

Lectionary
Readings for every day
You Select!



in the HCUC

No. 18

For 23 Oct 2011

Dear Friends

Let's leap in the deep end. Jump into this comment:

"People say that what we're all seeking is a meaning for life. I don't think that's what we're really seeking. I think that what we're seeking is an experience of being alive."

When I first heard Joseph Campbell say that to Bill Moyers in the famous TV series of interviews on 'The Power of Myth' I didn't believe Campbell. At the same time I couldn't forget his words. They puzzled me. Along with most people I was more often looking for the meaning of what was happening in my life. Campbell's words have continued to lurk on the edges of my life.

Very recently I watched a feature of the young rock climber who scaled the sheer granite rock face of a famous wall in the Yosemite Valley. He climbed the rock face in 1-1/2 hours without any ropes or safety equipment—only his bare hands and rubber soled climbing sneakers. What was the meaning of it? He said the most exciting part of the climb was the section where the rock was overhanging and he had to pull himself over it. Exciting? I think he was saying that was when he felt most alive. A few moments when his inner potential reached a peak experience of what life can be.

Joseph Campbell went on to retell the story about a sermon of the Buddha in which he simply lifted a flower. There was only one man who gave him a sign with his eyes that he got what was said. What's the meaning of the universe? The meaning of a flea? Its just there. And the rapture of just being alive is what its all about.

One of Jesus' sermons was of one sentence. "I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly."

That's it—in a nutshell. I now agree with Campbell.

Sincerely, Lester

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 24 October:	68:1-6,19	Rom 8:12-17	Luke 13:10-17
Tuesday 25 October:	126	Rom 8:18-25	Luke 13:18-21
Wednesday 26 October:	13	Rom 8:26-30	Luke 13:22-30
Thursday 27 October:	109:20-21	Rom 8:31-end	Luke 13:31-end
Friday 28 October:	147:13-end	Rom 9:1-5	Luke 14:1-6
Saturday 29 October:	94:14-19	Rom 11:1-2,11-12, 25-29	Luke 14:1,7-11
Sunday 30 October <u>Pentecost 20</u>			
Ps 107:1-7,33-37; Josh 3:7-17; 1 Thes 2:9-13; Matt 23:1-12			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 31 October:	69:31-37	Rom 11:29-end	Luke 14:12-14
Tuesday 1 November:	131	Rom 12:5-16	Luke 14:15-24
Wednesday 2 November:	112	Rom 13:8-10	Luke 14:25-33
Thursday 3 November:	27:14-end	Rom 14:7-12	Luke 15:1-10
Friday 4 November:	98	Rom 15:14-21	Luke 16:1-8
Saturday 5 November:	145:1-7	Rom 6:3-9,16, 22-end	Luke 16:9-15
Sunday 6 November <u>Pentecost 21</u>			
Ps 78:1-7; Josh 24:1-3a,14-25; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13			

	Psalm	Epistle/OT	Gospel
Monday 7 November:	139:1-9	Titus 1:1-9	Luke 17:1-6
Tuesday 8 November:	34:1-6	Titus 2:1-8,11-14	Luke 17:7-10
Wednesday 9 November:	82	Titus 3:1-7	Luke 17:11-19
Thursday 10 November:	119:89-96	Philemon 7-20	Luke 17:20-25
Friday 11 November:	19:1-4	2 John 4-9	Luke 17:26-end
Saturday 12 November:	105:1-5, 35-42	3 John 5-8	Luke 18:1-8
Sunday 13 November <u>Pentecost 22</u>			
Ps 123; Judg 4:1-7; 1 Thes 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30			

ITS ABOUT BEING ALIVE ...!!

The TV camera turned to the All Black player who was about to pull on a new jersey. In the 4 seconds glimpse viewers could see his heavily bandaged shoulders. It came as a bit of a surprise. He looked fit and ready to run onto the field. That's what we are all like. We have wounds, weakness, pains and problems which are covered or hidden by the outer fabric of our daily lives.

Listen to Rachel Naomi Remen: *"My sense is that everybody has pain. If it isn't cancer, its something else. There's no way to be alive and avoid pain and loss and suffering. Its all part of life. Most serious diseases call into question the way you live and what's important. There is a whole re-shifting of values. Sometimes we describe it as a 'wake-up call'."*

The same Bill Moyers made a TV series interviewing people working in the medical field. He visited support groups for cancer patients, and other special healing centres. What began to stand out for him was that there is a difference between being cured and being healed. Rachel Remen who has had Crohn's disease since she was 14 years old, and has had an unbelievable number of operations, says that seeking physical healing is important, but it may not be the ultimately important thing—at least for her. When asked—What is? She replied: "Being alive, which is not a matter of length, but of moment to moment. Being alive is being aware, being able to be touched and moved and changed, being able to respond rather than to react, being able to see and hear. One woman, after a near-death experience said she became aware that the purpose of life was not about being a mother, a teacher or smart or rich, but to grow in wisdom and to learn to love better. And that's all."

It seems an important step to take, to be able to see that healing is different from curing. Healing is close to the true process of education which means leading forth, drawing out, discovering wholeness—finding Shalom.

BEING ALIVE AS WOUNDED HEALERS

An old Jewish story tells of a rabbi finding Elijah the prophet standing at the entrance of his cave.

He asked "When will the Messiah come?"

Elijah replied: "Go and ask him yourself."

"Where is he?"

"He's sitting at the city gate and you'll know him because he is among the poor, covered in wounds. Unlike the others he only unbinds one wound at a time and treats it. He says to himself 'Perhaps I shall be needed: if so I must always be ready so as not to delay for a moment.'"

We are all wounded healers.

We need to tend our own wounds (pains, hurts, loneliness) and yet at the same time be prepared to heal the wounds of others.

* I think all this about being alive and growing into wholeness has more to do with the soul than the mind. Its like the difference between perfection — which is a mental concept — and wholeness.

* I wrote a poem that goes something like this:
"O Body, for thirty-six years, one thousand three hundred and seventy-four experts with a combined four hundred years of training have failed to cure your wounds. Deep inside, I AM WHOLE."

(R N Remen)

People have been healing each other long before there were doctors.