THE *Cight and Cife* JOURNAL ISSUE 6 -WINTER 1998-99





THE *Eight and Eife* journal OFFERINGS WINTER 1998-1999

Our major exploration is *Jesus of Urantia*, going beyond the scriptures, beyond Pauline Christianity, beyond the ages into the present day, during which his celestial legions work to reclaim this World of the Cross where he was incarnated as the Son of Man. Inside, see:

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We are an independent publication dedicated to the educational and entertaining exploration of planetary faiths, religions, and spiritual movements, especially in their relationships to each other, and to the current evolutionary changes on the Earth and in its societies. Opinions of writers are not necessarily those of the publisher. In fact, we encourage respectful but candid debate of cutting edge spiritual issues and welcome your submissions and letters of reply. The Journal officially believes in the Urantia Papers as a foundation of spiritual truth, but not the only source. Truth can be most readily found through a close personal relationship with God but can also be found in other inspired works, even in the next person you meet.

2/ Those who go in search of God may be assured that God has already found them.

<u>MAJOR EXPLORATION</u>

Jesus Who was he and what was his real message?

by JIM CLEVELAND

There are still major misunderstandings concerning the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of the most impactful spiritual personality in the history of our world.

Who was Jesus? Who is Jesus -- today?

Is Jesus our father or brother? Is Jesus the son of God or a son of man? Do all paths to God lead through Jesus? I believe every answer is 'yes.' I believe that the full reality and glory of Jesus, beyond the limitations of scripture or legend, is much much greater than anyone can imagine.

A greater discovery of this deeper reality of Jesus is coming to our planet in these eventful times. The discovery will lead to a far greater worldwide appreciation of the successes and example of a celestial monarch who has empathetically shared life with us in the flesh.

The Christians have gotten a lot wrong, thanks to Paul's ideas. It never made that much sense to me that our sins were so horrendous that a God incarnate like Jesus would have to come down here and sacrifice himself for them.

From an early age, I found too many dichotomies at work in the Christian faith to accept it seriously after awhile. I knew that God would have better ideas than the guilt and lament that the Baptists and Catholics would thrust upon us.

I came to believe that the Scriptures just had it wrong, that God is not an angry and vengeful taskmaster, that there is a deeper reality to God as well, rooted in love,mercy, compassion and the generous with the glory of adventure, as in the creation of many varied worlds of time and space.

I found this philosophy in the Urantia Papers. They crystallized many ideas that I had come by through meditation, inquisitive searching within,, and asking God for assistance -- asking for clarity, for knowledge, ultimately hoping to achieve a feeling of peaceful security in my life..

The papers do take this high road. They explain who we are and our place in the universe. They neatly synthesize science, philosophy and religion into a reasoned wholeness, and in a unified and non-contradicting 2,100 page expression of such timeless beauty that it will be re-read for pleasure and edification centuries from now. In fact, many readers believe it is not intended for this generation at all, and will be of greater service in future generations because of its complexity and the frankness with which it deals with such touchy subjects as race, genetics, gender, Jewish history, and Christian dogma.

In parts one through three of the published Urantia Book, we learn about the superuniverse, the local universe of some 1,000 planets, and the history of our planet of Urantia. Major topics indeed. But the most important papers are the ones about Jesus because they deliver a powerful philosophical message that can guide our lives to spiritual salvation.

We receive a brilliant, in-depth presentation of Jesus and his life and times, a recounting so poignant, beautiful and illuminating that one

MAJOR EXPLORATION

wonders that it isn't embraced by all collective humanity. Such is not the case -- yet.

In 1999, the Urantia Papers represent only something of a footnote to the burgeoning spiritual ferment now on the planet. There are more exciting and visible movements. But in the seeds of this truly epochal revelation of text and the recent in-surge of celestial personalities to teach from it, we see some truer perspectives on the incarnation of Jesus that the dogmatists and new agers alike are missing.

We learn, for example, that the path doesn't matter nearly as much as the spiritual attitude. Even if all the religions fell, God would remain present inside each and every one of us anyway. If we will but nurture contact with this indwelling spirt and make it grow, we will find spiritual peace. Additionally we will be pleased as we develop a stronger bond with the indwelling Spirit of Truth that Jesus left with us at Pentecost.

The churches are secondary to this personal religion, the knowingness that we are each indwelt children of the One God, who can become loving expressions of spiritual values in our own lives, wherever we ar.

Beyond dogma or scripture or socializing and sharing manmade institutions, we must know that God is a quiet still voice inside us, always available to us. While on Earth/Urantia, Jesus represented the Universal Father's wisdom from within by loving Jew and Gentile and Samaritan alike. He knew that God's spirit seeks to indwell every man and woman, and will do so simply for the asking. His message was a further enlightenment of God as a loving, compassionate parent who desires a relationship with each of his human children.

While in the flesh, Jesus showed us the way to live and die nobly, all the while experiencing the 4/ Fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

same trials in life that we do. He showed us that death was safe for us by his glorious resurrection. While on his earthly sojourn, he went to the Universal Father for sustenance and energy -- in the Stillness. At the end of this sojourn, he had triumphed not only over his human oppressors but also over the powers of evil by terminating the Lucifer Rebellion in his local universe and asserting his full right to rule this universe of his creation.

I now believe, as do the Urantia Papers, that this experience as Jesus the Son of Man is too neglected in the mythology of scripture that we know today, and which grew up many years after Jesus the reality, the Son of God and Son of Man incarnate in one being, had departed the planet.

The real reasons he lived and died have been mostly lost in his deification of humanlyauthored narratives that came many years later, works that were tainted by the mythological baggage that always endures.

Jesus brought a brand new truth. God as the Universal Father, a grand parent of wisdom, justice and love, the truth that we are redeemed by faith and service to this ideal. And this is true for all mankind, not just Jews or Palestinians but all, even Romans and Greeks and Egyptians and Samaritans and Serbians and Zulus too. How much of this message seems to have been missed in these days of ethnic and racial hatreds?

Christians have much philosophy that is right on target, but deviate from the Urantia papers in the admonition that Jesus died for our sins, ransomed by the Father who allowed him to be humiliated, tortured and killed as blood sacrifice payment for our collective and individual sins. Our associate editor, Marty Greenhut, has much to say about this fictional atonement in another essay based on the Urantia text.

Of course, the Apostle Paul, of course, had every reason to be on a guilt trip, but I don't think he meant to take us along for the ride by having his

letters to the far-flung churches revered as Holy Scripture. Paul was human, like us all, in many ways limited by his place in time, and his ideas should never be adopted as holy.

Neither should we take as holy writ the other New Testament books written by various friends of friends and scribes of mentors, and invariably turned and bent to the dogma of the people who owned the pens and paper.

So you can seeby this exposition that I believewe must get beyond scripture to discover the truest Jesus. We should not deify what people have written and deemed holy. We must not worship the Word, written by a humankind which unconsciously places itself above God. The Universal Father is of a far greater, deeper reality than words on paper, no matter how reverent some Christians are to this textual symbol. Jesus told us all of this in the fuller revelation of the Urantia papers, and every human of earth would do well to read it, not to replace any religion they ascribe to, but to enhance it with some greater truth.

The Urantia Papers dramatize the life and service of Jesus in a way that collects and synthesizes his wisdom, even while following his incarnate adventure in the flesh to triumphant conclusion -- Resurrection! As such, it is a grand adventure story that can simply be read for enjoyment. As you read it, you may sometime come to believe, as others do, that it is indeed what it says it is -an epochal revelation.

Should you feel enlightened by the ideas and perspectives of this central character of Jesus, then you can consider believing the story, and consider believing that the book is a major spiritual revelation. But it is not required that you believe anything. There is no Urantian religion and the papers suggest that we find the commonalities in all spiritual paths that promote Truth, Beauty and Goodness, thereby supporting any and all of our evolutionary religions in their quest to know God. For many readers, it requires years of study to come to a realization of the well-rounded perfection of the text. Other readers lose interest along the way and stay with what is comfortable. In either case, this does not impede one's soul progress. False teachings that one truly believes in the search for God will not doom one to failure. The realizations which do not come to you in this imperfect, evolving mortal life will be imparted to you in the beyond, further up your ascension path, which is designed individually for each of us, according to our level of understanding and our special needs.

One can find a deeper level of understanding about Jesus, the incarnation of our Lord of the Universe, in the Urantia Papers, and hopefully in this issue as well, with several writers expressing their ideas. Importantly, we hear from the Jesus of today, Christ Michael of Nebadon, Creator Son of God, creator and ruler of our local universe, who was our elder brother in the flesh as the Son of Man and Son of God incarnated in one being.

We hear transmissions from Michael from places as farflung as Idaho and Nashville, Cincinnati and Woods Cross, Utah, at conferences in California and the Pacific Northwest.

We hope you enjoy this special tribute issue to "Jesus: Beyond the Scriptures" and the rest of our offering #5 as well. Love to all. jc

Urantia Book: P.1541 - §4

That afternoon, which they spent together, Jesus fully instructed them concerning attendance upon festive gatherings, concluding his remarks by saying: "All men are my brothers. My Father in heaven does not despise any creature of our making. The kingdom of heaven is open to all men and women. No man may close the door of mercy in the face of any hungry soul who may seek to gain an entrance thereto. We will sit at meat with all who desire to hear of the kingdom. As our Father in heaven looks down upon men, they are all alike. Refuse not therefore to break bread with Pharisee or sinner, Sadducee or publican, Roman or Jew, rich or poor, free or bond. The door of the kingdom is wide open for all who desire to know the truth and to find God."

5/ There is no time for doubt and fear, when you keep the essence of Jesus near. -- JC

BONDING WITH JESUS: A Personal Relationship

by ANGUS BOWEN Associate Editor

Having been raised in the more traditional Christian

fashion, I have always found Jesus the most compelling person I've ever heard about. The marvelous stories in my early Sunday School classes, especially the graphic stories depicted and told on a felt board, drew my attention to Him like a moth to flame.

The songs we sang about Him made Him even more appealing: "Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong. We are weak but He is strong." Who could ask for a more genuine hero than someone who is strong and who loves you? Especially if you're a little one."

As the years passed my interest in Jesus and His Father, God, continued but the message moved from the Sunday School class to the Pulpit. From behind the pulpit there came a much more serious message, full of admonitions. I cannot recall precisely when it occurred, but the threat of Hell and eternal damnation in a lake of fire crept into the messages I was receiving at church.

When I was seven, my family moved into the city. The family'sinterest and activity with the small town church dwindled because of the long drive involved. But my interest in Jesus and His Father, God, did not dwindle. Although I didn't attend a church regularly for the next seven years, I cherished my times with my cousin with whom I'd sit, draw pictures and discuss God, Jesus, heaven, hell, the stars, UFO's, aliens, and the entire realm that occupies the curiosity of a prepubescent boy.

Then one day, nearing the end of the school year as a sophomore in high school, a classmate came over to my desk and asked me about my relationship with God and His son Jesus. I can't remember what I said, but it was the first time anyone had talked to me about such things, besides the discussions I had always carried on with my cousin.

As a result, I took him up on his invitation to come to his church and try out the Sunday School class and the church service. I liked it immediately. And within a week or two I was prepared to "accept Jesus as my personal saviour." A time had been arranged to meet with the Pastor of the Church, a Wednesday night, after the Prayer Meeting, and that was when I would "accept Jesus." Up to that time I had heard about heaven and hell but until that time I had never had it so explicitly pointed out to me that I would be going to one of those places when I died. It was explained that the only way to insure that I would not go to hell, and instead go to heaven, was to be "saved." It was easy for me to accept that premise.

The appointment to be "saved" was three or four days away. I remember vividly the night I lay in my bed, scared to death that I would be run over by a truck or that some other tragedy would befall me and I would die before my appointment with the Pastor to be "saved." So, without knowing the difference and in a spirit of total naivete, I said, "Jesus, I am afraid that I won't live until Wednesday night...and I do not want to go to hell. If I can be "saved" right now, without having the Pastor to help me, then I want to be "saved" right now."

Imagine my complete and utter amazement when suddenly I felt this warm tingling sensation sweep over my entire body. I had no idea what was happening. It took my breath away and brought tears to my eyes. I lay there, swept up in this emotional moment, still without a clue as to what was happening, let alone whether I was saved, or not. I just knew I hadn't gone through the "proper" procedure to be saved. But I have never forgotten that moment.

It wasn't until I met with the Pastor, Wednesday night, after Prayer meeting, and went through the proscribed process, that I knew. The ritual I performed with the Pastor was flat. It was disappointingly unemotional and anticlimactic. It was then that I knew I had been "saved" three nights earlier in the privacy of my own bed.

I went on to become one of the more active kids in the high school Bible Club and the area Youth For Christ organization. I was completely consumed in church activities for the next two years and then went on to a Bible School with plans to enter the ministry in some fashion, preferably with young people.

Over the two years I attended that school I became increasingly uncomfortable with the haunting fact that the hierarchy of the school, and of the church back home, were only allowing me to go but a very slight distance away from what they were teaching. In my gut I sensed there was more. I had given myself, 100% to God, and yet I wasn't being "allowed" to go where it seemed the spirit was leading me. I had mixed feelingseven a spiritual

6/ In my Father's house, there are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you. - Jesus

conflict...brewing inside me when I went home for the summer of '62.

It was at this time that circumstances prevented me from returning for my third year at the Bible Institute. I also discovered that I was esceptionally vulnerable to the draft, so I enlisted in the U. S. Air Force with all intentions of becoming an illustrator. It took the sergeant five seconds to blow that idea away and he then proceeded to "choose" my career field for me. The Air Police.

Since I couldn't fathom the idea of being an "air cop," I explored the idea of becoming a Chaplain's Assistant, since their Tech School barracks were right next to mine. After a flat "no," from that School's Officer in Charge, I persisted and, thank the Lord, I was accepted into the Chaplains' Assistant School and served 2 1/2 years as a clerk typist for chaplains.

It was a fortuitous occurrence because in the time I spent working closely with chaplains from all faiths, I discovered that all of them were basically saying the same thing, yet none of them were willing to admit it.

I look back now and realize this was part of God's plan. He had allowed me to be exposed to the many varieties of interpretations of religious belief surrounding Him and His Son, Jesus. The realization that I came to, on my own, was that these people were all carbon copies of each other, save the nomenclature.

Over the next 20 years I explored all kinds of religious beliefs and philosophical offerings. None of them struck a harmonic chord with me.

The biggest missing link in all of those other belief systems was Jesus. I wondered how any belief system could be complete if it didn't include the Son of God. I was convinced that Jesus was also the Son of Man and that He walked and talked and died on the surface of the very planet I occupied. So, without the truth essence of Jesus, all attempts at finding something fulfilling, left me disinterested.

And then it happened. 1973. I discovered the Urantia Book. It was like giving water to a man dying of thirst. Everything, I mean everything, and much, much more, that I had ever sensed about Jesus and God and the whole of creation was all right there in the Urantia Book. descriptions and explanations of the universe..of deity...the spirit... the scientific revelations and how it all worked, the most important part of the Urantia Book was the section on Jesus.

At last I had found something undeniably revealed by a "higher power" and it included Jesus. Even more impressive to me was that it was the Jesus I had always suspected Him to be, deep down in my heart of hearts. Jesus the man, Christ Michael the Creator Son.

Who is this man? What are His most important teachings? He is the most significant man to ever grace our planet. You can ignore the fact that He is the ruler of our Universe. You can slip past His resurrection. You can forget His miracles. Albeit, His bestowal, if fully comprehended, is understandably an event that still resonates, and will forever, throughout the Universe. Albeit, His resurrection was the most incredibly revealing event in recorded Urantian history. Albeit, His miracles will go unexplained for ions and ions.

Take all of those grandiose realities away and you'll discover that themost important teaching this man Jesus brought to us is the fact, the truth, the reality of our individual, personal relationship to Him and His Father. Without the establishment of that unique relationship, we would have another belief system lying lifeless on the shelves in the library of religious inquiry.

A religion, a spiritual endeavor, a belief system has to have the demonstrative ability to actualize a personal bond between man's Creator and himself. It is exactly the experience I had, as I lay there in my dark bedroom on a warm June night, in 1958. The moment is forever crystallized in my heart, mind and soul.

And after 20 years of searching and exploring everything I could find, it was that moment, frozen in time, that served as my personal benchmark of true religious experience. In that one moment, isolated from all exterior influence, in a state of total innocence, without any expectations, I reached out for Jesus... and He reached back to personally acknowledge me.

It was the epitome of absolute personal communion between the believer and the Creator, and is why I think it was Jesus' most important message.

Although I was drawn mostly by the incredibly finite

7/ Labor earnestly to save the whole family lest a man's foes become those of his own household. -- Jesus.

The True Nature of Jesus

With the coming of the new Millennium, doomsday and armaggedon admonitions will continue to fill the air. Some even suggest a time of celestial testing, to see if we are truly worthy of ascending to Heaven in the final judgement. Is God, the Universal Father, and his Son, Jesus, concerned with administering such heaven or hell testing of mortals? In ridiculing the idea suggested by an emailer, RICK GILES uses the Urantia Papers to reveal details of the true nature of Jesus in his earthly incarnation.

This is NOT a teaching of the Urantia Revelation:

>The reason is simple. He planned for the Devil, (Caligastia), to have room to exploit human kind. Part of that liberty included the pretense of the Devil being his Creator, as Christ, or whatever. Jesus is using this technique to screen the human race. Who will respond correctly in their hearts, and who will go chasing such deception?<

Here are some comments and passages that show how incompatible this belief above is with Jesus' own teachings

Paper-140 Section-8 Para-2 - Page-1579 Line-22 Para-5 He summarized his instructions up to that time regarding these matters, as: Love your enemies—remember the moral claims of human brotherhood. The futility of evil: A wrong is not righted by vengeance. Do not make the mistake of fighting evil with its own weapons. Have faith—confidence in the eventual triumph of divine justice and eternal goodness.

Jesus would never "use" Caligastia to screen the human race. That would be fighting evil with evil (Caligastia). If we remember the story of the Prodigal Son and the Lost Sheep we quickly realize that Jesus' nature is desirous of winning back his lost Caligastia and extending love to any of his wayward sons than he is of tricking us into deception.

Paper-188 Section-4 Para-8 - Page-2017 Line-11 Para-3 When once you grasp the idea of God as a true and loving Father, the only concept which Jesus ever taught, you must forthwith, in all consistency, utterly abandon all those primitive notions about God as an offended monarch, a stern and all-powerful ruler whose chief delight is to detect his subjects in wrongdoing and to see that they are adequately punished, unless some being almost equal to himself should volunteer to suffer for them, to die as a substitute and in their stead. The whole idea of ransom and atonement is incompatible with the concept of God as it was taught and exemplified by Jesus of Nazareth. The infinite love of God is not secondary to anything in the divine nature.

The false concept that Jesus is out to purge the human race by setting Caligasatia loose to abuse Jesus' own human children/brethren is barbaric. No healthy human parent would set their own child before peril and danger in order to purge the family of any child who couldn't withstand the threat.

Paper-188 Section-5 Para-1 - Page-2017 Line-47 Para-10 The cross of Jesus portrays the full measure of the supreme devotion of the true shepherd for even the unworthy members of his flock. It forever places all relations between God and man upon the family basis. God is the Father; man is his son. Love, the love of a father for his son, becomes the central truth in the universe relations of Creator and creature—not the justice of a king which seeks satisfaction in the sufferings and punishment of the evildoing subject.

Paper-141 Section-4 Para-1 - Page-1590 Line-25 Para-5 While sojourning at Amathus, Jesus spent much time with the apostles instructing them in the new concept of God; again and again did he impress upon them that God is a Father, not a great and supreme bookkeeper who is chiefly engaged in making damaging entries against his erring children on earth, recordings of sin and evil to be used against them when he subsequently sits in judgment upon them as the just Judge of all creation. The Jews had long conceived of God as a king over all, even as a Father of the nation, but never before had large numbers of mortal men held the idea of God as a loving Father of the individual .

Unfortunately even today we see teachings barren of the love of the Father, the prime teaching of Jesus. And since Jesus said "he who has seen me has seen the Father," he likewise would not subject himself to the evil of ambushing his children so as to purge the weak. He would rather hold up the progress of his entire universe in order to minister to any weak, wayward, or ignorant soul.

8/ If you are ordained you must be willing to forsake all. The gospel messengers cannot have divided affections -- Jesus

FAMILY IS THE PIVOTAL TRUTH. Jesus is not the judge of an audition in which he is looking for ways to make you fail the try-out, even less would he EVER send someone else in to cause you to slip up.

Paper-54 Section-4 Para-2 - Page-616 Line-3 Para-1 Parents, those who have borne and reared children, are better able to understand why Michael, a Creator-father, might be slow to condemn and destroy his own Sons. Jesus' story of the prodigal son well illustrates how a loving father can long wait for the repentance of an erring child.

Paper-142 Section-7 Para-4 - Page-1603 Line-34 Para-6 He next explained that the "kingdom idea" was not the best way to illustrate man's relation to God; that he employed such figures of speech because the Jewish people were expecting the kingdom, and because John had preached in terms of the coming kingdom. Jesus said: The people of another age will better understand the gospel of the kingdom when it is presented in terms expressive of the family relationship-when man understands religion as the teaching of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, sonship with God." Then the Master discoursed at some length on the earthly family as an illustration of the heavenly family, restating the two fundamental laws of living: the first commandment of love for the father, the head of the family, and the second commandment of mutual love among the children, to love your brother as yourself. And then he explained that such a quality of brotherly affection would invariably manifest itself in unselfish and loving social service.

Even as a young boy he understood this truth. How sad it is to attach such a heinous belief onto the beautiful and advanced teachings of Jesus.

Paper-125 Section-0 Para-6 - Page-1378 Line-6 Para-1 Though many of the temple rituals very touchingly impressed his sense of the beautiful and the symbolic, he was always disappointed by the explanation of the real meanings of these ceremonies which his parents would offer in answer to his many searching inquiries. Jesus simply would not accept explanations of worship and religious devotion which involved belief in the wrath of God or the anger of the Almighty. In further discussion of these questions, after the conclusion of the temple visit, when his father became mildly insistent that he acknowledge acceptance of the orthodox Jewish beliefs, Jesus turned suddenly upon his parents and, looking appealingly into the eyes of his father, said: "My father, it cannot be true-the Father in heaven cannot so regard his erring children on earth. The heavenly Father cannot love his

children less than you love me. And I well know, no matter what unwise thing I might do, you would never pour out wrath upon me nor vent anger against me. If you, my earthly father, possess such human reflections of the Divine, how much more must the heavenly Father be filled with goodness and overflowing with mercy. I refuse to believe that my Father in heaven loves me less than my father on earth."

Paper-2 Section-6 Para-6- Page-41 Line-25 Para-4 The affectionate heavenly Father, whose spirit indwells his children on earth, is not a divided personality—one of justice and one of mercy—neither does it require a mediator to secure the Father's favor or forgiveness. Divine righteousness is not dominated by strict retributive justice; God as a father transcends God as a judge.

Jesus' Spirit of Truth is here to lead you into truth. His love is the love of the Father as given by this divine son. In no way can the wicked idea that Jesus is out to deceive us with Caligastia ever find a place alongside his spiritually fragrant and true teachings. "Who will respond correctly in their hearts, and who will go chasing such deception?"

Jesus on God and the evil one

also posted by Rick Giles

Paper-148 Section-6 Para-11 - Page-1664 Line-27 Para-3 Then Jesus made this final statement: "The Father in heaven does not willingly afflict the children of men. Man suffers, first, from the accidents of time and the imperfections of the evil of an immature physical existence. Next, he suffers the inexorable consequences of sin-the transgression of the laws of life and light. And finally, man reaps the harvest of his own iniquitous persistence in rebellion against the righteous rule of heaven on earth. But man's miseries are not a personal visitation of divine judgment. Man can, and will, do much to lessen his temporal sufferings. But once and for all be delivered from the superstition that God afflicts man at the behest of the evil one.

9/ Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will they both not fall into a pit? -- Jesus via Luke 6.39-40

MESSAGES from JESUS as CHRIST MICHAEL in visits across the USA

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho/November 1997

My beloved, some of you have sought me because of a sense of duty, to find who I am and to fulfill the will of our Father as I have portrayed this to you. In the course of your sense of selfless obligation you have been richly rewarded with personal gifts and gains in wisdom and light and love. Others of you have approached me because of the hunger to know who you are, your place in life, to be fulfilled in the sense of belonging, and you have been richly rewarded with a relationship with the Father and with many other beings. This two-way avenue of seeking and receiving will always be the result even when you perchance are oriented with but a single intention. There will always be reflective ramifications that will not merely fulfill your needs but amply rebound to establishing in you abilities and further curiosity that will propel you into broader, deeper, and higher potentials for not only self growth, but for universe action.

Woods Cross, Utah

I AM here. I am among you. I am your Sustainer Brother Father—Michael. How I do receive joy when my beloved children allow me my place in sustaining them. How touched am I to see the trust my children still have in me. I know, as you know, the world is harsh and can seek to remove your light. I can understand the hope that has been lost over these many years. I also ache and weep for those who would not have me or my Father.

I have been commissioned to upgrade and enlighten the mortal minds of this world. My work now is no less important as it was two thousand years ago. In this age though, my work is more difficult - for there are so many children who have learned to mistrust or disbelieve or to turn away from unseen blessings in favor of false material securities. I have rallied my forces the trumpets have sounded. I have rolled up my sleeves ready to be about the Father's business. This Correcting Time is occurring.

There are major changes made every day, albeit, unknown to you, they do happen. Events that appear to be negative are certainly for the greater healing of the planet — of the worlds people. I do ask that those who serve in this mission allow me to provide buoyancy. It is imperative that I am relied upon to sustain you in the waters of mortal living. As you trust, I become more of a reality on this world. As you muster the courage to go through the living waters will you find me there, as if I had always been there.

My children work diligently and need at times rest and to trust that I will provide sustenance for them. My contact with you is becoming more casual and unextraordinary as you find faith and trust. A relationship with me is not a chosen seat to my left or my right; not an infrequent consultation; not wishful thinking; not a bargaining session-no... But, contact with me is relief from emotional strain; rest for the mind and body; comfort to the soul; strength to the character; clarity of the mind; confidence in your decisions and actions; courage - should fear strike; energy to live and serve; knowledge on how to serve. These wonderful things are yours should you choose not to stumble over me; should you choose not to struggle in the current of rough waters; should you allow my arms to give you rest.

10/ I came to bring peace on earth, but when men reject my gift, division and turmoil result. -- Jesus

I am here at your feet as I was with my apostles of old. I would find it my honor to provide the cleansing and the upliftment of your spiritual journey. I am your Brother - Father - Sustainer. I give my love. Carry on.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TeaM CONFERENCE

July 4, 1996

Greetings, my Beloved Children. This is your sovereign Michael. I wish to share with you what is in my heart this day ,and to come to your assistance, to strengthen you in your determination. I am ever glad when you seek to gather together in the name of my desire to serve our Father's will. I honor and love you for your tender devotion to the cause that is deep in all our hearts - the remediation of our beloved planet Urantia.

When we watch your dedication and your endless sacrifices of time and energy, we are gratified beyond what your language allows us to express. But there is much, so much, that you cannot yet understand. If I could help you see the fullest truth without removing from you the essential journey of experience, I would so do. But that very experience is what will bring you along the path of the unfoldment of your own personality pattern's growing soul as it stretches towards the Father who gave it birth. And so I stand beside you in your pains as you move through the distortions of one of the most distorted worlds in my universe.

You labor with the legacy of Lucifer constantly tearing at your hearts. You do not yet know just how deeply this legacy reaches. The loss of your world's spiritual headquarters and the resultant chaos scars every human institution, every human endeavor to some extent. Among other difficulties, it also resulted in your Adamic default, which deprived you of some of the tools with which to fight the pattern of sin and iniquity that the rebels impressed upon your world and in your unknowing hearts. For sin and iniquity were brought here by Lucifer and his minions. It is not required that any of the Father's children experience sin and iniquity in order to be challenged in the pursuit of his Kingdom.

The presence of the possibility of evil, of error, is sufficient to the ascension scheme. But you must labor with the distortion of the rebellion that casts a pall over much of your planetary life. And while it is true that once you have fully become faith children of the Father, you are delivered from most of this difficulty, it still belabors your efforts to fully enter into his kingdom of love. Our work here is dedicated primarily to the healing of this appalling legacy in individuals, that they may be freed to evolve the necessary changes to uplift your world.

You also do not yet realize how devastating is the loss of your Adam and Eve, the beloved patterns of parenthood and family life that guide the entire social structure and development of a world. Because of this loss, few since that time have fully understood what it is to parent or be parented. The concept of parent on your planet is pale and impotent compared to that of a normal world, where Adam and Eve are a visible and reassuring presence in the flesh of that pattern of family life that is of invaluable assistance in bringing a planetary population to light and life. You are all bereft; to some degree you are all

11/ No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. --Luke 6. 43-45

CHRIST MICHAEL/JESUS

orphans. And the quarantine itself has kept, of necessity, your world alone in all too many senses.

You are all children in need of a parent's love all too often unable to give love and receive love in the fullest sense. Do not despair and berate yourselves for your failures of love, to give love and be loved, for much of this is the result of a legacy that you have not understood. Be patient with yourselves, even as I am ever patient with you and the Father patient with us all. And I give you my promise that as you understand more fully exactly what has happened to your world, its deepest implications, and the fuller meanings of the purposes of this mission, you will increasingly be healed of that history and become more deeply able to love and be loved.

Remember, I am your universe Father, and a father who truly loves his children will certainly make up to them for their pains and deprivations in the cause of the full experience of the consequences of the free will choices of their less than loving brothers and sisters. I came to your world for a season, and have returned to your service as quickly as universe affairs permit. I am here to redress the wrongs that you have suffered, and I wish you to know that each of you will have every opportunity for the healing that you so desperately need. All that has been unjust will be made up for in the fullness of time. As your loving universe Parent, and elder brother before the Father, I could do no less, and it is in my heart to do all that is possible. As your own healing occurs, you will long to help us to make up to your brothers and sisters who yet suffer.

To assist in this plan, you will see various missions on Urantia, all designed to the uplift and normalizing of your realm. When you hear of Magisterial missions, missions from Trinity Teacher Sons, and other possible aids to your development, it is not needful to debate among yourselves as to the accuracy of details. I have mandated that any and all missions, both revealed and unrevealed, helpful to your uplift shall come to pass, some at the same time.

The sequence of a normal planet cannot serve the needs of an abnormal world, and I have so ordered your assistance that any and all possible help shall come concurrently at need. Therefore, be not surprised if you receive the echoes of our communications about all manner of assistance, and be not perplexed if it does not fit your expectations. I promise you that it will one day exceed even the most profound expectations you can have.

It is ever my desire to utilize the most creative and effective methods for the uplift of your world as expeditiously as the unfoldment of the Father's will supports. Nothing we will do will shortcut necessary time development, and the experiences that your planet must go through to attain its rightful status, but we will do all else short of the abrogation of your free will as the Father's children to assist you.

My beloved children, my heart is moved towards your plight constantly. I hear every plea from every heart and know that my own heart sends to yours all the love and comfort and support of a Father who loves the children he has made. Seek constantly the Father of us all, that you may begin to learn to receive his love. Do not despair at your failures, simply try faithfully over and over, despite the apparent lack of success. For your willingness to make the attempt builds edifices of strength and faith and courage unseen within. The day will come when they break through more often and fully to the surface of your heart and you will go to the Father in full truth.

Seek him, and also seek me, and my beloved

Nebadonia, for our arms are always ready to surround you with the assurance of your true safety, and we are always ready to talk with you and hear the words of your hearts.

Seek also your teachers, who are here to be not only teachers, but are your elder siblings, to be your friends and companions as you seek to traverse the morontial path while yet on your planet. They will never take from you your prerogatives of personal choice, but they are always willing to offer points for your consideration as you yourselves make the choices necessary to survival.

I love you with all that the Father has given me, with an abundance of love that will one day be yours. Mark not the success of this mission by these first apparently small movements forward. Remember again that it takes very little leaven to raise a mighty loaf, and for a time that leaven does not appear to rise.

But the ferment of love and hope and healing is strong and well on Urantia

My thanks to you, my brave and loyal ones, for hearing my call, responding, and continuing on the path. Know that your every smallest deed is a movement forward of great and precious worth!

Together we serve the gracious and ever beautiful will of our Father in Heaven. Farewell.

MARCH 6, 1995 WOODS CROSS, UTAH

See? I am not far off. I am MICHAEL. This may be hard for some to grasp. Why wouldn't you believe or think that you are important enough that I would not be close? You are not so small that I would forget about any of you.

You know not of your value in the Kingdom. I am here to tell you that each and every one is of

utmost importance in Father's family. Not one is forgotten.

How can some think I am so far away when I make every effort to reach each child? What the Son desires and the Father wills, IS. Father's will is to be close to each child. My desire is to know and love each child also. So, believe that I am in your midst, that you dwell not in isolation. We are so near you, we are almost becoming you.

You and your open hearts and minds bring me and my Father to this world. Yes, a step of faith and open heart brings me more close. I ask you to feel free to seek me, my guidance, my help, my understanding. I delight in serving my children. Worry not on past mistakes or mistakes yet to be made.

I serve with legions of helpers and hosts to this world. It may seem hopeless at times. It may seem you are alone. I ask you at those times please knock and I will be waiting for you. Please take a small step of faith, and I will tell you, I am not far. Go from this day knowing your Friend, your Brother/Father is among you.

APRIL 15, 1996 WOODS CROSS, UTAH

I am MICHAEL of Nebadon. Welcome. I am Christ Michael. Be not afraid. I am with you. This is not to cause you anxiety. You know me well and I am not to be feared. Many times mortals have dropped to the ground in worshipful respect. I ask you to stand and speak with me as your Brother/Father.

For ages men have twisted my message which was to be very simple. Over the centuries I have endeavored to untwist my message and naturally, it is beginning to show forth the fruits. I am aware that I appear to be far from my mortal children. This is because my mortal children are perceiving me in that way. Years ago, I had given my promise that the inhabitants of this world

13/Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves -- Matthew 7.15

CHRIST MICHAEL/JESUS

would be assisted by my Spirit having been poured out upon the flesh of all, regardless of your life status — life circumstances. I am here. I am here now, and whether you choose to know me is absolutely your choice. Whether or not your faith can withstand my assistance is entirely your decision. I assist you because I am. I love you because you are.

Our Father has made all things possible and they are set right before you. This is not to entice you into the Kingdom. This is to aid you in not stumbling over me or my Father. To know me is to know our Father. To learn of my faith is to create a handrail to assist you in your steps of spiritual education. NOW. I WALK WITH YOU NOW.

....Why do some wait for my feet to make prints in the Earth when I live amidst you now? Our Kingdom goes forth now. It has always been so. It will always be so. I pray that my mortal children would not choose to stumble over me when I am here now.

This is not a world of darkness anymore, not a world without divine assistance and guidance, not a world left to reap the harvest of evil. This is a small world that has journeyed naturally as has many worlds in our universe. It is a world of remarkable beauty and goodness. I have deep affection for this small, but nonetheless valued world. I have deep and abiding faith within you each and I am certain that your own affection for your world is true. I have asked you to love one another as I have loved you. Therein lies the key to the door of universal meanings and values.

Love is power, has a power unlike any power. Love is the answer to all questions. Love remains the single most significant proof that I am, that my Father is, and that you are. I shall continue my close contact with you each if it is in your desire. I shall continue to look out over the land and continue to pour out my Spirit. I ask you to wait not for my feet to stand upon the Earth, but to walk with me now spirit to spirit. My peace I leave with you and always my unfailing love.

DECEMBER 16, 1996 WOODS CROSS, UTAH

Greetings my children. I am joy-filled to share my message with you. It is my great honor to serve with you. It is my great honor to also serve you. Part of my joy comes from your willingness to follow me.

I would make it known to you that there is nothing that you cannot lay before me. I know you, your thoughts, your desires, your shortcomings, and there is nothing to be hidden. I would not pry into your affairs where I am unwelcome. I would however, teach you without the burden of judgment or guilt.

I would welcome you to see my heart, see who I am, partake of my knowledge, co-create your eternal path to our paradise father.

If you would grant me the privilege to see your heart, I would shed a most beautiful light upon it. I would assist you in looking at your fears, and discover the spiritual method to overcoming them. I would ask you to bring me your fears. Allow me to make the path more illuminated, so you may see how best to solve and understand all things.

Come to me! I am the purifier! Allow me to know you and show you how to take your steps on this mortal planet practically through spirituality.

To understand my spirit of truth, one must be willing to embrace truth, be it positive or negative. Fear not, I have gone before you and I will also go with you. Carry on.

God's Love from the 1997 SpiritFest Conference

QUESTION: I would like to ask. I have heard quoted that the total creative energy of The Father, the First Source and Center of All Things is Love. Would you care to enlarge upon that further, or explain this ... of that being the Total Energy of the Universe?

MICHAEL: I will speak of this, now, in a manner which I hope will touch your hearts and minds at the same time. The Father's Gift is this scintillating, penetrating impulse of creation. I strain, now, even as one of His Created, to explain fully the way in which this can be perceived.

This is the Sum, the Essence, the Gathering Together of All That Is. Perhaps I can offer the image of a massive cable such as you see in a very large freighter or tankers. Think of the cording, the cables that are used on such a boat as a tanker, such a ship. Imagine the many threads and fibers of material, even if we think of a metal cable line which is created from many filaments for additional strength.

This is one possible way I can express the concept of the Power of Love which can, indeed, break apart into these many, many manifestations of energy, and display itself within the creative universe.

And, yet, I say to you, my children, that if these energies were, again, gathered into one massive conduit and cording, that this is, indeed, the cable which pulls the universes along in their flowing patterns.

I speak, now, of The Power of God's Love, but this is, indeed, only one understanding of this magnificence. The Power of Love can be understood as The Balm—the penetrating, cleansing, binding energy which overcomes chaos, undoes any possible evil created in the world of time and space, enriches and nourishes all creation, moistens, softens, gently lubricates, and replenishes any and all who begin to, in any way, suffer.

VERONICA

on Christ Michael's bi-millenial bestowal From: Sonny Schneider <sonny@ilhawaii.net> December 14, 1994 - Volcano, Hawaii - #43

Precious friends, This is Veronica. The bimillenial observance of Christ Michael's bestowal is frought with encumbrances that can cloud his message of hope. Yet, the permanent quality of the essence of truth cannot be disguised. You are the keepers of his light that will pass the torch of verity to others that will create traditions of fraternal love and allegiance to truth.

Adorn your evergreen of countenance with the delicate ornaments of compassion and understanding. Encircle your intentions with the lovely wreath of tolerance and discernment. Light the fragrant candles of mercy with the flame of forgiveness. Join the chorus of praise and adoration for the Source of your existence. Enjoy the Pentecostal gift by seeking the festive holiday lights in the hearts of one another. Make your promises of renewal and resolutions to strive for a deeper intimacy with the Divine Monitor that is nestled in the manger of your soul, and nurture this partnership.

The gifts of truth, beauty, and goodness will sustain you with divine providence and refresh your desire to give the most treasured gift of all — your entire will to the Father on this remembrance of the bestowal of his Creator Son. May His presence fill you with sublime peace and love for your sisters and brothers.

I give you the gift of my guidance and love. Thank you for the many opportunities to share these gifts with you. Good evening.

15/ Your Father makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good. and send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. - Matthew 5.45

The Myth of Atonement; The Reality of Jesus

by MARTY GREENHUT Originally posted to religare@primenet.com

Dear friends,

I have been lurking for the most part but have been wanting to respond to the question about the crucifixion of our Lord for some time, and will attempt to do so now. There is no way that I can accept the doctrine of the Atonement of Jesus by the shedding of His blood for the sins of Man.

If the shedding of blood were a necessary feature of God's forgiving the sins of men, I would sooner not participate in such a kingdom of such a tyranical ruler as who would demand innocent blood for the forgiveness of what turns out for the most part to be nothing more than error that is corrected in time. Repentence should be enough. I am a father and I know what I am talking about.

Perhaps it would be a good idea to explain the authority behind my opinions since everybody has been quoting scriptures and gospel sources to explain the authority for their beliefs.

I am a Jew and have only read parts of the New Testament. For the most part the New Testament is not something that I can get into. I studied the "Torah , prophets and scriptures in Hebrew and had daily lessons in the Aramaic Babylonian Talmud as a student in Yeshiva University's Hebrew Teachers Institute. As I graduated their preparatory high school and began college there, we got the first films of the evidence presented to the Nuremberg trials.

This is only to tell you that I grew up during WWII and lived to watch the genocide of European Jews. I was hardly interested in Christianity except to watch out for the anti-semtic garbage that came at me from the followers of Jesus who called me a christ killer and who made my life miserable as I grew up.

Since my earliest consciousness I was aware that everything was not right with the world. I always sought the good in people and in life on Earth but found people to be selfish, mean, and competitive. I was sure that there must be a better way and always sought after it. If there was something that I thought needed to be done, I did it.

This approach to life led me through a few doors, the first of which I found in my Jewish Life pronouncing thrice daily: "Hear O' Israel, The Lord our God, The Lord is One.

And You shall love the Lord, your God with all your Heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Blessed be the name of His exalted Reign in all eternity.

And you shall obey my commandments that I give you this day and you shall teach them to your children and you shall dicuss them when you walk in the byways and when you sit in your homes, When you are lying down and when you arise.

And they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes and as a reminder on your hands and in your heart, on the doorposts of your homes and on your gateposts.

The recitation of this creed and admonition from God three times a day really became the focus of my life. I set out to:

1. Understand what all of this means.

2. to carry out to the best of my understanding and capabilities these admonitions.

The first thing that I realized was that this message was not just for Jews but for all peoples. This is the first sign that I have (in retrospect) that Jesus was leading me through these experiences. This was the most important thing that happened to me in my young life... that I found that religions of the Earth were all upside down and were in fact propogating the exact opposite of the truth of the commandments that God gave to the human race.

Our religions separate us and pit us one against the other claiming to have the real truth while the others are all going to hell or whatever. Just look at this planet. The wars that are going on today are religious wars; Arabs (Muslims) against Jews amd Jews against Arabs. Catholics against protestants and protestants against Catholics, and the Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian-Muslim-Christian thing, not to mention the racism and ultra nationalism that is thrown in.

Now, I do not blame the religions for this quagmire, only the blind guides and the thoughtless followers, the fears, hatreds, and racial jealousies. Religions do not seem to help in getting people to CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER.

Now I will get to the part about our Lord and Savior and

16/ Love is the highest motivation which man may utilize in his universe ascent. -- Urantia Papers

His crucifixion when he came here to live amongst us AS ONE OF US in the flesh.

This is the part that blows my mind every time I consider it! Just stop to think about it for one moment... The Eternal and omnipotent, omniscient and infinite God, whose Perfect Son is our Creator, sent His Son here to live as one of us, as His own creatures must live on earth - AND HE DIDN'T PULL RANK on us or even let us know who He was until He was a fully grown man and even then did not use any of his divine power to improve His status or get a better job or to take advantage of anyone... all He did with His divine power was to heal the sick... and even that was done only by the faith of the one seeking healing (with only two exceptions; that of Lazarus and that of the blind man at the pool of Siloam).

The appearance of the Lord, Our Creator on earth... and as a baby who had to grow up, go to school, deal with the ups and downs of life as we live it and in the process develop spiritually to the point that He found out who He was!

"It is time to be about The Fathers business" was the message that He got when he was twelve years old which seems to be the only outward message that he got in His growing up period. And He taught us that our job is to live in the will of the Father in Heaven and He lived a perfect life on earth demonstrating exactly what that means.

The revelation that Jesus gave us with His life was of the relationship that He has with His Heavenly Father which He is telling us to emulate... even if it means to get that kind of relationship with Him: "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me"

The revelation of Jesus' Father is one of INFINITE LOVE. That there is no detail of our lives that is unimportant to Him, that He indwells our very beings and is there to guide us and to nurture the development of our eternal souls. And Jesus adds to this divine indwelling His Spirit of Truth which fraternizes with the Spirit of the Father in our hearts. Can you imagine what we are given?

Yet it seems hard for us to find God even with all that help.

Is it really hard? let's consider it for a minute. Did you knock on the door? Do you thirst? are you hungry for the Bread of Life? Babies get fed when they ask their mothers for food. Are you born of the spirit? Do you have Faith? Do you seek God? OR - are you self satisfied, do you seek fame? Do you seek wealth?

Jesus said," Fear not". Are we listening to this one?

"Be of good Cheer","Let not the right hand know what the left hand doeth" If your brother strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek, "If a man asks that you carry his burden for a mile, carry it two miles," "He who would be great in the kingdom let him be the servant of all".

And in the Supper held before His death He washed His apostle's feet to show them the true meaning of Loving service and of HUMILITY.

Remember, now, we are talking about the Creator of this universe, the PERFECT SON of the Eternal and Infinite God who was on His way to receive ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH who put on a towel and WASHED THE FEET of the astonished apostles.

What is the meaning of such a life as this? The human life of the Eternal Creator?

Again: The Lord God, Creator of the Universe, Perfect Son of the Eternal, Infinite came here to live as one of us to reveal His Father in Heaven and to show us the LIVING TRUTH by living it to the very end without any compromise or retreat from the difficulties.

Now in this context let us look at the lives that some of our brothers and sisters face on this planet. Think of the suffering that some people experience that goes beyond what we can even imagine, we who are privileged. Mothers whose children starve right in front of their eyes, tortured individuals, Homeless and destitute individuals and on and on. There seems to be no end to it.

But, now, we have a creator who has suffered with the worst of the cases. Who was tortured and humiliated, whose entire life was made to look like a failure, Who came here to live as one of us and LIVED THE TRUTH He IS THE TRUTH and just by being the truth elicited our civilization's response to TRUTH.... Kill it! Humiliate and neutralize it!

No Jesus did not die to pay some mythical price of salvation. He died to show us how living truth relates to such iniquity as is lived on this rebellious sphere. JUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Give your lives for one another is the message of the crucifixion.

Until we learn the true meaning of self forgetful love ... until we can learn to love one another as He loves us ... we are not getting it. To love someone is to care about someone. To Love someone like Jesus loves us is to care about them with all of your heart, and all of your soul and all of your might.

17/ Love must be redefined on successive levels of morontia and spirit progression. - Urantia Papers

A Spring Night with Christ Michael

Chapter 6 of "Celestials over Cincinnati: Lessons of the Planetary Correcting Time"

by JIM CLEVELAND

"If you think of your consciousness as a river, you may think of our urgings and communications with you as streams of truth which flow into your own stream, becoming as one, but purified with these holy waters of truth." -- Christ Michael

The question came again on March 18: Several months ago I asked about Christ Michael visiting. Do you know anything about it?

Tarkas replied: Christ Michael intends to speak to this group as he has other groups. There have been problems of a personal nature with your transmitter which I am not inclined to discuss. There is somewhat a feeling of awe and inappropriateness that must be dispelled.

Your transmitter is worthy to transmit Christ Michael as all of you are worthy to transmit him. That is not the question. When this is done, the power will be achieved to transmit his powerful, benevolent presence.

Of course, the downstepping of this energy is required. This will come in time. It has been a problem for some groups. We have had some people turn away from the Teaching Mission classes because they simply could not believe that a divine personage such as Christ, your master, would speak to such a group or to be present.

This is a barrier which is not logical. Christ Michael knows each of you intimately and loves you quite intimately. You are all quite worthy to be in this presence of your master and teacher. Was this not proven from his sojourn on earth in flesh and blood, where he ministered and taught to the poorest, the most unfortunate.

You are all worthy recipients. There is no hierarchy involved in this Teaching Mission. Christ Michael is an active leader and anxious to communicate with each of you. Know this; know that you are intimately loved by the Christ, by Michael, just as you are loved by the Father.

Once these temporary barriers are replaced and any anxieties, Christ Michael is most anxious to speak to all of you. A little bit of patience but we promise his visit ... He has promised his visit soon. QUESTION: Is there anything we can do to reassure our transmitter, Jim?

It is only a matter of time. In the transmitting process, there is much to be understood, there is much that is not understood. There are questions of how the human collaborates with the teacher, where the thoughts are coming from, how they are expressed. This could be a lengthy discussion. These things will be worked out and are only temporary.

I seriously wondered at the time if this would be true. Could I actually do such a transmission? For a time I doubted it would happen. Meantime, though, I was growing more comfortable with even teams of teachers. Several would sometimes teach, with the artisans interspersing songs and verse. On one evening, the artisans colony presented a poem in which they each took a turn delivering the lines, an experiment.

For some months, we continued to meet with the teachers, and were beginning to take it all in stride -- not even bothering to tape the sessions. Some of the members continued to work through personal problems and potentials; some lost serious interest in the meetings; some continued to glean deeper layers of perspectives for their spiritual growth, with some of these expanding the national networking with other groups, through sharing transcripts, several newsletters, an e-mail discussion group, conferences and retreats, national gatherings.

Even with all this, the Teaching Mission was still refreshingly free of any human leadership, no charismatic guru. None was wanted or needed.

Members of other groups sometimes visited us in Cincinnati and we transmitted together. We had visitors from Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City, the Chicago area, Pocatello, Spokane, Maine, Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma City, Arkansas. It was cordial and friendly. Suzanne and I were building a large base of spiritual friends across the country.

Even though the Urantia movement, already split among Foundation supporters and detractors, had split into another fraction of itself -- those for and against the Teaching Mission, it seemed no matter any more. It was

18/ Behold I am with you always, even until the end of time. -- Jesus

all just human squabbling. We were more interested in what the teachers had to say than any humans we knew, exploring new avenues of spiritual growth, the side of the brain concerned with intuitive knowingness, experiental growth, spiritual faith. Most of our critics seemed to be in analytical gridlock, unable to get beyond the idea that the teachers couldn't be proven, that the lessons couldn't be proven to be "pure."

I had no interest in proving them, only experiencing and learning from them. But I had a real interest in comprehending how the connection works, and how to make it work best. Of course, a good regimen of diet, exercise, and rest was good for the TR, but it didn't seem critical to connection.

Caffeine proved distracting to relaxation, but could also be overcome in my case. I got an inkling from a teacher one day that we shouldn't think such things would prevent our communication, that they were small matters to overcome.

Alcohol usage, however, would prove to be an effective block; no transmission.

I came even more firmly to realize that people would have to experience it to make it real for them. TR was truly experiental learning which seemed unlikely to occur for those who had built fences around their segment of "truth" and disdained many other, especially if they were unable to take a step of faith and put themselves in God's hands even if it turned out that this step was simply to ask God about it and then listen for the answer in the Stillness.

TR was an amazing phenomenon surely enough. I wouldn't have believed it myself without experiencing it, and further, without reading back transcripts that didn't come from the personality I had come to think of as myself. I was learning fuller layers of insights with each session and I was sure that I wasn't teaching myself. My alter ego had never suspected any of these things I was learning. I never was interested in searching for these golden nuggets that were now just washing upon me in waves of surprises and spiritualizing my whole outlook.

None of this personal growth would be possible, I knew, if I spent my time answering charges and battling critics. You can't get down the path of spiritual growth and insight if you're constantly arguing with people who've stopped to sit on a stump somewhere.

I was still struggling to comprehend these things when the sixth of May, 1994, rolled in.

presence, Jesus, beside me in a robe of white and eyes of pure peace and mercy. I could just feel the presence all day, could glance around and almost expect to see my majestic, gentle companion sitting beside me in the car, walking down the sidewalk with me, having coffee at Kathy's.

In the evening, I was prepared for his words, as much as I could be and I felt a special joy at being chosen to speak them.

First, we heard a verse from Elisha that would prove prophetic:

Faith is oft rewarded and its gifts be never thwarted. In His peace you'll feel an ocean of love and grace in equal portion.

We received from Bakim an experiental meditation built upon worship, prayer, forgiveness and love. Tarkas said a few words. Then Andrew stepped in to lighten the mood and lightly discuss the use of humor to cope with a problematic world, his special field of study here on Urantia.

He closed with a final joke, a commentary on the 1994 pressures on the tobacco industry, and the idea of creating smoke-free zones.

"I have it on good authority," Andrew jested, "that by next year the only continent on which you will be allowed to smoke will be Antarctica."

In retrospect, his comments seem almost prophetic. Part of the Correcting Time is surely to help people free themselves from harmful addictions.

"I will leave you now," said Andrew, " because we have seemed to reach the proper decibel (I never recalled using that word) of hilarity and may now move on to another, who even now tugs at my sheet. (A reference to other banter with Tarkas, who had stated in jest earlier that Andrew's appearance resembles "an apparition known to you as Casper").

"Good night," said Andrew and the room settled into quietness, people with closed eyes sitting all about a candlelit room.

The words that came felt very special. I almost melted into tears. The deep peace I felt seemed saturated with merciful compassion. The first words seemed to slip effortlessly through my lips.

It was a day with a special grace. I could feel the Christ

19/ Shake the cacophony of everyday; Come into the Silence where the spirits play. -- JC

A Spring Night with Michael

Your laughter rings beautifully in my ears, dear ones. This is Michael.

An audible, collective sigh lifted up into the room.

For a while we will speak with some deliberation for your transmitter is a bit unsure. But confidence will grow, as he has already served as my spiritual messenger as, indeed, each of you will.

I come tonight to give you my deepest love, for you are all at this place in time through a long and circuitous route that brings you here, not by accident, but by spiritual design.

It is true that you have not been ready for this place until now. But, indeed, you are chosen, each in your own way, because of the depth of your longing and sincerity.

I have long wished to speak to your group, for I have followed your progress consistently, and I have long noted the petition for my presence. I come tonight to clarify and speak to you on several points and to give each of you a personal message of love which coincides with your teaching assignment which you have already chosen and accepted in recent months. So my official sanction is much in keeping with the free will choices that you are making each day.

Michael then embarked upon a series of personal messages and assignments to members of the group and greetings for our three first-time guests. As each one's turn came for their personal message, each seemed appropriate from my limited viewpoint, and it seemed their projects were already underway already chosen by each one's free will choice -- as it should be.

Michael continued:

I urge you especially to take heed of Tarkas' homework from last week regarding the Spirit of Truth. I hope you have given some thought to the ways in which you may use the Spirit, what it is, and how it impacts your life.

I will say to you that it is not an abstract thing. I am your Creator; I created you according to God's pattern but with creative divergences that are a part of myself. I truly exist within each of you for I have made myself a part of each of you.

I don't know if you have understood fully that the Spirit of Truth is indeed a part of myself, for I am truly part of each of you and have created you this way. There has been some confusion about my presence. This has been in part because you think in terms of physical presences. But I say to you that I am present in all of your creation, in all of you, omniscient, everywhere. I implore you, in the weeks ahead, to feel my presence in each of your lives. Imagine that I walk beside you. Imagine that I am sharing the mundane and normal activities of your day. I invite you to use my inspiration, my Spirit of Truth that I left with you so that you would never be alone, so that I could always be part of you and share with you. I encourage you to discover that presence in greater intensity than ever before. For indeed, it is possible to do so.

Some have doubted that your creator could have this presence with you, that I could share this time and this feeling and these thoughts with you. For some have been conditioned to consider themselves ordinary or not worthy, not capable, or guilty, or in sin. I say to you: these things are not true. You are each deserving of my eternal presence. For I endeavored to show you by my life on Urantia that each and every one of you is blessed, beloved in my sight ... the importance of every man, woman, and child, in effect equal ... equally deserving of my love, of my presence. For I am part of you and you are a part of me.

To those who would doubt the transmissions of your beautiful teachers or myself, I would say to that, you should use this Spirit of Truth, this Spirit of Knowingness to see if it does ring true and begin to use this spirit more consciously, ever more consciously in your lives each day. For as true teachers of my kingdom, you will have immediate and constant access to this knowing. And once you have achieved this knowing, herein will lie the deep peace.

Other personal commentary and interchange followed, prior to Michael's closing remarks. They followed his assurance that I would find peace as a transmitter when I realized I did not have to be prepared, only to be open and trusting to his teachers.

It will likewise be your final peace as you begin to speak personally with those teachers and guides who long to be close to you. I urge you to let them in. There are no devils to fear. I say to that, mankind has had a peculiar penchant over the years to blame many things on God. And, likewise, to blame many things on a devil that seems to torment their heads.

I say to you that this was summarily dealt with in my incarnation and there are no demons who would dare try to

control your minds unless you openly embrace these feelings of evil and iniquity. So very, very few of you do.

You have much feeling of the bad things in the world but not nearly enough realization of the true depth of the spiritual and religious feeling. You will see many wondrous things in the years to come and you will begin to realize there is a great core of spiritual strength rather than a core of rottenness that some see. You will find that at a given point your spiritual progress and your upliftment to higher consciousness will happen at a much more rapid pace.

There have been some feelings of disappointment that the mission is said to require much time. Yet, our time is only an estimate, as the future is constantly being shaped by the free-will decisions that each of you are making. As our inspiration and guidance grows stronger we hope and we believe that your decisions will be the right ones and lead you into elevated states of spiritualized consciousness.

As you begin to speak with these beautiful teachers, there has been a continuing concern of your own human thoughts being intermingled and great feelings of wonder and doubt and worry. This is all quite healthy. As has been said, any revelations to you have been somewhat retarded by humans not knowing how to cope with these phenomena or understanding what they are. I say to you that this channeling process is a collaboration of sorts. You should not fear this. It is an exercise in cooperation and in working together which is one of your strongest responsibilities here.

So we work with you in the transmitting/receiving process by bringing thoughts that are somewhat melded into your own unique consciousness. If you think of your consciousness as a river, you may think of our urgings and communications with you as streams of truth which flow into your own stream, becoming as one, but purified with these holy waters of truth. We would not have you go outside your banks.

In our guidance, we will keep this stream flowing straight and true and pure. But it is your stream to begin with. So thoughts that our teachers are able to express through you must be, to a degree, part of your interests and understanding and experience.

It is true that different feelings will bring different topics to the agenda, different ideas and impressions of different things. Do not be fearful of working with us, as if your thoughts would somehow taint the waters. For indeed, your thoughts are often quite noble, quite illuminating. You share much truth among yourselves. All of this truth is a oneness which flows to the Father. I encourage you each to reach out to your own spiritual guides through the Stillness and the worship and prayer.

It has been said that our teachers are somewhat repetitive for they continue to hammer at old things. This is true. These spiritual truths are eternal and everlasting. We could teach no other than the truth. It is in not in your hearing these lessons or in your being inspired by them, but it is in the daily practice, day by day. I trust that you each could commit to that. It is somewhat trying to do these things even now. But we welcome and applaud your efforts when you can and we respect and honor you for fulfilling many unspiritual, but quite important, activities, duties, and responsibilities in your physical plane.

Live your life to the fullest; experience, know, love, share, teach. Reach beyond to make contact with the indwelling spirit which is the key to your survival, your ultimate identity. As you provide personality, your indwelling spirit provides the essence of Godly goodness, in fusion. Have faith and trust. You and your thought adjusters make a good team, traveling this path together. Now with additional help from these morontia teachers, a little closer to your form and somewhat easier to communicate with, they have opened many doors, and I commend them to you. They love you more than you can know.

Their assignments here are not taken as obligations and duties in their learning processes. They are intent upon advancing in their ascension plan and growing perfect in God's image and are willing to do great work to make themselves worthy. It is truly not work or labor for them, for they now see something that some of you have begun to realize in your physical plane -- that it is not a duty or obligation to live a glorious adventure but an opportunity to experience. One day you will see this in this enlightened context and even see that your sufferings, trials, and misfortunes here were lessons that made you stronger and more insightful, and more spiritual and were somewhat blessings in disguise.

Your teachers are here because they have volunteered for this great adventure, to experience the phenomena of your world and do great work in the upliftment. If you feel that a thousand years duration, as has been estimated, is too long for you to feel joyful, may I assure you that your experiences in the immediate years ahead will prove quite fruitful and you will feel quite strongly the power of spirituality as it sweeps over your world. It is not necessary that you feel the full culmination of your planet into love and light in order to receive a great blessing.

21 / The fastest way to Heaven is to start walking in that direction. -- Will

A Spring Night with Michael

I will leave you with a great blessing tonight. Would each of you hold forth your hands in front of you, symbolically cupped, and I will leave each of you a beautiful spark of my love and my devotion as your leader in this mission, as your Creator who loves you as a creator, and also as your elder brother.

For I shared this life with you, an amazing and remarkable experience that I will never forget. I know that one day you will look back and see that your life on this earth was as amazing and remarkable and memorable as mine. I love you, my children. Good night.

CHRIST MICHAEL From the Urantia Book:

INCARNATION AS JESUS

Joshua ben Joseph, the Jewish baby, was conceived and was born into the world just as all other babies before and since except that this particular baby was the incarnation of Michael of Nebadon, a divine Son of Paradise and the creator of all this local universe of things and beings. And this mystery of the incarnation of Deity within the human form of Jesus, otherwise of natural origin on the world, will forever remain unsolved. Even in eternity you will never know the technique and method of the incarnation of the Creator in the form and likeness of his creatures. -- Page 1317

WHY INCARNATIONS?

The purpose of these creature incarnations is to enable such Creators to become wise, sympathetic, just, and understanding sovereigns. These divine Sons are innately just, but they become understandingly merciful as a result of these successive bestowal experiences; they are naturally merciful, but these experiences make them merciful in new and additional ways. These bestowals are the last steps in their education and training for the sublime tasks of ruling the local universes in divine righteousness and by just judgment. -- Page 1308

EARNING SOVEREIGNTY

The Michael Sons begin their work of universe organization with a full and just sympathy for the various orders of beings whom they have created. They have vast stores of mercy for all these differing creatures, even pity for those who err and flounder in the selfish mire of their own production. But such endowments of justice and righteousness will not suffice in the estimate of the Ancients of Days. These triune rulers of the superuniverses will never certify a Creator Son as Universe Sovereign until he has really acquired the viewpoint of his own creatures by actual experience in the environment of their existence and as these very creatures themselves. In this way such Sons become intelligent and understanding rulers; they come to know the various groups over which they rule and exercise universe authority. By living experience they possess themselves of practical mercy, fair judgment, and the patience born of experiential creature existence. -- Page 1308-09

MICHAEL OF NEBADON

The local universe of Nebadon is now ruled by a Creator Son who has completed his service of bestowal; he reigns in just and merciful supremacy over all the vast realms of his evolving and perfecting universe. Michael of Nebadon is the 611,121st bestowal of the Eternal Son upon the universes of time and space, and he began the organization of your local universe about four hundred billion years ago. Michael made ready for his first bestowal adventure about the time Urantia was taking on its present form, one billion years ago. His bestowals have occurred about one hundred and fifty million years apart, the last taking place on Urantia nineteen hundred years ago. -- Page 1309

MICHAEL'S BESTOWALS

It required almost one billion years of Urantia time to complete the bestowal career of Michael and to effect the final establishment of his supreme authority in the universe of his own creation. Michael was born a creator, educated an administrator, trained an executive, but he was required to earn his sovereignty by experience. And thus has your little world become known throughout all Nebadon as the arena wherein Michael completed the experience which is required of every Paradise Creator Son before he is given unlimited control and direction of the universe of his own making. As you ascend the local universe, you will learn more about the ideals of the personalities concerned in Michael's previous bestowals. -- Page 1318

OUR SPECIAL PLANET --THE WORLD OF THE CROSS

Urantia is the sentimental shrine of all Nebadon, the chief of ten million inhabited worlds, the mortal home of Christ Michael, sovereign of all Nebadon, a Melchizedek minister to the realms, a system savior, an Adamic

22/ The Father is revealed to be a God of love and mercy whose infinite patience is hard to test. His mercy washes over the universes. -- Will

redeemer, a seraphic fellow, an associate of ascending spirits, a morontia progressor, a Son of Man in the likeness of mortal flesh, and the Planetary Prince of Urantia. And your record tells the truth when it says that this same Jesus has promised some time to return to the world of his terminal bestowal, the World of the Cross. -- Page 1319

Collected Lessons of CHRIST MICHAEL Known in his earthly sojourn as Jesus of Nazareth.

THE MISSION / Oregon

"I am touched at the connections in your hearts. Your intentions shine bright for all to see. I see your light from the perspective of totality, from a distance of eternity, and a completeness of infinity.

"The concept of mortal in my mind is not a small seed, nor the young sprout, but the completed flower, the full blossom, in full glory, wondrous to the sight, to the touch, to the smell, and much, much more.

"I welcome you in your role in my mission, and my Father welcomes you to your place in His plan. I stand beside you every day, in every way, as the Father stands beside all who understand His will.

"I extend my love, my patience, mercy and understanding to you, as you offer your faith, love and service to me. I am here for each of you individually, and I am here in magnificent proportions for your planet.

"My arms are wide, none shall escape my embrace who have a pure heart, with pure intent, and sincere sincerity. You touch me with the light of your hearts. The pink glow, the blue radiance, the iridescence of your polychrome feelings -- they are a marvel, even to me.

"Be assured, my love for you is abundant enough to carry you forward in grace. The force of my Father pulses through your pores in spasms of creative spirituality. However much love you comprehend now will be understood a thousandfold in my Father's kingdom.

"Know that I love YOU. Nebadonia and I send our love to you. We extend our touch, for we know the openings in your hearts. We offer you abundant mercy, understanding, and caring. We grant you total love, compassion, and healing. I will leave you with the smiles in the air."

A PLEA TO LIVE IN LOVE / Hawaii

"I am here in response to your love for me, for your heart's longing for me, for your mind's craving to see the truth, to know the truth, to follow the truth, to become the truth.

"Our Father's love for us is what makes this possible. His love flows through Me, which flows through you. I am here just like the Father. Continue to let the light of His love flow through you in your actions, in your words, in your thoughts, in your prayers, and in your worship. Prepare your souls, prepare your minds, prepare yourselves! I am coming for you.

"Furthermore, let your love become more clearly visible in the service and ministry that you perform for My children. Increase your desires, motivate your associations with your sisters and brothers. Put aside your fears, set aside your worries for your material life. Set aside those anxieties which you've held for so long in your mind. Feel My presence, My leadership, my guidance as I direct you to love, to love with a true affection, to love with undying devotion, to love unconditionally!

"See your brothers and sisters as you see yourself, a struggling mortal of the realm, one of My children, equal in My eyes. I love you all. I desire to bring you all closer to the Father, and I need your help. So when you feel the Father and you feel My love, use these feelings to motivate you to seek out and love one another.

"Recognize My presence among you more lightly. Realize how I am one of you. I have been a mortal, I have been here. I understand all the things that you go through. I understand them sublimely, for I lived them as a man and as a God. Also, continue to understand your teachers in the same light as just close friends, good friends, friends that you love and care for deeply, friends that you would give your life for. Feel this friendship amongst yourselves."

PURIFYING THE HEART / Nashville

"If you love your brother as I do, shall all men know you are representing me. My kingdom is real by the measure that each human being enthrones my Father's will in his heart. I will help any and every sincere and struggling soul, even as I experienced my Father's hand.

Think not that you can falsely, through insincere and selfish gesturing, enter our Kingdom. No man can live within our Kingdom unless he continually purifies his heart. You who walk with me understand this, and he who

23/ We should be looking for opportunities to demonstrate love and not for opportunities to demonstrate knowledge. --Andason

A Spring Night with Michael

walks not in the path of righteousness understands not. For one purpose alone did I come into this world.

I lived in order that all humankind could experience our Father and to set an example of one who experienced Him fully and completely. I come into this world again that all men may experience our Father's love, and again I say that the door to the Kingdom stands wide open, beckoning to all men."

TOUCH THE WORLD Message at the International Conference for Readers of the Urantia Book, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, in 1993

"You will only touch the world by creating between you living links of true intimacy.

"The better you know our Father, the more you will be willing to be like Him; and the more you resemble Him, the more you will feel the need to know each of your brothers and sisters personally.

"Make a sincere effort to understand each other as I did -with the same open mindedness and the same wholeheartedness -- and together you will discover the source of reality. This living water is the only knowledge which can really quench your thirst for truth.

"Be generous in giving, be humble in receiving, and you will become living expressions of truth, for truth comes to life in sharing.

"Invite your fellow truth-seekers to reap with you the harvest of your mind.

"Share with them the grapes of experience from your inner vine.

"Do not worry to express the life of your spirit in a personal and original way to generate a better and greater life.

"And, just as I shared the life of Man in the flesh of Man, so I invite you to share the life of God in the spirit of God, for I bless the day when I can bear witness to the spirit of God in the life of Man and thus confirm your divine identity by simply saying to Him: "Father, behold the Man ... behold the Supreme Being."

LIGHT AND LIFE: The Family

by BILL KELLY

In a world whose most changeless fact may be the fact of change we are confronted with the task of re-evaluating the value of the truths of the past. This is necessary, unless change for the sake of change is inherently valuable, because new truth must be measured against the old truth that it would seek to replace. Truths must always be compared in their truth status to Truth, that is, we must ask if these truths can still be regarded as "true" in the new situation that every passing moment brings us. One of these truths, found in almost all societies and religions, is the concept of the "Brotherhood of Man."

For some people this phrase is unacceptable because of its "sexist language". It bespeaks a long history of male chauvinism and must capitulate to sisterhood as the watch word before its value can be assessed. Others reject it as a hopelessly outmoded idealism on a planet torn by ethnic wars, racial struggles, economic injustices, environmental destruction, and humanstupidity. It is a concept that has been tried and found wanting and has been relegated to the lowly status of an impossible ideal rather than a vigorous and substantial human reality.

I do not want to deal with the feminist agenda in this essay, not because I disagree with their assessment or find fault with their complaint, but because I wish to transcend the limitation of sexist language of either gender to get to the essential affirmation of the original concept, that there is a family reality to humanity. Can this concept be defended and its implications realized?

Robert Blye in his book, *The Sibling Society* reaches the conclusion that human societies world-wide are becoming devoid of the vertical dimension of authority which used to reside in the authority of the traditional patriarchal family. Fathers have disappeared from their families in alarming numbers either because of out of wedlock pregnancies or in divorce and desertion. The result, he says, is a society of siblings without fathers or mothers and without the sense of authority that the intact family lent, not only to its own reality, but to other institutions of society as well. We are siblings, but we are really not brothers or sisters because we have no father, and sometimes no mother. This siblinghood is not the brotherhood of man or the sisterhood of woman.

The main reason that the brotherhood of man has failed as a concept, I believe, is due to its equation with the species homosapiens. A naturalistic, biological, or cultural basis for brotherhood is not enough to grasp sufficient common-

24/ Exhuberance, the energy of God, life's vital force flowing through your actions, is testimony of a cheerful nature. -- Olfana

of God, the Brotherhood of Man

ality among the diverse peoples of this planet as to compel brotherhood devotion. What is missing is the family concept.

Human fraternity comes most easily in blood families, less easily in mixed or step families, then tribes, etc. This brotherhood acknowledgement is possible because of the biological family structure of parents and children. But humanity/brotherhood based on blood ties between all human beings is too abstract an idea for most people. Racial, cultural, ethnic, class and gender differences seem to belie any serious notion of being of "one blood" when gazing upon the myriad variations of humanity. When looking at people through the lens of these differences it simply is not true that "all men are created equal". Nor does it seem convincing that all humankind is fundamentally related beyond the "dead level" of species identification.

Since brotherhood or sisterhood is a family term it requires parenthood to be convincing. If I am your brother or if you are my sister we must have at least one parent in common. Otherwise the term is meaningless, at least as long as we remain at the biological, cultural, racial/ethnic or socio/political level in our thinking. This is why such an understanding can only be idealistic at best and why it has not succeeded in revolutionizing humanity's interactions.

But what if there really is a "brotherhood/sisterhood" of humanity, not just an ideal but a fact! On what basis could this assertion be made? I reply, on the basis of a spiritual unity and a spiritual commonality of origin, nature, and destiny.

I believe that our origins are not just biological but include the gift of personality coming from God, the First Source and Center. Our personalities are unique but have a Divine origin. This gives us "personality dignity" as we are all derived from the Father/Mother of all personalities. This fraternity of personality is our first commonality.

Our nature is both human and divine, that is, we are natural animals endowed with a Fragment of Divinity in our minds, a piece of God, as it were. We have a common spiritual Parent in this "piece of God" making us all His children spiritually and not merely by biological creation. Our relationship to God is in the family model. He(She) is our Father(Mother), we are His(Her) children. And because we have a common Parent we are sisters and brothers. This basis for a new understanding of the brotherhood of man is consistent with the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. It transcends the "chosen people" attitude of most world religions. It is not based on the belief that we are children of the devil but children of a benevolent Creator/Father. And it does provide us with true spiritual equality despite any differences due to heredity or environment.

Finally, a common destiny awaits all humanity, based on the purposes of God. Individually, if we choose, we can meet our Parent upon completion of the grand adventure of the ascension career which is open to all who will undertake it. To know God and to become like Him is the goal of our entire existence. This adventure is only barely begun in this mortal life. Its enthralling fulfillment entails eternity.

A common destiny awaits this planet as well, the destiny of Light and Life, often termed Utopia. Many people are becoming convinced of a spiritual awakening on this planet even in the midst of apparent overall decline in some areas. The sense of isolation that has pervaded the past toward our place in the universe and the heart of God is changing. A sense of cosmic citizenship is emerging in many people's minds beyond the boundaries of traditional religion.

"Well", someone may say, "all this would be wonderful if it is true. How can I be sure this is not just another pipe dream? Where can I look for evidence?"

Look around you at what is happening in the world, not the focus of the media, which is usually negative, but in other places. Take a look at The Urantia Book for commentary on these concepts. But most of all look within. Listen to your heart. Take time to meditate and seek stillness of soul. Remember that Elijah didn't hear the voice of God in the thunder or the fire, in the loud outside arena. He heard a "still small voice" guiding him. So can you. So can I. We can contact that God Fragment.

If we could look at our fellow human beings beyond the surface and see them as persons like ourselves and vessels of a divine Presence instead of merely clever animals or variously annoying factors in our daily interaction equation, we would have a start on understanding the brotherhood of man, this family of God. I believe that the "family of God" is a fact, not just an ideal.. I also have experienced the amazing difference it makes when I view another person as truly my spiritual sibling. My brother, my sister, I invite you to join me in this perception!

THE URMIA FORUM Variations of God the Supreme

From: RONALD L. BESSER

RESPONDING to a question of how he understands the Urantia Papers concept of God the Supreme ... and then leading to related topics.

Dear Philosophers,

One has to first note that God the Supreme has three distinct levels and that the question has to be answered, therefore, in three parts:

1) The Almighty Supreme which is his non-deified power and force

2) The Supreme Being which is his personal and spiritual side.

3) God the Supreme which is the unified combination of these two levels of his existence and this combination is more than the sum of the first two parts.

So we may recognize three categories of Supreme satisfaction in our lives today by noting:

1) As POWER we can know the evidence of the Supreme through the appreciation of harmonious reality. Without the Supreme, reality would appear disjointed and devoid of those qualities which can inspire us to say, "Isn't that beautiful!" This is true Supremacy expression whether it is the stars seen on a wonderful night or the Urantia Book's ability to stitch the pieces of reality into a marvelous tapestry of cosmic inspiration from dry facts.

The dry facts pre-exist the Supreme, but the Supreme creates a reality through which the variations of prior existing facts relate much as notes do in a delightful melody. The wish to explore where more of those Supreme unities lie in the material universe is the beckoning of a Supreme finger to follow the lure in the capacity to appreciate the perfection of what God has wrought.

2)As SPIRIT we are bathed in his augmenting divinity which allows the universal recognition of those things done through personal relationships which are truly good. Michael of Nebadon is the spirit goodness of eternity personified as a Creator Son who is also classified among the Supreme Creators of Orvonton. Goodness can be bestowed as a personal act from any of us, God or mortal, to be recognized and encircuited to the universe by the Supreme even unto the shores of Paradise. The satisfaction personally felt as well being is often a return response from the Supreme who has amplified and unified this act of good into universal recognition.

While on earth, man feels such acts as satisfaction and well being. Man 's soul radiates every act of goodness in the flesh. These acts are almost a thing to the universe for they can be detected even in the passive soul yet asleep in natural death by the Universal Censors and the Ancients of Days as undivided essence of the Supreme. It is the Supreme that has made these acts, translated them if you will, into a universal code of value whereby the high judges of Trinity origin may accept them as Godlike.

The Supreme in spirit is the source of intellectual peace, a sense of progress, moral well-being, spontaneous joy, and even universe wisdom.

3) As UNITY of the first two phases, God the Supreme functions in time and space as the Trinity does in infinity. God the Supreme is the progeny of the Trinity and partakes of the character of his parents in union of their triune Deity natures.

We feel, therefore, God the Supreme in our day-today life REMOTELY for a couple of reasons.

A) This is such a high level of over control that it appears or feels impersonal to us

B) God the Supreme augments the power of the Supreme Creators. It is they who make that which is Supreme more personal, and with the Infinite Spirit, project the actions of the Supreme return into the real, live arena of superuniverse growth.

The Urantia Book states the impersonal (UNITY) factor of God the Supreme this way:

P.56 - §2 "There is also an organic unity in the universes of time and space which seems to underlie the whole fabric of cosmic events. This living presence of the evolving Supreme Being, this Immanence of the Projected Incomplete, is inexplicably manifested ever and anon by what appears to be an amazingly fortuitous co-ordination of apparently unrelated universe happenings.

This must be the function of Providence—the realm of the Supreme Being and the Conjoint Actor."

Therefore, that which we feel is God's providence is in actuality the over arching presence of the Supreme as he coordinates and makes one all that is going on at any given time in the finite universes.

26/ You are prisms of personality to disperse the Father's love. -- Rokmar

The Supreme is Providence on this level of experience in our daily lives.

End of dissertation.

Gerdean has another thing she wishes to bring up about what I would call **predestination.** She asks:

"Now, Ron Besser, perhaps I can find my way back to that question I wanted to ask you. Here is the prompt:<> "He sees your perfection (status) already should you choose to accept it." Then ... if He sees everything from the beginning,... he knows in advance if I am going to use my free will to advance or retard my growth. He would even know if I were going to choose to go all the way to Paradise or if I was going to turn around at some point on the journey. Is that what you get out of that?

I give you my best shot:

We are told nothing is a surprise to our Father. I would GUESS that the Father knows what you are likely to do, but I doubt that the variations you put into the perfecting routine are fully pre-known. Freewill acts have a certain mystery about their outcome. However, to a certain extent we are all subject to predestination. That which we are, is foreknown for its quality and that quality has a destiny (predestined). What can not always be of a certainty is the mode of arrival or the acceptance of the destiny in all of its specific terms.

The Urantia Book speaks of it this way:

P.1204 - §5 "When Thought Adjusters indwell human minds, they bring with them the model careers, the ideal lives, as determined and foreordained by themselves and the Personalized Adjusters of Divinington, which have been certified by the Personalized Adjuster of Urantia. Thus they begin work with a definite and predetermined plan for the intellectual and spiritual development of their human subjects, but it is not incumbent upon any human being to accept this plan. You are all subjects of predestination, but it is not foreordained that you must accept this divine predestination; you are at full liberty to reject any part or all of the Thought Adjusters' program."

And I close with this about the remainder of what you speculated upon concerning the subject of reincarnation:

You reason that . . .

>> It is perhaps that very enormity [of the gift of Paradise

ascension] that makes it significantly easier to remain in dispute about <u>reincarnation and the molecular structure</u> of the physical and/or material universes.

I respond to you as,

We are informed that we are resurrected on the mansion worlds in morontia form. With but the few exceptions noted in the revelation, we are not given the opportunity to revert to earlier forms. Reverting to the flesh is an earlier form. We are also told that it is a prerogative of the Creators to incarnate and reincarnate. We are not Creators; in fact, we are a product of the Creators and have no such prerogative even if we wished to go back to the flesh.

It is made impossible with this high revelation to entertain reincarnation as viable. True, one can doubt the revelation and one has every right to decide for him or herself the extent they wish to trust the information placed on the record in this case. I can not argue the negative much less prove the negative that reincarnation does not exist.

My point about the grandeur and "enormity of the gift" of linear ascension was that one has to reduce spiritual growth to a wheel whose center is earth in reincarnation while the gift as explained in the revelation centers the ascension on Paradise.

Hey, listen! Who wouldn't take the bigger house if it's offered for the same price. Until the Urantia Book I didn't even know any house came with the deal after death at all!

I hope I have responded to the essentials of the philosopher's interests.

Thank you Ron Besser

The World As I See It by Albert Einstein

"How strange is the lot of us mortals! Each of us is here for a brief sojourn; for what purpose he knows not, though he sometimes thinks he senses it. But without deeper reflection one knows from daily life that one exists for other people — first of all for those upon whose smiles and well-being our own happiness is wholly dependent, and then for the many, unknown to us, to whose destinies we are bound by the ties of sympathy. A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that

27/ Each of these three tools, faith, love and forgiveness are qualities that are possessed only by sharing them with others. -- Bertrand

I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving...

"I have never looked upon ease and happiness as ends in themselves — this critical basis I call the ideal of a pigsty. The ideals that have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been Kindness, Beauty, and Truth. Without the sense of kinship with men of like mind, without the occupation with the objective world, the eternally unattainable in the field of art and scientific endeavors, life would have seemed empty to me. The trite objects of human efforts possessions, outward success, luxury — have always seemed to me contemptible.

"My passionate sense of social justice and social responsibility has always contrasted oddly with my pronounced lack of need for direct contact with other human beings and human communities. I am truly a 'lone traveler' and have never belonged to my country, my home, my friends, or even my immediate family, with my whole heart; in the face of all these ties, I have never lost a sense of distance and a need for solitude..."

"My political ideal is democracy. Let every man be respected as an individual and no man idolized. It is an irony of fate that I myself have been the recipient of excessive admiration and reverence from my fellowbeings, through no fault, and no merit, of my own. The cause of this may well be the desire, unattainable for many, to understand the few ideas to which I have with my feeble powers attained through ceaseless struggle. I am quite aware that for any organization to reach its goals, one

the eye of calm surrounded by the howling storm of chaos;

man must do the thinking and directing and generally bear the responsibility. But the led must not be coerced, they must be able to choose their leader. In my opinion, an autocratic system of coercion soon degenerates; force attracts men of low morality... The really valuable thing in the pageant of human life seems to me not the political state, but the creative, sentient individual, the personality; it alone creates the noble and the sublime, while the herd as such remains dull in thought and dull in feeling.

"This topic brings me to that worst outcrop of herd life, the military system, which I abhor... This plague-spot of civilization ought to be abolished with all possible speed. Heroism on command, senseless violence, and all the loathsome nonsense that goes by the name of patriotism how passionately I hate them!

"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science. Whoever does not know it and can no longer wonder, no longer marvel, is as good as dead, and his eyes are dimmed. It was the experience of mystery - even if mixed with fear - that engendered religion. A knowledge of the existence of something we cannot penetrate, our perceptions of the profoundest reason and the most radiant beauty, which only in their most primitive forms are accessible to our minds: it is this knowledge and this emotion that constitute true religiosity. In this sense, and only this sense, I am a deeply religious man... I am satisfied with the mystery of life's eternity and with a knowledge, a sense, of the marvelous structure of existence — as well as the humble attempt to understand even a tiny portion of the Reason that manifests itself in nature."

COURAGE is:

the strength to do what you fear the most;the instant prayer-thought in the urgency of the moment;the wisdom to say the right words at just the right moment;the insight to see others from an eternal perspective;the power to let go of your favorite pains and problems;the ability to love the person as he strikes out at you;the patience to wait;the humility to say, "I'm sorry, forgive me;"the faith to leap blindly into God's invisible arms;the guts to face those deep inner issues;the desire to love the unloveable;the trust to say yes to an untested eternity.the urge to be like God our Father;—MARY HUGGINS, NWLight vol 3, issue 1.

28/It is not how far you get in this life, it is the direction you are headed and your heartfelt desire to go that way-Abigail

PLANETARY CHANGE The KOSOVO Crisis: Spiritual Views

DIANA's message to the Light Workers of the World - April 18, 1999

From: VALERIE DONNER

Dear Ground Crew:

The following message is from Princess Diana. It comes from Rita Eide, a Norwegian channel, who had Diana appear to her the day after her death. She then gave a public message through Rita about ten days later. This led to the writing of Diana's book through Rita "The Celestial Voice of Diana."

Rita and I have recently made our connection. I asked Rita if Diana had anything to tell us about Kosovo and the war and this is the message she provided. I hope you will share it widely because it is beautiful and gives us a celestial overview of what is happening there. Please share it widely.

Soon we will be carrying Rita's book on this website. I hope you are as excited about this connection as I we are at The Ground Crew.

Blessings, love and Light from my heart to yours, Valerie Donner - http://www.thegroundcrew.com

DIANA's message:

Dear Hearts,

You have requested me to do an update on the worldevents at this time and I will do my best to enlighten you with my newfound insights and my point of view...

Understand that you are indeed approaching the shift of the millenium and the shift of the millenium has promised you for a long time the announcement of the Second Coming of Christ. And indeed, I am bringing you the tidings:

The Second Coming of Christ as you know is coming through your hearts - and that is indeed "the feminine part of the Christ-energy ... The female Christ" if you wish to put it that way, is *The HeartWave that will rush through you - as his coming within the feminine part of your whole being.*

As the masculine has been effectuated during the last thousands of years and the feminine has been subdued in favor of the male reality and values, the time of another shift has come. This shift of the human consciousness, which implies the rising of an emotional consciousness, will become the "polarity-shift" of the world of today.

Because what you see now, playing itself out, is indeed the possibility for you to participate in spreading that 'wave of the Heart' around the world, as the war in Kosovo and the Balkans are your mirror or the catalyst for you to learn, or to teach yourselves about Oneness. You do this by connecting yourself instead of just "closing your eyes", but please do not judge anybody. By connecting yourself to 'all of these suffering people' you thereby experience Oneness.

Within the experience of the sorrow and grief and pain and horror that you are living through, you are indeed lifting your selves in the experience of becoming one with these people. Not in the thought of an intellectual understanding of oneness, but in the *experience of One Heart in your emotional body* and as such you are all suffering through this as one.

And this is of course painful for you, but it is however a necessary lesson for you all. For as you connect and give thoughts of love as well as physical and emotional help to the refugees, you are also helping yourself and your own need for reconnection ... Your heart has a need for this Oneness and the responsibility that you now need to take...

This war is not going to last, however, it will need to take as long as necessary in order for the new consciousness to secure and cement itself into your mass consciousness. So it is with the upcoming events, it rises out of the need of connecting to Oneness - and the need for oneness with your own Self.

I am just *one of the messengers* and it is a bit strange for me to in a way promote "myself" or my coming books through this further message, but this is of course still what I want. I will give you my understanding and my love through my messenger as well as through my book "The Celestial Voice of Diana," and if you will take my teachings to your heart and help spreading them, I am forever grateful.

For the oneness I feel with you is indeed the oneness you feel with Christ. From the feminine part of you I am bringing back the remembrance of that which we lost so long time ago. As Light Workers you are to manifest the

35/Know that it is not the Father's will that you suffer sorrow and pain; it is his will that you understand His love, His mercy, His compassion -- Daniel

PLANETARY CHANGE Lightworkers Messages

light of the truth within yourself, and as a reminder I am telling you "Don't ever mistake the expression for the experience".

Look behind in every message, in every messenger, and connect yourself to Oneness and stop judging anything by the intellectual part of you, because than you are losing the meaning behind. And understand that the truth is as simple, because 'it is simple,' it is not complicated. 'The truth of Love' has never wanted to present itself as complicated, but the confusion of fear has masked this point.

I am the living proof of all that which you are trying to accomplish and manifest on Earth at this time. I have survived the fear and "the death" and I am coming back to remind you that so will you ... You are blessed. You are loved immensely ... Thank you. In the light of the Christ Sananda, we are one.

Diana

GREETINGS. THE SITUATION IN THE BALKANS IS BECOMING MORE SERIOUS AND THE HIERARCHY HAS REQUESTED THAT THIS MESSAGE BE DIS-TRIBUTED AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE OVER THE INTERNET SINCE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. PLEASE FORWARD THIS ON TO OTHERS. THANK YOU AND NAMASTE, CAROLYN

The Galactic Foundation Academy of Light 5929 Murray Road ~ Whitehall, MI 49461 >choltgrewe@aol.co [choltgrewe@aol.com]

A CALL TO SERVICE

The Hierarchy of Light through Carolyn Holtgrewe, March 27, 1999

Beloveds. We come forward into your awareness in order to advise you that you have entered into perilous times upon your earth plane but that you do not need to stand by and feel helpless to assist. We in the Spiritual Hierarchy of Light are distressed over the direction in which certain events are moving in the geographic area of what was once called Yugoslavia and the surrounding countries. Negative vibrations are spilling over the borders and will continue to ripple outward in all directions drawing to them the resident negative energy in the areas through which they pass, growing ever larger in size and strength until at last they come home to roost with grave consequences indeed. The masses of the meek are once again on the move, those beings caught between the manifesting polarities of the mindset and the will of certain leaders in that geographical area. Those meek ones, the displaced ones who have become refugees have been calling out to us at such a level that we could not ignore them. They are caught in the middle of a dilemma not of their making and their pain and their suffering and their sheer weariness of it all has touched our hearts greatly.

Therefore, we sought consultation with Creator since our direct intervention is forbidden. After much discussion of the policy of nonintervention in earthly matters, the conclusion was reached that the matter at hand is grave enough to allow some degree of intervention. Our Creator stipulated, however, that although some measure of divine dispensation could be brought into the situation, outcomes must be accomplished through the requests of the Lightworkers. In this manner, the hand of Creator could move to influence matters without violating the policy of nonintervention since the Lightworkers would be the ones asking for assistance or intercession on behalf of those impacted people living in that area.

Heed our call to service for the situation there cannot be alleviated unless you get involved and take an active role. Everything that happens on this planet affects you and conversely you impact everything that happens. Now is not the time to detach from the world in such a manner that you lose your compassion for others in need. Therefore, we place our request before you that you keep these people in your prayers and meditations, that you ask Creator to intercede on their behalf and allow events to move in such a way as to soften the hearts of the leaders there so that peace may come to the area.

Beloveds, you are the ones who hold the necessary level of light, who have the knowledge and awareness to assist in these affairs. Thus we are asking you to present your prayers of intercession to Creator. You can have much impact with just five minutes of focus a day. We remind you that the need is great and immediate and the time for your action is now as this window of opportunity will be open only for a short time. After that it will be extremely difficult to turn the tide of events already set in motion and matters will proceed as they will. We offer our deep appreciation for your cooperation, our heartfelt thanks and our blessings. On behalf of your Spiritual Hierarchy of Light we are,

Sanat Kumara Lord Lord Melchizedek Lor

Lord Sananda Lord Michael

30/ See with the eyes of Christ, hear with the ears of Christ and think with the mind of Christ. -- El Tanere.

PLANETARY CHANGE Signs of a Spiritual Awakening by PAT MCNELLY

1. An increased tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.

2. Frequent attacks of smiling.

3. Feelings of being connected with others and nature.

4. Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation.

5. A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than from fears based on past experience.

6. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.

7. A loss of ability to worry.

8. A loss of interest in conflict.

9. A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.

10. A loss of interest in judging others.

11. A loss of interest in judging self.

12. Gaining the ability to love without expecting anything in return.

THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE A View

by ROY MOONEYHAM

... RESPONDING to an assertion that we are even now seeing evidence of the Big Bang theory of the creaton of the unierse.

The expanding universe is what is observable. The theory of The Big Bang is simply going back in time till this expansion started. It has been a very good theory (scaffolding for a bigger understanding).

Since 1987 there have also been observations of great flows in the galaxies relative to the general expansion of the universe. You may have heard of The Great Attractor, a large yet unobserved mass that is attracting this flow of galaxies. The Great Attractor is a theory to account for this flow.

There are surveys that have been made for small wedges in the universe. These surveys are showing a 3D distribution of galaxies. And a large wall of galaxies observed from the 1st wedge surveyed from the Northern Hemisphere has continued into a much larger wedge of the universe surveyed from the Southern Hemisphere. It is called The Great Wall.

All these findings are in relatively small sections of the sky, and will continue to be expanded to all directions, but that will take time.

Each new discovery will add to an observation of the larger structure. Science will produce a theory to account for it at each stage. At least this will be so until that future time when the final discoveries of science are arrived at. Maybe then they will call it The Great Ellipse.

We have a revelation of what this larger structure is. We can only wait for Science to reveal this structure and see if it matches the revelation.

Exciting, eh?

We are not Science.

URANTIA PAPERS P.165 - §1 We have long since discovered that the seven superuniverses traverse a great ellipse, a gigantic and elongated circle. Your solar system and other worlds of time are not plunging headlong, without chart and compass, into unmapped space. The local universe to which your system belongs is pursuing a definite and well-understood counterclockwise course around the vast swing that encircles the central universe. This cosmic path is well charted and is just as thoroughly known to the superuniverse star observers as the orbits of the planets constituting your solar system are known to Urantia astronomers.

31/ "Peace on Earth" does not mean no wars. It means peace in your heart. -- El Tanere

Jesus Transmitted Through Eterna

"What is occurring throughout our world is part of divine purpose. For every action there is an equal reaction. Humanity will respond according to that which it receives. The outcome of every situation will demonstrate the union that is taking place.

"The moment you have a breakout of war many more individuals are praying for peace. I suggest you do just that-Focus your meditations on what you want. This is your world and you have every right to choose as anyone else.

The one to whom you make this request is your Creator. Don't ever think your voice is not heard. You are always heard. When you speak out for love, peace and harmony, your Heavenly Father listens.

"I want you to know, beloveds, that every day you are greatly blessed and every day be sure you receive every blessing, every ray of Light, every breath and love. Exercise your divinity. Be not afraid to live your divine consciousness every day.

"Ask for what you want for your world because you live here. Send love and Light to the individuals, civilians especially, to all concerned, and to those who have no idea what is happening. These are the group of people who are involved in the scope of world events and are the ones who suffer the most.

"Before going to sleep at night bring them assistance from the trauma and disharmony they are experiencing. In the dream state they will feel secure and safe and assisted.

"Send love to those waging this war. They need it and don't understand what they are doing. Pray they understand and gain the insight that creates the desire to learn. Pray for a resolution and that the wisdom is embraced quickly.

"Lightworkers you are being called into greater service. Embrace all the world events within yourselves. Send out the energies of the unification of love all around the world. Be a unifier not just of one country but within all the world."

poetry

by jim mccallon jim <dsrtrock@cue.com>

so much of what is life it seems is no more real than wisps of dreams so many words, the acts of hand so many mounts we've dared to stand.....

as shadows dance beyond the fires we move our wills with our desires we climb on clouds then waft the skies we become that soul in another's eyes.....

we chase to catch then flee to free them we bless the meek and curse the heathen we shake our head and raise our brow we swear we've got no idea how and yet when shown a mirror's glance we know the steps we feel to dance.... we recognize that who we be is one rung less than those we flee

for no man runs from what he lords no man gives away his just rewards but in half a beat of heart each will run from those whose shoes he cannot fill..... with half a breath he'll utter quick what about another makes him sick.....

and with mirrored vision echoed clearly he'll cling to those he worships dearly while ignoring those whose pain intense reminds him of his own nonsense

so backwards are we frames of dirt so havened by our own sweet hurt so proudly beaming forth our hate of those whose worth we can't relate of those we're sure aren't worth the time how could we ever be so blind?......

(c. 1998 jimjr)

THE TEACHING MISSION *Lessons from across the U.S.*

THE MOMENT OF LIGHT & LIFE from MELUTIA, Malibu, CA

Greetings Agondonters,

Friends, I greet you with love from myself and The First Source and Center....a love which allows for the human quality of HOPE.

Hope can have a diverse range of complex goals, from the material to the "material/spiritual" to spiritual. God knows - man hopes. Unfortunately man's hopes are usually materialistic, the desire for personal wealth and personal attention or power.....all egocentric.

But Father offers a DIFFERENT kind of hopea SPIRITUAL kind of hope. It does not just take HOPE of Father's message to spread throughout Urantia, but LOVE of that message the desire to do good to others.

That action is GOODNESS, a beautiful human potential quality. Moments of LIGHT AND LIFE with the inclusion of wisdom, then goodness, becomes a GLOWING moment for mortals.

Urantians can achieve and WILL achieve Light and Life. The full time action of the GOLDEN RULE is not only understanding, but acting on that impulse. LOVE is the DESIRE, HOPE is the WISH, GOODNESS is the ACTION and that MOMENT is LIGHT AND LIFE. Not just a time when spiritual truth seekers have found their own peace of mind, but a time when all Urantians participate in the GOLDEN AGE.

For now and always, personal action is a must. Courage to put spiritual answers to material conditions. For now that road is quite empty on Urantia, but if you don't do it yourself, you will 33/ Go this week and shine so all will know the Spirit is alive within you. -- El Tanere.

not see it in others and if others are not participating, at least GOD IS.

Remember, peace of mind is, in the end, a pluralistic condition. Selfishness is not recomended. We descending sons simply KNOW, you ascending sons have the miracle of freewill, which includes hope and faith.

Father loves you. He gives you free will. Please WORK to understand AND APPRECIATE that responsibillity, for that action will truly help evolve this planet toward Light and Life.

SPIRITUAL MAGNETISM Teachers: ELYON, EVANSON, JESSONA

Coeur d'Alene Teaching Mission Group January 3, 1999

ELYON: You are aware of the chemical and physical properties of a magnet. You have been told that the individual molecules in a magnet have aligned themselves with each other and that this unification of alignment causes the overall material to become unified in its magnetism. When this is applied to the image of a compass and the magnet is the pointer, it will unfailingly seek the direction of its orientation.

This has been an observable phenomenon for quite some time on your world and taken for granted that this will remain accurate and true. It has proven itself throughout time to consistently choose the correct direction. I would now enlarge the image to include each of you and all your individual molecules. Every decision you make to approach the will of the Father causes your own individual particles to align themselves consistently and together. When enough of your individual molecules have aligned themselves in this fashion, your direction is like that of the *rit is glive within you are El Tanere*

THE TEACHING MISSION: Spiritual Magnetism/Elyon

compass, straight and true and accurate.

You have each been magnetizing yourselves throughout this lesson period, have been consciously aligning separate aspects so as to work in cooperation with each other. You have consciously proceeded with this objective as well as unconsciously. The net result is that you have become charged and much as the compass, if passed around an object of interference, the needle of a compass may waver slightly in one direction or another, but when the object or impediment is removed the needle steadies itself and accurately points in the correct direction. You may liken yourselves to the needle of this compass.

You have no real options in your future existence other than to point in the direction of truth, in the direction of the Father. You may and will waver slightly as you encounter various obstacles, various charges around you, but when unobstructed you will most clearly point the way. Realizing this tendency of your soul to point towards the Father, you need not fear when these episodes of wavering slightly occur. Though at any instant of time your needle may be slightly to one side or the other of true, it is an insignificant difference, and you will return to center as your experience enlarges.

The work that you do in these groups and individually, personally, is a constant process of aligning your parts so that the whole is in alignment and ever pointing in the direction of the Father. In this way you constantly magnetize yourself and ever become stronger in your ability to pick out the right direction. This act of alignment is the desire of your Thought Adjusters who are ever attempting to draw you toward their home which is your home. When you agree with their leadings, your needles are straight and true. When you encounter difficulties and are off balance, your indicators may waver. But rest assured that a sufficient degree of alignment has occurred within each of you to trust in your indicators as you trust in your mechanical compasses.

Question: I was visualizing the magnetic pull of Urantia in the universe. Are Descending Sons more pulled by the darkness, by the spark of light which is in each of us? I was imagining the planet reaching Light and Life when our magnet is connected to the universe magnet. Descending Sons come to us when our light is small; we may be more attractive to them when our light is dimmest. Maybe magnetism works the opposite for Descending Sons than for ascending sons.

ELYON: You have deduced correctly in that the attraction is the greatest when the need is the greatest for this order, that a state of Light and Life and great accomplishment offers little in the way of challenge and service, and far greater service and challenge are required on a world further away from this state. This is a great attraction and has its own magnetic charge, if you will, for a variety of orders of beings who thrive on these service opportunities and therefore would flock to accommodate these conditions more readily than a planet accomplished in its stages of Light and Life.

On your world you are used to but one magnetic field in which your instruments indicate but one direction. Outside the influence of your magnetic and gravitational fields, there are numerous forces to attract, to draw universe personalities in various directions, but in the entire scheme of all reality there is one universal pull more encompassing than all the others and that is the abode and will and desire of the Father. Other uni-

34/ Your goal is to combine mercy and justice to arrive at fairness. -- Welmek

verses and other worlds have their own fields which register differently, and other personalities have their own interests which seek out their own drawing forces, but all are under the umbrella of the master force of the Father.

Question: As you head north with compass in hand, what is it like to stand right over the pole? Does the needle spin around? I see how Paradise is that north pole. The far stretches of the universe are the south pole; I think of the Supreme. The Paradise gravity circuits, the mind gravity circuits, the personality gravity circuits could all be woven in, the drawing power of the Father, the Infinite I AM. The omnipresence of God is like standing at the north pole.

ELYON: I appreciate your imagery and your return of the volley. It is indeed a many layered image to think of the many circuits involved even here on your own world, the most obvious being the magnetic pole of your compass. But you are correct that the omnipresence of the Father and the direction of your pursuit provide you with an image of all encompassment. These are fun to theorize and appropriate to visualize in that they provide you with some idea of forces which are intangible to your physical being and yet very real. It is your purpose to not only accept these forces as real but to then seek to manipulate and align your being so as to maximize effectiveness of these circuits on your being.

Question: The downside of magnetism is that you don't want your tapeheads to get magnetized. Along the lines of purification, healing, renewal, we may in our finite ways wrongly magnetize ourselves and stillness practice would demagnetize us so we can be re-magnetized with the Father's presence.

ELYON: This speaks to the statement just presented of manipulating yourself so as to align

and receive maximum benefit from these fields. If you speak in terms of appropriate magnetism, then you must also accommodate inappropriate magnetism.

Your example of stillness to demagnetize this scattered and random energy field is an excellent choice. There builds up a static force from your existence as mortal creatures on this world. This is, as mentioned before, an impediment, an obstacle, at times to your indicator. The most effective way to manipulate this field in your favor is to discharge it appropriately so that the remaining particles that are you are then aligned in unison. Does this make sense?

Questioner: Yes, it does. The wear and tear of self-importance is that charge of static magnetism. Time with the Father will cleanse that erroneous charge. Then you become truly important in the eyes of the Father.

ELYON: Well said and it is true that this erroneous charge has a detrimental effect on the instrument that you are. It causes your indicator to waver by means of interference, and therefore, the image of discharging unwanted magnetism is a good one, and may be helpful to you as another reason to validate the practice of stillness in your lives.

Human: As magnetism relates to motive, in ministry when we seek to spread the gospel, people will be attracted to the attributes of God that we show. He is the true magnet pulling people to the truth. We should not be distracted by thinking it is us that they are attracted to. Our motive is to align ourselves to the magnetism of God's will.

ELYON: Very well stated. I would only embellish slightly by referring back to our image of your individual indicators and how they are effected by your positive charge for the Father

THE TEACHING MISSION

and also effected by the errant and negative charges of your material life. Those around you may be experiencing greater degrees of this errant energy causing their indicators to waver back and forth, unable to be still in their direction.

When you act as a conduit for the Father's magnetism, you in your partnership have the effect of calming the needle, of stilling the indicator even if for a brief moment. The magnetism of the Father is so great that when shown to those around through your willingness, it has a drawing effect so powerful as to, even if only momentarily, calm this wavering indicator. They will not understand that this is what has happened; they will simply be attracted to it.

If it is your intentional purpose to provide this pull, they will undoubtedly align themselves with it if only subconsciously. That is the great attractive force we speak of when we ask you to go out and touch your brothers and sisters, not so much with your lessons, with your words, as much as with your conduit of magnetism for the Father.

EVANSON: I greet you also today; this is Evanson, and I would like to present an idea and that is a different perspective on temporal life and eternal life. We of human origin often tend to think of temporal life as that finite duration between birth and death and eternal life as the on-going living of the after death experience. In the morontia state it is taught that the most important element to any life is your connectedness to the Father, that really temporal living is the intermittent connection between the Father's presence within you and your breaking from that.

Once you fuse you are eternally connected with the Father, and like your lesson on magnetism, if you see yourself as a bee-bee and you touch your Thought Adjuster and fuse, you have connected with the magnet that at the other end is the Father, Himself, but nonetheless, you are eternally connected to the Father though you have yet a long paradise journey. This everlasting connection is your goal until then you will wrestle with the temporary fluctuations. This is the temporal life where you are here and only now faced with the struggle to experience the presence of God continually. I assure you it will get easier. The eternal life is that accomplishment.

JESSONA: Much has been made on your world of the value of the laying on of hands, of touch, in healing. Though your own insight would reveal to you that it is a spiritual phenomenon, the directing of divine healing toward another, that it can take place without your physical presence, the touch itself is a concrete demonstration of your inner faith and your acknowledgment of connectedness between the messengers of healing ministry and those in need of receiving this power.

I am one who directs a branch of the reserve corps. We seraphim function as if one pole of the magnetic circuitry of which the reservists of this world are the other. This creates an alignment of its own nature. Thus every field of focus that we are assigned to has this magnetic alignment. You here in this Teaching Mission program are experiencing a communication alignment, and it is in function similar to the healing alignment.

Michael said that if you be lifted up he will draw all to himself. When experiencing the power of divine healing through your being, understand there are two aspects. There is the inflow of the healing power, and there is the drawing out of the absence that is the disease, be it physical or a mental aberration. Sometimes to be an effective conduit you must be an attractive force, a drawing force, rather than a projecting force. This is actually a natural occurrence, one you need not

42/ Take the time to celebrate how far you have come, not how far you have to go. - Abigail

concern yourself with switching one direction or another, but simply maintaining that spiritual receptivity will allow the celestial forces to choose the direction that is beneficial.

Selections from A CELEBRATION WITH CELESTIAL TEACHERS, including: HAM, AARON, LYNDA, ALTURN, MINEARSIA Pocatello Teaching Mission Group - 7th Anniversary Meeting 1-8-99

HAM: You have completed the round of seven. You began to build the foundations and then you proceeded to build the superstructure. You put on the roof and put up the sheet rock and at times you felt that you had failed to provide the plumbing or overlooked the wiring, but I tell you friends, this has not been the case.

Your potential soul growth is flowering beautifully. Remember, spiritual growth is not synonymous with emotion. Do not make the error of judging your spiritual status by how you feel. Your emotions, for the most part, are responsive to your electrochemical bodily systems and your interpretations of the meanings of the events that occurred to you in your life. Spiritual growth is dependent upon intention, motivation, dedication, persistence, and most of all, love.

Now you begin the second cycle of seven and just like the chemical elements that cycle in sevens, you will have to be revisiting your foundations once again. You must always center your life around our Father who centers in you. The time that you spend in quiet, however that is done, remains the bedrock. Nothing else is more important and so I conclude my remarks with this admonition. Return at a higher level now to that foundation which you have been building upon. Examine it. Look for cracks to see if there is the possibility that water will crumble it. Put on a good layer of tar or glue to seal any faults. Renew yourselves, my dear friends, for this next year I am fully confident that you are going to continue to experience profound spiritual growth because you want to. It is your will to do the will of God. It is also my will to do the will of God, to whom be all praise and honor, glory without end. Good evening.

AARON: Greetings, my friends, this is Aaron, and it is good to be here tonight with you to share in what is a symbol of the completion of a cycle for you. Now having been present with you for two years and more of your time, I witness much change and progress in your development, both personally and in your interactions. Struggle has characterized some of these seasons and this is inevitable on the pathway to spiritual progress.

As some of you know well, the transition from material mindedness to spiritual awareness is not a simple step, but rather a series of struggles, for the animal nature is in conflict with the spiritual drive. The awareness that there is a God and that there is a purpose by no means places you above and beyond the journey that it takes to move from the place that you are at to the place that you can see. Knowing that there is a higher way of living is merely the impetus to drive you onward and to sustain you through the difficult trials of living. And I daresay you can attest to the reality of these statements, my friends.

But, indeed, you have all progressed on various levels and you have not cowered away from the difficulties of mortal living, the conflicts and realizations of an imperfect nature, and for this, should you reflect upon the completion of a cycle and take a few moments to look back over your shoulder and recognize that regardless of your momentary situation, even if you are in heartache and if life seems without meaning, you are, indeed, further along the path than you were prior, at last completion. If you find that you have not met with satisfaction your own expectations for yourself, then perhaps you might utilize the completion of the cycle as a further motivation to see how you can take the journey from here forward. I do emphasize to you that spending overmuch time in reflection of where you have been can be stifling as well, for the journey is your moment to moment actions and reactions and efforts in life.

LYNDA : This time of correcting is a gold mine of opportunities for growth for us all, you mortals, we teachers, the many layers upon layers of celestials gathered here in this system for reclamation from all over the universe and even from other universes within this superuniverse. We most often refer to the correction that is occurring on this planet, Urantia, but this time of reclamation is much broader than just this planet and those involved are myriad.

And so we grow as do you, as we take those steps and new experiences, new challenges, new opportunities for service to ourselves and to our siblings. Thank you for this opportunity to share with you what is occurring for me at this time and to communicate to you my thrill in this ongoing process. Seven years, yes, you have been aware of us. You have been in the struggle with your eyes wide open, knowing what you are about, but many of you have been on these paths for a long time and we, your teachers, have been on these paths for an even longer time, some of us for a very long time from your perspective.

ALTURN: Actually, it is a sign of your intelligence that you are not willing to suspend the use of your minds in order to experience truth. Because you have this cautious attitude you avoid the pitfalls of emotionalism, wish fulfillment, fantasy and over dramatization which are pitfalls of human mortal experience. Never fear that we are offended by your lack of faith in our presence. We are amused, yes, but never offended.

Because this planet has been part of the system 38/*Faith must be combined with trust. - El Tanere*

rebellion and therefore quarantined, you do lack the normal planetary affairs that would make our presence much more commonplace. But at the same time would you not all agree that you are becoming familiar with us? You miss us when we are absent. You know deep down in your souls that we are with you and even though your mind may project its judgmental and critical faculties, in your heart, your soul, you are aware of, not only us, but more importantly, the presence of God within your minds.

All of you have experienced spiritual reality. Some of you can see morontial forms, some of you hear better than others our messages, but all of you have the same gift, the Divine Indweller, who ever speaks to you. Let me say on behalf of all teachers, it is our final goal to assist you in hearing God within. That doesn't mean we will leave you and you don't have to interact with us any further, oh no. It is not our desire to leave you, nor our assignment. We may come and go at times and certainly we don't follow you around like your guardian angels do, but always we are sensitive and in reflectivity connection when necessary, or in other circuitry so that we can assist you.

MINEARISA: This circle that you form represents the Father's love. It is without beginning and without end, continuous. I ask you to experience the Father's love flowing down, filling you, filling this room, filling this planet, filling the superuniverse and all that could ever be. Feel this love connecting you soul to soul, heart to heart, hand to hand. This love is your greatest gift, your greatest lesson. You stand united in purpose, in dedication and desire to know God and to do God's will, to manifest in your lives truth, beauty and goodness. It is our privilege to assist in this process and we appreciate the assistance. You return by taking those steps to become more spirit. You are family, we are family, brothers and sisters, children of one God. Go in peace and in celebration for the time behind you and the time yet to come. Farewell.

INDWELLING SPIRIT

Feeling the Spirit by GEORGE SNODDY

Lay the issue of speaking in tongues aside for a moment and focus on what it is that provokes the Pentecostals to speak in tongues. First off I would like to say that the pentecostals are "children" in need of a teacher for they need to learn how to channel the Spirit. For those who have never experienced this phenomena it is impossible for you to relate. We could discuss it intellectually but there would be little understanding. As someone said in another post it is like trying to explain how transmissions work.

To drink of the Spirit is to rest the soul and invigorate it to go out do good works. I was very skeptical also at first and I had to swallow my pride and become humble as a little child in order to receive this wonderful gift. This gift will never intrude upon anyone who does not earnest desire it. It does seem to manifest most powerfully among a core group of believers who are all of one mind, in fact the Pentecostals quote the passage of scripture about being in the upper room and being in one mind.

I have noticed in group meetings the spirit will not manifest where there is controversy or bitterness or pride or any of the negative emotions. It is often referred to as a dove for it is gentle and always loving. I have seen total strangers hugging and kissing one another out of gratitude for the blessing of the spirit. I would encourage everyone to accept this wonderful gift from the Father/Mother.

The experience of being saturated with the spirit is totally subjective. It is the fuel that fuels the engine of Worship. It conditions the mind to be more receptive to receiving higher truth. It is the balm of Gilead that soothes the wounded souls of we poor mortals.

If the mind is peaceful and full of love the seeds of higher truth can be planted. The truth is a seed that comes from the Father, Mortal man the soil, and the pouring out of the spirit the water that brings forth the flowers of the fruit of the Spirit. We have much truth, now we must learn how to plant the truth as Our master Jesus did, with humility, love, and gentleness.

I pray that we will be given loving fingers to gently loosen the soil of man's heart and plant the seeds of truth and then pray for the rain of the mother's spirit love to bring forth the wheat of harvest.

WHEN SPIRIT IS FREE by Jim Cleveland

There is a time for every season seasons for every time There is a rhyme for every reason reasons behind every rhyme

There is a weakness in every power and a power within the weak to feel the spirit in the hour when you touch the spirit sweet

There is a proven way to glory and a glorious way to proof when you read the Master's story and his road to grace and truth.

There is a love that spans the seasons when you take the Master's hand Take your place among the legions who are each a loving lamb.

Just show your love in graceful nature write your name upon the sands with those soulful, gentle people who will heal this troubled land.

(CHORUS)

What will you be to God this morning? Will you be the one He always hoped you'd be?

Will you spread the love upon these fields of mourning

find the joyful, soulful solace in full degree in the silence of the moment when spirit's free

In love and in truth

39/ Life experiences are complicated accidents and delightful adventures, when fear is absent. - Aflana

ORATORY: Common Sense and Civil Disobedience

by CHARLTON HESTON from an address at Harvard University

I remember my son when he was five, explaining to his kindergarten class what his father did for a living. "My Daddy," he said, "pretends to be people."

There have been quite a few of them. Prophets from the Old and New Testaments, a couple of Christian saints, generals of various nationalities and different centuries, several kings, three American presidents, a French cardinal and two geniuses, including Michelangelo. If you want the ceiling re-painted I'll do my best. There always seem to be a lot of different fellows up here. I'm never sure which one of them gets to talk. Right now, I guess I'm the guy.

As I pondered our visit tonight it struck me: If my Creator gave me the gift to connect you with the hearts and minds of those great men, then I want to use that same gift now to re-connect you with your own sense of liberty ... your own freedom of thought ... your own compass for what is right.

Dedicating the memorial at Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln said of America, "We are now engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure." Those words are true again. I believe that we are again engaged in a great civil war, a cultural war that's about to hijack your birthright to think and say what lives in your heart. I fear you no longer trust the pulsing lifeblood of liberty inside you ... the stuff that made this country rise from wilderness into the miracle that it is.

Let me back up a little. About a year ago I became president of the National Rifle Association, which protects the right to keep and bear arms of American citizens. I ran for office, I was elected, and now I serve ... I serve as a moving target for the media who've called me everything from "ridiculous" and "duped" to a "brain-injured, senile, crazy old man." I know ... I'm pretty old ... but I sure Lord ain't senile.

As I have stood in the crosshairs of those who target Second Amendment freedoms, I've realized that firearms are not the only issue. No ...no ... it's much, much bigger than that.

I've come to understand that a cultural war is raging across our land, in which, with Orwellian fervor, certain affected thoughts and speech are mandated. For example, I marched for civil rights with Dr. King in 1963 – long before Hollywood found it fashionable I might say. But when I told an audience last year that white pride is just as valid as black pride or red pride or anyone else's pride, they called me a racist.

I've worked with brilliantly talented homosexuals all my life throughout my whole career. But when I told an audience that gay rights should extend no further than your rights or my rights, I was called a homophobe.

I served in World War II against the Axis powers. But during a speech, when I drew an analogy between singling out innocent Jews and singling out innocent gun owners, I was called an anti-Semite.

Everyone I know knows I would never raise a closed fist against my country. But when I asked an audience to oppose this cultural persecution I am talking about, I was compared to Timothy McVeigh.

From Time magazine to friends and colleagues, they're essentially saying, "Chuck, how dare you speak your mind. You are using language not authorized for public consumption!"

But I am not afraid. If Americans believed in political correctness, we'd still be King George's boys -- subjects bound to the British crown.

In his book, "The End of Sanity," Martin Gross writes that "blatantly irrational behavior is rapidly being established as the norm in almost every area of human endeavor. There seem to be new customs, new rules, new antiintellectual theories regularly foisted on us from every direction. Underneath, the nation is roiling. Americans know something without a name is undermining the nation, turning the mind mushy when it comes to separating truth from falsehood and right from wrong. And they don't like it."

Let me read you a few examples.

At Antioch college in Ohio, young men seeking intimacy with a coed must get verbal permission at each step of the process from kissing to petting to final - at last - copulation ... all clearly spelled out in a printed college directive.

In New Jersey, despite the death of several patients nationwide who had been infected by dentists who had concealed their AIDs — the state commissioner announced

40/ We got little kids with guns fightin' inner city wars; and whadda we do, we lock these little kids behind prison doors

that health providers who are HIV-positive need not... need not ... tell their patients that they are infected.

At William and Mary, students tried to change the name of the school team "The Tribe" because it was supposedly insulting the local Indians, only to learn that authentic Virginia chiefs really liked the name "The Tribe."

In San Francisco, city fathers passed an ordinance protecting the rights of transvestites to cross-dress on the job, and for transsexuals to have separate toilet facilities while undergoing sex change surgery.

In New York City, kids who don't speak a word of Spanish have been placed in bilingual classes to learn their three R's in Spanish solely because their own names sound Hispanic.

At the University of Pennsylvania, in a state where thousands died at Gettysburg opposing slavery, the president of that college officially set up segregated dormitory space for black students. Yeah, I know ... that's out of bounds now. Dr. King said "Negroes." Jimmy Baldwin and most of us on the March said "black." But it's a no-no now.

For me, hyphenated identities are awkward ... particularly "Native-American." I'm a Native American, for God's sake. I also happen to be a blood-initiated brother of the Miniconjou Sioux. On my wife's side, my grandson is a twelfth generation native American ... with a capital letter on "American."

Finally, just last month ... David Howard, head of the Washington D.C. Office of Public Advocate, used the word "niggardly" while talking to colleagues about budgetary matters. Of course, "niggardly" means stingy or scanty. But within days Howard was forced to publicly apologize and then resign.

As columnist Tony Snow wrote: "David Howard got fired because some people in public employ were morons who — a. didn't know the meaning of niggardly, b. didn't know how to use a dictionary to discover the meaning, and c. actually demanded that he apologize for their ignorance."

What does all of this mean? It means that telling us what to think has evolved into telling us what to say, so telling us what to do can't be far behind.

Before you claim to be a champion of free thought, tell me: Why did political correctness originate on America's 41/... We call ourselves the advanced civilization. That sounds like crap to me ...

campuses? And why do you continue to tolerate it? Why do you, who're supposed to debate ideas, surrender to their suppression?

Let's be honest. Who here thinks your professors can say what they really believe? Uh-huh...there's a few...

Now that scares me to death, and should scare you too, that the superstition of political correctness rules the halls of reason.

You are the best and the brightest. You! here in the fertile cradle of American academia, here in the castle of learning on the Charles River, you are the cream. But I submit that you, and your counterparts across the land, are the most socially conformed and politically silenced generation since Concord Bridge. And as long as you validate that ... and abide it ... you are - by your grandfathers' standards - cowards.

Here's another example. Right now at more than one major university, Second Amendment scholars and researchers are being told to shut up about their findings or they'll lose their jobs. Why? Because their research findings would undermine big-city mayor's pending lawsuits that seek to extort hundreds of millions of dollars from firearm manufacturers.

Now I don't care what you think about guns. But if you are not shocked at that, I am shocked at you. Who will guard the raw material of unfettered ideas, if not you? Democracy is dialog! Who will defend the core value of academia, if you supposed soldiers of free thought and expression lay down your arms and plead, "Don't shoot me."

If you talk about race, it does not make you a racist. If you see distinctions between the genders, it does not make you sexist. If you think critically about a denomination, it does not make you anti-religion. If you accept but don't celebrate homosexuality, it does not make you a homophobe.

Don't let America's universities continue to serve as incubators for this rampant epidemic of new McCarthyism. That's what it is: New McCarthyism.

But, what can you do? How can anyone prevail against such pervasive social subjugation? The answer's been here all along. I learned it 36 years ago, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., standing with Dr. Martin Luther King and two hundred thousand people.

CHARLTON HESTON: Civil Disobedience

You simply ... disobey. Peaceably, yes. Respectfully, of course. Nonviolently, absolutely. But when told how to think or what to say or how to behave, we don't. We disobey social protocol that stifles and stigmatizes personal freedom.

I learned the awesome power of disobedience from Dr.King ... who learned it from Gandhi, and Thoreau, and Jesus, and every other great man who led those in the right against those with the might.

Disobedience is in our DNA. We feel innate kinship with that disobedient spirit that tossed tea into Boston Harbor, that sent Thoreau to jail, that refused to sit in the back of the bus, that protested a war in Viet Nam.

In that same spirit, I am asking you to disavow cultural correctness with massive disobedience of rogue authority, social directives and onerous law that weaken personal freedom. But be careful ... it hurts. Disobedience demands that you put yourself at risk. Dr. King stood on lots of balconies.

You must be willing to be humiliated ... to endure the modern-day equivalent of the police dogs at Montgomery and the water cannons at Selma. You must be willing to experience discomfort. Now I'm not complaining, but my own decades of social activism have left their mark on me.

Let me tell you a story.

A few years ago, I heard about a rapper named Ice-T who was selling a CD called "Cop Killer" celebrating ambushing and murdering police officers. It was being marketed by none other than Time/Warner, the biggest entertainment conglomerate in the country - in the world.

Police across the country were outraged. rightfully so - at least one had been murdered. But Time/Warner was stonewalling because the CD was a cash cow for them, and the media were tiptoeing around it because the rapper was black.

I heard Time/Warner had a stockholders meeting scheduled in Beverly Hills. I owned some shares of Time/ Warner at the time, so I decided to attend. What I did there was against the advice of my family and colleagues. I asked for the floor. To a hushed room of a thousand average American stockholders, I simply read the full lyrics of "Cop Killer" - every vicious, vulgar, instructional word.

"I GOT MY 12 GAUGE SAWED OFF I GOT MY HEADLIGHTS TURNED OFF I'M ABOUT TO BUST

SOME SHOTS OFF I'M ABOUT TO DUST SOME COPS OFF...

It got worse, a lot worse. I won't read the rest of it to you. But trust me, the room was a sea of shocked, frozen, blanched faces.

The Time/Warner executives squirmed in their chairs and stared at their shoes. They hated me for that.

Then I delivered another volley of sick lyric brimming with racist filth, where Ice-T fantasizes about sodomizing two 12-year old nieces of Al and Tipper Gore.

"SHE PUSHED HER BUTT AGAINST MY"No...no, I won't do to you here what I did to them. Let's just say I left the room in stunned silence. When I read the lyrics to the waiting press corps, one of them said "We can't print that." "I know," I replied, "but Time/Warner is still selling it."

Two months later, Time/Warner terminated Ice-T's contract. I'll never be offered another film by Warners, or get a good review from Time magazine. But disobedience means you have to be willing to act, not just talk.

When a mugger sues his elderly victim for defending herself ... jam the switchboard of the district attorney's office.

When your university is pressured to lower standards until 80% of the students graduate with honors ... choke the halls of the board of regents.

When an 8-year-old boy pecks a girl's cheek on the playground and gets hauled into court for sexual harassment ... march on that school and block its doorways.

When someone you elected is seduced by political power and betrays you ... petition them, oust them, banish them.

When Time magazine's cover portrays millennium nuts as deranged, crazy Christians holding a cross as it did last month ... boycott their magazine and the products it advertises.

So that this nation may long endure, I urge you to follow in the hallowed footsteps of the great disobediences of history that freed exiles, founded religions, defeated tyrants, and yes, in the hands of an aroused rabble in arms and a few great men, by God's grace, built this country.

If Dr. King were here, I think he would agree. I thank you.

42/ Feels like I am livin' in the wasteland of the free. -- Iris Dement

THE URANTIA PAPERS

Circular Thoughts on our Purpose and Destiny

by DEXTER GRAPHIC

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind and soul and your neighbor as yourself." (U.P.163.4.8)

It seems to me that we are all one family here on Urantia and that our first duty is to find and do Our Father's Will and that our second responsibility is to be good to our fellow brothers and sisters.

The motions of animal evolution have been adjusted by progressive civilization into the currents of our modern human lives. Now we humans adjust our lives to the flow of the Divine Spirit which indwells us.

We are the Will of God manifesting in the universe.

Our animal urges must be accommodated and our human needs must be met. Physics, flesh, thought, and spirit: four distinct worlds which we all live in and must coordinate as human partners of Creativity.

I think it's best to work in from both ends. Don't run into brick walls—physics. Dedicate yourself to finding and doing God's Will—spirit. Eat, drink and be married—flesh. Follow truth, beauty, and goodness wherever they may lead you—thought.

The gaps are going to be big so we'll just have to let some things go by for now. Our priorities must be sorted out: what really matters the most to us?

(Continued at the top of this page. Yes, reread it.)

HEALING

Cloth of Many Colors Peace Project Underway

Mystics and saints throughout the ages have told us that it doesn't take a large percentage of the world's population to change the world. In fact all that is required is one tenth of one percent, roughly five million people who are willing to focus on peace.

As we enter this new millenium, we stand at the brink of an incredible opportunity. Imagine a year long pilgrimage of five million people traveling the globe bearing witness to this new peace. This is the goal of this project.

Forget five million people traveling the world together for an entire year. The objective is to gather the intent and commitment of people all over the world into a single point of light.

Here is how to participate:

1) Find a piece of clothing that you enjoy and cut a small piece from the cloth no bigger than an egg.

2) Hold the cloth in your hand and FEEL what this new world will be like. Important, charge the cloth with Feelings, not thoughts.

3) While holding onto the feeling repeat the words, "PEACE PREVAILS ON EARTH", three times.

4) Send this, along with a SASE to:

Cloth of Many Colors Peace Project 50 East Main Street Riverhead, NY 11901

Throughout the year we expect to receive at least 5 million pieces of cloth charged with feelings of peace. They will be sewn together to make a banner several blocks long.

On January 1, 2000, volunteers will gather at the UN building in NYC and will encircle the outside of the building with this powerful symbol of a wotld united in peace.

This banner will then be turned into hundreds of peace shawls. A group of people led by author and peace troubadour, James Twyman, will travel the globe during the year presenting the peace shawls to the leaders of every country in the world.

43/ We got high school kids runnin' around in Calvin Klein and Guess; who cannot pass a 6th grade reading test ...

THE STILLNESS Fruits of the Spirit

by BECKY COLTRANE and EUGENIA BRYAN

Becky wrote on November 18, 1998:

I think what it boils down to is that, instead of the mentors teaching us only through the use of words, we are getting a mixture of tools and techniques for raising our vibrations, that is useful for meditation, for communicating with the Brotherhood, and for use in everday life.

For example, when bogged down in traffic, to call upon the memory of the experience of patience.— When to go into the space of non-judgment, of detachment, of creative thought, of unconditional love —the mentors have guided us to these states of being, through the group processes, and we have experienced lessons in discernment , in cocreation, and healing techniques.

Sometimes the melchizedeks, angels, ascended masters, etc. give us guidance verbally on the evening's process. Most of the time we have images and knowings of recognition of what is going on.

Lately, there has been a lot of cellular reprogramming, and cleansing of old thought forms that no longer serve—they seek to expand our awareness of who we are—and in that comes the recognition that we are part of All That Is—We would be more apt to refer to it as merging the personality with soul, I think you might call it fusion with the Thought Adjuster. In either case, the effect is the same: the Father's Will be done!

So you ask, how is all this life changing? Experiencing the different states of worship, of love, of detachment, of joy, of playfulness, of non-judgment, of Trust—etc, etc—how can that not be lifechanging?

I can draw on these states, if I choose to remember, and life is smoother, more joyful. I am learning to listen to my body, to my emotional state, to monitor my thoughts, as I have seen how powerfully creative thoughts are!

I think that may be the biggest challenge—to monitor and adjust one's thoughts. We have been told by the mentors to expect a lot of change this year, and were we willing to change?

Always, free will is honored. The quality of my Stillness time has revealed such personally sacred experiences that I am awed, and my desire to grow spiritually has increased phenomally over a few short years ago, when the intellectual, philosophical part sucked me in.

Now, for example, my cosmological understanding of the hierarchy may differ with the UB, but the meat of the message is the same:

Through the Stillness one finds the Source, we are all One in God, we are to love one another—nowhere do we have to agree on everything—All in His time, we will have answers to many questions that our egos desire.

In the meantime I try to recognize that part of God within each individual, enjoying the diversity, the game of life as we each choose to play it. Sure hope this helps Becky

From Eugenia ...

Dear Becky,

Thank you so much for your persistence in following this thread for me. I found it most enlightening and even validating of some of my own experiences, albeit the terminology is not the same.

What I hear you saying is summed up well in this quote from Jesus to Nicodemus, a Sanhedrin who sought to understand Jesus' concept of the kingdom of God:

"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'." (1602-emphasis mine)

I love this passage so much and I look for the fruits of the spirit everywhere -- in me, you, all God's children. Thanks for sharing your 'fruit' with me and how you came to understand them.

Peace, Eugenia

44/ ... But if you ask them they can tell you; the name of every crotch on MTV ...

Will on the Power of Stillness

Celestial Teacher WILL, a poignant and illuminating voice of The Teaching Mission speaks with her Tallahassee, Florida group on 12/20/98.

WILL: The love of God surrounds us; the love of God enfolds us; the power of God supports us. Wherever we gather, He is. Greetings, and good evening to each of you. I'm your teacher Will, who loves you.

My lesson once again focuses on stillness practice. You do not, and could not at this time, understand the long range implications of steady and regular stillness practice. Therefore, we exhort you ever to practice twice a day, and formulate for yourselves a regular and healthy habit of direct personal communication with the Heavenly Father.

You see, you are both like and unlike the Father. Your holy books say that you are created in His image. This is so, but not necessarily in the ways in which those expressions are interpreted. The Heavenly Father's world is different from your world. Like yours, it has an interior and an exterior component. Your traditional Christian churches discuss extensively and teach openly of what is expected and requested of you regarding the world of the exterior. This lesson is largely accurate, being based primarily upon the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, albeit missing most of the motivations and justifications. Nevertheless, in those respects, you all generally know what is asked of you, and also well know how to go about it. However, the world of the interior of the Heavenly Father is quite different from your interior world.

The quality of the Heavenly Father's thinking is unimaginable to you, by you. The clarity of His thoughts, the relentlessness of His logic, the depth of His charity, are qualities of which you can barely conceive. The link between Him and you is, as you know, the presence of the thought adjuster within each of you. The adjuster's arrival is predicated upon the first moral decision of each human. In this regard, each of you sitting at this table is no different than billions of your other time companions on this planet.

You come in to existence as a part of a mechanism approved by the Heavenly Father and put in place by his ministry. When you are born, you are not human, you are a potential human. Upon your first moral decision, your name is then entered on the registry. You are registered as a human being, fully qualified for survivalability. You are not, at that point, any longer a potential human being. You are not a human in training, you are a human, just as a marine is a marine. However, upon assuming your humanity, you take on certain responsibilities.

Before you were a human, you were like a glass of crystal clear water. Upon your moral decision, and your entry on the rolls, you begin building spirit reality. At first, your reality is thin. Imagine that glass of crystal clear water, and drop into it one drop of milk. That is what you are like. And as you gain in spirit power and spiritual reality, you become increasingly real, so that that portion of your reality, spirit reality, overtakes the physical you, the animal you, the material you, which ultimately only houses the spiritual you.

It is our goal and the goal of this ministry to assist all humans in becoming increasingly real in the world of the spirit. As you grow in spiritual reality, you also grow in your ability to know and understand the Heavenly Father who resides within each of you. That spiritual reality, like the Heavenly Father himself, has an interior and an exterior dimension, We are concerned here with the interior.

The Heavenly Father's universe, and interior reality, is so different from yours - it is reality itself, whereas you are only beginning. Witness, for that reason, our emphasis on the participation of the adjuster. And one component of stillness practice is our request that you make yourself available for the adjuster to work. Allow him conscious interior reality time to attune your mind and however much exists of your spiritual reality, to better conform with the ideal of the Heavenly Father.

We know of the demands for your time and attention, because you are material creatures. But the Heavenly Father has a plan for which it appears only material will creatures will be used. The Father has never revealed what His future intention is in this regard, but it now appears that the participants will be limited to creatures just like yourselves, who are born, live a material life, and pass beyond that realm through a material death, with no assurance, other than faith alone, that something awaits on far side.

We all think, and many commentators have offered, that this is an unbelievably challenging and stimulating possibility for the far distance future, and that the challenge is so great, and the concept so vast, that no planetary inhabitants are to be left behind, therefore, in some justification, this teacher mission to your planet, to

45/ Feels like I'm living in the wasteland of the free. -- Iris Dement

THE STILLNESS *Will*

your country, to your town, to this room tonight. The Heavenly Father is thinking some thought which we cannot divine. You are at the essence of that thought.

Were you to participate and propel yourselves into His loving graces, what is asked is that you fully engage yourselves in the interior and the exterior reality that the Heavenly Father would recognize.

We have spend years now discussing the benefits, the realities, the techniques and purposes of regular stillness practice. If it is of encouragement to you, we will say that even though you cannot understand or fully grasp the majesty of the Father's thoughts or many of his qualities, there is one aspect of His personality with which you can perfectly identify. And that is, His feelings.

Feelings are truly universal. When you feel satisfaction, accomplishment, joy, compassion, home-centeredness, unselfish love for children, you are feeling exactly the same feelings known personally by the Heavenly Father.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of regular stillness practice. For who knows when the Father's plan will come to fruition, and all may be called, some of us as well as you, for service. It is the greatest compliment He could give us. We ask then, that you make regularly available, twice a day, a short span of time for identification with and communion with the Heavenly Father and His representative adjuster, in an effort to more closely attune yourselves to the interior world. That is all I have to say. Shalom.

SOLONIA on the Stillness (T/R Daniel)

Greetings, This is Solonia. The time you spend in stillness with your Fragment of Father is the greatest gift imaginable. If you could know how much those of my order envy the opportunity that you have to spend time in personal communication with a Fragment of our Universal Father, you would look for every opportunity to have that time. You are becoming quite good at bringing Father into your daily efforts, Ministries, Services.

It feels wonderful when you do so. You see opportunities opening up. You see the value of Love being shared with those who feel unloved. You connect in these times with your Fragment of our Infinite Father.

If only you would take more opportunity to have individual communion and personal communication with your Indwelling Father Partner, you would so much more easily accomplish the difficult things in your personal spiritual growth. You bear great fruits from those times wherein you allow your Father Fragment to have your personality for expression.

You feel the connection. You recognize it relatively quickly now in situations. This does much for the growth of yourself and your human life. If you would desire to actively incorporate your soul, then you must communicate directly from your soul.

Over and over we have stressed the stillness in these many years, yet we never cease to be astounded at how relatively few of you take full advantage of the incredible opportunity this offers to you.

Again I say, Communion with Father, communion with Jesus. It is the time of full focusing of your Soul upon and with your Father. I cannot emphasize enough how much a regular practice of this stillness will transform you beyond what you can even now imagine.

Please my dear ones, practice this. Be religious about it. It is a Right that you have as God's child to communicate with your Parent. It is a Rite that you should often practice.

I have said my piece for the evening. Hopefully I have given you something to have a great desire for. You know not yet what you can truly accomplish. Goodnight my dear friends, my compatriots.

BARONA with a comment

This is Barona, and I would like to add one small piece of guidance relative to stillness. After you have allowed your soul to insist on it's communion time, I would like to suggest that you could also then invite your ego to join in joyously in the sharing of the Father's message.

Your ego is the little child and it becomes very frightened when it is left out, especially when it is left out of Love in action.

So with warmth and Love, invite your ego to silently join in with you and you may just discover that one of the benefits of the habitual practice of stillness is the eventual elimination of all fear in your consciousness.

Joy to you on your journey into stillness dear ones. That is all.

the urantia papers *The Weakness of Evil*

From ubtalk@utalk.org, my friend and poet Jim McCallon deals with fearmongers who exalt the evil power of the fallen planetary prince, Caligastia, in the Urantia Papers. Caligastia represents evil and sin, rebellion against God. His aide, Satan, is better known in Christian Mythology. Here, Jim uses the Urantia Papers, considered the Fifth Epochal Revelation, to re-evaluate the powers of evil.

hello all,

Page-610 - The last act of Michael before leaving Urantia was to offer mercy to Caligastia and Daligastia, but they spurned his tender proffer. Caligastia, your apostate Planetary Prince, is still free on Urantia to prosecute his nefarious designs, but he has absolutely no power to enter the minds of men, neither can he draw near to their souls to tempt or corrupt them unless they really desire to be cursed with his wicked presence.

Page-574 The controllers and transformers of planetary assignment are also able to collaborate with angels and other orders of celestial beings in rendering these latter personalities visible to mortal creatures. On special occasions the seraphic helpers and even the Melchizedeks can and do make themselves visible to the inhabitants of the evolutionary worlds. The principal reason for bringing mortal ascenders from the system capital as a part of the staff of the Planetary Prince is to facilitate communciation with the inhabitants of the realm.

Page-575 A Planetary Prince is not visible to mortal beings; it is a test of faith to believe the representations of the semimaterial beings of his staff.

Page-753 The power of the fallen Prince to disturb human affairs was enormously curtailed by the mortal incarnation of Machiventa Melchizedek in the days of Abraham; and subsequently, during the life of Michael in the flesh, this traitorous Prince was finally shorn of all authority on Urantia.

Many things have been alluded to about the "power" that Caligastia has -his personal abilities - yet a thorough reading of the Urantia Papers reveals that the real "power" that brought Caligastia to our world as Planetary Prince was his skill as an 'administrator.' 47/ Be still, and know that I am God. --The Bible

It was Caligastia's ability to utilize authority that made him Planetary Prince. On his own, Caligastia doesn't even have the power to make himself visible to mortals.

Caligastia's ability to "disturb human affairs" was curtailed by Melichezdek, and he was "shorn of all authority" by Michael -- and it is that "shorn of all authority" phrase i'd like to offer as a key to understanding any ability that Caligastia ever 'previously' had to effect changes to the human race.

It was Caligastia's "authority" over his staff that gave him the ability to "disturb human affairs." It was Caligastia's staff that did all the work; Caligastia was the administrator - not the laborer.

Now all of that staff that followed Caligastia into rebellion has been removed - he is an administrator with nothing left to administer -- a boss with no one left to boss around.

Celestials are not like cartoon characters - they are not endowed with super-powers that are magical the universe is an orderly place with different levels of beings responsible for different facets of its administration and operation.

For example, Celestial beings cannot simply "fly" to Urantia - with the exception of a few types of beings, they must take a "ship" - they are ferried - beings like Caligastia cannot simply "make themselves visible" to humans - they must employ certain types of beings who manipulate and operate different levels of power that are necessary for such things.

Finally - it is my humble opinion that the only real power that Caligastia has left is the power of deception - and that is limited to one single deception - the belief that any of us might have, that Caligastia has any power over anything having to do with humans, or any power to "disturb human affairs" at all -

take care, jim

THE CHURCH WITHIN New Tools for Contentment

4-11-99 Sunday Service of The Church Within #133 Offered by: Pastor Daniel J. Megow

How does one achieve Contentment? What is it that we all truly seek in life?

Quotes

(Ancient Native American Proverb) "Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."

(from: The Urantia Papers - Paper-92 Section-7)

Religious meanings progress in self-consciousness when the child transfers his ideas of omnipotence from his parents to God. And the entire religious experience of such a child is largely dependent on whether fear or love has dominated the parent-child relationship.

(from: The Urantia Papers - Paper 83 Section 8) The ideals of marriage have made great progress in recent times; among some peoples woman enjoys practically equal rights with her consort. In concept, at least, the family is becoming a loyal partnership for rearing offspring, accompanied by sexual fidelity. But even this newer version of marriage need not presume to swing so far to the extreme as to confer mutual monopoly of all personality and individuality. Marriage is not just an individualistic ideal; it is the evolving social partnership of a man and a woman, existing and functioning under the current mores, restricted by the taboos, and enforced by the laws and regulations of society.

Twentieth-century marriages stand high in comparison with those of past ages, notwithstanding that the home institution is now undergoing a serious testing because of the problems so suddenly thrust upon the social organization by the precipitate augmentation of woman's liberties, rights so long denied her in the tardy evolution of the mores of past generations.

(from: Shooter - a Teton Sioux)

All birds, even those of the same species, are not alike, and it is the same with animals and with human beings. The reason WakanTanka does not make two birds, or animals, or human beings exactly alike is because each is placed here by WakanTanka to be an independent individuality and to rely upon itself. (from: The Urantia Papers - Paper-180 Section-5) Love, unselfishness, must undergo a constant and living readaptative interpretation of relationships in accordance with the leading of the Spirit of Truth. Love must thereby grasp the ever-changing and enlarging concepts of the highest cosmic good of the individual who is loved. And then love goes on to strike this same attitude concerning all other individuals who could possibly be influenced by the growing and living relationship of one spirit-led mortal's love for other citizens of the universe. And this entire living adaptation of love must be effected in the light of both the environment of present evil and the eternal goal of the perfection of divine destiny.

(from: Eagle Man in the book - "Mother Earth Spirituality" 1990) -- Peace of the souls who realize their relationship to the universe and the Great Spirit who is at the center of the universe... This center is the same for everyone everywhere. Peace between two people recognizing the kinship of all people... Peace between nations recognizing that all people are family or kin, and children of the Great Spirit

(from: Frank Fools Crow, Oglala Lakota (Teton) Sioux holy man) -- "Survival of the world depends on our sharing what we have, and working together. If we don't the whole world will die. First the planet, and next the people."

The Sermon

It is SO difficult to acquire adequate tools which are appropriate to use in relationship building and family perpetuation in today's world of advancing technology, world-wide communication and Spiritual Awakening. The budding realization of the Value of "Basic Human Rights" and "Human Equality," makes many of the Old relationship/family tools of past ages obsolete, if not downright harmful, and in some cases fatal.

Here are some examples of Old tools of control and subservience which are rapidly losing their effectiveness in dealing with today's more enlightened and less easily controlled population. They worked somewhat in their time, but today they are more likely to produce anger, resentment, withdrawal, depression and too often violence. See if you don't recognize many if not all of them:

"Do as I Say!"

"Because That is your Place."

48/ And do you have faith not just that there is a God. Do you have faith <u>in God</u>? To be your inner pilot to living grace? -- JC

"You DO it because I SAID to!"

"Children should be Seen and not heard."

"You're gonna get a Whippin'/Beating/...!"

"Spare the rod, Spoil the child."

"It's the Wife's/Husband's DUTY to ..."

"Don't Think about it, Just DO it."

"Do it because the leaders of the Church tell you to ... "

"That's all you're good for."

These "tools," and yes they were tools in their time, are no longer appropriate, will not Work, and in fact are Socially and Personally detrimental to today's more aware populations. They worked in their time because they were the best tools possible at the time... men and women and children were NOT considered Equal, nor were they Treated at all equally ... children's Spirits were treated as something to be Broken, as in breaking a Horse or in letting a young dog know who the boss is.

Man earned a living and ruled the house as he wished and was the Universal Disciplinarian to be Feared and Obeyed... that was considered his job, Women did all the housework and bore and raised the children as Husband and Society expected them to because That's the way things were done... regretfully they were little more than sex objects and beasts of burden. Children more often did what they were told, When they were told, because the consequences were too painful... they often had little if any right to their own thoughts and desires, being labeled impertinent should they persist in displaying any.

All of this was quite Normal and Acceptable for that time. Men, Women and Children somewhat Expected it even if they didn't particularly like it, and lived as comfortably as they Could within its confines. Humankind, however, continues endlessly to grow, and with the social evolution of Equal Rights we outgrew and began breaking down the "confines" which formerly could so effectively Control the Human Spirit.. Society is beginning to recognize the Barbarism of the old ways and the old tools, but it is slow in developing and offering adequate New tools and New Ways to replace the Old ones.

Now is a time of Major Transition for us and for our World. Civilization is rapidly approaching the Physical limits of our planet. It is no longer so easy to start fresh in a New Land as it once was ... we can no longer isolate ourselves, but must learn Cooperation and Respect and Tolerance in order to survive. We must create and learn to use, and learn to sharpen, Spiritual Tools if we are to survive in the rapidly approaching Spiritual Age. And this is true especially in regards to Family and Relationship Tools ... from the Personal relationship with our own Self, to our relationship with our Spouse, Children, Families, Society, our relationship with the whole World and the Family of Civilization, even our relationship with God.

There are so few examples of effective New Tools that are adequate to the task of developing Satisfying and Healthy Relationships in today's world because Women and Men are so recently entering into the early stages of trying to understand and desire equality in All areas of life and New Tools are essential to building Healthy, Loving and Growing Relationships that can "keep pace" with the growing understanding of humankind. People naturally crave lasting and loving relationships.

The desire/need to be loved and accepted and respected drives all other human desires. One will do almost Anything to fill this most essential human need. Even today's rampant materialism and the obsession for power, fame and outward success are fuelled by the underlying human need to be loved, accepted and respected. But never do those things completely satisfy; never do they bring lasting contentment and inner peace. "What will?"

I wish I had all the answers, all the methods, all of the tools to share ... but I do not. Only have I discovered a few, though incessantly I seek. Though they be few, the tools I have found and am learning to use have made a profound transformation of my life. Perhaps they will not work for others... perhaps they Will. Perhaps you have already discovered and use them... perhaps you have discovered others that work equally as well as mine do for me. If so please share them... humankind needs all the new tools it can get.

So what are mine? I'll show you mine if you show me yours. I'll go first...

"I Love you because you are lovable, not because I expect anything in return."

"I love You for who you Are and, who You as a Unique child of God desire to be."

"I will neither lead nor follow you, but willingly will I walk at your side hand in hand."

"I respect your Ideals though our ideas may differ."

"Your Dreams and personal goals are just as Important as mine. Whether they be different or the same, you have my respect, support and encouragement to pursue them."

49/ Fear is tallow that burns from the candle in the night, as we soothe our depths of peace and light with Jesus.

THE CHURCH WITHIN

"Our Personal Paths are Individual and Unique. I cannot leave mine to walk Yours, and you cannot leave yours to walk Mine, and yet "In Love" we still may walk together."

OK... now it's Your turn...

The Prayer

Dear God, I wish to do what is Loving and pleasing to You and all of Your Children, for from that comes all of my True Satisfaction.

You ALL are Within the Infinitely Loving Embrace of our Universal Parent,

The Creator's Infinite Love, through me, to all of You, Pastor Daniel

Story of the Week #6 from The Church Within Contributed by Gregory R. Armel

Heartlight Cafe

The man sat alone at a little table for two in the coffee house known for its enlightening conversation and social atmosphere, head bent forward supported by hands clasped together upon which his forehead rested, looking down into his cup of coffee.

A young man approached unseen and inquired as to whether the man might not care for some company over some conversation. Without looking up the man responded "Would you care to talk about God?" The young man eased into the chair opposite, setting down his coffee and said "My view is not often shared by others." "Then tell me about your view." said the man, raising his head and resting his chin upon his thumbs without moving his hands.

He listened attentively while the young man explained his view and his reasons for approving of it so. "And what is your view?" asked the young man, sipping on his coffee. "I know God well." said the man, taking a sip of his coffee as well. "He knows what view is True in your Heart, and since the Love in your Heart is only True for what your Heart holds to be True, your view is His view for you. He accepts the Love of God in the Heart of Man, no matter the name invoked. He knows who He is. "Should two men engage in Jihad, each believing their view of God to be the view that God approves of, should God approve of Loving one over the other, no matter what the view is that either might approve of?" asked the man. "Should the Love of God in God's Heart be limited by the views approved of by man?"

"So, is no view approved by man, God's view then?" returned the young man. "They all are, to some extent. Even the view of the atheist approves of some measure of Truth, and All Truth is God's Truth" was the answer. "But doesn't God want that all men should approve of the same view?" asked the young man. "Yes." answered the man. "Love, Truth, and Harmony. That is why He gave them different views when they were separated by geography, so that when they were no longer separated, they might come together sharing the Love of God, and thereby realize the Love and Truth in each and thus come to realize Peace and Harmony."

"It doesn't seem to have worked too well!" retorted the young man. "It is working better all the time, and what choice is there? There is only One God, and why would He approve of any one segment of His Creation over another?" asked the man as he emptied his cup of coffee. "Most seem to think that He does though." responded the young man, emptying his coffee as well.

"They don't think is their problem." answered the man. "They only assume." He stood with his hand outstretched, "Thank you for listening to the musings of an old man." he said. "Thank you for giving me some to think about." said the young man over the handshake. "Hopefully, I've merely opened your Heart, so that others might give you some to think about, for that is the way to know God. Through each and every Heart that you meet." tossed the man as he disappeared out the door.

The young man turned and looked over the crowd in the coffee house. "Well, no time like the present." he mused silently as he stepped up over to a table for two occupied by only one. "Care for some company over some conversation." he asked.

The Prayer

Dear Ever Loving Parent,

Help us each to discover more and more of Your reality through Love and a better understanding of All of Your Children. You ALL are Within the Infinitely Loving Embrace of our Universal Parent, The Creator's Infinite Love, through me, to all of You, Pastor Daniel Thank you for your comments and the Love that you Share!!

Daniel Megow - "The Church Within" - P.O. Box 293; Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-0293 - (208) 765-0845 - E-Mail: cwithin@cet.com - http://www.cet.com/~cwithin

50/Doubt is smoke that wafts away as we sit by the fireglow feeling the comforts of Jesus. -- jc

Expression of God by STEVE TILLER

"If we know God, our real business is to so 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." UP 132-7

Father Within:

Let my ego become so finely attuned to you that it disappears in the background of your revelations to my brothers and sisters. Let my heart perceive what my mind can not and reveal your love to the people around me.

Give me courage to lift You up in my life for all to see. Let my faith so strenghen your ability to work through me that we accomplish together what I alone would only confuse.

I am an expression of You in the world. Let me be clear channel of your love to others.

Let me become as transparent and tranquil as the sea of glass as you bring your revelations to the minds and hearts of those desiring to know you.

We are partners in this life of spiritualization, but you are the true heart and mind of the living God- and I willingly and lovingly call you "Master" of my life and destiny- today and in eternity. You are the beating of my heart, the breath of my soul, the light of my mind's eye.

You are the unseen reality of the only life worth living.

You are the joy of my being that whispers your name.

Infinite love - perfume of life. Guardian of all that will ever be.

THE NEW PASTOR

A new pastor moved into town and went out one Saturday to visit his parishioners. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one came to the door even after he had knocked several times Finally, he took out his card, wrote on the back "Revelations 3:20" and stuck it in the door.

The next day, as he was counting the offering he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was notation "Genesis 3:10."

Revelation 3:20 reads: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me." Genesis 3:10 reads: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked."

THE HELPFUL PRIEST

A priest is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street.

However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

After watching the boys efforts for some time, the priest moves closer to the boy's position.

He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder leans over and gives the doorbell a sold ring.

Crouching down to the child's level, the priest smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?"

To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

JEST THE FACTS

Three Responses to a Proposition

Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton and Bill Gates were invited to have dinner with God.

During dinner God told them: "I invited you here because I need three important people to send my message out to all people: Tomorrow I will destroy the earth."

After dinner, Yeltsin immediately called together his cabinet and told them: "I have two very bad news items for you:

1. God really exists, and

2. Tomorrow He will destroy the earth."

Clinton called an Emergency meeting of the Senate and Congress and told them: "I have Good news and Bad News:

1. The good news is: God really does exist.

2. The bad news is: tomorrow He's destroying the earth."

Bill Gates went back to Microsoft and happily announced: "I have two fantastic announcements:

1. I am one of three most important people on earth.

2. The Year 2000 problem is solved."

The BIG imponderables

A man is walking along the beach when he trips over something in the sand. Upon examination, he sees that it looks like the kind of ancient oil lamp described in the story of Aladdin. He eagerly rubs the lamp and out rushes a genuine genie who says in a booming voice, "I am the genie of the lamp. I have been trapped in this lamp for 1,000 years. For setting me free, O kind Master, I have the power to grant you one and only one wish."

The man thought and thought. Finally, he pulled out a map and said, "It has been my goal in life to achieve something great and lasting to benefit the world. Do you see this region here on the map? It is called the Middle East and it is a very violent region. I realize I could wish for a lot of money, or fame, but I would like to use this wish to bring peace to the Middle East. Can you do this, Genie?"

The genie looked disappointed. He said, "I'm sorry, Master, but I cannot grant this wish. The people of this region have been fighting for thousands of years. The wars go back many, many generations. The religious battles and opinions run rampant in this area. Boundary disputes are constantly occurring. Violence and hatred is too far ingrained into this part of the world for even the power of one of my wishes to do any good. I am sorry, but your wish is beyond my powers. Have you another wish?"

"Well," said the man, "if I can't bring peace to the Middle East, perhaps I can do this: I would like to understand how women work. What makes them laugh? What makes them cry? What affects their emotions? How do I make them happy? Why do they do the things they do? I wish I could fully understand women."

The genie thought seriously for a moment, then replied, "Let me see that map again."

Bloopers From Church Bulletins

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

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

The 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 morning.

Low Self-esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.

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

The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

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

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

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

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

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

A songfest was hell at the Methodist church Wednesday.

Today's Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? With hymns from a full choir.

Hymn 43: "Great God, What Do I See Here?" Preacher: The Rev. Horace Blodgett Hymn 47: "Hark! An Awful Voice Is Sounding"

On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: GOD IS GOOD. Dr. Hargreaves is better.

Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.

The 1997 Spring Council Retreat will be hell May 10 and 11.

Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.

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

The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir

Strange Facts Did you know that ...

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4:20.

All porcupines float in water.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An animal epidemic is called an epizootic.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Camel's milk does not curdle.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.

Cats urine glows under a black light.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt."

Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards, and are on the Australian coat of arms for that reason.

Facetious and abstemious contain all the vowels in the correct order, as does arsenious, meaning "containing arsenic."

In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.

In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.

In the 1940s, the FCC assigned television's Channel 1 to mobile services (two-way radios in taxicabs, for instance) but did not re-number the other channel assignments. That is why your TV set has channels 2 and up, but no channel 1.

53/ Reality is for those people who can't handle drugs. -- Lily Tomlin

SURFING FOR SPIRITUALITY

ISMs-- Ideas from DAVE TIBBETS

There are no bad "ism's." Whether it's Capitalism, or socialism, or even Communism, their true worth can only be measured by how well they function when applied to a particular culture or people.

Deep in our souls, we'd all like to have the security of being "taken-care-of". The problem is, who then is to be the providers? In this world, there few indeed who are ready to work very hard, so that everyone else can just "float". Since we are NOT robots, we don't function well under those conditions. That, whether we like it or not, is why Capitalism works so well. It truly fits the character of present day people. "He who would not work, neither shall he eat" pretty well sums it up!

Now, we are not nearly THAT heartless. Even at this point we recognize there are many who simply are not able to provide for themselves at some level. But rather than encouraging us ALL, to be as much as we *can* be, and contribute that which God had given us to offer, we ask "government" to make the indigent wards of the "state". This is like laundering our money, so we forget that each of us is pulling the barge we call government. But that's really not the worst of it. I can honestly say, I've never heard of a program run by government, that was run exceptionally well. How could it be?

When you ignore efficiency, and isolate the recipients from the givers, who is supposed to care if a lot of the money gets "spilled" on a bureaucracy? Until the days of Light and Life arrive on this planet, and the motivation has shifted from material comfort to truly loving each other, socialist/communistic approaches will not work! So, I propose that we learn to be more honest about who we as people are, and what "ism" will drive the "machinery" of our societies. Let's stop hating each other for our present immaturities, and our penchant for acquiring "things". It's just one of many necessary steps in the pedantic process of societal evolution.

Of course, some of us will advance a bit more quickly than others. Should we expect otherwise? But it is incumbent upon those whose vision is clearer, to be understanding, not hateful towards those of us who are still in the process of evolving. This is why the Urantia Book is so "vital" to this world at this time! It gives that clear vision needed to steer our materialistic, capitalistic, self-centered inhabitants towards a brighter day. We need always to reach to our better selves, and demand as muchbeauty, goodness and truth as we can get from whomever leads us. Let's not ever twist what is true to serve some short sighted goal of preserving unworthy leaders, just because we so despise some other "ism".

I've Learned(Philosophical thoughts.)

I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. — Age 6

I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night". — Age 7

I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. — Age 9

I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up. — Age 12

I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. — Age 13

I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. — Age 15

I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. — Age 24 $\,$

I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures. — Age 25

I've learned that wherever I go, the worlds worst drivers have followed me there. — Age 29

I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. — Age 39

I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it. — Age 41

I've learned that you can make someone's day by simply sending them a little card. — Age 44

I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his

need to cast blame on others. — Age 45

I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies. — Age 46

I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours. — Age 49

I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. — Age 50

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way

54/ Men with a pierced ear are better prepared to marry. They've experienced pain and bought jewelry-Rita Rudner

he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. — Age 52

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. — Age 53

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. — Age 58

I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, try to improve your marriage. — Age 61

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. — Age 62

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. — Age 64

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. — Age 65

I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. — Age 66

I've learned that it pays to believe in miracles. And to tell the truth, I've seen several. — Age 73

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. — Age 82

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch-holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. — Age 85

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. — Age 92

FIVE GREAT LESSONS: The Important Things Life Teaches You...

Lesson 1: Most Important Question

During my second month of night school, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Obviously, this was some kind of joke...

I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her

name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank.

Before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your lives, in your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello'."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

Lesson 2: Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 PM, an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her - generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s.

The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxi cab. She seemed to be in a big hurry! She wrote down his address, thanked him and drove away.

Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes but my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others." Sincerely,

Mrs. Nat King Cole

Lesson 3: The Obstacle in Our Path

In ancient times, a king had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the big stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. On approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. As the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed

55/ I would love to learn a foreign language, but I can't, so I grew hair under my arms instead. -- Sue Kolinsky

a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many others never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve one's condition.

Lesson 4: Giving Blood

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at Stanford Hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save Liz."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood.

Lesson 5: I'VE TWO CHOICES

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood." I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested. "Yes it is,"Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business, he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gun point by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care,Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body. I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he said, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices - I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live.

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked. Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man. " I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing

56/ If life was fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead. -- Johnny Carson

to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.

Attitude, after all, is everything.

LIVING When asked, this is what Erma Bombeck had to say about living life over.

If I had my life to live over...

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television - and more while watching life.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

GOD SPEAKS FOR FREE by Jim Cleveland

(1)

I have scaled majestic mountains flowed like grass on sweeping plains I have swam the briny ocean never returned at all the same. I found people where I found them wishing peace to be their gain and I left them like I found them Pretty much they seemed the same. Found that changes always happen while some people never can and their same eternal lessons are what comes around again.

(2)

A train will come at midnight You don't know from whence it came Gather souls in all their sadness and erase the mark of Cain One day a train will come upon you and wait darkly in the rain and you will find a window and you'll leave behind your pain. Your train will surge past midnight charging headlong fast and free as you watch the constant passing of the fated family tree

(3)

We live here in the mountains and on bare or fruited plains as we carry on the nature of the evolving human train In a garden made by Father With our growth by our own degree in the precious hands of Father as we brighten by Divine Decree As spirits made in flesh form I know our souls will ever be if we seek the light of Father then this splendor we will see

CHORUS

Turn the nights into days The midnight train is coming It will take you to the morning in the brightness you will see that the sunlight comes from Heaven given now to you and me And when we tune the silence God will speak to us for free

57/ The reason there are so many Smiths in the phone book is simple. They all have phones.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner."

There would have been more "I love yous"... more "I'm sorrys"... but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it... live it...and never give it back.

- Erma Bombeck

A Heartwarming Story: If you smile at me I will understand

I am a mother of three (ages 14, 12, 3) and have recently completed my college degree. The last class I had to take was Sociology. The teacher was absolutely inspiring with the qualities that I wish every human being had been graced with.

Her last project of the term was called "Smile." The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reaction. I am a very friendly person and always smile at everyone and say, "hello" anyway....so, I thought, this would be a piece of cake, literally.

Soon after we were assigned the project, my husband, youngest son, and I went out to McDonald's one crisp March morning. It was just our way of sharing special play time with our son. We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away, and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch...an overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside of me as I turned to see why they had moved.

As I turned around I smelled a horrible "dirty body" smell ...and there standing behind me were two poor homeless men. As I looked down at the short gentleman close to me, he was "smiling." His beautiful sky blue eyes were full of God's Light as he searched for acceptance. He said, "Good day" as he counted the few coins he had been clutching.

The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. I realized the second man was mentally deficient and the blue eyed gentleman was his salvation. I held my tears...as I stood there with them. The young lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, "Coffee is all, Miss" because that was all they could afford and to sit in the restaurant and warm up, they had to buy something...(they just wanted to be warm).

Then I really felt it... the compulsion as so great I almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That is when I noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on me...judging my every action. I smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give me two more breakfast meals on a separate tray. I then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot. I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue eyed gentleman's cold hand.

He looked up at me, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Thank you." I leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, "I did not do this for you...God is here working through me to give you hope." I started to cry as I walked away to join my husband and son.

When I sat down my husband smiled at me and said, "That is why God gave you to me honey....to give me hope." We held hands for moment and at that time we knew that it was only because of the blessings that we had been given that we were able to give.

We are not church goers but we are believers. That day showed me the pure Light of God's sweet love. I returned to college, on the last evening of class, with this story in hand. I turned in "my project" and the instructor read it....then she looked up at me and said, "Can I share this?" I slowly nodded as she got the attention of the class.

She began to read and that is when I knew that we, as human beings and being part of God, share this need to heal people and be healed. In my own way I had touched the people at McDonalds, my husband, son, instructor, and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night I spent as a college student. I graduated with one of the biggest lessons I would ever learnUNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE.

Much love and compassion sent to each and every person who may read this. Learn how to LOVE PEOPLE AND USE THINGS - NOT LOVE THINGS AND USE PEOPLE.

Author Unknown

If you smile at me I will understand Because that is something Everybody, everywhere does In the same language -David Crosby



58/ Right now I'm having amnesia and deja vu at the same time. I think I've forgotten this before - Stephen Wright

Bill of No Rights *written by State Rep. Mitchell Kaye from GA.*

"We, the sensible people of the United States, in an attempt to help everyone get along, restore some semblance of justice, avoid any more riots, keep our nation safe, promote positive behavior, and secure the blessings of debt free liberty to ourselves and our great-great-greatgrandchildren, hereby try one more time to ordain and establish some common sense guidelines. We hold these truths to be self-evident: that a whole lot of people are confused by the Bill of Rights and are so dim that they require a Bill of No Rights."

ARTICLE I: You do not have the right to a new car, big screen TV or any other form of wealth. More power to you if you can legally acquire them, but no one is guaranteeing anything.

ARTICLE II: You do not have the right to never be offended. This country is based on freedom, and that means freedom for everyone - not just you! You may leave the room, turn the channel, express a different opinion, etc., but the world is full of idiots, and probably always will be.

ARTICLE III: You do not have the right to be free from harm. If you stick a screwdriver in your eye, learn to be more careful, do not expect the tool manufacturer to make you and all your relatives independently wealthy.

ARTICLE IV: You do not have the right to free food and housing. Americans are the most charitable people to be found, and will gladly help anyone in need, but we are quickly growing weary of subsidizing generation after generation of professional couch potatoes who achieve nothing more than the creation of another generation of professional couch potatoes.

ARTICLE V: You do not have the right to free health care. That would be nice, but from the looks of public housing, we're just not interested in public health care.

ARTICLE VI: You do not have the right to physically harm other people. If you kidnap, rape, intentionally maim, or kill someone, don't be surprised if the rest of us want to see you fry in the electric chair.

ARTICLE VII: You do not have the right to the possessions of others. If you rob, cheat or coerce away the goods or services of other citizens, don't be surprised if the rest of us get together and lock you away in a place where you still won't have the right to a big screen color TV or a life of leisure. ARTICLE VIII: You don't have the right to demand that our children risk their lives in foreign wars to soothe your aching conscience. We hate oppressive governments and won't lift a finger to stop you from going to fight if you'd like. However, we do not enjoy parenting the entire world and do not want to spend so much of our time battling each and every little tyrant with a military uniform and a funny hat.

ARTICLE IX: You don't have the right to a job. All of us sure want all of you to have one, and will gladly help you along in hard times, but we expect you to take advantage of the opportunities of education and vocational training laid before you to make yourself useful.

ARTICLE X: You do not have the right to happiness. Being an American means that you have the right to pursue happiness - which, by the way, is a lot easier if you are unencumbered by an overabundance of idiotic laws created by those of you who were confused by the Bill of Rights.

If you agree, we strongly urge you to forward this to as many people as you can. No, you don't have to, and nothing tragic will befall you should you not forward it. We just think it is about time common sense is allowed to flourish - call it the age of reason revisited.

Vote For President Now!!

You only have one answer and the fate of the world is in your hands, Choose well Here's the scoop on the three leading candidates

Candidate A: Associates with wart healers and consults with astrologers. He's had two mistresses. He chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate B: He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college and drinks a quart of brandy every evening.

Candidate C: He is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and hasn't had any illicit affairs.

OK...Which of these candidates is your choice? A was Franklin D. Roosevelt; B was Winston Churchill; C was Adolf Hitler Kind of scary, huh?

59/ I have all the money I will ever need, unless, of course, I wanted to buy something.

EXPLORER ENDNOTES

HI EXPLORERS! From the Urantia Papers: But the greatest of all methods of problem solving I have learned from Jesus, your Master. I refer to that which he so consistently practices, and which he has so faithfully taught you, the isolation of worshipful meditation. In this habit of Jesus' going off so frequently by himself to commune with the Father in heaven is to be found the technique, not only of gathering strength and wisdom for the ordinary conflicts of living, but also of appropriating the energy for the solution of the higher problems of a moral and spiritual nature.

Today, this truth remains. In the Stillness, the quiet time, we follow the example of Jesus in establishing a close and personal relationship with the Universal Father, who lives within the spirit inside us all.

And when he departed from his mortal sojourn, Jesus left the Spirit of Truth to join the ministrations of the Father and Holy Mother Spirit -- a joyful trio that can lead us inward and upward to the Eternal God, the Eternal Truths.

In this issue, we have melded much about Jesus, the Father, the Holy Spirit, the Stillness that brings us to them, and our own mortal issues and challenges in these tumultuous, quickening and eventful times.

It is through the Stillness that the spirits refuel our energies, inspire us the right directions, lead us past the deceptions of greed, wealth and power, give us insights of true values, and show us the ever-lighted, ever-brighter path to grow and ascend.

So why was this issue not themed for the Stillness, then? Because there is an even truer center to our very lives than the centering exercise of the Stillness. For the scriptures and the Urantia Papers speak truly when they say that all paths to God lead through Michael, Jesus, the grand and glorious Creator Son who created the entire local universe, including our planet, and bestowed himself in the flesh here to show us the way to the Father.

In our Creator Son Michael, incarnated as the human Jesus to live our lives as we do, we have at once the Son of God and Son of Man, our own Creator coming to live and die and be resurrected, showing us the way, convincing those who can learn that the passage is eternally safe.

He showed us how to live. He showed us how to die. Always with Grace. Always with Faith. Always with Knowing. Always with Love. And he re-appeared to mortals time and time again to show them the vitality of his resurrection and give them the central message again and again.

And it has lived on. Today, Jesus is the rock center that all planetary spirituality must come to. Every religious figure, past and present, is part of the plan to be teachers and prophets. But since Jesus IS the Creator Son of us all, they all one day will come to him.

And what would Jesus say to any true religious leader who didn't believe in him, who disputed his Divinity? I believe Jesus would embrace or disdain them not on the basis of the false teachings they believed or the true teachings that they didn't.

Jesus and the Spirit of Truth he left with us at Pentecost knows your inner self, the reality of you as your spiritual essence of the Universal Father's endowments. Beyond the material, the mortal, the mammal. We can consult these spiritual endowments, these heavenly gifts -- in the Stillness. Our lives have a center. It is Jesus. Hand in hand we go to the Father -- in the Stillness. To know the life of Jesus and how he lived it is the most important thing we can learn. *Hope you enjoyed this issue, Jim*