

wise up!
Transforming Mind, Body, and Heart
in Lutheran Education



**Australian Conference on
Lutheran Education 2013**

Fourth Conference * Brisbane, Queensland

WORDS OF WISDOM

Whoever is wise, let
them ...consider the
great love of the
LORD.”

Psalms 107:43 NIV



DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

Growing in Wisdom

BEGIN THIS JOURNEY WITH REFLECTION

Understanding Reflection... Geoffrey Butler

We follow and know a God Incarnate

God comes to us in
Christ, in Word and
sacrament as our
experience. God comes
to us.

God is also present in
the created order and in
the world of humanity.
Jung says, “The whole
creation is in the image
of God”. What Luther
says about the
communion is applicable
to all of life. God is in
and with and under all of
this.

Are we attending?

At ACLE4 our theme is ‘Wise Up’. The ACLE4 Worship Committee wants to provide all who attend with the opportunity to grow in spiritual wisdom in a number of different ways. First we have begun praying for all who will journey to ACLE4 from near and far. Second we have published this devotional resource “Growing in Wisdom” to support you on your spiritual journey to ACLE4. Thirdly ACLE4 worship will be a special time of prayer, praise and listening to God. Finally we want to introduce you to the ‘beating heart’ of ACLE4, the ACLE4 Reflection Room.

The **purpose of the ACLE 4 Reflection Room** is to help us attend to the now, the presence of God in human relations, in nature, in human creativity, in stillness, in music, in silence. In all of the busyness of the Conference there will be a special place to pause.

ACLE4 Reflection Room Coordinator, Geoffrey Butler writes: “*Reflection is an important component of my Christian Studies program. With my students, we walk in school bush land. We spend time becoming still... then I ask them, “**What’s happening now?**” They use their outer sensory capabilities and their inner voice to respond in writing. It is a **personal practice that is part of my devotional life.** At the back of this booklet there is one personal example from my time in the UK in July. **But first try it yourself....**” (Geoffrey Butler)*

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE



*My
Personal
Reflection*



Find a quiet place.....

Spend time becoming still. Have your Bible / a prayer book close by. Listen. Pray.

What is happening now? Fill this space with your writing.

WORDS OF WISDOM

⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Psalms 51:6

¹My Son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, ²making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; ⁵then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:1,2,5

Growing in Wisdom Devotional Resources

The ACLE4 Reflection Room will include a curated Christian Art Exhibition with images, Bible readings and prayers. You can begin your journey with us before you arrive.



Reflections on art from Simon Ratcliffe. **The Old Knight.**

Simon gave this to his father-in-law, a practicing Christian for more than fifty years. It symbolizes that the battle continues even to the very gates of our final sanctuary. But we battle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and dark forces in high places. Sometimes when we unmask the enemy we find he / she is wearing our own face...it is us. Nevertheless, *“Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.”* God speaks in the Bible *“I am the good shepherd... I am with you... you are not alone. I am your battle shield, sword for the fight; I am with you; you are not alone.”* The LORD himself is our sanctuary.

WORDS OF WISDOM

¹⁹Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God...

¹ Chronicles 22:19

Reflection Questions

For both men and women.

Put yourself in the place of the knight, in your person and in your roles.

What are the inner battles you go through?

What are the outer battles – outer dangers?

Where is the help / the relief / the cavalry for you? Who hears your cry for help / who comes?

What is the message of the LORD specifically for you in this extremity?

Sit with this for some time... till it enters your soul.

Geoffrey Butler

JOURNEY WITH CHRIST *The Camino Way*



“There are as many stories as there are people walking.”

These works of art capture Lindsay Farrell’s Story - and Lindsay’s Camino.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Mark 14:27-31; 66-72

St Augustine said that the restless heart is the starting point of pilgrimage.

Jesus spoke of himself as “the Way.” Seven times in his Acts of the Apostles, St Luke refers to the living of the Christian life as “the Way.” As depicted throughout the gospels, Jesus seems to be ever walking with his disciples from place to place. Luke’s gospel in particular makes Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem a central theme of the narrative.

Jesus’ final walk - to his death on Calvary - has long been known as the Via Crucis (“the Way of the Cross”). At the end of Luke’s gospel, as two disciples walk dejectedly away from Jerusalem, Jesus is still to be found walking beside them, giving hope as he companions them along the way.



The motif of the Christian life as an inner spiritual journey towards God has been a dominant theme in spiritual writers of all centuries. The spiritual exercise of undertaking an “outer” physical journey emerged early in the church’s history as a popular devotional way of recommitting oneself to the inner journey of the spiritual life. The physical act of walking was seen as a prayer in itself; the arduous nature of the journey disciplined one to turn to God’s grace alone for endurance to reach the goal - external and internal.

In the fourth century, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and to Jerusalem in particular, became a popular discipline, where walking the Via Crucis was an important element of the visit to the holy city. By the middle ages, the four major pilgrim sites were Jerusalem in the East, Santiago de Compostela in the West, Canterbury in the North, and Rome in the South.

The series of paintings in this exhibition capture the El Camino de Santiago (“The Way of St James”) undertaken by artist Lindsay Farrell. In 2012, he walked the over 160 kilometres from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, and then finally to the nearby sea town of Finisterra (“the end of the earth”). The apostle St James is buried in the Cathedral of Santiago, the sacred site and goal of the pilgrim’s Way.

The symbol associated with the saint is the scallop shell, which can be found on the stone plinths, which mark each kilometre along the Way. Stones number the particular Station of the Cross; pilgrims have traditionally placed stones as they make an intentional prayer for that kilometre.

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The artist invites the viewer too, into prayer as we journey through his paintings. The diverse scenes at each stop evoke symbols of the Christian imagination: a rock, a bridge, a lamb, a cross, verdant growth, barren forest, a road, a barn, a beach, the sea. Along the Way, the artist, whose Camino paintings are in the ACLE4 Reflection Room, met many fellow travelers.

“There are as many stories,” he says, “as there are people walking.”

Rev Dr Orm Rush Australian Catholic University October 2012

One specific example of Lindsay’s Reflection is of Peter’s Denial of Jesus

Peter’s Denial: Images of Vilacha monastery.

The image and reflection is just one of Lindsay’s paintings and reflections from his Camino journey.

Reflection Questions

What is your life journey?

How are you traveling?

Prayer

*Let us pray for those deserted by
friends,
For those who are alone and
vulnerable,
For those who seek to make
amends.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Have you found yourself
deserted, alone and vulnerable?*

*Has someone come to make
amends?*

How have you received them?



Near the village, a rooster crows in the mist.

WORDS OF WISDOM

³⁴Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

Mark 26:34

JOURNEY WITH SURPRISING NEIGHBOURS

Unusual Neighbour Kerry Holland



The artwork of Kerry Holland will be on display in the ACLE4 Reflection Room

Spray Can Neighbour

The black spray-can graffiti line represents the outrageous hero of Jesus's story of the Good Samaritan. The crochet lace texture represents Jesus' voice. Kerry writes: I used the spray-can black line for the hero because I am aware that we get so annoyed by the spray can marks on fences and walls and think very bad thoughts about the graffiti artists; they are despised by many in society.

An extremely kind young man in a spray-can shop, who described his own work as spray-can art, gave me some much needed advice on the unfamiliar spray-can materials, encouraging me to practice and offering further help.

My neighbour is not far away, only beyond the boundaries that I choose to erect and is more available for communion than I

WORDS OF WISDOM

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵... "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ... ²⁷"you shall love your God with all your heart ... strength ... and mind, and your neighbour as yourself." ... And Jesus said, ³⁷You go and do likewise."

Luke 10:25-37

Reflection Questions

Who is the unusual person in my life?

What boundaries have I chosen to erect between me and them?

How might these boundaries be melted down?

What communion might then be possible?

Who is my neighbour?

We can receive this "ultimate, radical neighbour-love" as a gift from God because of what God did for us through Jesus. (Timothy Keller, 1984)

Prayer: LORD, give us eyes to see beyond the boundaries, to connect deeply, to be a neighbour reflecting You in the world.

Jacob's story

WORDS OF WISDOM

Gen. 28:10 –22.

Jacob's story is an archetypal hero's journey. He was a cheat; He was afraid; He had done wrong; He was compelled to run away, but he met God on the boundary between his home country and the far country to which he was journeying. Instead of the condemnation he would have expected he received God's blessing and the opening of heaven towards him.

When I heard this story as a fourteen year old boy, a sloth, a thief and a liar, I was moved to give my life to God. I prayed David's prayer:

WORDS OF WISDOM

“Create in me a clean heart O' God and put a new and right spirit within me”.

Psalms 51

Nothing has ever been the same since. I know in my heart that this created universe is a friendly universe; that sin can be forgiven, that we can start again, that God will go with us.

PRAYER FOR THE JOURNEY

From the Prayer Booth Geoffrey Butler



Reflection Questions

Are you in trouble?

Open that trouble up to God in prayer.

Are you at some crossroads in your life?

See yourself in Jacob's place and see heaven open up towards you.

Do you wonder what path you need to take now?

Listen for the inner voice and obey it.

Above all pray the promise of God to Jacob over your life. Hear him say:

“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.”

Can my prayer be your prayer too?

Visit the ACLE4 Reflection Room and pray.

Christian Studies Teacher,

Geoffrey Butler Notes: “Reading Students Reflections: Their writing and their thinking is both a powerful and humbling experience. Let me share with you...” (shared with permission)

SILENCE ON THE JOURNEY

Litany for Silence Lynn Ng Year 9 Student

*I just need some time away
Time to leave the drama
Time to leave the stress
Sometimes I really wish I was a leaf
Or a seed in a flower,
So that when the wind changes
It will pick me up, and take me with it.*

*I just need some time to think
Time to figure out in my head
Time to work out where I am going
Sometimes I wish I was a cloud, gentle and calm,
Able to see everything going on below me
But not having to worry.*

*I just need some comfort,
A place where I can take in my surroundings,
A place that helps me to escape.
Sometimes I wish I was a flower,
Beautiful and soft,
So I can look at the beauty around me
And know that I am just like them.*

*I just need some fun.
Being able to do something
“Just because I want to”
Being able to forget life’s problems and worries
Just for a while.
Sometimes I wish I was a bird, able to fly wild and free,
To toss and turn with the wind,
To go where I want.
Carefree.*

*I just need to walk,
To be able to let go, to turn a new page,*

*To look back and learn.
Sometimes I wish I was an athlete,
Able to run till my legs give out,
To see where I am going and not
have to look back.*

*I just need to scream,
To let go of everything that’s in my
head,
To let my voice be heard and listened
to,
To stand up for something,
To make a difference.
Sometimes I wish I was a fighter,
Able to leave everything in the ring,
Able to pick myself up, bloody and
bruised,
And move on clean and fresh
To be fearless.*

But I am the way that I am for a

WORDS OF WISDOM

7” And now, O LORD, for
what do I wait?
My hope is in you...”

Psalms 39:7

*reason,
Even if I don’t know why now.
Life is life for a reason.*



WORDS OF WISDOM

¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Psalms 46:10

⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.

Psalms 62:5

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to Your words, spoken so softly that none but the quietest can hear it.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to each other, properly, and understand each other as we should.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to the riches of life, not materially, but the richness of growth that happens, all the time, everywhere around us.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to even the tiniest whisper of a plea for help, and to reach out and give duly what we can.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to the rustle of wind through the leaves and to find joy within its peace.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to Your Gospel being preached and to understand, clearly, the meaning behind Your words.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to the praise of Your people whose love for You compels them to glorify Your holy name.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to Your Spirit's voice, to seek out the guilt we hide beneath our ordinary lives, and truly seek forgiveness.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

To listen to the words of wisdom spoken by those who went before us, who loved You, knew You, and laid down their lives for Your sake.

Help us, LORD, to be silent

For there is so much to know, and to learn, and to take joy in, if only we know

silence.

Amen

Reflection Question

How hard is it to be truly silent in today's world?

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

Growing in Wisdom Devotional Resources



LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

A Candle Prayer *Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle*

“When I was growing up, our family annually camped in bushland near a national park. A favourite game that everyone joined was “Hide-and-seeK in the dark”. Somehow rainforest shadows were more ominous. The darkness in dense woodland made the unfamiliar noises of the night ever so scary! Our goal was to reach ‘home’ – a patch of light in the clearing near our tent that was brightly lit by a spotlight – without being tagged by anyone! It was a light that signaled ‘safety and ‘home’. Jesus used this metaphor of light to describe his presence in the world. In worship we use candles as a symbol of light. Two candles on the altar signify the 2 natures of God. In addition, A Pascal candle provides the source light for other candles lit during worship. Jesus encourages us to think of ourselves as light. Tiny flames of light shining in our word. May our light that shines in the world reflect a sense of God’s love and safety; The comfort of ‘home’.” Meg Noack

WORDS OF WISDOM

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all the house.

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

A Candle Prayer

*Heavenly Father
As I light this candle
May I be reminded of the
Unconditional love and
light of
Jesus Christ.
Who is the savior of the
world.*

*May your love surround my
life,
Circumstances and loved
ones today
And bring strength and
healing to those for whom I
pray.*

*In this quiet time with you,
May your presence
awaken in me
A deeper understanding of
your unconditional love
And help me to love others
as you love me.*

*I ask all of this
in the name of
Jesus Christ.*

Amen

Reflection Questions

What does light mean to you?

How can we be light in the world today?

Growing in Wisdom Devotional Resources



Cromer WWII Observation Post – Looking Out – Looking in

Red wine glows in the light

Of the wrap-around glass slits of
the WWII observation post (*now
accommodation for Cambridge
graphic designers on holiday*).
Overlooks the broad North Sea,

Supple, sensuous, rippling like
skin.

Grey and purple mist covering the
endless, shining, summer evening
Conspires with silence and Queen
Anne's Lace to seduce me into
spirit space.

Blackberries and horsetails,
rampant seashore shrubs,
Fields of grass and wildflowers
Are the close view
Punctuated by the occasional
walker
Emerging from the wild field
grasses on the cliff-top path.

But the North Sea merging with
the sky is eternal,
Merging with existence itself.
This is the incarnation.
This, then this, then nothing –
All is.

One tall Queen Anne's lace stands
out,
Emergent above the sky line –
One floret gone to seed.
The bees bothering the living flowers
Insist on their participation in
fertility too
And all will be, in two weeks, seed
heads
And like glorious voluptuous women
Will wrinkle and age
But without regret.
They know they have produced an
array of new forms
Hitherto not seen
And have conspired with the creator
In originality.

And Campbell calmly negotiates little
Penny to bed downstairs,
Hearing her stories,
Telling her stories.
Bringing her to Grandpa, once, twice,
to say, "Goodnight, I love you".
Grandpa sings.

A great ship appears out of the mist.
Campbell sings, "Yes, Jesus loves
me".
Penny interjects with conversation
To avoid drifting off into the world of
sleep.
Daddy goes on singing.
The ship moves on to the centre of
the horizon,
A wall of mist behind – a veil of mist
before.

*A Personal Reflection
By Geoffrey Butler*

WORDS OF WISDOM

The spirit of man is the
lamp of the LORD,
searching all his innermost
parts.

Proverbs 20:27

And the pigeons and magpies
swoop through,
Like Penny insisting on
consciousness,
Whining against the fading of the
light,
The certainty of sleep.
Struggling against reality,
Penny cries out:
"I need to go and see Grandpa".
"Daddy! Daddy! I need to go and
see Grandpa".
Campbell leaves her to visit the
view and drink his wine
But then returns to the resistant
sleeper.

The ship has gone now...All is mist.

Daddy is strong.
He will stay (like Jesus) close
beside her all the way
Till reluctantly but blessedly
She enters the land of the
unconscious.

So let this be for all of us.
Give us companions
As the evening moves on, the light
gradually fades
And we are released,
Merging into the eternal horizon.

And wake us in the morning

