

L'ARCHE ADELAIDE NEWSLETTER



Trans- formative relationship



Henri Nouwen was a Catholic priest and much-loved writer on matters of faith and spirituality. He was also a friend of L'Arche spending various stretches of time living and working in an Assistant-type role in L'Arche communities, particularly in his home community of L'Arche Daybreak, in Ontario, Canada.

Near the end of his life, in the mid-1990s, he found himself working a couple of hours a day in Daybreak caring for Adam, a profoundly physically and intellectually impaired young man in his late 20s. Adam couldn't talk, move, or do any self-care. He was seemingly helpless. Henri commenced his caring role seeing Adam as the totally needful one. But gradually that perspective changed.

As Henri notes in his book about Adam, "As the weeks and months went by, I grew attached to my one or two hours a day with Adam. They became my quiet hours Indeed they became like a long prayer time. Adam kept "telling" me in such a quiet way, 'Just be with me and trust that this is where you have to be nowhere else.' I thought of him as a silent, peaceful presence in the centre of my life. Sometimes, when I was anxious, irritated, or frustrated about something Adam came to mind and seemed to call me back to the stillness at the eye of the cyclone. The tables were turning. Adam was becoming *my* teacher, taking *me* by the hand, walking with me in my confusion through the wilderness of *my* life" (Nouwen, H. *Adam*, HarperCollins, 1997, p.48).

For those of us who are able-bodied and minded members of L'Arche Adelaide may our journey with our impaired members have an equally transformative and humbling effect upon us. Indeed, may our impaired neighbour become Christ to us.

Rev. Dr. Trevor Whitney, Chair, L'Arche Adelaide Board

This newsletter is for the members & supporters
of L'Arche Adelaide

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Contributions to the newsletter are welcome



Prayer Points

May we hold in our hearts the following concerns trusting in God's embracing love:

- Norelle & Andrew Pearce as they continue to seek the care that Kelly requires
- Margie Zantvoort, as she grieves for her Mum who passed away recently
- Our Community Leader, Tracy Tohl, as she continues the house preparations
- Our National Leaders and the responsibilities they bear – National Chair, Julia Walters, and Interim National Leader, Claire Lawler
- Continued prayers for the Ukrainian L'Arche communities as they offer life-giving care for their members despite the constant threat caused by war in their country.

... in all things may God's peace prevail. Amen.

Happy Birthday!

June	July	Aug
13 Lyn K	19 Claire B	4 L'Arche's
30 Mel Z	31 John S	58th year
		5 Tim H



Weekly Prayer

L'Arche Australia's
online weekly time of quiet reflection and
prayer is held every Thursday at 7pm
South Australian time

The Zoom link is the same each week:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643471339>

Passcode: prayer

All Welcome - Join Anytime

Finance & Resources Update

- Our main focus at present is to obtain our NDIS registration which is proving to take longer than we originally anticipated. We need the registration so that we can accept residents into our home. Please pray for a speedy conclusion to this issue.
- In the meantime, our Community Leader, Tracy Tohl has been busy over the last 7 months setting up the community house at 9 Dinwoodie Ave, Clarence Gardens and making connections with prospective residents, assistants and the community.
- We continue in paying rent on the house as well as the payment of the salary to Tracy. These expenses amount to approximately \$5,000 each month.
- We have been blessed with a number of large donations & grants so a big THANK YOU to everyone assisting us to meet these expenses.
- L'Arche Australia continue to provide administration, payroll and accounting services so a thank you to them in assisting us in our set-up phase.
- The net cash position of L'Arche Adelaide at 14 July is \$15,506 whereas on 22 March 2022 it was \$36,675 2021, so the bank balance has been dropping.
- L'Arche Adelaide are certainly commencing on a "Venture of Faith", but we know that with prayer & support from our members & friends, God will provide during this time. *Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to assist us in building up our funds. Thank you!*

For further information, contact our Honorary Treasurer, Mel Zerner:

Mobile: 0418 852 353; Email: melz@messengerzerner.com.au

Direct deposits to: L'Arche Adelaide Inc. BSB 704942 Account No 153579

Reflection from our Community Leader, Tracy Tohl

We have been blessed to connect as a community in many ways and celebrate the gift that we are to each other.

In April we joined with the St Francis community for a day on the river we many enjoying the boat ride and for a brave few (Laura, Gabrielle and even Tracy) had a go on the big biscuit that went behind the boat.

In May we had a day at the Adelaide Zoo, we all agreed that living the life of panada would be great. The meerkats created lots of entertainment and the time we had for sharing early memories of our own experiences at the zoo brought laughter and joy.



We had a second trading table this time at the Edwardstown Baptist Church, we are very grateful for the welcome and hospitality of the Baptist Church Elders especially Yasmin Potts. A very big thank you to all that supported both trading tables with homemade goods, plants, and other items.

While John Coleman was in Adelaide, we took the opportunity to reconnect with him with some members of the community joining him at our community house for a meal and sing along.

Thanks to Adam and all his great collecting work for 5Cs, we were nominated for a donation of \$1000 which will go to our cooking and Garden program. To celebrate Adam's achievement and to have the presentation of the cheque we had an afternoon at our community house. Adam presented the cheque to Trevor, and we are so proud of the wonderful speech Adam made.

In June we had an afternoon out bowling. It was lovely to catch up with Mary again. Adam and Mark demonstrated



their great skills in bowling and there were a few of us that were very excited to just a couple of pins.

Recently Shelley and I have been involved in attending International Formation via zoom around the new International Charter. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our unique cultural differences but also to recognize a similar gift that makes all communities L'Arche. In the next couple of months there will be an invitation for all to join us as we explore our National and International Charter.



We welcomed Terri and Ruth as they joined me with the new formation program for assistants. As we grow, we will provide all assistants with the opportunity to be a part of this program to deepen their understanding of what it is to be a member of a L'Arche Community and how we provide a place that feels like home in this NDIS environment.

Introducing our new board member, Wendy

Strangely I can't recall when I first heard about and developed an interest in L'Arche. It may have been a very long time ago. It may have been through my work as a chaplain at Julia Farr/ Highgate Park in Highgate Adelaide; it may have been through church circles. I am a parishioner at St Columba's Hawthorn and have been a long-term Anglican Adelaide Synod representative so I could have heard about L'Arche through those channels.



A few years ago, L'Arche Adelaide held a film evening at Capri Theatre. A film about L'Arche's origins in a village in France was shown. The idea appealed to me very much and I began to think at the time that I might be able to find community and housing for my son Harry who had been betwixt and between housing all through his twenties. As we all know any parent of a person with a disability worries about who will keep an eye on their son or daughter when they themselves become too old.

Being a country person (a farmer's daughter) from the South-East, a boarding school student from age 12-16, a teacher and regular church parishioner, I gravitate towards community. L'Arche is community and it looked like it could be a community for Harry.

What I noticed about the Adelaide group was a genuine welcome and steadfast interest, involvement and friendship towards Harry and me from the L'Arche group as individuals and a dedication to the ethos and development of L'Arche as a collective group. I thought they demonstrated a living example of celebration and encouragement of the God-given skills, abilities and loveliness of every person. My thoughts haven't changed.



Harry with his sister Sophia, his cousin Sally and me.

Harry was tragically taken from us nearly a year ago now and I miss him all the time. He would have been great in the foundation Dinwoodie Ave house. I hope that I can find a way to give something back to L'Arche through membership of the L'Arche Adelaide board. I hope and I pray that L'Arche will flourish in Adelaide.

(Thanks, Wendy, for sharing a bit about yourself and what drew you to L'Arche. We appreciate having you as a board member for the L'Arche Adelaide community.

'A Seed's Been Planted' – verses from John Coleman's song, written with and for the L'Arche Adelaide Community, January 2018

*A seed's been planted in our hearts
It's growing roots deep in the dark
We're reaching out towards the sun
The sun that shines on everyone
A seed's been planted in our hearts*

*For there's a spirit that's a moving, rising
Constantly surprising I see it in the faces all
around
The friends in this community, living hospitality
Isn't this the way we all should be?*