

The Work of *relating.com* – Sergio Milandri

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I have been asked by Louise Cull to describe what we are currently doing from our Hout Bay Retreat Centre

Shortly before his death Francis wrote to me while we were sailing and asked me to consider coming back to Cape Town and starting an Institute for Reconciliation. I was intrigued by the request especially since I had done some work on the links between spirituality and conflict while studying at Eastern Mennonite University. Sadly Francis died before we could talk through what he had in mind. As I reflect back over the years since our return, I am encouraged to see how much of our work has encompassed reconciliation, particularly in relationships. Writing the piece about the early days at the Institute and this one outlining our current work has been restorative for me in many ways.

As some of you know, our focus has been on the spirituality of relationship, the Gospel in the main being about Right Relationship. 'Love God and love the other as you love yourself.' A while back I had a dream in which I was told, 'Call your website Relating.Com' When we checked in the morning, the name had just become available and so began our Relating.Com journey. Please see our website for a fuller picture of what we do.

At present our team consists of Ali, Carlo, Luiza, Elizabeth and me, with a supportive 'Relating Co-Operative' group which meets weekly. Our home and garden has become a retreat centre, with the Barn as the meeting space.

Every Monday evening since 2004 we have met to explore relationship work. At present we are midway in a series entitled 'The Gift of the Other, Developing Skill in the 10 Levels of Relating.'

Our first Saturday Retreats continue, the theme of which is drawn from the Monday relating sessions.

Our series; 'Dating and Relating' begun in April 2016 meeting on the last Friday of each month gives process and practice to the search for a life partner, the biggest decision of our lives. There is also a website by this name.

In our gender work we have run the course 'Risking Manhood' for men and woman since 2007 which identifies and facilitates the passage through the seven risks of initiation. This is course is now on video and is soon to be posted on U-Tube. Related Courses are 'Facing Ourselves' and 'Giving Life.'

For 10 years I have been doing 12 step spirituality for rehab clinics. From this has come the CD series 'Inner Atlas' for all who wish to explore the inner life.

Other CD and podcast series include 'Creative Conflict', 'Befriending Ourselves', 'Nurturing our Needs', 'Singleness and Wholeness', 'Marriage Insights' and 'Growing in Self-Worth.'

In 2015 we put out the book 'Prayer as Relationship'. We also republished 'Yes to Myself.'

Soon to come out is the book 'A Year of Grace' Tracing the Thread of God's Grace through our Life Story, as well as 'Come and See. Following Jesus through the Gospel of John.'

We are energised by all God is showing us and leading us into. My regard and gratitude for all Francis was and mentored in us continues to grow and I know he would have blessed the fruit of our life journey.

