

Christian, paradox, wonder

The Listening Post

The Listening Post *began as a section on the ACT website initiated by Fr. Joe Scerbo, SA, Ph.D.* The Journal of Christian Healing *is now taking over this function. This section in the Journal is for short articles (up to 1,000 words) that give support, extension, criticism, or correction to articles previously published in the Journal. We also invite short articles to be submitted for this section that express hunches, opinions, thoughts for prayerful consideration; questions, concerns, wisdom, and discussion that can stimulate further research, scholarship, and clinical observation. Send all such articles to Robin Caccese: rcaccese@enter.net.*

Just Wondering

Robin Caccese, B.S., M.T.(A.S.C.P.) – JCH Managing Editor and ACT member

Judith Agaoglu does a marvelous job of expressing imponderable and paradoxical aspects of Christian healing ministry and the Christian walk in her article in this issue of JCH on the life and ministry of Agnes Sanford. I wonder how to deal with imponderables and paradoxes. I wonder what place imponderables and paradox play in our Christian lives and healing ministries?

I have an image that seems to express how I feel sometimes when on the horns of such dilemmas. I imagine myself as the Apostle Peter during the storm on the Sea of Galilee after he had just stepped out of the boat to go to Jesus. I feel the wind and the waves. I know that I am sinking fast and I am terrified. There are things that are both possible and impossible at the same time. Both impossible things are true. Maybe it's not as dramatic as being saved from drowning, but you feel like you are – drowning, falling, sticking, stuck, free, screaming, peaceful – between two impossibles that are both true. Another image I have is that I am the grain of sand in the oyster. I can't get out and the oyster can't get me out. Is what is happening to me and the oyster good or bad or both?

Does anyone have wisdom they would like to share about these kinds of moments? What brings peace and certainty for you? Do you have an experience you can share about how Jesus met you in such moments? How do you experience Jesus reaching out to you and calming your tempestuous sea in these kinds of times.

I wrote a poem in the past as I struggled to express my own paradoxical experiences.

EXODUS

*The wilderness, it seems, is daily.
The manna, too, is daily.
Sometimes there are mighty wonders.
Sometimes there are visions.*

*Visions that
vivify the dry sand,
liquefy the old rocks, and
incinerate the mountain tops!*

In the wilderness, all this!

*Wild wilderness!
Suddenly sinister, shocking, silent!
Untamed!
Unashamed!
Daily frame.*

*Wilderness maker,
You are the shaker.
Make me – the quaker – holiest taper.*

Oh, yes, then there are the notions of *Wilderness* and *Exodus*. *Wilderness* can be wild and beautiful at the same time. *Exodus* is a journey from slavery to freedom and at the same time could be a very unpleasant journey and really take a long time. UGH! What think ye? Poets, have you tried to express the inexpressible?