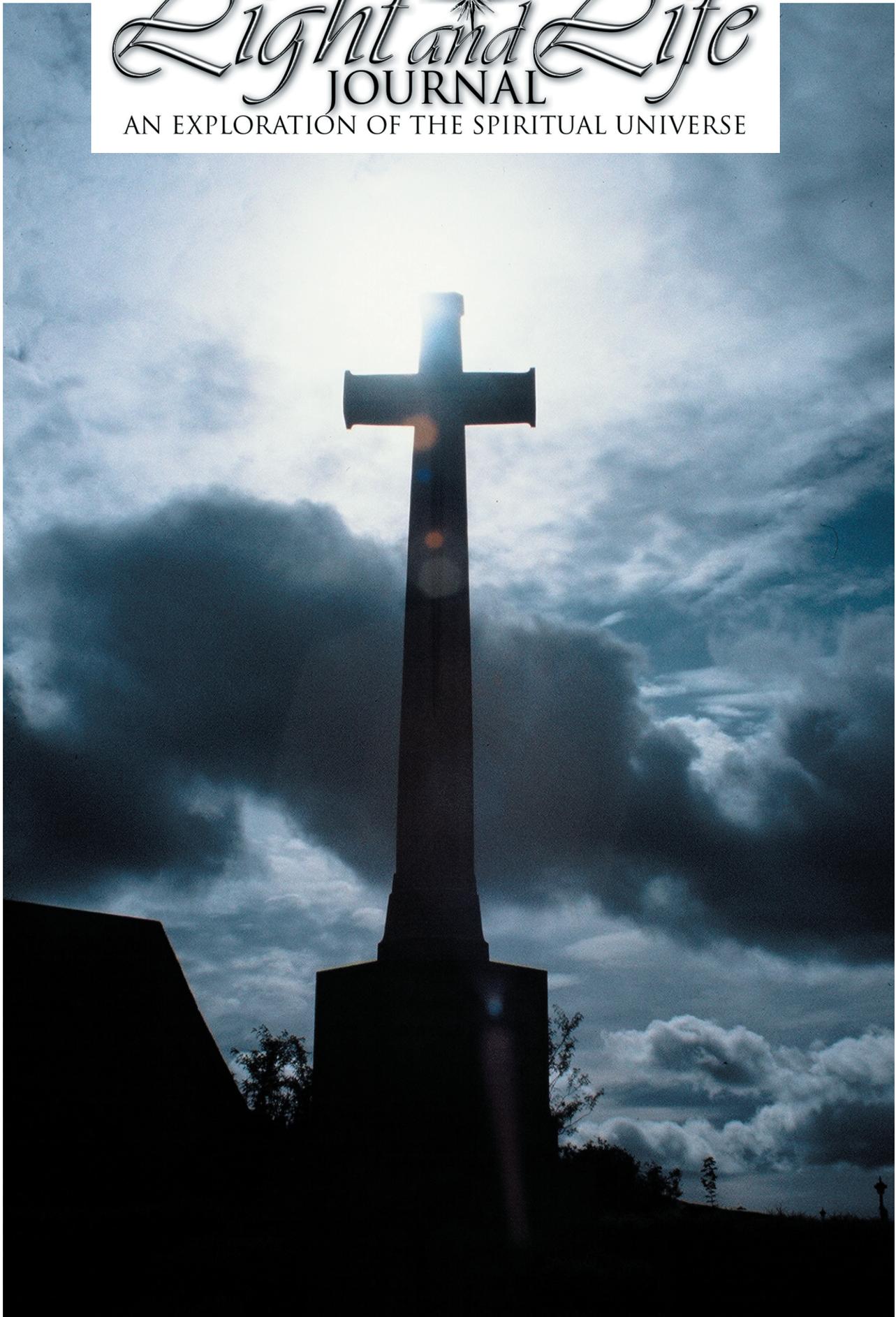


# *Light and Life* JOURNAL

AN EXPLORATION OF THE SPIRITUAL UNIVERSE



ISSUE 12 WINTER 2002-03



Executive and Issue 12 Editor  
Jim Cleveland

Welcome to the Light and Life Journal, issue no. 12. Herein, we explore many aspects of the spiritual universe as they may impact our lives on this quickening planet.

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the Light and Life Journal

the Light and Life Online Express

HighLights of the Melchizedek University

COVER PHOTO: Jim Cleveland in Quebec City

Editor at Large: JIM CLEVELAND

## SPIRIT OF TRUTH:

### Access with Care

When we are confronted with a conflicting maze of ministries, all professing to be the way, we tend to believe that accessing the Spirit of Truth, given to us at Pentecost, is the ideal way to ascertain what is true or false.

While it sounds like good medicine, one can't help realizing that all of these spiritual movements believe they are doing exactly that. Some people profess that they are imbued with melchizedeks. Others spin voluminous tales of our history that explain Atlantis, Lemuria, the lost years of Jesus, and the planetary changes being spearheaded by galactic forces and clandestine extraterrestrials. There are transmissions from Mother Mary and Judas, even Jerry Garcia if you want to buy the book.

Of course, all these stories don't match up. The lost years of Jesus are decidedly different when you read the Urantia papers or the Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ or Elizabeth Claire Prophet's series.

And stories change. Once, planetary evacuation of the good folks was all the rage, then some decided that the good guys would stay and the bad ones would be gone. The year 2000 was supposed to signal an apocalyptic shift. Now, with that insignificant human date gone, many spiritualists are looking to 2012 and finding justifications in their cross-fertilized literature that this year will be a major epochal signpost.

Can the Spirit of Truth mean different things to different people? I don't think so. I believe its true function is to cut through all the stories and the belief systems and to imbue humankind with the very basic truths of spiritual conviction, especially including the realization that a loving, compassionate Father God lives inside us all, and will guide us truly. The means of access is within each of us; it is simple and yet profound; it has no use for imaginative stories spun by the human mind. Jesus said: Go to the Father. This is enough. Then he added to us his own spirit to indwell us even more blessedly.

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# “Some cheer, some cry, many die”

<http://www.yellowtimes.org/article.php?sid=802>

By Raff Ellis

YellowTimes.org Columnist (United States)

(YellowTimes.org) – I remember sitting in the movie theater as a boy watching a newsreel of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb attacks. The audience cheered as the cities were incinerated.

The nation felt deeply wronged and was not in the mood to think about whether those citizens of the targeted cities were culpable or not. The emperor of Japan certainly didn't ask the residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki whether they wanted to start a war with the United States. It was just too bad they were the ones the War Department and the President decided to exterminate in a demonstration of American military power that would bring about a swift end to the war.

It was well after the war was over before some Americans began having second thoughts about the massive destruction that took place in those attacks. Did it need to be done at all? Was it overkill? Could it have been done another way? To this day, the argument intermittently continues about what could be called the first real use of weapons of mass destruction.

Fast forward 61 years to September 11, 2001. We didn't have to wait a week to see the destruction of the World Trade Center in the movie theaters. We saw it happening, live and in color, in the discomfort of our living rooms. Through our tears, suspicion and anger, we wondered: “How could anyone do this?” We felt very vulnerable and hurt that someone could hate us that much. And some people from around the world cheered!

Whenever there is conflict of any kind, someone cheers and someone cries and many die. What was different in these two events? On the one hand, we had a nation wronged by those evil Japanese who had sneak-attacked us at Pearl Harbor (or was it a preemptive strike?) getting their comeuppance, and, on the other,

we had those evil, militant, terrorist Muslims cheering what they thought we had coming to us.

Since the 9-11 tragedy, our nation has gone through several presumptions about why our heretofore unseen enemies wish us harm. One completely neglected hypothesis would have us admit that our policies over the last 50 years have engendered hatred in many places around the world. Such acknowledgment would mean those policies were wrong and would have to change. That is something a self-righteous America has never been ready or willing to do. We're just not good at admitting mistakes because we have spent most of our time and energy convincing the world, and ourselves, that our way of life is superior to anything that has existed since the dawn of time. It would be extremely ego deflating to retreat from that position.

A half-century ago, an American could travel just about anywhere in the world and not worry about his/her safety. Then the cold warriors in Washington got the bright idea that we should be involved in covert operations to fight communism by participating in political assassinations and assisting in regime changes. We attached CIA operatives to all our embassies and participated in overthrowing governments in Iran, Chile and in some places we don't even know about. Of course, the world noticed and people began thinking that America was getting a bit too cavalier in its heavy-handed interference in the affairs of other countries. In the end, communism imploded, not because of our covert operations, but because we spent it to death.

The residual effect of our clandestine activities produced a wellspring of resentment that still gushes today and vengeance on the U.S. has become the rallying cry of terrorists worldwide. Now, this work product has visited our shores and we act surprised.

We have a long history of assisting tyrannical regimes around the world, but no country gets as much aid from the United States as does the repressive government of Israel. In addition to the military and eco-

conomic support they receive, they are given lopsided political support in the international arena. The U.S. has vetoed some 32 Security Council resolutions, in addition to the 68 that were passed and ignored, that would have sanctioned Israel. To say unabashedly that this posture has had no bearing on the hatred the people in the region feel is to declare that they have no legitimate grievances. We are to believe, therefore, that none of this had anything to do with the destruction of the World Trade Center. I'd sooner believe in the tooth fairy or Santa Claus.

World travelers also know how ridiculous it is to believe that "they" hate us for our freedoms. Equally ridiculous is the proffered notion that our aim is to democratize countries like Iraq. If democracy was our objective, why have talks been held with Prince Hassan of Jordan to reestablish the Hashemite Kingdom in Iraq after Saddam's downfall? No one really believes Iraq is a threat to our security - not the military, not the CIA and not the State Department. If we go to war, it will be because the powerful lobbies will have their way whether it be for oil, international trade or further U.S. control of the Middle East. We're certainly not going to war to redress any grievances that others have against us, and instead will create more of the same.

Have you never wondered what the state of affairs would be today if we had responded to the grievance instead of the act? What if the national aspirations of people such as the Palestinians were realized? What if our current zeal to oust dictators was stated foreign policy from 50 years ago? What if third world countries would have been brought onto the international stage with democratic governments and their people treated with respect? Would we have the kind of terrorism that exists in the world today? Personally, I don't think so.

So, here we are, planning to launch a preemptive strike against a country that, by all credible accounts, had nothing to do with 9-11. It's a tremendous opportunity to add to our reputation as the world's super bully.

Will the citizens of Baghdad, who have had no say in the actions of their totalitarian government, end up emulating the residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Are we condemned to debate in the aftermath whether it was really necessary, too heavy-handed, or could have been done another way?

Any day now, we'll be able to see another war (at least the part that the government wants us to see), live and in deadly color from the safety and security of our living rooms. Some will cheer, some will cry and many, many will die.

[Raff Ellis lives in the United States and is a retired former strategic planner and computer industry executive. He has had an abiding and active interest in the Middle East since early adulthood and has traveled to the region many times over the last 30 years.]

Raff Ellis encourages your comments:  
[rellis@YellowTimes.org](mailto:rellis@YellowTimes.org)

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I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.

---President Dwight D Eisenhower, 1953

## URANTIA PAPERS STUDY:

# Contacts with the Spirit World: A study in multiplicity

E-Mail from: JIM McCALLON

What exactly does the Urantia Book have to say on the subject of spirits making contact with us lowly humans?.....after the posts of the past several weeks we all know what people on these lists have to say about it - but what does the book which brought us all together here have to say?.....i've pulled a few quotes - and i'd stress the word few - there are many more -

>Page-1190 But regardless of such apparent independence, long-range observation unquestionably discloses that they function in the human mind in perfect synchrony and co-ordination with all other spirit ministries, including adjutant mind-spirits, Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth, and other influences.

This passage is talking about adjusters in the human mind .....my question is what "other influences".....?..... i've often seen people write on these lists words to the effect "i have my adjuster and the spirit of truth and i don't need anything else".....well, obviously you do need more - because according to the ub - more spiritual influences are functioning in and around you.....consider the following.....

>Page-1191 We are cognizant of many spirit phenomena in the far-flung universe which we are at a loss fully to understand. We are not yet masters of all that is transpiring about us; and I believe that much of this inscrutable work is wrought by the Gravity Messengers and certain types of Mystery Monitors. I do not believe that Adjusters are devoted solely to the remaking of mortal minds. I am persuaded that the Personalized Monitors and other orders of unrevealed prepersonal spirits are representative of the Universal Father's direct and unexplained contact with the creatures of the realms.

>"other orders of unrevealed prepersonal spirits".....ok....and then we have....

>Page-1244 One of the most important things a destiny guardian does for her mortal subject is to effect a personal co-ordination of the numerous impersonal spirit influences which indwell, surround, and impinge upon the mind and soul of the evolving material creature.

>what numerous impersonal spirit influences?.....

>Page-64 The great God makes direct contact with mortal man and gives a part of his infinite and eternal and incomprehensible self to live and dwell within him. God has embarked upon the eternal adventure with man. If you yield to the leadings of the spiritual forces in you and around you, you cannot fail to attain the high destiny established by a loving God as the universe goal of his ascendant creatures from the evolutionary worlds of space.

>spirit forces IN you and AROUND you?.....is the spirit of truth in you?....or around you?.....

>Page-64 It is because of this God fragment that indwells you that you can hope, as you progress in harmonizing with the Adjuster's spiritual leadings, more fully to discern the presence and transforming power of those other spiritual influences that surround you and impinge upon you but do not function as an integral part of you

>as we harmonize with the Adjuster, we can more fully discern what?.....the presence and transforming power of THOSE OTHER SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES .....

>Page-421 When once seraphim are commissioned, they may range all Nebadon, even Orvonton, on assignment. Their work in the universe is without bounds and limitations; they are closely associated with the material creatures of the worlds and are ever in the service of the lower orders of spiritual

>personalities, making contact between these beings of the spirit world and the mortals of the material realms.

>hmmm - i wonder if the “lower orders of spiritual personalities” are those same spirits that the other passage says the co-ordinating of their influence is one of the most important things our guardian angel does for us?.....

>Page-639 No matter on what level of universe activities you may encounter spiritual phenomena or contact with spirit beings, you may know that they are all derived from the God who is spirit by the ministry of the Spirit Son and the Infinite Mind Spirit.

>.....all derived from the God who is spirit.....

>there are many many other passages in the UB which speak about spirits impinging, influencing, contacting, and some other neat ways of saying the same thing - it is not impossible, improbable, highly unlikely, demonic, unheard of, and most importantly perhaps around here - OUTSIDE OF THE TEACHINGS OF THE URANTIA BOOK for a person to have contact with a spiritual being which is not an adjuster, the spirit of truth, the holy spirit, or their guardian seraphim -

>just thought i'd pass that along - take care all - and live to give

>jim mccallon

From: STEVE HECHT

hi Jim, Good work, guy. Here's one you missed:

When a world is isolated by rebellion, when a planet is cut off from all outside encircuited communication, as was Urantia after the Caligastia upheaval, aside from personal messengers there remains but one possibility of direct interplanetary or universe communication, and that is through the liaison of the Adjusters of the spheres. No matter what happens on a world or in a universe, the Adjusters are never directly concerned. The isolation of a planet in no way affects the Adjusters and their ability to communicate with any part of the local universe, superuniverse, or the central universe. And this is the reason why contacts with the supreme and the self-acting Adjusters of the reserve corps of destiny are so frequently made on quarantined worlds. Recourse is had to such a technique as a means of circumventing the handicaps of planetary isolation. (108:4:4)

# ENDING MY RELIGION

By D. Patrick Miller

“Ending My Religion” has previously appeared in THE SUN (<http://www.thesunmagazine.org>) and THE HOLY ENCOUNTER, newsletter of Miracle Distribution Center (<http://www.miraclecenter.org>). Author D. Patrick Miller recently released his fifth title under the Fearless Books imprint, NEWS OF A NEW HUMAN NATURE, a collection of his best features and interviews written over the past 20 years on alternative spirituality for such magazines as YOGA JOURNAL, THE SUN, NATURAL HEALTH, and many others. For more information see: <http://www.fearlessbooks.com/NHNPreview.htm>

“Forget this world, forget this course, and come with wholly empty hands unto your God.”

--- A Course in Miracles

I grew up in the hyper-Christian culture of Charlotte, North Carolina, within spitting distance of Jim and Tammy Bakker’s ill-fated Praise the Lord ministry and other evangelical fiefdoms too numerous to count. But because my mother believed in Faulkner and Steinbeck above all other gods, my upbringing was more literary than religious; for that, my gratitude to her knows no bounds.

By early adulthood, I had fallen in with a group of sardonic and proudly rational peers whose favorite response to the oft-posed question “Have you found Jesus Christ?” was “What? Have you Christians lost him again?” We scoffed at religion, figuring that quick wits and skepticism would get us through life far more effectively than piety and faith.

But a jaundiced eye will only take you so far. In my early thirties, ten years into my Berkeley, California, citizenship -- and thus about as far from conventional religious beliefs as could be -- I was laid low by chronic fatigue syndrome (cfs). At that time, my affliction was an undiagnosed complex of maladies ranging from perpetual exhaustion to twice-weekly migraines and a nasty, ongoing stomachache. In cfs, I encountered the first opponent capable of shocking my personality into cardiac arrest. As it became clear that I would find no simple medical solution for my illness, I began to doubt all my assumptions about how the world worked and what I was doing here -- in short, my entire concept of reality. That was just the inner damage; out in the “real world,” I soon lost my livelihood, my home of six years, and several close, defining relationships.

They say there are no atheists in foxholes; I would add that there are not many with a long sojourn on a sickbed on their résumé. The spiritual

conversion experience that often visits those who have hit rock bottom due to illness, addiction, or depression can be looked at in two ways: either people crack under the pressure and take flight from their senses, or they crack under the pressure and catch a healing glimpse of a new reality. Reviewing my own experience over the past sixteen years, I would say that both perspectives are correct. You have to go a little nuts to begin looking at the world in a whole new way, and that style of seeing can have an authentic healing effect.

The danger of the conversion experience is that you may conclude that being perpetually unhinged is a requirement of being spiritual. Then you start thumbing your nose at all conventional forms of logic and common sense -- and, before long, you've become an easy mark for a corrupt guru who needs unquestioning followers to bankroll and applaud him. Worse yet, you may become a guru yourself.

Because I began my adult life with some training in investigative journalism, I was never a good candidate for a wholesale religious conversion. To this day, I tend to respond to all extraordinary claims -- whether they concern spiritual advancement, investment schemes, or political salvation -- with an "Oh, really?" and an urge to uncover the shadow side of whatever good news is being foisted upon me. Early in my conversion experience, however, I realized that this healthy skepticism had become a poisonous cynicism, amplifying the chronic stress that led to my collapse.

I appreciate that my skepticism also inoculated me against the foolishness that can waylay novices on the spiritual path: I never fell for a guru and thus never had to become disillusioned about one. Allowing myself to become a little nutty and irrational did open me up to certain mystical experiences that were genuinely healing. At the same time, keeping a critical eye on such experiences helped me to sort wishful thinking from actual outcomes, and to temper a renewed idealism with a practical realism.

These days, I believe that honoring our innumerable flaws and frailties is key to a sensible and sustainable spirituality. Such a downwardly mobile faith, however, is hardly ever discussed by gurus or promulgated in best-selling books. In fact, the most common and serious flaw of contemporary New Age thinking is the belief that human experience is somehow meant to be a brightly lit carnival of optimum health, perfect love, universal peace, and material wealth (which God really does want you to have, don't you know?). If you are not yet experiencing an unlimited high of personal comfort and universal consciousness, says the New Age, then you soon will -- right after the next meditation retreat, group hug, or synchronized mass prayer, which we can now participate in through e-mail.

But the fact is, we humans get sick and die; we hate each other and make war; and a great many of us are desperately poor and always will be. Those of us who have the luxury to contemplate our consciousness at expensive

retreats and world-healing conferences are the beneficiaries of an unjust economic system that reflects the truth of our mass consciousness far more than do our solemnly repeated affirmations. Herding our ancient, innately conflicted drives of fear, self-defense, and greed toward an oceanic altruism is certainly a worthy goal, but one toward which we make painfully slow progress, despite our best intentions.

I have always wanted to see a spiritual conference advertise that attendees will come away with an immeasurably small improvement in their consciousness -- but only if they work exceptionally hard and pay exquisite attention to the proceedings. Admittedly, it wouldn't be very good marketing, but it would reflect the truth about how difficult it is to change ourselves. Human beings rarely get anything meaningful done over the weekend.

Despite my skeptical outlook, I believe in human and spiritual progress, because I've experienced substantial positive change in my own life and witnessed it in the lives of others. I would go so far as to say that the changes stemming from my spiritual awakening have been profound: I recovered from a serious illness, found meaningful work, helped build and sustain a happy marriage, and basically got over my grudge against the world.

In the sixteen years that followed, I became as religious a person as I think I could ever be, even becoming publicly identified with a particular path while studying and writing about a broad range of spiritual subject matter. I wrote three books and nearly a hundred magazine articles in a long effort to practice what I gamely identified as "the journalism of consciousness." (An evangelical Christian scholar I once interviewed characterized my work in pithier terms: right after I called him a "fundamentalist," he called me a "New Age reporter." Ouch.)

Oddly enough, the strong sense of spiritual guidance I developed is now steering me away from thinking, talking, or writing much about spirituality. Every new book in the field seems to say the same old thing, and every advertised workshop looks like a means to help people find ever-loftier rationalizations for maintaining their self-absorption. (Do we really need the "courage to be rich"?) Whereas I used to look forward to interviewing the latest wise man or woman, now I'm much more interested in talking to the average businessperson or the neighborhood soccer coach. I've grown more attracted to people whose spirituality is immanent or unconscious. I'd rather have a fleeting, wordless experience of the meaning of life than talk about it for hours on end. In short, it seems the time has come to end my religion.

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The "spiritual supermarket" that has blossomed in our culture over the last few decades has resulted in a wild melange of teachings and gurus outside

the religious mainstream. Each new popular teaching enjoys a brief vogue before being in public, thence to retreat to its former anonymity with a small core group of true believers still intact. So it was with Werner Erhard's est and Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh; so it may be with yoga, which is currently enjoying unprecedented popularity as a health regimen if not as a spiritual path. American culture dictates that muckraking journalists will soon begin exposing corrupt yoga masters and institutes, leading to some prominent yoga-is-bad-for-you articles and a consequent ebbing of the yogic tide. But many people's lives will have been changed for the better by yoga nonetheless.

Anyone who tries to understand esoteric paths needs to appreciate that even the strangest perspective will probably benefit someone, regardless of how silly or weird it looks to most of us. I have several good friends who swear by the positive, life-altering effects of est or "The Forum," which I've always regarded as overpriced workshops in remedial responsibility. I have a very intelligent and down-to-earth business associate who faithfully follows the Urantia Book, even though I find that enormous tome an impenetrable metaphysical mishmash. And I know for sure that I have friends of considerable sophistication and proven loyalty who still question my sanity because I became involved with A Course in Miracles (ACIM).

For the uninitiated, the Course is a very long (twelve-hundred-plus pages) book providing a self-contained contemporary spiritual teaching that mixes Eastern metaphysics, Christian terminology, and mystical psychology, with more than a dash of creaky old Gnosticism tossed in for flavor. It offers both a lengthy philosophical discourse and an intensive built-in meditative workshop, in the form of a lesson-a-day workbook. The Course was written in secret during the late sixties by a Columbia University psychologist named Helen Schucman, who professed to be ambivalent about religion. She claimed that she didn't understand what she was writing, and furthermore resented the seven-year task of recording ACIM, which she said had been dictated to her by a subconscious and decidedly mystical force. After the Course was published in 1976, Schucman rarely spoke about it in public and was never reconciled to its message of forgiveness and brotherhood. She died in 1981.

In fact, the book, which rolls on for hundreds of pages at a time in flawless iambic pentameter, claims its own spiritual authorship -- namely that of the historical Jesus Christ speaking through a human channel to bring a corrected version of his original message to the world. Despite the great good that the Course has brought into my life, I've always wished Dr. Schucman had left the Jesus part out. I wish she had just admitted she was nuts.

If you're wondering why I'd ever confess to following the teachings of someone who heard voices and was possibly certifiable, my first defense is that there are some notable precedents for this kind of thing. Roger Walsh,

an entirely respectable professor of philosophy and psychiatry at the University of California-Irvine -- and a Course student himself -- points out that the landscape of religious history is littered with disreputable visionaries: "Jesus was condemned as a common criminal; Lao-Tzu wandered off into the desert a total unknown; Confucius couldn't hold down a job; and Mohammed was a suspect camel driver on whom a lot of people waged war."

My second defense -- admittedly more to the point -- is that the Course showed up in my life when I was desperate for something that would heal me, and it worked. It did not work in the sense of being a magic mind-pill that took away all my physical aches and psychic pains. It worked in the sense of inspiring me to reorient my life, which I had fairly well wrecked by my early thirties. The challenges I faced included forgiving my parents (a major task), learning how to take care of my health, finding both a voice and a worthwhile purpose as a writer, and giving up the universal bitterness that I'd come to believe was my emotional birthright.

As if all that were not enough, the Course also delivered exactly what it promised: the development of a reliable "inner voice" that has become my primary source of guidance. Before the Course, I can remember the torture I went through in making difficult decisions: weighing the pros and cons and coming to a rational conclusion independent of my gut feelings (which were usually dominated by an inarticulate fear). The results of this process were generally messy and sometimes cruel to myself and others. I often had to abandon my hard-won strategy for doing the right thing in favor of simply reacting against overwhelming and unexpected circumstances.

Although my current way of making decisions is hardly infallible, it is far more peaceful, instinctive, and responsive to the unpredictable factors that can affect any chosen course of action. Though I still weigh pros and cons and try to come to sensible conclusions, I never settle for a merely rational answer; I wait silently until a message of guidance comes to me -- and it always does, in fairly short order and often with surprising specificity. Occasionally, it is a weird, unexplained directive: "Go into that store and wander around until you run into someone you know." (And someone familiar does show up.) But, more often, it is an essential confirmation of my own common sense: "Don't send that smartass e-mail to that editor; you'll regret it immediately!"

I think of this inner voice as "advanced intuition." By this, I do not mean that my intuition is better than anyone else's, only that it's far more reliable than what I used to have. I have no idea what the source of my inner voice is, and I feel no need to identify it. I certainly do not believe it is the voice of Jesus Christ, or a dead ancestor with a quavery Irish brogue, or a high-ranking Pleiadian sending me psychic data packets from a spaceship zipping betwixt the rings of Saturn (although that last notion would be especially fun).

Recently, my inner voice had a surprise in store when I was trying to decide what direction to take in writing about the Course itself. I awakened in the middle of a night in a hotel room before an ACIM conference, which I would be covering as a journalist, and experienced a strong sense of displacement, an out-of-sortsness that made me feel as if I should depart the premises immediately. I sat up in bed to clear my head and let my stomach calm down, and a communication of startling clarity surfaced in my mind, as distinct as a message in one of those 8-ball fortunetelling toys. The voice told me, "Your part is done."

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If a typical Course student exists, I've never been one. From the beginning, I mixed my personal study of the teaching with a conscious effort to treat it as the subject of an ongoing investigation. I was consistently aware of being the first serious reporter on the scene. Before my work, most of what was written about the Course had come either from its teachers and promoters or from hostile critics. A smattering of superficial newspaper features cropped up in between, all with the same general angle: "Local Group Espouses Strange New Religion; Looks Harmless Enough."

My professional credentials as a journalist gained me almost immediate entree to the leading teachers of the Course: from the presidents of the two closely related foundations that own the copyright on the book and manage its far-flung translation program, to such popular freelance promulgators as Marianne Williamson and Jerry Jampolsky, whose books based on Course principles generated major spikes in sales of ACIM. Thus I had what most Course students do not: a comprehensive view of the politics of this nascent spiritual movement, which provided an intriguing counterpoint to my study of its teachings.

I remember talking about this unique perspective with the late Rick Fields, my editor at Yoga Journal when I was a regular contributor in the late 1990s. Rick had preceded me in this kind of work as an early chronicler of American Buddhism and was known for his classic history *When the Swans Came to the Lake*. "You get to be the first journalist on the scene of a new religion," Rick told me -- and then, with a paternal clap on my shoulder, he added, "Good luck!"

The discomfort of reporting on one's own spiritual path has been with me from the beginning. I don't believe that a so-called objective observer can do a thorough assessment of a profound teaching. You have to become "indoctrinated" to the extent that the teaching becomes ingrained, enabling you to grasp its meaning in a way that far surpasses an intellectual understanding of its major principles. From a journalistic point of view, however, becoming a follower to any degree compromises one's ability to report dispassionately. And true believers in a spiritual tradition often

look with suspicion upon a journalist proposing to present a balanced view of their path, regardless of whether that journalist also claims to be a serious initiate.

When I wrote my book *The Complete Story of the Course*, I dealt with this unusual conflict of interest up front, admitting that I was a Course student who had experienced powerful benefits from the teaching. But I also dedicated two chapters to various critics of ACIM, whom I had gone to considerable trouble to seek out and interview at length. And I wrote as fairly as I could about the roots of a controversy that some Course proponents would have preferred I not cover at all -- a controversy that has since erupted in a virtual civil war within the loose and far-flung Course "community."

That controversy concerns the copyright of ACIM and the use of the book by diverse teachers and interpreters. On one side are the two foundations that publish ACIM, which have become far more stringent about protecting their intellectual property in recent years. On the other side is an assortment of dissidents who want copyright protections relaxed or dispensed with entirely, arguing that ACIM is a sacred, spiritually authored document that transcends mere earthly property rights. The latter argument has not yet succeeded in earthly courts, however, where the foundations have won most of the litigation. But the dissidents keep trying, and there has been precious little progress made toward reconciliation in the spirit of the Course's fundamental principle of forgiveness.

Most reporters would be thrilled at the eruption of such a controversy on their beat, but I have covered it only reluctantly. (I've always lacked a proper journalistic bloodlust.) I have editorialized in favor of the foundations' retaining the copyright while allowing "fair use" of the Course material under far more liberal guidelines than are generally followed in commercial publishing. In other words, I have taken a moderate position in a situation characterized by extremism. And the more I hew to the middle, the more I have been criticized for losing my objectivity. Since this criticism has come from both sides in the fight, I feel confident that I'm right where I should be.

More dismaying than any personal or professional criticism has been the rising volume of what I can only call "Jesus talk." When arguments of legality or common sense look as if they're failing for either side in the Course battle, participants rely more heavily on arguments about "what Jesus wants." Depending on whom you listen to, Jesus either wants copyright protection and has from the beginning, or considers it an obscene interference in the free and unfettered spread of his word. Since all those involved personally consult with Jesus on a regular basis, one can only conclude that Christ, like so many of us, doesn't really know what he wants.

In this Jesus talk, I hear creepy echoes from my youth. I'm afraid that my fellow Course students are going to ask me if I've really found Jesus Christ, or have just been a pretender all along. In a spiritual movement characterized by fairly high IQs and a significant number of refugees from far more conservative religious traditions, this trend toward an esoteric fundamentalism seems especially ironic. But perhaps it's inevitable: once we find anything that profoundly changes our lives for the better, we want to turn it into the answer for everyone, backed by an unimpeachable authority. Anyone who believes that such evangelical certitude will not ultimately reach the stage of religious persecution is naive.

Not long ago, I appeared at an ACIM conference in San Francisco, where I was approached by a woman and her husband in the hotel lobby between sessions. Spying my nametag, the woman asked, "You're the reporter, right?" "Yes," I confessed, always a little fearful of what I'm going to hear next after being identified as "the reporter." "Well, we really wanted to meet you, because we think that you, of all the people here, might be willing to hear us out about something." By now the husband was nodding enthusiastically, lending his wife moral support on a matter of obvious concern to them both.

"Here's the thing," the woman said, stepping a little closer and speaking in a stage whisper: "We've both been Course students for years, and it's changed our lives completely, but we think this business about Jesus is getting out of hand. I mean, what's more likely: that a guy who died two thousand years ago jumped into Helen's head and dictated this long book to her, or that Helen was this crazy, brilliant person who made up the whole thing herself, but was so embarrassed about it that she made up the Jesus part, too, just so she didn't have to take responsibility for the message? Really, now, which makes more sense to you?"

The wife finished her confession in a breathless rush, looking to me excitedly for confirmation as her husband repeated, "Come on, he died two thousand years ago."

I was so surprised to encounter two skeptics at a gathering of the faithful that I had to laugh. "Shhh!" I replied. "Keep up that kind of talk, and you'll get us all removed from the premises."

"Tell me about it," the wife replied dryly. "I've already been asked to leave my Course study group just for bringing it up."

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Some years ago, I interviewed philosopher Jacob Needleman about the pros and cons of mystical paths, and he made some points about the problem of "fascination" that have stayed with me to this day. Let's say that you have an alcohol problem, and you awaken one day with your face in a foul-smelling

gutter and suddenly decide that drinking yourself to death is no way to live. The Good Samaritan who lifts you from the curb mentions an aa meeting down the street, and you decide that you might as well give the cliché-ridden recovery movement a try.

As it turns out, the Twelve Steps prove to be your saving grace. In just a few years, you've not only managed to dry out, but become a sponsor for other benighted souls making their way back from the brink of oblivion. Before long, it is difficult for you to look at the world in any terms other than "addiction and recovery," and you find yourself becoming more and more critical of so-called social drinkers and others who obviously have not submitted to the will of a Higher Power. The very idea that you could someday live without your meetings is anathema.

What's happened is that you've switched addictions. Being addicted to recovery is far healthier than being addicted to alcohol, but in terms of spiritual growth, it is nonetheless a detour or delay. Needleman suggests that anyone who encounters a genuine mystical path, and experiences profound benefits in his or her life as a result, will be prone to fascination with the path. It's important to stay alert to the effects of that fascination, lest it go on too long and begin suppressing one's growth rather than encouraging it.

It's not that fascination is a bad thing in itself; in fact, a deep experience of any path requires an initial fascination. But I believe that the ultimate aim of most spiritual paths is to enable us to become masters of our own consciousness. Becoming the master of your consciousness begins with the capacity to hear and follow an internal "guiding voice," literal or figurative, that transcends any religious, social, or legal rules -- even the mystical guidelines that helped you find this inner guidance in the first place.

The necessity of cultivating one's own guiding voice is one message that can be drawn from the paradoxical Zen teaching "If you meet the Buddha on the road, kill him." The idea is certainly not that you must kill any wise people you encounter. The point is that you must "kill the Buddha" because otherwise you will believe that the Buddha is special and different from the rest of us: enlightened, just plain better. The student is really being encouraged to kill the idea of superiority within himself, so that he will be better able to experience his own Buddha nature as the exalted yet ordinary core of his true self. Then he will be able to see the Buddha within everyone he meets -- and nobody has to get killed.

And so it goes with any genuine path of transformation: if we are serious about reshaping our lives in a spiritual way, we first need to be fascinated with our chosen path, and then to let this fascination die so that our spirituality becomes internalized, ordinary, even invisible, though no less



Leaving Tallulah  
Photo by Jim Cleveland, near Tallulah, LA

real and effective. I'm guessing that this transition is what my own sense of guidance is leading me toward, as I find myself retreating from my self-appointed role as a spiritual reporter.

As much as a fresh spiritual perspective once enlarged my view of what was possible and significant, the temptation to take on a spiritual identity has threatened to narrow my outlook on life. Now I find myself facing the puzzle of how to forget my spirituality in order to keep it real.

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# 6-9-2002 Sunday Service of the Church Within #298

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Today's Service is offered by: Pastor Daniel J. Megow

Please Freely Share any of our Church Within Services with Any and All whom you feel might Appreciate them. If you have received this Service from a friend and would like to subscribe to our Weekly On-Line Services, send an e-mail with your request to: [cwithin@churchwithin.org](mailto:cwithin@churchwithin.org) Thank You!

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## Humor of the Week

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A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years" he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.

It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

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Welcome by: Pastor Daniel

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Greetings my Beloved Sisters and Brothers, and welcome once again to the Church that is Within.

## What is God's Will for you?

Quotes:

(From: Harold Taylor)

The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become.

(From: The Urantia Papers - Paper-118 Section-1)

The personality of the mortal creature may eternalize by self-identification with the indwelling spirit through the technique of choosing to do the will of the Father. Such a consecration of will is tantamount to the realization of eternity-reality of purpose. This means that the purpose of the creature has become fixed with regard to the succession of moments; stated otherwise, that the succession of moments will witness no change in creature purpose. A million or a billion moments makes no difference. Number has ceased to have meaning with regard to the creature's purpose.

(From: Gandhi)

In the attitude of silence the soul finds the path in a clearer light, and what is elusive and deceptive resolves

itself into crystal clearness. Our life is a long and arduous quest after Truth.

(From: The RSV Bible - Peter I 3:17)

For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will, than for doing wrong.

(From: Abraham Lincoln)

Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.

(From: The RSV Bible - Matthew 21:28-31)

“What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?”

(From: ) The Urantia Papers - Paper-39 Section-4)

The keys of the kingdom of heaven are: sincerity, more sincerity, and more sincerity. All men have these keys. Men use them--advance in spirit status--by decisions, by more decisions, and by more decisions. The highest moral choice is the choice of the highest possible value, and always--in any sphere, in all of them--this is to choose to do the will of God.

(From: Gandhi)

Infinite striving to be the best is man's duty, it is its own reward. Everything else is in God's hands.

(From: The Urantia Papers - Paper-142 Section-6)

Jesus answered: “Already does the spirit of the Father in heaven indwell you. If you would be led by this spirit from above, very soon would you begin to see with the eyes of the spirit, and then by the wholehearted choice of spirit guidance would you be born of the spirit since your only purpose in living would be to do the will of your Father who is in heaven. And so finding yourself born of the spirit and happily in the kingdom of God, you would begin to bear in your daily life the abundant fruits of the spirit.”

(From: The Urantia Papers - Paper-181 Section-1)

The peace of Jesus is the joy and satisfaction of a God-knowing individual who has achieved the triumph of learning fully how to do the will of God while living the mortal life in the flesh. The peace of Jesus' mind was founded on an absolute human faith in the actuality of the divine Father's wise and sympathetic overcare.

(From: The American Standard Bible - Romans 12:2)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(From: The Urantia Papers - Paper-111 Section-5)

This choosing of the Father's will is the spiritual finding of the spirit Father by mortal man, even though an age must pass before the creature son may actually stand in the factual presence of God on Paradise. This choosing does not so much consist in the negation of creature will--"Not my will but yours be done"--as it consists in the creature's positive affirmation: "It is my will that your will be done." And if this choice is made, sooner or later will the God-choosing son find inner union (fusion) with the indwelling God fragment, while this same perfecting son will find supreme personality satisfaction in the worship communion of the personality of man and the personality of his Maker, two personalities whose creative attributes have eternally joined in self-willed mutuality of expression--the birth of another eternal partnership of the will of man and the will of God.

(From: My Dad - Harold J. Megow)

“You're missing it Closer.”

(From: Abraham Lincoln)

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

The Sermon:

How does one go about doing God's Will?

Is it even Possible?

Certainly it Must be, don't ya Think?

Is it God's will that you give up everything that is Fun?

I'd hardly think so... although Ego has a tendency to equate the two.

Is it God's will that you get everything right the first time... that you never make mistakes?

Sure... like That could ever happen. More likely it is that one Tries to do their very best, and Learns from the mistakes... Suppose?

Is it God's will that you memorize scriptures and quote them to everybody you meet so that They will become better people?

Or rather... that you learn and grow from everything you read so that You may become a better person?

Isn't it Likely that the Conscious Act of Trying to do God's will is Actually God's will for you in that moment?

God would Want you to Try, wouldn't He?

Humans do not instinctively Know God's Will, they must Discover it... through Faith, through Hope, through Experience.

It is Important to learn God's will so that we may the better do it, but it is important also to learn what is not God's will so we may do it not again.

In Pursuing God's Will, God is the Pilot...

Faith is the Vehicle... Hope is the Fuel...

Love is the Light by which we may be guided toward and See it.

So... How does one go about doing God's Will?

By sincerely Trying to do it.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Prayer:

Dear God,

It is My will that Your Will be done. You ALL are Within the Infinitely Loving Embrace of our Universal Parent, The Creator's Infinite Love to all of You,

Pastor Daniel

Thank you for the Love that you Share!!

Please visit our Web Site at: <http://www.churchwithin.org>

"If we know God, our real business on earth is so to live as to permit the Father to reveal himself in our lives, and thus will all God-seeking persons see the Father and ask for our help in finding out more about the God who in this manner finds expression in our lives."

# MEGACHURCHES AS MINITOWNS

By Patricia Leigh Brown

New York Times

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Patty Anderson and her husband, Gary, found faith where they least expected it -- he on the free-throw line and she swathed in sweats in an aerobics class.

It happened at the 50,000-square-foot activities center of the Southeast Christian Church here, where pumping iron and praising the Lord go hand and hand. Amenities at the gym include 16 basketball courts and a Cybex health club, free to churchgoers, where the music is Christian and the rules ban cursing even during the crunch.

"I really had no intention of being part of a church," recalled Gary Anderson, a physiology professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. But hoops at this 22,000-member megachurch led him to the sanctuary. And after three years, he said, like a slam dunk, "the sermons sunk in."

Southeast Christian is an example of a new breed of megachurch -- a full-service "24/7" sprawling village, which offers many of the conveniences and trappings of secular life wrapped around a spiritual core. It is possible to eat, shop, go to school, bank, work out, scale a rock-climbing wall and pray there, all without leaving the grounds.

These churches are becoming civic in a way unimaginable since the 13th century and its cathedral towns. No longer simply places to worship, they have become part resort, part mall, part extended family and part town square.

In Glendale, Ariz., the 12,000-member Community Church of Joy, which has a school, conference center, bookstore and mortuary on its 187-acre property, has embarked on a \$100 million campaign to build a housing development, a hotel, convention center, skate park and water-slide park, transforming itself into what Dr. Walt Kallestad, the senior pastor, calls a "destination center."

The churches have even become alternative employers. At the Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, a McDonald's will open this month, complete with a drive-in window and small golden arches. Part of its goal is to create jobs for young people and the elderly, while offering a predominantly middle-class black congregation another reason to linger on church grounds.

By making it nearly possible to inhabit the church from morning to night, cradle to grave, these full-service churches can shelter congregants, said Dr. Randall Ballmer, a professor of American religion at Barnard College,

from “a broader society that seems unsafe, unpredictable and out of control, underscored by school shootings and terrorism.”

While some scholars and communities are concerned about the megascale of the churches, and the civic responsibility they assume, 24/7 churches reflect a broad cultural desire for rootedness and convenience for overextended families. And in stark contrast to the issues roiling the big traditional churches, these churches, which are largely evangelical, offer relief from stresses on American family life, including suburban sprawl, with its vast commutes, and “drugs, crime and other youthful temptations,” said Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff, pastor of Brentwood Baptist. It was he who advocated the McDonald’s at Brentwood as a way to “create a controlled, protective setting for our kids.”

The churches reflect a desire by congregants for “a universe where everything from the temperature to the theology is safely controlled,” Dr. Ballmer said. “They don’t have to worry about finding schools, social networks or a place to eat. It’s all prepackaged.”

Though many of the churches, which are largely in the South and Midwest, are involved in missionary work, their congregants may be able to isolate themselves from the greater community -- to engage in a kind of “Christian cocooning,” said Dr. Bill J. Leonard, dean and professor of church history at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Yet, church leaders say, their aim is not isolation but comfort and convenience for harried families. With their numerous ports of entry, from gyms to singles cafes, full-service churches make it easy to come and stay, they say.

The staying part has proved trickiest for religious institutions. Adult churchgoers, at the rate of one in six, “church-hop, based on their need du jour,” said David Kinnaman, vice president of Barna Research, one of the new consulting firms helping these churches grow. One in seven will leave a church this year.

”People are looking at churches with a similar cost-benefit analysis they’d give to any other consumer purchase,” Mr. Kinnaman said. “There is little brand loyalty. Many are looking for the newest and the greatest.”

Dave Stone, the associate minister of Southeast, calls his church, which is open daily from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., “a refueling station.”

”If we can get people to come to our gym,” he explained, “it’s only a matter of time before we can get them to visit our sanctuary.”

The church was deliberately designed like a mall. (The sanctuary is the

anchor tenant.) Hallways 20 feet wide with curves enhance “people flow,” said Jack Coffee, a church elder and chairman of the building committee. Preschoolers frolic at a Disneyesque play land, with mazes. There is an education wing for Bible classes, a concert-hall-size atrium with glass elevators, crisscrossing escalators and giant monitors that itemize the day’s offerings: meetings to help smokers quit, a cross-trainers minimarathon and pat the Bible classes for 6-month-olds.

Such amenities are typically paid for by the congregation with three-year capital campaigns, on top of the church’s operating budget, which is often financed with tithes, said Malcolm P. Graham, president of Cargill Associates’ church division, a fund-raising consultant. A study by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research at the Hartford Seminary, finds the average annual income for a megachurch is \$4.6 million a year. Annual contributions to Southeast Christian are more than \$20 million.

Southeast Christian churchgoers speak of a 22,000-person family, and visitors are regaled with statistics: the coffeepot that serves 5,000 cups an hour, the 403 toilets. Southeast’s size has spawned the invention of the Greenlee Communion Dispensing Machine, designed by Wilfred Greenlee, 79, a congregant. It can fill 40 communion cups in 2 seconds.

For Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Tex., attracting young congregants, and keeping them, has helped it grow from 30 families to 20,000 members in a dozen years. Fellowship offers a 40,000-square-foot youth center with a climbing wall and video arcade and is creating a lake to encourage father-son bass fishing.

Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Tex., has a youth center so elaborate that some have called it Preston World: 15 ball fields, a 1950’s-style diner and a fitness center, as well as classrooms and a 7,000-seat sanctuary. It is adding a \$19 million school, coffee shop, food court, student ministry center, youth building, an outdoor prayer walk, a chapel and an indoor commons, modeled on the idea of Main Street. “We’re not a large church,” said Mike Basta, the executive pastor. “We’re a small town.”

Brentwood Baptist in Houston also offers a full range of family options, often based on a political and social agenda. Besides its choir and Bible-study classes, it has housing for AIDS patients and a credit union.

In this supersize church, the new McDonald’s is not just an investment for the congregation -- the church has put \$100,000 into the for-profit franchise -- but also a way to create jobs and generate money for scholarships and community programs. (McDonald’s gets its standard 4 percent from sales.)

Not incidentally, it gives the 2,000 or so Brentwood congregants who flock

to church for more than 80 activities each evening -- like children's theater and adult computer classes -- an excuse to stick around. "If you have to go home for dinner, you don't come back out," Pastor Ratliff said, referring in part to the city's vast commutes.

But some scholars and municipalities are troubled by the civic expansion of 24/7 churches. They are becoming "a parallel universe that's Christianized," in the words of Dr. Scott Thumma, a sociologist of religion at the Hartford Institute.

Dr. Wade Clark Roof, a professor of religion and society at the University of California at Santa Barbara, said he worried that full-service churches are "the religious version of the gated community."

"It's an attempt to create a world where you're dealing with like-minded people," he said. "You lose the dialogue with the larger culture."

Marci Hamilton, a professor of constitutional law at Benjamin Cardozo Law School in New York, said that church growth and in some cases, the expansion of megasynagogues, Mormon temples and mainline churches has become contentious locally, especially in residential neighborhoods upset about "intensity of use." The full-service churches virtually never sleep, drawing cars, crowds and even bright spotlights at all hours and on any day.

Tensions between church and state were highlighted by the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Person Act, passed by Congress two years ago, which prevents government agencies, including local planning boards, from blocking church projects unless a compelling government interest is at stake. Municipalities around the country are "wrestling with the question of what the new law allows them to do or not to do," said Jim Schwab, a senior research associate with the American Planning Association in Chicago.

The town within a town being fashioned by the Community Church of Joy in suburban Phoenix will let members live on church grounds and even be buried there, venturing outside perhaps only to work and buy groceries. Even the water park, which will be part of an Olympic-size aquatic center, will have a Christian theme, with laser shows depicting Jonah and the whale and David and Goliath. The housing development, which will not be limited to church members, will have a full-time chaplain. Though not meant to replicate Disneyland, it is a Disneyesque utopian vision with a Christian spin.

"People are longing for morals, values and ethics," Dr. Kallestad said. "It's not isolation. It's insulation."

# Conspiracy Theories

by Jacques Lecouturier

Friends and Truth Seekers,

An alternate definition of conspiracy in Webster dictionary is “a general tendency, as of circumstances, to one event.”

The principal definition is that of an act committed for an evil purpose. It does not have to be secret. Evil is the definition of an injurious act, morally corrupt, wicked; anything impairing happiness or welfare, or depriving of good.

Illustration of conspiracy is given on P.1935 - □1 Éand neither did the apostles know that one of their own number had already entered into a conspiracy to betray the Master into the hands of his enemies. The high priests were getting fat on consecrating animals for sacrifice and changing money, while the religionists were duped to believe that God needed their offerings. Greed and the lust for power are the primary motives behind conspiracies. Whenever something appears terribly wrong, it is reasonable to seek for an underlying reason.

Conspiracy is unfortunately a way of life in our modern society and only a young and innocent person shielded since birth from its nasty tentacles can take the high road and believe that denouncing conspiracy cannot achieve what understanding, love and mercy will surely deliver. It is nice to dream but ignorance is dangerous.

The book informs us that one day, a new John the Baptist will emerge that will bring humanity to the true religion of Jesus. John the Baptist was sanguine with the evildoers of his time. Yet, to the mighty he was merely a lunatic. Jesus, who brought more nuances to the denunciation of those who exploited others in the name of God and religion, did not fare much better than John. Jesus had lot of followers at the lake, but few left when it came to save him from crucifixion. Most followed the high priests and the rest kept quiet.

Corruption in our modern society is so prevalent and people are so used to it that most individuals cannot even begin to look at it as objective observers, so difficult it is to avoid tacit acquiescence. The popular saying ‘buyer beware’ tells the rampant proclivity of conspiracies.

Conspiracy is everywhere.

The government conspires to hide from the citizens what it does with the tax dollars it collects from them. Last year, out of a \$6 trillion defense budget, \$2.3 trillion remains unaccounted. Nobody knows where the money went. How many people were involved in this huge conspiracy is mind-boggling.

Congress conspires regularly to prevent legislation that will make it accountable to the people who elect them instead of to the special interests that pay their electoral campaigns. They conspire between them to trade pork barrels favors rewarding the special interests that elect them.

Big corporations deceive shareholders and employees alike. Executive Officers conspire to appoint Board members who will approve their big salaries and perks, in exchange for large compensations.

Public companies bribe accounting firms, trusted to present a true public picture of their financial affairs, to cook the books. Enron is only a scheme that was exposed

Microsoft is mixed-up in all kind of conspiracies with associated software companies to keep its monopoly growing and the competition at bay.

Large funds get together at professional breakfasts where they agree to favor certain industry sectors and avoid others. Their consensus may be warranted, but the public is led to believe the opposite for private investors to buy what these professionals want to sell. A Fund Manager at Fidelity has a rumor spread wide that he is buying a sector big time when in fact he is selling it.

Discreet groups of investors gang-up to push the price of a stock up or down in a practice as old as Wall Street itself. The big players do the same things on a larger scale and oppose ending the practice with laws bearing teeth.

Intelligence agencies channel secret information to manipulate the price of commodities to reap enormous profits for individuals who support policies favorable to their agenda.

Large financial groups instigate riots, social conflicts, and wars to destabilize governments or political parties, topple regimes; to create loans, take over land or mineral assets, under the doctrine that the ends justify the means. Read *Òrule by secrecy* by Jim Marss, a respected New York Times reporter.

Real Estate brokers conspire in self-serving organizations operating under rules whose principal purpose is to impose high sales commission way in excess of the service they provide.

Land developers conspire with elected officials to change zoning laws and create instant wealth.

The Pharmaceutical, Insurance, Medical Profession (PIMP) misleads the public with new drugs based on falsified data. Doctors receive favors prescribing drugs. Sloan Kettering was involved in a major fraud on cancer research because all the players hid the truth, having their fingers in a big pie. (The Cancer Industry by Ralph W. Moss, PhD with foreword by Linus Pauling, Nobel Laureate stating: “Everyone should know that the war on cancer is largely a fraud.”

The Dental Profession, nearly unanimously, promotes root canal and sends their patients to specialists in exchange for generous referral fees. The procedure has been largely demonstrated, by non-partisan scientists, to be counter-productive over the live of the patient. Regular rubbing of vitamin E and myrrh over the gum area achieve the same result in time.

Big name athletes fail to score in national games when odds will

## CONSPIRACY THEORIES (cont.)

deliver enormous gains to bookmakers.

A pillar of institutional religion, the Catholic Church, is discovered to have its bishops engaged in a massive cover-up of sexual perversion among its employees.

Professional buyers bidding at auctions get together to keep the official bidding at its lowest and later complete the bidding between them.

The food industry finances a lobby whose principal activity is to prevent Congress from passing laws that would make it impossible for them to poison our food with hydrogenated oils, corn syrups and other dangerous ingredients that inflate their profits.

Mass media newspapers, magazines, and TV networks receive millions in meaningless advertising to support, in their editorial, pork barrel projects that bring hundreds of millions to special interest groups.

Well-informed intelligence services provide hard to get information to compliant mass media supporting their agenda.

A major automobile manufacturer interprets data and harasses plaintiffs, to prevent the public from discovering that one of its most popular car is a death trap. Hundreds of employees are involved but all keep silent.

There is hardly a profession that will come clean when it comes to its code of "ethical" practices. The code is mostly designed to discourage competitions and overcharge clients. Nobody sounds the alarm because it is ethical and everybody in the profession benefits from the deception.

Lawyers representing opposing parties get together at their clubs to establish how much they can milk a client for a case and who would get what, isn't that a conspiracy.

When a secret branch of our government, over a period of over five decades, can hide the fact that a spaceship from another planet has crashed at Roswell on July 4, 1997, imagine the extend of the conspiracy that had to be brought-up and maintained, and what it must have cost the country. When today, the same organization continues the cover-up to protect the parties involved in past lies and deceptions, what is it?

When on May 9, 2001, a Dr Greer gives a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington before an audience of 250 journalists, many from all over the world, to announce that a vast cover-up of extra-terrestrial contacts is at work, and not one major U.S. media reports the event, what is it?

I do not see conspiracy everywhere but I refuse to look the other way when all the indices point toward an alliance of hidden interests, distortion of data, misrepresentation of meaning, suppression of evidence, and refusal to justify the validity of a questionable action.

Ninety five percent of the people I have dealt with as an independent business person over a period of 48 years both in France and in the States would want no part in any conspiracy, overt or tacit, to take advantage of their fellow men. But if 95 percent of the wealth is controlled by less than 3% of the population, it did not happen by accident. Civil crimes of any magnitude always involve some conspiracy between the beneficiaries and enforcers of the law.

The last refuge of the exposed scoundrels is to accuse their denunciators to be manic conspiracy theorists. Yes, there are people who concoct ridiculous conspiracy theories, mostly on behalf of the disinformation clique, and to discredit any conspiracy theory.

The much proclaimed paradigm that everything is fine in our society and that conspiracies exist only in the mind of those individuals who have a chip on their shoulders can only sentence our grand children to carry stones around their necks.

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## The Struggle (-:

And God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach and green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives. And Satan created McDonald's. And McDonald's brought forth the 99-cent double-cheeseburger. And Satan said to Man, "You want fries with that?" And Man said, "Super size them." And Man gained pounds.

And God created the healthful yogurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair. And Satan froze the yogurt, and he brought forth chocolate, nuts and brightly colored sprinkle candy to put on the yogurt. And woman gained pounds.

And God said, "Try my crispy fresh salad." And Satan brought forth creamy dressings, bacon bits, and shredded cheese. And there was ice cream for dessert. And woman gained pounds.

And God said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them." And Satan brought forth chicken-fried steak from Cracker Barrel so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained pounds, and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

And God brought forth running shoes, and Man resolved to lose those extra pounds. And Satan brought forth cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil to change channels between ESPN and ESPN2. And Man gained pounds.

And God said, "You're running up the score, Devil." And God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fat fried them. And he created sour cream dip also. And Man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol. And Satan saw and said, "It is good." And Man went into cardiac arrest.

And God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery.....And Satan created HMOs..

# “Have Archaic And Eat It Too!”

by JAMES H. YOUNG

The biggest obstacle to understanding anything is the language itself. It really shouldn't be that way, now, should it? Language was meant to be a bridge across a gorge, not the gorge itself. Some of the language used in communication, especially written communication is indeed old; archaic, outdated and downright confusing. Bible understanding, for one thing, is terribly lacking, and even in some more modern attempts to translate the text into more understandable format, the culture and customs it comes from are more likely than not completely overlooked and sadly misunderstood. We simply cannot hold onto older texts that we can't understand. We can't have archaic and eat it too.

Here's an example of what I mean. In First Peter (\*) we are told that those who suffer for God should continue to do so. Does God really want us to suffer? Does He take great delight and joy in pain and anguish? You're quick to say, “Not the God I know!”, and you'd be right. Even Jesus' admonition, “Suffer the little children to come unto Me...” takes on a terrible image when seen in that light.

So what was meant here? The outdated word ‘suffer’ at one time used to have the additional meaning in this very kind of context of allowing or permitting something to go on - more properly, in this case, try the word endure. That would have the author of First Peter advising us to continue enduring, bearing up under all conditions for the sake of the Lord and continuing to place our full faith, trust and hope in Him. It's merely a ‘keep at it, guys!’ type of message, meant to be hearty encouragement in the face of adversity, nothing else.

What is confusing about the passage here is that the word suffer is used throughout the chapter in both ways. You just have to look at it from the standpoint of context and content. (\*) IPE 4:19 (KJV) “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.” I could rephrase it like this and make much more sense out of it: Those who live allowing God's will to rule their lives should continue doing that faithfully because He is faithful.

Before you dismiss anything, I very strongly suggest that you take a long look from a very different light: the light of faith. What does your own faith instinctively tell you

about the passage? Not just this passage, but any passage that confuses you needs to be dealt with in this manner. What do you believe about God that will help you deal with understanding this completely? This guage can be used for any text you don't understand. The chances are good that it is simply a misunderstanding on your part due to a linguistic fiasco. If your own spiritual intuition doesn't help at this point, how about doing some research or contacting the Author? You see, there are always several steps you can take to clear up any text that puzzles you.

I would also like to suggest one particular source that can be a big help, both in the language area and the cultural area. George M. Lamsa has translated the Peshitta, or Eastern text of the Bible into English. Lamsa's native language and culture is Aramaic, the derivative of Hebrew that Jesus spoke. It's called, “The Holy Bible, From Ancient Eastern Manuscripts”, 1967. My copy is hardbound. I don't know if it is available in soft cover.

The second work by Lamsa is soft cover, called “Idioms In The Bible Explained. (A Key To The Holy Scriptures)”, 1971. Both are published by A. J. Holman Company, a division of J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and New York. Lamsa, of course, isn't the only help along this line, but I think you'll find both volumes not only inexpensive but very valuable for your research.

Now then, asking the author is a different matter. To do this you must be prepared to become a changed person because of the answer and challenges you are likely to get. This is the single most important step towards understanding difficult passages you could ever take. Often it's not a new translation or new wording that you need, but, rather, a clear understanding of what God is saying to you personally.

It is my experience that God will always speak and communicate with us in ways that we can best understand at the moment. At times He appears within the written word, and not always in scripture alone. You may hear His voice in a dream, a sermon or within the words spoken to you in friendship and love by a friend or family member. He will never use a dead language or unfamiliar terms to speak to you. No, His desire is for you to understand. He loves to emphasize important points by punctuating them with the Holy Spirit's loving nudges.

What do you think He means when He says, “Let him that has ears to hear, let him hear?” Sometimes it just takes a little inner listening.

# 2002 Urantia Book FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ESTES PARK, COLORADO--JUNE 30-JULY 6, 2002

## Teaching Mission Gatherings

Editor's Note: Members of the Teaching Mission gathered each evening at the international conference for transmitting-receiving with supernal teachers. These are the transmissions from each day in order.

July 1, 2002

Teacher: ABRAHAM (TR: Nina McKee)

I am Abraham. Greetings. What an honor to be a branch on this family tree. I realize that to many there seems to be various divisions within the Urantia community. There are some who are perhaps feeling excluded or too different to be included as a part of the whole.

I, representing my associate Teachers, would express to you our joy at our perspective of this overall family community. Where one group may be representative of ideas, the Correcting Time participants are the action of those ideas. Where one group may be the thought of good intentions, the Teaching Mission is living those good intentions. Where one group is intellectually expressive, the Teaching Mission is about everyday living practice, knowing full well the pitfalls of the mortal struggle.

The Urantia Community is like the body of Christ, every group having a function and purpose, every group attempting to put forth their highest ideals. The body, however, would suffer disease if the parts would become a stumbling block to other parts. It is our prayer that the parts of the body would work to make it easy for the other parts to function. One part helps the other. No part is any more significant than another.

Michael said, "I am the vine and you are my branches." Together the tree is healthy and growing. Should one branch attempt to overtake the tree, then most definitely would there be an upset of the whole. If the Urantian community cannot find a way to work as functional parts of the whole, then I say, what other community can?

You are our hope. You are our voice for the changing world. You are the action for our thought. You are the wayshowers to a new and better world. The differences between you each matters not. The trust you have in Father to do His bidding definitely matters. What will last--will last, and what doesn't--will not. It is all a matter of trusting in the Supreme Overseers. The universe will support those things that are true, beautiful and good, and no man will stop that.

Your most productive focus would be to love one another with a Fatherly affection. Father loves the child in spite of his actions. You may not always agree with your brothers and sisters, but you can save energy by

focusing on loving one another, instead of trying to cast out what you believe is non-reality. Trust in Father to make those things that are 'real' lasting. That is most definitely not our place to choose what is real and what is not.

The measure in which you feel welcome here at this function will be the measure of love you receive. If you feel not welcome, this becomes real in your own mind. You are all children of the living God, all cosmic citizens, all brothers and sisters. You are welcome. You are supposed to be here. You are loved. You are the wayshowers of the future. Have faith in Father, and one another, that while there is a sea of endless possibilities, know that you are trusted to follow your Indwelling Fragment to do what you feel is right. Know that we are here. We are here for you. We are with you and determined to see Urantia enter into that age of Light and Life. I leave you to another. Shalom.

IC02 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Monday, July 1, 2002

Teacher: WELMEK (TR - Michael Painter.)

I am your friend and Teacher, Welmek. This evening I would like to take you on a journey. Our journey will be to climb a mountain; it seems appropriate, given the setting that you are in. We all start at the base of the mountain. As you look up, you cannot see the top; it is so far away. You begin to climb and there are many with you-there are parents, families, relatives, friends-and the journey is not too hard, for when you are not sure where to step, they tell you, they give you guidance.

As you continue on your journey, you find that each person begins to find a unique path, a unique trail that will lead them up the mountain. The goal for everyone is to reach the top of the mountain, but the path will be different for each person. As you continue to climb and you find that your path seems to separate from others, you begin to grow more fearful. What do you do with this fear? You try to remember all that you have been taught by your family, your friends, all of your experience, your education, and you trust your intellect to guide you, and you use reason to decide which way to move on your path.

Sometimes you stumble, but it is not too severe, so you trust your experience and your mind to get you back upon the path. But as you continue, the path becomes more difficult, there are more obstacles, there are more sheer faces of the mountain that you must climb, sometimes not even be able to see where you are going. This creates more fear. As you get stuck and are not sure which way to move, you look around. To your left and right, you can still see others, also climbing, and you call out to them, "Where is a ledge that I might place my foot to be safe?" And they answer you, giving you their best advice. Or perhaps, you see someone, slightly below you on their path, and they can guide you, tell you which direction to move. Or perhaps someone is slightly ahead of you, and they look down and they can tell you which way is the best road to take, the best path to continue your climb.

And so, you continue, you listen, you follow their advice. Sometimes again you stumble, but you continue on your path. But as you continue, you see fewer and fewer of your fellow travelers, there are fewer and fewer to give you advice, there are fewer who can see or understand where you are on your path. There is one who can see all, one who can see from the very base of the mountain, to the very top. You have heard of this person, called "God," but you were never quite sure if this person really existed.

But as you continue on your path, you find fewer to advise you, you find often that their advice is mistaken. And so you are again, filled with fear. What will you do? Your friends, your fellow travelers, cannot always advise you correctly. Your own judgement, your own intellect has sometimes faltered, and you have fallen. How can you possibly continue on this path to reach the top of your mountain? In moments of despair, in moments of

great fear, there is sometimes a “still voice” that comes into your mind, “I am the way and I can show you the way.” Now you face your greatest decision of all, and this decision is, “Will I trust this voice?” Your intellect struggles, your intellect says, “Trust me, do not let go of me, I have guided you this far, and I can take you the rest of the way.” But you are not so sure, because your intellect has failed you at times; it has not always guided you in the right way. And so, as you trusted your human parents when you were at the base of the mountain, now you must make a transition, you must make the transition to begin to trust your spiritual parent, this God, this Heavenly Father, who calls to you. Some will not trust, they refuse, they continue to fall. Sometimes they fall so far, that they cannot go on in the journey, and they stay broken hearted wherever they fall and land. And that is where they spend the rest of their time on their journey.

Others choose to take that leap of faith, choose to take a chance and trust, to trust that inner voice that calls to you. And so, the voice says, “Try this way,” and you move that way a small step, but you are safe. This is the beginning of your faith, for what is faith but living trust in this inner voice of our Heavenly Father? You continue to climb; there are times when you cannot see anyone else, when you cannot see even the next step ahead. You are filled with doubt and you are filled with fear, and so you constantly have to decide, “Will I doubt, or will I trust?” Sometimes, along the path, you reach a valley, and in the valley, there is a beautiful clear lake and a beautiful clear stream, and beautiful flowers all around. And you know that it is time for you to rest, time for you to relax, to enjoy the beauty of the sunshine, the smell of the flowers, a gentle breeze upon your face, to drink the clear water. There are other fellow travelers who are there; and you meet them and you enjoy their companionship. You share your stories about the climb and you talk about what lies ahead. After a rest, it is time to move on, to continue your journey.

You start out again with some of your fellow travelers, and as you continue to climb, you will find only a few travelers who share a similar path. As you continue your climb, you decide to not move too far ahead of the others, so that each of you can help each other, and you can climb together. You call this “fellowship.” But yet, even though you share the journey with these other fellow travelers, there are still times in your path, when they can hear you, but they cannot guide you. And so, the decisions that you make, are still the same. How much will you trust in your guidance? How much will you rely upon our Father to get you to the top of the mountain?

As your text tells you, all life comes down to decisions, the decisions of faith against doubt. This is the struggle; this is the climb, the great climb of life. Where are you in your climb, my friends? It is hard to know, but in your climb, you can look around and see others who seem to be on a similar path. There are those that you meet who are ahead, and can sometimes look down and guide you, can sometimes reach down with their hand and pull you up. And then there are those who are beneath you in the climb, and they see you and they call to you, and they say, “I need your help; I need your guidance.” Surely, you would not deny them, for as others guided you, surely you would return the favor. You were given service freely; freely must you give your service in return, for this is the way of the climb; this is the only way the climb can be successful.

As you continue your climb and your trust and faith grows, you find that your fear diminishes. The climb is not necessarily easier, but your ability to climb is easier. It is not so fearful; you are actually beginning to even enjoy the climb. You feel more confident that you are on the right path; you feel more confident that you will reach the top of the mountain. Why is it that you succeed and others do not? It is really quite simple, it all comes down to those decisions you made about whether you could trust your inner voice, to let go of the intellect for awhile and learn to follow and trust the inner voice, the voice of our Heavenly Father. This is not to say that your intellect is not of value, for it is a great tool, and your intellect can help you understand and learn much along the path. But there are times when you must trust, trust in your guide, your Heavenly Father, your inner Spirit, your Thought Adjuster, whatever name you choose.

If you wonder where you are on the path, ask yourself this question, “Do I trust more now in the Heavenly Father’s guidance than I did a year ago, five years ago, ten years ago?” If the answer is “Yes,” then you are

growing, and you are climbing your path in the way that our Father wants you to. There is not “one right path;” all the paths will lead to the same mountaintop; no path is exactly the same. There are similarities that you can share with each other, but you must climb your own path. And there is only one guide, one person who knows exactly what your path is. Share your journey, enjoy it, and give of yourself as others gave to you. But in the moments of darkness, in the moments of not knowing where to put your hand or your foot next in your climb, remember, there will always be the still inner voice telling you, “This is the way.” Good day, my friends.

IC02 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Tuesday, July 2, 2002

TARKAS (TR – Jim Cleveland)

Good evening my friends, this is Tarkas, a teacher for these blessed ten years or more in this Teaching Mission, and still wondrous every day of the magnificent vicissitudes of this growing, evolving planet learning to live and love during chaos and the horror and joy.

My colleague, Welmek, speaks of many paths on the Father’s majestic mountain. So true - each of you climb your own, seeking the joy of achievement, and as you come together in meetings like this, eight hundred or more, and if my multiplication is correct, you may go home to the aura of your loved ones and spread love in so many, many, many, many ways. And this is the way the Mission works. We don’t seek to change the world; we seek to inspire you to change it, to become loving creatures, joyous givers of love, joyous seekers of Truth and Beauty and Goodness. And you have found many of these beautiful nuggets of wisdom today.

We meet with you, of course, in one of our numerous organizational and planning conferences and, of course, meeting with you, we are able to observe and somewhat measure our progress. I can tell you that we are all proud to the point of near hilarity in celebration to see how far you’ve grown. It is so joyous to behold. And yet you have so far to go, and we’re getting there. That’s the joy. The joy is not getting there so much for the next billion trillion years, anyway,(chuckles) for it’s going to take all of that. So, the true joy is in getting there. Go on to be perfect and to become cosmic citizens, to climb your own majestic mountain, and then take joyous, graceful pride in being atop and a little closer to the Universal Father.

I would speak tonight about apocalypse, the lesson beyond apocalypse. Truly apocalypse is something that frightens the fear-based religions, and so, the end times become powerful drama of struggle, fear, power, and they’re quite inspired by it. However, as you know, there are two great motivators - fear and love. There’s a place for the love based religion to eventually become the over encompassing mighty, joyous, spiritual force on this planet. In the meantime, the fear based religions get you through this next apocalypse and beyond. For, it is dirty work to make the world safe from the horror, the evil terrorists who kill the masses and spread plenteous destructions. This is work that must be done in the Correcting Times. Best fear based religions think upon this responsibility, as you are to spread love and bring forth the joy that will replace the great struggle that they call the apocalypse - Armageddon.

Of course, it has been repeated many times through the centuries as great and beautiful cities and civilizations have been destroyed to rack and ruin, pillaged libraries burned to the ground. And so, apocalypse is ever present as good and evil play out. This force breeds a stage upon which you are players.

And so, what is the onerous apocalypse and why would any one believe that this beautiful planet would be laid to rack and ruin when all the evidence points to the opposite? The world of the cross ... here ... Michael brought down the Lucifer rebellion - Victory - a great achievement, the magnitude of the Lucifer rebellion taking more than thirty planets down into rebellion against God. He triumphed. But the biggest thing is that He triumphed in the guise of you, as a human. He showed the way. He brought forth the faith in you that He always had in His

children, lived through life in this last incarnation and sent the dark prince falling, screaming in ruin, and in discredit.

And so it was not only the victory but also the style in which our magnificent Creator Son set Himself apart. And in like style, He will not only get you through apocalypse to the rebirth of this planet to light and life and the others, as well - all of the others, as well, - but He will do it with a cleverer and cleverer twist. It was mentioned last night that Godless power structures are beginning to self-destruct. I think it an appropriate irony that they destroy themselves as we watch, as we thoroughly survive. But, we build forth a new civilization full of Truth, Beauty and Goodness, and beyond that the hallmark of our special, and clever, and resourceful, and creative Creator Son. So as you read about massive accounting scandals, corporations stewing in their own corruption, evil vying itself out, death and destruction infuriates and brings forth to higher spiritual service all the good and honest and beautiful people on this planet

As you see all these things happening before you, do not think of apocalypse, think of new growth. When I first visited Cincinnati ten years ago there was fear of just these things: economic collapse, nuclear destruction - fear, fear, fear. I said then that these kinds of destructions would be seen. Disintegration is always seen before new growth. That is my story and I'm sticking with it.

And so we continue to play out this grand scenario on life's stage on this little planet in this local universe -the struggle of good and evil, and there's a purpose for that, which we certainly don't have time to get into. Thus, simply reach beyond apocalypse. What do you have to fear? This is Michael's planet. This is Jesus' planet. This is your planet. You are empowered. You are emboldened. You are full of love. Can you see the destruction? Or can you not see redemption? Redemption. Would Michael fail? I think not. Would this mission fail? No.

And you have nothing to fear from this Teaching Mission. It is relatively simple. We are Morontia teachers coming back to teach people who supposedly know less than we, although, on occasions we may question that. Nevertheless, we stick to our stories, even repeating them endlessly, until you actually do go into the stillness every day. Do you understand?

We nonetheless maintain our good humor when you do not. It's rough just living in this place. It's rough in so many ways. And you are getting through it, and you are getting through the apocalypse in grand fashion. And, you will get through the next apocalypse the same. However, let evil be destroyed and it can be brought down in our lifetime by evil's own hand, as Jesus wants them to destroy themselves. And, don't invest your currency, your time, and your efforts to institutions that are corrupt and dishonest. It's time to make a choice and find those strong institutions that can withstand, or new ones that you can build in the glory of a new beginning. It is not an end. It is a new beginning. It's a beautiful story and it's true. I thank you for your time tonight. I love you all.

This Mission has been joyous for us and we certainly have learned as much as you have, and probably much more, since teachers usually do. We are here for the long haul. We are with you. If you want a teacher, you simply ask. You can simply sit down and put words on paper once you encircle yourself in the loving light of the Father, through worship, or prayer, or whatever.

When you ring God's telephone, God will answer. How could you go wrong in the circle of love? Transmit your words, write down your words and then read them back and see what you think of them. Practice makes perfect as you speak through and learn to release yourself. Just release and don't try. Speak words without even thinking about what you're speaking. You could perform a group secretarial service and that's what they need on occasion. But the key to this Mission is not to go to readings and listen to people like me transmit so much as it is doing this yourself, and, yes, you can. You all have indwelling spirits, Thought Adjusters, who are always, always in charge, especially in liaison with morontia teachers. There's nothing to fear. You are so in good hands

- the same, loving enfolding arms, the everlasting arms of the Father that lives within you. The teachers are here to help. We are here to help, and I pray that we do. We are certainly enjoying you and we are enjoying this beautiful setting with you. Good night.

IC02 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Tuesday, July 2, 2002

Teacher: RAYSON (TR: Daniel Raphael)

[Transcriber: The first part of Rayson's address was, unfortunately, not captured on tape; (the "record" button did not stick properly.) However, he kindly offered to restate his main points when he addressed the Northern Colorado TeaM on July 7, 2002. Please refer to that transcript.]

Rayson: (tape recorder turned on at this point) ... which are constructive. They will begin to form new entities of power to enable themselves to satisfy their needs, to help their environment come into balance. The European Economic Unit is one of them. You will see more entities come into being as there become more and more social stresses in your world. Some of these will be distressful and some will not be. The terrorism that your country and the world are experiencing now is one of those elements, but it is highly destructive. We are encouraging, the Most Highs are encouraging the evolution of the strains of social evolution which are positive, constructive, and contribute to the Correcting Time and the New World that is coming into being. The Most Highs are deeply invested in the Correcting time, and their programs invest every activity of humankind.

So you see, coming back to Community Building is vitally important that individuals feel empowered and feel capable, that they not feel hopeless or helpless. Of all people in the world who should not feel that way, are you. You who live here in this country and technologically advanced countries should feel highly empowered and highly capable. And when you come to global consciousness, you empower yourself even greater, and when you begin thinking and contemplating of cosmic citizenship, you begin to contemplate the larger structure yet. You begin to open yourself to the larger plans that are available. And when you are flexible and you are willing to be led and guided in opportune ways, you become a part of Michael's Plan. You being here is proof of that. Another question?

Student: Rayson, the Urantia Book talks about the United States as the example of our world-wide format, how nations get along and so forth. How progressive are we towards that, and secondly, does that have to happen before we enter into a consciousness of maybe local universe citizenship?

Rayson: Your first question - would you repeat that please?

Student: The Urantia Book talks about how the United States' format will become the pattern for the world-wide format, and is that soon, and how are we doing there? And is that necessary before we become an open part of the universe, the cosmic part of the universe?

Rayson: Your Federalist Republic is the format we are speaking of, with a democratic process, political process. Your states represent the nations of the world, let's say, and your nation itself as a whole, represents the whole world. And as your states cooperate among each other, and with each other, as a whole and individually, this is a good pattern. And, you realize that the states are equal in political authority, that each state is an entity unto its self, it is sovereign under the Federalist, Federal Republic plan. Now, is this necessary before the second part of your question? Yes. There must become a cohesiveness, a cooperation among the nations. The individual sovereignty of nations is necessary in feudal times; it is the next step past the feudal state. Yet it now becomes a detriment to global consciousness and the unification of a world that is moving in that direction. There must be a largess, so to speak, and willingness to give up certain sovereign rights and this must be done carefully and

gently. As you see, the trade agreements between North America and South America are beginning to exercise that concept. This is good. Yes, it does cause a bit of economic upheaval in the beginning, but overall, it is a good thing. Thank you for your question.

Student: Are there any other factors that we need to consider before Urantia can consider becoming a part of the larger cosmos or Neadon. I mean, are there any other factors like language, for instance?

Rayson: How long is your arm, my son? (Student: Just the high points.) I mean the High points! (Are you saying it's going to be awhile?) Yes, it's going to be awhile. (Is there anything that we could really see.(Inaudible-several people talking at once)...? Many things if you wish them to and you "will" them to. Remember, "Revelation in Action!" You must take action to have revelation occur, and when you have revelation, you also must take action. So it operates as a two-part circle. Do you understand? (I think so.) When you have a revelation, an "Ah Ha," then you must share it and take action, because then you become an operant, functional part of the Correcting Time on an individual basis. And so, you must take action when you have revelation, and when you have revelation, you must take action, and so this is how you will move along. It operates at the individual basis, it is the individual that the Correcting Time is all about, it is the individual who will help heal your world in co-creative cooperation with Michael and His plans, working with your guides, with your Thought Adjuster, using higher values and a belief system that supports them.

Student: How about Bush's war on terror, like where's that going, what's the effect on the world community, how do people think about it? (People?) I mean the Spiritual as opposed to the general population.

Rayson: It's not our business.

Student: Rayson, I'd like to ask you a question about the Urantia Fellowship Government, which is less than perfectly democratic as is the US Government. The Representatives of the Societies feel that there should be more representation from the readers in the elections of the President and Vice President, and that if there is a danger, since they are enemies, without that weakening the government that we have now, the Urantia Fellowship may be a problem. Could you give me an insight on that, as I have to vote on these matters?

Rayson: This parallels your current Electoral College, does it not? Where you elect delegates and they decide whom to elect?

Student: Well, we elect the General Council, and then those thirty-six people elect the Executive Committee, that is, the four members of the Executive Committee, other than the Chairmen of the different Committees.

Rayson: I will answer it this way-this will not come to balance until there is a loss of fear, and when there is a sense of assurance and trust. And what is trust? Feeling safe that your position will remain in good stead, no matter who votes for what individual. This is sometimes a way from coming to balance. I don't believe I answered your question as directly as you had wished, but we do not like to participate or skew your political processes, and this is a political process. (Student: I understand. Thank you.)

To go back to your question regarding temporal political affairs, they have a definite affect upon on the course of humankind's events. You have leaders who will do well, and you will have leaders who will not do well. Yet, in the time of great emergency, the times that great leadership is needed, they will come to the fore. We do not participate or guide those events, which you speak about. Yet, we and Thought Adjusters, the Most Highs, are concerned about the generation of new leadership, new moral/ethical leadership, individuals with high values, and firm beliefs and courage, courage to make moral/ethical decisions, even when it may jeopardize political position.

We continue to speak about providing a good seed bed for the children who are coming along, and also know that there is guidance, always allowing for “free will” where children grow and meet and come into union with other children, who beget more spiritually infused individuals in your world. You may call this “Celestial Matchmaking,” but know also that your lives are guided in ways, of which you are unaware. Yet, always you have sovereign “self-will.” This is never abrogated, never violated, even when it involves terrorists who kill thousands of people and jeopardize the safety of millions. Other questions?

Student: How we can build a spiritual community without repeating the same mistakes of two thousand years ago? (Rayson: Repeat please.) How can we make a spiritual community on Urantia, without making the same mistakes that were made two thousand years ago when Jesus came to the planet?

Rayson: One moment. First of all, is that the individual “must make decisions.” And appreciate that each decision that you make throughout the day has an effect upon your life, your community and the lives of others; even small decisions can have large effects. On a larger basis, we wish you to associate with individuals of “like-thinking,” and “like and similar beliefs.” Further, we ask you to dissuade those who would do wrong and harm to others from taking those courses of actions. Again, we ask you to uphold, and hold those who make decisions, accountable for their decisions in ways that causes them jeopardy of their goods or their position. That sounds coercive, but “wise doves” do those things; they hold people accountable. Hold your leaders accountable to higher values and beliefs.

Always make higher-minded decisions. Know and trust that Michael is present, in the Spirit of Truth. Call upon this Truth to be open and invested in you. Do not be afraid to share this Truth with others. Build your community physically, electronically, spiritually. Grow and come into union with others. Know that there are others who think as you do. Hold hope that you can heal this world. Accept and cooperate with the co-creative, healing energies that are present on this planet. Take action, which is positive and constructive. Bless yourself, heal yourself, and help to heal others, in mind and in spirit and in body. We are ready to close? (Student: One more, Rayson?) Yes.

Student: I really liked your last answer and it almost answered my question, but I wanted to know what you personally thought about evangelical ministry combined with the Urantia Book and emotionalism that comes from that, and is this another natural out-working or a branch connected to the Urantia Community like the Teaching Mission is, and if there is a danger of people putting too much faith in spiritual leaders and not looking so much within, but looking to the leaders, mortal leaders?

Rayson: I apologize, I must work through this mortal’s mind (Laughing). I would be pleased to answer your entire question, as I feel it is very worthy of answers. Could you break that into at least twelve parts, please? (Much laughter.) [Daniel: Humor the simplicity of this mechanism!]

Student: I am wondering how you feel about evangelical ministry combined with the Urantia Book and the emotionalism that comes from that?

Rayson: I am striving to be helpful to answer your questions. It is not one question. There are many involved in that. (Long pause.) I wish I could whisper in your ear! Let me explain what is going on here, please. The mind mechanism of mortals is what we work through, and so, we hear, we operate through the mind mechanism and your words enter this mind, and as this individual has had cognitive damage done to his brain some years ago, there are limitations to the complexity of answers that I can provide through this mechanism. It is a “melding of this mechanism and my voice”-let’s put that in quotes-it is not easily understood by you, it is difficult for us to transmit through mortals, as it is. And there are inherent limitations to this process. We wish to always uphold the validity of the process and we will not push the process to get our word out, as we must insure that you feel

safe with what comes through. Can we try again?

Student: I have a question. Is there any project that our secret government is producing, that is threatening the beings of other dimensions or other planets around us? (Rayson: Yes.) Can you elaborate? (No.) How could we get our government to let us know what they are doing? In other words, if we are the government, we the people have a right to know what is going on. (Tape turned.)

[Note: During the turning of the tape, Rayson chose to go back and try to answer the previous question, that of evangelical ministry and emotionalism in connection with the Urantia Book.]

Rayson: We do wish the individual to have periods of ecstasy in their union when they come to center and understand their participation and their “oneness” with their Thought Adjuster, that intimate connection, which is so powerful to direct the lives of individuals. But this ecstatic response that occurs often in worship and in connection with the Thought Adjuster must be individual, and to have a group ecstatic experience becomes socially dangerous.

Student: Rayson, I have a question that has been bugging me for awhile. I guess this is an opportunity to ask it. The Urantia Book tells us about Jesus being about 6’4”, robust, strong individual, but they never tell us about his other features. Considering we have these brown haired, blue-eyed pictures all over of him or whatever, I was wondering if you could tell us about the actual features of the individual?

Rayson: He was loving and kind and he showed you an example of how to live, and these are the major features that he wished to exemplify and show to you. His mortal material physicality is not necessary to know; it would not enhance your appreciation of the values he gave you. I apologize for being so sharp with you, but this is not relevant to your decision making in your life, or to the assistance of the spiritualization of your mind or to the assistance of others.

Student: Is it kind of like if he had a potbelly.(Rest of sentence drowned out by laughter.) Or if he had ears that poke way out, I mean, we are assuming he had the perfect form, and maybe he didn’t look like we think.

Rayson: Well, you were talking about “Yoda the Buddha.” (Total crack-up of group in laughter!) [This is Daniel: That’s good!]

Student: Rayson, I just have to ask you, did he have black hair and black eyes? If you can’t answer that, I understand, but did he have black hair and black eyes? (Pause) You can’t answer that, or the answer is no?

Rayson: I cannot answer that. One last question.

Student: You talked about how the United States could be an example for World Government. I wonder if there is something simple that we might know about, how different religious traditions might come together?

Rayson: That’s an honorable question! For one, I did not say that the United States exemplified a World Government, but the cooperation of nations on an equal basis, and that sovereignty would be recognized and cooperation would be eminent and prominent among them. World Government is a long ways away. You will not see it in your lifetimes. You can be best assured that if your nations cooperate and avoid fear, then you will have the best situation for your lifetimes.

To answer your question regarding religions, religions will not come to oneness until they see their oneness under the Father’s example and creation. Their origins are “of man,” yet, the emanations and spiritual revelation

that came through them came through higher guidance and revelation. This came from an individual connection with deep, spiritual resource, from the Thought Adjuster. And where is the Thought Adjuster resident from? From Divinington, from the First Source and Center. And until religions see their origins from the First Source and Center, they will see themselves as separate. Only when they see themselves as begotten of the One, will they see themselves as having hope of being “One” themselves. One may see the values of the One, First Source and Center, and then they will see the values that they must uphold. And this takes a lot of humility; takes a lot of “giving up” their trusted sovereign positions as authorities of religion. This may not come to pass either, in your lifetimes, for surely, the authorities of religions are often not God-like, but are more political in nature. This is unfortunate. How to overcome the individuation of religions? This is what we are working on too, here.

Blessings to you tonight and may I share with you, the blessings of all who are here with you this evening. You are surrounded and infused and rest upon the care and love of your Father, Michael. There is a oneness that pervades the world and that is His love. Be calm, radiant, emissaries in the eminence of Christ’s love, Michael’s love, and be one of mind through Nebadonia. Know that through the union of love and like-mindedness, you will find harmony and peace among you. And know that guidance is always available, individually and as groups. There is no limitation that your Creator has placed upon you. We wish you well, we love you, and we support you to make good decisions. Good night.

Group: Good night, we love you too.

IC02 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Tuesday, July 2, 2002

AHAMANIDEN MELCHIZEDEK (TR Joilin)

Greetings, friends, students. It is I, AhamaNiden Melchizedek. It is great to be amongst you once again; it has been a long, long time and I welcome this opportunity. Not just to challenge my student, but to challenge you as well. This conference, all of the conferences that you attend throughout the year and throughout the years, helps you to grow in so many ways, on so many levels. Oftentimes you are not even aware of those “faith steps” that you have been able to take with the underpinning of the love and support you gain through these conferences. From our perspective, these conferences are as much about the inter-connection between God and His people, and the inter-connection between each of you.

And now I would like to leave you this evening with some soul-searching questions, and no, you are not going to be graded on them, and no, you don’t even have to answer them now, unless you are comfortable doing that. And if you are comfortable doing that, then I would much enjoy hearing your answers.

1.. In what ways do you, as an individual, support the Kingdom of God, here on Earth? Within and throughout your lives?

2.. In what ways do you promote the Kingdom of God, through your life vehicle?

3.. How do you come to recognize that every single person, every man, every woman, every child, that comes within a close proximity of your person, is an opportunity for you to allow the Father to reach out and touch their lives? Have you come to that realization, that everyone, no matter their culture, no matter their economic station in life, no matter their age, their gender, no matter what-every man, woman and child that comes within your life’s arena is there for a purpose, either to gain something from you, some piece of knowledge, or perhaps, love and understanding that they might not get anywhere else in their lives; or, they are there to teach you something, to give you a gift. Have you come to recognize that within your own lives, at this point?

4.. Do you know when the Father is working through your life? Can you hear His still, so small voice within the chaos of your own minds? Do you understand what it means to seek the Stillness, to go within, for truly it is within, where the Kingdom can be found? You each, have within you a Divine Adjuster, He who spends all his

hours loving you, supporting you, guiding you, teaching you, would you but be still and listen. Do you listen? Do you “still” your minds each day, to just listen? There are those who believe that “seeking the stillness” means I must “sit,” every day, in “this” easy chair, and close my eyes and be still. And for many, this works.

Are there any here, for whom this does not work? When this does not serve you, due to time constraints or the chaos within your own minds, let me give you, perhaps, a different direction, a different idea that you might take on within the construct of your own day: Do you speak to the Father within your own minds throughout your day? What do you tell Him? Do you share with Him the delights that fill your lives? The joys that you behold? The inspiration that you may gain through a movie, a book, or simply in looking on one of His sunsets, or within the eyes of one of His children? Those are, in essence, “mini-stillness’,” although perhaps, they are not so still. You play a more interactive role in that kind of stillness, in that kind of worship.

But during those times, let us say that you are sitting at the riverside and listening to the tumbling water, watching the birds, the butterflies, looking at the flowers; and it’s sunset, and as you watch, the sky becomes a beautiful panoramic of color-purples, mauve, orange, yellow, blue, green even sometimes-and you are uplifted by the sound and the sights that He’s given you. Surely, an inspiring sight! Most, if not all of you, have spent time with Him like this, and are uplifted and inspired by the peace and the beauty that you behold. Do you share your feeling with Him then?

This one was given an analogy a number of years ago, about why it is important to share with the Father, these special times, these special moments; not just our sorrows, not just our challenges, in these times we seek His understanding, we seek His support, and His love. But in the periods when you are not being bombarded with the onslaught of challenges, when you are given that space in time to take a mental, emotional time-out, and fill yourselves with His inspiration.

The analogy goes something like this: There is a young boy and he’s standing outside a baseball diamond, he’s outside the fence. One lonely little boy (or little girl) and they are watching a ballgame take place. It’s just a neighborhood ballgame, it’s not a “big deal,” but he/she wants so much to be a part of that ballgame. He can see the game, can he not, through the wire fence? Certainly. He can enjoy the game as he watches, but how much more enjoyment would he gain, if the boys on the playing field were to open the gate and say, “Come in. Come in and play with us. Share the game with us.” And that’s the analogy that I would leave you with.

Share with the Father. Take a snapshot, a mental snapshot of all of the beauty that you see, whether the beauty is in the baby’s face that you are looking on, or the flower, or the sky, or a ninety-five year old woman who is sitting, smoking her cigarette, as this one recently saw, and understood that there was someone in pain, next to her. This woman was on oxygen, she had pneumonia, and she asked this woman if she could pray for her? And while she was sitting there, puffing her cigarette, doing herself mortal harm, if you will, she put her arms out and held the woman’s hands, and prayed a prayer for this woman, the like of which she’d never heard before. And this ninety-five year old woman took on a persona, was more beautiful than anyone in her life that she had seen that day. These are the important things to share with the Father-Oh, He knows they’re going on, certainly-it is because of His Spirit in each of you, and in each person on this planet, that these kinds of moments happen in your lives; they are intended to support you on many levels, they are intended to be catalysts for you to step out of your comfort zone, and do the Father’s acts. Not being concerned with the outcome, but simply allowing Him the move through you and touch the lives of those who are brought before you. I challenge you, each, to think on these words, on these questions, over the next days of this conference, and endeavor each day to touch in some way, each person that comes before you. Allow Him to move through you, and allow Him to move through them to you. And I thank you for your patience and your understanding, and for allowing this one to challenge herself, one more time. Shalom.

ESTES PARK, COLORADO--JUNE 30th--JULY 6th

TeaM Meeting / July 3, 2002

ABRAHAM (TR: Nina Mckee)

I am here. I am Abraham. Greetings. I am in understanding that to many this process of communication seems strange and not aligning with your text book (UB). I would reiterate that this time in the history of your world you are at a crucial crossroads of change.

Lo these many years, we have been making efforts toward swaying the mass-mind-set toward practical spirituality. Concepts are born every day and without education and putting these concepts into practical use they will die. That is certainly acceptable but there is a danger in losing those practical realities that either drives a world's people toward animalistic tendencies or mystical non-reality. It is our hope in this Correcting Time to bring a balance of logical spiritual action.

The Teaching Mission brings your text book to life. You can study all you want but putting these concepts into practical living takes a great deal of effort. We are here to help move you forward to the actual living of the principles of the Urantia Book. The book can seem a bit technical or mechanistic. We are hoping to bring a balance to this book of truth by adding love, and making God, the Father, more reachable or perhaps useable.

As you have seen in religious history there is imbalance where there seems to be a need for an individual to stand above the rest, a need for certain individuals to appear to be more righteous or holy. The Correcting Time-Teaching Mission brings a blended balance of Christ-like humility and a secure consciousness of universal well-being.

The Master did all that was divinely and humanly possible to defer any self-glory. His mission was straight forward, looking toward the Father and His will. How did Jesus of Nazareth, maintain a wonderfully balanced ministry where His eye was single to the glory of God? How was the Master so perfected in self-forgetfulness? Why was any self-elevation so distasteful to Him?

Our Master simply knew the Father's love. He had all He needed, in this there was no desire to call attention to Himself to gain the love and respect of His fellows. There was no joy for Him in self-glory. His complete joy was found solely in the Father's love. He was very secure, which unfortunately, many in the mortal experience are lacking. Of course, Jesus realized His divinity early on, and certainly this was a great asset. It is understood that you, on a strife-torn world, would experience a personal and collective insecurity. It is our goal in this Correcting Time to bring back what has been lost, to correct what has been wrong, to bring light where there has been darkness.

Citizens on worlds settled in Light and Life have not the knowledge of this insecurity, for they have been educated from the day they were brought into existence that they are valued and loved, no matter what. They seek not to step upon their fellows backs to rise above and be seen as superior, all for the gratification of the ego. They work not against each other. The concepts of the various social classes means nothing to them. The citizens are all indeed parts working for the good of the whole. What is good for one is good for all. What affects one, affects all. Indeed these Light and Life residents are wholly secure in their citizenship, in their faith as a son or daughter of God.

In the Teaching Mission, we strive to bring back that lost security--to make every individual feel valued and loved and a part of the universe. Not one is closer to God than another. In God's eyes, He loves each child as if it were His only child. Our Mission is to unify, to equal the imbalances that tend to come with the mortal ego. I am saying we are here to assist, not to shame nor guilt you into spiritual

submission. Our goal is to bring personal spiritual security. Not one stands above any one of you.

Spiritual knowledge does not make one individual any more valued than another. To have that spiritual security brings new confidence to be in the world with an eye single to the glory of God. There is not any spiritual practice really that can make you have more faith. There are many rituals mortals perform hoping to invoke God's presence. I am saying, God's presence is there already--no matter what--no more, no less. It matters not the time or mind-set. He is always there. It is your willingness to allow what you think you want and need to dissolve that will bring you more spiritual security, more cosmic connection.

For the remainder of the Conference ponder your spiritual security, your personal mortal security also. Contemplate your status in the Kingdom. Measure your faith/trust factor with what your eyes tells you is reality. Know that you are each safely secured within the love of the Father and His Kingdom. Are there questions?

Q: Thank you Abraham. I was hoping you would ask that. For the last several months in the Teaching Mission certainly Daniel and Minearsa, our group teachers, and many of the transcripts, have dealt with living the morontia life now. Also our role as cosmic citizens--and obviously those are some of the emphasis that are on at the Conference this week--it seems to me that the celestials are not just busy with Teaching Mission folks, but maybe with also other leadership in spiritual realms. I was just wondering if you could talk about that?

Abraham: Absolutely. This would apply to all who would listen. As we move toward Light and Life there has to be a great deal of healing and correction, just as it would happen on the Mansion worlds. The Morontia lessons are occurring now. Where many are lacking there will be instructions for overcoming and taking on a new and better way of living. The upheaval in the world today, a lot of it, is due to having this morontial information but struggling with the ego and the desire for power and superiority. Yes, we are reaching whoever will listen, yes. Thank you.

Question: Abraham, what is the new role of men in this Correcting Time?

Abraham: I would be careful in my answer. There are many things that men must overcome and a great deal of the difficulties stem from ego involvement. Fortunately however, the willingness on the part of men to stop enforcing their beliefs and be more in a state of receiving and listening, will be a giant leap forward. I personally have witnessed that steel exterior of many men break down through the realization of the changing times. Man will be left alone if he would continue to carry on in a fashion where he believes he is superior to women, to children, yes. The evolution of the world has been a informative map to guide men toward a new way of thinking. History has been your best teacher. The breakdown of the family, although truly sad, has been very educational. You can see the damage children have suffered for having no fatherly experience, or negative experience with male figures. I perceive men's future roles as one who would grasp self-mastery for themselves, to portray a beautiful example for others. While man is wholly free to do as he wishes, he finds some joy in that. Many men are missing out on the valuable experience of family. With this there is a damaged self-esteem that drives men toward further self-destructive behavior. A family is a builder of security, a reflection of your life's work, an introduction into the eternal career. We are with great faith that men have heard our message and are positively responding. We foresee wonderful changes ahead, yes. Good question. Thank you.

Q: We know that the Midwayers, of course, were the initial partners in bringing us Part IV of the Urantia Book. We know that the sleeping subject is mentioned in the other parts of the Book, and it is curious to me that some people are saying that celestial contact was broken when the book was compiled, and then published in 1955. I am wondering if you could give us any insight to show us that indeed celestial contact was NOT broken, but has continued--not just renewed at this time in the Correcting Time?

Abraham: The contact was not broken, no, but there is always a pause in bestowing spiritual information. There needs to occur a number of evolutionary things that bring the minds of mortals up to date. To bring too much information is asking for man to become fanatical and off balance. The Midwayers' involvement is monitored and guided to go with a flow of natural evolution. Am I answering? (Yes and no. When you said that a certain amount of time had to occur and that the mortal mind had to be ready for it, my mind immediately thought of - from the time that the Book was completed and the time that it was published - we had World War, the Korean War and certainly the Viet Nam War followed that. Maybe the mortal minds were not ready to receive? I don't know if I'm putting words into your mouth. I just thought of that as you were talking.)

Abraham: Understood. There are regulated spiritual concepts bestowed, but never are the spiritual forces to pull away or leave and not help continue to guide. Wars will still continue. Man will still fight for sovereignty, power and money, and much of his fighting will be done in the name of God. There is always divine assistance, but the delivery of new concepts are based on the readiness of individuals. Is this helping? (Yes, and thank you.) One more question.

Q: Abraham, one question. There's a mind-set, maybe, that says there should be a 'Urantia church' establishment--an organized church-setting. This is probably something you'd like to stay out of, but if you would have a comment on that? It is a concept that is generating even here at this Conference.

Abraham: Indeed, this is controversial. You can see for yourselves that still the mind of man fights to push his own agenda. This is difficult. A spiritual worship community would be productive if based on the teachings of the Urantia Book, and perhaps other things that lead towards a practical practice of spirituality, not toward mystical, but toward putting practical spirituality into everyday living. An organized church would be helpful if it brought man closer to God. If an organized church excludes certain individuals, does that bring man closer to God? If a church brings further insecurity to individuals, is that true work for the Father? No. A church that would be successful gives full sovereignty to Father. The church allows Father to organize, to bring healing, to bring balance to His children's lives, to make His child feel loved, welcomed and an important part of the whole. I can say no more. (Thank you, Abraham.)

I am slipping. I would take my leave. I would also express to you my deep and abiding love for you each. I am truly touched by the faith and dedication you have for embracing our beloved Sovereign's Mission. My love goes with you. Until next time, shalom.

IC02 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Thursday, July 4, 2002

Teacher: DANIEL (TR - Bill Kelly)

Dear Friends, I am Daniel. Welcome Cosmic Citizens to this celebration of Truth, Beauty and Goodness. Indeed are you all becoming more and more aware of the wondrous, Celestial Realms, not only the starry heavens, but most importantly, the vast family of Cosmic Citizens of "Free-will Status," all sons and daughters, and therefore brothers and sisters, of the Living God. Your understanding of life is expanding, for you have reached the point where you see both the origins and the destinies of your choices, based upon your natures as both animal origin creatures and Adjuster indwelt mortals.

Your time in history is crucial. We are indeed, the first wave of the invasion of Light and Life, which is coming to the shores of Urantia. The tide is rising; the tide, which will raise all boats, and this tide of divine and human progress is unstoppable! I, Daniel, am a Teacher in the Corps of Emergency Intervention under the auspices of

our Planetary Prince, Machiventa Melchizedek. I have served for almost ten and a half years in the Southeast corner of Idaho. I am a volunteer, as all of the Teachers are; I was once a mortal on a planet in the early stages of Light and Life; I was married, I had children, I was a Physician/Psychiatrist, as you would understand it. It has been my great joy to be one of the Teachers to this group of mortals, which has been my assignment.

But today, you gather in understanding of the scope of this planetary intervention, this emergency mission, in that the circuitry, which is now re-connecting, provides a sense of communion and connection, which is at a level unique in the history of Urantia. You are losing your sense of orphan-hood, and gaining your sense of place at the table of the universe. We have been giving lessons on learning to live as Morontia Beings, while yet in the mortal realms. These lessons are the same in many ways, as what a normal planet would receive from its Spiritual Administration of Adam and Eve. It is not without solace that Urantia is the focus of the eyes of Nebadon. This planet, has indeed been more stressed by the Caligastia Betrayal than any others, but its misfortunes became its greatest blessing, for Christ Michael, our now Universe Sovereign, chose this place because of its misfortunes and darkness, to manifest the reality of the Love of God, in human flesh.

My “budding Cosmic Citizens,” my true brothers and sisters, lift up your eyes so that you see through and past the mortal level, to perceive the souls of your brothers and sisters. Arouse your senses that are of Morontial origin, so that you can be forgiving of the greatest harm, and hurts, so that you can see beauty in the most despicable of human situations, so that you can hear the bells of truth ring from the strangest corners and most unexpected of places. Just as we are coming as the first wave of this invasion of spiritual pressure, so are you also the first wave. You who have the Fifth Epochal Revelation, you who know that in your heart there is a piece of eternity, the very God who organizes this vast, glorious universe, you who walk behind our Master and follow in His footsteps, yes, you all are the invasion of light into the darkness. Now, I know some of you look at world events, and you see no evidence that the Adjudication is here and completed, it appears perhaps that the Lucifer Rebellion continues to triumph in the hearts of men and women. We are trying to tell you, “Question your perception, challenge your understanding, don’t be seduced into believing that good is only white spots on a great, black background. Don’t let your attention be controlled by the sensation seeking of profit-based news reporting. Realize that Jesus, our Master, identified the major sickness of His time, which has now become a virtual epidemic, the sickness of materialism, the distortion of values, so that the worship of the “bottom line” as profit replaces the worship of God, who is, after-all, the First Source and Center of all things and beings.

You who are American citizens celebrating your Independence Holiday, need to remember your origins tonight, and every night, you desired freedom from tyranny, the choice of your own leadership. That is the privilege of developing a form of government and a way of life, so that you would be free of the tyranny of another nation, and now you are enslaved by materialism. It is time for another “independence day” experience. Break out! Break out of this materialism, my friends. Not only for yourselves, for you for the most part understand what I am saying, bring this issue up to your friends. Show them how it is destroying the culture of this great country, and its Twin Towers, which represent the very “gods of materialism” themselves in the minds of many, have been shattered at great human loss and cost. You have far more of the wealth of the world than you should keep. Be free from your shackles of materialism and share with the rest of this world. Let your democracy, your Union of States under a sovereignty of the Federal over-control, be what the Urantia Book says it can be, a model for the “true democracy” of humankind, world-wide.

Finely now, as you look up to the stars, and you behold the heavens that Michael has created, and you look beyond this to the Superuniverses, and you go beyond that with your telescopes and your instruments of detection to the outer space realms, and as you ponder the Central Universe on the other side of the Milky Way, feel that you a part of this whole. You are a Cosmic Citizen! You are a citizen of the United States, or some other country, you are working toward becoming a world citizen and this vision of cosmic citizenry will keep you stable. There is much to be grateful for, indeed. Every thing that comes to you, when you have offered

your life to God, to be in His guidance, everything that comes to you, is a gift. It is your gift to transform those circumstances by your decisions at higher and higher levels of integration, so that your life becomes a significant addition to the expression and completion of the Supreme Being.

This conference is united. Spiritual Truth is flowing like a river. Service opportunities abound. [Man (?)] can be plucked from the tree, just as an apple hangs there, ripe and ready. Rejoice my friends, for you are all doing well. The love of God is in you. My peace, farewell.

IC02 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Thursday, July 4, 2002

Teacher: CORELLI (TR – Stella Religa)

Good evening, friends. This is Corelli. I am a long-time acquaintance of Stella, who we were glad to say, agreed to transmit. She is a reluctant transmitter, however, will agree to transmit. We greet you at this wonderful place at Colorado; there are thousands of us here. We all volunteered from various planets, now that the circuits are being opened. This was under the direction of Christ Michael and Prince Machiventa.

The ideas for these transmissions took place many hundreds of years ago, after Jesus' death on the cross. The idea was that this world needed much spiritual upliftment. There were many attempts during the past thousands of years, ranging from the Prince Caligastia One Hundred, who arrived on the Persian Gulf, to Adam and Eve, Melchizedek, and even our Lord Jesus. These were successful to a certain extent. However, we felt that possibly the best way would be to reach people on a personal level.

And we are happy to report that the success of the Teaching Mission has gone even beyond our expectations. We now have contacts, not only in the United States, but also in Canada, Mexico and it is happening in the Orient and in Europe. Many of these people are astounded, as you were, Stella, when they are contacted. Some refuse to go along with what they call this "strange phenomena," but some do agree and we are so happy to welcome them. There are thousands of transmissions, all with the aim of spiritually enlightening the human race.

Your country includes many of various religious faiths; all of them are good to a certain extent. However, many of them still preach the doctrine of "blood atonement," that God is a "wrathful master" and is eager to seize on any wrongdoing. We hope that with these individual contacts, that these erroneous ideas are laid to rest. This may take many, many years because many people are very reluctant to leave their old traditions. Much of this is due to fear that if they question God or the holy writ with which they have been brought up, that somehow God will be displeased and will punish them in some degree or another. These punishments, they think, take the form of the death or loss of someone, of a loss of jobs, a lack of money, lack of education. But these are not the results of God's wrath; rather they are the results of human greed, or not caring enough for their fellow man.

God gave you a beautiful world. It will be up to each and every one of you to bring about a better world of love and kindness to one another, to participate in your government so that you have a government responsive to your needs. There is no need for this great suffering, this hunger, disease, lack of homes, corruption in business and in government. You must all be vigilant. God cannot do this; He can work through you, He can suggest paths of endeavor, but it is strictly up to you.

As you know, many people still blame Satan for the wrongdoing that they do. In reality, these actions that may be evil or corrupt, stem from their own innate reasoning or acting. So we beg of you, go out into your communities, be loving to all those who are in need; help them as much as you can in your circle of friends

and in your communities, but also look at the larger picture. This larger picture is influenced by your actions on an individual level. What you do, what you bring to your community, radiates out of your particular area, and people will recognize that what you are doing is for the good.

One of the greatest teachings on your planet is doing the “greatest good for the greatest many.” As you start in your own way, this will radiate out to others and eventually, it will encompass the world. Many of you are still afraid that the world will end with Armageddon, End of Time, that some Anti-Christ is out there-none of this is true! God and Jesus never taught such erroneous ideas. The God that sent Jesus is a loving God, and it is a “Just” Universe. You may feel you are suffering greatly, and many of you are, but with the help of fellow man, this can be eradicated. But never, never believe that God was the instrument of this ugliness that exists in many parts of the world and in your own country.

We are reassured that there is a growing awareness that we are responsible for our brother’s keep, and for our sister’s keep, and for our children. And we must all work together to create this better world, which is the first step in ushering in the Age of Light and Life. Our Lord Michael, sends greetings to you all. You are loved, more than you can believe. And do not be afraid, any one of you, that somehow your little missteps will jeopardize your Eternal Life. All that is negative will fall away from you. And if you but choose Eternal Life, your rewards will be great, you will have an opportunity to do that, which you failed to do in this life, or were unable to do because of circumstances beyond your control. But know one thing-you are loved!

This is a Just Universe; Christ Michael will never allow the world, the planet of His birth and death to be destroyed. Man is too puny, too small in the cosmos to destroy something that was created by Christ Michael. Certainly, there is much you can do; your air, your water, your land, your forests-they must all be preserved. And we can see people who are very concerned, and they are working to preserve a world that future generations can enjoy.

We thank you for the privilege of being here. There are many, many watching in this room today. They love you, they are so eager to contact you. So do not be afraid, if by chance, you should hear a little voice some day, say, “This is So-and so. I would like to contact you.” So please do it. We love you and we send you our love. Good night.

IC02 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Thursday, July 4, 2002

Teacher: MICHAEL (TR - Julie O.)

Good evening, I am Christ Michael. It has taken me three days to build this transmitter’s courage, so be aware. I must also crack jokes for her, so be aware.

I wish to thank all those transmitters before. It is indeed a privilege to work with individuals who wish to open their hearts and their minds for teachers and myself to transmit through. It is truly a blessing in which we are able to grow on our side, to understand how the Urantian’s mind works, through your traditions, rituals, your daily pattern of life. It is truly an opportunity for the transmitters to grow as well, for this opens them up to other stronger teachers. It also helps build their Thought Adjuster connection. So truly when the adjudication was completed and Urantia was open to the circuitries once again, this allowed all of the Correcting Times to begin now upon Urantia. It is a long process, but a worthwhile process.

As this planet’s circuitry continues to up-step you will notice in each of your lives more of a spiritual aspect of yourself that you have not noticed before. We are in the process of trying to blend your Morontial Self with your physical self. This is a long-term project, as you are aware, the Correcting Times is a long-term project.

The more volunteers we have to accept more spiritual responsibility in trying a stronger connection with their Thought Adjusters, to develop a stronger connection to their teachers, this gives you individually a strength that overcomes most of Urantia's pitfalls.

As you are aware the Thought Adjuster turns into a Thought Controller. And with each step you take with the Thought Adjuster, these steps bring you closer to a bond with the Father. The Father Fragment within you is an active individual with a love that the Father shows you. We are pleased to say that everyone here is a true survivor and has a very active Thought Adjuster. So this is where you may give yourself an applause or a pat on the back.

As your Brother and Sovereign I have watched Urantia go through many stages. Truly I am blessed to be a Urantian as well as your sovereign of Nebadon. Please continue in your quiet times, your spiritual growth. Each year you will see drastic changes within your spiritual self as well as in your physical self, in that the spirit and soul are becoming closer together, in your daily walk, in your daily lives. This is shown through small acts of kindness as well as through great acts of volunteering, or being of service of any kind to your fellow man, women and children included. (laughing) Thank you for laughing. (more laughing) as I said, levity keep this one calm.

As you continue on your Urantia path know that your teachers are with you, your Guardian Angels are with you, Midwayers interact with you. As you continue to be aligned with the circuits it is an opportunity for spiritual teacher connection but a greater opportunity for the Father connection. That is the ultimate goal of the Thought Adjuster, is to bring you through to Fusion. So, when you are in an experience and you have to wonder how you got there you can blame your Thought Adjuster (laughter). Also remember that as an Urantian you do have a delightful sense of humor. And as a Reversion Director comes in contact with you be kind to them they are trying to understand you. (Laughter)

Your teachers are truly remarkable individuals, I wish you to be aware that a teacher is only approved of by your individual Thought Adjuster. So whatever comes your way you can then blame your Thought Adjuster again.

I am so privileged to be among you. I have truly been among you in this conference. I truly applaud the Urantia group for their steadfast in understanding the Urantia Book, the revelation of Urantia, and moving forward into a Light and Life era. That is the goal of the Urantia movement and of all the Celestials around you. Since this is my birth planet I am thoroughly delighted to be among you in this corrective time. There is a saying "be careful your Big Brother is watching". (much laughing and joy --- someone says thank you for watching, Michael replies: My pleasure, but remember you have guardian angels who "rat" on you as well ---more laughing.)

So now as this one's anxiety continues on I will close for others, there are always others here who wish to commune with you, to converse with you. Know that you are being watched over. Big Brother may be watching but so is Big Sister, Nebadonia. Whenever you work in your garden plant a flower for Her, nurture it as She nurtures you. She sends Her greetings and Her love and Her devotion. To all upon Urantia, I love you, I am devoted to you and I serve you. Goodnight.

IC02 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Thursday, July 4, 2002

Teachers: THE MOST HIGHS (TR - Leoma)

I come before you, my children, anxious, eager, delighted you are here. Do you know that the love you have fills

not only this building, but expands? Everyone at this camp, here present, though they are not aware, are affected by your very presence. It cannot help but be felt, and it will connect people in ways they do not know. They do not need to understand; it simply IS. Do you know how much you are loved? Oh my! When you gather in this way, there is such rejoicing! Do you know what an accomplishment it is that you are here together? Sharing?

And it is so true that when you only come in close proximity to one another, light is shared, your connections are strengthened, your hearts are expanded-this is what happens when you are among people who do not know this, people who need it so much. When you go on your daily walk, in the grocery store, standing in line, waiting at the stop light, even those are opportunities to send light, to give love to people.

You are in the presence. You are in the presence of the highest reality of the Most High. There is no name to be given. Do not think of this as a single personality. It is an amalgam, a gathering, just as you are gathered here. It is many brought together, for that is the only way it can be expressed. You, my children, are so beloved.

You are on this planet, each of you, by choice, in this specific time. Each of you, you have heard the word "volunteer" many times tonight, you are volunteers to be here in this time, on this planet. Each of you came with the intent of the general purpose of upraising, uplifting, helping with the Correcting Time. And yet, each of you has an individual purpose, but they are all connected. Of course they are! Every contact you make has meaning and purpose. Every contact! Even those you do not recognize as such, for, as I said earlier, your very proximity raises the frequency of the one near you. Notice this. Some of you can change the frequency of people in a room, simply by entering it. As you grow on your progression path, this will become more and more evident. It will become "second nature" to you.

The things you have experienced, the energy you have been "in the flow of" this week, are but a foretaste, a tiny bite of what is to come, even yet, in your lifetime, but even more so as you progress on from this life. My children let me say again, how much you are loved! The Father, the Mother, Christ Michael-we are all here. Know that! Within every cell of your being! Allow yourselves to be filled with the Light of this reality. Even when you feel your darkest moments, we enfold you, and lift you, as much as you can allow. It is your "intent" that helps this Light to flow. The more you pay attention to the flow, and to opening every cell to the Light, the more you will realize it is reality for you. Let me indicate again, how each of you is connected, strands of light between you. Oh, if you could see yourselves as we do! You would never again have any doubt or fear, nor could you have any hatred or remorse. Never again could you have a negative thought.

We look upon you as creatures of Light - evolving, yes, becoming, yes - moving ever closer to the Father, who is so near and pulls you, draws you, such a long way to Him. Yes, there is a long journey before you. Try to embrace the idea that this may be the best part. Life on this planet is truly a privilege, and you have chosen to be part of it, now! You have all traveled here from distant parts, and you are all here in one time, one moment, one place; and when this conference is ended, you will go out again to distant places. But those heart connections, the lines of Light, will remain; and the more you keep in contact with one another, through thought, prayer, e-mails, letters, remembrance-even the ones you never really met-the more you can keep the connections bright. We see this as a great network of Light. Embrace this in your thoughts and ideas. Visualize it. It will grow!

My friends, I think this is enough for tonight. Thank you.

# Aligning in the Christ Consciousness

by DONNA D'INGILLO (donnadingillo@juno.com)

The Center for Christ Consciousness and The Stillness Foundation

The affinity of the human mind for the Divine is embedded within the deepest recesses of consciousness. Nothing short of total harmonization with the Divine will satisfy the yearnings of the soul, once it has tasted of Divine Love and been awakened to the light of Truth.

This is the journey into alignment in the Christ Consciousness. It is the yielding of human desires, aspirations, dreams, fears, experiences, will, and expectations to conform with that which Spirit desires for you. The seeds of faith have been planted within your mind to grow into an awareness so strong to desire this alignment, but it is your choice to activate this faith that spurs your adventure into Christ Consciousness onward.

Each person, in his and her own way, has come to certain beliefs about who and what Christ is, which are mostly factored by traditional religious theologies and personal expectations of God. By permitting yourself to become disconnected from what you think Christ, a richer and more meaningful experience with Truth will be yours to cherish and enjoy to your soul's satisfaction.

Aligning your thoughts with in Christ Consciousness allows your mind to naturally conform to the highest ideals and ideas of the universe. It stimulates your mind for knowledge; it rests your heart in peace, and enriches the human experience with the faith-fortifying anchor that you are loved and supported in an intelligently planned, love-dominated and friendly universe. If this is valuable to you, consider offering yourself to be aligned – your Creator will make you anew in Spirit!

## Coming Into the Alignment

**Do you value:**

**Spiritual Insight**  
Intellectual Knowledge  
Emotional Stabilization  
Physical Balance  
Heightened Awareness  
Creativity of Expression  
Love-saturated Relationships

If this is so, then acquiring these treasures is not only possible but inevitable, when you come into the alignment with Christ Consciousness. It begins with your faith of the possibility that is your divine birthright and making a conscious choice that this is what you want. The door opens.

Allowing your mind to be aligned with the Christ Consciousness is very simple. You merely ask for this to be so, perhaps a statement like this: "I ask that my mind be aligned with the very essence of Truth – the Christ Consciousness." Then, still your mind by focusing your thoughts on your breath. Relax, and let the Divine Mind of Christ blend with your own. This is for the most part an unconscious experience, while the many layers of your thought patterns and thinking process are sorted and purified. The wheat is being separated from the chaff, and the kernels of truth are being exposed to the Love-Light of Divinity.

## What Occurs during Alignment

Aligning your mind with the Christ Consciousness is a natural unfoldment of the thought processes to conform with Divine Truth, Beauty, and Goodness. It is unconsciousness, for the most part, but in time you begin to sense that how you think and what you think is changing and becoming more healthful emotionally and mentally (and sometimes even physically!).

Think of your mind as a large garden where the soil of negative thought processes are continually being weeded out so that your thoughts can produce beautiful flowers of lovely variety and brilliant colors. The hand of Christ finds those weeds and gently uproots them, replacing in the soil of your mind a little kernel of truth and goodness that is watered by the unconditional love your Divine Creator has for you. In time, as this small seed of truth is watered by your stillness practice, you will find it takes root and fills you with peace and happiness. This is the alignment at work.

There are many weeds in human thinking and they are tangled and gnarled into very tight and hardened knots. But the Divine Hand is at work here, actively sorting through the mess and morass of confusion, doubt, and fear, lovingly unthreading, purifying, and reconfiguring those mental patterns that more conform with the Divine Mind. While psychological analyzing of human thought patterns can discern some cause and effect of certain thoughts and correlated behaviors, only Christ can actually correct that which is out of alignment with the Divine Mind. As the human minds begins to yield and intermingle with the Divine Mind, certain corrections are made:

### In the Intellect:

Truth is a spiritual substance nourishing the mind. Thoughts are mental substance and are configured into belief systems. Beliefs are ideas and have their source in: evolutionary traditions, the animal nature, genetic patterns, the divine nature, and spiritual reality.

When you think a thought, the thought looks for the place in your mental structure where it finds its home. Thoughts are always seeking that place where they will be safe and at rest. One of the factors why new thoughts are so easily dismissed at first is because they do not have a foundation to take root and grow.

Patterns of thinking are very complex and have specific environmental conditions; consequently new spiritual thoughts often find it difficult to seed themselves into the existing environment, especially when that environment is toxic with anger, hate, jealousy, greed, intolerance, and fear.

However, there is a Divine Personality that actually opens the mind to implant new thoughts into fertile soil: the Divine Mother Spirit – the Creative Consort of Christ – who lovingly and steadfastly helps the human mind restructure thereby allowing Truth substance to be sown into existing mental patterns. In time, the Truth becomes so large so as to actually uproot that which is error and that which has misguided thoughts and behavior.

The human mind will always be dominated by belief systems. Conforming your beliefs to that which is actually of Truth substance will lead you to the height, depth, and breadth of intellectual stimulation to ascertain the facts, meanings, and values of universal reality. This is indeed creates a strong and elastic intellect.

### In Emotions:

The animal nature is dominated by the instinct to survive. The fear response is the vigilant alarm mechanism built into the mindal patterns of animals to trigger the necessary response for survival. Humans are dominated by this fear response as part of the hereditary patterns of evolution.

However, humans have also a divine nature shared with Divine Parents that is the diametric opposite of the animals. This dual nature creates emotional tension by pulling feelings into opposing camps: fear – security; brutality – gentleness; domination – altruism. Humans have such range of feelings and emotional expression because of this duality.

The Divine Nature is loving, peaceful, righteous, good, beautify, gentle, compassionate, kind, forgiving, merciful, patient, tolerant, and other qualities that we identify as desirable. Aligning in the Christ Consciousness affords the Divine Mother and Christ to take that which is of animal origin and put the spiritual counterpart on that aspect to make into a thing of beauty. The raw rock animal nature is polished and carved into a brilliant jewel of divinity.

Every feeling and experience of anger, resentment, despair, isolation, abandonment, deprivation, and rejection can be corrected to reflect understanding, forgiveness, hope, connection, security, contentment, and acceptance. All human thoughts and behaviors can be so properly spiritized. Everything in the human nature is available to become God-like, but it is human choice that precedes the spiritual polishing.

Psychological therapies may provide insight into why you feel the way you do and shed light on what triggered a certain response. But only Divine intervention corrects the turbulent feelings and emotional distortions erupting from the unspiritized mind. Human mind cannot spiritize itself. Only Spirit can make the human mind more spirit-like. There is no other way.

In seeking to be relieved of your emotional ailments, ask for alignment in the Christ Consciousness. It will never be withheld; Spirit will always and through all ways lovingly take that which is broken and damaged, lovingly heal the wound and kiss the pain into wholeness and peace. Loving and fixing the hurt human child is what the Spiritual Parents delight in doing.

### In Physical Balance:

The human body was designed by the intelligence of Spirit. The laws of Spirit dominate its functions of self-maintenance and correction. Human thought patterns create vibrational disturbances in the maintenance processes and require certain re-stabilization efforts to bring its biological responses back to a state of harmony and balance.

Concomitantly, certain physical stressors affect the body's ability to stay strong, elastic, and vibrant and lead to cell decay, degeneration, and eventually death. There are many combinations of vibrational and physical factors affecting bodily well-being; these often produce confusing ideas in human thinking in discerning how to correct the problem.

As the body has been intelligently designed by Spirit, there is a Divine Plan for the human life-form. Your body is responsive to this plan and corrections are possible and well-nigh inevitable under certain conditions and factors. Presuming to understand all of the conditions and factors impede the correction from occurring, however, because the belief of what you think should occur for your healing completes with the faith that correction is possible. And healing is a faithful adherence that what God wishes for you is more important than what you desire for yourself. This is difficult to accept in human experience: feelings of unworthiness – “Why should God care about me?” – underscores the doubt to obscure pure faith.

As you align in the Christ Consciousness, trust that what God has planned for you is greater than what you can imagine for yourself. Everything good, beautiful, and true of Spirit is openly shared with you as you emerge from the shadow of devaluation. The treasures of Spirit reflect and resonate in your physical being as you offer yourself for cell purification and correction. Your body is the temple of God and the life vehicle designed by Spirit to live here on earth to manifest the plans of your spiritual life and divine nature. Coming into the hands of Christ to be remade according to His plans for you restructures your form and changes cellular vibrational patterns. Light purity corrects that which is out of balance and brings it into the harmonization of Spiritual resonance.

The three-note chord of intellect, emotions, and physicality are calibrated on the actual body of Christ. The human being emits the melodious songs of a glorified light-filled, love-saturated, and truth-dominated radiance. Coming into the alignment of Christ Consciousness increasingly shifts the human being into a gracious and grace-filled soul of high spiritual magnetism. Is this something you wish to become?

## Personality Integration

What makes a person beautiful? Surely beauty can be discerned through the eyes of the physical nature – a pleasant face, a symmetrically balanced physique – humans have standards for physical beauty. When it comes to personality beauty what are the standards? Gentleness, strength, wisdom, kindness, affectionate, approachable, understanding. There is something inherently lovely about all of these qualities. When we recognize these in other people they compel us to want to know them; it is as if we could acquire some of their character attributes by association.

A balanced and symmetrical personality is possible. The many facets of our qualities, talents, abilities, and expression are not designed to remain in the rough raw form of an uncrafted gemstone. No! While we are given this raw material as part of our animal nature, there is a divine plan for each of us to craft our rough rock into a jewel exquisitely beautiful and brilliant, and highly attractive to others.

This is the potential we are destined to achieve as humans – it is actually the purpose of living as human. Personality integration is the natural blending and refining of our raw animal natures with our divine natures, which have been given to us as a gift from our loving Spirit Parents. It is this simple. Why, then is it so difficult to accomplish?

Animal nature does not change. The divine nature is always moving towards attaining new understandings and values through experience. Both of these energy forces are existent in the human nature, and ever do they jockey for position in human consciousness. There are times in life when challenges whirl around you, and an unknown future is at hand. The resistance to change deeply embedded within the psyche clamps down on the mind to stay in the status quo.

Somewhere deep within the recesses of the human mind is an Inner Spirit diligently directing your thinking into spiritual channels that charges thought into action. This is the faith catalyst; it actually activates the divine nature into motion spurred on by an act of will. Without this endowment of spirit, we would be the same as animals.

Humans have the potential to become divine, God-like. The alignment in the Christ Consciousness is the first step to overcoming those animal-like tendencies and qualities by relinquishing that which you have over to the hand of Spirit, who will always make you more Spirit-like; to wear the skin of your divine nature. This is the rebirth into Spirit; you become more real, more substantial, more grounded in your true nature. The animal nature is the temporary covering you shed as you move more into your Spirit nature. Wisely devised divine life plans activating to help you achieve this personality integration with the Divine. Are you ready? It is the adventure of your life!

# The Great Change

From: "Dexter Graphic" <dextergraphic@prodigy.net>  
<http://greatchange.org/home.html>

The movement of the seas is not limited to monotonous pattern, but ranges from a constancy of mildness in which the eroding shores would be perceptibly modified over the span of a lifetime, unto a vehemence of startling intensity in which, suddenly, nothing within reach is left as it was. So it is with the changing of human culture, this ongoing Evolution with age beyond any meaningfulness of temporal measurement.

Some people believe that the scientists will be able to solve anything whatsoever, that they'll always be there to rescue us from running off a cliff. If one really takes a look at the cities and the freeways around us, it looks like the world is made more for cars than for people. If an extraterrestrial came from outer space and looked at the United States, he would surely think that the cars were what the world was all about. It's hard to imagine the whole earth being covered with cars like the US is in its sprawling cities to suburbs, and hard to imagine there being enough steel and dinoblood for everyone to be able to have a car. Yet, that's how every country wants to live because of television, and that's how we think we want to live because almost all our social imagery is directed toward convincing us that happiness comes from the purchase of something.

You can tell by the flaky ideas that come and go for keeping the cars going that's precisely where the catch is. Build a world where the guzzlers no longer rule and we've got a better chance. Try to build a world where everybody has a car, and we're pretending that the round Earth is swelling like a balloon that you never stop blowing up. Build a world where only the privileged nations have all the cars and we've got to have an army to keep the others in their place.

Build a Way of living across the planet that can be lived by everyone and there is no need for armies and all that they waste on their weapons.

Mankind is not ready, though, to pursue a goal for the well being of the planet and all its peoples. The rich and powerful choose their leader to be someone who will protect their interests against those of the world as a whole; they do not care for wisdom. They will again send the young men off to war to maintain their own privilege of being able to have a guzzler and the convenient access to private property thus given. The battle will be fought until men lay exhausted, the earth wounded, and until the supply of dinoblood declines anyway.

The battle will be fought to finally give life to the many, rather than luxury to the few, and the Will shall be of the One Great Spirit that stands behind all and knows the entirety of suffering. Afterwards, men will look back and say "If only we had started earlier to build for the exhaustion of dinoblood, how much wiser it would have been, and easier to do the building." The rich and powerful above all else will block the changes that are needed to create an intelligent world, because they so identify their selves with their possessions and wealth. That is the profound Ignorance of the consciousness that knows itself only as ego.

# Celestials over Cincinnati

DATE: MARCH 24, 2002

TEACHERS: MALVANTRA MELCHIZEDEK, WELMEK, VERONICA, ELISHA, and MIDWAYER RACHEL

TOPICS: ENCOURAGING MORTAL EFFORTS; JESUS' EASTER BASKET FOR YOU; ASCENSION; MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT; MIDWAYER HELP FOR PROJECTS; AN OCEAN OF LOVE; CREATION'S UNFOLDING; MIDWAYERS; EXPRESS THE GOSPEL; EASTER BASKET REPRISE; POEM

TRANSMITTER/RECEIVERS: Stephen, Michael, Jim

PRAYER: Our Father, we worship you. We are here to let you know how in love with this plan, this universe, this planet, these relationships, this opportunity to serve that we are. Thank you for every opportunity that you have brought to us. Thank you for every loving heart that we have touched, met and connected with. Thank you for all of those brothers and sisters who are only waiting for us, the embodiment of the Fifth Epochal Revelation, to bring new Truth into their lives. Thank you for the capacity that we have to love another person every day. Thank you for indwelling our hearts, for letting us know what the Way of God actually is for our lives. Thank you for the incredible, spiritual, uplifting energy and sustenance that you give us every day that we live and breathe. Thank you for Your Love, for Your Eternal Life, for the opportunity to recycle your boundless, matchless Love into service, in the lives that we are living on this planet at this time.

Christ Michael, Our Older Brother, Our Creator, we are gathered here in love, and we invite you, invite you to join our meeting, to be among those of us who, shoulder to shoulder, stand in worship and awe of The Father. We know that you came as the Babe of Bethlehem to be the perfect life, lived, not only for those of us on Urantia, but for every individual, and every creature in your universe. Allow us the opportunity to learn the gospel of Your life and to use the teachings that You bring to us through the teaching corps to be able to give the kind of love, and guidance that You came to show us is possible to do. Join us here today. And, thank you Nebadonia, Mother Spirit, for being everything that Michael needs to do this job. Amen.

MALVANTRA MELCHIZEDEK (T/R Stephen): Your thanks is returned; your gratitude accepted. In mutual respect, we send our appreciation for the courage, and commitment your stalwart band has displayed in its acceptance of the gospel, in its awareness of the Teaching Mission, in its understanding of divine revelation and in the unfolding of your group purpose of solidifying messages received, purpose unfolded, and the building of a bridge of

camaraderie and companionship to extend beyond the confines of your accepted group, to bring in new members and to spread The Word as you see and understand. May your mission be a success, granted under the auspices of Michael of Nebadon with Nebadonia's angelic ministrations to assist in your endeavors as you purport to promote the most magnificent teaching available to mortals. Your family is wide and extended beyond your mortal kin.

The universe has myriad sentient beings all in accord with the divine rule. You are rebellion tested, and you shine forth in Agondonter splendor, for the splendid modeling and display for the others of Satania. May the Ancients of Days recognize the challenge and tribulations from your torn planet and you exhibit levels of courage to create commitment portraying purpose in wondrous unison with the ministrations available through the spectrum of circuits and your internal guide, a gift from the Trinity, more specifically, the Universal Father, your Mystery Monitor, moving you, assuredly, ever closer to the goal of embrace and remarkable union, as the betrothal of exquisite blending. You have vouchsafed your committed journey. You have stepped upon the sea of uncertainty, balanced by the buoys and the supports of unseen friends and mortals, faith brothers and sisters, who, with sincerity and with generosity of spirit have gathered to support your project of enlightening those brethren who seek the Truth but wallow in darkness, or ignorance, or fear. Present them your true portrayal of Freedom and Liberty and positive attributes of Love, Beauty, Goodness and Truth as realized by your evolving spirit in your ascension scheme under the glow of Nebadonia's Eternal Grace, and by the omniscience of the Trinity over control of your finite reality. May we bring about the blossoming and unfolding of God the Supreme as this Age spirals towards completion of a divine plan for your particular zone of reality. May you continue to whet your appetite at the pool of ambrosia, supplied from the eternal source of the Trinity outpouring of the nectar of immeasurable, splendid wonder controlling every atom that was ever existed. May you fear not the passage of death. May you recognize the promise of everlasting life is an assurance, a reality fact that has been gain stayed prior to the creation of the universes. All life returns to the Trinity Creator in unified, co operative, and co coordinated alignment. Associate with the divine and you accomplish the dream of the Ages. You build a bridge, Jesus mentioned, into the afterlife by the love and the energy portrayed in your interactions with your soul growth and your brethren. May we reveal, in limited quantities, the lessons to encourage, support and soothe your efforts.  
(Thank you.)

WELMEK (T/R Michael): Greetings! This is your friend, and teacher, Welmek.(Hi, Welmek! Welmek, so wonderful to have you here.) Thank you. I am very pleased to be with all of you again. We are approaching your time of Easter and a recent observation I have made is your custom of giving children Easter baskets. As they receive these baskets filled with various treats their eyes light up and they are filled with excitement and they

anticipate how wonderful it will be to enjoy these various treats that they have just been given. Now, as they look in this basket of treats there is usually one that stands out, that they most look forward to enjoying. Michael's love on your planet was a remarkable, masterful experience. And, when He left through resurrection on Easter Sunday, He left each of you a basket of treats, your Easter basket. All of the characteristics and the traits of His life are there, in that basket that He left with you. I would ask that each of you take a few moments to go within and ask yourself: of all of the treats that Michael left me through His life, which one do I most savor? Which one do I most enjoy? Take a few moments to go within and answer this question within you. And then, I would like for each of you to share with the group what your favorite treat that He has left you is. Of course, as always, you do not have to share if you do not wish to. It's always voluntary. Take a few moments now and go within.

Gina: For me, what popped in is Love, love of life, but, definitely it's the gift of Love. I enjoy people. I enjoy good laughter and a good joke, and being given situations of life where you could either cry or laugh. When it's possible, I do that. So, for me it's Love, the underlying connections that connects me with everyone and everyone with me. It's Love. Thank you, God, for the gift of Love. Thank you, Christ Michael for the gift of Love.

WELMEK (T/R Michael): And was it not said, "What greater love could one have for one's fellows than to lay down their life for them." And truly, the Master laid down His life for all of us. Thank you. (long pause) Come, my friends, surely there is something about Michael's life that has impressed you, that has inspired you, that has given you the courage and the dedication that was spoke of earlier, to be here.

Stephanie: Michael, You healed my broken heart. You healed my broken heart when I had lost my first, dear child. In that death experience you came to me and held me in your beautiful, calming, precious, peaceful arms and told me that it would be alright. You healed my heart. You gave me a way to be able to live again and taught me that: Your love, and the love of the Father would carry me all the way through, and that I didn't have to have a broken heart any longer; that I wasn't alone; that You, my guardian angels, and the Father fragment within me would show me the way and fill my heart with love every, single day of my life so I wouldn't be broken anymore. And, I want to thank you so much for that. Every time I see you in the inside of me, with your wonderful, accepting, beautiful, appreciative eyes, and that sweet smile that you have for me, and the opportunity and the invitation to leap back into Your arms to find that peace and that comfort. I couldn't have lived without You. Thank you for healing my broken heart.

WELMEK (T/R Michael): So, for you, the Master has been the Great Healer. (Yes) Thank you.

Jack: I think learning to forgive is my favorite. The Master gave me that.

It doesn't always work, but, I work on it.

WELMEK (T/R Michael): So, the Master's Mercy, the ability to forgive has been your favorite lesson. Thank you.

Betty: Immediately, the treasure that popped into my mind was the gift of the Master of peace of mind. It's so wonderful to observe all the wrongs and, well, seemingly negative and adverse conditions and situations and know that it's all in divine order and everything is in the process of evolving and becoming and we're all in that context. And, there's no reason, ever, to be critical and condemning and judgmental. I feel grateful for that gift and to be able to express it a lot of the time. Thank you.

WELMEK (T/R Michael): Yes, the Master's peace of mind. Look what He endured! Yet, He did ever allow all the evil, the negativity that surrounded Him to break His bond with the Father. And, that bond with the Father allows Him, allows each of us, to maintain that peace of mind and allows us to, as He said, "Be of good cheer." Thank you.

Jim: He showed us bravery and courage, and that we can do what seems to be impossible - by taking a handful of common people, and virtually changing the world. And, He showed us that death is perfectly safe, simply, as a passageway to our own resurrection and reincarnation and He showed us the way to do it. What is there to fear?

WELMEK (T/R Michael): And so, He showed us that the Truth would set you free. Thank you.

Carl: He showed us that with complete faith in the Universal Father, that anything is possible. He lived His life as a mortal as well as some God. With His complete faith He was able to do just about anything.

WELMEK (T/R Michael): What is Faith, but the living trust in our Father? No matter what direction life's path may take you in, you need not fear if you trust that the Father is there to hold your hand and to guide you. The living trust of the young child for their parents - this is the trust that the Master said you must have. Thank you.

Pack: He gives me Hope to look past my circumstances and to look forward to better things.

WELMEK (T/R Michael): And, what is Hope, my friend?

Pack: It's faith in something better coming down the road.

WELMEK (T/R Michael): Well said. When we begin our journey, hope seems to be stronger, but as we grow, eventually, faith replaces hope, for we no longer

hope that our eternal destiny will be assured. Through faith we come to know that our eternal destiny is assured. Thank you. (pause) Thank you, my friends for your participating. As you move through your journey of this next week, think of Michael. Remember that His spirit is will you, that you can access Him through His spirit. Whenever you need a hand to hold, whenever you need guidance, He's there for you. He and Neadonia are the anchors of your universe. They sustain you. They uphold you. Along with our Father, They give us our complete spiritual family. We have spiritual parents. You have spiritual brothers and sisters. There is so much help for you. All you have do is ask. Seek, and you will receive. Remember, that the only true Kingdom lies within. Look within, and there you will find the faith, the love, the peace of mind, the truth, the compassions. All that you have begun to realize and all that you will continue to realize as you grow is all there, shining, glittering, in this wonderful Easter basket that is just for you. Thank you my friends. (Thank you, Welmek.)

VERONICA (T/R Jim): Dear Hearts, I am almost overcome with joy to be with you. I am Veronica. (Hi, Veronica. Hello, Veronica) I am an artisan, assigned to this collective, for the joyous task of interacting with you, some of my most favorite humans, whom I follow daily and even hourly, for I love you so much. We come to you across dimensions. We have been where you are, however, and we can provide many signposts to help you. My lesson would be to accent your ascension, ecstatically and to joyously experience the material on route to the spiritual. It is a journey for which you are well equipped. You have heard of the magnificent flowering of the universe from your Melchizedek teachers, truly a grand and glorious university which is one of many universities, many universities upon this universe. For, that is what this university is all about. And much, much of these great resources are devoted to your ascension. For, you are indeed worth it. You are the seed that proves the vitality, the glory of the time and space worlds, the Be Ye Perfect continuum for all ages. You have the gifts which you are charged to learn to use to find the coalescence that you need to make this ecstatic leap into eternity.

You have the gift of mind. You have the gift of body. You have the gift of spirit. When you find the ways to bring these together, you will find the joyous ecstasy that will propel you, propel you into realms of universal ecstasy and joy. And so, you can accent your ascension on this path and find yourself so well equipped to find more immediate joy in Mansonia if you take advantage of this head start.

What will you do to develop your mind? I submit to you that, finding a place to stop your mind and settle it into a stern and rigid position is counterproductive to your continuing growth in finding the living and growing truth. For, in your brief, mortal sojourn have you not realized from time to time, year to year, that the knowledge you once had is evaporated? It is no more. It is amorphous. For, your deeper and greater perspectives

lead you to a higher truth. Use your mind to reach for what you would find to open your soul to intellectual knowledge. Intellectual knowledge will grow your soul.

What would you do with your body? When you glorify it as a temple, would you utilize it wisely? Would you find the proper balance of pleasure and not to reach beyond to wasteful, indulgent, self gratification? Would you find the balance that makes you happy, which is not the pursuit of pure pleasure. Pleasure is found in service, in using your talents productively, not varying them, not self indulging, but, rather using them productively to reach out and spread joy, spread love, which comes back to you many fold. Your body, your hands, your feet, all parts of you are to be enjoyed, exalted and experienced. The universe is, indeed, a university, and, indeed, the key element of knowledge is experience. Could anyone tell you about anything - the universe, your planet, your life, your schedule tomorrow? It is the experience that is the uplifting joy and you will have many times to recall these pivotal flesh times when materialism was so much a part of your being. Make your body a joyous celebration, for it is a gift. It is a gift.

Your spirit will develop by wholeheartedly searching for the Father, the Universal Father, not turning your spiritual growth over to anyone, from guru, to preacher, to the friend next door - to anyone. To find that the key to universe growth for your spirit, even your body, even your mind, is all found from within, the strength that you gather from within. For the Father expects you to go out in the world and find strength of character? No, the Father would not expect you to find it, for, it is not out there. It is within. You find these deep values from within, and in finding them you are so overjoyed that you want to turn them into service, for you are comforted, you are secure in the knowledge, the incredible knowledge of your grand ascension - you, as a beloved child of God, completely unique, with a place in the universe, on your planet, in your county, in your state, on your block and with all the people within your aura.

Be proud of your status as humans, for you start at the very beginning and you have such a long and glorious way to go. There are trials and tribulations here which can be endured quite confidently, provided you struggle in love and not fear. And, your path will be made easier when you understand that it is faith that is the key to love, and then to service. And, faith, not fear, will drive you forward. You can do the impossible, for truly, you have do idea of what the impossible is, and never have. All is possible under God. All is possible with God. If you stay with God you will do wondrous things, even if those wondrous things are within the walls of your home, within your family in the glorious job of parenting, or in your neighborhood, or even into the world. You are honored. You are exalted. As ascending children of God, just make sure you keep ascending. And, I must say that, though I grew up across the universe, far across the universe, I was a mortal. I want you to understand your special place, for, we too, knew Jesus. We, too, celebrated this life, this example, and we were across the grand, and glorious universe of Nebadon. You are a special place; you are a special people. You are a special quest. You are a special place where spiritual servants and volunteers are coming to share their perspectives with you. Do not expect them all to be all wise, for, truly, they ascend as you are. Their perspectives of truth are their own, as yours are, and, this is never taken from you. Your perspectives are an integral part of your

personality. Free Will is an intricate part of the entire, ever circling, circular evolution of which you are a part. There is no beginning; there is no end. There is only your ever ascending, swirling growth on the ascension path, which carries you to places you can only imagine. I wish you well in your quest. I will always follow you closely.

And, in the meantime, I would have a word for my personal companion, Stephanie. I would encourage you to continue the mirror exercise and you will see deeper and more things. I would encourage you to pour my words onto paper. Just sit down and pour my words onto paper as they come to you. I would say things through you that will have an impact because they are coming through you. You are on a remarkable path and you know this well. You know this well. I would give my time for others to speak, but I do have one other speaker who would speak, but briefly, with a somewhat different energy. (Thank you, Veronica) Thank you for listening. I hope it has been helpful. (Very helpful, a pearl)

MIDWAYER RACHEL (T/R Jim): Hello, I am Rachel. (Hi, Rachel. Rachel, welcome) I do not sound like Rachel. I am somewhat a modular accident. I am a midwayer. Our energies are different. We speak differently. We are here with you. We are not accustomed to this role of teaching for we are expeditors who would make your projects move faster and easier. We have been here, in another dimension of your reality, for many generations, of course. You read about us; you know we are here. You know, we facilitate, in some respect, these transmissions. We are servants to Universal Father. I would say to you that, if you start projects and wish our assistance, we will come forth or work with you in subtle ways. We are not teachers. We are companions to help to give you insight through your Thought Adjuster and these incites will help you work more efficiently. We are what you might call your indigenous, Indian culture. We have been here so long, that we, of course, are part of the biological landscape, as you are, and we are pleased and blessed to live in the spaces where you do not live. We anticipate growing a more productive relationship as time moves forward in the reclamation of these worlds. I would only impress upon you not to make little of this mission, or your place, or this particular place within the reclamation. You are an integral part of it, small in number. Who cares? Great works are accomplished by people with the right connections. We will help you make these connections, planetary communications is a realm in which we have enjoyed good success. Urantia Revelation was the beginning of a more active role and we will be more active still in working with you. Your teachers are, indeed, your source of inspiration and knowledge, but, myself, Sarah, and other individuals within our corps will be helping, as necessary, in these publishing, archival, library, and other types of projects, which involve publishing and spreading the news to increasing numbers of people. People are being awakened from within. They must be given impetus from broadcasting and spreading the word to larger numbers. The larger numbers seem to give validity to the experience, itself, and people begin to understand it is quite alright, and quite correct to find your own spiritual path, as I know

you have endeavored to do for a personal basis, and you should continue. Do not go to shamans for spiritual guidance. God is within you, within you, and you know this. And so, we would help as we are needed, and we would be there as you would need us. You must acknowledge the fact that you want some assistance on some project and we will be there. For the most part, we are background workers, however, and for the most part, we will remain background workers, except for specific projects.

Gina: I love your energy, very powerful. Very powerful. I wish I could pick it up when I sit down.

MIDWAYER RACHEL (T/R Jim): I am unaccustomed to this conduit, but we have found it quite interesting to work with you all. Finally, finally, after many years of our patience it is beginning to come to fruition, for these direct routes are being established. I think they believe that you can be entrusted with these circuitries and they will be forthcoming. We will hope to use them judiciously, wisely, and even more so within the spiritual union of the great mission of the Melchizedek university, of which we are a part.

Gina: Well, I hope you can use me someplace.

Carl: You're being used now, I'm sure.

MIDWAYER RACHEL (T/R Jim): Midwayers are quite prolific, and I'm sure one can be found who can be attuned for your demeanor, which is quite straight ahead and forthcoming. We are much this way, too, in fact, we can border upon impatience from time to time, for, the pace of celestial and spiritual progress is slow and we are just midwayers, after all. We have seen too much to be satisfied upon, this planet, for indeed, tragedies, travesties occur with grinding and pressing reality. We would do something about this and our active role is something we greatly appreciate and we greatly acknowledge the mandate and the quest to be part of this with you. Midwayers who were in rebellion are back, as well. Why? Because this is indeed a great reclamation, and indeed, they would be part of it. They were part of it in the beginning; they are part of it now - the reclamation of all concerned, the reclamation of all planets concerned. And, this one, in particular, our home, which we can turn back into a glorious garden. The environment can be increased and improved, I should, say. It can be put back in good order, provided we co creatively take hold of these projects and do them. We have the time; you have the time. We have been here with your parents and grandparents, and ancestors before that. We can trace your family trees. We are finally pleased to be able to hitch upon this ascension train and be part of your growth and we can in helping facilitate your projects. God's speed! (Thank you, Rachel. It takes courage to be able to try this new connection.)



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MALVANTRA MELCHIZEDEK (T/R Stephen): The dust of the rose petal belongs to the heart of the Perfume Maker in the vastness of unseen space, in the clarity of a clear vision, in the pact of an honored badge, worn loyally to the Sovereign of your universe. The nectar is dispensed from an immortal source, far away, unseen, but perceived. Reality swirls around the Island of Paradise, which has delineated the patterns of motion, the flows of energy, the force emulations to sustain the machinations of the super universes - magnificent swirl, at speeds uncharted, related to the song that you introduced, speeds beyond the speed of light.

(Carl, our host this afternoon, played a number from a Clint Black concert video for us before our meeting began. Malvantra refers here to that song.)

MALVANTRA continued...

The suns, are all named, and known by the Trinity - the blazing suns of nuclear splendor, all known by name, from the Trinity.

You've galvanized your commitment by your solidified consort with your Mystery Monitor, in full alignment with the Father's universal plan of seeking perfection for the purpose of sanctifying a most formal, eternal directive. The outlying levels of reality, shall, with time, match in harmonious splendor, the internal dynamics of the Trinity's existence. All angelic ministrations are designed to enlist the awareness of sentient beings, to attune, most assuredly, to the glories of the spectrum of divine circuitry. Your seven adjutant mind spirits have been activated since the Life Carriers' visitation with chemical implants in the salt waters of your far away planet. Your Master, graciously bestowed: the Spirit of Truth, in accord with Nebadonia, the most gracious, and all forgiving holy spirit directly connected to the Infinite Spirit of Trinity; outpourings of spiritual love; the succor, the balm, the ointment of eternal, and never ending soothing release of sorrow, pain, and suffering. You can not imagine the inimitable qualities of the Trinity, that's pure existence creates the energy to sustain the awesome cosmos.

As you pray, remember to include, in gratitude, the sacrament in giving thanks for your existence, which will continue forever. Nebadonia, is over control at the heart of Salvington to ensure that the spiritual circuit is sustained in eternal magnificence, by the grace of the Sovereign, in accord with His alignment with the elements of the Trinity's influence, bound, purposefully to the heart of the Perfume Maker, whose ambrosia has been spread through the vastness of all reaches of material space.

Imagine, a single rose on a white expanse of desert sand, alone, glistening in the desert sun, rootless, yet sustained by atomic energy, by the graciousness of the bestowal of Creators, whose miraculous presentations were designed to enlighten the crowds who sought for signs and wonders. We'll excite your imagination by presenting images and visions of wonders yet to be revealed. Imagine an ocean that accepts all rivers, all rivers of love, all streams of love, all currents of love, flowing into the depthless,

unfathomable, expanse of the ocean of love, whose source, immutable, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal, infinite, complete, unified, associated, qualified, pure, clean, ultimate - the source of all past, present, and future reality - the Trinity of the beginning and of the never end, into the entrance, the gate of immortality. Your entrance into the unforeseen future of service, beyond the bounds of your grand universe, into the zones of the four outer space levels of the master universe, is the Creation's unfolding. Your astronomers' view is the nascent ascent of the new stellar configurations that are exploding on the outcroppings of the known zones of cellular reality.

Your midwayers, balanced, roving rangers, natives, the only true citizens of Urantia from the start of the gates of Dalmatia, were present when Daligastia, at the entrance of the temple compound, revealed to the native mortals, the truth of constellation fathers. Vorondadeks floating through the air were interpreted and observed, explained by the corps, that the spiritual minions are in alignment with a loyal Sovereign, Michael of Nebadon. The midwayers were born fully mature, cognizant from the beginning of the divine mission from the lieutenants and the captains, from the Ancients of Days, who decided that the missions of revelation were the most proper form of gentle exposure of the Trinity's nutritious display of parental concern. The midwayers have connected, in a mutual agreement, between the mortal corps of reserve awareness, the Reservists, and the angelic corps of the Seraphim and Sanobim associations.

You spin at incredible speeds, and in your stillness you will taste the method by which the motion of your reality is connected - by the divine circuit of your Monitor. Your early taste of eternity is gain stayed by your sipping the ocean of love, which is the wellspring of your Monitor's direct connection to the Universal Father. Your connections with your Monitor are both sacred, unique, unmatched, and are the pleasant glory of all spiritual beings observing your evolutionary development. Nowhere, in the vast reaches of space, does a fusion occurrence take place other than the mortals blending with the spark and fragment of the divine First Source and Center. Your gift and your potential marriage, betrothal with the divine, elemental influence of the Trinity is an ensured guarantor, guaranteeing an endless display of intellectual growth, of mind expansion, of soul growth, and eventual union in the embrace of the Trinity on the gateway of the eternal dawn of jeweled splendor.

Your diadem of service on your planet is, as directed, to express in your own unique method, the gospel, as you understand it, and to reveal the good news to your brethren. Without withholding, due to fear or uncertainty, propel the message with all God's speed, under the direction of Michael of Nebadon. The time has come to purport, and prepare in your neighborhoods the presentation of the gospel of love, and of the treatment of the unforeseen as a natural occurrence of your alignment with the Teaching Mission. It's not imaginary; it's actually real. Your blending with our mission is an exciting proposal for you to engage most assuredly with a revelatory experience of magnificent proportions, administered by the over control of

your Sovereign and Immanuel's brotherly assistance. The gospel is a living document breathing life into the faith sons and daughters who travel through time for the purpose of expressing the joys and the abundant reward of your connections of brotherly and sisterly love. Prepare your future with your badge of honor. Your loyalty is worn on your sleeve to be seen by all. Remove yourself from the hidden closet. Stand firm and bravely portray your faith for all to see - beacons of hope, forgiveness, peace of mind, love, clarity of vision, starting new churches, publishing extensive displays of essays. Use Welmek's most connected revelation of "remember the characteristics of your Master", as the cloak shading your identity and as your role model for future presentation.

WELMEK (T/R Michael) I would like to return to share with you two more points about the Easter basket. My fellow teachers are smiling and they are jokingly teasing me about my Easter basket, and have promised that on this upcoming Easter, as celebrated on your planet, they will give me some form of Morontia Easter basket so I might remember this lesson well. And so, I look forward to whatever this might turn out to be. But, I refuse to let go of my Easter basket and so, I wish to share with you two more points.

Gina: I love your stubbornness.

WELMEK (T/R Michael) Well, I would not call it stubbornness, but, perhaps, I will have to rethink that. When children get their Easter baskets after expressing their initial delight, you notice a tendency for them to want to take them to their rooms or to hide them. They hide them because they do not want to share them with other children. They hide them because there is a fear, a mentality that says, "This is for me, and it will run out, and so, I do not want to share it with others."

As humans grow, they often do not change this mentality. They tend to want to hoard, to keep to themselves the treasures that they have found. But, you see, my friends, as you change, transform your reality from the material to the spiritual, you must transform this pattern of thinking. The Easter basket that we earlier described, of spiritual treats - love and hope and compassion and faith and mercy - all of these, you see, you can share. And, you begin to notice that as you share them from your Easter basket they are immediately replenished. For, in the spiritual realm there is an endless supply, an endless replenishing to these gifts. You need not retain this mentality - that if you are kind, if you are compassionate, if you are merciful, if you are forgiving, if you are loving, that somehow it will drain you and you will not be able to have any more of this for yourself. Nothing could be further from the truth. For, you see, as you share, you are given back many fold what you have shared. The Father is truly generous in His gifts to each of us. But, He wants us to learn the lesson of sharing, the lesson of service. And, as we learn this lesson, He gives us more than we can possibly use. Our cup runneth over. Or, our Easter basket runneth over. Do not allow yourself to be trapped, to be caught in this mentality.

The final point that I would like to make is that when the child looks into

the Easter basket, their senses are almost over stimulated. They are filled with such delight. For, as they look into the basket there are all types of eggs and different types of candies. And, each looks delicious. They can't wait to taste the different types, for each has its unique taste, its unique flavor, its unique aroma, its unique color. And so, my friends, think of yourselves as one of these treats in our universe Easter basket. Allow the universe to taste you, to smell your aroma. Do not hide down into the bottom of the basket. Allow yourself to be seen, to be tasted. Allow others to share the delight that is you. Every treat in this Easter basket is unique. No two can possibly be exactly the same. And so, you are a treat to the universe. You have a uniqueness to share with the universe, and as you allow this sharing, as you give of what you are, you will be replenished. Your taste, your flavor will grow even more delicious, your aroma even more appealing. Share, share, share. Give what you have. Give who you are. As there is more sharing that goes on, the children who have not found an Easter basket yet will find one in you. They will find one because you are sharing yours. And as this sharing takes place all over the world, great, great changes can occur. The thought of being alone, all of the fears that humans carry with them begin to fade. The spiritual gifts they begin to see are all around and they never end. They are always replenished. And so, a whole new mentality of sharing, of enrichment, of sharing the great feast together, begins to replace the hoarding, the one of keeping everything to one's self. And, this is how your world becomes transformed. Think of yourself as this wonderful, delicious, unique treat that the universe is waiting to taste. Thank you. (Thank you. Beautifully done, Welmek, lovely lesson.)

ELISHA (T/R Jim): This is Elisha, (Hello, Elisha)

With just a moment of verse,  
Hopefully, not too terse.  
You could do worse.  
It's not the universe.  
You don't have to immerse.  
Just listen first.

This is the age of miracles and joy  
Brought to reality in each girl and boy.  
To follow the straight path to joyous peace  
Comes from the spirit giving full release  
To the guidance of the Holy Spirit inside  
To bring forth the loving and enjoy the ride.  
You are each sparkling stars on an ethereal plane,  
Basking in son shine and celestial rain.  
Share it with all that you meet each day  
And you will be happy in every way.  
Your struggles, in love, will be easy to bear,  
And you will find a companion in Jesus right there  
In all that you do, and all that you share,  
In all the good tidings that you bear  
To brothers and sisters, everywhere.

Thank you for listening. This is Elisha on behalf of the artisans, and, I suppose, the teachers, and all who are gathered here in happiness, and smiling all around me. I hope you feel our presence all around, for we feel yours and we are overjoyed to be part of it. (Thank you. Beautiful.)

# OUR ANCESTORS LIVED WITH DINOSAURS

from New Scientist

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid\\_1935000/1935558.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_1935000/1935558.stm)

Editor's Note: This account has fascinating correlations to the Urantia Papers, which trace man's ancestry to tree-dwelling lemurs.

The common ancestor of humans, monkeys, apes and other primates may have arisen much earlier than previously thought.

New research suggests the animals from which humans emerged were living in the tree tops 85 million years ago, when the dinosaurs still ruled the Earth.

Until now, the widely accepted date was 65 million years ago, about the time when the dinosaurs died out.

But a team of scientists in Britain and the United States has analysed gaps in the fossil record and come up with a new figure, some 20 million years earlier. It means the whole story of primate evolution may have to be rewritten.

The new theory challenges the idea that primates were unable to make their mark on the planet until after the demise of the dinosaurs.

It also suggests that continental drift played a role in how primates evolved in different parts of the world.

It even has implications for our own descent -- the first humans may have appeared about eight rather than five million years ago.

The research, which was revealed in the scientific journal *Nature*, is based on statistical analysis of evidence from the fossil record.

According to a computer model, no more than 7% of all primate species that ever existed have been dug up.

Co-author Robert Martin of the Field Museum in Chicago said current interpretations of primate and human evolution are flawed because palaeontologists have relied too heavily on direct interpretation of the known fossil record.

He said: "Our calculations indicate that we have fossil evidence for only about 5% of all extinct primates so it's as if palaeontologists have been trying to reconstruct a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle using just 50 pieces."

According to the new work, the earliest common ancestor of all primates was probably a nocturnal, tree-living creature with grasping hands and feet. It weighed just a few pounds and dined on fruit and insects. The females gave birth to a single offspring, which clung to their fur.

Co-author Dr Christophe Soligo of the Natural History Museum in London said the new work put specific events within primate evolution into a very different context.

“The world 85 million years ago was very different to the world 65 million years ago,” he told the BBC.

“What we demonstrate is that modern orders of mammals appeared well before dinosaurs disappeared so the initial divergence of modern orders of mammals cannot be the results of the extinction of the dinosaurs.”

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## JEST THE FACTS: Kid Talk

The math teacher saw that little Johnny wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, “Johnny! What are 4, 2, 28 and 44?” Little Johnny quickly replied, “NBC, CBS, HBO, and the Cartoon Network!”

When I stopped the bus to pick up Chris for preschool, I noticed an older woman hugging him as he left the house. “Is that your grandmother?” I asked. “Yes,” Chris said. “She’s come to visit us for Christmas.” “How nice,” I said. “Where does she live?” “At the airport,” Chris replied. “Whenever we want her, we just go out there and get her.”

When the mother returned from the grocery store, her small son pulled out the box of animal crackers he had begged for, then he spread the animal-shaped crackers all over the kitchen counter. “What are you doing?” his Mom asked. “The box says you can't eat them if the seal is broken,” the boy explained. “I'm looking for the seal.”

This little grandmother was surprised by her 7 year old grandson one morning. He had made her coffee. She drank what was the worst cup of coffee in her life. When she got to the bottom, there were three of those little green army men in the cup. She said, “Honey, what are these army men doing in my coffee?” Her grandson said, “Grandma, it says on TV ‘The best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup!’”

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a new litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, “There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens.” “How did you know that?” his mother asked. “Daddy picked them up and looked underneath,” he replied. “I think it's printed on the bottom.”

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, “The tooth fairy will never believe this!”

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, “Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit,” “And why not, darling?” “You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning.”

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his five-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: “Glory be unto the Faaaather. And to the sonnn.....and into the hole he gooooes.”

# The Thought Stream ... going with the life flow

by Michael at [www.Starbuilders.org](http://www.Starbuilders.org)

As a loose analogy, the thought-stream is the words and images that flow constantly through our heads. It is our ego. If we are anxious, then the stream swells into a turbulent river. Meditate or relax, and it trickles along like a peaceful creek.

As a river, it can sweep along heavy objects: tree trunks, telephone poles, even houses. These represent intense fears, painful memories, and suffering of all kind. In this state, the water is murky. We see situations less clearly and, usually, more pessimistically.

A tiny creek, however, supports only the lightest objects. The water is clear, and we see the world more as it is. We are more optimistic and, flowing peacefully, we are more receptive. Like this, our spirit, God, and spiritual guides easily direct and inspire us. Few techniques work as well as meditation in keeping the flow rate down.

Like water, the thought-stream envelops all that enters it. Even when higher sources inspire us, once we hear that information as words in our head, it then becomes part of the stream and is no longer holy. Although these higher truths “deteriorate” into elements of the ego, being in contact with that higher source renews us. This happens because these higher truths are more than drops in the river; they are spiritual energy.

The thought-stream is what separates us from one another, because each is unique and gives a sense of individuality (“I”). This divisiveness expresses itself in all fields. Take religion and science for instance.

In the past, most believed that religion held the answers to the universe. It was a major influence on most thought-streams. More recently, science has tried to explain everything within a materialistic context, ignoring or even denying the existence of spiritual realities. These two methods of inquiry were often mutually exclusive and when they clashed, real-life problems arose. These clashes, though, rarely changed one’s belief; in fact, they reinforced them.

From another angle, light reflects on the surface of the stream. Here, the surface represents our conscious mind. That which lies below represents our subconscious mind and includes the emotional body. Sharks of aggression, jellyfish of fear, and other stressful emotions lurk there. When circumstances trigger these emotions, the surface becomes agitated.

How does this work? Say that two people are in a room and they notice a snake in the corner. One pulls back in terror while the other, intrigued, approaches the creature. Now the outer stimulus was the same, yet each interpreted it in a radically different way. In each case, the conscious mind relayed the image of the reptile to the emotional body. It responded as life had conditioned it -- one with interest, one with fear.

How can we use this information to lessen suffering? Usually, we resist pain, but that seldom helps. The first step is to notice that we are suffering; otherwise, the root remains hidden. Then we try to understand the problem so we can work on it.

Some religions recommend that we surrender our lives to God or to our spirit. Others suggest that we allow ourselves to feel the full impact of the fear and endure it: do not resist. Let the emotion burn out. Like this, we can more easily accept our mental and emotional states -- our karma, fate, or condition of the river -- and we can analyze the situation more objectively. The river begins to calm, because we are acting rather than reacting. We

may still feel tense or miserable, but not as much. In addition, we are moving in the right direction.

From here, many techniques are available. Some recommend going within and discovering the traumatic childhood experience (or even past-life experience) responsible for our current fears. Others suggest doing an “astral scan”: while in alpha state, inspect the astral body for implants or astral creatures. If you find something, then remove it, sending it to the light.

Two themes have emerged. First, that the thought-stream is an indicator, if not a source, of emotional and mental calm or distress. Second, that the “flow rate” is an indicator of how we are progressing spiritually. When the flow rate is calm, we cause less “erosion” to our physical, mental, and emotional bodies.

We go with the flow, but we benefit by knowing the nature and content of the stream. With practice and understanding, maybe we can walk on water.

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## TODAY’S HISTORY LESSON

The year is 1902. What a difference a century makes. Here are the U.S. statistics for 1902.

The average life expectancy in the US was forty-seven (47).

Only 14 Percent of the homes in the US had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars. There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour.

The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home.

Ninety percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as “substandard.”

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason.

The five leading causes of death in the US were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza 2. Tuberculosis 3. Diarrhea 4. Heart disease 5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn’t been admitted to the Union yet.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn’t been invented.

There were no Mother’s Day or Father’s Day.

One in ten US adults couldn’t read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, “Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health.”

Eighteen percent of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic.

There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire US.

# A Time to Choose:

## Stand with God or the World; Telling the Truth About Jesus

posted by: Ron H. Faulk

I believe a divide has taken place, between those who serve the world and those who serve God. Once Christians tried to compromise with those who serve the establishment, so as to preserve order, and preserve the chance to influence unbelievers. But the unbelievers have become scoffers. Those who know God are now called, I believe, to be bold in asserting the kingdom of heaven, and to cease placating and watering down their words. For there are many who are lost, yet hungry, and they need to hear the clear, bold truth of the sons and daughters of God. Those who have rejected God have become hardened, but God is raising up a new generation of candidates of mercy, and they need to hear the bold and unadulterated word of God.

Urantia Book perspective response from: Steffani Murray

Hello Brother Ron...This sounds much like the message found II Peter Ch.3 of the Bible :-)

I think we who have been blessed by the reception of the FER must ask ourselves whether we are the generation which is going to dare to rely solely upon Jesus and his incomparable teachings, his Spirit of Truth and her Holy Spirit or the ecclesiastical authority of the 4th Epochal revelation which has now been crystallized into the errors of the substituted written 'word' the Pauline legacy has left to those willing to help rectify...to set free the captives of the mainstream churches into the true liberty of knowing Father has wholly unconditional Love for His universe children.

UB: p.1670 pps. 2,3,4,&5

Jesus understood the minds of men. He knew what was in the heart of man, and had his teachings been left as he presented them, the only commentary being the inspired interpretation afforded by his earth life, all nations and all religions of the world would have speedily embraced the gospel of the kingdom. The well-meant efforts of Jesus' early followers to restate his teachings so as to make them the more acceptable to certain nations, races, and religions, only resulted in making such teachings less acceptable to all other nations, races, and religions.

The Apostle Paul, in his efforts to bring the teachings of Jesus to the favorable notice of certain groups in his day, wrote many letters of instruction and admonition. Other teachers of Jesus' gospel did likewise, but none of them realized that some of these writings would subsequently be brought together by those who would set them forth as the embodiment of the teachings of Jesus. And so, while so-called Christianity does contain more of the Master's gospel than any other religion, it does also contain much that Jesus did not teach. Aside from the incorporation of many teachings from the Persian mysteries and much of the Greek philosophy into early Christianity, two great mistakes were made:

1. The effort to connect the gospel teaching directly onto the Jewish theology, as illustrated by the Christian doctrine of the atonement--the teaching that Jesus was the sacrificed Son who would satisfy the Father's stern justice and appease the divine wrath. These teachings originated in a praiseworthy effort to make the gospel of the kingdom more acceptable to disbelieving Jews. Though these efforts failed as far as winning the Jews was concerned, they did not fail to confuse and alienate many honest souls in all subsequent generations.

(Continued on Page 73.)

# A Call for Empathy and Compassion

by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat

I am one who died on September 11 from the terrorist attacks, and I am one who died since September 11 from the violence of war, floods and fires, AIDS and famine, accidents on the highways and drownings at sea, and from all other causes. May I rest in peace.

I am one who has been deeply touched by the trauma experienced by the survivors and families of September 11 and the rescue workers who served so selflessly at Ground Zero, and I am one who has been moved to compassion by the suffering in other tragedies since September 11 and the loss of so many valued members of our world community. May I know peace.

I am a New Yorker still hearing media warnings of new attacks, feeling vulnerable and insecure in my hometown, and I am an Afghan refugee still fearful that my village is not safe from the bombs and fighters in the war on terrorism. May I know peace.

I am an Arab immigrant in the United States whose son was taken away by the FBI last September and has not been heard from since, and I am a relative of one of the “disappeared” in Columbia or Chile or Bosnia-Herzegovina who is losing hope that I will ever find out what happened to my loved one. May I know peace.

I am a prisoner in China held incommunicado for a political “crime,” and I am an al Qaeda detainee held without a trial or access to lawyers in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. May I know peace.

I am a deer in a Rocky Mountains forest asphyxiated by the black boiling smoke of a fire outside Denver, and I am a goat resting in a cave in Afghanistan when an American-made “daisy cutter” bomb levels my mountain habitat. May I rest in peace.

I am the father of a dutiful and compassionate son who was maimed while clearing mines in the fields outside Kabul, and I am a father with two children in college who has taken a high-paying job at a plant in Minnesota that makes and exports landmines. May I know peace.

I am a Palestinian girl killed by an Israeli missile attack while walking home from my first day of school, and I am an Israeli boy killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber while eating at a pizzeria in downtown Jerusalem. May I rest in peace.

I am a soil particle from Kenya’s eroded farmland that has blown across the Atlantic Ocean to Florida, and I am a tree in the world’s largest virgin forest in Russia that has been chopped down illegally by loggers out to make money. May I rest in peace.

I am a mother in the American Midwest casually washing my car and watering my lawn with the abundant water I take for granted, and I am a mother in Pakistan whose village has so little water that I clean the dishes with dirt. May I know peace.

I am a little girl snatched from the yard of my home in California and sexually abused, and I am a little boy kidnapped from my home in India and forced to work long hours in a carpet-making operation as a modern-day slave. May I know peace.

I am a young man who was abused by my parish priest and I now want justice from the church, and I am a priest who sinned in the past and I now want forgiveness so I can continue in my ministry. May I know peace.

I am a teenage girl sold into a prostitution ring in Thailand by my parents so they can purchase a refrigerator, and I am a marketing expert for a multinational corporation trying to be responsible to the stockholders by creating demand for new products in developing countries. May I know peace.

I am a 16-year-old girl in Bangladesh working 7 days a week 15 hours a day for 15 cents an hour sewing t-shirts, and I am an unemployed American parent who is grateful I can purchase cheap clothes made overseas. May I know peace.

I am an infant suffering from malnutrition in Baghdad, and I am a United States government official who is convinced that economic sanctions and even a war against Iraq are the only ways to make the world safe for children everywhere. May I know peace.

I am a financially strapped senior citizen in Maine who must go over the border to Canada to purchase the prescription drugs I need at affordable prices, and I am a young man dying of AIDs in Africa with no access to the generic drugs that could ease my suffering. May I know peace.

I am the chairman of a large corporation who cashed in stock worth millions while trying to keep my company out of bankruptcy, and I am a worker in the same company who lost my job, my medical benefits, and the savings in my 401(k) pension plan. May I know peace.

I am a Ukrainian mother who gathers berries and mushrooms for family meals from fields still contaminated with radioactive debris from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, and I am an American student in Massachusetts worried about my health since finding out that my school is near a toxic waste dump. May I know peace.

I am an American businessman needing to upgrade my company's computers and cell phones in order to compete in the marketplace, and I am a Chinese teenager who has gotten lead poisoning from working at a recycling operation handling technological trash from the United States. May I know peace.

I am a citizen of the world, worried about the escalation of violence, the devastation of the planet, a future seemingly in jeopardy, and I am a person of faith who believes that good things can come from people working together and who relies on the grace of God/Lord/Allah/Spirit/Higher Power. May I know peace.

I am a child of God who believes that we are all children of God and we are all part of one another. May we all know peace.

## ONE

One song can spark a moment,  
One flower can wake the dream.  
One tree can start a forest,  
One bird can herald spring.

One smile begins a friendship,  
One handclasp lifts a soul.  
One star can guide a ship at sea,  
One word can frame the goal.

One vote can change a nation,  
One sunbeam lights a room.  
One candle wipes out  
darkness,  
One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each  
journey,

One word must start each prayer.  
One hope will raise our spirits,  
One touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom.  
One heart can know what's true.  
One life can make the difference,  
you see it's up to You! ~ Anonymous

# Exploring the power of Abraham's legacy

by Jane Lampman  
The Christian Science Monitor

Amid the abundant evidence that violence and military force are not the road to peace in the Holy Land, a few small groups in the region have been searching for common ground within Judaism, Islam, and Christianity as a place to start.

They have a valuable new ally. Bruce Feiler, the bestselling author of "Walking the Bible," has brought his winning mix of insight, passion, and historical research to that task. His latest book focuses on Abraham, the one man to whom all three monotheistic faiths trace their roots.

It was the events of 9/11, Feiler says, that compelled him to pursue a journey into the heart of the three faiths, to explore whether their shared ancestor - "the first person to understand that there is only one God" - might be "a vessel for reconciliation."

The patriarch of the Jewish people and the spiritual forefather of the New Testament, Abraham is also, through his son, Ishmael, considered father of the Arabs. He is a vivid presence in the Koran and a major figure in Muslim religious practice - including the pilgrimage to Mecca and the most important Islamic feast day.

Well aware of the power that history wields in the imagination of the region, Feiler was hoping to find an Abraham of the sacred texts that could serve as a bridge for all the faithful. Instead, he encountered a multitude of Abrahams - some 240, he says! - as the interpretative works of each religion over four millennia reshaped and often made more exclusive the story of this remarkable figure. Probably less than 1 percent of the Abraham stories appear in the Bible, he says.

Yet Abraham's legacy and his deep yearning for God - as found in legend as well as sacred text - remain a profound presence in the lives of his descendants. Is

this yearning powerful enough, Feiler wonders, to outweigh the interpretations that appropriate Abraham and God's promise to him for one particular faith? Can that promise come to stand for what the biblical words suggest: "I will make your name great, ... and all the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you."

In search of answers, Feiler delves deeply into the most celebrated episodes of Abraham's life and explores their import within each of the faiths. The call from God to go out to an unknown destination, the births of Ishmael and Isaac, the sending of Hagar and her son into the wilderness, Abraham's offering of his son as a sacrifice to God - these momentous narratives, he demonstrates, have resounded down the centuries in the most intimate ways in people's lives.

The story of the offering stands as "the most celebrated" and "most combustible" episode. All three religions "have chosen to place the narrative of a father preparing to kill a son at the heart of their self-understanding," he says. Some Jews in medieval times even found courage in the story to kill themselves and their children rather than be forced to convert. Christians see the story as foreshadowing the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Muslims see it as symbolizing total surrender to God, and commemorate it in the Feast of the Sacrifice, the final rite of the hajj.

The most sobering question, however, is whether the offering story serves most as a model for holiness or for fanaticism. Does it play a part in today's suicide bombings? And what is the contemporary import of the Ishmael-Isaac rivalry?

The author, who is Jewish, makes his way to prominent sites in Abrahamic history, from the desert of Beersheba to Jerusalem to the patriarch's tomb in Hebron, and his conversations with imams, bishops, and rabbis offer reason for both discouragement and hope.

He finds some encouragement in the perception that in the 21st century, "the battle for God is approaching stalemate." People realize that one religion is not going to extinguish all others. While some faithful still hold on to triumphalism, others recognize the

need for a new kind of interaction among the faiths.

Abraham, Feiler decides, “is like a vast underground aquifer that stretches from Mesopotamia to the Nile, from Jerusalem to Mecca, from Kandahar to Kansas City. He’s an ever-present, ever-flowing stream that represents the basic desire all people have to form a union with God.”

In every generation, people have told themselves stories of Abraham for their times, and now we can too, he proposes: “We can, like Abraham, leave behind our native places - our comfortable, even doctrinaire traditions - and set out for an unknown location, whose dimensions may be known only to God but whose mandate is to be a place where God’s blessing is promised to all.”

In his view, the need is so great that the writer and his publisher have set out to spark informal interfaith discussions across the US, supported by a professional study guide ([www.brucefeiler.com](http://www.brucefeiler.com)). These gatherings, called Abraham Salons, are forming in local houses of worship, libraries, schools, and homes. A two-week national conversation is planned for Nov. 8-24, and Abraham Summits involving prominent figures are being scheduled in major cities.

Feiler’s hopeful perspective is far from naive. This wonderfully readable book inspires because it grapples honestly with how all three faiths have reinterpreted their original truths, often as a means to separate themselves from others. That realistic understanding provides a basis for fostering genuine communication.

\* Jane Lampman writes about religion and ethics for the Monitor.

Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths  
By Bruce Feiler  
William Morrow 224 pp., \$23.95  
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## A TIME TO CHOOSE: The real gospel of Jesus

(Continued from Page 69)

2. The second great blunder of the Master’s early followers, and one which all subsequent generations have persisted in perpetuating was to organize the Christian teaching so completely around the person of Jesus. The overemphasis of the personality of Jesus in the theology of Christianity has worked to obscure his teachings, and all of this has made it increasingly difficult for Jews, Mohammedans, Hindus, and other Eastern religionists to accept the teachings of Jesus. We would not belittle the place of the person of Jesus in a religion which might bear his name, but we would not permit such consideration to eclipse his inspired life or to supplant his saving message: the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Only Love, Steffani

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Adventures in Imagination:  
SINGLE BLACK FEMALE

The following ad is reported to have gotten numerous calls.

SINGLE BLACK FEMALE... Seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I’m a svelte good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping, and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right way and watch me respond. I’ll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I’m yours. Call xxx-xxxx and ask for Daisy.”

Callers found themselves talking to the local Humane Society about an eight-week-old black Labrador.

Editor at Large: JIM CLEVELAND

## SPIRIT OF TRUTH: Access with Care

(Continued from page 3)

It is this utter simplicity that humankind often misses. God is simple. Love is simple. Humans complicate.

We often haul about a lot of excess baggage - our strong likes and dislikes, pet theories and peeves, distaste for certain persons and their views and habits, their peculiar ethnicities, and with inner certainty that what we think and believe is true and this other thing is false. We stubbornly remain hurt and unforgiving when we feel we have been slighted; we blindside our own faults while magnifying others.

Our minds have a lot of poisons, mostly excesses from the evolutionary mandates of survival and progress. Yes, we must have egos, self-confidence, pride, aggressiveness, and the ability to stand up and be confrontational in order to survive and prosper. But these evolutionary battles are not part of the fabric of the spiritual mind as we continue our ascension.

How many of us can start clearing away these piles of dead brush in our gardens, and approach the Spirit of Truth inside us with a clear, open mind and heart that understands and puts aside all these poisoned beliefs we think we know but we do not. Can we access the Spirit of Truth without imposing all these false certainties of our mind in order that our guided convictions be true?

The Spirit of Truth has its supreme example in the incarnated human life of Jesus. It will guide you truly if you are one who is fully open to guidance. If we have preconceived convictions within us that are set in concrete, then how can this indwelling spirit guide effectively?

Our history is rift with preachers who rise up to pronounce noble movements and issue gospelized edicts that stem from their minds and imaginations. Often, it seems that a little genuine contact with celestial spirits spawns a whole quagmire of doctrine that the preacher believes is true simply because it came into his mind and is taken for spiritual guidance. These folks often just give true religion a bad name, and even drive away seekers who are looking to get beyond self-centered dogma.

Yet how could a discussion of mindal poisons here yield anything but bile? Let the poisonous gases waft away while we concentrate on higher values, and help to drive it out by giving it no space in our hearts and minds. Instead of fighting against these poisons, shouldn't we just refuse to take them in the first place.

Can we be an oasis of love in a world that is poisoned by greed, arrogance and self-service? A higher order of spiritual reasoning is required to evolve, save and redeem our world and it is based

on universal truth that you can really count on. And it's in there., so basic that it doesn't need a fancy story. The Spirit of Truth can deliver its promise if you can clear away the prejudices and politics of mortal thinking and follow the simple truths of all religions.

1. Get to know God by spending time with your Heavenly Parent. Be sensible and know that this must be done on a higher plane of quietness, away from the cacophony of swarming civilization, a time when we can access energy circuitry that offers true understandings and true peace of mind, and the true strength to go out each day and make the world better, serve the Father's plan. It is all there in the Stillness.

2. Know that we all are children of God, even though most are floundering upon the stormy seas of our blighted history. But we know and see within our minds the true vision of what we ultimately want to be, a world of Light and Life where we love one another. Everyone knows the Golden Rule, and it is an encapsulated religion in itself.

3. God exults in your love and worship, so showcase it every day. God is touched when you seek Truth, Beauty and Goodness, even in all your frailties and uncertainties. Seek constantly. God rejoices when you reach out in kindness and service and expediently sends blessings and strengths your way so that you will do more of it.

4. God has given to us many great and wondrous gifts. Make a list every so often and see how amazing and perfect they came from God's mind, even if humans have messed over many of them.

One of the greatest of these is Jesus. He became one of us in supreme, loving empathy. This radiant Son of God brings us Sonship with God too. Be close to Jesus; He is that direct link to God, showing us the way.

The Spirit of Truth he left is not to be grabbed up and used like a greasy garage tool to fix your humanly conveyance. It is rather like a fine instrument, a violin, and one must learn to use it well.

It is not subject to our ingrained belief systems and should be approached in the fullness of both love and faith and our yearning for grace, and without any delusions as to the wisdom of our own creeds.

Be as little children, Jesus said. Be like the servant, Jesus said. Ask that you might be allowed to wash the feet of a brother before our supper together. A feast awaits.

At least .... that's what my Spirit of Truth tells me.  
All is well, Jim

# Understanding Pentecost

By Rev. Rob Crickett

Rob Crickett International Ministries

In my April Partners' Letter of last month, I wrote of three portraits of Jesus and how these three portraits each added something to our understanding of Easter. Pentecost is the pinnacle of Jesus' life on Earth (194:3.14), and I find that it is also best understood through a loving embrace of these same three aspects of Jesus.

## Jesus as portrayed in the Bible

To refresh your memory of what I wrote, the first portrait of Jesus is the Bible's Christian view of the Son who has come from heaven to break the yoke of the Lucifer rebellion, with its choke hold on real spiritual development. I said that the same symptoms of that choke hold still exist in the lives of Americans and men and women all over the world who are caught up in the distractions and confusions and rebelliousness of unspiritual living. This Jesus ministered the power of the will of the Father's Holy Spirit to a hurting Satan-enslaved world. He demonstrated the Father and revealed Him to us through teachings and works. What was significant to the entire world, not merely a handful of early believers, was that the Father passed on the commission and the spiritual power that was on Jesus, through Him to all those who would follow Jesus. The Father empowered them to go out in Jesus' name and continue the same battle against the Lucifer rebellion. Millions of people have devoted their entire lives to doing just that. Significantly, this Jesus had a self identity that included the power to overcome sin at a universal level. The image of this characteristic was fashioned largely by the ideals and spiritual experiences of a handful of Hebrew prophets who lived from 1,000 to 500 years prior to his birth, particularly Isaiah. This Jesus is saviour of the sinner. Seeker of the lost. Friend of the worthless. Enemy of the rich, the prosperous, the powerful. But if you've ever really encountered your own sin, and sought relief from it through Jesus, you will have deeply appreciated this Jesus and his power to vanquish your sin and turn your life around. This Jesus is not just a portrait, He is alive.

## Jesus as portrayed in the Urantia papers

The second portrait of Jesus comes to us from the story of Jesus in the Urantia papers. This portrait is of a boy of Nazareth who becomes increasingly conscious of being the incarnate Michael of the universe Nebadon. At His baptism with John it is revealed to Him that He is

definitely the Creator Son of Nebadon. The account in the Urantia papers is vastly different from the organic version that grew up in the life experiences of those humans that portrayed Him in the Bible. The Urantia papers portray Jesus in terms that largely exclude the Biblical perception of Jesus the saviour, the fulfiller of the prophetic portrait, even though it was established during the times when the Melchizedek receivers of Urantia tilled the ground for His impending arrival.

The Urantia papers' Jesus is portrayed by authors eager to affirm that, "This is really what happened" and "This is really what was meant at the time." The approach is similar to the action taken by the Hebrew scholars who first put the Old Testament into writing whilst in captivity in Babylon. They wrote their account of God's involvement in human life as if He was responsible for all things: good and evil; profit and loss; feast and famine: curse and blessing: sickness and disease. They have been accused by modern day scholars of portraying a God who wasn't really that organically involved in daily life of the Jews of those days. Yet, what the Jewish authors wrote is possibly the language of faith portrayed exactly as they knew it.

The authors who portray Jesus in the Urantia papers do a similar activity, in that they translate the values and beliefs of those ancient days into modern parlance, so-called "up-to-date truth for the people of the current generation." In doing so, the prophetic hero of the Melchizedek Old Testament has been understood and interpreted in language that, whilst it makes Jesus as transparent as possible, takes a considerable amount away from the human experience of faith which was present in the Old Testament. In this interpretation of Jesus, there is a trade off between providing historic facts and the accompanying academic commentary, and the language and imagery that speaks to the human soul in the way that fosters faith-filled action.

In understanding Jesus, something which is nigh on impossible from the Bible's account, He has been to a large extent sanitized of His drawing power. The emphasis is no longer on the amazing works he has done for the world but more on on the individual reader and believer. Jesus' mission is explained. He can be mistaken for being a somewhat ordinary human, with no great spiritual power of His own except that given Him by the Father. He is portrayed as having a completely different interest from that which the people of the world have been led to expect from Him. This Jesus is simply not at all like how the Melchizedek Commission portrayed him through the Prophets, and how he spilled over into the New Testament.

The Jesus of the Urantia papers is portrayed in language that is foreign to the meditator, the seeker after the Holy Spirit, the soul searching to fathom the saintly "Cloud of Unknowing". The Urantia papers does not speak in the native spiritual language of any religion on earth. There is nothing

of the “Imitation of Christ” in this Jesus. The language of the Urantia papers explains Jesus, but not in the words and feelings that Jesus actually lived. It is as if this account has sanitized Jesus of all association with evolved religion, and in so doing has made the human experience of the search for God in terms of evolved religion impotent and irrelevant. The Urantia papers doesn’t inspire one to get up and do anything, at least not at all in the way that the Bible’s Book of Acts does. The Urantia papers’ Jesus satisfies the intellect’s desire for knowledge, yet it disarms the soul’s simplicity.

The Urantia papers’ portray a Jesus in relationship with other human beings that resembles that which existed between Andon and Fonta and their tribe: a certain totally incomprehensible grasp on life. This Jesus has distinctly different goals from other Jews. He has nothing much in common with Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, philosophers, idealists and ultimately, even the Christians who followed the real Jesus. He stands out alone. There is no commentary whatsoever about Jesus’ relationship with the many other Jewish ascetics, holy men, saints and miracle workers who were alive at the same time as He. This makes Jesus stand out even more alone. The greatest gift He can give to the world is an account of how He achieved Adjuster fusion, yet the Urantia papers give little insight into that process as it was for him. The authors do credit Him with ending the Lucifer rebellion, but give little information about how people are to deal with the mopping up process here on earth. Similarly, Jesus gave us Pentecost, yet the authors of the Urantia papers all but swerve us away from the power and might of that incredible event, the ultimate purpose of His coming here. There is more practical detail about Pentecost in the Bible’s book of “The Acts of the Apostles” than there is in the Urantia papers. For example, the power of the Spirit of Truth is capable of disarming in the believer the repercussions of the entire Lucifer rebellion and the genetic shortcomings of the Adamic default. One would think that such a blessing to humanity would warrant at least a few examples of how better to access that power. Yet, compared with Biblical Christians, few readers of the Urantia papers appear to be mastering that blessing.

So then, where is it that the Urantia papers’ revelatory version of Jesus, so different as it is from the Bible’s evolved version, aids us? It is, of course, in the portrait of His majestic life. It is in His values. It is in His ideals. It is in His grasp of the Father’s will to the exclusion of all other techniques of living. It is in His synthesis of Nedadon-wide and Urantia-wide and local community needs. It is in the account of His personal religious life. It is in the life of a ministering Adjuster fused human being--albeit one with, at times, Creator Michael healing powers. It is in the way that reading about this Jesus, in this language, two thousand years after his time on earth, sheds mansion world light on ways of thinking about God that have in the past enslaved people in the superstitious, the fear-driven, the authority of ecclesiastical rule, and the systems whereby men and women control people through the manipulation

of ignorance with special knowledge.

When the King of England severed himself from the Roman Catholic Church and establish a Catholic Church of England, he emptied all the monasteries and did away with the opportunity for men and women to respond to God's calling to a life of prayer within a purposed community. The monks and nuns became parish vicars, fled the country to their Roman Catholic friends in Europe, or were killed. The upshot of it is that the Anglican church, whilst it has freedom from the veneration of the Pope and has a good heart for social welfare, it doesn't have much of the spiritual depth to it that is at the heart of most other religions. Interestingly, there is a certain Anglicanism in the way that Jesus has been depicted in the Urantia papers in that it tries to free humanity from the bonds of the Roman Catholic-like systems of corporate governance of personal spirituality and its rather incestuous involvement with the supernatural via its adoration of its own acclaimed saints, martyrs and Jesus' own poor mother.

If there is an equivalent freedom that the Urantia papers are endeavouring to bring to humanity through this particular portrait of Jesus, then it will be one in which Pentecost will thrive. If not, then Pentecost, the pinnacle of Jesus' life, is a sham, and to think that is to make a mockery of Jesus, Michael and even the Father. Pentecost is inseparable from Jesus and His highest ideals, both now, then, and forever.

## Jesus as the mortal life of Michael of Nebadon

The third portrait of Jesus is the Jesus who is in fact Michael of Nebadon, the teacher to, and, with the Holy Spirit Mother, the co-creator of, an entire Universe. This Jesus is who Jesus was before he ever was born in Bethlehem as Y'shua the son of Joseph, and after he was killed on the cross as the Son of Man.

The recorded words of this Jesus are the words of the Michael of Nebadon. The resurrection of this Jesus is the transition of the actual Michael of this universe, as He passed through the life and death experiences of an august and brilliant being on His way to total universe sovereignty--all power in heaven and on earth--given to Him by the Paradise Father, His own Father in that land of infinite eternity in which He had His origins so long ago before ever creating Nebadon.

This Jesus is not confined to being the Biblical Jesus and playing out the role of the Jewish Messiah, any more than He is confined to being the Urantia papers Jesus either. This Jesus is the currently living and currently perfected sovereign Lord Jesus Christ of the Christians, and the Master Michael, the Christ Michael of Nebadon of the Urantia papers. This Jesus is not a description: like the Biblical Jesus, He is alive. This Jesus is Michael of Nebadon. This Jesus has more to him than the

descriptions of His Godly actions and character in the Bible and the Urantia papers. This Jesus continues to serve, to minister, to strive to uplift humanity, to actively seek out the lost and to save them, to heal the sick, to comfort the forlorn, to raise up apostles and disciples and teachers and healers and workers of miracles and prophets and the enlightened in His kingdom of heaven. This Jesus is both the Head of State of the government in whose lands you dwell, as well as the personal spiritual Father and minister to your life. What an amazing grace He is!

This Jesus is the Jesus who is calling you into the same sonship with God that He has. This Jesus knows sonship with God as a Creator Michael of Nebadon, as a human Jew with a mission that transcended all Jewry, even the world, and as a Master Michael with perfected unopposable sovereignty in His universe. This Jesus is your local universe spiritual Father, your universe Sovereign, your earthly example of man perfected, your personal Saviour from the Lucifer rebellion, your passport into victory over evil, sin and iniquity, your inner guide and teacher, your truth compass, your pioneer trail-blazer of a human being's path to the Father's will (something not achieved by Guatama Buddha, Lao Tzu, Zoroaster, Abraham, Moses, Confucius, Mohamed, Caligastia, Adam or Eve). This Jesus is the infinite power of the Eternal Son and the Paradise Father united in one being who is made flesh on earth. This Jesus is the alpha and omega of all human experience on any created mortal world in Nebadon. This Jesus is the Jesus who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. This Jesus is the same person who, long before he ever planned to come to this world as a helpless baby, had, as the Chancellor of the University of Nebadon, personally graduated millions of human beings as fledgling spirits after they had passed from their own native worlds through their constellation training experiences. He was the one who forwarded them on to the Minor Sector under the guardianship of the Ancients of Days. This Jesus is both your Parent and your human friend and brother. A greater love, in this universe you will not know except that love given to you from the Father indwelling you.

The most amazing fact about this Jesus is that He is your spiritual Father and you are His heir. Everything human that is in Him is yours. You are a prince or a princess of this King of heaven. The incredible thing about that fact is that you have the same authority over the things in your life that Jesus had over His life, and that Michael of Nebadon has right now, today, over His life. You have AUTHORITY. And you probably don't even know it. What's more, you probably don't even know how to use it, even if you think that you do have it. And that is what Pentecost is all about: the authority that is given to you personally as a son and an heir of this amazing Jesus, the Sovereign and Christ Michael of Nebadon!

If you have Pentecost but nothing else, you have the foundations of life because you have Jesus and His authority. But if you have the best of all the world's religions and all the world has to offer, and all that is in the Bible and in the Urantia papers but you do not have Pentecost then the

risen and ascending Jesus said that you're a dead thing. That seems to be a harsh thing to say, but listen to Him: "Peace be upon you. You rejoice to know that the Son of Man has risen from the dead because you thereby know that you and your brethren shall also survive mortal death. But such survival is dependent on your having been previously born of the spirit of truth-seeking and God-finding. The bread of life and the water thereof are given only to those who hunger for truth and thirst for righteousness--for God. The fact that the dead rise is not the gospel of the kingdom. These great truths and these universe facts are all related to this gospel in that they are a part of the result of believing the good news and are embraced in the subsequent experience of those who, by faith, become, in deed and in truth, the everlasting sons of the eternal God. My Father sent me into the world to proclaim this salvation of sonship to all men. And so send I you abroad to preach this salvation of sonship. Salvation is the free gift of God, but those who are born of the spirit will immediately begin to show forth the fruits of the spirit in loving service to their fellow creatures. And the fruits of the divine spirit which are yielded in the lives of spirit-born and God-knowing mortals are: loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confiding trust, merciful ministry, unfailing goodness, forgiving tolerance, and enduring peace. If professed believers bear not these fruits of the divine spirit in their lives, they are dead; the Spirit of Truth is not in them; they are useless branches on the living vine, and they soon will be taken away. My Father requires of the children of faith that they bear much spirit fruit. If, therefore, you are not fruitful, he will dig about your roots and cut away your unfruitful branches. Increasingly, must you yield the fruits of the spirit as you progress heavenward in the kingdom of God. You may enter the kingdom as a child, but the Father requires that you grow up, by grace, to the full stature of spiritual adulthood. And when you go abroad to tell all nations the good news of this gospel, I will go before you, and my Spirit of Truth shall abide in your hearts. My peace I leave with you." 193:2.2

Rest in the assurance that your reading of this document affirms your hunger for God, the evidence that you are "born of the spirit of truth-seeking and God-finding." That means that your work is not so much a matter of getting saved (although you might want to fine tune your understanding of the grounds of your relationship with God by realizing more facts about who you are as a son of God) but more a matter of increasing the realness and quantity of the fruits of the spirit in loving service to your fellow creatures. So relax! You qualify. You're in the club. You've made it. But don't rest on your laurels, there's work to be done and leisure to be understood in new ways and happiness to blossom from wholly new bulbs in you because you are qualified to exercise all the prerogatives and authority of a son of the God of Nebadon and a son of the God of Paradise and all creation.

## The study of Pentecost

According to the Urantia papers, the anniversary of Pentecost is on (Thursday) May 18th (193:5.0). But Pentecost is more than an anniversary of a past event in time and space. Based on the number of spirit-filled men and women who have wholly received Jesus into their hearts and minds it is fair to say that most of the world has not yet received Pentecost and its huge benefits. China, for example, is consumed with an ideological social system rather than the truth that is in the spirit of values--spiritual truth--and the Chinese make up a sixth of the world's population. John came baptizing with water saying there is one who will follow him who will baptise with the Holy Spirit, even He upon whom the Holy Spirit will descend and remain, (for it had only previously remained upon that human who would Adjuster fuse, such as Enoch and Elijah). One of the most important questions in life that you can ask yourself is: "Do I have that same Holy Spirit recognizably on me?" If you perceive that you don't have that same Spirit on you, then may I suggest that you need it on you.

The Urantia papers state that: "Up to Pentecost, religion had revealed only man seeking for God; since Pentecost, man is still searching for God, but there shines out over the world the spectacle of God also seeking for man and sending his spirit to dwell within him when he has found him." 194:3.13 Let it be forever true in your mind then, that there can be a distinct move of God in you and upon your life when you receive (1) Jesus as Lord, Saviour and Father of your life in every sense that the Urantia papers use those terms; and (2) the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Tongues and Fire in every sense that the Bible uses those terms; and (3) sonship with God as Michael of Nebadon makes that real in you, with the Mother Spirit of Nebadon, so that you can the better achieve Adjuster fusion as an informed universe citizen.

Many people think that they are fully equipped with all the things of God and that such is sufficient for all their life, because: "all will work out in God's time. I have my Thought Adjuster, the Spirit of Truth and I am encircled by the Holy Spirit Mother, the Ancients of Days are looking after Caligastia and his gang of thieves, and somehow unknown to me I am adding to the building up of God the Supreme...what more can I do? It's all in God's hands."

Not true, friend. If you do not exercise the authority given to you over life you are no different from the person who can not exercise the authority that can be exercised over life. If you do not exercise what Jesus gives you to exercise you are in prison just like a convicted person. If you are suffering and you have the power to reduce that suffering but you do not use that power then you do not have that power. If you have no idea how to employ the Thought Adjuster, the Spirit of Truth and the Holy

Spirit according to their natures, and according to the promises of God in the scriptures, then you are living in the same spiritual poverty as someone who doesn't know They exist. You are like a person who has all the latest technological communications equipment at your disposal but to all intents and purposes you are spiritually living in Kenya in a mud hut with a thatched roof, ten miles from town with no phone, electricity or transport. What then of your precious shares portfolio! If you cannot or do not know that producing the fruits of the spirit produces victory over life on earth then you need to find out how it does. Fruits of the spirit are not mushy compliance, head-nodding goodwill. Fruits of the spirit are those things that in and of themselves are the means to uplifting this world into light and life and out of darkness, lack and ignorance. But if you do not know that you are the heir of the one who said, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful. I have overcome the world, and in me you shall all triumph through faith," (181:1.5), then in reality there is no difference in your life because you are still completely isolated from Him and the authority that He gives you. Even if you can channel Teaching Mission transmission from the highest angelic Daughters and Sons of God, and pray the loudest prayers from the greatest prayer book and psalms, you are still spiritually isolated from the will of God. The will of God is spiritually fully at your disposal, but you are living in a spiritual mud hut in the spiritual isolation of pre-Pentecost times...and God is waiting on your decision to help you to change your circumstances.

So I encourage you to think differently about receiving all that God is offering you, and translating it all into a currency that you can use, lest it pass you by and you are left wanting in the fleshly gulf between the flesh and the spirit. Pentecost is the bridge between the flesh and the spirit, and it will never be washed away like the highway bridge in Oklahoma that just a few days ago sent drivers to their deaths. Pentecost is made of that substance which overcomes the world. That is a huge blessing, and the ultimate authority. Adjuster fusion is not possible to any human being except they have the fullness of Pentecost working in them.

Pentecost provided human beings with a new capacity for thought. Pentecost enabled any person to think God's kind of thoughts. In the history of the million years of spiritual life on this earth, that is the most amazing thing to have occurred in the physiological development of mankind. What was thwarted by Lucifer rebellion, this new brain function overcame. What was denied to humanity by the lack of spiritual gene from Adam and Eve's children was compensated for with this new capacity for the brain to liaise with God.

The new type of thinking that came with Pentecost became immediately a witness that confirmed to humanity that our own native understanding of life is not sufficient for effective spiritual growth. Pentecost is a new brain. Pentecost is a new self identity. Pentecost is a new communion with

God. Pentecost is a new fellowship with some of Nebadon directly, and most of Nebadon through reflectivity services afforded the new brain. However, if you see people adjusting to the new brain's style of thought and you think along the lines of, "I'm doing OK; I don't need to get into all that stuff," then I'm here to tell you that Pentecost exists as a witness to the fact that you do need to get into all that stuff, for that is the stuff of God in your generation. The truth of knowledge alone is insufficient nowadays. Just knowing the facts of the universe of universes doesn't cut it. There are people who read the Bible who are not spirit-filled. There are people who read the Urantia papers who are not spirit-filled. Knowledge is no longer the benchmark of your wisdom: the wisdom-power of Adjuster fusion is now your benchmark. Pentecost has made it so: and you are called to address it. God has given you all the provision, it is now up to you to agree and receive and step out in His glory.

Pentecost is newness of life through Christ Michael. Yet, that life is lived out in different expressions in us, His children. The same life-giving Spirit of Truth that birthed the Christian Church and significantly influenced all other religions in the world has touched men and women of distinctly different cultures who are called to completely different spiritual vocations. Consider for a moment how Pentecost added to the spiritual life in the French hermit, the Italian monk and nun in cloister, the socially active monk or nun in America, the parish vicar in England, the spirit-filled minister in Texas, the religious teacher of children in India, the itinerant evangelist in Mexico, the intercessory prayer warrior in Germany, the missionary in Tanzania, the orthodox priest in Russia and Greece, the scripture scholar in Cambridge, the theologian in the Vatican, the author of religious studies in New York, the scripture translator in Cairo, the archaeologist in Israel, the head of a religious organisation in North Carolina, the Sunday school teacher in New Zealand, the worship leader in Sydney Australia, the writer of religious music in Florida, the poet in Iran, the healer in Mozambique, the comforter in the Netherlands, the community Catholic priest in Spain, the wilderness-dwelling ascetic in North Africa, and the person with a street ministry to the down and out, the drug affected, the prostitute, the mentally damaged and the emotionally crippled in any modern city. The same Spirit of Truth indwells all of these men and women. Jesus is alive differently in each, for there is nothing so stark as the difference in philosophy between the hermit and the street evangelist, the missionary and the scripture scholar.

And yet it is the same Jesus who brings life to all.  
And the life He brings is perfectly matched to the person; to their ambitions; their style and capacity for spiritual growth; their native instinct; their way of loving God; their relationship with the things of the world; their relationship with other people; their approach to the personal acquisition of meaning and purpose and value; their response to

love. Pentecost can serve them all. How does Pentecost serve you? And will you do what Pentecost is calling you to do?

Understanding Pentecost is not easy. It calls us to understand not truth, as wonderful as truth is, but Jesus. Pentecost calls us to understand our relationship with Jesus. It is one thing to read the words about Pentecost in the Urantia papers and the book of the Acts of the Apostles, but it is a totally other matter to experience the power of Pentecost ruling your life and defining your purposes. Pentecost is all about God calling men and women into a newness of a life of service. If ever you see a person who is not motivated by serving others, then you know that the spirit of Pentecost is not impacting upon that person's life: they are a dead thing. It is the lack of response to the Spirit of Truth that enables a person to remain cold-hearted about this situation and declare, "So they're a dead thing, so what? What's it to me if that person is dead or alive? What do I care?" It is the sense of response to the Spirit of Truth that declares, "Well, do you think I should do something to help that person?"

The spirit of what Pentecost does in the human being is totally summed up in the encounter between Jesus and Peter in the garden on the evening of resurrection Sunday. The Urantia papers tell us that, When Peter thought of the loving look of the Master as he passed by on Annas's porch, and as he turned over in his mind that wonderful message brought him early that morning by the women who came from the empty tomb, "Go tell my apostles--and Peter"--as he contemplated these tokens of mercy, his faith began to surmount his doubts, and he stood still, clenching his fists, while he spoke aloud: "I believe he has risen from the dead; I will go and tell my brethren." And as he said this, there suddenly appeared in front of him the form of a man, who spoke to him in familiar tones, saying: "Peter, the enemy desired to have you, but I would not give you up. I knew it was not from the heart that you disowned me; therefore I forgave you even before you asked; but now must you cease to think about yourself and the troubles of the hour while you prepare to carry the good news of the gospel to those who sit in darkness. No longer should you be concerned with what you may obtain from the kingdom but rather be exercised about what you can give to those who live in dire spiritual poverty. Gird yourself, Simon, for the battle of a new day, the struggle with spiritual darkness and the evil doubtings of the natural minds of men." 191:1.2

Pentecost is a force. Pentecost is a will. Pentecost is the person of Christ, the Son of God, active in your daily life. Pentecost is the response of God to your personal and human cry of the soul. Pentecost is calling you. Pentecost is seeking your spiritual communion with Christ. Pentecost is calling you to be a new creature in Christ. Pentecost is calling you into a new definition of yourself. Pentecost is calling you to learn a new language, the language of Pentecost-responsive sons of God. Pentecost is drawing you out of the cocoon of fear and smallness and apprehension. Pentecost is luring you with the bait of the fulfilment of

your deepest desires to be like God. Pentecost is your stairway to heaven. Pentecost is calling you to yield to who you can be when you are wholly abandoned to being a son of God. Pentecost is calling you out of your self preservation and self interest and self doubt and into your giving of your own love.

Pentecost is not calling you to reckless spiritual life. Pentecost is not calling you to God without Jesus. Pentecost is not calling you to truth without God. Pentecost is not calling you to fundamentalism. Pentecost is not calling you to authoritarian brutality or dictatorship. Pentecost is not calling you to playing the banjo in a deliverance scene. Pentecost is not calling you to blaming all the good on the blood of Jesus and all the bad on Satan. Pentecost is not calling you out of common sense. Pentecost is not calling you into martyrdom, into hijacking Jesus' plans, into messianic delusions, into the formation of human-centred cults and priestly abuses on the faithful. However it is not Pentecost that makes people stand aloof in their pride and cool, judgemental arrogance to scoff at those who are moved by Jesus and His Pentecost. Such unbelievers are dead in their centres and cannot be moved by the Jesus they even suppose to agree with philosophically, in their concession that He thinks well of them.

Pentecost is not about you, it's about Jesus and what He's interested in. And that's really hard to take. Pentecost wants to make people spiritually real in what the Urantia papers call mota: the mentality of a mansion world citizen. That's a tough call because, for a long, long time of human development, people want to have at least a small part in what God is doing with them. Pentecost, on the contrary, calls you to surrender yourself heart and soul to what God in Christ Michael can make you into. I remember a Chinese Ch'an monk saying it like this: "You are nothing until you are as a fallen autumn leaf, not caring where the winds tosses you, empty of all of the will of the tree that birthed you."

The great thrill of living with Pentecost here on earth is that you can rise up somewhat theatrically to be the best that you can be here in this "short and intense test during your initial life of material existence" (14:5.1) as an agondonter, one of the "evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone. This functional grouping of the agondonters persists throughout the ascension of the local universe and the traversal of the superuniverse; it disappears during the sojourn in Havona but promptly reappears upon the attainment of Paradise and definitely persists in the Corps of the Mortal Finality." 50:7.2 The brutal death of Jesus and the attempt to ravage His spectacular spiritual example of faith and sheer potency on the cross forever gives Pentecost a classical standard to bear: that a human being, given the fullness of passport to the Father, will do anything and all things it takes to save his or her fellows. Such heroism is magnificent. Such heroism is in the actions of the firemen and nurses and police who gave their all when the towers fell. Such heroism is in any rescue whereby the struggle for higher values can continue.

Pentecost is the banner of heroism. If Urantia papers readers should have a banner it is more the banner of the holy flame of Pentecost than Michael's three circles. Pentecost is victory. Pentecost is your victory, beyond which you have no other victory. That Michael is victorious is ultimately meaningless unless you can emulate it in your own life over your own spiritual situations.

From the Biblical Jesus, you personally have inherited the Pentecost victory over the sinful characteristics that you inherited from Caligastia's habitual contempt of Christ Michael. This Messiah has given you all that is was promised to you by God in the Isaiah 61:1-3.

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted;  
he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion-  
to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. (RSV)

From the Urantia papers Jesus, you personally have been given cart blanch access to Daniel 2:28 "But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries;" Daniel 2:29 "Thoughts of what would be hereafter, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be;" and "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery;" and Daniel 12:4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." You have been given the revelation of what lies beyond death. You have been given the revelation of your destiny throughout eternity in the heavens of heavens. You have been afforded a map of the life destinies of every person who has gone before you and who will come after you on this planet.

From Jesus the Christ Michael of Nebadon, who even at this moment of your day beholds you perfectly in his own mind, you have inherited the opportunity of life itself. When spirit development is complete, even though not replete, then the surviving mortal prepares for the long flight to Havona, the haven of evolutionary spirits. On earth you were a creature of flesh and blood; through the local universe you were a morontia being; through the superuniverse you were an evolving spirit; with your arrival on the receiving worlds of Havona your spiritual education begins in reality and in earnest; your eventual appearance on Paradise will be as a perfected spirit. The journey from the superuniverse headquarters to the Havona

receiving spheres is always made alone. From now on no more class or group instruction will be administered. You are through with the technical and administrative training of the evolutionary worlds of time and space. Now begins your personal education, your individual spiritual training. From first to last, throughout all Havona, the instruction is personal and threefold in nature: intellectual, spiritual, and experiential. The first act of your Havona career will be to recognize and thank your transport seraphim for the long and safe journey. Then you are presented to those beings who will sponsor your early Havona activities. Next you go to register your arrival and prepare your message of thanksgiving and adoration for dispatch to the Creator Son of your local universe, the universe Father who made possible your sonship career. This concludes the formalities of the Havona arrival; whereupon you are accorded a long period of leisure for free observation, and this affords opportunity for looking up your friends, fellows, and associates of the long ascension experience. You may also consult the broadcasts to ascertain who of your fellow pilgrims have departed for Havona since the time of your leaving Uversa.

The fact of your arrival on the receiving worlds of Havona will be duly transmitted to the headquarters of your local universe and personally conveyed to your seraphic guardian, wherever that seraphim may chance to be. The ascendant mortals have been thoroughly trained in the affairs of the evolutionary worlds of space; now they begin their long and profitable contact with the created spheres of perfection. What a preparation for some future work is afforded by this combined, unique, and extraordinary experience ! But I cannot tell you about Havona; you must see these worlds to appreciate their glory or to understand their grandeur. 30:4.8

The victory that is in Pentecost, then, is a composite of all three Jesus's. And you are the son and heir of all three. So then, spend no more time arguing the case against this religion or that preacher: claim your rights to a victorious life in Pentecost that brings out more of who you can become. Get over the hurts and the should be's and could be's and claim the victory that Jesus lived and died for. If this world is painful for you, or makes you a little crazy and neurotic, or it isn't delivering you into the kind of man or woman that you want to be, then claim Pentecost and let it deliver you into the heavenly person you can be instead. Let Pentecost be yours, fully, and it will give you the mind of Christ Michael himself. If you really want to get ahead in life, then give no more thought to what others might think of you: follow Jesus and his example of a life that is filled with the life of the Father.

Stand up for Jesus, Stand up for Pentecost. Stand up for your own Paradise Father. Stand up for your own sonship with God. Stand up for what God is doing in you. Glory to God! if a human being won't stand up for their own own sonship with God then who can? Not everyone is going to understand you; or follow you; or even like you. In fact, if you begin to claim your own

sonship with God you will find that you cannot move past a certain level without being embraced by Pentecost and the Jesus who delivered it, and you'll have the huge task of being shaped by God into that kind of a person who can thrive on Pentecost. Then you'll really know what it is to challenge people with this world-overcoming love that fills you. Ha! If you think life is a struggle now, wait until you really take it seriously! If you have not been embraced by Pentecost yet, then I can tell you that you can run but you can't hide from Pentecost and sooner or later you'll come begging to the Michael of this Universe to receive you in the power of that Spirit. Ah, but what a treasure He is. What a blessing is our universe Father. What an incredible person He is. What an amazing grace and graciousness has He who loved this world so much that He gave His son that we all might find Him...and what an amazing grace and graciousness is this Jesus, the author of Pentecost, whom the Father sent in His place.

Pentecost is the pathway to Adjuster fusion. Pentecost is the perfecting power of Jesus' love alive in you. His love consumes and destroys your sin; awakens, enlightens and banishes the evil from you, and makes something totally worthwhile out of your love. Jesus' love brings you from darkness into light, from orphanhood into sonship. It is His Pentecost however that creates a universal servant out of you. We can sing "Come, let us adore him!" but let us also look at who you are becoming because of His love for you!

And behold! see the mighty works that you are doing in His name: works worthy even of the praise of the Father of all creation, the All Mighty. Though you are sinful, dark, vulgar, brutal, ignorant, broken and damaged, yet, the server of all so loves you that he sends His Spirit to indwell you and live with you in the midst of your travail. He loves you so much that He indwells you with His perfect love that saves you from yourself, and He comes with a perfect plan to bring you into a place wherein you have self mastery and selfless charity, even that charity that lets you give your all for your fellows.

Pentecost makes you an unbelievably special person. Pentecost makes you my help, my source, my friend, my comfort, my guide, my companion, a reflection of the Father and the Son and the Spirit in you...all the way from Urantia to the Finality on Paradise. Owing Pentecost makes you a real somebody to love! Whilst you have breath in your lungs, let Pentecost serve you in your serving of another in some need with which you can help.

Check out Rob Crickett International Ministries on the world wide web. [rcim.org](http://rcim.org)

# “IN MY DEFENSELESSNESS MY SAFETY LIES.”

A Course in Miracles  
Lesson 153

by JOYce Brenton  
ACIM Associate Editor

**Did you ever make a statement, something that came out of your own mouth that surprised you with the utterance? It made you stop and really think about what you had just said and it came back over and over again to make you think harder about it. Just such a thing happened to me the other day.**

My husband and I were driving along and I was noticing all the flags on cars and all the patriotic bumpers stickers. We all know the wave of patriotism that has swept our country since September 11<sup>th</sup>. The flags are flying high and wide now in our land. I said, “Wouldn’t it be nice if we (Americans) had this kind of patriotism for the whole world.”

Yes, I said it without really thinking it through before I spoke. Did that statement come from me or from the God within me? That is the question I ask you now.

**A Course in Miracles teaches that we are One, totally united, each and every one of us, one with the other. And we are one with God, united with Him with an inseparable bond. And in that inseparable bond, no one stands above any one else. Yet the mentality of most of the world is now, and has always been “Us” and “them.” Most of humanity only understands from this separation point of view.**

You know of what I speak now. Think of the idea of salvation from the Christian standpoint. You must ask Jesus into your heart and then you are “saved.” Ah, and then you go to heaven when you die. But what of all the others who fail to ask Jesus into their hearts? Well, they all go to hell. So we have the “us” and “them” mentality.

And the Christians believe in a triune God, while the Muslims and Jews believe that “God is One,” so that separates the Christians from the Muslims and Jews. Again, “Us” and “them.”

And the same kind of separation mentality dominates most of the major religions of this world. The Catholics and the Protestants are clearly “us” and “them.” And the Baptists from the anti-Baptists, and the fundamentalist and Charismatic, and the beat goes on, la de da de da, ad infinitum. They all declare themselves as true, and all others are false. They have found the truth while the rest of humanity simply struggles along in one form of delusion or another.

**And even with the patriotism of our country, it is simply our country and then there are all the other countries. Yes, the “us” and “them” mentality. This is not the mentality, however, of ACIM.**

I have written several articles at this point, somewhat in the defense of ACIM. And each time, that I put the pen to paper, I wondered about the simple statement, “In my defenselessness my safety lies.” And especially after the seeming tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup>, I wondered where in all of that mayhem was there room for such a philosophy as, “in my defenselessness my safety lies.”

I watched as my country struggled for answers from the terrorism. I thought of Jesus and His plea's to forgive one another. And the question from His Apostle, "How many times must I forgive my brother who sins against me?" And His answer, too, came often to my mind. Seventy times seven is Jesus' truthful answer. We are simply and unequivocally to forgive one another, as many times as there is need to forgive, even to the point of infinity.

How do we do that? Well, at this point in our society's evolution one wonders If the cry for "no defense against attack" would be in essence, just a voice crying in the wilderness.

The answer to aggression has always been "kill or be killed." Yet, this is not the Path that Jesus sends God's children. The Path of truth asks us to "turn the other cheek" and "forgive seventy times seven." This is Jesus speaking in scripture. And the same message from the same Jesus comes to us from ACIM with slightly different wording. "In my defenselessness my safety lies." Jesus sends us on the godly Path on non- resistance.

In all the centuries, all that aggression has produced is the replication of aggression. And that is insanity personified. And in all that insanity, it has always been brother against brother, yes, "us" and "them."

I speak now not against my country who believes that terrorism must be stopped with death to the terrorists. But there is something that we can fully realize. Terrorism is simply a form of insanity. And I am asking you now for wisdom, when I ask you, is insanity ever ameliorated with further insanity? And after all, all terrorism comes from the "us" and "them," mentality. Yes, the terrorists believe they are the "us" and we are the "them."

Yet, when we are faced with a flagrant terroristic attack upon our shores, it would seem that the only recourse is the one our elected officials decided was best, for the betterment of all. It's done now. And there is no recourse but to live in the moment. But where does that leave the thinking man or woman.

Yes, we are patriotic and that is good, but is it the step that we come to, and simply stop at. Isn't there more to be considered in all of this. Surely we do not want such a thing to happen again. Yet, is there a simple answer in all of this? I believe there is an answer. It's not an easy answer, but it will work. It will take time, but in time, the futility of war will be no more.

"Us" and "them" is wrong! We are all One. We need then to change our way of thinking. And that must begin with our children.

How are they raised? We understand fully that when they are raised with the "us" and "them" mentality, they will simply grow up to be adults with that mentality. They will become the men and women who run the future. The only way to have a future as brothers and sisters and further God's Plan for the Brotherhood of man is to begin with education.

We all throw rocks at our school systems. It is however, the place where we raise our future patriotic generations. So something intelligent must begin at that level. We can't continue a form of truthful patriotism without some form of rectification to the "kill or be killed" philosophy, because whether you believe it or not, when we set out to kill another, any other human being, we set out to kill ourselves. We are all one! And if you take it to the abstract level in thinking, if we kill one another, we kill the God in each of us.

OK, this is very abstract! And that is the dilemma for all the students of ACIM. You cannot be a student, without becoming a believer in the unity of all creation. We have a Father Whose name is God and we are all brothers and sisters.

Now if we understand that “in our defenselessness our safety lies” as a truth, and that as followers of Jesus, as so many proclaim, then we must be willing to forgive whatever, whenever, under every circumstance. And also to “turn the other cheek seventy time seven.”

That is a difficult job when you understand the years and years that have gone into your own mentality of believing “us” and “them.”

We have a country with the highest rate of divorce in the world. So we have husbands against wives and vice versa. And they produce children who become believers in a world of “us” and “them.”

Crime is rising and never abating. Man’s inhumanity to man continues on a world-wide scale. Where does the mentality begin that one can rob or steal and kill another human being. Believe it or not, it begins as simply as one sibling against another. Little boys stealing lunches from other little boys, or boys stealing pencils from other little girls, turns into big boys robbing gas stations, and big girls being raped by bigger boys. Get the picture. It’s a simple truth. And to all this mayhem, I offer Jesus’ simple answer for non-resistance, “In my defenselessness my safety lies!”

Now, let me speak to you of true terrorism.

We live in a war zone constantly. We have war zones in our homes, in our schools, and in the work place. We have raging wars in these places, with apparently no end in sight. Yes, terrorism in our homes, our schools and our workplaces. I smile, as you will, too, when I offer you the idea of terrorism in our sports and recreational reading and viewing pleasures. You get the picture.

We are constantly attacked, on a daily basis by terrorists from and to our families. And we don’t do anything about that. It goes unchecked.

Yet, when our country is attacked from without we fly the flags high and rally around that flag. Terrorists must be killed at all cost. So when I offer the solution to attack terrorism on the home front first, first things first, then I challenge each and every one of you to begin the removal of all terrorism from within.

I like the Buddhist philosophy that challenges mankind to “do no harm to any sentient being.” That is the same as “in my defenselessness my safety lies.” That is perhaps a very good place to begin with the correction of mankind’s thinking, “to kill or be killed.”

And such a philosophy can begin with you. Let’s just take this to a very simple level. Suppose you decided today to never harm another human being again as long as you lived. Could you do it? Well, never harming another human being is a step toward defenselessness. And remember that embracing ACIM philosophy is embracing the philosophy of Jesus. If you give Him credit for Who He is supposed to be, then you will have to give Him credit for knowing what He is talking about.

Again, let’s return to the supposition that you could “do no harm to any other human being” for as long as you live. That means no bodily harm and no verbal harm either. No fighting, no gossip, no anger, no angst, no retribution, no harm whatsoever, verbal or otherwise. Now the supposition becomes really difficult, doesn’t it? But impossible? No! For I doubt very much that either Buddha or Jesus would ascertain the impossible as a probability. No, my Brothers and Sisters, it is very possible to practice defenselessness instead of defense against attack.

And therein lies the salvation of mankind.

Yes, the public school system is in grave difficulty. Very little is taught in that system that really teaches human beings how to live. And until the situation at the ground level is rectified there is very little hope for any change that would stop the down hill spiral to annihilation.

Children are not taught classes, in patience, or withholding self-gratification. They are not taught to persevere in Universe difficulties. They are not taught the simplicity of non-resistance, and foremost they are not taught to Love on another. From the cradle to the grave they are taught its “us” and “them.” They are taught to be separatists.

And we must consider also an attack on the terrorism that prevails in our country through the media. Ah, but I need not pursue that now. You know exactly where I would go in that area. Terrorists, indeed! Daily they pummel us with their insanities. Daily they fuel the fire against the potential for the brotherhood of man.

You are beginning to understand the terrorism from within. Of that I am very sure at this point.

So let us not look at our brothers and sisters abroad and label them as terrorists. I am reminded of the parable from Scripture where Jesus teaches us to not look at our brother’s faults until we work on our own. I call it the “Specs” and “Boards” parable. Our brothers have little specs in their flawed personalities while we have great big groaning two by fours in our own.

In our defenselessness our safety truly lies. Of that I am sure. But while the inner terrorism of child abuse is rampant, mothers and fathers physically and sexually abusing their own children, and as battered women seek shelter outside their home for both physical and mental abuse, I see the crying need for a total revamping of the educational system. The present one is not working. And the only one that will work must teach the brotherhood of man. And surely must teach we are One with God and under His very capable direction.

Oh, our history books are resplendent with the wars, civil and world wide that teach nothing to deter such insanity. These History books, part of the education of our children, teach nothing to be proud about or to wave flags over.

The challenge lies in change from the ground level up. The old ways do not work. There has to be another answer and you may be sure that many of the answers lie in the philosophy of ACIM. We need to know all about the brotherhood of man. And perhaps one day there will be a universal flag to wave high and proudly above our homes. In that Utopian day there will be One world, One Father, One Sonship, One brotherhood of man, in total unity, no man or woman beneath or above any other. No “us” and “them” mentality whatsoever.

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TM ARCHIVE NOW ONLINE: Through the outstanding efforts of Ron Besser, there is now an archive of Teaching Mission lessons online at: <http://tmarchives.com>. They include thousands of pages representing celestial teachers from across the country that can be searched by topic and teacher. Visit the new and growing site and communicate with Ron directly from the site. For access to these and many other spiritual explorations: visit <http://www.lightandlife.com>.

# THE ROOTS OF TODAY'S BUDDHISM

By Peter Steinfels

New York Times - October 26, 2002

Although the historic Buddha, Prince Siddhartha Gautama, is said to have lived approximately 2,500 years ago, Buddhism is often viewed as the most modern of world religions.

Nontheistic, nondogmatic, nonviolent, emphasizing individual practice rather than institutional membership or obligations, the Buddhism expounded by, say, the Dalai Lama fits nicely with a modern, largely Western world view based on science and respect for the individual. Maybe that explains why it seems to attract so many physicists and psychotherapists.

Is this modernity surprising? Not really, because this Buddhism is itself a modern creation, a late-19th-century development deeply influenced by Western ideas even while emerging as a counterweight to Western colonial domination.

That, at any rate, is the intriguing point made by Donald S. Lopez Jr., a leading scholar of Buddhism, in his introduction to "A Modern Buddhist Bible: Essential Readings from East and West," just published by Beacon Press and excerpted in the fall issue of the Buddhist review *Tricycle*.

Professor Lopez, who teaches Buddhist and Tibetan studies at the University of Michigan, describes how a handful of cosmopolitan Buddhist intellectuals from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Thailand, Burma (now Myanmar), China and Japan created this modern Buddhism. They were aided, curiously enough, by an American, Col. Henry Steel Olcott.

In 1875, Olcott co-founded, with Helena Blavatsky, the Theosophical Society for the study and propagation of an esoteric religious knowledge drawing on spiritualism, Eastern religions and 19th-century science. Five years later, Olcott and Blavatsky went to Ceylon where he embraced Buddhism and was soon founding a Young Men's Buddhist Association, publishing the first "Buddhist Catechism," trying to unite all the different forms of Asian Buddhism around a common denominator of beliefs and encouraging the leaders and intellectuals who would reshape Buddhism for their time.

Naturally, this new Buddhism presented itself as a return to the authentic teachings of the Buddha. The Buddhism of the Buddha's experience of enlightenment was seen, Professor Lopez writes, as "most compatible with the ideals of the European Enlightenment, ideals such as reason, empiricism, science, universalism, individualism, tolerance, freedom, and the rejection of religious orthodoxy < precisely those notions that have appealed so much to Western converts."

In effect, this modern Buddhism distanced itself from the actual Buddhism surrounding it. It rejected many ritual elements, Professor Lopez writes, implicitly conceding the charges of Western officials and missionaries that Buddhist populations were ridden by superstition and burdened by exploitative monastic establishments: "The time was ripe to remove the encrustations of the past centuries and return to the essence of Buddhism."

That essence was to be found in Buddhist texts and philosophy, not in the daily round of "monks who chanted sutras, performed rituals for the dead and maintained monastic properties."

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# JEST THE FACTS: Church Bulletin Bloopers

Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services.

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Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa!

Announcement in a church bulletin for a national Prayer Fasting Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals."

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands!"

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off. Let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children, and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

During the absence of our Pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth Into Joy."

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the Church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The Lutheran Men's Group will meet at 6 PM. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hospitality.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM. Prayer and meditation to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Mrs. Johnson will be entering the hospital this week for testes.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday, "I Upped My Pledge, Up Yours."

Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."

# TRANSFORMATIONAL PROCESSES TO ASSIST THE DYING

## Changing The World's Perspective of Death and Dying

by ANARA SOLRAY

How can we best serve the needs of the dying as they prepare to return home to the heavenly or spiritual realms? This has become an important concern as our population continues to age and more and more people are faced with their own mortality.



The dying must be provided with the very highest spiritual assistance in order to eliminate the widespread fear of death. Though we have many hospice and end-of-life care organizations throughout the world, there must be a loving service provided that can ease the pre-death passage. Most members of the clergy struggle with their current duties and can't be expected to provide the hours of counseling their congregational members need before they pass from this lifetime. What more can be done? First let's explore the needs of the dying.

Why do people fear death? The majority of our world's population tends to fear the unknown, and death has always been the great unknown. Aside from those who claim to have had near death experiences and have returned to tell about them, does anyone actually know what we will experience after we die? Most of us tend to closely identify with our bodies. As a result, there may be fear and uncertainty about what will happen to us without a body, or a fear that we may cease to exist without one.

Those who are dying could be reminded that we are spirits embodied, or spirits dwelling within bodies. Our bodies can be acknowledged as merely vehicles of expression that serve as a temporary home for our spirits or souls while we are on the Earth.

Many of our dominant world religions that speak about heaven and hell either consciously or unconsciously produce the fear of death among their members. The common, religiously based question that is posed is: Will you have lived a life that has been good enough to enable you to go to heaven, or will you be one who is lost for eternity in the fires of hell? Who wouldn't become fearful at the suggested alternative?

What can be done then to eliminate the fear of death, transcend religious boundaries, and assure those who are dying that they can pass easily and gently from this lifetime -- without fear? Perhaps what is needed is a worldwide network of trained pre-death guidance practitioners. These individuals could provide up to twenty hours of individual service in order to offer comfort to the dying. They could assist the one who is about to depart in viewing their life from a higher perspective, and recalling positive events and loving memories. Any unresolved issues that may arise could be transformed through the power of love, understanding, forgiveness, and compassion.

Pre-death guidance practitioners could help the dying understand that any challenges they have experienced during their lifetime have merely served as a series of lessons for the growth of their spirit or soul. This would allow the participant to peacefully accept their life's challenges and return to a place of true emotional and spiritual healing. They could also bring the dying to the awareness that their lives have had great meaning and value, and that they've made a unique contribution by their presence on the Earth during their lifetime.

Because we all tend to judge ourselves too harshly, the dying could be assisted to love and forgive themselves for anything they've said or done that may seem unforgivable. In addition, this love and forgiveness guidance could be applied to others who have played a part in their life's dramas. For they have merely been the ones who have served to help them learn the lessons they've needed for the growth and evolution of their spirit or soul. The dying could also be encouraged to believe that our Creator is a loving one who does not judge us. For why would we be suscep-

tible to judgment if we have been given the free will to live our lives as we choose?

Pre-death guidance practitioners can be encouraged to embrace all religious beliefs by acknowledging that they all have some value. Thus whether the beliefs of the dying are framed within a religious context or not, the practitioner can allow their client to share what they feel they will experience during the death process. The practitioner is then free to share what they feel will happen from their own personal perspective. This opens the doorway for the optimal death experience to be explored. For how often are the dying allowed the opportunity to talk about what might happen at the time of their death?

Assisting the dying with the spiritual wisdom offered at this level of guidance can offer a simple, yet profound way to change the world's perspective of death and dying. It has the potential to transform any fear of death and provide the blessings of a truly gentle passing.

About the author: Anara Solray, the creator of Gentle Passings Pre-Death Guidance™, is a certified clinical hypnotherapist and regressionist. She is training a worldwide network of certified practitioners in the seven original, transformational processes that offer this deeply meaningful assistance to humanity. She can be reached toll free at 1-866-628-2248, by email at [gentlepassings@infowest.com](mailto:gentlepassings@infowest.com), or you are invited to visit her website at [www.anarasolray.com](http://www.anarasolray.com).

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## Letting Father Show Us the Better Way

A Urantia Papers study by David LeBaron

P.1223 - §4 May I admonish you to heed the distant echo of the Adjuster's faithful call to your soul? The indwelling Adjuster cannot stop or even materially alter your career struggle of time; the Adjuster cannot lessen the hardships of life as you journey on through this world of toil. The divine indweller can only patiently forbear while you fight the battle of life as it is lived on your planet; but you could, if you only would--as you work and worry, as you fight and toil--permit the valiant Adjuster to fight with you and for you. You could be so comforted and inspired, so enthralled and intrigued, if you would only allow the Adjuster constantly to bring forth the pictures of the real motive, the final aim, and the eternal purpose of all this difficult, uphill struggle with the commonplace problems of your present material world.

P.1223 - §5 Why do you not aid the Adjuster in the task of showing you the spiritual counterpart of all these strenuous material efforts? Why do you not allow the Adjuster to strengthen you with the spiritual truths of cosmic power while you wrestle with the temporal difficulties of creature existence? Why do you not encourage the heavenly helper to cheer you with the clear vision of the eternal outlook of universal life as you gaze in perplexity at the problems of the passing hour? Why do you refuse to be enlightened and inspired by the universe viewpoint while you toil amidst the handicaps of time and flounder in the maze of uncertainties which beset your mortal life journey? Why not allow the Adjuster to spiritualize your thinking, even though your feet must tread the material paths of earthly endeavor?

Permitting our Adjuster to fight life's battles with us, does not take our problems away. What our adjuster does is transform our perception and view of things going on. When we see the spiritual side of the things we are going through, the weight seems to become light. With spiritual insight we can easily bear the burdens of the day.

When trials are upon us and confusion sets in, we can ask what could possibly be the spiritual benefit of such troubles? In every moment we can simply ask our Father to join us in the battle at hand. In doing this, inspiration can seep into our thinking. In time we will see with clarity the eternal value of most every thing we do here and now.

(Continued on Page 115)

## Exploration of a mysterious faith

# Pantheism: A Primer

Pantheism defined (from the Principia Cybernetica web site)<http://pespmc1.vub.ac.be/PANTHEISM.html>

(There are many related hyperlinks from this article online.)

Pantheism is the philosophy that everything is God (pan="everything" theos="God") or that the universe and nature are divine

Pantheism is distinguished from panentheism, which holds that God is in everything, but also transcends the Universe. Strict pantheism is not a theism. It does not believe in a transcendent or personal God who is the creator of the universe and the judge of humans. Many pantheists feel the word "God" is too loaded with these connotations and never use the word in their own practice - though they may use it to simplify, or to explain things to theists.

Pantheism has often been accused of atheism, and not just because it rejects the idea of a personal creator God. Strict or naturalistic pantheism believes that the Universe either originated itself out of nothing, or has existed forever. Modern scientific pantheism is materialistic. It believes that design in the universe can be fully accounted for by principles of evolution and self-organization. It does not believe in separate spirits or survival of the soul after death.

Pantheists concerned about personal immortality seek it in realistic ways - through children, deeds, works, and the memories of the living.

Because it shares these naturalistic beliefs with atheism, the arguments for pantheism are the same as the arguments for atheism. Pantheism puts forward exactly the same critiques of transcendental religions and supernatural beliefs as does atheism. It is a secular religion, firmly rooted in the real world of the senses and of science.

This form of pantheism is identical with movements variously called religious atheism, affirmative atheism, Monism, or Cosmism. It is also very close to Taoism, some forms of Chinese and Japanese Buddhism, and neo-Confucianism.

Strict pantheism differs from conventional atheism only in its emotional and ethical response to the material universe. It focuses not simply on criticizing transcendental beliefs and religions, but stresses the positive aspects of life and nature - the profound aesthetic and emotional responses that most people feel towards nature and the night sky.

Naturalistic pantheism draws ethical conclusions from these feelings. Humans should seek a closer harmony with nature. We should preserve biodiversity and the delicate ecological balances of the planet, not just as a matter of survival, but as a matter of personal fulfilment.

Pantheism offers ways of expressing these feelings in ceremonies, celebrating significant times and places which underline our links with nature, the solar system and the universe. All this is possible without retreating one millimeter from the rigorously empirical attitude to reality found in modern science.

There are other forms of pantheism. Modern pagans frequently claim to be pantheists. Those who are concerned with logical consistency regard their various deities as symbolic rather than real. Those who are not so concerned combine pantheism with literal polytheism and belief in magic, reincarnation and other supernatural phenomena.

An alternative, quite common among New Agers, is pan-psychic pantheism - the belief that the universe/God has a collective soul, mind or will. This version was most clearly expressed by Hegel, and in more modern times by A. N. Whitehead and Teilhard de Chardin (see also: process metaphysics).

Another variant is the idea that humans are in some way the mind of the universe (see also: the global brain). Our evolution - indeed our active help - is seen as helping the universe to attain its full potential (cf. Creative Immortality).

# Joao de Deus, the Miracle Man of Brazil

by Josie RavenWing

Josie RavenWing, M.A., M.F.C.C., has been working in the holistic health field since the late 1960s, and she has been a shamanic practitioner for several decades. For the past seventeen years, she has taught workshops in the U.S. and abroad, integrating her psychology background with various shamanic and other spiritual methods. She is the author of *The Return of Spirit* and *A Season of Eagles*, and *The Book of Miracles: The Healing Work of Joao de Deus* about Joao's work. As a singer/songwriter, she has released three music tapes. In addition to offering her Brazil "Healing Journeys" several times a year, Josie continues to teach workshops and lead an annual seven-day "Desert Visions" program.

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**Dawn dances through the gardens of the Casa de Dom Inacio, a healing center located in a small town in the interior of Brazil. A golden blanket of mist hangs over the lush green valley and hills, while the sounds of parrots, roosters, horses, and the children blend in a harmonious morning song. Today, as on many other days in this town, the Spirit world will touch the human world for the purposes of healing and renewal of faith. By evening, a luminous blanket of spiritual power will cover the town, more golden in its quality of divine love than the sun-touched mist at dawn. I know this because I have witnessed it again and again.**

## My Personal Journey

My first spiritual journey to Brazil took place in November of 1998. I went with the goal of spending time with the famous Brazilian trance medium healer "Joao de Deus" (John of God), known by some as the "miracle man." This journey was a logical next step on my path of spiritual training, which has been ongoing for several decades.

Thirty years ago, I began working with a dance shaman, venturing daily into a world rich with healing energies. Later, while broadening my skills as a dance therapist with a master's degree in psychology, I continued to work with shamans and other spiritual teachers and healers from many cultures. Since 1984, Spirit has guided me to create healing dances and rites-of-passage ceremonies for individuals and groups, as well as to teach courses synthesizing various shamanic and spiritual paths.

During the past three decades, I have passed through many intensive spiritual initiations, as well as an occasional spiritual crisis. Nonetheless, a few years ago, I began to feel as if I was preparing to enter some new level or realm of experience, but I had no idea how it would manifest. The waiting period was not easy, although it taught me to remain receptive to whatever Spirit might bring me next. It was during this waiting period that I first read an article about the Brazilian "miracle man" Joao de Deus. I was intrigued by what I read. The article described mind-boggling spiritual healings performed by this trance medium living in a small town somewhere in the interior of Brazil. At the time, I thought the article had come my way so that I could pass it on to a friend who was seriously ill, in the hope that he might experience one of those healing miracles – if only he could get to Brazil.

Unfortunately, I was unable to track down the name of the town before my friend moved on to the spirit realm. Some months later, however, I came across another article about Joao, and this one mentioned the name of the town but not where it was located. After many unsuccessful attempts, my local librarian finally found a thick, dusty old book listing names of tiny towns and villages around the world not included on maps. There I found the name of the town I was seeking – Abadiania – and a description of its location, several hours from the city of Brasilia.

Two weeks later, I was on my way to Brazil, but my journey had actually begun the moment I decided to go. During the two weeks before getting on the airplane, I began having unusual but consistent experiences every time I thought about being at Joao's healing center. I would suddenly begin to feel a hum or pulse of energy that would draw me into a deep meditative state. It wasn't until my arrival at the Casa de Dom Inacio, Joao's healing center, that I would actually be able to identify the source of this energy – but until then I assumed it had to be connected to Joao de Deus.

Although I didn't know any Portuguese at the time, I was fairly fluent in Spanish, which helped me negotiate through the confusion of Brazilian airports, airport taxis, car rental, and road maps, and allowed me to find my way to the little town of Abadiania in the interior of Brazil. As one races along the highway that passes through one third-world town after another, it would be easy to overlook Abadiania, with its typically small houses, basic supply shops, and outdoor market. Set among endless rolling hills that resemble New Mexico during the dry season, and Hawaii – complete with tropical vegetation – the rest of the year, the town is definitely rural, with horse-drawn carts competing with cars and diesel-fueled trucks.

Upon my arrival, the locals knowingly directed me to Joao's healing center, which is several blocks off the main highway and has no signs guiding visitors to it. As I passed through the simple wrought-iron gates of the center, my first impression was of hundreds of people dressed in white, milling about the large parking lot. There were several one-story buildings, each painted white with blue trim, the favored colors for the Casa de Dom Inacio. Surrounding the buildings were some lovely gardens, with benches available here and there for visitors to enjoy the scenery or for meditation.

I was still out in the parking lot when suddenly I saw a man making his way through the crowd – which seemed to part before him. He was around six feet tall, of average build, with slightly long black hair and fair skin. He wore glasses, and he was dressed casually in a tan short-sleeved shirt and slacks. I immediately recognized him from photos in the article I had read, and I realized he was headed toward me.

Joao de Deus came up to me, gently took my hand while looking into my eyes, smiled, and welcomed me to the Casa de Dom Inacio. He then turned around and made his way back through the crowd. I was touched by his greeting, and yet it seemed appropriate – I'd felt a strong connection to Joao and the energies of the Casa ever since making the decision to travel there. It seemed as if we must have met on the spirit plane before my body arrived in Brazil, and he was simply confirming this in the physical realm. Beyond my initial surprise at his personal greeting, I did not experience anything out of the ordinary about Joao's presence at that time. It was only later, when I observed Joao entering his healing trance state, that I realized the energy that I had been experiencing came not from him, but from the healing entities that worked through him.

As it turned out, I had arrived about half an hour before the morning healing session began. Thankfully, within minutes of arriving in this baffling, Portuguese-speaking environment, I met someone who spoke Spanish and who guided me through the various intricacies of the Casa de Dom Inacio, because I hadn't a clue what to do. My orientation included practical information on the physical layout of the grounds, suggestions on how to prepare for the healing sessions, details about the operations, information on herbs and crystal baths, and much more. I later learned that some of these things are explained briefly in Portuguese at the beginning of each

session. However, after having made a dozen trips to the Casa, I've learned that there is a great deal of vital information that is not covered in those orientations, and that traveling with an experienced guide is invaluable for foreigners needing to make the most of their time there.

## **My Introduction to the Work of the Casa**

When I first entered the main assembly hall of Casa de Dom Inacio, I found it to be surprisingly unpretentious: it was just a large room with a small cement stage at one end, a painted cement floor, and various spiritual paintings and photographs – including a few of Joao – hanging on the walls.

The morning session began with brief orientation speeches by several Casa staff members. Then a group of individuals who had been scheduled by Joao for spiritual operations during this session were led out of the main hall to the operating room. The rest of us remained in the main hall, and the Casa staff continued to talk to us.

Then, without any fanfare, the door next to the stage opened, and Joao walked out of a connecting room, leading several Brazilian “patients” and a few staff members who carried trays of surgical instruments and other medical paraphernalia. The patients stood against the wall with their eyes closed while Joao said a few brief words to the rest of us. Then he shifted into his mediumistic trance state and “incorporated” a healing entity. The medium’s face took on a soft quality and his movements became slow and measured, as if he were walking in a body of water. Without administering any physical anesthetic, he began to operate on the patients one by one. Each operation took a few minutes, which is fairly typical, although on subsequent visits I have seen some that took longer and some that took even less time.

The first patient, an elderly man, was seated in a chair. Then Joao, in trance, took a kitchen paring knife from one of the trays, pulled open the man’s eyelid, and began to scrape away on his eye – forcefully enough that I could see the pressure on the eye from some feet away. Bits of tissue were periodically flicked off the end of the knife. The medium then repeated the procedure on the man’s other eye. Throughout the operation, the patient seemed totally relaxed and exhibited no sign of pain. When the operation was over, the man was carried off to the recovery room, where the recipients of these operations are looked after by the Casa staff for several hours.

The next patient was a somewhat plump, middle-aged woman. While she stood with her eyes closed, the medium Joao pulled her shirt up and the waistband of her slacks down a bit, exposing her lower abdomen. He took a scalpel and cut a several-inch incision in her belly – which I noticed didn’t bleed. Then the medium reached in with her bared hand and pulled out a tumor-like mass of tissue. Finally, he took a suture needle and placed three stitches in the incision (still with no bleeding). The woman seemed relaxed – not in pain – and she then was also taken to the recovery room.

Finally, the medium began to work on the third patient, a young man, who also remained standing. The medium took an eight-inch hemostat and pushed it up the man’s nostril until only the round finger-holds of the instrument were showing. Then he began twisting the handle forcefully in circles for about ten seconds. When he pulled the hemostat out of the man’s nostril, it held a small mass of tissue.

Although I have seen this same operation – which I nicknamed the “nose job” – many times since then, it never fails to amaze me. Knowing that the nasal cavity only goes straight inward for a few inches, I am baffled by this operation. Under normal circumstances, pushing a hemostat so far up the nasal cavity would probably puncture the brain. I am always astounded that patients survive this operation – especially with all of the turning and twisting of the instrument – yet I have never seen anyone sustain damage from any of Joao’s operations. Incredibly, the physical location and manipulations of these unusual operations often seem to have nothing to do with the physical problems being operated on. In one case, the “nose job” was used to treat a

man's hernia!

These operations were like nothing I had ever witnessed, and yet on one level, due to the powerful energy emanating throughout the Casa, it all felt strangely normal. It was as if I had landed on another planet that was very different than Earth, yet the entire process was oddly familiar to me, as if due to some mysterious and ancient memory of it.

Once these operations were over, the medium Joao left the stage and went to another room in order to prepare to receive, diagnose, and help the hundreds of people who had come for the morning's healing session. We were instructed to form a line if we wanted to see the medium. When I finally got close enough to see him, I noticed that he was rapidly writing out what I later learned were mostly herbal prescriptions (and sometimes other instructions) and handing them to the people as they filed past him. Although on occasion the medium spoke at length to a few individuals, most interactions lasted only a few seconds.

When it was my turn, Joao looked at – and into – me, told me to come back the next day for a spiritual operation, and handed me a prescription for herbs. I was then ushered into another room where groups of us were treated with a few minutes of a healing energy current. Then we were led outside to the other side of the building where we could buy our herbs.

### **A Lesson in Transmuting Energy**

Later that day, during the afternoon session, I witnessed a number of other “impossible” operations, and I again experienced an unusual current of energy pulsing more and more strongly through me. That night, I was so wired from all I'd seen and experienced that I was unable to sleep, even after most of the other people at my pousada (Brazilian-style inn) were long in bed. I went to the dining room with a book and tried to read for a while.

The restaurant was empty except for the manager and myself, so I asked her if I could smoke a cigarette, hoping to unwind a bit. She said it was no problem. However, I soon realized I had left my lighter in my room. Looking around for some matches, I noticed a candle on a ledge just across the room from me. I went over, lit my cigarette, and sat down again to enjoy it.

No sooner had I taken three puffs than the door to the restaurant burst open in an explosion of energy, and in walked Joao with several staff people from the Casa. Not knowing at the time that Joao smokes occasionally, I immediately put out my cigarette, feeling rather embarrassed to be caught smoking by the famous healer. Joao gave me an intense look, and then sat down with his people at a nearby table.

Uncertain if Joao and the staff wanted the room to themselves for a meeting, I asked the manager if I should leave. She said it was fine to stay, so I sat there, not knowing what to do with myself. Would it be considered rude to go over and say hello? Should I continue reading my book?

Suddenly, Joao got up from his table, went across the room to the candle, raised his hands over it, and began to pray out loud. I sat there almost writhing in mortification, certain that I had just made a major spiritual faux pas, for the ledge where the candle rested was, in fact, a little altar and I'd just lit my cigarette from a sacred candle.

Joao ended his prayers, turned around, and stared at me with another intense gaze. As he stared, he lowered his hand over the candle until the flame was burning against his palm. Then with the fingers of the same hand,

he grabbed onto the candle and lifted it up. The flame – cupped in the hollow made by his palm and fingers – continued burning against his palm. He began to speak directly to me in Portuguese, which somehow I found myself understanding in the moment. My miraculous comprehension was fortunate, as Joao speaks no English. Mostly he talked about the power of transformation and transmutation of energies.

His speech continued for about three minutes. As I sat there dumbfounded, watching the candle burn against his hand, I saw the candlelight within his hand begin to slowly expand until it became a large, white, glowing sphere, about twelve inches in diameter, surrounding the outside of his hand. Finally, Joao finished speaking, put the candle down, and motioned me over. I walked up to him, and he showed me his palm. It was completely unblemished from the flame. All I could see was a faint wavy line from the candle smoke.

Then Joao turned abruptly and went into one of the back rooms to do a healing on someone who was staying at the pousada. It wasn't until the following week that someone explained to me that, from the moment Joao finished his prayers by the candle, he was probably in a state of spiritual incorporation in preparation for the healing.

When Joao finished the healing session and returned to the dining room, he came up to my table and said that I should come back for the next week's sessions at the Casa, and that I should stand close to the stage so that I would have a good view of his surgeries. I agreed to do so, and he left.

I sat at my table, stunned, for some time. Closing my eyes, I slipped into meditation. Almost immediately, a voice began to speak to me, telling me I'd been shown the gift of transmutation of energy, and that as long as I chose to continue to smoke tobacco, I could stop worrying that it would do me any harm. Moreover, I intuitively understood this mysterious gift was at the root of the miraculous healing work that happens at the Casa – where tumors can disappear, incisions can appear spontaneously, and depression can be transformed into joy and peace. I was shown that, although the transmutation of energy is difficult to explain rationally, it is real and intrinsically natural to all of creation. In fact, each of us constantly uses this gift to transmute energy through bodily functions such as digestion and breathing. Spiritual healers somehow have the ability to tap into this gift and even transmit it to others.

After receiving my lesson in energy transmutation, I finally went to my room and lay down to sleep. I immediately entered a lucid dreaming state in which Joao came and spoke to me about many things for about an hour. After this conversation, I slipped into deeper sleep. Thus ended my first day of miracles in Brazil.

## **The Making of a Medium**

Joao de Deus was a young teenager when he began to heal people. Born into a poor family that rarely had enough to eat, he had exhibited some psychic and clairvoyant talents as a young boy. One day in his early teens, more than forty years ago, the young Joao went to a river to bathe, and the spirit of a radiant woman – who later turned into a ball of light – told him to go to a nearby Spiritist center (associated with the teachings of Allan Kardec). Following her instructions, Joao found the center, walked up the stairs, and knocked on the door – and that was the last thing he remember until he came to, three hours later, with a circle of people standing over him. He immediately apologized and tried to reassure them that he must have fainted from hunger and that he would be fine. The told him, “No, you don't understand. You have been healing people for the last few hours.”

Having no recall of what had happened, Joao thought they might be teasing him, but they invited him to stay, have a good meal and stay there the night. The next day, several hundred people gathered at the center, and the director told them that, once again, the spirit of King Solomon was going to heal people as he had done the day

before – through the medium Joao. The young man still had no idea what the director was talking about, but as they began to pray, he slipped once more into a faint, this time aware as he was doing so, left his body, and entered a warm light. Upon returning to his body several hours later, he was informed that miraculous healings had happened through him once again.

The young Joao spent an extended stay at the Spiritist center, where the members explained to him about mediumship, various kinds of noncorporeal spirits, and other aspects of Kardec's teachings, helping him to understand and integrate his spontaneous "initiation" as a trance medium healer. As far as I know, this is the only kind of "training" that he received.

Because Joao's gift had been transmitted directly by Spirit, he was given the spiritual name Joao de Deus – John of God. Since that time, despite persecution from some clergymen, the medical establishment, and others who feel threatened by his work, and despite several beatings, imprisonments and ongoing threats to shut down the Casa, Joao has been used by Spirit to heal millions of people from such diverse maladies as cancer, AIDS, asthma, paralysis, psychological problems, and more.

The spirit – or "entity" – of Kind Solomon continues to occasionally use Joao's body as a medium of healing, but so do more than thirty other primary healing entities. These entities are the spirits of departed spiritual masters as well as doctors, dentists, herbalists, chiropractors, and other healers from many cultures who have chosen to help the human population from the spirit realm. The entities say they do not cure the problems – they heal the source of the problems. Nevertheless, cancers disappear, people with crushed spines begin to move their legs again, and people haunted by mental demons find peace of mind.

To this day, Joao claims to have no recall of what happens when he is incorporated by these various entities. In his normal state of awareness, Joao has no knowledge of medicine – in fact, he had only a few years of elementary school education – and he has to watch the videos filmed daily of his work as a medium if he wants to find out what he has done while in trance.

Joao always begins his sessions by announcing that he has never healed anyone in his life – that it is God who does all the healings. He then offers a brief prayer to the Creator, asking that God's will be done through him. Then, as everyone in the audience says the Lord's Prayer out loud, he closes his eyes briefly. When they open, it is no longer Joao looking out of them but one of the many healing entities that has incorporated in the medium.

On a number of occasions, I have watched Joao closely during the actual incorporation process at the beginning of a session. Sometimes, there is simply a subtle shift as the entity comes into his body. Sometimes, he takes some deep breaths, folds his hands over his solar plexus while bending slightly at the waist, and then straightens up as the entity enters. On occasion, the incorporation is more dramatic, and Joao makes sweeping gestures with his arms and shudders slightly as the entity incorporates. His voice exhibits subtle changes, ranging from soft, gentle tones to loud, forceful expressions, depending on the entity incorporated.

Some entities will identify themselves out loud by name, using Joao's body to speak through; others will not give their names at all. Nevertheless, most of the Casa staff can identify the entities because they have grown familiar with their personalities, facial expressions, ways of moving or characteristic gestures, and with their unique energies. Joao occasionally incorporates the patron saint of the Casa de Dom Inacio – Ignatius of Loyola – although I have only seen this once, for a very short time on the anniversary of his birthday. When on very rare occasions in recent years, Joao incorporates King Solomon, people recognize him through his regal pose as he radiates the most powerful energy of all the entities.

I have learned to identify some of the entities that “show up” most frequently, including Dr. Augusto, who has become my own personal “caseworker,” or spirit doctor. A former Brazilian doctor, Dr. Augusto is very businesslike and he seldom wastes time. He moves quickly, precisely, and forcefully when working. When he communicates, he is usually quite blunt and brusque, although he can be gentle on occasion. I have also learned to identify another regular entity, who refers to himself as Jose (zhov-zay). Often, I can feel his energy even before I see him, and generally has the effect of totally melting me with his warm, compassionate and loving presence.

New entities join Joao’s falange – or band of entities – from time to time. during my stay in November 2000, a new spirit incorporated, identifying himself as Francisco Xavier, and he performed a number of operations during his first few days there. Someone later informed me that Xavier, when alive, had been a close friend and follower of Dom Inacio in the Jesuit order.

It is almost impossible to fathom what Joao’s life as a medium must be like, as he is literally “not there” almost half the time. He dedicates three days a week to his healing work at the Casa, seeing anywhere from three hundred to occasionally several times that many people per day. Sometimes on his “free” days, he travels to other parts of the country, often seeing thousands of people during that time. Then he returns to the Casa just in time to begin the next three days of healing there.

### **The Casa’s Healing Environment**

Joao established the Casa de Dom Inacio over twenty years ago, on the advice of the entities and of the famous Brazilian medium Chico Xavier. The reasons for his choice of location for the healing center became clear the first day that I spent there. The land is highly energized from the massive outcropping of crystals below the surface – a true “power spot.” The local waters are very pure, and it is often recommended, as part of treatments, that people drink bottles of the blessed “agua fluidica” sold at the Casa.

There is a sacred cachoeira – or waterfall – on the grounds of the Casa. Sometimes, an entity will recommend patients go to the cachoeira for healing; at other times, people request the entity’s permission to go there for healing and purification, and to enjoy the large iridescent blue butterflies, the birds, and the lush vegetation that make the place an idyllic haven. Many of the Casa entities apparently like to work through the waterfall and surrounding pool, and numerous people experience profound emotional releases, as well as a sense of the divine and of personal empowerment there.

Most of the people who come to Joao are poor Brazilians who are unable to afford regular medical care. But sometimes there are also upper echelon military and political figures, actors, and other famous luminaries present. Whether one is rich or poor, there is no charge for any of the healing sessions.

As noted before, most people who attend the regular sessions at the Casa are prescribed herbal remedies as they file past the entity. These remedies – available at a nominal cost – are made of various plants that help cleanse and strengthen the body. However, the deeper power of the remedies comes from the spiritual healing energy infused in them by the entities. The herbs provide links through which the entities can continue to work on people after they return home – whether home be in Brazil or elsewhere in the world. Many people in the groups I have taken to the Casa have reported that they continued to feel the healing energy of the entities quite strongly until they finished the last of their herbal remedies, after which the strength of their connection to the entities seemed to diminish.

I have also gotten remedies for friends who were not able to come to the Casa, and they, too, have experienced various healings through the herbs. One woman who had had problems with diabetes and high blood pressure was able to get off her medications within a few days of beginning the remedies. There are countless stories of the long-distance healings performed by the entities through the herbs.

### **The Invisible Operations**

In addition to the prescriptions of herbal remedies, some people are told to have “invisible” spiritual operations. In these operations, most of the work is done invisibly by the entities in the Casa’s “operating room” – a simple room with some benches on which to sit and a few beds for those who might need them. Those who are told to have invisible operations gather at the appointed time in the operating room. There may be anywhere from ten to a hundred people scheduled for operations at the same time. Joao comes in at the beginning of the session, says a brief prayer, and calls upon the healing entities to come and work on everyone. The patients are asked to close their eyes, pray for themselves, and focus on whatever needs healing.

Persons asking for physical healing are asked to each put his or her right hand over the area in need of healing and to meditate on it. Those with more than one ailment – physical, psychological or spiritual – are told to put their right hand over their heart and focus on all the areas needing healing. While people sit there with their eyes closed, the many healing entities of the Casa begin to work on them.

Helpers at the Casa have told me that the entities often operate on anywhere from three to nine areas in a person during each invisible operation. These healings may include the removal of negative spiritual energies, as well as the treatment of other spiritual, psychological or physical problems. Sometimes, the entities operate on problem areas as yet beyond the person’s conscious awareness that could cause serious trouble in the future if not resolved at that time.

Some people who have the gift of “seeing” say they can actually see various entities enter the room and conduct operations. Others merely sense their presence. Some people (myself included) have felt invisible hands moving through the interior of their bodies during their spiritual operations. Others simply feel a sense of peace or an unparalleled purity of love flowing through them. Still others may experience emotional releases during and following their sessions.

At the end of the operations, Joao tells everyone in the room, “You have been operated on; you are healed.” Then the patients go back to their homes or hotels for a required 24-hour rest and recovery period before they are allowed to return to the Casa for further healing and meditation. This rule is for the patients’ protection. When the entities operate on someone, they open that person’s auric field, making him or her extremely vulnerable to picking up negative energies immediately after the operation. The 24-hour recovery rule protects patients from accidentally picking up new sicknesses from the many other patients arriving at the Casa each day.

### **Miraculous Healings**

Miraculous healings are almost commonplace at the Casa. There is a story of an American man who had been blind since birth who underwent a series of invisible operations. For the first six visits, he noticed no results, but he continued to return of faith and on the advice of the entities. During his sixth trip, he was told by the entities that, this time, he would be completely healed. Within several days of returning home from his sixth invisible operation, he began to see.

A Brazilian man I interviewed told me his spine had been crushed by a tractor a couple of years earlier. The

accident had left him with no feeling from the waist down, and his doctors had warned him that he would never recover. After about a year without recovery, he went to the Casa for the first time and had an invisible operation. He decided to stay and receive weekly treatments in the current room, as well as more invisible operations. When I met him, he had been there for about a year. As a result of the work of the entities, he already had regained full sensation from the waist down, was able to move his legs, and he had begun to walk a bit.

At first, the stories sound almost too good to be true. However, I witnessed an American man – whom I later interviewed – receive a miraculous healing following an invisible operation. Due to a spinal problem, his ability to walk without a cane had deteriorated over the prior ten years, and due to increasing weakness in his right arm, he had lost his ability to write. Within minutes of leaving the operating room after his invisible surgery, he threw away his cane, and, with a radiant look upon his face, began walking and running vigorously about, to the delighted applause of all who were present. That night, he was able to write for the first time in years.

It might be tempting to dismiss such cases as psychosomatic in nature, but I have personally witnessed numerous invisible operations that have resulted in scientifically verifiable healings. A woman in one of my tour groups came to the Casa to request healing for serious environmental allergies and resultant weakness. She already had several children, and she wanted more, but she had undergone a tubal ligation some years earlier, afraid to risk another pregnancy due to her illness. When she went through the “first-timers” line the first day, she was told by the entity to have an invisible operation.

Shortly before her operation, she “heard” the entities tell her that she needed to have her tubal ligation reversed, and that doing so would increase the flow of life force energy and help with her overall healing. After she returned to her hotel to rest following her invisible operation, she began to feel a great deal of tenderness over the area of her fallopian tubes. That night, she experienced considerable discomfort, remarkably similar to when she had her tubes tied. She sensed something had happened. The next day, after her 24-hour rest period was up, she returned to the Casa and asked Joao “in entity” if the entities had untied her tubes during her surgery. She was told yes.

By the time she returned to the United States, her overall energy level had greatly improved (and now, almost a year later, her environmental allergies seem to be a thing of the past). The next time she went to see her regular doctor, she requested an X-ray to see if her tubes had been untied, and it confirmed that indeed they had! Several months later, she became pregnant but miscarried. On her next trip to the Casa, the medium told her that her healing wasn’t yet complete, but that after several more sessions, she could carry a baby to full term.

It is difficult to fathom how these invisible operations work – since no human hands touch the patients’ bodies. It is sometimes tempting for us Westerners to explain away these healings as spontaneous remissions, or as extraordinary examples of the placebo effect. Nonetheless, the healings are quite real, and I have interviewed many people who say their healing miracles have been confirmed by medical doctors.

I interviewed a Brazilian man who, prior to coming to the Casa, had been told he had a serious heart problem and that he needed bypass surgery. Because this man already knew of Joao’s work, he told his doctor that he wanted to hold off on the surgery until he went to see a healer. Against his doctor’s advice, he went to the Casa, where he received an invisible operation. Within a few days, he was feeling a great deal better. Upon returning home, he went to see his doctor and told him that he no longer needed surgery. His doctor asked him to at least have an X-ray, to make sure he was okay. When the doctor got the results of the X-ray, he told his patient, “You have already had heart surgery! In fact, you had two operations on your heart, and I can see the stitches in both

places.” Documented healings such as this demonstrate the incredible power of the Casa entities in clinical terms that even medical doctors can’t refute.

Some people whom I have interviewed after invisible operations say they didn’t feel much during the operation itself, but that during subsequent days, they noticed unusual things such as tenderness in the area operated on, a need to sleep most of the day as well as at night, and various emotional ups and downs. Others say they felt the invisible hands of the entities working inside their bodies during surgery – and sometimes off and on over the next few days.

I can personally testify to the power of the invisible operations at the Casa. During one session, I experienced the removal of a large cyst that had been on my chest for several years prior, along with the lifting of some heavy spiritual and psychological energies that had troubled me for a long time. The cyst was there when I went to the operating room. Like everyone else, I simply sat on one of the benches, closed my eyes, and began to focus on the various things I wanted healing for. At one point, I felt a wave of heat and intensely pure love begin to surge through me that caused me to weep for the rest of the operating session. The next day, I noticed the cyst was gone, leaving no mark or scar, and it has never returned in the two years since that day.

Occasionally, people at the Casa report that visible incisions have appeared spontaneously – without their being touched – both during “formal” invisible operations and spontaneously at other times. In one such case, a man was eating medicinal soup after a healing session when he suddenly felt some wetness on his chest. Looking down, he noticed there was a small amount of blood staining his T-shirt. When he lifted up his shirt, he saw – to his amazement – a several-inch-long incision on his chest where the entities has apparently just done a spontaneous invisible operation. I’ve heard of a number of such paranormal occurrences at the Casa, including scar lines showing up after invisible surgeries.

I’ve also experienced a spontaneous invisible surgery. During one stay in Brazil, I had an invisible surgery at the Casa for some back problems. Several days later, I slipped on some wet stones and re-injured my spine, to my dismay. That night, while in bed, I woke from a dream in which the entities were operating on my back. As I awoke, I felt a high level of discomfort in my back, and I began to worry that I was in serious trouble. I lay there praying for help, and after about half an hour, the discomfort suddenly vanished. I then realized that the entities in my dream had, in fact, been giving me an unscheduled invisible operation, and had finished it after I woke up. The operations produced immediate improvement from my back injury.

### **Witnessing “Visible” Operations**

Of those who come to the Casa de Dom Inacio for healing, a few elect to have “visible” operations. Although some visible operations are done on the spur of the moment at the entity’s suggestion, most recipients of these operations have been told by the entity to have a spiritual operation at a particular time, and when that session arrives, either they request a visible rather than invisible operation, or the entity suggests it.

Over the cumulative months I have stayed at the Casa, I have witnessed hundreds of visible operations. Ironically, these visible operations are only slightly easier for the Western mind to grasp than the invisible ones. Typically, the patient is brought onto the small stage in the main room with hundreds of people watching. The entities somehow anesthetize the patient spiritually: no physical anesthetic is given, nor is the patient taken through any kind of hypnosis or trance induction. The entities also somehow use their high healing vibrations to spiritually sterilize the primitive surgical instruments. These instruments receive no other sterilization, and yet there has never been a reported case of sepsis as a result of these surgeries in over forty years.

Once the patient is on the little stage and Joao has incorporated, the entity begins to operate – usually while the

patient remains standing. As I mentioned, during my first day at the Casa, I personally watched Joao scrape eyes with a simple kitchen knife, somehow removing cataracts and treating other eye problems. The patients are awake, and yet they generally feel little or no pain during these surgeries. I have also watched Joao in entity cutting one- to four-inch incisions on the abdomens, backs, breasts and limbs of patients, without them reflecting any pain. In fact, they often seem to be in a state of deep relaxation, or even in a state of trance. Interestingly, some incisions do not bleed at all, while others may shed a very small amount of blood.

### **Demonstrations Science Can't Explain**

One day when I was at the Casa watching these surgeries from a distance, I said to myself, "I wish just once I could be right on stage and observe these operations really close up." Within several minutes, Joao in entity asked if there was anyone in the audience who knew how to sew. My hand shot in the air, and he beckoned my on stage. He had already cut an incision in a middle-aged Brazilian woman's belly but he seemed to be having trouble sewing her up. Strangely, a large, heavy-duty surgical needle already had broken in the process. He told me to try stitching her up myself, and showed me how to place one hand around the incision while holding the needle with the other hand.

As I touched her skin, I immediately noted that it did not feel like normal skin – it was cool and had a rubbery consistency. I later concluded that the entities must somehow be able to pull the blood circulation away from the area of the incision to alleviate the bleeding, and that this accounted for the coolness. In the meantime, I tried to insert the needle through the skin around the incision in order to suture her, but I could not penetrate the skin. I pushed the needle so hard that it started to bow. Afraid that I'd break yet another needle, I stopped pressing, said a little prayer, and tried again several times – to no avail.

Finally, the entity took the needle back and asked for another volunteer. An Italian surgeon, who undoubtedly had performed his share of sutures in the past, volunteered, but he had no more success than I had. As the minimal bleeding had stopped long ago, the entity finally told his assistants to seat the woman – who was conscious throughout, answering questions posed by the medium, and generally alert – in one of the chairs kept on stage for people being operated on, and then to carry the chair with the woman in it to the recovery room, without stitches.

Carrying the patient to the recovery room in this way is standard procedure after these physical operations. The recovery room is a large room with a number of beds where patients can lie down for as long as they need to following operations. Several Casa staff members – often with both spiritual and nursing training – are always present to make sure incisions are bandaged when needed, to talk with people going through emotional turbulence, and to keep an eagle eye on everyone there.

After the woman had been taken to the recovery room, I proceeded to one of the two "current rooms." The latter are large meditation and healing rooms where patients can sit for hours during each session, while volunteer mediums help "hold the space." The entities pour a powerful current of healing energy into those sitting there, and these forces are supplemented by the natural energy surging up from the earth in this power spot.

As I meditated, sitting on one of the many benches provided for us, I asked the entities why no one had been able to stitch the woman up. I received an immediate response in the form of a voice telling me that there was no need for stitches – the entities had stopped the bleeding and were already healing the incision.

When I left the current room, I found one of Joao's assistants who had been on stage during the operation, and I questioned her about the lack of stitches in the earlier operation. She responded in the exact same words as the

voice of the entity had in the current room, but she also added that the entities had wanted to prove to the Italian surgeon that there were things going on at the Casa that medical science could not explain. Since that time, I've seen the entities put on more than one unusual demonstration for medical doctors.

Ron, an American doctor who came to the Casa several times with my groups, was sometimes invited by the medium to witness physical and spiritual operations up close. During one visit, Joao in entity invited him to palpate the abdomen of a woman who was being treated for colon cancer. The entity instructed Ron to feel for a crescent moon-shaped tumor, which he found. Then after doing some invisible energy work on her, the entity had Ron palpate again for the tumor, but it was gone.

Another doctor – a woman – was given a similar opportunity to examine a man after a visible operation on his hernia, and she found no evidence of the hernia. In that case, after an incision was made with a scalpel, a second incision appeared spontaneously below the first, and then disappeared shortly after the surgery was complete.

I must clarify that the term visible surgery is, in some ways, a misnomer. I say this because, although anyone watching can see the entity doing various physical things such as I have described, most of what is really going on is being done invisibly. For example, when the man with the hernia was being operated on, we saw the entity make an incision with a scalpel, stick his fingers into the incision, and do some kind of manipulation for a few seconds. However, the shallow incision did not even penetrate the musculature of the patient, so whatever was being done by the entity deep in the body was not observable to our eyes. Nonetheless, the hernia disappeared.

On one of my recent trips to Brazil, I watched Joao in entity perform a visible surgery to remove a massive lipoma tumor from an English woman's back. The incision he made was quite small, and over a period of about twenty minutes, he used a small forceps to pull out the tumor, piece by piece. Joao in entity told the audience that if the woman had gone to a regular doctor for the surgery, she would have ended up a paraplegic because of the way the tumor had been wrapped around her spine. The woman herself reported afterwards that she could feel the initial incision being made, but she felt no pain as the tumor was pulled out of her back.

An American emergency room doctor, who also had witnessed the entire operation, later told me that it had been done with great skill and that she couldn't imagine a regular surgeon being able to do any better – or maybe even as well. A week later, I spoke to the English woman, and I could see that the small incision was healing nicely and it would probably leave little if any scar. I had an opportunity to speak with the woman again on her next visit to Brazil, and she testified that not only had she felt wonderful since her last visit, but that her third eye had been opening more a result of the ongoing work of the entities.

### **Operations for Spiritual Enlightenment**

During one stay at the Casa, I also saw Joao in entity perform an unusual physical operation primarily for spiritual purposes. The American man being operated on had been heavily involved in shamanic practices for much of his adult life, but he had become disillusioned by various kinds of power games he had witnessed over the years. After withdrawing from shamanic group activities, he had experienced a prolonged period of low energy and developed a cynical outlook on the current spiritual "scene."

During the man's second visit to the Casa, Joao in entity decided to begin doing some major spiritual work with him. During several sessions in the main hall, Joao pushed a several-inch-long steel pin into a point on the back of the man's hand until the pin caused the skin on the palm of his hand to bulge. The American experienced no pain but did feel an intense heat radiating from his hand throughout his body. The entity announced he was

working on a kind of chakra point that would increase the man's overall spiritual energy.

After the second such session, the medium told the American to stand up and "soft focus" his eyes. The man was encouraged to look out at the audience and try to "see" anyone who had a yellowish aura – which apparently indicated a need for healing. Although feeling a bit self-conscious, the American finally selected a Brazilian man, who was called up on stage. Joao instructed the American to put his hands on the Brazilian, which he did, moving them over an area of the man's lower back. The American's body then began to vibrate – strongly and visibly. After some minutes of this, the medium told him to remove his hands from the Brazilian man's back. Joao then asked the Brazilian if he had been having health problems. The Brazilian reported that he had been in a car accident several days earlier and had been experiencing lower back pain, but the pain had diminished significantly once the American had begun working on him. Both men left the stage smiling.

I interviewed the American later that evening about his experience, which was quite overwhelming for him due to the intensity of the heat and energy flowing through him, both during the operation and while he transmitted energy to the Brazilian. The whole experience was quickly restoring him to faith in the world of spirits and spiritual work.

No matter how dramatic the operations are, they are really only a small part of what goes on at the Casa. In fact, sooner or later, most visitors come to the realization that – without negating the obvious benefits of alleviating physical suffering – the ultimate goal of the entities is to strengthen our faith in the spiritual world.

For this reason, a truly vital part of the Casa's treatment program involves sitting in one of the current rooms for several hours of meditation, prayer and healing each day. The current rooms are so named because of the palpable current of healing energy that flows through them. This energy current is sustained by the entities and by a number of volunteer mediums. While sitting in the current rooms in meditation and prayer, people are opened to the healing benefits of the current and the entities.

Many people who have spent time in the current rooms have had visions of Jesus and of the various entities that work through Joao. Others have received information on how to best progress on their life paths, or have received major psychological healing and emotional releases. And again, some people have experienced invisible surgeries while sitting in the current rooms.

Sometimes, the energies of the current are preventative. On one occasion, Joao in entity told an American woman that if she didn't spend hours each day in the current during her stay, she would develop osteoporosis within three years. Others have been told that extended periods in the current rooms would prevent future heart problems. I myself was told recently by the medium that if I hadn't started coming for treatment at the Casa when I did, the increasing impact of past injuries to my spine would have left me unable to walk.

### **Enlisting Volunteer Mediums**

The spiritual energy and power generated in the current rooms is of great assistance to the medium Joao, allowing him to do his work hour after hour as people file by for diagnosis and healing. From time to time, Joao in entity will ask persons who come seeking healing to sit as mediums in the current room. Joao reportedly can "see" the person's energy configuration and gifts, and knows who is spiritually suited to work as a medium in the current room.

Most of the staff people are volunteers who originally came to be healed by the entities and who chose to stay and express their gratitude through this work of charity. As a result of their years of exposure to the healing current and the presence of the entities, many of the volunteers have themselves become mediums. Through their selfless service, these volunteers bear living witness to the fact that the Casa is a house of healing and love.

During one of my visits to the Casa, I asked Joao in entity if the entities could help me become a more effective healer. He nodded and told me to spend as much time as possible in the current rooms. As of June of 2001, I've spent several hundred hours in the current rooms and have experienced visions, "paranormal" awareness and communications, mediumistic training by the entities, and a great deal of personal healing. While sitting in the current room in states of deep trance, I began getting instructions from the entities on various spiritual healing techniques.

On one occasion during my second stay, after the day's session had ended, I remained at the Casa, feeling as if I was waiting for something. Suddenly, one of the women who works as Joao's assistant came up to me and asked if I was a medium. I hesitated, as I had not thought of myself in those terms prior to that time. The woman then went running off, saying she needed a medium. As I sat there, I thought, well, yes, I am a medium of energy and spirits. I mentally chided myself for not having offered to help, and at that moment she returned, grabbed my hand, looked into my eyes, and said, "You are a medium. Come with me!"

It turned out that a young Brazilian couple with a sick little boy (either he was autistic or he had a serious neurological problem, I wasn't sure which) had just arrived at the Casa. Joao had finished his session for the day and was very tired. He had instructed his assistant to find a medium to work on the boy, and stated that he would support the session by asking the entities to help. As I stood behind the boy, with my hands over his head, the assistant began to pray. As she beseeched King Solomon to help, I felt a burning sensation rise up through my feet and spread throughout my body and out through my hands. I have often felt energies moving through me in the past, but never anything of this particular quality. The burning had an ecstatic component to it, and I could feel the power flaming and pulsing out of my hands and into the boy.

At various times during this session, I found myself placing my hands on different parts of the boy's body. The boy, who had been withdrawn and unresponsive before the session, suddenly grabbed one of my hands and looked up into my eyes with the most incredible love shining out of his own. A few minutes later, the session ended and the weeping parents thanked us. King Solomon's energy continued to pulse through me for at least another half an hour, and it took me several hours more to return fully to my body.

### **The Unfolding of My Mission**

During my first trip to Brazil, in November of 1998, Joao in entity charged me with the "mission" of bringing groups of people from the U.S. – or from anywhere else – to witness and experience the healing power of the Casa de Dom Inacio. This invitation took place on the last day of my first stay at the Casa, while I was filing past the entity. Since I knew I was leaving the next day, I had asked the entity for clarity on what my personal mission was for the next part of my life. He looked at and into me for several moments, and then told me my mission was to start bringing groups to the Casa. As I was already thinking along those lines myself, I was more than happy to receive this suggestion and blessing.

During my second trip to Brazil, I took a two-week intensive Portuguese language course so that I could do at least some translating for my groups when I started bringing them. As of June 2001, I've taken ten groups to Brazil on these healing journeys, and I have several more scheduled for 2001. Every time I take the groups – and increasingly each time – I experience an incredible amount of love and grace assisting me in this challenging and rewarding process, which confirms for me that this truly is a large part of my mission at this time in my life. I plan to continue going to Brazil several times a year to introduce people not only to Joao de Deus, but also to other forms of shamanic and spiritual healing work that take place in the area.

Each time I visit the Casa de Dom Inacio, I am struck by the high level of loving concern that seems to develop

rapidly among the community of people who live and visit there. Strangers help each other face life-and-death struggles, emotional upheavals, and the disorientation of being in a new place and sometimes even a new culture. In fact, I have observed that what people receive from their time at the Casa (which I now see as a high-level spiritual “hospital”) is profound spiritual healing and a deepening – or renewal – of faith in the invisible world of Spirit and in the power of the highest love.

Of course, it should not be forgotten that – although the Casa entities do not guarantee cures – many people also receive healings from physical ailments that doctors have given up on curing: blindness, cancer, AIDS, asthma, paralysis, diabetes, and more. Joao himself takes no credit for the healings. He humbly states, day after day, year after year: “Only God heals.” In Joao’s case, God uses a variety of entities to help him do his work.

Having experienced the incredible power and divine love of these beings over the past few years, my faith in the reality of spirits has increased immensely. In my prior shamanic work, I regularly honored and sometimes called upon various ancestor spirits for help in ceremonies. However, my trips to Brazil have confirmed the willingness of spirits – ancestral and others – to work with us in ways I’d never experienced before. As should be obvious by now, my entire life has been spiritually renewed and my ceremonial work has been enriched by my contact with the healing powers and mysteries I have encountered in Brazil.

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## The Stones of the Sea

The words came out.  
I could not hear  
They said the things  
I always feared.  
They thrashed my life  
and turned it round  
and swirled me down  
where I would drown  
In impassioned desire  
from needing you  
else finding strength  
to pull from view  
To sink like stone  
and again be gone  
or strong like rock cliffs  
and freedom’s song

The future will be  
what it will be  
while we go bounding  
on rolling seas

Yearning for soul mates  
we lost in storms  
dreaming of home hearths  
so glowing warm  
A port of peace  
your face in the wind  
radiant with love  
you shine from within.  
Standing upon  
some coastal plain  
face all wet  
in misting rain  
You will open  
your arms to me  
at least in dreams  
that’s what I see.  
I pray each night  
and hope to be  
with you one day  
so powerfully.  
-jim cleveland



Eyes  
Eyes that have seen so little  
and so much  
in a lifetime growing old  
in its familiar place.  
-photo and verse by jim cleveland

# Adjusting to the Times

From: Keitan <moonphase9@yahoo.com>  
Mailing-List: list 7scales@yahoogroups.com

Fires are burning, water shortages are everywhere, executives are stealing... where does it end?

I once belonged to a church in Florida where the spirit of the congregation was alive and the sermons by the pastor were motivating. One of the speeches in particular comes to mind especially in these times. He was talking about the 'end days' and how those of the spirit of Christ would be taken from the hard times in something called the rapture.

The rapture is a topic of debate even within the realm of the charismatic Christian churches. Some pastors believe that the faithful will be taken from the world after the tribulations have started and some believe that the faithful will be taken before the hard times set in.

For me, the rapture of the spirit is not about being taken from hard times, but it is rather about rising above the conflicts that shake the world today, to somehow see the good in the world that still exists.

It is also immature to believe that we could simply escape from the problems of today. Collectively we have all arrived where we are now. We all participated in our own way to the conditions of the world. The obvious hardships of the day makes it completely apparent to us that we can either seize the moment and start being agents of love, or we can fall into the depressive trap of blame and hatred that seems to capture those unwilling to try and evolve into a new way of being.

'Be in the world, but not of the world.' This is a spiritual instruction from an ancient Indian scripture. It means that the world is a play where we are all actors. We interact with each other in our own little mini-worlds in such a way that contributes to maya. Maya is the illusionary world that tries to make us believe that we are nothing more than our body and the material things that make us up as well as everything around us that is perceived in the five senses.

We need to remember that our bodies are simply expressions of our spiritual nature. The flesh and blood that is the habitat of our spirit for the given lifetime is only to be seen as a suit that one day will be shed. And without the eternal spirit that animates our biological body, we are nothing more than a mass of atoms and organs. Once we attain this new perspective in life, then we can see the temporary nature of our body and then have a chance to see God in the true essence.

Be not of the world. Remember that the world is only a material plane that one day will cease to be important for our spirit. But don't detach from the planet. We all have a duty to spread the good attributes of spirit to all those who still are clouded by the times and troubles of the day.

Acting as an agent of God will liberate you from karma and allow you to become a teacher of love and light. This is the highest purpose of being human. When we can do this, then we can step back from the stage of the world and start observing the drama of the play with a detached sense of joy and love, knowing that God has everything under control.

May peace find you and may your heart reunite with God today! Namaste! Keitan

# The Other

by Bob Devine

Self-willed strengthened heart of mine  
Battling arts of another kind  
Manipulator sees the course  
And how it shines with Father's force

Slyly, as a fox might be  
He tries to twist inside the scene  
To make out something less than tall  
More of pride that takes the fall

Battle lines draw out the time  
And take much more inside my mind  
Enter struggles now of major course  
To fight off ego's blazing torch

And how I see this all as just another game  
Trying to take away all that has been given from another  
The Other

The Other is now of me, not hidden  
The Other imprisoned to be set free  
The Other constitutive of reality

Fleeting glimpses past unshadowed  
Has this Other been given into dream

Thought has not known the dissertations offered  
by this Other friend  
Til now

I see within  
A thin line walking ice breaking strides  
To carry a babe to the other side  
Of time

Mine enemy not, nor prisoner more  
I choose The Other and start the war  
Time takes its course regardless of meaning  
While masters of opposing force mark movement  
in my mind

The Other does not fight for me  
Just gives and gives and gives  
While manipulator argues everything  
Challenging the gifts

Ego's illusion of supremacy wanes  
Masters of nothing are blind  
Egos are battles with thought in confusion  
Fighting to take up your time

The Other is steady without deviation  
Master of all that is kind  
The Other uplifts with thoughtful infusion  
Building slow transformations of mind

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## LETTING GOD SHOW THE WAY (Continued from Page 97)

Can our adjuster teach us and show us the better way today? Yes. Many times in my youth there was confusion concerning what was the Father's will. There were always different thoughts coming through the mind. It takes some time to get clear on how the adjuster works. The thing that is most helpful is differentiating between things that feel very right, and things that feel intellectually right. Once things register, they do not always remain clear. Sometimes concepts have to remain for a while before we can make use of them.

When a concept or meaning is registered for the first time, it may not stick. Yet as we become aware of the process, we can differentiate between the registering of meanings and things that come from culture or our former training. It is not important to know how our Thought Adjuster does this. There is value in knowing how we function. There is value in learning about the thought patterns we have. Some of our thoughts and reactions have origin in envy. Other thoughts and reactions have origin in judging others. It can be difficult to stop passing judgement on people around us. The things they do may rub us the wrong way. In the very act of being rubbed the wrong way, we can ask ourselves what is going on?

Being rubbed the wrong way is in essence a choice. We do not have to continue to be upset by our environment or the actions/choices of others. This is something that I am working on. There are so many areas within daily living and choosing that are open for improvement. Every time we choose the better way, we live less in hell and more with our Father. - David LeBaron

EDITORIAL RESPONSE: from Jim Cleveland, Editor At Large

A post from: Dexter Graphic

Subject: Publishing Light & Life vs. Preaching the Gospel

Editors: I think that all your efforts at publishing Light & Life are flawed.

You are burying the simple spiritual truth of man's sonship with God under a stinking heap of mystical nonsense, primitive superstitious, and wildly irrational (unscientific) speculations. I see no point to this. It only confuses and confounds. It obfuscates the one solution which Jesus taught--believe and be saved. Denial and fantasy play no part in the spiritual transformation of the human mind; indeed, they actually interfere with it. Delusion holds people back from learning the lessons of reality--our ultimate teacher. It's like watching TV. You provide distracting entertainment but little real understanding.

JC: Determining whose spiritual path or movement is part of a "stinking heap" would require a lot of speculation since we "Explore the Spiritual Universe." If it is happening significantly on Urantia, we cover it. We are a news and views publication, not a ministry. Maybe it's the Lightworkers and Pleiadian energies you don't like, but they are international in scope and influence. Maybe the Kryon papers, but he transmits to the UN. Maybe the Teaching Mission, but as a transmitter myself for 10 years, I wouldn't go along with that.

We are not wise enough to choose between the huge number of dedicated spiritualists, books and movements out there for inclusion or disdain. If we were to illogically try to eliminate the stuff that is untrue, we would have to eliminate significant portions of the Old and New Testaments to begin with. Let the spirit of truth guide you.

If readers know we are reporting on significant spiritual issues and trends as an objective publication, there is no "delusion" involved. Our readers can and will believe what they want; I believe they find much of our content very interesting and informative about the state of spiritual affairs on our world without thinking we are trying to evangelize them for one cause while short shrifting another.

DEX: There is the light of divine love, the light of intellectual reason, and the light of physical illumination; there is life in the spirit, life as part of a progressive planetary civilization, and biological life. Light & life should be about the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness in mind, body, and soul as an experience of the real world. But from my perspective, most of what you publish is unreal, untrue, and spaced-out like a drug-induced high. You've lost connection with the ground of reality somehow. I think you're making up stories as a substitute for faith. You provide people with illusions to cling to, but in the end they will all fail. There can be no planetary renewal without faith and a wholehearted desire to do the Father's will. The spiritual kingdom needs honest builders willing to trust completely.

JC: I trust in Christ Michael and am a servant in his mission. In serving this mission, we are serving 34 spiritual insights and ideals that are listed on our website. Many of them will be new and illuminating to our readers. The purpose is to develop a mainstream spiritual publication that respects all spiritual paths in quest of God and seeks to bring all together in unity - not uniformity. Like the Urantia Book.

DEX; Please join with me in preaching the one and only life-saving gospel of Jesus: the good news of God's infinite love for each human being.

JC: Spiritual publishing has long suffered from a fragmented mass of advocacy publications that extoll their virtues and give absolutely no consideration to any other ideas. With no objectivity and only regurgitation of

ancient and imperfect scripture written by flawed human beings, there is little opportunity for these publications to provide full discussion of critical religious values and service opportunities in an altruistic light. We will fulfill this need among the masses of hungry spiritual readers who are tired of dogma and are drifting away from dogmatic preaching in favor of a deeper religious experience inside themselves, in communion with the Heavenly Universal Father and a host of celestial helpers. My views anyway. - Jim Cleveland

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## ROOTS OF MODERN BUDDHISM (Continued from Page 93)

The pervasive Buddhist practice of venerating images and relics of the Buddha, which Christian missionaries had considered idolatry, was de-emphasized. Traditional lines dividing monks and lay people were blurred. Important roles were restored to women. The fundamental Buddhist concern to bring an end to suffering now encompassed support for social justice, economic modernization and freedom from colonialism.

Central to modern Buddhism was meditation, an emphasis, Professor Lopez says, that “marked one of the most extreme departures of modern Buddhism from previous forms,” which had made meditation only one of many spiritual activities and not necessarily the highest, even within monastic institutions.

Meditation now became a practice recommended for everyone & also “allowed modern Buddhism generally to dismiss the rituals of consecration, purification, expiation and exorcism so common throughout Asia as extraneous elements that had crept into the tradition,” he writes.

The emergence of modern Buddhism, as Professor Lopez describes it, played out a little differently in each Buddhist land. It did not touch Tibetan Buddhism, for example, until the Dalai Lama left Tibet and interacted with a Western audience.

Professor Lopez also notes that this idea of periodically reforming Buddhism from inevitable decline by returning to its roots was found within the tradition itself. But a Westerner reading this history cannot help but think of another religious response to modernization, the Protestant Reformation, with its claim to restore a pure primitive Christianity, its emphasis on equality rather than hierarchy and its rejection of sacrament and ritual in favor of individual piety and introspection.

Protestant as well as Enlightenment ideals were of course very much part of the Western modernity that these Asian Buddhist thinkers were coming to terms with. After all, the British arrived in India, where Buddhism had begun and once flourished, centuries after it had died out there. So they found “Buddhist texts, artifacts and stupas,” Professor Lopez said in a phone conversation, “but no Buddhists.”

Thus Buddhism, he said, was a screen on which Europeans could project many of their own notions: the British in India, for example, sometimes calling the Buddha the “Luther of India” because he had supposedly challenged the Vedic priesthood and its rituals just as Luther had the Catholic priesthood and its sacramentalism.

Not only did British ideas of Buddhism reflect Victorian anti-Catholicism, he said; sometimes they carried a whiff of anti-Semitism, too: Buddhism could be admired because, unlike Judaism, Christianity and Islam, it had no Semitic origins.

Professor Lopez, it should be emphasized, is not questioning the authenticity of this modern Buddhism; he wants to give its creators, who have often been dismissed by scholars, their due.

Of course, his account does give the lie to the idea that the Buddhism the West & even some of the East & now knows is the one true Buddhism, rather than one of the many Buddhisms that have evolved as an ancient teaching has interacted over two millennia with different cultures. But that idea should be disturbing only to those who believe that great religious traditions can remain immutable and untouched by history.

# LOVING GRACE BY ME

by Jim Cleveland

I know there is a place up in the Heavens  
peaceful goodness in a land for you and me  
but I need you now, Father.  
I need your loving grace by me  
Upon this wasteland of the innocent and the  
guilty and the free  
Now, Gracious Father  
In this hour, in this minute that won't agree  
May I have your loving grace by me?

There is no place on earth like the Heavens



Gethsemani Monastery Cross in Trappist, KY.  
Photo by Jim Cleveland

and peace and goodness are very difficult to  
see  
that's why I need you, Father  
I need your loving grace by me.  
within these sin-swept canyons of the  
suffering family tree  
Now, Heavenly Father  
In this hour, in this minute that won't agree  
I really need your saving grace by me.

One day our dust will blow across the plain  
and under Heaven be just memories.  
but I will still need you, Father  
to shine your loving grace on me.  
On the sparkling shores of knowing, feeling,  
being, with goodness free  
In splendid seconds that smile in full degree  
I will always need your loving grace by me.

Now is the time to live  
Now is the time to give  
to make our own Heavenly destiny  
Now is the hour  
Now is the minute  
to find the Loving Grace of Spirit Free  
in the Holy Mother's bosom  
with the Father's gentle hand  
and to shine it back in service  
that's the key  
to feel the light of loving grace we need.

Visit us at [lightandlife.com](http://lightandlife.com) for a myriad of spiritual explorations, including  
three periodicals and the complete Urantia Book.

