerful experience. It is akin to the spiritual openness surrounding a birth, as well as the gravity we experience around the threshold of death. It is an event whose significance is as much for our whole movement as for the individuals who are entering their new profession. We hope many of you across the continent can be present for this event. The program and registration is available on the seminary website: [www.christiancommunityseminary.org](http://www.christiancommunityseminary.org). Due to limited space, **registration is required** (even for local congregants). Guests will have to choose **one** of the three days on which to attend. Free lodging cannot be guaranteed.

To register online for the Hillsdale ordination go to [www.thechristiancommunity.org/tacberk/ordination.html](http://www.thechristiancommunity.org/tacberk/ordination.html). For information about the Hillsdale ordinations, contact Ann-Elizabeth Barnes, 413.528.1306, [annelizbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:annelizbarnes@gmail.com).

To register for one of the Spring Valley ordinations, contact Gisela Wielki, 212.877.0208 or [info@christiancommunityseminary.org](mailto:info@christiancommunityseminary.org). To download a PDF of the Ordination program brochure and further information, go to [www.christiancommunityseminary.org](http://www.christiancommunityseminary.org). Click on the News and Events Tab.

## Living Gold 2012 Conference

The conference opens for registration on the afternoon of Saturday, July 21, 2012 and ends after lunch on Sunday, July 29, 2012. The venue is a picturesque boarding school-the Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island, located halfway between Victoria and Duncan, with room on campus for 200 plus people. As well there are nearby campgrounds, hotels and Bed and Breakfasts. While the main language will be English, we will also work in Spanish and Portuguese as much as possible. The daily talks will be translated so that participants from North and South America can share the content.



In its earliest usage human beings allowed gold to serve as a vessel that re-united the world of the spirit with the earthly world. It was valued as an indication of the presence and interest of the sun-god in human culture. In Egypt, Persia and India, gold was an essential part of sacred ceremonies. While the Persians are said to be the first to mint gold into coins, it was Alexander the Great who first stamped gold coins with his own likeness. This was the beginning of the personal use — and abuse — of gold. For centuries the flow of gold was a driving force in history. The Roman Empire was managed by means

of gold mined in Spain to pay the legions of soldiers. When the mines in Spain began to give out, the Empire crumbled and fell.

Later, gold mines in the north were developed, and the Church, as well as the lords who participated in the Crusades, were the next to prosper through the movement of gold. The difficulty of transporting gold and the dangers of loss led to the ingenious system of banking developed by the Templars, who were ultimately destroyed by the greed of the French King Philip the Fair. And gold began to show its curse as well as its blessing. The lust for gold empowered the Conquistadors to plunder South America; then Australia became a source, and Africa too fell to the drive for the wealth and power of gold. The settlement of western North America was strongly influenced in the 19th century by the Gold Rush.

But the historical scars on the earth and rise and fall of civilizations are only a part of the power of gold that continues today. Gold has seeped into our language — we speak of “a heart of gold” or a “golden age” of time. The extraordinary properties of gold as a metal lend themselves to symbolize eternal, incorruptible, radiant values. From the Olympics we know that gold is the best!



The underlying “golden thread” of this conference is tracing the living path of gold from its spiritual origins in light to its manifestations and role in art, medicine, economics, historical development, and finally pointing to the future the redemption of gold. How can we help to raise gold back to becoming a moral — and Christ oriented — substance? How can we rediscover the gold of goodness? What is this mysterious transparent gold of the New Jerusalem at the end of the Apocalypse?

The theme will allow us to develop seven major aspects of the amazing metal gold—stretching from its spiritual history origins in light to the distant future of the transparent gold ground of the New Jerusalem. We will explore the uses of gold by ancient cultures and their views; conquistadores and prospectors; gold’s medical value; gold backing in economics and the creative social forming around new thinking; the artistic and sacred uses of gold; the moral qualities of “a heart of gold” or a “golden period”; and the participation of human beings in the alchemy of creating a new, “living gold.”

Each day begins with breakfast and The Act of Consecration of Man, followed by a keynote lecture and break out discussion group by language. There will be two workshops each day after lunch and a cultural event and Close of Day service with address after dinner. The one exception will be Wednesday afternoon, which has been left free to explore the local surroundings.

Keynote lectures: What are we Doing Here?, by Susan Locey; The Heart



of the Earth is of Gold, Erk Ludwig; The True Mettle of Man, Sanford Miller; The Gold of South America - from Pristine Purity to the Quest of an 'Unholy Grail', Martin de Gans; Backing Money: with Physical or Spiritual Gold?, Bernardo Steiner; Michael and the Economy of the Future, Rodrigo Ventre; Gold and its Relationship with the Heart in Anthroposophic Medicine, Abelardo Gatica Baudo, MD: Where has all the Gold gone? The develop-

ment of painting in the Italian Renaissance, Ken Smith; Heart of Gold, Paul Corman; The Golden Belt and the Sword of Iron: Preparing for the Future, Lothar Reubke; Pure Gold, like Clear Glass: The transformation of Gold in the New Jerusalem, Michael Brewer. There are also thirty-four workshops from which to choose, from painting, creative writing, singing, collage, eurhythm, theatre, sculpture, spatial dynamics, and metalwork, as well as thematic workshops on religious themes as they relate to gold.

To see more specifics, along with details about accommodations and registration, go to [www.livinggold2012.com](http://www.livinggold2012.com). To register, contact Karen Humber, Conference Coordinator, 250.746.5090, [LivingGold2012@gmail.com](mailto:LivingGold2012@gmail.com)

*Truth, like gold, is obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold.*

- Leo Tolstoy

## **Spring Seminary Open Courses Chestnut Ridge, NY**

*Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth.... No facts to me are sacred; none are profane; I simply experiment, an endless seeker...the coming only is sacred. Nothing is secure but life, transition, the emerging spirit. - R.W. Emerson*

**DATE CHANGE!**

Feb. 20 - 24, 2012 **How to Know, Confront, and Work with Evil**, Bastiaan Baan, The Netherlands

For centuries, men and women have tried either to eradicate evil, or else deny its existence. In spite of these efforts, the twentieth century unleashed evil on a scale that humanity had never before seen or experienced. In our century, it is no longer possible to ignore these powers, or simply to project them on to other individuals, groups, or some alien "Axis of Evil." In this course we will explore ways in which we can meet destructive forces, so that they grow, not from bad to worse, but from bad to good.

Feb. 27 - March 2 **'Shakespeare and the Bible: Dramatic Commentaries on the Old and New Testaments.'** Peter van Breda, Great Britain

March 5 - 9 The Sermon on the Mount, Erk Ludwig  
The Sermon on the Mount has often been considered a compendium of Chris-

tian ethics. While this is not wrong, the Sermon is more. At the end it is said that He speaks with "authority". The Greek word is "exousia" which points to the power of which Genesis speaks as the power of creation. - Can we come to experience the Sermon on the Mount as an act of creation?

**March 16 - 8 Ordination Weekend**

For details check with your local congregation or  
Email: [info@christiancommunityseminary.org](mailto:info@christiancommunityseminary.org)

**April 30 - May 5 Observation of Nature: Practice Exercises with Plants,**

Roger Druitt, Great Britain

Rudolf Steiner suggested several approaches to unlocking the spiritual within Nature. At one end of the spectrum are direct descriptions of the activities of spiritual beings, at the other exercises in how to observe – mainly plants – natural objects, as a first step to the other pole. The basic key is to work first on these outer Forms and let the soul relate them one to another to reveal the Metamorphosis behind them (something already supersensible!). A further stage is to grasp the cause of this metamorphosis through studying its outer Gesture. By working from both poles towards the center, we reach into the activities of the spirit within the outer world.



**April 2 - 6 Holy Week Retreat**

The Cross - Casting its Shadow on the Greening Earth, Jonah Evans, Oliver Steinrueck, Gisela Wielki  
Daily service, study, conversation, artistic activities.

April 16 - 20

**Jesus or Christ: The Evolution of American Christianity,** Sanford Miller

**May 7 - 11 Sophia, the Holy Spirit and the Divine Feminine, James Hindes**

What stands behind all the various ways the term "Maria-Sophia" is understood today? This question will require us to consider the evolution of wisdom, the history of human perception, the evolution of consciousness, church history and the roles played by the masculine and feminine poles of cosmic and human being.

Location: At The Christian Community, 15 Margetts Rd. Chestnut Ridge, NY 10952

Cost: Course only, five sessions: \$50. With participation in other seminary classes and breakfast, but not lodging: \$200

Lodging: Please arrange with Holder House: [www.threefold.org/housing](http://www.threefold.org/housing) or contact the seminary if you would like to be housed with someone from the congregation.

For more information, the daily schedule and to register, please contact:

Rev. Gisela Wielki, 15 Margetts Rd., Chestnut Ridge, NY 10952. Tel. 212-877-0208 E-mail: [info@christiancommunityseminary.org](mailto:info@christiancommunityseminary.org), [www.christiancommunityseminary.org](http://www.christiancommunityseminary.org)

## **PASTORAL-MEDICAL COURSES THIS SUMMER WITH DR. HANS-BRODER VON LAUE (MD, GERMANY) AND REV. JULIA POLTER (BOSTON, MA)**

When the work of the Christian Community developed after its founding in 1922, Rudolf Steiner encouraged the collaboration of anthroposophical medical doctors and priests. He stressed that in a profound way both professions can, by working together, deepen an understanding of how the visible and invisible manifests in our lives and of how healing forces for the patient can arise out of this cooperation.

This summer two events will take place with Dr. Hans Broder von Laue, who comes from Oeschelbronn, Germany, where he founded a larger anthroposophical hospital. For over four decades in his medical practice he specialized in cancer treatment and has overseen an outpatient oncology program.

An **Open Renewal Course about Cancer** is offered in **New Hampshire by the Center for Anthroposophy** for those who are interested in this special approach: physicians, therapists, nurses, those who suffer with a close friend or relative and those who are met by illness. **Cancer: Living Forces and the Soul – Experiences near the Threshold** (June 21-June 29, 2012, Wilton, NH) with Hans-Broder von Laue, M.D. and Rev. Julia Polter

In this weeklong course we will explore the phenomena connected with different stages of cancer and how the increasing “blindness” of the organism against the illness undermines the body’s inherent ability to develop self-healing powers. How cancer actually manifests itself and which course it takes, depends on the presence of the Higher Self in body and soul during the earthly incarnation. During the illness patients will meet the threshold of the spiritual world in a conscious or more unconscious way. They have to learn to deal with these experiences and to meet the challenge of transformation.

We will look at the mistletoe therapy and other treatment options, including Eurythmy and art therapy, which bring forward the transformative forces of our Higher Self by practicing new patterns of thinking and acting. In order to better grasp the nature of the possibilities of change we will study the process and conditions of healings in selected stories from the New Testament.

For more information and to register please contact: Center for Anthroposophy, Milan Daler, Administrator, P.O. Box 545, Wilton, NH 03086. You may register over the phone by calling the admissions office at 603-654-2566. Or visit the website: [www.centerforanthroposophy.org](http://www.centerforanthroposophy.org). And a weekend retreat takes place at the Alcyon Center on Mount Desert Island for those who wish to deepen their understanding of the will in a tranquil setting.

**The Mysteries of the Will: Building Capacities for Inner and Outer Transformation** (July 6-8, Mount Desert Island, ME)  
with Hans-Broder von Laue, M.D. and Rev. Julia Polter

A quiet weekend retreat in which an anthroposophical physician and a Christian Community priest collaborate will take place at the beautiful location of the Alcyon Center, Seal Cove, Maine (Mount Desert Island). We will focus on various aspects and challenges of the will forces in our lives. The will determines our ability to become fully human and may help us to establish a strong relationship to the divine. Through study, conversation, practice and artistic activity we will explore the place of the will in developing inner capacities to meet the challenges of our time. For more information and to sign up please contact: The Alcyon Center, PO Box 40, Seal Cove, ME 04674, phone: 207-244-1060, email [alcyoncenter@roadrunner.com](mailto:alcyoncenter@roadrunner.com) or visit the website: [www.alcyoncenter.org](http://www.alcyoncenter.org)



**A Thought for April 15, 2012**

*Michael Brewer*

I have heard people lament that near a bio-dynamic farm was a nuclear reactor. While this can be viewed as unfortunate, it is also possible to be grateful that near the nuclear reactor is a bio-dynamic farm. There is a similar juxtaposition as we come to the one hundredth anniversary of the loss of the Titanic. Just before the fatal maiden voyage, the first edition of Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul had been published. So, can we imagine what it may have meant for those who found themselves cast into the spiritual world, that for the first time on earth people were contemplating the verse of the week after Easter?

Now outward into all the senses  
Thought-power loses its identity;  
The worlds of spirit find  
Once more the human seedling  
Which has to find in them  
Its seed, but in itself  
Its fruit of soul.

(translation by author)



## **Delegates Meeting Oct 2011 Denver**

Each fall there is an annual general meeting of the North American Regional Board. The Regional Board is mandated to provide support for retired priests and widows (currently seventeen people), support for the Lenker, support for students at the seminary, and to contribute to International Foundation of The Christian Community. This year the Delegates also passed a motion for a fifth mandate—to add as a mandate Working for the Future, and to empower the Board to allocate funds for that purpose.

Delegates, chosen by the congregations, attend this meeting around the annual elections of the Regional Board officers. Delegates may be both from their board of trustees or may also be other involved community members.

This year's Regional board members include Hamo Hammond, Ottawa President; Rachael Flug, Northern CA, Secretary; Bob Heberton, Denver, Treasurer. Other members of the Regional board include George Riley, Taconic/Berkshire; Rev. Michael Brewer, Detroit and Rev. Oliver Steinrueck, Lenker, Spring Valley/Chestnut Ridge NY. Reinhard Rosch, Ottawa, is in charge of Canadian accounts; Kate Kristensen, San Francisco, has been attending meetings as a potential member. Melissa Kay, San Francisco, is the region's bookkeeper (but not a board member). The Regional Board expresses its thanks and gratitude to outgoing members Rev. Erk Ludwig, Rev. Susan Locey, and Barbara Remboski.

Topics at this last meeting included a motion passed that each congregation continue contributing to the Region 15% of income plus \$4,000, and to contribute to the Region 25% of legacies (an increase from 15%). Ear-marked legacies will of course be honored according to the donor's wishes.

There was a thematic discussion for the future: "How do we encourage exchange between our congregations to nourish the organism that is The Christian Community?"

Suggestions: Share the community reports from the Delegates meeting in the North American Newsletter; share lists of names, contacts, available resources in an accessible place. Form Traveling Teams, small groups of members and friends who visit another community; bring pictures. (Margaret Dancey (Chicago) and Nancy Bannister-Char (Devon) plan to form a traveling team. Please contact them if interested.)

Further suggestions: Become interested in one another, so that we avoid becoming islands. Practice greeting new people. Create social connections after service, a care circle. Encourage all communities to send representatives to the Delegates meeting; make it possible for communities under financial duress to still come, with Regional Board or sister community financial assistance.

Also wished for would be visits from seminary students. And more flow of information. The delegates also encouraged holding area conferences (Margaret Dancey (Chicago) and Michael Brewer (Detroit) will plan a Mid-West Conference. Please contact them if interested.



## 2012 Winter Youth Conference

"You can't kill an idea" - Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend  
January 13-16, 2012 at the congregation in the Washington D.C. area.

*Nadia Marti*

On January 13th, I rode to Washington DC with three other teens and Liza Marcato for the Winter Youth Conference. I had been very hesitant to sign-up for the conference. I mean, who wants to spend four days of Winter break at a church with a bunch of priests?!



In the end, I am very happy I did. At both of the Youth Conferences I attended (the first was last winter in New York City) I have had some of the most awesome experiences ever - being led through the streets

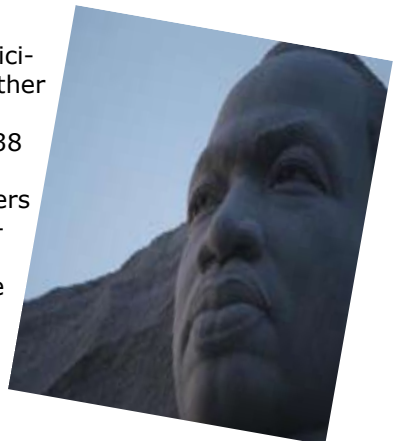


of NYC blindfolded; watching the sun rise over Central Park; visiting the Occupy DC encampment; watching the sun rise behind the Capitol Building; reading Martin Luther King's I Have A Dream in the exact same spot where he once stood at the Lincoln Memorial; getting threatened with arrest for "demonstrating" (i.e. singing) at the Lincoln Memorial; dancing in the streets; spontaneously choreographing dance routines in the National Museum of American History...and the list goes on.

Some of the things we did definitely pushed me to the edge of my comfort/weirdness levels at first, but then I got over it and felt so confident and alive. I left both Winter Conferences feeling slightly stunned, my head spinning with new thoughts, and digesting new ideas.

See a mobile video of the conference participants and priests singing at the Martin Luther King memorial here:  
<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/19805138>

The summer youth conference for teenagers is scheduled for August 20-24, 2012; conference site to be announced. For more information on youth activities, please see our website at <http://ccyouth.homestead.com>.



## Future Initiatives Group

*Cynthia Hindes*

The Future Initiatives Group has been in existence since June 2009. Its purpose is to perceive and help bring to birth the growing points in the life of The Christian Community in North America. The group meets twice a year and has several conference calls in between.

Current members are Ann-Elizabeth [annelizbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:annelizbarnes@gmail.com); Cynthia Hindes [cindy.hindes@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.hindes@gmail.com); Carol Kelly [carolkelly.cc@gmail.com](mailto:carolkelly.cc@gmail.com); Patrick Kennedy [ckennedy2006@gmail.com](mailto:ckennedy2006@gmail.com); Eileen King [Eileenking935@aol.com](mailto:Eileenking935@aol.com); Anna Claire Novotny [annacnovotny@gmail.com](mailto:annacnovotny@gmail.com) and Oliver Steinrueck, the regional coordinator (Lenker) for North America. [osteinrueck@gmail.com](mailto:osteinrueck@gmail.com)

Since its inception, members of the group has visited each congregation with a standing altar in North America. The group has helped initiate the long overdue renewal of our North American website ([www.thechristiancommunity.org](http://www.thechristiancommunity.org)). The response has been remarkable.



The group also generated a traveling priest lecture tour of ten cities in six southeastern states by Richard Dancey, former seminary director, into areas where The Christian Community as yet has no presence. It has stimulated a fresh look at congregational signage and presence in the local communities. It has begun an online music library for sharing congregational hymns and music for the services. We now also have a Facebook page, and introductory fliers on each of the sacraments that are available to each community.

The group is planning to generate print placements in various anthroposophical and non-anthroposophical journals and magazines; to continue growing our music library, and to stimulate further lecture tours, speaker's weekends and retreats. A longer report will be available in congregations later this spring.

Contact one of the members of the group if you have an idea for where the The Christian Community can expand its working in North America. Where do you see our growing points?

## **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN DEVON, PA.**

12th Annual Retreat, Temenos Retreat Center, West Chester, PA  
February 10-12, 2012

*Joel Bartlett*

It took only a little snow to make the nineteen participants and presenters really feel at home at Temenos to explore the theme of the year "...Your Will be Done, Where God's Will and Human Will Touch." And we kept the crackling fire going the whole time, with many wonderful meals, deep insights, humor, tests of the will, singing, and eurythmy.



We came from as far away as Great Barrington, MA and Washington, DC with many questions: "Why are there always obstacles to realizing my acts of will?" "Where is the Will in the beauty of nature?" "Where in my Will is God's Will?" and many others. After introducing ourselves by interviewing each other in pairs, we heard our new priest Nora Minassian challenge us to differentiate the different aspects of the Will and ponder deeply our relationship to these.

Saturday, after the Act of Consecration of Man, we began our work with our priest Rev Marcus Knausenberger, who spoke on "Give unto God what is God's." He highlighted the work of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr, who found a way to inspire people to act on an ancient concept -- that of equality. The Will exists in the body, in nature, but it is inspired in the human being from the highest level, and only with intention. Then, Gillian Schoemaker, teacher and therapeutic eurythmist at the Camphill Special School, led the group in an hour of eurythmy, exploring the theme "Our Will, My Will, Thy Will."

A deep exercise followed Saturday's lunch. We broke into small groups, which later became the "troupes" for our evening "humorous and artistic plenum." We each wrote a letter to ourselves on our deathbed. What can we say about our life, and what can we look forward to? With tears, laughter, and intense intimacy, we read each other our letters. And what did we discover? How difficult a task! But we have more years to live and give of ourselves. Surprisingly, most of us were not afraid of death. In the context of the retreat theme, we evaluated what in our life we had "willed."

Rudiger Janisch, a colleague at the Camphill Special School, had us writing with our feet, a perception exercise Rudolf Steiner had used to help individuals incarnate. This was an extreme example of the Will in action! How to get our intention to write "Thy Will be done" from our head to our feet, through the pencil and onto the paper?

After supper, the four groups let it all hang out and provided jokes, skits, songs, and stories that had us all laughing. Call this the "free Will" section of the Retreat! If we hadn't bonded on some level by then, we probably would not!

On Sunday, after the Act of Consecration of Man, Rudiger returned to listen to our observations on performing a simple act -- setting the table, brushing our teeth -- and asked "why did you do it this way?" "Whose Will was it?" He

then showed us some marvelous examples of geometry in nature and intricate crafts, and asked us “Is this God’s Will?” We weren’t expected to answer, but our understanding of the aspects of Will was deepened still further.

At the closing session, following another interactive eurythmy session, we shared our insights on the Retreat. Yes, it was personal, penetrating, and thought provoking, but we had developed a profound feeling of our karmic connection in exploring a mystery together. And, as we parted, armed with leftovers of all kinds, thanks to our volunteer chef’s over-ordering, we bundled up to return to our enriched lives.

## **Taco M. C. Bay**

22 Sep 1933 – 5 Aug 2011

*Julian Sleigh*

Taco was a person of many talents and unusual authority. I first met him when I joined Camphill in Scotland close to sixty years ago and our friendship remained fine and strong ever since.

Our first collaboration came through our both being members of the group of young coworkers who had the aim as a group to clarify and deepen our connection to the wider aims of anthroposophy and Camphill, in support of Dr König and the five co-founders of the Camphill Movement. Other members of the group were Friedwart Bock, son of Emil Bock; Nora his fiancée; Ita Meder who became the wife and colleague of Taco; Renate, daughter of Dr König; Mark Gartner, son of the developer of the lyre and his wife Rosalind and a few more loyal young coworkers.

During their time in Camphill in Scotland, Taco and Ita, now married, were house leaders for a group of maladjusted teen-aged boys from the tough areas of industrial cities of Britain: These boys would only accept the guidance and authority of persons of complete integrity and warmth

of heart like Ita and Taco. The outstanding achievement of this group was the building of a schoolhouse on the Camphill estate—from beginning to completion—by Taco and his team. They also built the chapel of The Christian Community in Newton Dee. We developed a deep regard for The Christian Community and the day came when Taco told us of his call to priesthood. Taco was almost denied being ordained, as the then leader of the seminary felt that he was too independent. Dr Heidenreich in London completed Taco’s training and arranged for him to be ordained. His ordination took place together with that of Peter Button in the Church of Glenilla Road in north London on 18 March 1962.



After his training, which was completed in London through Dr Heidenreich, his first congregation was Edinburgh where he worked closely with Rev. Adam Bittleston--a very creative time for both. Taco displayed great energy as a congregational priest. The house was full of young people.

From the beginning of his priestly work, Taco was aware of the worldwide Christian Community. He had a wall-map of the world on which he had marked all the communities. He was also the first priest of The Christian Community to celebrate in Ireland. Then after some years he was called to take up the post of Lenker, first in Holland, then in the south of Germany. This was quickly followed by his appointment as Erzoberlenker designate, and 1975 the family moved to Stuttgart. For the first few years, Taco carried the responsibility of the Erzoberlenker working alongside Rudolf Frieling, who was very ill. Taco visited Dr Frieling every day, at first in order to learn all that he could about his new office. Later, when Dr Frieling was weaker, Taco would visit in order to read to him.

Taco was the first Erzoberlenker not to have belonged to the circle of the founders; he was however one of the few colleagues who received every one of the renewed Sacraments. He was also the first to hand over the office of Erzoberlenker during his life-time.

Taco was a leader, colleague and friend to a great number of people. He was not an academic scholar but he studied and knew a great deal. Two facets of his soul stood out—his humor and his earnestness. His humor was always kindly, respectful and generous without a trace of mockery, for he treated everyone with dignity and warmth. His humor was always close at hand to relieve tension and to impart a human element.

This human element was Taco's province, as he thought with his heart, which was sometimes hard for his more academic colleagues to understand. It was a huge challenge to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Rittelmeyer, Emil Bock and Dr Frieling— all eminent theologians. His designation was a bold move on Dr Frieling's part.

One of the unforgettable aspects of Taco's work were the ordinations he held. Altogether, he ordained 225 priests—a large part of the priesthood that is at work in the world today. To experience Taco taking the Ordination—whether as a candidate, or as a member of the congregation—was to experience a power flowing through him that seemed to come from the highest heights and resound in the depths of worlds.

Taco inherited from his father the soul of a craftsman and a fine artist and from his mother a respect and a feeling for anthroposophy. His siblings have pursued sensitive careers of a high order. But Taco filled no mold. He was well read and knew a vast amount. He was warm-hearted but was always strict with himself and could be quite critical of any slackness.

His way of life demanded a great deal from his physical strength. His psoriasis gave evidence of his stress and his ailments to his heart likewise. The responsibility of his position demanded from him a great measure of courage and commitment. In all this he had the devoted support of his wife, Ita.

Before his designation as Erzoberlenker, he had set his heart on bringing the Christian Community to Australia and New Zealand. I remember his telling me about this and his intended accompaniment of Rev Eileen Hersey on her next visit. His designation as leader of The Christian Community took precedence over his personal wish to be a pioneer in the mould of Dr Alfred Heidenreich who had brought the renewed sacraments to the English speaking world, and who died in South Africa on one of his missionary journeys. Taco's connection to Australia came to a kind of fulfilment when he held the Ordination of Cheryl Nekvapil on Australian soil in 2002. When he retired as Erzoberlenker, he and Ita spent a year working in New Zealand—a deed that was much appreciated by our friends in that region.

Thereafter back in Germany, Taco devoted himself to the development of a working relationship between the three Anthroposophical Movements: The Anthroposophical Society; The Christian Community and Camphill. His aim was to strengthen all three in their special area of activity, but also to enhance their working together and have developed a deep understanding for each other. This was for Taco the fulfilment of a final aim of his life, let us hope that this impulse can continue.



*Julian Sleight is a retired priest of The Christian Community living in South Africa.*

### **At Home in the World** *Excerpts from a funeral address by Andreas Weyman in Perspectives*

Taco was deeply grateful that he had spent the first years of his childhood in the security of his family. He was the seventh and last child of his parents. He was grateful for his childhood experiences of nature, with the view of the mountain

ranges of the Bernese Oberland in the distance.

During the War, his father, an architect and sculptor, had the task of leading various refugee camps. The family went with him. For this reason, Taco attended twelve different schools and was taught in five languages: German, French, Italian, Dutch. (One of the camps was full of Jewish refugees from Holland). Finally, when his parents moved to England, he grew into the English language. This early meeting

with different languages broadened his horizons and enabled him to understand other people. This was a great preparation for his role as Erzoberlenker of The Christian Community. He held Ordinations in German, English, Dutch and French.

His ability to speak and understand so many languages was a great help on his many journeys in Europe, North and South America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand, in the course of which he touched the hearts of many people.

He brought a heartfelt interest to everyone whom he met. Whilst he was on a visit to the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the time for Muslim prayers arrived. The guard asked all the tourists to leave the area. Taco turned to him and remarked how hard it was, to have to send people away, when what they really wanted to do was stay. The Muslim guard felt deeply understood, and said to Taco: "God is in your heart."

## **The Earth as a New Sun**

*Monica Gold*

Freedom and love for all mankind on earth,  
divine, evolutionary goals  
will become possible only  
through awakened wills  
and sun-filled souls.



to

It is a fairy tale that begins to  
shine and live  
when someone finds a path  
on which he may rise and give  
his ego to the spirit of truth.  
Here his consciousness is led to the fact  
that through the love bestowed on us  
by the Son of Man and through the holy act  
of His accomplished deed  
at the turning point of time  
the future will show  
its consequence divine,  
the now darkening earth will become  
with Michael's help, and ours  
A NEW, LIVING AND GOLDEN SUN.

## East Coast Children's Summer Camp 2012

In the quiet of early morning, the counselors and staff silently gather around the tents and cabins of sleeping children. They begin to sing a song to the morning, to the awakening day, rousing the children from their slumber. The stillness is broken - a new day of summer camp has begun!

From a wholesome breakfast to the quiet of evening and a story shared by candlelight, the children are provided an abundance of creative activity. Each group's counselor strives to build a daily rhythm which will best serve the needs of the children. Artistic activities, such as plays and skits, painting, singing and storytelling are balanced with sports and games, swimming, boating and hiking. The children also put their imagination into their hands through various crafts. A quiet time after lunch adds a necessary touch to the pattern of the day.

Sundays are a special day, beginning with a short religious service in the morning which all children attend. In the afternoon, campers and staff join together for a community festival such as Fair Day or the presentation of prepared plays or skits. With the Adventure Course and an evening bonfire camp draws to a close.

The joy and laughter, the challenge of learning and sharing together creates a community experience that is special and unique, and which lives on throughout the year in the hearts and memories of each adult and child.

East Coast Children's Summer Camp, August 2-18th. Camp Echo Trail, Felton PA 17322. For more information, contact Rev. Carol Kelly [carolkelly.cc@gmail.com](mailto:carolkelly.cc@gmail.com) or Camp Co-Director Rev. Marcus Knausenberger - 610.710.9294

