

# Perspectives

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# Introduction

While Victoria was in Covid lockdown I felt I needed to do something practical to address the isolation, loss, and anxiety experienced by so many – me included – by posting nature photos on Facebook with reflections and scriptural texts. Garry Eastman – the director of Garratt Publishing – kindly invited me to turn some of those reflections into a small book, which became *See with the Eyes of the Heart*. I'm very grateful for the gracious responses of people who appreciated the book's invitation to be more attentive to the presence of God within and around us. As St Paul reminded the Athenians: 'In him we live and move and have our being' (Acts 17:28).

Five years on (and after the sad passing of Garry in October 2020) it seemed timely to continue our journey with a new collection. With so many photos to choose from, it took time for a unifying theme to emerge. I asked myself why I take photos in the first place. What draws my attention – what is it inviting me to reflect upon? Sometimes it is simply beauty, colour, or how light plays on the subject. At other times, a meaning will emerge if I stop, wait and listen. Because my ministry has always focused on the Word, there is always a conversation going on inside me between what I see and reflect on in the light of the scriptures. All of us need conversation partners and sources of wisdom to enrich the journey.

This collection of reflections takes a few moments to consider our lives and world from different perspectives. The perspective from which we view God, ourselves, one another, and the world around us impacts greatly on what we see, and how we respond. Seeing things in a new light, or a fresh perspective, enriches and challenges. There is always something to learn and an attitude or behaviour to develop or modify in our life journey.

I am a curious person by nature – there is so much within and without us to be explored. I hope these simple reflections function as a prompt to keep developing your own reflective practice. Photography helps me to develop the art of patience as I sit and wait. It heightens my awareness: the mundane and ordinary can be transformed in a moment into something luminous. If you aren't alert to it, the moment passes, and it is gone.

Blessings  
Chris CP



## Perspectives

*...there is always a conversation going on inside me between what I see and reflect on in the light of the scriptures. All of us need conversation partners and sources of wisdom to enrich the journey...*

## One step at a time

One of the features of Santa Casa Retreat Centre in Queenscliff is this beautiful labyrinth. While it's only about 15 metres wide the groundsman who made it informed me that over a kilometre and a half of bricks were used in its construction. Labyrinths have a long tradition in the spiritual practice of the church. Mindfully entering the labyrinth is a rich experience. No special training is required as you follow the twists and turns, pondering your life's journey. At times you will be unexpectedly drawn into the centre, then find yourself on the periphery, only to be drawn into the centre again. Our spiritual journey is like that – with times of clarity and intimacy with God and others, and other times feeling we are going round in circles and not getting anywhere. All the while we are in God's hands – one step at a time.

Thus says the LORD: Stand at the crossroads,  
and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the  
good way lies; and walk in it...

*Jer 6:16*

