

“On the Brink of Everything” — 48-01
PAUSE TO CONSIDER: REFLECTIONS ON SESSION #1



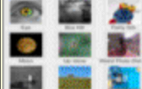





1. Oh, dear! I forgot to take a group photo of session #1 last night. This is the photo from Session 47-10 and it has many familiar faces. The changes: Jim was joined by his partner, Pam, Frans with with Darlene, Mike sent his regrets as did Fran. John in Medicine Hat is rehearsing on Monday nights. (Our group from Comox, with Joanne and Howard are singing on Monday nights). In addition to the folks above included Heather McGillvary, Trish Polay, Bob and Sally... I may have missed some but we had a strong group of learners — 22 computers with four couples. We had no idea how many folks would be with us and at 6:50, there were only four of us having a great chat. Wayne, Joan and I are online by 6:30 so if you want to visit, we are there!!
2. Last night, as I was thinking about the session, I thought of Jock and Bonnae and their dedication to Monday Night Book Study over the years. I remembered Marlene’s awesome breaktime snacks and, in the realm of our current book, I thought about Roy, Thelma, Marjorie and Sheldon, the Savages, Jerry and so many others who were our mentors and whose dedication to learning set such a fine example for the rest of us.
3. **Why was I there?** Sally, Bob and I formed a fourth group last night and, as usual in answering the first question, I recalled Roy Farquarson’s oft repeated reason which was, “Fun, Food and Friends.” He just liked being there and so do I and I love to learn. I have journals filled with the names of attendees and notes for almost all of the 47 books we have studied — last night was no exception!
4. **What do I want to learn?** We all have edges — some are beginning and others are ending. Compulsively, I love to learn and I love to reflect. This book offers opportunities for both. I have read the book and listened to the audiotape more

than once. You might want to do that too so that each week you can really put the reading into the context of the whole. So, the way I figure it, I am now one of the elders in our group. There I've said it, yet I feel like Wayne did when his doctor referred to his growing old, I'm not old!! The voice I hear though as I write that is my husband saying, "So how many 150 year olds do you know?" Bless him!

5.

Jock McTavish's mantle passed to me several years ago and I have tried to follow in his technical footsteps — a very hard act to follow. This is my eighth opportunity to work with Wayne along with Joan, our chair of Adult Spiritual Development Ministry.

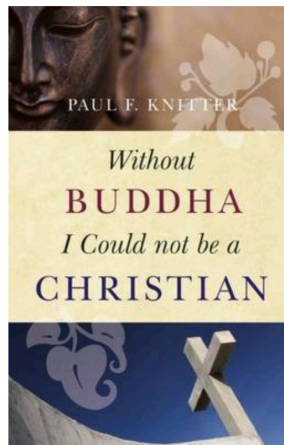
	<h1>1 Candle</h1>	Jock F. McTavish Calgary, Canada mctavjoc@shaw.ca	info	If each of us held a candle there, and if we went in together, we could see it.
Doings - Learnings - Sharings.				
	1 Journey - My Poetry Each personal journey follows a unique path. Yet we often have similar experiences and encounter similar people. These words often reflect the people I have encountered along the way. Their achievements and challenges, their virtues and foibles, their faith and courage, their hope and promise, seem always to set my muse to marvelling. Share then, some stopping turning points of my journey.			
	Picture Albums Here are some photo albums of work and family and wanderings about. These are put forward under the creative commons for any to use. Especially look at the photos from Rosebud.			
	Multiple Sclerosis In 1992 I was diagnosed with MS. I have been fortunate to find critical information, good advice and ways to manage the dragon. Here is collected the best of this, and a sharing of experience. There are some remarkable people around the world who share the work. I am not only the advocate of these viable helpful "alternatives", but their evidence. I cope very well.			
	The Bookstudies I've led a church bookstudy group at St. Davids United Church with friend Wayne Holst for quite a few years. We've covered a broad spectrum of religious issues from the liberal/progressive perspective. These archives are a research resource on the themes raised in each study. Also lots of multimedia links. Many are unawares of this christian tradition where myth is not confused with history.			
	Avionics Page Avionics is the electronic engineering within aviation. This was my work. (I'm retired now). Here are some papers, presentations and collections of that trade.			

6. We missed Mike Grammer last night, who has been with us during COVID on ZOOM and by email for some 13 years previously. He will be back next week. ZOOM offers so many options to us. Yes, we miss Marlene's snacks and the hugs but ... the convenience is alluring.

7. Thank you, Ken, for your opening last night. I made some notes:

You mentioned a book at the beginning of your talk — "Necessary Hybridism of Faith" (I did a search for the book but I must not have heard the title clearly.) — and a second book, with which we are familiar, "The Book of Joy." A third book was from among the books he was gifted by Rev. Peggy during her book clearing, "Without Buddha, I couldn't be a Christian." You went on to say that you were yourself an octogenarian, a learner with the hope that reading books like these would rub off on you. You began by quoting Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931-2021), winner of a Nobel Peace Prize and leader of

South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, who said: "We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested."



From the Dalai Lama, you quoted, "The ultimate source of happiness is within us. Not money, not power, not status. Outward attainment will not bring real inner joyfulness. We must look inside."

Knitter, a former priest who married a Buddhist, spoke of Karma — Deed or Action, Cause and Effect— and Mantra — "Namaste(Rev. Peggy's mantra) as power

word or phrase that focus our thoughts. You went on to say that Inner Goodness is Wisdom and outer goodness is compassion. Your conclusion: Dualism separates us. Instead look for what we share. With usual religious education ending about grade eight in school, we need to answer the rhetorical question, "Are we not living in a pluralistic world?" The answer, "Yes, we are! We share common experiences."

As usual, Ken, your wisdom was well-appreciated and we look forward to your summary closing for Session #10.

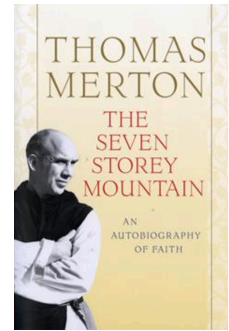
8. Housekeeping Review:

- We spent a few minutes remembering our dear friend of St. David's (and long time Music Director) who passed on this weekend. He and Marjorie bought a home in Nova Scotia when he retired from St. David's and they have kept in touch with many of us. (1943-2022) We shared a love of music and close birth days.
- We will be breaking between Sessions 5 and 6 which is Family Day here in Alberta. February 21, 2022 and finishing on March 28, 2022
- Check out sduc.ca for weekly updates and keynote presentation.
- Enjoy "Pause to Consider." I really like preparing it.
- Audiotape of "On the Brink..." and of Thomas Merton's "The Seventh Mountain" are great listening resources.

9. Wayne's Input last night dealt with the questions: **Why this book and Personal experience with Aging.** Fran Burrell suggested this book for Session 48 last fall and over the holiday, members of the ACTS ministry committee read the book, agreeing with her. Wayne told us about his visit to his family doctor who mentioned his age and it gave Wayne a bit of a start... His response was that he and Marlene had taken a major risk by driving to Slave Lake to celebrate Christmas with family. They appreciated all the kind thoughts accompanying them on their journey and totally enjoyed their reunion with family.

10. **More on Dr. Parker Palmer:** Thoughts on Mentors: Parker Palmer was one of my mentors during the 90's with his books, "Courage to Teach" 1997, Promise of Paradox,

(1980) . “Living the Questions” (2005) was introduced to us by Larry Fisk, 1934-2011, member of our book study. Palmer’s mentor was Thomas Merton, Trappist Monk at Gethsemani.



11. Chat:

a. Deb Charnuski has twice visited the Trappist Monastery in Kentucky — Abbey of Gethsemani — where Thomas Merton lived. He was Dr. Parker Palmer’s mentor despite having died the year before Palmer read, “The Seventh Mountain.” That book and the 70+ others written by Merton formed a major part of Palmer’s life direction.

b. Growing edges — having students that are generations younger!! For me, teaching the children of former students!!

c. A discussion of family doctors and their importance in our lives.

11. Some links you might like: I’ve included the live stream of the Service of Compline at St. David’s, January 16, 2022

<https://couragerenewal.org/wpccr/parker/videos/>



On Being Project: <https://onbeing.org>

<https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/home>

Brenda

P.S. The weather has changed but resilience is us!!! -16 right now.

