



After a number of unremembered nursery experiences, I began my history, from the age of seven to eighteen, of attendance at six boarding schools. These are to be found in Argentina, England and Canada. The basic model of each of school was that of the English Public schools that were private. In the early 1980s, discovering the existence of the Indian Residential Schools and the effect on the aboriginal families, communities, spirituality and cultures, I noted my experiences of schools had strong echoes in what I was discovering about the IRS and about which I am still learning.

My square on the quilt shows two themes. The first was to remember the Creator's gift of life in all its varied forms and all its blessings. The second is that of the evil that seeks to distort and destroy. This evil must not be the determining drive of our actions but rather that of love. This is found in the centre, an edited version of Gladys Taylor's teaching of the inhibiting destructive nature of bitterness, to be dealt with by the flowing power of love that enables us to rid ourselves of bitterness and so doing free to embrace that which we thought of as the cause of our suffering. The Creator is one who in love forgives and empowers others to live with such grace. For Christians the cross of Jesus is the focus and image of our faith in God's love.

Peter Marshall

Love and Bitterness

When we have bitterness instead of love in
Our hearts, we may sometimes find
Ourselves able to minister to people who
May also have bitterness in their hearts.

But, we will drive all others away.
We have to make a start somewhere to undo
The many feelings of hurt that we have. If
We do not deal with the hurt, it will get
Worse and will fester.
We have to let go our bitter feelings and
Embrace the ones that we had been thinking
About in bitterness, the ones we thought
Were the cause of all our suffering.
We will feel the flowing of love.
Life isn't so long that we can waste our
Time walking backwards.

Gladys Taylor

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