

## “Travel Well”

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An old Aboriginal man has crossed my path several times and gifted me with words I have begun to treasure. Words that have sunk into my being and become a part of who I am. The first meeting began with conversation around all the constant rain that was falling, causing frayed edges on many levels of the community. He was so positive that I couldn't help but catch some of the positivity! At the end of the conversation, I said goodbye and wished him well. He stopped me and said, "We would say, 'Travel well.'" These two words boomed out and rang with invitation. I wandered off into the rain pondering what I had just experienced. There was something about this man that clawed at my being asking me to take notice. These two powerful words have become **my** parting greeting. 'Travel well'... 'Travel well.' Those words are so rich and draw me into the depths of awareness.

How are you travelling through this Easter Season? For the disciples, the time after the resurrection was not always a time of utter joy. There were those periods where Jesus was totally present to them and then he was gone! A couple found him walking with them in their grief and disappointment. Then he was gone! Others shared a beach breakfast meal with him, and then he was gone! He creatively appeared while they had gathered in the locked Upper Room. Then he was gone! He appeared individually as well as collectively to them. Then he was gone!

In Luke 24: 35-36 we read: *The disciples told their story of what had happened... and were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'* These select, privileged, intimate friends of Jesus were so startled and afraid at this, despite the greeting of peace, that they were frozen in fear! I love that the Risen Christ does not berate them for their lack of faith or lack of believing. Instead, he soothes their fears and opens their minds and hearts to see him as he really is – the Risen Christ. He accepts where they are at and invites them into a deeper relationship through the very things that they are experiencing at that moment. His desire is that they "travel well" through these experiences and begin to recognise **him in the ordinary and the concrete material of daily living** – the challenges as well as the normal things. The Christ invitation being not so much to look *at him*, but to see our entire life through his merciful, compassionate, and loving eyes.

The invitation to see through the eyes of the Risen Christ is indeed a challenging one. He is asking his friends to see him, to touch him, to know him, (but not to cling to him), so that they will eventually learn to *see like him*. That is, with clarity of vision, and tender and compassionate hearts. This is our invitation too, particularly as we move through this Easter season and into ordinary time. To improve and strengthen our Easter eyes! For the one who looks upon us – the one who longs for our attention, our awareness, is the One who *searches us out with Easter eyes*.<sup>1</sup> Easter invites us to see differently. Patrick Wrisley, a Presbyterian minister, encourages his flock to see everything in a new way when he says that *"Easter is God's ophthalmological procedure whereby we see everything anew, different, and more clearly"*<sup>2</sup> What an exciting explanation! Yet as Wrisley explains, *"before one receives the gift of Easter eyes, he or she must go through a crisis. For the women and the others, their crisis was the death of their Master, Jesus."*<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/spirituality/column/what-would-it-mean-be-seen-and-see-world-easter-eyes>

<sup>2</sup> **Easter Eyes, Luke 24: 1-12**; <https://patrickhwisley.com/2022/04/20/easter-eyes-luke-241-12/comment-page-1/>

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*



How well are you travelling? It makes sense for the disciples still trying to see with their new “Easter eyes” and experiencing the Risen Christ here and then gone. Is it not the same for us? How do we ‘travel well’ through those rugged times when our God seemingly is not present? What is the quality our Easter eyesight brings? When we have the awareness to recognise the Risen Christ walking with us it gives a boost to our day. The One who ‘searches us out’ does so in many ways. One personal experience was on a day when I was walking up the street to post a parcel. I was lost in thought when suddenly, a voice said, “Have you the address for that parcel?” I recall stopping abruptly, recognising this as the voice of the One who travels with me, realising that I didn’t have the address and retracing my steps. There at home was the envelope with the address sitting up waiting for me!

As we travel through each day, the One who walks and travels with us will inevitably make a surprise appearance when we are not expecting it. Joyce Rupp describes my present stance so well when she says:

*Unlike the apprehensive disciples locked  
In the Upper Room with their fears,  
I do have expectations of your coming.  
Yet, you continue to surprise me, too.  
I anticipate your entrance as a wild gust  
And then you slip quietly into my life.  
I wait for you to speak instantly,  
Instead, you slowly share your guidance.  
I look for you in the highly unusual  
And, of course, you show up in the ordinary.<sup>4</sup>*

If I am truthful, I too, miss these opportunities at times and only recognise them in hindsight. **I do** have expectations that the Risen One will ‘pop into’ my day, and my deepest desire is to recognise this when it happens.

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<sup>4</sup> © 2011 Joyce Rupp *Fragments of Your Ancient Name*; Sorin Books; Notre Dame Indiana (May 18)

In my experience, dreams are also ways used by God to travel with us and reveal God's desire for us. As we travel our inner dream world, we learn the language of the soul and ways of allowing our Easter eyes to see what is 'hidden' from us in our outer world in daylight. Over recent months my dreams have revealed a change of direction in my relationship with God. Through my dreams I have been able to allow a change to take place and to 'see' it as an invitation from God to a deepening of relationship. Travelling well through our dream world is always enhanced by sharing with a trusted companion. Indeed, experience tells me that this is a vital component of "travelling well" in our dream world. I have found that the *Dream Group* that I am part of is of utter importance in this area as well as sharing with a spiritual companion.



Spending time together in prayer for our broken world; reaching out with hope-filled hearts in times of ruggedness to touch others is vital to maintain our connection with ourselves, others, nature and with God and to travel with them. The meditation sessions I am part of bring a peace and a hope for a better world. That at least in my little patch, this is a place to 'travel well' with others. Here is a haven for life to grow and thrive. Listening to the stories of others in this space is inspiring, encouraging and bonding, helping us to 'travel well' together. Thank God for God's 'ophthalmological procedure' allowing us to see much more clearly! Thank God for the Risen Christ's procedure of heart expansion! Thank God for our ability to respond in a deeply personal manner!

Contemplating the home page of CEN website, I found myself pondering how all those who have accessed these pages - those who have gather for silent prayer together across the world, those who have spent time reflecting on the written words found there are - are 'travelling' themselves. My heart reaches out and wants to touch each one with those words 'travel well'. Indeed, there are 'intricate networks' holding each of us as part of this beautiful divine creation pulsating with the very breath and heart of God. May each discover their heart expanded and a clarity of eyesight to recognise the One who 'travels well' with them.

I give thanks for the dear man who gifted me with something very precious. May he "travel well".

*Travel well...with Easter Eyes... and an expanded tender heart. Travel well!*