



1 December 2018

Dear Raymond Perrier

Paddy Kearney: A Treasure in a Clay Jar

I write on behalf of the committee of the Durban Inner City Faith-based Conservancy, to pass on our sympathies on the recent death of Paddy Kearney and to offer a few words of appreciation for this life and what he has meant to us.

While I borrow a phrase from the Christian scriptures to describe Paddy's life, "We have this treasure in clay jars" (2 Corinthians 4:7), we are well aware that Paddy was deeply respectful of other religious traditions. We treasure all that Paddy offered to us in his life.

Most of us have been closely associated with Paddy and his work, some for a number of decades. Three of us worked for the Diakonia Council of Churches under Paddy's directorship and two of our number are currently employed by the Denis Hurley Centre. Our Faith Conservancy has its origins in a series of presentations made by those of different religions at the Denis Hurley Centre during the latter part of 2016.

Paddy built organisations and supported movements. He also helped others to develop their own organisations. In this Paddy had high standards and paid great attention to detail. In planning meetings and events he was thorough: starting early with a small planning group, being realistic in terms of time, knowing what was aesthetically appropriate and practically achievable and then evaluating the event afterwards – he was always open to learn. We have learnt from him.

Paddy was supportive of our Conservancy. He shared our vision of "greening" the inner city in partnership with others and challenging those with political power to ensure the city cares for all its residents. We are grateful to the Denis Hurley Centre for its ongoing hospitality in hosting our meetings and other events. Thank you.

Paddy was a pioneer in linking both faith and the environment and social justice and the environment. Justice for the earth arose from his compassion and overwhelming sense of justice. While his primary concern was for those who suffered under colonialism and apartheid in South Africa, he also expressed support for the Palestinians suffering under occupation and forced from their homeland, the Dalits in India discriminated against under the caste system, the Tibetans in China struggling for freedom, survivors of gender-based violence and those who are HIV positive – the latter two groups we remember particularly at this time.

Paddy used his privileged education to enable others to discover the treasure within them. Possessing little, Paddy was rich in relationships. As a leader he initiated and maintained friendships and working relationships with a diverse range of people. Not only did he help others but he also drew upon the help of others. Paddy listened, cared, and always tried to offer words of hope.

We are all the richer for having known Paddy.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Warmback

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Chairperson