



Friends Newsletter

The World Community for Christian Meditation

Lent 2017

From Judi and Paul Taylor

Greetings of love and peace in this joyful season of Lent! At this special time we bring the work of WCCM Friends into focus in the spirit of almsgiving, one of the pillars of Christian life down the ages as Father Laurence sets out in his message below. The Friends' program has at its core those aspects of the WCCM outreach which of their nature cannot be self-supporting.

As Kath explains page overleaf, good quality translations of our materials into languages that are the mother tongue of both meditators and potential meditators is one such outreach that needs our support.

Friends not only nurtures growing communities and supports their outreach work, it also helps to ensure that the integrity of the practice and teaching of Christian Meditation is preserved for future generations. Kath writes of some new developments, showing how local fundraising, with grants, together with

Friends' support, beautifully brings this to fruition.

As we journey to Easter, we hold each other in our hearts and we hold the new WCCM home at Bonnevaux as well; our hope that it be a centre of peace in our world.

With love
Judi and Paul

A Lenten Message From Fr. Laurence

As we begin another Lent we draw in the rich sources of wisdom in our tradition, as John Main did when he passed on the gift of meditation. Prayer, fasting and alms-giving were the three pillars of the

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Christian life in the early church; and the essentials have not changed.

Everything is rooted in prayer, because that is our insertion

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point in the mystery of Christ. Fasting means that we recognise the distinction between needs and desires. And almsgiving sets us free from material attachments in the spirit of service.

May this Lent teach us again more deeply and clearly the wonder of our calling and the joy of our following Jesus all the way of our life.

With love

View Father Laurence's daily Lenten reflections here: <http://bit.ly/2mHSvRE>.



Laurence during this year's Ash Wednesday Webcast

WHAT IS A FRIEND? A Friend provides vital personal and financial support to the Community towards sharing the gift of meditation worldwide. Friends support is critical to all our activities and especially helps us develop, nurture, and assist new and emerging communities with limited resources.

WHAT DOES A FRIEND SUPPORT? Some activities that your contributions go toward include: retreats, talks and presentations by Fr. Laurence and others across the world, The School of Meditation, our Meditation Outreach (including meditation and education, health, science, the environment), translations of key texts, and the distribution of resource materials.

CONTACT Judi and Paul Taylor, International Friends Coordinators, for more information: friends@wccm.org or PO Box 127 North Sydney NSW Australia, 2059.

Supporting Translations

When Coordinators from 46 countries came together last year, discussions quickly turned to the importance of preserving the integrity of the teaching and practice of Christian Meditation for future generations. Of particular importance was ensuring that the Community was well equipped to respond to the call of ever widening outreach. As well as a permanent home for the Community, the need for good translations emerged as one of our top priorities.



'Journey to the Heart' in Spanish

Since then WCCM has been working with the non-English speaking communities to identify what translations would be of most benefit to their sustained growth and outreach. This exercise in itself has helped the communities to reflect on their work, and has also inspired individuals to volunteer their skills in translating and in other important ways. Six communities will totally self-fund the translations they have identified; another 15 countries need some form of assistance. In nearly all cases at least part of the work will be

supported by the national communities and their volunteers. Friends' backing will allow WCCM to work with all the communities, providing support where it can. An application has been made for grant funding which if awarded will help significantly.

The USA has joined the non-English speaking communities with a proposal for ground breaking work that would see materials currently used for meditation with children in the USA translated into Spanish (which is the second most-spoken language in the USA). It is widely accepted that matters of the heart are often best understood in our own mother tongue.

Three brochures have already been translated into Spanish by two volunteers. However funds are now required to design, print, and distribute them. The growing Spanish language population in the USA is the initial focus. It is hoped that this resource can also be shared with Spanish speaking countries in South America.

Grant funding, if obtained, will enable the design, printing and distribution in the USA. Additional funding through Friends would enable the brochures to be adapted for use in South American countries.

Kath Houston
(Director of Liaison with National Coordinators)

Reflections on Bonnevaux

John Main described the practice of contemplation as a pilgrimage to the heart of our own lives and to the heart of God. This image of pilgrimage evokes one critical dimension of the spiritual journey – the necessity to be dispossessed, travelling light and open to an unknown future. At first glance, this may seem in tension with the desire to own a property and be settled in one place. Yet – as someone who has just returned from making a 900km pilgrimage on the Way of St James – I can attest that the practice of pilgrimage is radically dependent on there being places of refreshment and hospitality, communities of welcome where pilgrims are enabled to reflect on their journey and realise more fully its meaning and call. I believe that Bonnevaux will be such a place of refreshment and hospitality, one that will enable all who come to deepen their own pilgrimage to the heart of God, and so to bear the fruits of this journey in their lives and communities at home.

Sarah Bachelard
(Anglican Priest and theologian from WCCM Australia)



Bonnevaux, France

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