

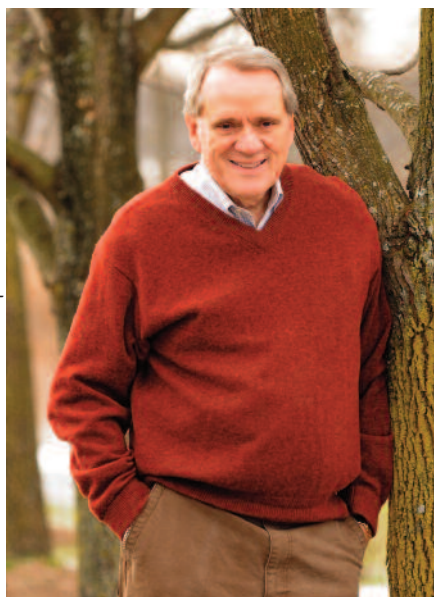
Callings

in the Church of the Saviour

Vol 7, Issue 1 • Spring 2018

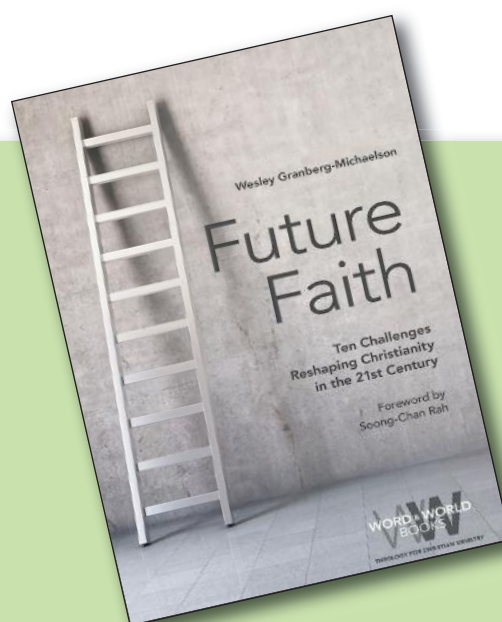
Future Faith Book Launch, April 20

At the Festival Center on April 20, Wesley Granberg-Michaelson will provide a lucid view of how the top ten winds of change blowing through global Christian faith are reshaping the practice of Christianity today. He is uniquely qualified to identify and interpret connection points between global Christian trends and the American church. Drawing from his new book, being launched today—*Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century*—Wes will describe the faces and the forces of Christianity's future, and how we all can be empowered as followers of Jesus in a rapidly changing world."



Wes is an old friend of Church of the Saviour. While working for Senator Mark Hatfield, he was intimately involved in the New Lands process that gave birth to different CoS worshipping communities in 1976. Also engaged with Sojourners, Wes has had a leading role in establishing Christian Churches Together in the USA, and is known globally for his ecumenical leadership, including service as Director of Church and Society for the World Council of Churches. Presently he serves on the Boards of Sojourners, Church Innovations, and the Global Christian Forum.

Brought to us by the Parr Lecture series, there will be a reception at 6pm. Lecture begins at 7. Check with the Festival Center about parking for this event.



Contents

Foreword by Soong-Chan Rah

Introduction

1. Challenge One: Revitalizing Withering Congregations
2. Challenge Two: Embracing the Color of the Future
3. Challenge Three: Seeing through Non-Western Eyes
4. Challenge Four: Perceiving the World as Sacred
5. Challenge Five: Affirming Spirit-Filled Communities
6. Challenge Six: Rejecting the Heresy of Individualism
7. Challenge Seven: De-Americanizing the Gospel
8. Challenge Eight: Defeating Divisive Culture Wars
9. Challenge Nine: Belonging before Believing
10. Challenge Ten: Saving *This* World

Discussion Guide

End Notes

Acknowledgments

Editor's Corner | Restarting Inward Outward

If you'd like to see CALLINGS continue, please make a contribution by check to:

Church of the Saviour

(In Memo line put "Callings")

1640 Columbia Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20009



Kayla McClurg

Last year in March, Kayla McClurg ended her postings on inward-outward.org with these words: "Keep digging for your own life's truth. It's closer than you might think, in every falling, getting up moment." And so we have.

Kayla's death has prompted a critical look at our life together as The Church of the Saviour. The CoS Council, representing the eight member churches listed below, is the locus of that discussion. Who we are and how we are related continues to evolve. How we are related to the many non-profit enterprises which grew out of Church of the Saviour is another question. There is no formal tie because they are separate non-profits, but frequently their leadership is nourished by one of the CoS churches. We are discovering what that means as we continue "digging for our own life's truth."

In my last CALLINGS editorial, I suggested that we were entering a new collaborative phase as a decentralized church – Church of the Saviour 4.0. Phase 1 (1946-76) was CoS gathered around Gordon and Mary Cosby. Phase 2 (1976-96) gave birth to many sister churches within the family of CoS. Phase 3 (1996-2017) included incorporation of the (now 8) churches, selling the headquarters building at 2025 Mass. Avenue, deaths of Gordon and Mary, claiming our separate identities and deepening our roots at Dayspring. The Council became our legal form in 2006, when our structure shifted from individual members to separate churches gathered around our common ownership of Dayspring.

At the January meeting, the Council discussed what to do with Kayla's inward/outward blog, "a project of Church of the Saviour." In our discussion, we recognized how many people were touched by her ministry of daily quotes and weekly reflections. Although inward/outward has been suspended for a year, we wanted some way to preserve the body of her work AND we felt a call to move forward in a slightly different form.

By the end of March, you will be able to search for inwardoutward.org and find a live website again. Daily quotes and a weekly reflection will be supplied by a small group of writers from the different churches. Another feature will be a column that highlights the different missions with roots in the CoS churches. We've asked these groups, which represent the inward journey together and the outward journey together, to make a one-year commitment – in line with our tradition of yearly recommitment.

You'll also be able to check the Events column for current offerings at the churches, recovery groups, Potter's House, Festival Center, and Dayspring. The archives of Gordon's sermons and Kayla's writings will be there too.

We hope you'll keep this new venture in your thoughts and prayers as we move in this new phase as The Church of the Saviour. We need you, the readers, to be our ambassadors and translators as we find a new form.

With Easter hope,

Marjory Bankson

Editor of CALLINGS, Chair of the CoS Council

2018 Callings deadlines: May 1, July 31, October 31

The Church of the Saviour Council

Bread of Life • Dayspring Church • Eighth Day • Festival Church • Friends of Jesus
Jubilee Church • New Community • Seekers

Remembering Kayla McClurg

A memorial service for Kayla McClurg will be held at Wellspring on March 24, 2018. Kayla died on January 6 at Shady Grove Hospital in Rockville MD after complications due to congestive heart disease. Kayla was born January 10, 1955, in Centerville, Iowa, to Robert and Idalee McClurg. She grew up on a farm near Exline, Iowa, and graduated from Simpson College in Indianola with a degree in English. Kayla taught English for several years and served as a church lay leader in her community.



One summer, Kayla volunteered in Harlem and fell in love with New York City. She returned a year later to nearby New Rochelle, NY, to live in a community of homeless women, children and nuns, called Providence House. Kayla also taught courses to inmates inside Sing Sing and Bedford Hills prisons.

When she arrived in Washington D.C. in 1996, Kayla worked part-time at the Potter's House, where she became friends with Gordon Cosby and his associate, Bill Branner. She became the resident manager of Andrews House, the guest house for out-of-town friends visiting the church, and began working with Gordon as secretary and church administrator. She became a true servant-leader among the Columbia Road ministries of Church of the Saviour and continued as the solo staff person when Gordon retired.

In 2006, Kayla started inward/outward.org as an outreach project of Church of the Saviour. It attracted readers who were seeking more depth and comments ranged from "You keep me going, from day to day" to "I have a notebook full of the Inward/Outward words from great and very common people who look to God for their direction in life." A reader from Battle Creek MI sent this quote from inward/outward: "You might quiet the whole world if you pray. And if you love, if you really love, our guns will wilt."

Throughout her life and career, Kayla was a prolific writer as is reflected in her many writings, sermons and publications. She also served as an editor of several other authors' works. When Kayla moved from Andrews House to Overlook Retreat at Dayspring, she intended to write and host retreatants.

Gifts in honor of Kayla may be made to: Overlook Retreat and sent to Dayspring Church, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown MD 20876.



Faithful Vigil

(How 'Call' To Stop M83 Highway Is Answering My Many Prayers For Healing)

By Margaret Schoap

Over 60 years ago, road planners first drew a line on the Montgomery County's Master Plan for a proposed six mile highway connecting Clarksburg to Gaithersburg, east of Route 355. Conceived amid early dreams of auto travel and prior to the nation's environmental laws, the Midcounty Highway Extended, also known as M83, would travel through high bio-diverse forests, stream valleys and wetlands. It would merge with Dayspring's Silent Retreat Center, parts of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, and divide well-established neighborhoods. This six-lane highway plan would also fail to address the transportation needs of existing and future residents and employers.

Dayspring folks had been active in petitioning Montgomery County Council against building M83 Highway since the mid 1970s. After moving to Dayspring in 2000, to be a caregiver for the land, I joined in the advocacy work to stop the road. In 2008 I joined the Germantown Master Plan Citizens' Advisory Committee as a representative for Dayspring Church. (Gale Quist had represented Dayspring in earlier Master Plan CACs).

Persistent Call to Stop M83 Highway

It was during this time that Dayspring Stewards proposed finding a person to lead the effort in stopping M83 Highway, so we created the TAME Coalition (Transit Alternatives to Midcounty Highway Extended). With this step, the search began to find the right person to lead the effort. I initially did not want to work that hard to stop M83 from being built, because it would mean facing endless confrontations with elected official and their staff, and maneuvering through an unfamiliar government bureaucratic system.

My internal persistent, paralyzing fear was this: If I was going to lead the effort to stop M83 Highway from ever being built, I was going to have to face my growing-up years; and I did not want to do that. Every month when I attended the Master Plan CAC meetings, I was faced with the organizational network I would have to encounter everyday if I wanted to stop this road. There were times when I couldn't even attend the monthly meeting because of my fears, so I would ask a Dayspring member to attend for me.

Yet, I also had an internal call to lead the movement to stop M83. My 20 years of working in a bureaucratic organization in DC prepared me as a leader for this particular task. I also had received 20 years of psycho-analytic psycho-therapy, which lead to much healing from past events. Analysis is most beneficial; though it had not helped me to truly heal from my life's broken situations. However, encountering an identical similar life situation could do that. The only way I was going to enter the darkness and find the light was to rely on God in a manner I had learned, though was not whole-heartedly practicing. It took me a year to say yes.



Call is Impossible without Applying Spiritual Growth and Models

The Episcopal Church empowered me with: humility of kneeling, regular participation in the Reconciliation of a Penitent Rite, and Eucharist at every service. I am at my best dealing with M83 Highway when I work out of a penitent position. I identify with the Bible characters of: Abraham who couldn't speak clearly; Moses' who made serious demands on God; Jesus who taught us to talk with good and not-so-good folks; Mary who said yes to God her entire life. I've learned the most about living spiritually by Mother Teresa (St Teresa of Kolkata). Lastly, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola are the method I've relied on for facing the daily work to stop the road. These (and many other methods) were the sources I used to heal old wounds that showed up as obstacles to my call to stop M83 from being built.

The Steps: Facing Fears, Growing, then Healing

My fear to face has always been – inadequacy. I don't really know if there has been one difficulty to overcome greater than any other; however, if there was one, it would be: overcoming the fear of bureaucratic authority thru becoming equally knowledgeable of the system's process, of course followed by overcoming the fear to speak articulately to a crowd, securing allies, counting legislative votes, etc, etc.

Working to stop and eliminate M83 Highway has increased my attention to Jesus' varying ways of praying for people. I have grown in prayer because of tailoring each prayer for the group and individual. When I have to face a person who wants M83 to be built, it used to be so hard to pray in preparation of meeting face-to-face. I pray for my 'enemies' to show love to them and to love myself. I pray to evoke love in every encounter, and to love myself. I'm con-

tinually pray for the next step in the process to stop the road, and can feel the energy around what to do next.

Witnessing to God's Presence in the M83 Storm

My fear of inadequacy has me witnessing to God by looking upon each person as my spiritual brother and sister, as equal. They are equal to me and I am equal to them. Faithful witnessing on a political platform is working in a cloud of Mystery, and I'm grateful to recognize it as such.

What keeps this call a journey and not a project is God's presence ahead of my next step. I pray for mending, not for approval, not so they will finally like me. I pray for change, for transformation, though I don't know what that outcome will look like in a vote. The more astonishing outcome for me is people's positive attitude. There has been anger from people, but not doubt of our beliefs or research. There has never been lies spread about TAME Coalition; and no organization, elected official or home association has left our group. That is Mystery.

What Spiritual Fulfillment Looks Like To Me

I have experienced healing in my relationship with my mother and father (who are both deceased). It's praying for them in the way I never did or could as a child. I have learned how to pray for them through praying for people I'd rather avoid, praying for a road I'd rather forget. Prayer is the only way to stop the road and heal our differences.

We set out to save our beloved Silent Retreat Center from the noise and pollution of a six-lane highway. This long journey has

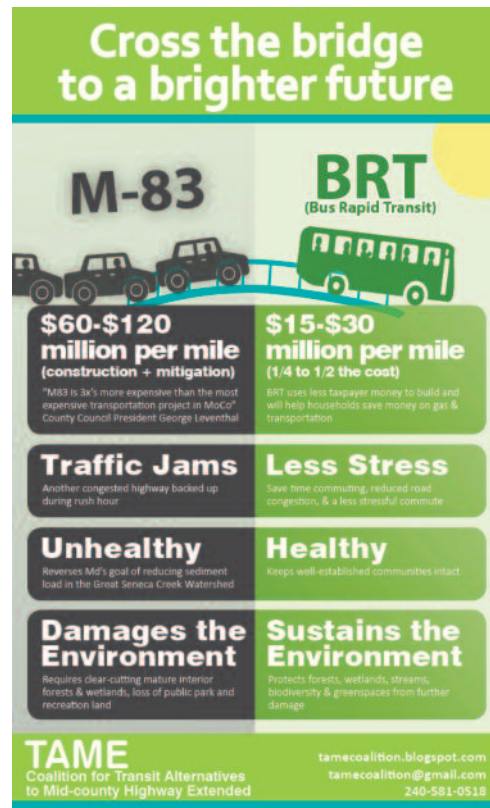
brought every CoS community to join in intercessory prayer for The planned M-83 highway through Dayspring to be relocated; so that the integrity of the Dayspring Retreat Center can be protected. This or something better will manifest for our communities, in totally satisfying and harmonious ways, to the highest good of all concerned. And so it is.

The response is the same for every elected official, organization and political candidate who is brought to Dayspring to tour the M83 route – they are struck by the energy here, the quality of the creek's wetland, the calmness they experience as we stand in front of the lodge in silence for 60 seconds. They utter a soft 'thank you'.

Our prayers and call are changing the course of action in Montgomery County. This statement can only be written after watching God work in so many people.

The daily and hourly practice of asking God, for 1) insight and wisdom on what to do next; and for 2) strength to do it, lifts me past the barrier of seeing only my human poverty in leadership; and let's me witness the Holy Spirit transforming the desired outcome. I experience, in that moment, being soaked in God's mercy and receiving unexpected grace. Then I know for sure the outcome was beyond my human capacity alone. Such a blissful experience with the Holy is the only relationship that has me returning daily to face the next piece of darkness and unknown outcome for the road. Each time I follow this daily practice, I am in awe of how and why I am showered with the same result from God, every time.

Margaret Schoap and her daughter Maddy have lived at Dayspring for the past 18 years. Margaret is a caregiver and steward on the land. She is a core member and part of the Servants of the Light Mission Group.



Related Ministries

The following ministries have grown from churches and mission groups of The Church of the Saviour. Each is independently organized.

Academy of Hope • Becoming Church • Bethany, Inc. • Bokamoso Foundation • Carol Café • Christ House • Columbia Road Health Service • Cornelius Corps • Cornerstone • Dayspring Earth Ministry • Dayspring Retreat Center • Discipleship Year • Dunamis Peace Institute • Faith & Money Network • Family Place • Festival Center • For Love of Children • Hope and a Home • Institute of Radical Reconciliation • Inward/outward • Joseph's House • Jubilee Housing • Jubilee Jobs • Jubilee JumpStart • Kairos House • L'Arche • Life Asset Credit Union • Life Pathways • Manna, Inc. • Miriam's House • New Community ArtSpace • New Community for Children • O.N.E.DC • Overlook Retreat House • Potter's House • Samaritan Inns • Sarah's Circle • Soteria [Servant Leadership School] • Sign of Jonah • Sitar Arts Center • Sounds of Hope • Tell The Word • Wellspring Conference Center

Eighth Day Community Took Responsibility for Potter's House Renewal

By Gail Arnall

What happens when, in the course of things, a ministry that was once at the cutting edge of religious and community life in the city becomes aware that it need a fundamental re-visioning of its mission and reinvestment in its facilities? And what if the small worshipping community who had once provided the vibrancy for the exciting mission during its peak years was now shrinking and aging?

How about choosing to transfer a property worth over \$3 million to a new owner for \$1? Or is that just never done?

That is exactly what happened in 2013 when the six remaining members of the Potter's House Church, Kayla McClure, Shelley Jeanne Marcus, Meade Hanna, Sam Miller, Rick Fugate and Florence Parkinson made a momentous decision. After years of discernment, they decided to give the Potter's House property to the Eighth Day Community with a vision that this special place would once again become a vibrant, holy place in the Adams Morgan neighborhood, and the city.

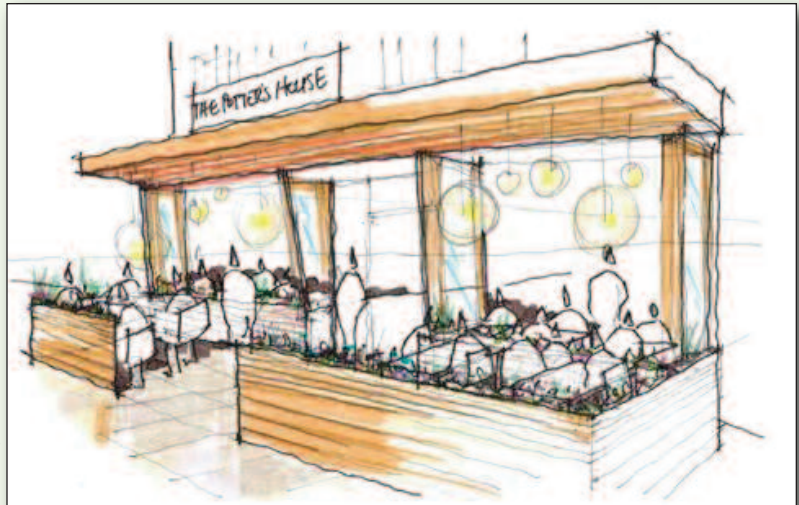
The decision to receive this gift was not an easy one for the Eighth Day Church. Members of the Eighth Day Church were concerned that ownership of The Potter's House would consume the community's time and resources.

But the Church's Banyan Tree Mission Group decided to accept this challenge. They had been in prayerful conversation with Tim Kumfer, on staff at The Festival Center, and Brennan Baker, the Potter's House bookstore manager about their call to renew The Potter's House mission for the next generation. The Church of the Saviour has always recognized the essential role of a committed group called by God to a common mission, and Banyan Tree's support of Tim and Brennan's call to renew the Potter's House was crucial to the Eighth Day Church's agreement to receive ownership of the building.

At the same time, there was concern that The Potters' House would remain welcoming to a racial and economically diverse clientele. For over a year, members of a new Potter's House Team that included Eighth Day worshipers (Karen Mohr, Dottie Bockstiegel, Marcia Harrington, David Dorsey, Gail Arnall, plus Tim and Brennan) and members of the Friends of Jesus Church (Harold Vines and Mike Hopkins) met weekly for over six months to clarify the mission, listen to one another's concerns, and put policies in place to assure that the Potter's House would remain a place of radical hospitality. This group then began working with the architectural firm to design the space.

Emily Owsley, an architect with the Gensler architectural firm, had become a member of the Eighth Day community during this discernment process. She was able to secure pro bono work from Gensler to design the new Potter's House, which required completely digging up even the floor to meet all of the building requirements. A few things were recycled. For example, the tables where we now sit to have coffee were built from the wood planks taken off of the original Potter's House walls.

The Potter's House was closed for almost a year during construction. During this remodeling time, a major fundraising effort was undertaken with the additional help of Alice Benson. Over \$350,000 was raised in the form of contributions and no-interest loans. A building loan was secured from United Bank to cover the physical rebuilding expenses. The Potter's House Project Team oversaw the transition until a permanent Board could be installed (see other articles).



Also during this time the Team worked through operating policies and procedures to insure that the Potter's House would remain welcoming to all.

The dramatic changes in ownership, architecture, menu, staffing and operations were difficult. The process took over two years and countless meetings and white papers. These changes to one of Church of the Saviour's central traditional structures meant that many of the older generation had to be willing to step aside and learn how best to support the new generation of leaders. It is a transition that other Church of the Saviour missions will be facing in the not too distant future.

Once again we are reminded that responding to a Call makes even the most difficult tasks possible.

Gail Arnall is a development and outreach consultant, former director of Offenders' Aid and Restoration (OAR) and member of the 8th Day Community.



An Important Message to Our Community

Effective Monday, March 5th, The Potter's House will be suspending our Pay What You Can free and subsidized meal program in its current form. This is not ultimately an ending but a pause to reflect, regroup, and dream together about the best ways to build community given our gifts and greater mission. We acknowledge this as a loss, and want to express our gratitude to community members that have both participated in and supported the program.

Since reopening in 2015, we have served over 32,000 free meals and drinks, with a market value of over \$112,000. The number of free meals has grown exponentially, from an average of 4 meals per day in 2015, to over 40 meals per day in recent months. While people have generously paid it forward over these three years, demand has greatly outpaced donations. We recognize that this speaks to a larger problem of food insecurity, as well as the uneven ways that vulnerability is distributed in our neighborhood across race and class.

As our awareness of these structural issues has grown, so too has our humility about being able to respond effectively to them given our primary focus as a cafe, bookstore, and event space. We have often struggled to meet the needs of our community members while also ensuring that the basics of running a small business were covered. 2017 was a particularly difficult year for us financially, and we need to refocus our attention on these matters for a season so that we can be sustainable for the long haul.

The Potter's House remains a home for everyone, and will continue to be as long as our doors are open. Over the coming weeks and months we will be exploring options for a successor offering to the current Pay What You Can program, including a regularly available meal. During this interim period, we will be offering monthly info sessions intended to connect community members to essential resources, including healthcare, job placement, and recovery. These gatherings will feature a partner nonprofit organization as well as provide a meal for attendees.

We are also exploring the possibility of launching a monthly community meal intended to build relationships across differences and raise awareness about pressing issues in our city. If you are interested in joining these efforts, or have other input or ideas, we encourage you to reach out to a member of the management team.

We are proud of all that has grown from the Pay What You Can program over these past three years. The care you all have shown for one another--and for us--is our greatest resource. We will work to honor and build upon it as we dream towards what's next.

With gratitude,

The Potter's House





Church of the Saviour
1640 Columbia Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20009

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Special Events

Also check listings at Pottershouse.org and Festivalcenter.org.

Mar 24 | Memorial service for Kayla McClurg. Wellspring, 4pm.

April 4 | Rally on the Mall to confront racism on the anniversary of MLK's death.

April 13-15 | "Stillness and Growth," open retreat with Kenzie Raulin. Dayspringretreat.org.

April 13 | DC Choro Quartet at Carroll Café, Seekers Church, 7pm.
Tickets: Carrollcafe.com.

April 20 | Wes Granberg-Michaelson book launch at the Festival Center. Reception at 6pm; Parr Lecture, 7:00 pm.

April 27-29 | "Rooted in Love," open retreat with Robin Seiler, Jr. Dayspringretreat.org.

May 18 | Claudia Schmidt & Sally Rogers at Carroll Café.
See details above.

May 23 | Ember Day at Dayspring Retreat, 10-4, no cost (donation welcome), bring sack lunch.



June 22-24 | "Eighth Day of Creation," open retreat with Marjory Zoet Bankson. Dayspringretreat.org.