

The Long View - An Apology

For me the interface between geography and spirituality is a place of energy, truth, creative possibility and health. The accompanying booklet focuses on that interface through the lens of my own life. It brings together the metaphorical terrain of my journey with God and the physical terrain of the area in which I live.

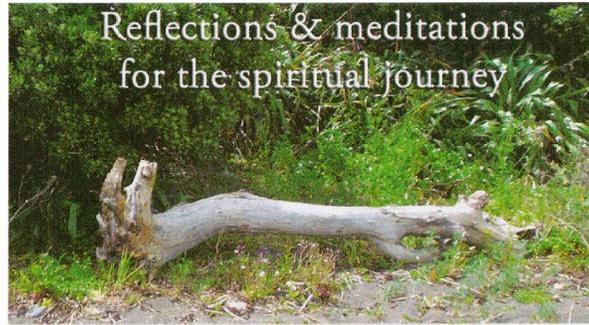
For me as a director it is part of a much bigger process of bringing all I understand of God to all I know of life- a necessary process of integrating and authenticating my faith. I believe a spiritual director must be doing for themselves what they are helping directees to do for themselves. To be an effective director helping someone to engage with life and with God in their context, I need to be committed to that same engagement in my own context. *The Long View* is a fruit of that engagement.

The booklet hints at the potential breadth and richness of such an engagement by using a variety of strands to explore the interface between soul and landscape- drawings, photos, story, poetry and prayer. It is a twining of visual elements, historical elements and personal spirituality.

It has been designed to make it easy to either follow a single strand through the booklet, or to sit with a page, or to read it from cover to cover (back to front if that's what pushes buttons for your personality type). It is offered as a resource to stimulate readers (directors, directees, others) to make their own connections with God in their own space. It is post modern; it is not meant to be at all prescriptive. It is unashamedly Kiwi. It will, I hope, be generative, sparking fresh conversations with the God who not only created our physical environment but who through Jesus Christ came and shared it with us.

If this sounds overly theoretical, don't worry the booklet isn't. I hope you enjoy it.

Clare Lind.



People of faith have long used the vocabulary of geography to express something of their life with God. What follows is an attempt to take seriously a connection with the land and a connection with God and to give creative expression to the interplay between them.

Let It Go

Let it go.
Let it go.
Let the wind whip it away;
Let the tide take it.

Let it fall like sand
Through your fingers,
Then dust them off.
If your hands should fill again,
Do the same.

Your hanging on to it
Is not love,
Is not care:
No matter what you tell yourself It
is only hanging on to it.

The power of God is big enough to cope with it.
The love of God is big enough to care for it.

Let it go.
Let it go.

And come,
Meet God as yourself.

Teach Me

Teach me the tern's quick turn
And the gull's long glide,
The dip, the soar,
The tilt, the rise, the dive.

Chest to your breath
Let me ride the big sky
On out stretched wings –
Every feather tuned,
Responsive to the wind.

And when I tire
Help me to find land to land ...
And rest ...
Until I hear your call to fly again.

Copies of *The Long View* are available
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