



Dear Colleagues

The theme of this year's conference highlights our task as teachers in being able to respond to the new impulses that are being brought into the world through children. "Preparing for Change" is also an awakening to the inner being of each and every one of us – a call to personal change within. Rudolf Steiner has made it clear that as teachers we should strive to reach a condition of continuous self-development; to be inspired in our own lives in order to inspire others. The apparent contradiction in the concept of "constant change" is echoed in the cosmic breathing rhythm of that which comes from without and that which comes from within. The changes that mark our particular age must be met with a sensitive, courageous and creative approach by the Waldorf teachers of our world. We must cultivate an interest in the world around us, and together with an understanding of the human being and the destiny of Man we must use this guidance, wisdom and courage to meet the children of today, and the new children of tomorrow.

To hold, guide and deepen our understanding of this theme, we have chosen two inspired verses by Rudolf Steiner, and these will be central to our conference programme. It is with enthusiasm for what may come that we encourage all colleges and faculties to work with these verses in preparation for our Conference. It is our hope that in upholding these verses for study within the different Waldorf Colleges in Southern Africa, the unique and individual guiding inspiration for the future of each school will be found.

We look forward to our coming together and the sharing of the dynamic diversity of gifts that such preparation brings.

For Courage

For this Michaelic Age we must eradicate from the soul all fear and terror for what comes out of the future. We must acquire serenity in all feelings and sensations about the future. We must look forward with absolute equanimity to everything that may come and we must think only that whatever comes is given us by World Direction, full of Wisdom. It is part of what we must learn, namely to live out of pure trust, without any security in existence, trusting in the ever-present help of the Spiritual World. Truly, nothing else will do, if our courage is not to fail. Let us discipline our will and let us seek the Awakening from within ourselves, every morning, every evening.

Rudolf Steiner, 27 November 1919

The Awakening Call of Michael

We people of today
Need a true ear
For the Spirit's awakening call –
The awakening call of Michael.
Spiritual-knowing seeks
To open the soul
To a true hearing
Of this awakening call.

