

THE *Light and Life* JOURNAL

An Exploration of the Spiritual Universe

ISSUE 4 • SUMMER 1998

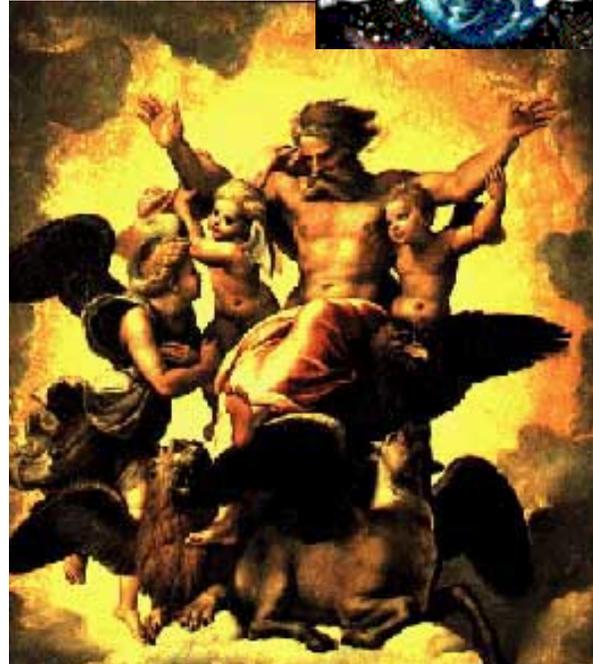


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ISSUE #4 - SUMMER 1998



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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.

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A MESSAGE FROM CHRIST MICHAEL



Children, you are my vanguards for a whole new truth. It pre-exists in my life on Urantia. As do you, I faced these struggles. And in doing so, I sought to reveal a whole new enlightened concept of religion, to humankind's comfort and the greater honor of my Universal Father.

Much of this truth is known. But much, very much, as revealed in your text, remains anonymous and unacceptable to the world at large. And so, can you wonder at what the Correcting Time is about, your roles as new teachers for a new millennium — to recover that of my mission which was lost and bring these expanded understandings to a world yet hungry for these spiritual truths. The expanded lessons I would bring this world, I would bring through you.

It is the same love that you are asked to radiate. It is the same mission, so lovingly bestowed upon you, with peripheral understandings, by my loyal teachers. The glory of God as a Universal Father, residing in each of you. You have but to find fusion with this Godly force. I sought to direct men to God; some men have persisted to glorify my miracle to the exclusion of the reality of my incarnated life, the meaning and result of my true service to the Father. I pray you will tell humankind these things, and bring forth this enlarged vision of Jesus the Son of Man. For this was a vastly important part of who I am. And I am within each of you, as is our Father. We are altogether.

This world is hungry to the point of ripeness for this message, this expansion of what I sought to teach. Do not allow the rot of frustrated hunger to set upon this tree of life on Urantia. Take upon you this fruit and share it with all, regardless of dogma, regardless of social state, regardless of the repugnancy of their path. Love them as I loved you and still do. Love them as the Father loves all his children, lost or found. Minister to them this expanded view of Jesus as you, a part of you, asking you to follow me into death and resurrection. I know the way. It is safe.

I ask you to share these saving truths with Urantia, and help me to carry forth beyond my incarnation, throughout yours, the truth of the eternality of universal love, above and beyond all else. Our teachers will help you to know how. Your text will provide mighty nuggets from which you can glean for generations. You have the tools. You have the heart. Go forth and know that the spirits live within you.

Shalom.

given to jc

LOVE ENERGY READINGS: Love multiples into more Love

One morning, Farmer Brown went out hunting with his dog, Spot. They came to a small valley surrounded by hills on three sides. There was a bear on the other side of one of the hills. Farmer Brown and Spot happen to have been downwind of that bear. Spot knew the bear was there. Farmer Brown did not.

Was Spot psychic?

Was Spot prophetic?

Was Spot channeling the bear?

I say Spot is gifted with a heightened sense of awareness. By whatever name we call the heightened awareness, its value and meaning is still the same. Its value to Spot and the Farmer is dependent upon Spot's skill in being able to relate and integrate what he has perceived, accurately. Does Spot relate what he has perceived with 'bear,' big brown thing with claws and big teeth? Does Spot relate what he has perceived with "bunny," little fuzzy thing with puffy cotton tail? The effectiveness of Spot's integration means the difference between being dinner and having dinner. Therein lies the value of his awareness.

We have learned to be wise consumers when it comes to things we put into our selves. We look past the labels and focus on the nutritional value of the contents. I implore we do the same with messages of awareness. It does not matter what "it" is called. It only matters if "it" is beneficial and life promoting.

I ask we claim responsibility for the integration of our own thoughts. Our emotions are our own creations. There is no one else to blame for what we feel, except ourselves. What we are going to feel is a result of how we have willfully chosen to perceive. For example, the message of school

closings, will be experienced by the kids as, "yipee." It will be experienced by mom entirely different, "oh no." The different emotional states are due to differences in how they have chosen to perceive the situation.

I found when I am experiencing such states as anger, irritation and offense, I am perceiving from a focus of fear. In order for me to create the experience of "offense." I first would have to have perceived a threat. Threat relates to emotional security and is only possible to experience when we have chosen to place our security on material conditions and circumstances. When our emotional security is placed on material conditions, then are we motivated to do our best to control and manipulate these conditions, through means of force, applied physically, emotionally and mentally. Perspectives such as this create attitudes of arrogance, righteousness and supremacy towards our fellows..

A faith child of God needs no one else's agreement to feel emotionally secure. That feeling of security, is a natural result of such faith. A child of fear thinks to make up for quality with quantity, always seeking the agreement of others ... as if doubt added together would equal faith.

I beseech all of us to examine the concept of being self governing, as it applies to our emotions and thoughts. Emotions are the creations of our thoughts. Our thoughts are dependent upon our choice to value faith or fear. Faith brings the qualities of Love into our lives. Love is an attractive power. It needs no force to be appreciated. Nor does it need any proponents of force, to be effective.

I am a faith child of a Loving Father. I adore my Father, because he is so adorable. How could I help not love a Father whose understanding, compassion, wisdom and forgiveness are so all-encompassing? If my daddy tells me, "Don't play

with fire” and, I choose to ignore his guidance, then the pain I experience is a result of my ignorance concerning the nature of the fire. My pain is not a punishment from daddy for disobedience. Daddy does not utilize such tactics as fear and retribution. These tactics are only required by beings lacking in genuine virtue of character. And my daddy... is the epitome of ALL virtue.

Love is an attractive power. When we are loving and lovable, then love is what we attract. Fear is repulsive. When we act in fear, when we act in belief we are separate from God’s all encompassing Love, we attract repulsion

and abandonment. It is just a matter of choice. A choice of how we are going to relate to the universe. Are we going to relate in cooperation with or in conflict with?

Sincerely in Faith,

Sue Ann

From: “vrworldmall.com”

Overcoming Evil with Good

From: Carol Herren

If I leave this earth with one record of my life intact, it would be that I would encourage everyone to practice what Jesus taught:

The secret of a better civilization is bound up in the Master’s teachings of the brotherhood of man, the good will of love and mutual trust.

The way we will achieve a better civilization through the Master’s teachings is by believing them. If we don’t have that simple faith of a child we will accomplish nothing. If we are told a better civilization is impossible, and we believe that, we will accomplish nothing. God can do anything, but our help and cooperation is needed.

Urantia Papers, pg 2064

Pentecost endowed mortal man with the power to forgive personal injuries, to keep sweet in the midst of the gravest injustice, to remain unmoved in the face of appalling danger, and to challenge the evils of hate and anger by the fearless acts of love and forbearance. Urantia has passed through the ravages of great and destructive wars in its history. All participants in these terrible struggles met with defeat. There was but one victor; there was only one who came out of these embittered struggles with an enhanced reputation—that was Jesus of Nazareth and his gospel of overcoming evil with good. The secret of a better civilization is bound up in the Master’s teachings of the brotherhood of man, the good will of love and mutual trust.

How Can I Keep From Singing?

A Welsh folk song. For Micki, whose rendition sends goosebumps a’soaring!

*My life goes on in endless song
Above earth’s lamentations,
I hear the real, though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear it’s music ringing,
It sounds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?*

*When tyrants tremble in their fear
And hear their death knell ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near*

How can I keep from singing?

*In prison cell and dungeon vile
Our thoughts to them are winging,
When friends by shame are undefiled
How can I keep from singing?*

*No storm too strong, no wind too hard
Unto this rock I’m clinging
If God is master of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?*

FROM CELESTIAL TEACHERS

TRUE HAPPINESS

VERONICA --FEBRUARY 10, 1995

Volcano, Hawaii - No. 59 (TR-Arlene)

Passionate gatherers of blessed joy,

Happiness is always illusive when sought in the foundation of augmenting materialism and changeless circumstance. It is often concealed by the momentary gratification of worldly acquisition.

Know that the vivid rainbow of true felicity can always be visualized when you pursue its beauty in the love and infinite mercy of the Supreme.

Look into the heart of your sisters and brothers and you will find the light of joy in the recognition of His presence there. Realize that the gentle beckoning of your inner guardian of destiny continually invites you in partnership on the wondrous promenade to eternity where perfect happiness will unfold as the delicate aura of the Father's love.

Redirect your search for joy in the discovery of self-actualization as you explore the infinite expanse of His oneness, and you will touch the many facets of divine expression in the ambrosia of cosmic fulfillment of supreme bliss as you ascend into the tender nearness of His eternal affection.

LOVE AND THE CELEBRATION OF VALENTINES DAY

From: the personal teachers of Henry Zeringue / HZer@aol.com

Greetings; I am Berca,

It is again good to share with you the enthusiasm for the

love of the Father. In the realm of the spirit, there is one way to begin to feel connected to Father, and this is through the work and service to ones fellows. We begin our service much as you would begin a job or work. It is through service that most of the lessons of the spirit are delivered. This opening up to the greater good within which ever brings man to see his true worth.

There is coming a day of the Heart on your world. This day many are opening up to giving to the ones whom they love. This giving, though somewhat commercial in its outward thrust, seems backed by genuine interest to give to others in a loving and sincere manner. This opening of the heart for this holiday is truly one of the evidences of the angelic realm working in the hearts of men. It is a great sight for us to see so many people on this world respond to a holiday in a way they should be responding to their daily lives.

This will be the way in which a truly evolved generation will bring this gift to this world. Again in the spirit realm, everyday is Valentines day. Our hearts are truly open always. Our sincere effort goes to help you to open your hearts more and more. The opening of the heart is mans effort to allow God to come into the mind of man and allow him to work with you in bringing love into your heart. You must open your heart to this love and with open hearts face your brothers and sisters that they may receive this spirit presence from you.

For love is a spirit presence, it is the presence of God the Father in reality. If God could materialize here, now he would appear just as you are loving, a person ready to give to another that they may receive the blessing and recognition of a truly great presence. God would appear no different.

The master appeared on this world much the same. He was fearless in his attempt to love every one. It was this fearless and open hearted stance poised in a balanced mind which attracted many to his service. It was this ability of the Master to love which showed the Father to all of mankind. It was his desire to bring peace to this world that he gave of himself totally, even his life he gave up to this world that you may see that life itself is a part of giving; as you give all, you will receive it again; as he reappeared again in three days. So what is it that giving gives to the Giver?

Giving opens the way for receiving. Receiving more love, universe recognition, lessons you need to learn, mercy . In

many ways giving is the honor of returning what you are given, for within you there is truly a fountain of everlasting life and happiness. Giving is the key to unlock the gate to this fountain and allow it to begin to flow through your mind out into the world as loving and kind service and demeanor to others. This alone will bring your mind and its activities into balance, your deliberate and actual doing this will of the Father; opening up your heart to receive love from above, and opening your storehouse of goodness to the world.

The shape of your symbol for the heart is a symmetrical curve which goes out and away from itself and slowly returns and connects again. This is much the same symbol of your relationship to God in that it forms a symmetrical relationship in man. As Father loves and gives to you and you receive this love into your heart, By opening up your love to others in their service you demonstrate the recognition of Father in others. The symmetry begins to display outside what is taking place within. There is no magic or shortcut to this endeavor. That which is truly given allows you to draw upon the mercy credit of the universe, the continuing ministry of the spirit; The love of the Father, The loving and brotherly companionship of the Son, and the serviceable ministry of the Mother Spirit and her retinue of angelic presence.

So as you go about your day in this world, try to live with more consciousness of sonship and daughtership, the symmetrical response to your own relationship with Father/Mother God. Also remember to daily bring your mind to focus on this purpose and intention as you begin your daily journey into the gift of life in which you function. Thank you, Berca. 2/12/98

Greetings, I am JohnSen:

How do I add to such a wonderful presentation by my friend Berca, I will try. It is good to share with you some of that I am constantly receiving. It is not an easy reality for your human nature to relinquish itself to the influence of the spirit dominating presence of God. Mind of itself does not recognize this spirit. It is the will which allows this spirit to enter, and it is your persistence which eventually allows your mind to give itself over to the domination of Spirit.

There are of course many other factors which influence this gradual yet sure reality. There is the symmetry aspect which Berca talked about. The mirroring of this ongoing relationship in your daily lives, It seems that as your relationship with God is generated within, the evidence is qualified by God within others,

This is why service is important even as evidence of your even having a relationship with God. Though God is truly

one, as the Thought Adjuster, the spirit presence within, he is truly unique to each one of you, and develops a personal response with each of you, So you may recognize that God responds within you when others show you kind and loving service, Yes? This is evidence of the symmetry of spirit.

Man can never hope to attain a truly great society without spiritual symmetry. A great society of individuals is only as great as those individuals are willing to give of themselves for the greater good of their brothers and sisters, society. It is truly the act of today which develops the character of tomorrow. It is to one having, that has been given. It is to one who needs, God is truly searching. It is for life itself, you are given its gift. It is for your brothers and sisters you are given love. It is for grace and harmony that Spirit enters. It is for recognition of divine truth, man seeks. It is the conflict in life, mans great teacher. It is the heart truly opened, that spirit enters therein. It is in the sound of silence that you will hear God speak. It is for the life worth living, you are truly to become. It is God's recognition of reality, that you ARE. It is from abundance, you are nourished. It is for the Glory of God all things exist.

These affirmations are to help you sense the singular commitment you have made to the Spirit Presence within. You can only be shown so much before you must act. It is upon acting which allows for the practices you develop to be given further guidance. Life is a lot like music. You can sit and study and read the notes, playing them in your head, but until you play them on an instrument, you have no music.

Love and its spiritual counterparts are the same, again the symmetry, they don't really exist until you bring them into existence. For this you were given life. For this God has chosen to come down from paradise and personally live within to guide and service you. For this all of humanity awaits its glory.

To the most worthy students are given the most difficult lessons. It is for this life here and now that you are a student. As you begin to bring the spiritual motivation you experience truly within the arena of your activities, the world will begin to benefit from such teaching.

So my dear little friend, begin to put away the fear you were given, and begin to see yourself as a truth son of Divine light. Use the strength and resource you are given to bring your mind to release its spiritual fruit that all may enjoy its sweetness. Begin to rely upon the effects of what you give to others to sustain you, to nourish your soul and to inspire your spirit nature.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to offer you these words.

THE CHURCH WITHIN: *Motivations that bring Spiritual Fulfillment*

4/19/98 - Sunday Service of The Church Within #82

Welcome

Greetings my Dearest Siblings, and welcome once again to the church without a building The Church Within.

What is it that motivates you in this life, and how well does it work to help you to feel Fulfilled and Loved?

Quotes

(from the Urantia Papers - Paper-103 Section-1)

The unity of religious experience among a social or racial group derives from the identical nature of the God fragment indwelling the individual. It is this divine in man that gives origin to his unselfish interest in the welfare of other men. But since personality is unique—no two mortals being alike—it inevitably follows that no two human beings can similarly interpret the leadings and urges of the spirit of divinity which lives within their minds. A group of mortals can experience spiritual unity, but they can never attain philosophic uniformity. And this diversity of the interpretation of religious thought and experience is shown by the fact that twentieth-century theologians and philosophers have formulated upward of five hundred different definitions of religion. In reality, every human being defines religion in the terms of his own experiential interpretation of the divine impulses emanating from the God spirit that indwells him, and therefore must such an interpretation be unique and wholly different from the religious philosophy of all other human beings.

(from the RSV Bible - John 13:34-35)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Sermon

What is it that motivates you in this life, and how well does it work to help you to feel Fulfilled... and Loved?

I would like to suggest that, the most Powerful Motivator, perchance even the Only motivator, is the innate need to be Loved. It is well nigh Universal to all Life... Every Living thing responds to an environment of Love... Every Living thing thrives in an environment of Love.

Earth, barring any negative influence from humans,

reflects the loving watchcare of the Supreme Being. To creatures such as Us, it may on occasion seem violent or cruel, but the symmetrical beauty of un-compromised Nature is undeniable.

For my purposes today, let us deal with domesticated life, and that life which is distinctly influenced by humanity. Plants, devoid of self mobility, cannot go out and actively seek love. And yet, which of us cannot recognize the difference between a plant or garden that has been lovingly nurtured and one that has been neglected? Pets and domesticated animals are mobile and have the ability to actively seek love, and according to their nature and intrinsic temperaments, do just that. Which of us cannot recognize the difference between an animal that has been lovingly nurtured and one that has been neglected?

What about children? Again, which of us cannot recognize the difference between a child that has been lovingly nurtured and one that has been neglected? Using the perception of our Souls rather than of our egos, let's now consider Adults... at least as physical age qualifies them as such. Which of us cannot recognize the difference between an adult that feels lovingly nurtured and one that feels neglected?

The reason that I have cited these examples, is to bring into mind the results of Love and the intrinsically beneficial influences it provides to all living things. Everyone and everything Needs Love, and from a strictly Human standpoint, it is the one necessity of life that so few show evidence of having it in sufficient quantities.

This “perceived” deficiency is what causes to become manifest in humankind, the quest to become Lovable. Here is where the greatest of human confusion exists. What is it that truly makes one lovable? You might think, in observation of the outward behavior of the majority of people, that it is the accumulation of material things or the acquisition of knowledge, title or power which makes one lovable.

The dominant amount of time certainly appears to be spent on those things. Now is that because they actually satisfy the urge to be loved and the craving to be lovable? Or is it that ultimately they leave one with a feeling of inadequacy and of unfulfilled need... perpetuating yet another futile drive towards misplaced motivations? Certainly we must have the things that our physical existence requires for it's survival, and everyone deserves a sufficient level of comfort and entertainment, but how wise is it to pursue them with overmuch fervor and devotion and spend such comparatively little time in pursuit of the things that have

value to our souls and to our spirits?

If you wish to be loved unconditionally, then Love Unconditionally. If you would desire to be served unselfishly, then Serve Unselfishly. If you would Truly be Lovable, then go directly to the Original Source of Love, for there alone will you experience the absolute of Lovability.

(from the Urantia Papers - Paper-140 Section-6) Seek first the kingdom of God, and when you have found entrance thereto, all things needful shall be added to you.

(from the KJV Bible - Matthew 6:31-33)
Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

What is it that motivates you in this life, and how well does it work to help you to feel Fulfilled ... and Loved?

Are you experiencing full Satisfaction from your motivations?

The Prayer

Dear Ever Loving Source,
Continually direct me in my lifelong Quest. Amen.

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 (Your Brother) Megow
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The Church Within was Incorporated as a 501-C3 Non-Profit Church Corporation on October 23, 1995 in the State of Idaho. [File # C112431]
The Articles of Religion and Declaration of Faith of The Church Within can be viewed at our Home Page:

<http://www.cet.com/~danielm>

Now is where we Create the Exquisite Memories of Tomorrow. [Angelbumps '98]

FEET OF CLAY

by Jim Cleveland

There are people making money out of other people's grief

The dealer finds his prey in darkened doorways bereft
I've seen the women sell their bodies for a price
I've seen the thieves clean out the warehouses of rice
that was meant for all the refugees on the trails
Bone-wracked bodies stumbling away from earthly hells
wrought by men who want the wealth that will not last.
They will die in the hell they make. That die is cast.

There are people taking millions and living lavishly
While children suffer hunger and hope is dying by degree
There are CEOs and henchmen living high at Hilton Head
While the weak without a dollar fall down on Skid Row
dead.

There are people who disdain the unschooled poor
Though they have the power to open many doors
There are people who blame our troubles on the weak
All the while they're putting more upon the streets.

There are people sending other people's children off to war
And in the end, it's not for certain what all the death is for.
There are people making money from all the strife
that kills the truth and beauty and goodness in our lives.
There are people who are strong in all their weaknesses of force
On feet of clay, they blunder backwards in self-righteous
hate so coarse

But one day they'll awake to see what they have learned
in a final judgement of spirit values, bereft in lives of
scorn
of all the glory that God gave us every day
while we struggled home on mortal feet of clay.

CHORUS

Will the world ever change?
Only if we make it.
Will the evil finally reign
Or will we forsake it?
Will peace on earth come our way?
It's ours. We can take it

By giving love every moment of the day
Giving love brings the peace. No other way
to get to Heaven on these earthly feet of clay.

UNLIMITED: *Accept no limits, no resistance, no fear for Spiritual Growth*

by GEORGE SNODDY

Time to get back into the hunt. I have laid on the porch long enough.

The spirit of intuition can lead us through the maze of the mind to the foundation stone of God. This is the place of creation where we began our journey. We need to return to this altar from time to time and readjust our skewed thinking.

Our reality isn't really reality at all for we are subject to the brain's interpretation of what it sees. If we retrain our minds to think according to the influence of God within our being we can fly the plane home. If we only depend upon the instruments of man we will never make it.

How do we fly through the heavens of our mind listening to the quiet, invisible guidance of the hand of God. Be still and know that I am God is our command. We must learn to always listen for this unseen influence and never allow anything to hinder us from following this presence.

What is the way to love and peace. It is in the arms of God. In his reality there is peace and love. The thoughts of the mind are like a space capsule traveling through space. We have to learn how to make course corrections if we are to find our way home. If we get too close to certain planets we may get drawn into their gravity and we will have to burn much energy.

Learn to burn energy wisely and learn to guide the thoughts through the heavens until you find yourself in another part of the universe that you do not remember visiting before. There are areas of the universal mind you find yourself in where it is dark and gloomy and full of frightening visions and thoughts.

Do not be afraid, it is but a meteor shower of debris of some long lost disaster. All is thought my child and all that you seek can be discovered within the realms of your own being. You are a mind within a mind for mind is truly the spiritual realm of God. consciousness is real and this you find yourself in is the very life that the Father gave you. What you do with it is up to you. You can navigate to the dark swamps of tradition or you can strike out to far distant shores and establish the future of tomorrow.

Mankind has wallowed long enough in this mire. Somebody must find the new and living way of the spirit to free the spirit of man from his self made prison. There are many good friends that seek the same thing and together

we can work towards towards the utopia we seek. Why should we accept the poor social-economic system of this world. Remember, only you (inhabitants of the earth) created it and only you can change it.

If there are those among you that are less evolved simply leave them alone for they are but children who have not yet grown tired of this worlds attractions. For those of you however who know and understand that we cannot stay at this level any longer it is time for you to push forward and discovered the new and living way.

The beginning place for each of you is to search within and find the hidden things you have placed there. The mindset must be altered before we can go on. This is a spiritual work and can only be done with the help of the spirit. Even as we speak there are transforming powers available to any who will accept them. These spiritual forces are powerful and are tools of God to transform our minds to the place the Father would have us go. These transformers have always been secretly at work through the ages, quietly shifting the consciousness of mankind along the path.

This new and living way cannot be taught or expressed in words to any degree for words are snares that cause us to stumble and enter into misunderstanding. Men make spiritual mind traps often called churches and some never emerge from these nests of complacency.

Empty the mind of all preconceived notions of what spirituality is and of any narrow views of what God is. Simply allow thought to exist on its own. If there is silence it is simply the pause before the next thought emerges. Do not try to control or imagine what you will think next and the thought stream will begin to trickle into your mind. This thought system of the Gods. All mind is connected together. It is how the Father holds the universes together. It is the glue that holds everything together.

Allow the mind to come to a restful place and to heal itself. Our struggles are but a creating of misperception about reality. We have been taught what reality is. We have been shown other peoples reality until we make it our own but it doesn't have to be this way.

Come to the new and living way of the spirit and allow the mind to soar to the other realms of light and life. This is our ascension plan. To move beyond the walls of simple mortal existence into the wonderful plan of God.

Do not look outward for your salvation for your salvation can only come from within. Seek it and you shall find it. It

cannot be found in books or even through the voice of another for God has ordained that each child find his own way through the unique path that is part of his inheritance. No child has been cheated in any way for this is impossible for God and completely out of his character. The new and living way comes from going within. Give up all the limitations you have placed upon yourself.

No limit

Think without limit from now on. If you seem to be limited in some way it is not the truth. If your reality seems to be one of limitation know it is not the truth. If you are troubled then you have entered into some error or untruth in your thinking. Reject everything that does not come into alignment with the concept of “no limit”.

Think no limit for the rest of your life. The moment you accept this concept of no limit your life will begin to change. Be totally unafraid. If any false reality should appear that seems to challenge this concept, simply ignore it. Give it no energy.

No Resistance

Since there is no limit, there is also “no resistance” for there is nothing to resist. It is the resistance we create that creates the tension that holds us at what ever level we may find ourselves.

No Fear

Since there is no limit, no resistance, it follows that there is no fear. The moment you stop believing in death it disappears. Hold onto this by a calm knowing that it just is. If you are trying to force it to be true then you are in reality giving energy to a belief in the existence of death.

It just is

Let yourself be just what you are, a spark of the creator of all that is. You are unique and of equal value to all of the other sparks of God. It is not your job to judge or change any of the other sparks. All you have to do is just be. That's what being an “I AM” is all about.

I am the moment

I am the moment and that's all I am and that is enough for all occasions. I am always in the moment and even if I seem to be on fire I simply always am that I Am. The I Am sons of God live this way perpetually. They are unlimited and always choose to do the will of the Father for in reality it is one and the same with theirs.

Shedding the old life

Once we make the decision to shed the old life we simply say to ourselves that I took that old existence as far as I care to take it and put it away like an old garment. It really wasn't going anywhere anyway right? The old life is the

life of limitation.

The new life

The new life is one on non resistance for in our new life called the new and living way there is nothing to resist. The thing that we thought we were resisting was nothing but our own creation. We made the mistake of buying into other peoples realities. You might say it is an old family tradition. In the new reality we have nothing to fight. We have found the enemy and he is me. We were simply shadow boxing with ourselves in the mirror of materiality. Like Rumi's parrot who was talking to his own reflection in the mirror while others stood behind a black curtain talking to him we fooled ourselves but now we have looked behind the curtain and found ourselves. Relax, the show is over. Now we can begin to flow in the true paths of God by simply letting it happen. When we learn to fly through the heavens we will have learned a great lesson in the kingdom of God and shall more closely approach the image of God we were created to be.

What was it I thought needed loving

We are somewhat like the kids of the 60's on LSD. They saw a new reality and were amazed at what they saw. We've been on the opium of this world for centuries, now its time to sober up. Get a grip greedy industrialists. Its over! The new reality is here. People are waking up!

Is it time to form love colonies?

Like the early colonists who came to this country looking for a better tomorrow we have to form colonies of thinking who know and understand the new and living way of the higher truth of God. What is the higher truth of God about anyway? Its about freedom that's what. Freedom to live inside a peaceful and loving mind. A free mind that knows how to navigate through the non-reality minefield of thoughts and impressions in this realm/world. Once we learn how to think we can be free. This new freedom comes from the mind of God for God is unlimited and he created us unlimited.

Who told you you were naked?

As the story began in Genesis Adam and Eve discovered they were Naked and they were “afraid”. Right there is where the old family tradition of fear and death began. Jesus told us to put away fear even the fear of death but we were not ready to hear it yet. Now we are! Since we've been walking with a limp for most of our lives we have to remember to not limp until not limping becomes habit. Walking in non limitation is like that. Remember, no resistance. If you are wishing you had something you are telling the universe you want to “not have” something. The old Chinese proverb says that if we don't change our direction we will get to where we are going.

Since we are unlimited this writing has no end

New Physics ... New Theology: Bridging a Gap

by **ED KADACH** <eddiek@connect.ab.ca>
To: religare@primenet.com

I just completed reading a fascinating book by John Polkinghorne called the “New Physics, New Theology”. Here is a brief overview on my take on the book.

The West is entering a new chapter in its intellectual history, and Polkinghorne is one of a handful of scientists who have already, so to speak, managed to read several pages ahead in the text.

“Belief in God in an Age of Science” is no mere rehash of the tired science-religion controversy. Rather, this short volume, based on the Terry Lectures at Yale, explores the sweeping consequences of recent revolutions in science for the conflict between skepticism and faith.

Those familiar with Polkinghorne—an eminent Cambridge University physicist who also happens to be an Anglican priest—will find here a distillation of earlier reflections as well as some new argumentation. The book is worth reading not only for its many insights, but also because it presages a new style of thinking that takes us beyond not only the modern but also the postmodern—a sophisticated, scientifically informed outlook which is nonetheless animated by a firm rationally supported religious faith.

As a physicist, Polkinghorne understands what many Western thinkers without scientific training have yet to realize: that recent science has shattered the materialistic foundations of the modern secular world view. Modern philosophy from Hobbes onward has taken its bearings from scientific mechanism/materialism, from a vision of the universe as mere “matter and motion.” Yet lately physics and cosmology have raced forward, leaving this older outlook behind.

One key feature of the cosmos presented by the new physics is its God-friendliness. Newtonian mechanics ultimately led to the vision of a clockwork universe minus the Clockmaker. But the more scientists have probed cosmic evolution, the more they have realized, in Fred Hoyle’s phrase, that the universe is a “put-up job.” For human life to emerge, the blind mechanism of natural selection was not enough; on the contrary, the laws of physics had to be programmed minutely from the moment of the big bang. An infinitesimal change in any of the physical constants would have precluded life.

Present-day cosmology therefore leaves us with a choice: either the universe was created by an Intelligent Designer, or it is a massive and incredible coincidence the likes of

which we can hardly imagine. Drawing on the philosopher John Leslie, Polkinghorne writes that there are two logical possibilities: “that God is real, and/or there are many and varied universes,” the latter being invisible, unsubstantiated, and probably undetectable in principle. Polkinghorne does not belabor the point. While the God hypothesis is not “logically coercive,” as he puts it, it easily stands up against the alternative.

Yet Polkinghorne’s interest is not in proving God’s existence but rather in showing how theology can “lay claim” to an “intellectually satisfying understanding,” crucially supplementing science. He also seeks to show how theology and science, in dialogues, can inform and correct each other.

His target, in a sense, is the standard modern formulation of the science-religion relationship, which ceded to science the entire sphere of objective truth and consigned theology increasingly to subjectivism and empty speculation. When it comes to science, Polkinghorne opposes naive positivism. When it comes to theology, he insists on a greater concern for objective truth.

Science, Polkinghorne emphasizes, is not a value-free but rather a “value-laden” activity. Considerations such as the “beauty” and “elegance” of theory are “fundamental” to physics; scientific discourse depends on moral virtues such as “honesty” and “generosity of intellectual sharing.”

But he resists any notion that reality is “socially constructed.” Likewise, he reproves some theology for unconcern with simple truth in the literal sense of that term. He advocates what he calls “critical realism” and “bottom-up” theology, favoring quite orthodox and literal interpretations of key Christian mysteries, including the incarnation, redemption, and even (as he made clear in “The Faith of a Physicist) the virgin birth.

Can the new physics beget a new theology? Polkinghorne offers a fascinating gloss on the question of free will and divine providence, noting that present-day physics—via quantum and chaos theories—has swept aside the old principle of determinism.

His most eloquent observations concern what the laws of nature say about the problem of evil, suggesting that a divine “letting-be” is needed to underwrite human freedom: “It is in the nature of dense snow fields that they will sometimes slip with the destructive force of an avalanche. It is in the nature of lions that they will seek their prey... It is in the nature of humankind that sometimes people will act with selfless generosity but sometimes with murderous

selfishness. That these things are so is not gratuitous or due to divine oversight or indifference. They are the necessary cost of a creation given by its Creator the freedom to be itself.”

Theologians and scientists alike will find food for thought here, and philosophers should take heed—for John Polkinghorne’s intermarriage of scientific and theological insight may well presage a new “post-secular” stage in Western thought.

This Wind of Spirit

by PATRICK McNELLY

This wind chafes against the fallen rocks; lies motionless, hidden from view except for an occasional bending of saplings, or the shallow sound of these trees resisting only their roots in rocky soil.

This wind abandons the hills, drying remnant dews. Aching breezes crest over cliffs with no remorse for fallen limbs cracked in silent tribute to desire, sharpening its claws against river boulders, and carefully waiting to attack shadows I feint from there.

This wind squalls shoreward holding back only enough of mystery for silence. Careless from another storm, this wind casts casual shadows on itself; not one wing bent in struggling flight forces this flock forward.

This wind chastens desire from desire, hope from hope, abandoning barrenness for this ancient dream, diffusing only enough of itself for inspiration, as if there were, in my mind, cause for corruption from this scripted scene.

This wind forces the whitecaps of desire on that other ocean shore. Longing for further fronts, finding only a trembling hand stretched out for comfort, a breath unsure of itself, pained to silence, withdrawn from forms, mistaken for someone that I knew.

This wind soothes the suspension of stillness, shifts shadows with remnants of light. This wind caresses with talc softness, a drift of desire that in another world, would waken only wonder, and leave this longing linger only in the quiet of the leavening skies, seeking release from remnant storms of time.

it’s not my problem

by jim mccallon

it’s not my problem, it’s not my care
the death and mass destruction there
in foreign lands of funny names
with leaders playing bloody games
it’s not my fault, i’ve got no voice -
there’s nothing i can do by choice.....

it’s not my war, they’re not my young
if their songs are ones that go unsung
it’s not my fault, i’m not to blame
if others want to kill and maim
i’ve bigger things in life to do
more important problems i must work through
i’ve copyrights and symbols to free
these are the wars God has for me

other people’s pains - their fated ills
their battles on some distant hills
these are not mine, they’re too far away
there’s nothing i can do or say
there’s nothing for my mind to do
save turn my thoughts to fighting you

this world’s too big, too complex and cold
it’s problems are just too damn old
they’re not my fault, i’m not to blame
to me it’s nothing but a game
if palestine and israel too, if serbia and timbuktu if all
these places far and near, want to kill themselves, to live in fear
it’s not my problem - it’s not my war
it’s someone else’s life-long chore

(c. 1998 jimjr)

What if you held the chili ?

The man approached the Zen master who was selling hot dogs from a stand on the corner of a busy street and jokingly said, “Make me one with everything!” The man then gave the Zen master \$20 and got his fully loaded hot dog. When he asked for his change, the Zen master said, “Change must come from within!”

CHRISTIANITY AND THE URANTIA BOOK: Tolerance ... Intolerance

by STEVEN HECHT

<s-hecht@ma.ultranet.com>

I caught most of the last two hours of the Frontline Special on the historical Jesus and early Christianity. I was left with three thoughts that might be relevant to us today.

1) The Roman empire could not conceive of Christianity as being a religion because it was new. Their paradigm for "religion" dictated that religion, by definition, was ancient. So, the Christians could not be a true religion like the ancient religion of Judaism (even though they were clearly derived from Judaism), which was protected from persecution even though they did not believe in the Roman cast of gods, including the emperor. The Christians were persecuted because, since they couldn't be a religious group, they HAD to be something else, namely political. And they were persecuted on that basis.

Topic for Thought: If a group of Urantia Papers believers have a set or practice of beliefs that is new in some respects, that does not fit with a paradigm of religion totally derived through the Urantia Papers, does that automatically mean these beliefs are "false," or "evil," or a "distraction" from the principles set forth in the UB? What is the lesson here for us?

2) The composition of the New Testament, namely the four gospels, was actually a compromise between those who

wanted a *single* interpretation of the life of Jesus to become gospel, and those who wanted a plethora of gospels to constitute the canon. This compromise, no doubt, reached with the unseen encouragement of the angels of the churches, allowed neither a strict univocity of interpretation or a chaotic multiplicity of interpretations to prevail.

Topic for Thought: The struggle of the early Christians to reach an acceptable balance between a closed and narrow understanding of the Fourth ER, and a confused, self-defeating jumble of ideas, is also our struggle with the Fifth Epochal Revelation. What is the lesson here?

3) In the attempt to bring harmony and unity to the thinking and practice of early Christianity, the Gnostics were hereticized and excommunicated from the main body of believers. The Gnostic literature was much more concerned with internalizing the teachings of Jesus than they were in producing a religion about Jesus. On the other hand, the Gnostics were uncomfortable with the fact that God and man had really lived and died as one in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They effectively rejected the humanity of Jesus Christ. So they were deemed heretical.

Topic for Thought: What if the main body of early Christians had managed to incorporate the best of what the Gnostics believed and rejected the rest, rather than throwing away the good with the bad? What is the lesson here for us? (see UB, 92:7:3)

A FATHER WITHIN Meditation

by Steve Tiller

Agreement of Will: The Spirit of God the Father is abroad in the Universe. He resides in Paradise and in the great mystery of life, and an even greater sign of His loving ministry, He resides in the heart and mind of each and every one of you. The indication of your personal spirituality and progress in the kingdom of heaven is the degree to which you are willingly cooperating with that Spirit which resides in you.

Father Within: The true message of Jesus Christ was not his resurrection but his life. In living a life willingly dedicated to your Will as it was poured out in him during his life in the flesh, he was the new and living way. My soul has become the temple upon which you write divine law. Let that flame in me grow brighter as I dedicate that new being we create together to fulfilling your Will in this world and the worlds to come. I give thanks for who you

have made me become through the path that life has driven me, like smoke fleeing the wind. I give all to you. For all comes to me through You. As I breathe in the fragrance of life let me breathe out the divine goodness and truth I perceive. Help me leave each person I meet conscious of the divine mystery of life that is in us all.

His Response: The way of God is not difficult spiritually. It may be difficult for you materially if your treasure is in the worldly realm. Many times your friends and family will not understand the new you that you are becoming as the signs of Our Covenant becomes manifested in your life as the Fruits of the Spirit. But this is temporary. New friends and family will come to you through time. Old friends and family will be transformed through you. Be patient with yourself and those around you. Pour out the blessings of the spirit on the people you meet and you will be filled with a spring of joy that has no ending. The more you give, the more you will be supplied. May the peace that surpasses all understanding, that proceeds from the knowledge that you are the loving child of the Most High, be with you always.

The Celestine Explanation

Whether you're one of the millions who read "The Celestine Prophecy" or one of the few spiritual seekers who haven't, here is a handy reference review of the nine insights within this wildly successful spiritual mystery.

The Nine Insights, by James Redfield, summary by Alan Atkisson (Aug/94):

#1. Feeling restless? You're not alone:

Everybody's starting to look for more meaning in life. Start paying closer attention to those seemingly "Chance Coincidences" - strange occurrences that feel like they were meant to happen. They are actually synchronistic events, and following them will start you on your path to spiritual truth.

#2. Observe our culture within its proper historical context. The first half of the past millennium was spent under the thumb of the church; in the second half we became preoccupied with material comfort. Now, at the end of the twentieth century, we've exhausted that preoccupation. We're ready to discover life's ultimate purpose.

#3. Get acquainted with the subtle energy that infuses all things. With practice, you can learn to see the aura around any living being and project your own energy around it to give it strength.

#4. An unconscious competition for energy underlies all conflicts. By dominating or manipulating others, we get the extra energy we think we need. Sure, it feels good - but both parties are damaged in the conflict.

#5. The key to overcoming conflict is the mystical experience, which is available to everyone. To nurture themystical and build your energy, allow yourself to be filled with a sense of love.

#6. Childhood traumas block our ability to fully experience themystical. All humans, because of their upbringing, tend toward one of four "con-

trol dramas": Intimidators steal energy from others by threat. Interrogators steal it by judging and questioning. Aloof people attract attention (and energy) to themselves by playing coy. And Poor me's make us feel guilty and responsible for them. Become aware of the family dynamics that created your control drama and you can focus on your essential question, which is how to make of your life a higher-level synthesis of your parents' lives.

#7. Once cleared of traumas, you build energy through contemplation and meditation, focus on you basic life question, and start riding a steady stream of intuitions, dreams, and synchronistic coincidences, all guiding you in the direction of your own evolution and transformation.

#8. That evolution can't be done alone, so begin to practice the new "Interpersonal Ethic" by uplifting those who cross your path. Talk to people who make spontaneous eye contact with you. Avoid codependent relationships. Be there for people. Call attention toother people's control dramas. In groups, speak when the spirit (instead of the ego) moves you.

#9. Our purpose here is to evolve beyond this plane. Fewer people (a result of reproductive abstinence) and more old-growth forests will help us to sustain our energy and accelerate our evolution. Technology will do most of our work for us. As we begin to value spiritual insight more and more, we will pay those who bring it to us, and this will eventually replace the market economy and our need for paid employment. We can connect to God's energy in such a way that we will eventually become beings of light, and walk straight into heaven."

CELESTIAL SURFING: Taking a Stand via Urantian EMail

DEMONIC POSSESSION IS IMPOSSIBLE From TODD MOODY

I saw the entire Primetime Live segment. I thought it was both pathetic and ludicrous. When a family believes in the possibility of demonic possession, then it is easy for an impressionable child to become accidentally convinced (by their parents or a dominant family member) that they are “possessed”. When they thus adopt this disorder of thinking, they will consent to acting out whatever behavior they think is permitted by / characteristic of “possession”.

Exorcism through faith occurs because the “possessed” includes in their thinking disorder a belief that the priest has (through the ritual) the power to “cast out” their “demon”. Thus, when adequately convinced that a full exorcism has taken place, they cancel the “possessed” behavior pattern and return to the belief that they are not possessed.

Basically, then, “possession” and “exorcism” are two phases of expression of a contagious disorder of thought that is spread by some misguided or grossly uninformed elements of various “religious” movements.

Once a person contracts this disorder of “possessibility” they are susceptible to being convinced of their own possession and then acting out the consequences. Once they have entered the “possessed” state, they are susceptible to being convinced of an “exorcism” and a return to their original state of latent infection.

The behaviors produced during the “possession” and “exorcism” phases of the life cycle of this disorder are one of the primary mechanisms of contagion which spread acceptance of the disorder to other susceptible minds.

At no time in this entire production is anyone ever possessed by anything other than the subconscious expression of a hyperactive and vivid imagination. Recovery from infection by the mental disorder of “possessibility” occurs only when one fully and completely rejects the underlying premise that one can be possessed and exorcised.

There is no such thing as demonic possession.

There are no demonic powers capable of possessing the human mind.

The normal human mind cannot invoke demonic powers and consent to its possession.

Confusion of human intent is not a sufficient condition to allow demonic possession to occur. Only total, final, irrevocable identification with cosmic insanity will permit that. Such identification is almost impossible for a mortal to achieve in the environment of a screwed-up planet like Urantia.

GOOD AND BAD SPIRITS From the URANTIA PAPERS

Via: RICK GILES

<RickGiles@prodigy.net>

Paper-87 Page-961

Still later the imagination of man envisioned the concept of both good and bad supernatural agencies; some ghosts never evolved to the level of good spirits. The early monospiritism of ghost fear was gradually evolving into a dual spiritism, a new concept of the invisible control of earthly affairs. At last good luck and bad luck were pictured as having their respective controllers. And of the two classes, the group that brought bad luck were believed to be the more active and numerous.

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Evolutionary religion has, however, paid a terrible price for the concept of dual spiritism. Man’s early philosophy was able to reconcile spirit constancy with the vicissitudes of temporal fortune only by postulating two kinds of spirits, one good and the other bad. And while this belief did enable man to reconcile the variables of chance with a concept of unchanging supermortal forces, this doctrine has ever since made it difficult for religionists to conceive of cosmic unity. The gods of evolutionary religion have generally been opposed by the forces of darkness.

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The tragedy of all this lies in the fact that, when these ideas were taking root in the primitive mind of man, there really were no bad or disharmonious spirits in all the world. Such an unfortunate situation did not develop until after the Caligastic rebellion and only persisted until Pentecost. The concept of good and evil as cosmic coordinates is, even in the twentieth century, very much alive in human philosophy; most of the world’s religions still

carry this cultural birthmark of the long-gone days of the emerging ghost cults.

Paper-87 Page-962

The savage visualizes the good spirits as going about their business, requiring little from human beings. It is the bad ghosts and spirits who must be kept in good humor. Accordingly, primitive peoples paid more attention to their malevolent ghosts than to their benign spirits.

DOOMSDAY DELUSIONS

From: RON CYR <gorf@premier1.net>

If I may I would like to add my two cents worth concerning the “doomsday scenario” advocated for our planet Urantia, not only by some Urantia readers, but also by the so-called “news media.”

If we believe in the content of The Urantia book we are told that 2000 years ago Urantia was chosen for the 7th bestowal of our Creator Son Michael. My speculation is that Urantia was chosen for the reason that we were the arm-pits of the universe. In other word Michael had more to learn in coming here than anywhere else, which also follow the pattern which began from his first bestowal as a Melchizedek Son to the service of the emergency corps of that age. His second bestowal, as a Lanonandek Son, which was in the system of Palonia where there had been, it seems, a big misunderstanding. His third bestowal, as a Material Son, was also on a quarantined word of recession and rebellion. We are told that in those three bestowals, that he successfully accomplished his mission.

My point of contention with the “doomsday scenario” is why would Urantia be in a worst shape now than it was 2,000 years ago? For 2,000 years every human being, with a normal mind, has been endowed with an Advanced Thought Adjuster. For 2,000 years we had The Spirit of Truth. For 2,000 years the Lucifer rebellion is being done with. We are told that recently the archangels established, on this lowly and confused planet, a divisional headquarters for the universe administration and direction of certain archangel activities having to do with the Paradise ascension scheme.

On the day George Washington became president, only a few hundreds years ago, an emperor ruled China, a shogun Japan, a czarina Russia, and a king France. Only the office of president remained. To compared that with what we have today did we go, as a whole, backward or forward in evolution?

As an Urantia Book reader and an Urantia Book believer my question is: if the “doomsday scenario” is to be believed and acted upon, was then the bestowal of a Creator Son a waste of time???? There is no question in

my mind that some soft stuff is going to hit the fan but I firmly believe that what is “from God” will stay and that what is not “from God” will disappear. Putting it more succinctly: It is impossible not to believe what we see, but it is equally impossible to see what we do not believe. (ACIM Page 192)

Remember that the order of progressive evolution is subjected to sudden and unexpected periodical changes in both the material and the spiritual worlds. (UB P-1863)

Be of good cheer, Ron Cyr

BEING PROPHETS OF LIGHT AND LIFE -- NOT DOOM

From: MARTY GREENHUT

The Urantia Book teaches that we will get nowhere until we recognize the Fatherhood of God and the consequent brotherhood of man as a social ideal in our civilization.

I have dedicated my entire life to social reform and the search for truth on this subject and have concluded that all we can do to right the onward push into worldwide slavery is to reveal divine truth by living it and giving God a chance to work through each one of us and through all of us in His mystery of absonite development and evolutionary progress towards ultimacy.

The human personality is not merely a concomitant of time-and-space events; human personality can also act as the cosmic cause of such events.” (P. 135). The trick is what to do when we roll up our sleeves.

First I believe that each one of us must envision the true ethics of a world of light and life and must attempt to live by such. The golden rule with the added admonition of Jesus to go the second mile.. to love one another as He loves us.. seems to flesh out the answer to that question. The second part of our job is to gain communion with the indwelling spirit... to live in the presence of God. Now,

These are only numbered first and second not to prioritize them but to separate our social consciousness from our personal relationship with God for the sake of discussion. We have our personal spiritual development to work on with Him and we have the socialization of the “kingdom” as our work of this world while we are living here. Our preparation for the next life is accomplished in this way. To be Godlike is to live in His love and to give it out.

When we do this in unity and cooperation we are actualizing absonity which I believe is the reality of a society of light and life.

Now, friends, this is made much more urgent by our

approximity to the dawning of a new age with the clock ticking at nine minutes to twelve.

Yes. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work with the Father and Mother, With Michael of Nebadon and the Creative Spirit and with all of their sons and daughters who are working together to bring each of us and all of us together into Light and Life.

In my mind the clock is ticking at nine minutes to dawn. We need not be prophets of the doom of civilization as it is. That will certainly take care of itself. We need to be prophets of the New Age Of Light And Life by so living it.

DOOMSDAYS OF THE DUMB

From: CAROL HERREN

Some predictions in the past, that have not panned out:

1914 was one of the more important estimates of the start of the war of Armageddon by the Jehovah's Witnesses (Watchtower Bible and Tract Society). They computed 1914 from prophecy in the book of Daniel, Chapter 4.

1914, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1941, 1975 and 1994 were other dates that the Watchtower Society predicted. 1975 looked likely as it was computed as the 6000th anniversary of the creation of Adam in the Garden of Eden in 4026 BCE. They interpreted Psalms 90:10 as defining the length of a generation to be 80 years. Since 1914 plus 80 equals 1994, they predicted Armageddon would occur around that year. The latest estimate was 6000 years after the creation of Eve, for which no date can be determined with accuracy.

1953-AUG: David Davidson wrote a book titled "The Great Pyramid, Its Divine Message". In it, he predicted that the world would end in 1953-AUG.

1957-APR: The Watchtower magazine, quoted (1) a pastor from California, Mihran Ask, as saying in 1957-JAN that "Sometime between April 16 and 23, 1957, Armageddon will sweep the world! Millions of persons will perish in its flames and the land will be scorched."

1960: Piazzi Smyth, a past astronomer royal of Scotland, wrote a book circa 1860 titled "Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid." He concluded from his research that the millennium would start before the end of 1960.

1970's: The late Moses David (formerly David Berg) was the founder of the Christian religious group, The Children of God. He predicted that a comet would hit the earth, probably in the mid 1970's and destroy all life in the United States. One source indicated that he believed it would happen in 1973.

1984 to 1999: In 1983, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, Guru of

the Rajneesh movement, predicted massive destruction, including natural disasters and man-made catastrophes.

1986: Moses David of The Children of God faith group predicted that the Battle of Armageddon would take place in 1986. Russia would defeat Israel and the United States.

1992, David Koresh of the Branch Davidian group in Waco Texas changed the name of their commune from Mt. Carmel to Ranch Apocalypse, because of his belief that the final all-encompassing battle of Armageddon mentioned in the Bible would start at the Branch Davidian compound. They had calculated that the end would occur in 1995. After a 51-day standoff, on 1993-APR-10, 76 members died as a result of a deliberately set fire.

1997-APR-10: Dan Millar, of Surrey, BC, Canada and Bob Wadsworth of the Biblical Astronomy newsletter are two religious researchers. They are following the age-old tradition of looking for signs in the heavens for the arrival of the Antichrist, return of Christ, etc.

1997-NOV-27: The Sacerdotal Knights of National Security report that "A space alien captured at a UFO landing site in eastern Missouri cracked under interrogation by the CIA and admitted that an extraterrestrial army will attack Earth on November 27 with the express purpose of stripping our planet of every natural resource they can find a use for — and making slaves of every man, woman and child in the world!"

1997: Superdave the Wonderchemist (5) takes the magic number 1331 and adds it to 666 the "Number of the Beast" from the Book of Revelation to get the year of the arrival of the Antichrist and the end of the world. Why is 1331 a magic number? 1331 is the same backwards as forwards. It displays the unlucky number 13 when read in either direction. it is the fourth row in Pascal's Triangle, and 1331 is 11 cubed.

Sometime in late 1997 or early 1998: The 1997-JUL-29 issue of the Weekly World News carried a statement by a spokesperson of the International Association of Psychics. 92% of their 120,000 members have had the same "end time" vision.

Spokesperson Madame Vredeau predicted: A rise in religious belief. Prophets and saints will appear and lead the faithful to safety The oceans will shrink. Deserts expand. Crops will fail; there will be massive starvation Widespread emotional and mental collapse; increase in crime and violence; changing weather patterns; basic laws of nature will be disrupted Satanic demons will appear in broad daylight. War, pestilence, a worldwide plague Mankind will disappear around the year 2001 CE.

1998-FEB-26: Edgar Cacey predicted that the earth would

have a new pole during the winter of 1997-1998. Since the earth spins like a gyroscope, this would take an enormous amount of energy to achieve. That amount of energy would cause a massive disruption to the oceans and the earth's crust. That could, in turn, cause very serious, worldwide tidal waves, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

1998-MAR-31: About 150 followers of a Taiwanese Christian-Buddhist spiritual sect, God's Salvation Church, have moved into Garland TX (a suburb in northern Dallas) to await God's arrival. Their leader, Hoh-Ming Chen, selected Garland because it sounds like "God land". News reports from Taiwan indicated that the group plans to commit mass suicide if God does not appear.

A JESUSONIAN/URANTIAN STUDY: *Differences in Truth and Facts*

From: PAT McNELLY and the Urantia Papers

QUOTING an email friend: "Is it possible for somebody to have all the facts right, and still be wrong about EVERYTHING? I think it is."

I am always reminded of this quote when people get into a truth/fact debate.

Paper-196 Section-3 Para-25 Page-2096 Line-40 Para-7

In the realm of religious experience, spiritual possibility is potential reality. Man's forward spiritual urge is not a psychic illusion. All of man's universe romancing may not be fact, but much, very much, is truth.

and the following:

Paper-48 Section-6 Para-9 Page-554 Line-29 Para-3

6. Recorder-Teachers. These seraphim are the recorders of the borderland transactions of the spiritual and the physical, of the relationships of men and angels, of the morontia transactions of the lower universe realms. They also serve as instructors regarding the efficient and effective techniques of fact recording. There is an artistry in the intelligent assembly and co-ordination of related data, and this art is heightened in collaboration with the celestial artisans, and even the ascending mortals become thus affiliated with the recording seraphim.

The recorders of all the seraphic orders devote a certain amount of time to the education and training of the morontia progressors. These angelic custodians of the facts of time are the ideal instructors of all fact seekers. Before leaving Jerusem, you will become quite familiar with the history of Satania and its 619 inhabited worlds, and much of this story will be imparted by the seraphic recorders. These angels are all in the chain of recorders extending from the lowest to the highest custodians of the facts of time and the truths of eternity. Some day they will teach you to seek truth as well as fact, to expand your soul as

well as your mind. Even now you should learn to water the garden of your heart as well as to seek for the dry sands of knowledge. Forms are valueless when lessons are learned. No chick may be had without the shell, and no shell is of any worth after the chick is hatched. But sometimes error is so great that its rectification by revelation would be fatal to those slowly emerging truths which are essential to its experiential overthrow. When children have their ideals, do not dislodge them; let them grow. And while you are learning to think as men, you should also be learning to pray as children.

Law is life itself and not the rules of its conduct. Evil is a transgression of law, not a violation of the rules of conduct pertaining to life, which is the law. Falsehood is not a matter of narration technique but something premeditated as a perversion of truth. The creation of new pictures out of old facts, the restatement of parental life in the lives of offspring—these are the artistic triumphs of truth. The shadow of a hair's turning, premeditated for an untrue purpose, the slightest twisting or perversion of that which is principle—these constitute falseness. But the fetish of factualized truth, fossilized truth, the iron band of so-called unchanging truth, holds one blindly in a closed circle of cold fact. One can be technically right as to fact and everlastingly wrong in the truth.

Paper-151 Section-2 Para-5, Page-1690 Line-45 Para-3

The Master permitted this confusion to pass the point of most intense expression; then he clapped his hands and called them about him. When they had all gathered around him once more, he said, "Before I tell you about this parable, do any of you have aught to say?" Following a moment of silence, Thomas spoke up: "Yes, Master, I wish to say a few words. I remember that you once told us to beware of this very thing. You instructed us that, when using illustrations for our preaching, we should employ true stories, not fables, and that we should select a story best suited to the illustration of the one central and vital truth which we wished to teach the people, and that, having so used the story, we should not attempt to make a spiritual application of all the minor details involved in the

telling of the story. I hold that Peter and Nathaniel are both wrong in their attempts to interpret this parable. I admire their ability to do these things, but I am equally sure that all such attempts to make a natural parable yield spiritual analogies in all its features can only result in confusion and serious misconception of the true purpose of such a parable. That I am right is fully proved by the fact that, whereas we were all of one mind an hour ago, now are we divided into two separate groups who hold different opinions concerning this parable and hold such opinions so earnestly as to interfere, in my opinion, with our ability fully to grasp the great truth which you had in mind when you presented this parable to the multitude and subsequently asked us to make comment upon it.”

Paper-161 Section-2 Para-1, Page-1785 Line-7 Para-1

Since Nathaniel and Thomas had so fully approved Rodan’s views of the gospel of the kingdom, there remained only one more point to consider, the teaching dealing with the divine nature of Jesus, a doctrine only so recently publicly announced. Nathaniel and Thomas jointly presented their views of the divine nature of the Master, and the following narrative is a condensed, rearranged, and restated presentation of their teaching:

1. Jesus has admitted his divinity, and we believe him. Many remarkable things have happened in connection with his ministry which we can understand only by believing that he is the Son of God as well as the Son of Man.

2. His life association with us exemplifies the ideal of human friendship; only a divine being could possibly be such a human friend. He is the most truly unselfish person we have ever known. He is the friend even of sinners; he dares to love his enemies. He is very loyal to us. While he does not hesitate to reprove us, it is plain to all that he truly loves us. The better you know him, the more you will love him. You will be charmed by his unswerving devotion. Through all these years of our failure to comprehend his mission, he has been a faithful friend. While he makes no use of flattery, he does treat us all with equal kindness; he is invariably tender and compassionate. He has shared his life and everything else with us. We are a happy community; we share all things in common. We do not believe that a mere human could live such a blameless life under such trying circumstances.

3. We think Jesus is divine because he never does wrong; he makes no mistakes. His wisdom is extraordinary; his piety superb. He lives day by day in perfect accord with the Father’s will. He never repents of misdeeds because he transgresses none of the Father’s laws. He prays for us and with us, but he never asks us to pray for him. We believe that he is consistently sinless. We do not think that one who is only human ever professed to live such a life. He claims to live a perfect life, and we acknowledge that he

does. Our piety springs from repentance, but his piety springs from righteousness. He even professes to forgive sins and does heal diseases. No mere man would sanely profess to forgive sin; that is a divine prerogative. And he has seemed to be thus perfect in his righteousness from the times of our first contact with him. We grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth, but our Master exhibits maturity of righteousness to start with. All men, good and evil, recognize these elements of goodness in Jesus. And yet never is his piety obtrusive or ostentatious. He is both meek and fearless. He seems to approve of our belief in his divinity. He is either what he professes to be, or else he is the greatest hypocrite and fraud the world has ever known. We are persuaded that he is just what he claims to be.

4. The uniqueness of his character and the perfection of his emotional control convince us that he is a combination of humanity and divinity. He unflinchingly responds to the spectacle of human need; suffering never fails to appeal to him. His compassion is moved alike by physical suffering, mental anguish, or spiritual sorrow. He is quick to recognize and generous to acknowledge the presence of faith or any other grace in his fellow men. He is so just and fair and at the same time so merciful and considerate. He grieves over the spiritual obstinacy of the people and rejoices when they consent to see the light of truth.

5. He seems to know the thoughts of men’s minds and to understand the longings of their hearts. And he is always sympathetic with our troubled spirits. He seems to possess all our human emotions, but they are magnificently glorified. He strongly loves goodness and equally hates sin. He possesses a superhuman consciousness of the presence of Deity. He prays like a man but performs like a God. He seems to foreknow things; he even now dares to speak about his death, some mystic reference to his future glorification. While he is kind, he is also brave and courageous. He never falters in doing his duty.

6. We are constantly impressed by the phenomenon of his superhuman knowledge. Hardly does a day pass but something transpires to disclose that the Master knows what is going on away from his immediate presence. He also seems to know about the thoughts of his associates. He undoubtedly has communion with celestial personalities; he unquestionably lives on a spiritual plane far above the rest of us. Everything seems to be open to his unique understanding. He asks us questions to draw us out, not to gain information.

7. Recently the Master does not hesitate to assert his superhumanity. From the day of our ordination as apostles right on down to recent times, he has never denied that he came from the Father above. He speaks with the authority of a divine teacher. The Master does not hesitate to refute the religious teachings of today and to declare the new gospel with positive authority. He is assertive, positive,

and authoritative. Even John the Baptist, when he heard Jesus speak, declared that he was the Son of God. He seems to be so sufficient within himself. He craves not the support of the multitude; he is indifferent to the opinions of men. He is brave and yet so free from pride.

8. He constantly talks about God as an ever-present associate in all that he does. He goes about doing good, for God seems to be in him. He makes the most astounding assertions about himself and his mission on earth, statements which would be absurd if he were not divine. He once declared, "Before Abraham was I am." He has definitely claimed divinity; he professes to be in partnership with God. He well-nigh exhausts the possibilities of language in the reiteration of his claims of intimate association with the heavenly Father. He even dares to assert that he and the Father are one. He says that any one who has seen him has seen the Father. And he says and does all these tremendous things with such childlike naturalness. He alludes to his association with the Father in the same manner that he refers to his association with us. He seems to be so sure about God and speaks of these relations in such a matter-of-fact way.

9. In his prayer life he appears to communicate directly with his Father. We have heard few of his prayers, but these few would indicate that he talks with God, as it were, face to face. He seems to know the future as well as the past. He simply could not be all of this and do all of these extraordinary things unless he were something more than human. We know he is human, we are sure of that, but we are almost equally sure that he is also divine. We believe that he is divine. We are convinced that he is the Son of Man and the Son of God.

I am convinced that I don't have the time to spend debating all of this. I'm not out to "save" anyone from their illusions, no matter how much I disagree or think they are "wrong". I will leave it up to the Recorder-Teachers to get the "facts" straight and I'll check the records when I get to Mansonia.

A brother... Pat McNelly - Fullerton, California
Father, Husband, Red Cross CPR Instructor, Poet, Educator, Master Composter, Management Analyst, 27-handicap Golfer, Editor, Weatherman, Friend of Truth, Urantia Book Student, I-Link Independent Representative, Seeker, Vermiculturalist

CHANNELS by Robert Guin

God is not man, as a man beholds himself. God is power, God is truth, God is love; and that which teaches man the power of God, the love of God and the truth of God is worthy of man's consideration and acceptance regardless of the channel through which it comes

THE PEACE I NEED by Jim Cleveland

When I was young my eyes were wide
and filled with dangerous wonder
My parents warned to always watch
for darkness, lightning, thunder
To always turn my face to sun
to Godly peaceful grandeur
And find that peace amid the strife
when all seems torn asunder
It's hard to do for real each day
while materially we blunder.
Who will rescue me? From this mournful sea?
Set my spirit free? Help me come to be?
All I can ever be?

I grew older, a little colder
Searching for the golden thread
Saw my friends all fall to hurting
In this crazy world instead
My mother's words fell hollow
Like this empty hole inside
She passed away. Beside her grave
Embittered tears I cried.
That fell among the raindrops one by one
Who will rescue me? From this mournful sea?
Set my spirit free? Help me come to be?
All I can ever be?

Now I'm older and I've come to accept
That life's not always fair
But we must do the best we can
To shine love everywhere
For the world is what we make it
As we live it day by day
In things we do and things we show
That urge a better way
Feel the raindrops from above that quench our thirst
Who will rescue me? The One who made me be.
That spirit inside of me. Keep it pure and free
With love that opens me. And gives the peace I need

Know that Truth, Know that Beauty
Know that Goodness
Are only real if we live them day by day
When you give, you receive just as you share them
So reach out and show the world a loving way.

PERVASIVENESS OF THE SPIRIT

by **RON FAULK**

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No thought can be made outside the kingdom. No thing can be seen without the light of God. No life can be known without illumination. For all light is of one light, all thought is of one mind, and all we see and think is known to God.

It is not possible to live outside of God. To really attempt to do so is to die. Even in the darkest night, there is the presence of God. Even the most mundane scene is illuminated with the light of the Supreme. It is not possible to look outside of God. Nothing is outside of God.

We strive to be in the kingdom. But the kingdom is here. To say that the kingdom comes through faith, is merely to say that nothing is possible but faith. Do we not have faith that this breath will not be our last? Do we not believe that this heart-beat will continue? No moment is possible without faith.

To be human is to have faith. To be in this world, is to become a child of greater faith. Faith "is," through grace. But faith "becomes," through will, through sincerity and persistence. Life cannot be, without faith. But more abundant life is possible, through more faith. As faith expands, so the universe expands. The Supreme whispers to the child of space and time, "come with me." The child of greater faith, goes.

Nor will "greatest faith" ever be reached. Which is to say, that the limits of the experience of the Supreme will never be reached. The Supreme ^ divinity shared with wo/man ^ is eternal and infinite, thus are the potentials of wo/man's faith eternal and infinite. To deny this, is to deny the omnipotence and omnipresence of God.

We are born with little faith, which makes a little world. The adventures of faith are the adventures of a greater world. First we leave the mother's breast; then we leave our father's yard; then we leave our church's neighborhood; then we may leave our nation for another; then Each of the enlarging circles of experience is found through faith. If we do not believe we can cross the street, then we cannot. Each person that lives, has faith; the question is, how much?

First we trust the mother for nourishment. Then we trust the father for shelter. Then we trust the church for guid-

ance. Then we trust the One spirit, the spirit that was in mother, father, and church, for direction, even on the high seas of experience and adventure. We may look back and see how far we have come, and the first home we knew may be far away, and yet we keep the love of mother and father with us, and the power of the church's prayer on us.

Greater faith leads to greater things, forever. Greater faith lets us see more of the kingdom. But to see outside the kingdom is not really possible. The child of little faith may fear the dark and imagine monsters in it but these very things, however unreal, are only possible through the gift of life in the kingdom. One may be in the kingdom and not know it; this happens to many. One may not, however, not-be in the kingdom, and know it; such is only fear of the dark. To confront the monsters of illusion, is the first step of the child in the kingdom.

Even the dreariest day, even the most dismal shadows, still exist as a consequence of the kingdom. When faith is low, the light is low. When faith is high, a brilliant splendor shines all around and we can see a great distance.

That which we see from the depths of our gloomiest despondency, is still a reflection, howsoever dim and far, from the kingdom. We may choose to have little faith, but we may not choose to see with a light that does not come from God. Evil may be done, but it too is done through the grace of God and reverberates in the kingdom. It is not that we "find" the kingdom; it is rather that we "know" it. We simply look up and realize that we are in it, that it is there, and always has been, and always will be.

To see the kingdom, though, is not to see all of it. No one but God has seen the whole kingdom. We may however see more of the kingdom. This occurs through faith. Faith is the confidence to explore the kingdom. Faith is confidence in God to lead us through the kingdom. Faith is also the increasing ability to hear from God. Those of little faith hear little, those of much faith hear much.

Nothing can be seen without light. To see anything, is to be within the light. All light is One. All light comes from God. Light is the love of God. No journeying is possible without light, and the purpose of light is journeying. To see is to be blessed with the fatherhood of God (and the physically blind "see" just as well as any in this spiritual context).

There is a natural ebb and flow to human emotion, but no point is low enough that wo/man can feel, see, think,

believe, suffer, without the upholding of God or without the One light that lights the universe. We may indeed reduce our faith to a minimum; we may turn the light down until only shadows remain; we may be overcome with fear and dread; but all such things exist only because we are faith-children of God, living in the kingdom.

A mind may choose to deny that it exists, and yet it must exist in order to make that very denial. Free will may choose to use the light of the kingdom in many ways, even in foolish ways. But just because the mind can will itself to deny something, hardly means that it is necessarily so. The child says many foolish things, but one day must grow up. The child has many fears, but one day must learn to face them. It is the very love of the father that constantly urges the child to grow, to have new experiences, to overcome fear, to have faith. Love rules the universe.

What was darker than the scene of the crucifixion? Yet the kingdom of heaven was even there, as Jesus knew. Men made the crucifixion through fear and ignorance. Jesus showed that even there, in that most dark and recondite corners of existence, even in that place of fear and shadow and apparent horror, even there was the kingdom. Such proofs should not be necessary, but when fear rules the child, the father must sometimes show great mercy and tenderness. The father may even choose to suffer “unnecessarily” so that the child of fear may be shocked out of panic, and the crucifixion of Jesus was just such a shock.

Fear still rules many, but it is hardly possible for anyone to face greater fear, unbelief and enmity than did Jesus. Jesus faced the darkest fears of wo/man and showed that even there a man could find the kingdom of heaven. Certainly fear is painful, but it is hardly necessary. Certainly suffering is great, so why make it?

Whether fear is great or small, the light of the Father can hardly fail. Fear is nothing. Light is all, for love is all. The concept of darkness could not even exist except for light. The very concept of darkness proves the pre-eminence of light, if such “proof” is needed. Darkness is only a relative absence of light. Light and love do not “fail.” Consciousness “is”; only consciousness that is aware of its own consciousness can fear “not being.” The very act of being able to fear, indicates the truth of faith. Without faith, there could be no fear. Fear is merely a relative absence of faith. Fear proves the faith potential of the child, even as the concept of darkness proves the absolute reality of light.

July 12, 1998

Note: The first twenty-two articles, from the fall of 1997 to spring 1998, are available free-of-charge on diskette (Windows 97, MS-Word 97). Simply contact me with a request, either by e-mail or regular mail at 206 N Bryan St., Shawnee, OK, 74801.

GOD BRINGS US HOME by Jim Cleveland

There's a long way left to go
When we leave this dusty road
Say goodbye to the ones we got to know.
On Heaven's grass so green
in the light that shines serene
Leave this troubled life to the seeds that we have
sown.

Leave our kids to carry on
Sing their very special song
While we go to the many mansions Jesus told.
We'll have learned from the race we ran.
We won't pass this way again
We'll be climbing up sweet Heaven's golden stairs.

(Chorus — spoken)

*They say that in Heaven our bare feet will walk on gold
A lesson that tells us that all the earthly riches you could
behold will be like pavement for our feet
As we ascend Our spirits ascend
beyond mortal death in spirit reach
To "Be ye perfect"
At least, try to be
That's all that God asks of me
Or asks of you either.
And he shows us the way on a path of gold
The finest riches you could ever behold
Your own inner faith that ...
You walk with God.*

Have a home out in the trees
Growing old just as I please
Listenin' to the hoot owl ask what I can't tell
Let me end my days in peace
Before my earthly heart does cease
Ring me to the church on high with golden bells.

There'll still be strife here when I'm gone
and our children carry on
but if they take the Father's hand it'll be all right.
So teach your kids to reach inside
Find the Father's loving guide
To walk the path that many humans stumble on.
If we walk this path in faith
God brings us home.

Rumi and Urantia: *Singing the Mystery Monitor*

Posted by: Steven Hecht

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have seen a renewed flowering of interest in the spiritual writings and inspirations of Rumi. Steven, a Urantia Papers reader, sees these passages as relating to his knowledge of the Mystery Monitor, the indwelling spirit of the Universal Father, which mysteriously helps us monitor our lives and lead us to Truth, Beauty and Goodness.

O Beloved whose light

Comes from behind the curtains,
Your light and warmth
Are like summer for us.
Take us to the rose garden.
Our Hearts are fiery like summer.

O salve for the eyes of my Soul,
Where did You go?
Come, come, so the water
Will spring from our oven.

Come, so the barren land will be green,
The cemeteries will become a garden,
Grapes will ripen,
And our bread will be baked.

O sun of Soul, sun of Heart,
O Beauty who shames the sun with His beauty,
Come and see how this sticky mud
Got stuck to our Soul.
We can't get rid of it.

The kindness of Your face
Has changed so many thorns
Into so many rose gardens
That our faith has been acknowledged
Hundreds of thousands of times.

O eternal Love, in order to deliver our Soul Out
of this dungeon to God,
How beautifully You show Your face

From behind this mold.

O our bright morning,
Make joy during the time of gloom.
Show in the evening
A bright, wonderful day.

You make pearls out of blue beads.
You scare Venus.
You make kings out of the penniless.
Good for You, our Sultan.

Where are the eyes
That can see a trace of Your dust?
Where are the ears
That hear our testament?
Where is the mind
That understands our evidence?

If the Heart sees the beauty of that sugar cane
And tells of its grace and favors,
Taste and flavor will sing songs
At the bottom of our every tooth.

The sound of drums coming from the land of
Soul Says, "Particles are reaching wholeness,
Sweet basil to sweet basil, rose to rose, Every-
thing is becoming free
>From the jail of our thorns."

Mevlana Jelaleddin Rumi
(from: *Divan-i Kebir*, vv. 121-131)



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THE TEACHING MISSION: Abraham 1998

The Teaching Mission is a network of spiritual seekers who communicate with celestial teachers. From its beginnings in 1991, a group in Woods Cross, Utah, has been an instrumental part of its development in North America. Their first teacher, Ham, is now an administrative leader with the celestial teacher corps. Now, the Biblical patriarch, Abraham, has been delivering a fascinating series of lessons and insights on spiritual growth. This month, we spotlight this remarkable spiritual warrior, in fond remembrance of his visits through my TR in Cincinnati. These lessons were posted on the Internet discussion groups by Calvin McKee.

ABRAHAM - Woods Cross Group June 15, 1998 “SPIRILOGISTICS” TR: Nina

I am ABRAHAM. Welcome. Greetings. How connected I feel to the cosmic mind when we all join in conversation. I can literally view the energy exchange between you. What a recharging of our spiritual batteries each time we meet. I perceive your bond with one another in this group is strengthening and helping to keep a well balanced mental attitude.

I understand the experience of the mortal flesh. Before my association with Machiventa I too had to carry on with blind faith and eternal hope that all I felt to be true was indeed true. This is your common ground. Your group is your spiritual anchor in the storm of mortal living.

Our discussions of late have been regarding living up to your highest light, making all decisions from a spiritual standpoint. Having the willingness to take action with Father's will, making Father's will living, allowing His wisdom and divine love be put into action through you, His mortal children. As you are able to put these words into practice and understand that mortal life should not be fraught with regret, do you begin to realize that you are stepping away from human emotions into a place of spirit and logic.

The life of the Master was an excellent example of spirit logic, “spirilogistics.” He acted from the standpoint of His Father's will, and it at times did not run congruent with

His own logical mind, but the Master in His wisdom and magnitude of faith took to the hills for solitude and prayer. His connecting with Father aligned His logic with Father's will. It dissipated somewhat His human emotions and created a spirilogical response in all His daily tasks.

Human emotion is inevitable and entirely natural, and yet, so connected with ego. Human emotion has many layers to uncover to find the level of logic, and beyond your own logic there are several more layers to uncover to come to the spirit. Our Master lived without regret because He had always acted upon His highest light. What would father do? Beyond anger, despair, disappointment and frustration to the core of spirit and logic, what would Father have me do? Beyond the ego's influence, beyond human emotions, to a spirilogical response is where we find the will of God.

At times emotions are all you have. Even the Master had succumbed to human emotions. I mean not to convey emotions are bad or negative, no. This is simply not the place to discern Father's will and attempt to act it out. Your connection with one another strengthens your ability to act using spirilogistics. Your moments of meditation or communing with nature also aid in this method. This combination of the spiritual with logical aid in transforming your unhealthy attachments into healthful connection. Your temptation to act from a place of emotions is dissipated, not stifled or repressed, but dissipated, perhaps energy transformed. With practice, the ego is not maintaining control, but the highest light within you is shining.

This week I ask that you exercise the spirilogical response. Attempt to avoid irrational actions or outburst, instead turn inward and connect with your highest light and maintain the mind-set of asking “What would Father do?”

ACHIEVING GOALS WITH SPIRITUALITY July 13, 1998 TR: Nina

Greetings my friends. I am always feeling at home when we can be together. I so much appreciate our friendships, and yet, I have been asked to remind your each on how we depend on your dedication to giving the good news.

Even after the Master's mortal life was through, the apostles and those that believed Jesus, went out among their fellows and attempted to enlighten. There were those good intentioned individuals that distorted the gospel in their own way, but for the most part, this is how the

teachings of Jesus spread from person to person. The supernals depend upon the footwork of their mortal friends.

We teachers, also count ourselves blessed when our students can live these lessons—everyday. We depend on your dedication to go about promoting goodness. Your dedication helps to uplift the worlds peoples to incorporate higher mindedness. The work that you do is for you also. Your better environments ripples throughout the universe and is certainly affection the Supreme Being.

My friends, you are knowing those who would forgo using the spirilogical attitude and go about professing to spread light when in fact they are bolstering their own ego mindedness. This is not usually what one sets out to intend on doing, no. This can be rather sly and creep up in various disguises. There is the thoughts that one is securing a better seat at the table with the Master or atoning for past mistakes or gathering energy from friends who would give praise.

Yes, we have studied the apostles who have provided us examples wherein they did not utilize the spirilogical response. We are trusting in your intentions for you have spiritually matured some to the point that when the ego flares you are aware of it. This is helpful when sharing the Master's teachings with your fellows. I am certain that your skills in spreading the good news will greatly improve when you release any desire to see results.

In your spiritual career there will be moments of boredom or dullness or monotony, but I can say, that the Father knows of your desires and does take them into consideration when planning your divine education.

I can remember when I wore the material flesh, that I had great dreams and desires I wanted to fulfill. I visualized time after time of being looked up to and respected as a hero. I could play various scenarios in my mind that would show me to be extraordinary, and in the meantime, I labored with seemingly small and trivial tasks. I had always the distinct feeling that something always interfered between me and my goals. There is not one closer who could know of your regrets of missed opportunities or the replaying of painful reminders that stand between you and your heartfelt desires.

Many mortals have believed that any thing good was indeed sinful and therefore should be avoided. It has been taught that your human desires are of the flesh and are therefore evil. It has been long believed that self-denial or suffering was somehow a sacrifice to the gods in order to receive spiritual favor. I would state to you that the universe is indeed your friend and works to help you attain happiness and all those things you need to find your Father in Heaven.

The supernals are indeed knowing your most heartfelt desires and efforts made to attain goals. They certainly make room for rich fulfilling experiences you long for in their plans for your eternal destination. Your attaining goals is not based on your good deeds done. Your mortal happiness fulfillment is not to be mistrusted or thought of as in error or sinful. You are made to Father's specifications and your natural human longings are certainly a part of His plans.

Attaining your goals are certainly of divine concern and it is with your intentions that determines how you will reach your goals if at all. What the son desires and the Father wills IS. If you are seeking power and domination over others then perhaps this goal would have to be attained without divine help. If your goal is to assist someone in a material way for the promotion of spiritual well-being, then are you to be found having what you need wherewith to accomplish this goal, yes.

JULY 27, 1998

WOODS CROSS GROUP TR: NINA

“SETTING GOALS”

I am ABRAHAM. Greetings. Welcome, my friends, to another week of spiritual discovery. I look forward to each week with anticipation and wonderment at what Father has prepared for me to teach upon. I always feel at home among you. My gratitude to you for your patience and dedication, and also to Father for opening these doors for me to teach.

Our mission has been long in the making. We have already accomplished a great deal of small goals to get us closer to our main goal. I usually think not of the main goal, but focus mor on those small steps that take us where we need to go. My associates and I cannot step into Urantian reality and come froth saying, “change and be corrected,” no. We cannot feel anxious for our goal to be pushed into completion. We are joyful that our small steps are most of the time successful and even sometimes disappointed at things unsuccessful.

My associates and I were informed from the very beginning that the Correcting Time was to progress at Father's pace, which is a natural evolutionary pace. We expected not to awaken those spiritually sleeping and proclaim the good news that Urantia is well loved and cared for. We were informed step by step on how to proceed in the assisting of evolution. Our Mission at first was directed toward letting mortals know of our existence; then of Father's love for them; and then the disillusionment exercises came into play; and finally—the spiritual teaching went out, which was our goal for many years.

Many of our small goals have been accomplished. Of

course, the main goal has not been reached, nor are we disappointed by that fact, no. It is all in Father's natural evolutionary time that we will reap the happiness of our efforts, and even then will we all bow in awesome gratitude to our Father, who makes all things possible.

In mortal living, many expect their time to be God's time and are disappointed when goals are delayed. The wise mortal knows all goals are completed in natural evolutionary time.

A man who has been injured in an accident and is paralyzed does not focus on the end of his recovery, which is to be up and walking around, no. He focuses on the physical therapy he will have to endure to progress toward his goal of walking, all the while, looking for Father's open doors. If this man does not appear to find the open doors towards total recovery, which would allow him to walk, he perhaps looks for those open doors which would find him employment, or purpose, or fulfillment in some other avenue. Perhaps he may teach upon the hazards of his particular accident. A man who found himself unable to ever walk again would surely experience crushing defeat, yes, but the spiritual man would redirect his goals towards fulfilling his mortal destiny in other ways. Yes, his defeat would be temporary; surely there is happiness to be found.

A Zebra does not make a goal of attaining spots like his fellow Leopard, no. Goals must be realistic. A man who is told he will not walk, and has put forth his best effort to no avail, in time, begins to accept it and redirect his goals. Of course, this is not done without every effort within his being. He is simply not allowing his adversity to make him lie down before his struggles with hopelessness. His goals must become realistic. Perhaps his next goal is to contend with the depression that has set in from his disappointment, yes.

Father wishes for your every abundance and opens those doors that you need in His natural evolutionary time. His path is always spiritual. Before material or personal fulfillment, He always chooses the spiritual. Know that Father will open doors of spirituality first. He desires closeness with you, and in closeness, there is always success. We know that Father has His own natural evolutionary time in which we must allow for when setting our goals. We know our goals must be kept within the realness, and always the first doors Father opens are regarding spirituality and closeness to Him.

I mean not to say there won't be things miraculous, no. Miracles are Father's immediate fingerprints, yes. These small miracles are however, usually performed to gain attention from a wide circle of people. You would perhaps experience a small miracle and go forth to share your joy and gratitude with another. The sharing of these immedi-

ate Fatherly fingerprints are indeed faith promoting, and there is no reason why you would not receive one.

The man who is downtrodden by his handicap and receives a phone call with a job offer, may certainly regard this as Father's fingerprints and reap the joy therefrom, but for the most part, your mental attitude is better balanced with the thoughts of Father's time is normal evolutionary time. You need not feel anxiety ridden over the time that passes to attain your goals, no. It is better for you to focus on the small steps you can take toward attaining your goals. Watch for Father's open doors to closeness with Him. Your closeness guarantees a good balance in all you do.

ABRAHAM and our UNIVERSE MOTHER T/R: Nina

I am Abraham. Greetings and welcome. It is always wonderful for me to meet with you and witness the various stages of development you are in.

It is most excellent to see our students pause to consider personal spiritual inquiries. More often than not do believers seek immediate answers to their questions and are burdened with anxiety and impatience. It seems to be more simple to pull out any quick and immediate answers that are available instead of taking time to pause. Your pausing is a prayer of sorts asking Father to intervene. Your stillness time could be considered as a pause. Your willingness to be patient is a pause. The rush for immediate answers can set up barriers that would deter you from more correct answers.

In our series on relationships we have used Michael and Mother as an outstanding example. During our lessons we will keep them at the forefront of our minds. Michael is well known throughout the Universe as a loving Brother-Father, god-like, outstanding personality. His public work directing the Universe has many on a personal relationship with him. It is our intention in this Correcting Time to bring a more complete picture of our Divine Parents by your knowing Mother better.

Many individuals on a planet like yours have concepts of a Father that are either wrong or incomplete. This is also true with concepts of Mother. Mother, as I know her, is a fountain of wisdom—common sense, if you will. Mother is always to help clear cloudy vision to make light for new and better ways. Mother is strength and yet, there is within her the most gentlest of hearts. She is a giver of strength and yet also a comforter. Michael's spirit is known here as the Spirit of Truth and I can complete your picture of our Divine Parents by saying Mother's spirit is a Spirit of Complete Beauty. Beauty meaning that of total and complete acceptance of each individual and child in existence. Beauty in the manner in which she fusses over

each child as if they were an only child. Beauty as in one who upholds excellent humility in that she seeks to uphold and not control. You have over time experienced Michael's personality as your Brother-Father, Spirit of Truth, Creator, and that alone is quite exceptional, and I can say to you that your new found relationship with Mother shall complete your picture and give you the courage to take any and all things to your Divine Parents. I give you Mother:

Greetings, my children. You know we have spoken before. I would have you know this evening that I know you each very well and I can tell you that I am in complete love with you, each one. I know of your past regrets, pain, mistakes, shortcomings, flaws and yet to me, your Mother, I see not any of that. I see in you, my children, a vast blooming garden that brings much beauty and joy for your Universe Parents.

I have known the darkest parts of your hearts and I can say that I have wept with you. I have also grown with you. I have seen the adventurous glimmer in your eyes. I have felt your hope and I have heard your laughter. I can say to you there is not one thing unlovable about any of you. I see you in your potential and find that utterly beautiful. I would say to you, each one, that my assistance is unending and my duty to uphold you each is my supreme joy.

I am your counselor in matters of the mind. I would have you know that Michael and I look upon your planet as another of our small children in which we are wholly committed to guide and teach and help to grow. Know that we, your Universe Parents, are unceasingly striving for your growth and renewal of thinking. I am personally at this time striving to increase education in mindal development, directing and guiding you who would have me guide. I am indeed grateful for our Mother-child connection and always standing by your Brother-Father, ever available for you to call upon. Allow me to bestow upon you my Divine Services.

Know that as you are small children growing, there are bumps and falls you must experience. Worry not. Your Mother is at hand to help you regain your spiritual confidence. My love is always with you. I would give back to you your teacher-friend and helper to us, our son, Abraham.

ABRAHAM: My thanks is with you, Mother. We will indeed envision a more enlightened world with your assistance and help in creating a more complete picture of our Divine Parents. Mother and Michael do bring about great empowerment to each one of their children to go forth and complete the many tasks assigned to us.

Concerning all the lessons we must complete, there is a

tremendous amount of mindal strain. Mother and her associates are well prepared to counsel anyone who may be burdened by this strain. Relationships do bring about a great deal of strain and pressure. We are one another's assignments. We are one another's teachers and students. We are each other's reflections, past, present and future.

There appears at times there is no understanding to be had. There are times when verbal connection is not complete and the pressure causes relationships to be somewhat scared. With the strain of relationships I would ask you to practice this week, to pause, to take a humbling moment to just stop and wait for assistance. A moment of clear thinking. A moment to allow Mother in her wisdom to assist us in clearing our thinking, to make way for new and better ideas. I would ask you to practice this pause to strengthen the muscles of patience. Patience is a valuable resource concerning relationships.

ABRAHAM

April 13, 1998 T/R: Nina

I am Abraham. I am with great love and respect for each one of you. I am always made glad by our visits. I am highly grateful for our friendship. I deem myself blessed for knowing you and having a relationship with you. I do endeavor to bestow Fatherly affection, allowing you each your life experience, opinions, and personal definitions of things spiritual. I would not ever make it my place to have you feel as I do, have opinions the same as my own, no. I am not offended when my words are not met with your approval, nor do I take offense at your reactions, or personal characteristic traits. I am attempting to love with the bestowal of freedom.

Mother's request last week was for you to have this same love for yourselves, allowing yourselves the freedom to live fully through all mortal living experiences, allowing yourselves room for evolutionary growth, feeling no pressure about the time taken for stumbling. Yes, Fatherly affection and self-forgiveness applied to your own lives will help you to lose some of those unrealistic fears and habits to make way for new evolutionary lessons.

To continue in the habit of self-punishment is really a great sadness within those forces that aid in your ascension. Self-punishment has always been a form of sacrifice or atonement to the gods. I can say that to believe you are deserving of punishment or negative happenings, is no less than a prison which limits you in attaining those things you would desire for yourself, and also those things God would desire for you.

Mother has asked you to review life memories to gain understanding, self-forgiveness and healing; to promote well balanced mental health. She also shares these lessons

now at this time to upgrade the thinking concerning relationships. In your mortal life, your fellows before your eyes would appear to be your closest relationships. I can say maybe not the closest, but most definitely—important.

This evening, I would speak for a moment on mortal attachments and those attachments we must let go in order to grow. Many mortals down through history found that a man's most prized possession was the people that belonged to him. The people made him who he was. In the days of old, a man could bargain or trade these people for goods.

It is somewhat like that today when in relationships, people are thought of as property or goods to be bargained or reflect who an individual is. Of course, mortals have a great need to belong and have companionship, and most mortals would be wise to investigate, to re- think the relationship.

This week I would ask that you review your relationships. Are they healthful connections or unhealthy attachment? We will continue to speak on this next week. Have you questions?

RACHEL: Yes Father Abraham. This is a question I wanted to ask last week while we were still studying about Mother Spirit. On Urantia, the term "mother" or "daughter" denotes a female gender. What does it denote on the spiritual worlds? Number two: When you see Mother Spirit, how does Her appearance differ from that of male gender Spirits such as Prince Machiventa Melchizedek and Christ Michael, and so on? Number three: If I were on the mansion worlds and I could see two spirits, without asking, would I be able to denote their gender?

ABRAHAM: Gender beyond the mortal life is more perhaps recognized on a soul level, a perception through internal feelings. Not so much visual—do you recognize gender, but by mindal recognition. Mother to me is recognized first in my mind as Co-creator, Parent, Care-taker. My first recognition is not male nor female. My recognition of Her is based on my internal understanding, not my visual. Mother's personality is powerful, and yet, by Her personal traits, I could describe Her as complete Grace. I could describe Mother as the Water of Life, as in fluid and in motion. I could perceive from my internal feelings,

She is the embodiment of true Beauty, where Her caretaking abilities are gentle, and yet fierce in power and passion. I also would perceive Michael as Creator, Parent and Care-taker, Brother, Father... His first perception I receive is not male nor female, but as Creator, Parent, Caretaker.

and from Hawaii ...VERONICA on GLOBAL HARMONY, Volcano, Hawaii - #44

Gentle designers of self-transformation,

The universal desire for global peace is frequently expressed without consideration for the true means of its achievement.

For mutual harmony to become a natural state of the planet, inner peace must be consummated in the minds and hearts of all its mortal inhabitants. Unity must triumph over the many obstacles that engender separateness.

Cultivate the tranquility of your spirit by eliminating hostility with the principle focus of tolerance, forgiveness, and understanding.

Your intimacy with the spark of divinity within your spirit will allow you to grow in grace and will reflect the iridescent luminosity of composure that will radiate outward in the tender manifestation of love.

Self-transcendence is the critical goal that will pave the path of pacifism that will germinate the seeds of light that will grow into lasting peace on your troubled sphere. This perceptible reality will expand from every heart and dance like the brilliance of diamonds on the immense ocean of supreme consciousness. The flawless jewel of perfection encased in your soul will sparkle with divine aspiration as you emulate the Prince of Peace and the eloquence of His example.

Always remember that the first step toward light and life must begin with the release of the delicate butterfly of freedom you hold within you so that it will flutter gracefully into the warm winds of transcendence in its eternal migration on the route of the Father's perfection.

LOVESTREAMS

*Love streams, healing waters of love
flow upon the bedrock of our souls,
glistening, rushing, swirling, brightening
we drink all that we can hold.*

*And in this light of living waters
we reach to friends to hold,
in love embrace, in quickening grace
in faith that the race will be won
one day as the Father foretold.*

-- Jim Cleveland and Elisha

PENTECOSTAL POWER: **The Brownsville Revival**

A TESTAMENT TO THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

by **RON FAULK** <rfaulk@nstar.net>

The Spirit of Truth is so close. Many are feeling it and have had their lives shaken and transformed. Others seem not to feel that God is drawing closer.

The Spirit that is the true spirit of Jesus is gentle, holy, sacred, loving. But those who are embraced by it are also taken to a deep humbleness, for to see the truth about our self is indeed humbling, and the power and pervasiveness of the spirit is awesome.

I recently returned from my second trip to the revival at the Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida. After my first experience a couple of months ago I had a deep longing to return. The Spirit of Truth is there in great power. It is amazing to experience it, and more so with thousands of others. It is like rising from a fog suddenly and being able to see far into the distance and everything around in great clarity. The Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Jesus' presence, is so personal, so relieving; receiving it is like returning home after a long, long absence.

The blessing of the Lord is great and I am deeply, utterly grateful for his mercy and grace. He is indeed the upholder of life, the prop of our soul, the well of happiness, a comforter for eternity. I have been with eight thousand souls who, somehow with the Spirit of Truth, managed to unify and express such a sincere yearning for God's love and grace that his Spirit reflected upon us until a true and sublime spirit of worship went into and came from all gathered in an amazing symphony of expression and comfort that can't be described. It can only be experienced.

This new Spirit, or the same Spirit of Pentecost now poured forth in a new measure, has to be experienced. I believe that experience holds forth a great opportunity to change the world, and indeed the only opportunity. The world cannot be changed through mind or intellect. But if enough persons can open themselves, can believe, can receive, can experience the amazing expression of God and Jesus, then the world will indeed be changed, for anyone who has received this Spirit, unless they backslide, simply will no longer live in the old world.

I have seen people saved on the spot. I have seen in their relieved faces and heard in their trembling voices the expression of a new self, a joy not seen before, a gratefulness and humbleness absent from their lives.

Nothing is quite like seeing spiritual rejuvenation, except experiencing it. I owe God my life for the gift of the spirit. It makes all things new. The Spirit is of a greater reality, a new universe, an incredible kingdom. How can I tell about it? You must believe and experience it yourself. Everything seen, heard, felt, imagined, is different.

God of course is everywhere and the time-space presence of Jesus lives in the heart of every person. But when a few souls learn to begin to do God's will and to tune-in to the spirit and to let the spirit lead (instead of some person trying to assume authority), and when many come to worship with them, then the spirit seems to descend with a greater power and presence.

I am convinced that a spiritual hunger is sweeping the land. More and more persons are feeling the presence of God and seeking urgently for the spiritual food to satisfy this tremendous longing. Over 2,500,000 have been to the Brownsville church in the last three years.

It is amazing to see several thousand spiritually hungry souls gathered in laughter and good company, urgently seeking the spiritual presence of God. It is more amazing to be with them when the Spirit comes. That experience is refreshing, re-vivifying, more than comforting. It is clarifying. It heals. To be in the spirit is to step into a new day and a brighter light where we can see forever.

The church there holds 2,500 but for three years more people have come than that. The doors open at 6 p.m. but people begin lining up around 7 a.m. I arrived Thursday morning 9:30 am and several hundred people were already in line (this is Florida and the heat is around 100)

Even in line, during the day, a wonderful spirit is among the crowd. During four days, among perhaps sixteen thousand people, I did not hear one word of anger or protest, nor saw a single unbrotherly act, nor saw anyone seeking to lord it over others. People policed themselves, responded to the crowd monitors, helped each other out, laughed, sang, rejoiced. Also amazing is the diversity — they are young and old, radical and conservative. Largely they are of the common people.

They are, true, largely Pentecostals or those familiar with Pentecostalism (but not all). I have seen the spirit descend on the crowd even in-line during the day and seize people physically with shaking and speaking in tongues and other manifestations.

During service that Thursday evening the crowd jumped-up in worship and the spirit responded in such strength that the ministers were not able to preach a sermon (and did not pass the plate — this in a five hour service). I have been there before when this happened. The crowd was seized with a desire for prayer, and for two or three hours, under the direction not of human ministers but of the Spirit of Jesus, it prayed and worshiped with joy and exultation.

The spirit at such times is manifestly suprahuman. The crowd often responds as one. As the crowd rises in prayer like the waves of the sea, healing and comfort and refreshment are made available.

Towards the end, all who wanted personal prayer and laying-on of hands were called to the altar. I have written about this elsewhere, and mention here again that many, in the hundreds if not thousands, were physically touched by the spirit, “slain in the spirit” as the Pentecostals say, and I again experienced this myself.

Personally, the more experience I have in receiving this physical manifestation, the stronger it becomes. Before one of the ministers prayed for me (and ministers are both men and women), I tried to empty myself of all desire and just accept whatever God wanted; I tried to resign myself to his will. As one might expect, this seems to make the presence of the Spirit all the more powerful. When the minister laid his hand on my head, it was as if a spark jumped into me and knocked me down. I remember saying “Wow!” not in pain but in surprise at the power.

As this is happening to hundreds, the presence of the spirit is all over. Just to be there is wonderful. And to be able to express true thankfulness to God is more wonderful. The presence of the Lord is a tremendous comfort.

Some, especially those who are new to such things, do not, in a self-aware sense, seem to feel a strong “physical” presence of the Spirit, although all of these I have talked with acknowledge a wonderful and amazing “general” presence of spirit in the assembly. I should add, that I do not personally believe that being able to receive the spirit in a physical, sometimes very strongly emotional sense (some people cry or laugh with great abandon), necessarily means being more spiritual than others; the spirit has many gifts, some of this kind, some of that.

One truth the Spirit shows, is that no one has the capacity (hence the “right”) to make spiritual pronouncements about others. Only God can judge, and this is because no one controls the spirit, and hence “truth,” but God. The Spirit also shows that any spirit of enmity, or anger, or manipulation, or desire for preference, or self-righteousness, or pretentiousness, is not of the Spirit of Truth.

On Friday morning we arrived about 9:30 a.m. and 3,000

persons were already in line. By 6 p.m., by my estimate, over 7,000 people were there. We did not make it into the main church that evening, but went to one of the over-flow areas. The Spirit, of course, does not live in a church, nor does it come more strongly to those in a church.

That night the Spirit expressed itself in a unique, tender, and sweet worshipfulness. At one time, for twenty minutes perhaps, the crowd seemingly as one being expressed a simple, humble, joyous, very sacred-feeling thanks and praise to God; we somehow were able to feel a true, existential, appreciation for the holiness of God; and it was so joyous and comforting to be able to express this to God, a great relief.

Again there was no human direction, not even music; it was spirit-led. Later that evening, when the altar call was made for repentance, for dedication to the Lord, and to be saved in the spirit, over 80% of the crowd responded, and many were liberated and received into the new fellowship of the Spirit of Jesus. I believe such sights mark the end of one dispensation and the beginning of another.

My friends, if you have not felt the personal Spirit and presence of Jesus, a man who lived among us, you have great things in store for you, an unimaginable gift. It will change your life. Once you feel the Spirit and see the new kingdom, there is nothing you will want more. How can it be described? These children of the new kingdom will make — are making — a new heaven and earth.

If you have not been to Brownsville, I urge you to go. The ministers and staff there still have some dogma, and as humans they are not perfect, nor do they claim to be. But they do seek after the Spirit, and they are looking always to let it lead them. And the presence of the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, the presence of Jesus, is there.

If you have that spiritual hunger, know that it can be satisfied. The world has many deceivers and pretenders, false princes and powers, those who claim the kingdom is here or the kingdom is there, but the Spirit witnesses itself; there is no wondering about it; it is of the essence of holiness and grace and perfection and comfort; and it speaks to the heart and soul of the next and greater life. It is tremendously refreshing and revivifying. And it heals.

If 20 or 30 spiritual fires like the Brownsville “revival” could be kindled across this nation, we would change it. We would start making a new earth here and now. I believe this is happening. Join in the Spirit! Ask for it. Pray deeply and sincerely for it. Keep a constant awareness in your mind of God; constantly try to hear what the Spirit counsels you, and with practice and sincerity you will begin to hear more clearly. Be humble, and watch out for pride, for it quenches the Spirit.

JEST THE FACTS

DEAR LORD,

So far today, Lord, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over-indulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed. And from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help. Amen.

YOU STILL HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR BUSES

A 60 year old woman is walking down the street in NYC. All of a sudden she hears a voice saying "You are going to live to be 100". She looks around and sees no one. Again she hears, "you are going to live to be 100". Oh, my, she thinks. That's the voice of G-d.. I have another 40 years to live. She goes to a plastic surgeon and has herself "done" from head to toe. As she leaves the hospital she is hit by a bus and dies. When she gets to heaven she asks G-d."You said I was going to live to be 100, why did you let the bus kill me?" G-d answered: "I didn't recognize you!"

MARITAL MIRTH

Getting married is very much like going to a restaurant with friends. You order what you want, then when you see what the other fellow has, you wish you had ordered that.

At the cocktail party, one woman said to another, "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?" The other replied, "Yes, I am, I married the wrong man."

Man is incomplete until he is married. Then he is finished.

A little boy asked his father, "Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" And the father replied, "I don't know son, I'm still paying."

Young Son: Is it true, Dad, I heard that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?
Dad: That happens in every country, son.

Then there was a man who said, "I never knew what real happiness was until I got married; and then it was too late."

After a quarrel, a wife said to her husband, "You know, I was a fool when I married you." The husband replied,

"Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice."

A man inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: "Wife wanted". Next day he received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: "You can have mine."

A woman was telling her friend, "It is I who made my husband a millionaire." "And what was he before you married him?" asked the friend. The woman replied, "A billionaire."

"The trouble with being the best man at a wedding is that you never get to prove it."

The groom, upon his engagement, went to his father and said, "I've found a woman just like mother!" His father replied, "So what do you want from me, sympathy?"

When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him keep her. - Sacha Guitry

Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence. Second marriage is the triumph of hope over experience. Third marriage is the triumph of stupidity over sanity.

How do most men define marriage? A very expensive way to get your laundry done free.

A couple was having a discussion about family finances. Finally the husband exploded, "If it weren't for my money, the house wouldn't be here?" The wife replied, "My dear, if it weren't for your money, I wouldn't be here."

A man found out that his credit card was stolen but he decided not to report it because the thief was spending less than his wife did.

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

Hey Kid! Explain God.

Written by Danny Dutton, Age 8, Chula Vista, CA. 3rd grade homework assignment

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes these to put in place of the ones that die so that there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn't make grownups. Just babies. I think because they

are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that up to the mothers and fathers. I think it works out pretty good.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, as some people, like preachers and things, pray other times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV on account of this. As He hears everything, not only prayers, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere. Which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your parents head and ask for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and doing miracles and trying to teach people about God who didn't want to learn. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him.

But He was good and kind, like His father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK. His Dad (God) appreciated everything. He had done and all His hard work on earth, so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road any more. He could stay in Heaven. So He did.

And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing which things are important to God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important, of course.

You can pray any time you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should go to Sunday School, because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God.

Don't skip Sunday School to do something you think will be more fun, like going to the beach. That's wrong! And besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an Atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like camp, but God can. It's good to know

He's around when you're scared of the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown in real deep water by the big kids.

But you shouldn't just think of what God can do for you. I figure He put me here and can take me back any time He pleases.

And that's why I believe in God.

Things that make you say HMMMMMM

-I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

-If those psychics know the winning lottery numbers, why are they all still working?

-Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

-It's a dog eat dog world out there. And they're short on napkins.

-Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things.

-Atheism is a nonprophet organization.

-If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

-Never trust a stockbroker who's married to a travel agent.

SOMETHING'S A-MISH HERE

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny silver walls that could move apart and back together again.

The boy asked his father: "What is this Father?" The father (never having seen an elevator) responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life. I don't know what it is!"

While the boy and his father were watching wide-eyed, an old lady in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched small circles of lights with number above the walls light up.

They continued to watch the circles light up in the reverse direction. The walls opened again and a beautiful 24-year old woman stepped out. The father stared and then said to his son, "Go get your mother!!!"

THE TEACHING MISSION: *Spiritual Pacing ... Faith and Will*

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Since 1991, a network of spiritual seekers have been hearing the lessons of celestial teachers via the process of transmitting-receiving, similar to channeling but accomplished in a relaxed, alpha conscious state where the freewill maintains control and always in an aura of worship, prayer and love. We offer you some perspectives from various teachers across the U.S.*

THE PACE OF THE TEACHING MISSION AND PLANETARY SPIRITUAL CHANGES

**From: SawKing <SawKing@TWLakes.Net>
Reply-To: tml@virtualbiz.com
Excerpt from RATA message - 8-20-98**

There are some among you who despair that the Teaching Mission is not growing more rapidly, that the revelation is not spreading quickly enough. Quite normal, mortals expect to see results in their lifetime.

Slow growth is essential at this time. The vast majority of Urantians are material-minded and therefore unreceptive to purely spiritual stimuli.

You have been informed that things have a way of changing rapidly - this is how that works. Consider that no generation since the rebellion has been born and grown up under the full mantle of the universe spiritual circuits. Even now, young minds are developing, swimming in the lush spiritual currents that were absent a few short years ago.

You have no idea what will occur, for you have never witnessed the work of complete spiritual circuitry.

A GENERATION WILL ARISE THAT SEEKS NOTHING BUT TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS As unlikely as it sounds to your ears, it will happen.

Your task, as members of Prince Machiventa's mortal staff, is to have the information available for that blessed generation ready when they appear. It must be contained in your lives, not just your text and teachings. The Master must be alive and walking the planet in the form of his faith sons and daughters **HALF MEASURES WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING...** A superbly organized brotherhood, while commendable, is no substitute for the Word made flesh.

Each of you must become a living beacon of hope. The Master must be represented in every neighborhood. Shine forth His Spirit, His Love, His genuine open friendliness ... be Him to the extent of your capacity ... and that spiritually stimulated generation of men will appear, seeking Him ... it is inevitable.

Despair not, be of good cheer, brighten your corner and celebrate the Life of the Son

LESSONS ON FAITH and CONSECRATION OF WILL

**Couer d'Alene, Idaho Teaching Mission group
Teachers: Elyon, Malvantra, Nebadonia,
Michael - August 9, 1998**

Elyon (Mark - TR): I greet you today; this is your group associate Elyon. I would once again today touch on the topic of faith.

There have been previous lessons delivered on this topic, but it is worthy of many more lessons, as it is a key, integral part in your ascension up through the ranks. It is such a key part to have as your possession, to maintain in your tool box, that it could perhaps be said that it is your most important tool to use. All the other tools and levers that you have at your disposal in your spiritual growth function in liaison with this faith tool, much as you would put sockets and extensions on a ratchet tool. Without your faith you have not the main tool you need to get the job

done.

Faith can be likened to the key with which you unlock the door immediately before you. If you have faith, if you possess this key, this impediment before you is easily removed. If you do not have faith and exercise this faith, this obstacle before you can become insurmountable.

If you have faith and you are gazing upon a wide ravine, you are certain you will make the other side. If you have no faith, you are certain you will not. If you have faith, you are certain that your actions are in the direction of the Father, and you proceed forward with willingness and with boldness.

If you operate without faith, you search and fumble and are unable to determine clearly your direction. Faith is, indeed, the difference between a steadily piloted ship and an erratically driven vessel.

Each one of you in this room has enormous faith capacity within your being. It is your decisions and your actions which develop this much as a muscle. This faith muscle can be exercised, and if exercised frequently, will become strong and sturdy. A muscle that has not been exercised, when called on to carry a great load, will strain or even fail under the load.

In this existence that you live, your faith-muscle needs to be developed to the greatest of your ability, as you are asked to proceed very much in this life solely with the use of this one tool, of this one muscle. If it is strong, you will progress far. If it is weak, you will be obliged to wait for the next opportunity you have to strengthen this muscle before you may move forward.

The very act of your being in attendance today is exercising this very muscle of which we speak. Feel what this particular muscle feels like at this time, this particular tool you are using. Recognize its application even at this moment, for to build any muscle you need to focus on its exist-

ence and its function and purpose. Accept the challenge of this life to exercise this muscle in the absence of so much external confirmation. Realize that, as you are doing this, even in this life, you are doing this for all time, for as you proceed forward from this existence on to the next and so on, your faith exercise and extension and subsequent action is what propels you forward, is what is the impulse which allows you to see more than you can see, to feel more than is obvious, and to be truly more than you are at this time.

There is no individual who could not benefit substantially from strengthening this faith muscle. Even if secure within your own parameters, strengthening this faith muscle allows you to increase your parameters and experiences to gain the wisdom that comes from this increased capacity.

So, in conclusion, I would applaud each and every one of you for your reaching out in faith as you do regularly and even at this very moment. I would encourage all individuals to exercise this muscle even more frequently as the rewards for this exercise bear great fruits. I thank you for hearing me today, and I would allow others at this time.

Malvantra (Jonathan): I also greet you. I am anxious to follow Elyon today and supplement faith with a lesson on consecration of will.

God, as a self-expressive deity, chose to manifest creation and is doing so to the far stretches of infinity. In the course of this revelation He chose to initiate creature life of an equal volitional nature. All of you have the ability to decide your fate as He one time chose the organization and promulgation of reality. Your faith ratchet is your secret to your universe climb and eventual embrace with God Himself. During your fledging, initial career on earth, you will spend many times switching your ratchet setting back and forth as you gain understanding of your ability to choose and to choose rightly. When

you have so consecrated your will that you are ever seeking to manifest and effect the will of God on earth, you can consider your ratchet to be permanently set in one direction. You must still apply the force of your own personality, however, you are twisting your faith tool in the rotation that is the will of God.

When you rest, when you play, when you take a vacation from spiritual exertion, the slipping, the backwards motion, does not reduce your previous growth. If you were to choose the opposite of the will of the Father and permanently set your switch in the wrong rotation, you would become iniquitous.

In this state even a rotation towards God effects no change. Assure yourselves that, until you have attained the spirit stature where you understand more fully your faith-tool that leads you to the Father, you will, at times, be switching. At the moment in your life when you wholly consecrate yourself to the will of the Father, you can rest assured your ratchet is set on Him and Him alone.

God will not retract His projection of universe reality; it is a gift that all may experience along with Him. As you each give yourself this same undeniable and unretractable devotion, you are permitting God to experience one minute, seemingly infinitesimal life, that being you.

In partnership with Him, you have an expansive universe to explore and the profound depths of God Himself to discover. Much is at stake, and all lies in the power of your own choice.

It has been said that faith can move mountains, and this is a wise statement by our Sovereign Son. One day when you are privileged to be in his presence at his headquarters you will understand that even faith can move universes.

I am Malvantra, and I will also end my lesson in the interest of your time schedule.

Nebadonia (Mary): God's love moves within each of our lives. It surrounds us, takes many forms. Grasp this reality with your faith, and you will come to experience God's love at ever varying levels.

It has been said and is ever true that God is love. Your experiences in your life take place surrounded in this matrix of love. The universe is friendly because the universe is established on the principle of God's loving nature.

You have been given the gift of personal freewill choice by your loving God. You may choose to participate in this loving universe of experience. You may also choose the opposite; God has granted you that choice.

Throughout this first life that you are experiencing, your ability to connect with the will and love of God will vary from time to time, but be not troubled by this. You are learning; you are experiencing God's reality that He has designed for you. Maintain your faith in the loving nature of these experiences that God has granted you and proceed with your life, making your choices grounded in faith and depending on God's love. Thank you.

Christ Michael - Jesus (Mark): And now, as a direct result of your faith, I come among you today to give you my thanks and to give you my love. You know who I am, and I know who you are. You are my children in whom I am so lovingly pleased. I reach for you, and you reach for me. Together in this act of faith we make contact.

I see you are willing; I see you are able. I desire that we have this contact even more frequently. This I desire of each of you and all of you.

The fruits of your efforts shall be rewarded. We both shall gain much in this interaction together. I know, my dear ones, I may count on you for this. I will look for you as time goes on. Take my love with you as I leave you now.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST VOICES: *Courage and Peace from Within*

EDITOR'S NOTE: *These personal lessons to Teaching Mission friends speak eloquent volumes to help us find our own spiritual centeredness.*

Aaron: Courage on the inner level, applying that to yourself, is simply an honesty with your feelings. When you hear unsettling ideas, rather than to ignore, it could be positive to explore what it is that makes you feel this unbalancing.

When you get direction, when someone offers advice, when you receive, you have to explore the necessity of that information. If it pertains and applies to your life and you accept that it is true, then courage to make the changes and to bare yourself is needed.

I would always encourage you to not run away from who you are. It is easy to think you've got it handled and that life is so spiritually motivated when you are talking so often about such things, but yet there is a real time for growth and all of you, ALL, though ascending nicely, have room to grow. None of you will burst into a pure shining light tomorrow.

It takes courage to bring your focus back to your growth, your understanding, your frailties. You see, if you spend all of your time actively engaged in outreach to everyone else and you forget that you are one of those as well, then your frailties will only manifest themselves in your outreach. It is not so important to ignore them. It is like a lesion, and if you ignore that it is there and take no step to do anything about it, then it could go away, or it could grow. At what point do you decide to go for a cure? No one likes to see the doctor, but yet it is sometimes necessary, and it takes courage to see the doctor.

Do not escape yourself and cast illusions so you may feel comfortable. If you have doubts in your purpose, then go to the source, and ask your Father. You can ask us. You can talk to your friends. Just let down the walls. Be courageous to act, either outwardly or inwardly. Don't paralyze.

Evanson: My name is Evanson. I would like you to reflect momentarily upon your significance. Do you realize who you are? You are extremely unique, so largely focused externally to your environment, so closely identified to your body system, all around you, organic, inorganic materials, change, disruption, growth. You can perceive this. You are aware of the unity and harmony of all things because you have identified with the First Source

as it is resident within. You can look two directions, outward and inward.

Emerging from this bifocal view-point is your eternal, ascending vehicle, the great accomplishment of your life to date. You are a mini-Supreme, a being containing creature experience and divine endowments. There are no creatures quite like you. Relish the moments you have here. Be clever, intuitive, in building your future and cherish all the dimensions of your life, everything bestowed upon you has been given for purpose. I will now retreat. Thank you.

Rantarason: Yes, hello, I would speak also.
Rantarason.

Tonight we have the joy of knowing that our Father loves each of us individually. This is a joy that you can all feel within your own personal being. You do not have to look to a book. You do not have to go to an authority figure. There is nowhere else you need to look to experience the love of the Father, except within your own heart.

This is a beautiful testimony to the truth of the words that you read in your book. It is the coming together of your philosophy with your experience. There are many instances where you will find that your philosophy is validated with experience and each time that you come upon this realization that your philosophy has been validated, this is a perfect opportunity for you to grow one more increment in your faith, to allow the expansion of your soul, to know that the plan of your Father is a progressive plan, an ascending plan, a plan that we will all move forward with.

QUESTION: I worry sometimes about being too important. Is it ego or is it God's will? That is my struggle.

Rantarason: You will find that there is a direct correlation between ego and fear. The more ego you have, the more fear you will have. To truly do the will of the Father would require that one would humble himself to the maximum and to confront his biggest fears. You can do this with the assurance that the Adjuster, Michael, and we are right behind you. You will not fail. You may stumble, but just the fact of the attempts, are success.

So we would say that your fear of ego is misplaced. You should be willing to serve in whatever capacity the Father presents before you. If you end up being important so be it. This is what we do for the Father. If you end up being an unknown worker, this is an honor.

There are so many billions of creatures that to imagine yourself in a position of glory and recognition may be a bit too presumptuous. You will know and your associates will know, the Father will know, but the chances that humanity would erect an eternal statue in your honor... (Laughs) ...are remote.

HUMAN: (More laughs) I don't think that's quite my conception, but I get the picture. Thank you.

Rantarason: You get the picture. Take what's due you. It's your honor. Seek not that which you have not earned. You will find that all the pieces fall into place just as they should. When all is said and done, you will be more than satisfied. You will be honored and proud. You will progress to your next step with a sense of completion and a job well done.

It is very warming to us to watch the struggle of our students, how they overcome one obstacle and then the next. Have no fears. They are truly not justified. Be happy. The happier you are, the faster you will find your purpose. This is the truth.

A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF ... UNDERSTANDING HAM in Nashville/June, 1998

Ham: Now, children, let us discuss understanding in greater depth.

Concerning understanding, what does it mean when we say we understand another's point of view, another's emotion, or another's reaction? You have certainly not experienced that person's experience. You do not bring to that experience all of that person's history, all their past. Understanding among humans is a frail thing, for, in reality, it is only one person remembering something in their lives that is similar to something another person is experiencing.

All experience is unique. Each person experiences differently than each other person. Understanding between humans cannot be a complete thing, but, only partial and imperfect. The Father in Heaven, however, understands completely for he experiences all your experience directly through you and as you. Your unique experience becomes then part of his reality and is immediately a part of the greater reality of the God of experience, God the Supreme.

As you mature and grow in the spirit, your experiences become more unique and yet are recognized as more universal at once. Though you, as a unique individual, have entirely unique experience, you are able through the higher realms of thought, though the wisdom of the

morontia mind, to recognize the universality of all experience and to thus connect with your brethren in sympathy and understanding as to their experiences.

You can look back on a younger colleague and understand that person's experience quite well having experienced something similar during your lifetime. You might even be able to predict what that younger person will do in a given set of circumstances. But, you cannot, through experience, understand the experiences of those older and more experienced than you are.

At the age of 20, you cannot know or understand what it feels like to be 60 for this is beyond your experience. You can sympathize, but you really cannot truly understand.

The Master experienced life as one of each of his children's levels. He experienced the life of seraphim, experienced the life of a melchizedek, of an adam son, and of a mortal son. He is in complete understanding of your experience because he has experienced something similar as a human being and also partakes of directly experiencing life through your eyes.

You will not find one who is more understanding or completely aware of you in your completeness than this Master son outside of the realm of Paradise.

Michael, the master son of Nebadon, sees completely into the hearts of each one of his many, many children and he can personally relate to all of your experiences, having lived life as one of you. You will not find a more sympathetic ear or a more understanding bosom than you have in your friend, your brother, your father — Michael of Nebadon.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In his earthly incarnation, Michael, creator and ruler of the local universe of Nebadon, was called by the name, Jesus.

You must also remember that his ear is always open, he is always ready to receive your concerns and your troubles in life. You can always feel free, confident and open about discussing your private feelings with him.

This week, as an assignment, I would like you each to write a letter to Michael expressing yourselves in personal terms and seeking his understanding. I believe you will find a great relief in this and accomplish a feeling of companionship with the Master that he so desires to have with you.

You will remember in your reading of his earthly life, that he was a great friend to many and it is this level of intimate friendship that he seeks to have with you each as well.

THE STILLNESS: Expressing it through the Course in Miracles

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Teaching Mission refers to daily quiet time with God as the Stillness. Other spiritual movements may use different terminology, but the concepts and the values of the practice are well recognized. Here, a dedicated student of A Course in Miracles shares perspectives from this movement.

by **BOB HUNT**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Teaching Mission,
Greetings and Salutations!

I am moved to share with you a beautiful description of one of the primary unifying aspects of the Teaching Mission, namely the experience of seeking stillness, as expressed in a Course in Miracles by the following words and thoughts. This is Lesson 125.

“In quiet I receive God’s Word today

Let this day be a day of stillness and of quiet listening. Your Father wills you hear His Word today. He calls to you from deep within your mind where He abides. Hear Him today. No peace is possible until His Word is heard around the world; until your mind, in quiet listening, accepts the message that the world must hear to usher in the quiet time of peace.

The world will change through you. No other means can save it, for God’s plan is simply this: The Son of God is free to save himself, given the word of God to be his guide, forever in his mind and at his side to lead him surely to his Father’s house by his own will, forever free as God’s. He is not led by force, but only love. He is not judged, but only sanctified.

In stillness we will hear God’s Voice today without intrusion of our petty thoughts, without our personal desires, and without all judgment of His holy Word. We will not judge ourselves today, for what we are can not be judged. We stand apart from all that which the world has laid upon the Son of God. It knows him not. Today we will not listen to the world, but wait in silence for the Word of God.

Hear, holy Son of God, your Father speak. His Voice would give to you His holy Word, to spread across the world the tidings of salvation and the holy time of peace. We gather at the throne of God today, the quiet place within the mind where He abides forever, in the holiness that He created and will never leave.

He has not waited until you return your mind to Him to give His Word to you. He has not hid Himself from you, while you have wandered off a little while from Him. He does not cherish the illusions which you hold about yourself. He know His Son, and wills that he remain as part of Him regardless of his dreams; regardless of his madness that his will is not his own.

Today He speaks to you. His Voice awaits your silence, for His Word can not be heard until your mind is quiet for a while, and meaningless desires have been stilled. Await His Word in quiet. There is peace within you to be called upon today, to help make ready your most holy mind to hear the Voice for its Creator speak.

Three times today, at times most suitable for silence, give ten minutes set apart from listening to the world, and choose instead a gentle listening to the Word of God. He speaks from nearer than your heart to you. His Voice is closer than your hand. His Love is everything you are and that He is; the same as you, and you the same as He.

It is your voice to which you listen as He speaks to you. It is your Word He speaks. It is the Word of freedom and of peace, of unity of will and purpose, with no separation nor division in the single Mind of Father and of Son. In quiet listen to your Self today, and let Him tell you God has never left His Son, and you have never left you Self.

Only be quiet. You will need no rule but this, to let your practicing today lift you above the thinking of the world, and free your vision from the body’s eyes.

Only be still and listen. You will hear the Word in which the Will of God the Son joins in his Father’s Will, at one with it, with no illusions interposed between the wholly indivisible and true. As every hour passes by today, be still a moment and remind yourself you have a special purpose for this day; in quiet to receive the Word of God.”

The Teaching Mission participants are certainly going about things in a way consistent with this loving advice. And, from my perspective, we are reaping the benefits in incredible and literal ways that are consistent with the experience described here.

Peace and Love,
BOB HUNT

THE BREAD OF LIFE

by PHIL EVERSOU

To eat the Bread of Life is to partake of the combined nature of God and Man. Jesus said: “And this bread of life which I give to all who will receive is my own living and combined nature. The Father in the Son and the Son one with the Father—that is my life-giving revelation to the world and my saving gift to all nations.” (Urantia Papers - p. 1711).

What has stymied Christianity, in my opinion, is the belief that this union of God and man was only true for Jesus. But this cannot be, because we read here that Jesus offers this Bread of Life to everyone. He states that this bread of life IS his life-giving revelation to the world and his saving gift to all nations. So, THIS IS IT. THIS IS WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT. He offers this bread to everyone. He doesn’t eat it by himself.

Jesus was the Father, the Infinite I AM, incarnate in the Son. I once composed a little ditty:

I the Father AM the Son;
This is true for everyone.

In other words, the principle is just as true for us as it was for Jesus. Of course, we are not going to manifest or exhibit that principle as well as he did. Nor should we expect to. But the principle is the same. The question is, do you accept the principle for your own life?

The Infinite I AM conceives of himself. Each Self conception of the Infinite I AM is one son of God. Self-unity is the result of an infinite Self-conception. All infinite Self-conceptions of the Infinite I AM are equal.

However, some of them exist far more in potentiality than in actuality. Michael of Nebadon is a very well actualized infinite Self-conception, and therefore he is accorded a high place of Responsibility in the actualized and actualizing universe.

We, on the other hand, are just starting that journey

of actualization. Nevertheless, the principle is the same: we, too, can accept our I AMness just as Jesus did. We won’t express it as well, but we can accept it with the same faith that Jesus did.

The same I AM indwells each son. The I AM is meant to play a necessary and continuous role in your life: the I AM is the “who” of you. There is no other “who” of you. Each son IS the Infinite I AM (the Father) in a particular way. The same Infinite I AM indwells each son as the real Who of each of them.

In order to realize this, it is critical to experience that the Infinite I AM is entirely subjective and beyond all possible boundaries. The Thinker is not the thought, the Seer is not the seen, the Doer is not the deed, and the subject is not the object. Whatever we are conscious OF, is some sort of spiritual/mental/physical object, some sort of image, pattern, belief, symbol, or expression. And whatever we are conscious OF, we are NOT THAT. We are unique expressions of the Inexpressible, unique descriptions of the Indescribable—the Infinite I AM that WE ARE.

The purpose of the Age of the Supreme is to transform the I AM into the WE ARE.

Such realizations lead to the Brotherhood of God based on the Fatherhood of Man, the I AM in each man. It is the Brotherhood of God that reveals what you so aptly called “..a NEW and enlarged presentation of his saving message.” What God wants to do is talk to himself, consciously.

The Infinite I AM has no one to talk to until he creates Self-conceptions with whom to talk. The Infinite I AM can talk only to the Infinite I AM; who else could consciously and appreciatively do the job? As the I AM does this, the WE ARE arises.

In my view, only the conscious Brotherhood of God, based on the Fatherhood of Man, can turn the situation around on this planet. The question is when it will ever happen, and I cannot answer that. Human evolution always proceeds at the rate of choice per capacity. Peace.

SPIRITUAL WORKBOOK: Non-Violence and Non-Resistance

By **DAVID SCHLUNDT**

How should we respond to other people's aggressive behavior? Is a stance of nonresistance like that practiced by Jesus practical, desirable, or even possible to achieve? Just exactly what limits should one set upon responding to aggressive acts by adopting a policy of nonresistance? Does it make a difference whether or not it is verbal or physical aggression?

Nature of aggression.

We should first begin by examining the nature of aggressive behavior. According to the dictionary, aggression is defined as :

- 1.the action of a state in violating by force the rights of another state, particularly its territorial rights; an unprovoked attack, invasion, or the like.
- 2.any offensive action, attack, or procedure; an inroad or encroachment.
3. the practice of making assaults or attacks; offensive action in general.
- 4.hostility toward or attack upon another, whether overt, verbal, or gestural.

For understanding interpersonal behavior, the 4th sense of the word aggression as hostility or attack is the one I would like to consider. An aggressive act is a behavior that is intended to hurt, harm, or take advantage of the recipient. It is a forceful act that is intended to meet the aggressor's needs at the expense of the victim.

In armed robbery, for example, the perpetrator forces the victim to give him money by threatening violence. In an angry verbal assault, there is an attempt to retaliate for a perceived wrong or injustice. A sadistic person or a psychopath will commit acts of violence in order to derive a sense of pleasure, power, or stimulation from hurting another person.

One of the problems with aggression is that it is an unjust act from the perspective of the victim. Sometimes, there is no way out for the victim of an aggressive attack and the result is pain and suffering on the part of the victim. Other times, the injustice of the act leads to anger and aggressive behavior as a means of retaliation. In the worst case aggression leads to a cycle of violence and revenge. Other times, the victim fights back in order to defend him or herself from greater harm.

What response is appropriate when you become a victim of another person's aggressive behavior? Does it depend

upon the degree of violence of the aggressive act? Should we respond to a verbal attack differently than a physical attack?

Understanding the motives of the aggressor

It is often helpful if we try to understand the motives of our fellow humans. When you are faced with an act of aggression, it can be helpful to try to understand the motives of the attacker. Is the person hurt or angry? Can I understand the reason he or she is trying to harm me or take advantage of me? Why is this person acting this way? Is there a need for money, for safety, or for shelter? Is this person suffering from a drug addiction? What is motivating this person to hurt me in order to gain some advantage for himself?

Understanding the motive of the aggressor, especially in the case of verbal aggression, is very important. When you are verbally assaulted, there is no real harm that can come to you. It's not like you will be killed if you do not take defensive action.

Normally, most of us respond to an act of verbal aggression with anger or retaliation. We have a sense of outrage that someone is talking to us in such a way. This is a situation in which turning the other cheek might be very effective if combined with an attempt to understand the motives of the attacker. You may be able to do something that will be of real help to the attacking individual if you stay calm, ask yourself why is he or she acting this way, and what does this person really need from me?

Physical violence creates more of a dilemma. If someone swings at me with a baseball bat, is ducking still nonresistance? Should I run or try to escape when someone is threatening violence, or should I expose myself to harm? Sure, go ahead and hit me again with that baseball bat, I understand that you feel hurt and that you think bonking me will make you feel better.

In an unprovoked attack, are we justified in trying to defend ourselves and attempting to minimize bodily harm? When someone is trying to hit you with a baseball bat, should you take the time to ponder their motives or should you duck? I am inclined towards ducking, escaping, then pondering the motives of the perpetrator. What would Jesus have done?

What if you witness someone else being physically attacked? Are we justified if we step in and use physical force to prevent an innocent person from being harmed? If so, how much force can we use before we become the aggressor ourselves?

There are some lines that it seems possible to draw. It is

NON-VIOLENCE ... NON-RESISTANCE

not right to attack or hurt another person just so that my needs (physical or emotional) can be met. If someone says something that angers me, it would not be right to bonk them with a baseball bat. If someone insults me, I might feel hurt or angry, but this is not a good enough reason to start saying things that will hurt their feelings. If someone swings at me with a baseball bat, I do not think I am justified in pulling out a pistol and killing them.

If someone is insulting me, it is appropriate to discuss it with them. If I am being attacked verbally in front of a group of people, I think that defending myself by correcting misstatements or misperceptions is different than trying to get back at the person in some way.

I do not think it is wrong to duck if someone takes a swing at you. If someone is threatening me with a bat, it would be O.K. to take the bat away from them. Running away (escaping harm) is alright too. I think there are times when it is O.K. to step in and physically subdue an individual who is attacking an innocent person. We can use just enough force to stop the attack, but then refuse to beat the perpetrator senseless as an act of punishment or retribution. I think that using enough force to stop an attack on oneself would be appropriate if you are unable to talk your way out of it or escape.

Does love overcome?

The idea behind Jesus's statement that one should turn the other cheek is that love can conquer all. The person who is hurt, jealous, angry, or needy will not likely be persuaded to reexamine his or her position just because you threaten to bonk them with a ball bat. However, if you help them see what they really need then do what you can to make it possible for the person to have those needs met, this might be much more persuasive.

I know a man who has a bad temper and who has on numerous occasions struck, pushed, and otherwise hurt his wife with physical violence. They were visiting at my house and something happened that made him very angry at her. He was being verbally very abusive and this was upsetting all of us. I tried to reason with him, talk him into calming down, and tried to get him to walk away from the situation for a few minutes. This was not working so I placed myself squarely between him and his wife and was insistent that no body was going to hurt anyone. This did not work (and luckily he did not bash my teeth in).

After a half hour or more of turmoil, I don't exactly know what happened, but I suddenly hugged him and told him I loved him. I said I understood that he was in pain and that he felt angry but that I loved him anyway. This took him by surprise. He calmed down and we sat outside and talked for a couple of hours about how he could get his life better under control. Instead of threatening him,

pushing him, shoving him, insulting him, or giving an ultimatum, I gave him what he needed most. I gave him a little unconditional love.

I wish I could say that I now react to situations like this in a loving way all the time. I have not progressed that far. But, what I did learn from this experience is that love can overcome. Love is a much more potent force than anger. I could pierce the armor of his anger and his pain much more effectively with an act of love than I could by puffing up my chest and getting in his face.

When faced with aggression, especially verbal aggression, it may be more effective to return love for anger, to respond with caring instead of retaliation. What would happen if 10% of us learned how to do this? What if that led 20% of us to react this way? Would it catch on and soon we would all be loving each other instead of brutally and aggressively getting what we need at other people's expense?

Learning self-control

One thing that Jesus had that I do not have is total self-mastery. I can subscribe to the radical theory that love is the best way to respond to aggression. But, I find it hard to gain total control of my emotions. When I am insulted, when I am verbally assaulted, I react with angry words without thinking.

How can I increase my self-control so that I respond more deliberately and less automatically to acts of verbal aggression? In the long run, it is a matter of spirit dominating mind, and mind dominating matter. If I allow myself to be drawn forward by the love of God, I will increasingly be able to become more and more God-like. The more responsive my life becomes to God's will, the more I will be dominated by higher spiritual motives. As this happens, I believe I will gain greater control over myself and my emotions.

Mind mastery over matter is a process of learning and practice. Partly, I have to learn to recognize situations in which I need to change and then work at deliberately changing how I respond to these situations. It involves being analytical and disciplined. When I cannot thoughtfully respond to a threat and I end up getting angry or retaliating, what I must do is take responsibility for my reaction and interrupt the cycle of aggression/retaliation as quickly as I can. When I get out of control, I need to forgive both myself and the aggressor. Then, I can ponder what I might learn from the experience and see if there are steps that can be taken to prevent an overreaction in the future.

Self-mastery is hard work and I do not think it comes automatically. It is like learning any other skill in that it takes practice with feedback. Unlike basketball or basketweaving, self-mastery differs in that it is probably

Struggles In Our Lives

From: ejlight@Light-Mission.org (E.J.)

Reply-To: SEEKERS@q1.com

Greetings CitiZENry, I found this little story on another list and would like to share it with you. Enjoy !!!

A man found a cocoon of an emperor moth. He took it home so that he could watch the moth come out of the cocoon. On the day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the moth for several hours as the moth struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no farther. It just seemed to be stuck. Then the man, in his kindness, decided to help the moth, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The moth then emerged easily.

But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the moth because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the little moth spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the moth to get through the tiny opening were Nature's way of forcing fluid from the body of the moth into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Freedom and flight would only come after the struggle. By depriving the moth of a struggle, he deprived the moth of health. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If Nature allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, He would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been.

How true this is! How many times have we wanted to take the quick way out of struggles and difficulties, to take those scissors and snip off the remaining bits in an attempt to be free. We need to remember that Nature will never give us more than we can bear and through our trials and struggles we are strengthened as gold is refined in the fire.

May we never let the things we can't have, or don't have, or shouldn't have, spoil our enjoyment of the things we do have and can have." Don't focus on the things you DON'T have, enjoy each moment of everyday Nature has given you. Think about it.

(unable to trace Author)

the most important skill we will ever acquire. It is also certain that it is a task that will extend beyond this lifetime.

I think that it is possible to articulate some goals for dealing with other people's unjust aggressive acts:

1. Try to understand the motive behind the act when responding to the act.
2. It is all right to take immediate actions to avoid physical harm to self or others.
3. It is not wrong to tell the truth or to set the record straight when someone is verbally assaulting you. Your motive should be to tell the truth and not to get back at someone.
4. We should not take on the role of judge, jury, and hangman and think that it is our role to punish people who act aggressively. Punishment of the aggressor is something that must be done by judges, juries, and the proper authorities.
5. Love is a powerful force in the universe. Whenever possible anger, aggression, jealousy, pettiness, and selfishness should be responded to in the most loving way possible.
6. It is important to gain control over the automatic tendency to react to aggression with anger and retaliation.
7. When you fall short of your goals and find yourself reacting in a mean-spirited and aggressive way, stop as quickly as possible, learn what you can from the experience, and forgive yourself and the other person involved in the situation.
8. Ultimately, we will be more able to gain control of our emotions and learn to love people even when they act unlovingly towards us as we learn to be dominated by spiritual motives and strive to become more like Jesus.

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**Let There Be Light — Always in All Ways,
<http://www.Light-Mission.org>**

BEYOND CYNICISM: Finding Spirituality in Apocalyptic Times

Excerpts from Chapter One: Beating Cynicism ... Finding Spirituality, Not Dogma ... What Apocalypse?

by JIM CLEVELAND

Years later, my continuing guidance really kicked in, when I was ready for it, and at this pivotal time of earth changes. This is happening with a lot of people in our world right now. They are awakening to their roles in our spiritual awakening.

As years rolled by, a strong and inspiring spiritual path that suited me eventually did come into focus, and this path has given me a better balance of mind, body and spirit that my life sorely needed. “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear,” is a truism I later learned directly from spiritual sources.

This guidance has helped me quell the poisoning grip of cynicism over our planet’s condition that afflicts so many in this modern age of knowing much and understanding little. If my path to redemption from this malady of cynicism that literally poisons ourselves and the environment around us, can be helpful, then I offer it with great love for the spirit that lives within you.

The critical thing to know is that this guidance is yours too, everyone who asks for it in good conscience. It requires no special connection. You don’t have to be a special person, with high intellect or mystical powers. One person, one soul, is God’s rule. God’s indwelling spirit guides us all individually, as I hope to explain.

We need this guidance for we manifest our world every day in our words and deeds. We can radiate love or regurgitate spiritual poisons. What we think, say and do literally makes our world what it is. Once certain understandings fell into place for me, delineating my path to God, I began a period of intense spiritual growth. Many are also experiencing this rebirth, this new growth in these times.

And may I say again You can do exactly the same — just by earnestly asking God for it and being receptive.

Yes, all paths to God are separate and somewhat different. There are truly as many paths to God as there are people to walk them, another celestial truism. But I believe you will find within these pages a great outpouring of spiritual insight from a number of inspiring celestial sources that will help you move past your idea that the world is an evil and hopeless place to

a feeling even beyond hope, to one of faith, trust and assurance that the world is on a well-ordered evolutionary course as each of us is, and the destination is God. This is all as it should be. We evolve. God evolves too — through us. Creative growth is the lifeblood of the universe of universes that God has provided for a myriad of creative personalities. We should make the most of it.

God will bring you individually to perfection if you choose to continue your path after this mortal death, and this is true with all of the free will personalities in the vast realms of time and space worlds God created. This all comes to the faith children of God through an ascension plan that is truly massive and glorious in its concept and execution. In the face of this, and its foundation of universal love, from which all springs, how can one be cynical?

Yeah, I know. You see how insane the world is. You don’t need rhetorical bromides that don’t mean anything beyond the generality of the philosophy. I’ve been there too. Your bitterness comes from hurt and a lack of love. And it’s not easy getting from these poisoned places of doubt, suspicion and worry to a state of peaceful acceptance and spiritual focus.

But you can do it if you strive for it. And your path might even closely approximate mine, though with your own individual adventures of specifically-tailored insight along the way.

Here’s a seven-step plan that worked for me, a progressive succession of learning which may also serve to vanquish your cynical view of the world and our fates.

1 — Know the Cosmology. There is a great hunger to understand the universe and our place in it, why we are alive, why we are here. Maybe you have that hunger.

People ask why they’re here and what is their purpose. The answers are readily at hand in a little-known celestial revelation, The Urantia Book. Known to an inner circle of readers for years, this sweeping 2,100 page document is now more accessible for a broad human audience because of the 30 years of evolutionary changes since it was first published in 1955, and also in the 60 years since it was given humankind by a commission of celestial administrators. This transmission came through an anonymous human transmitter, a

“sleeping subject” and therein to his/her doctor, a noted psychologist and educator, Dr. Ray Sadler, at the University of Chicago.

Over the years, thousands have come to accept, often grudgingly, the revelatory power of the Urantia text. Humankind is growing in readiness to accept its elevated concepts of truth, beauty and goodness and the reality that a fragment of God lives within each of us.

Read and enjoy this massive book in order to put a context to everything else you’ll want to read in your human lifetime. And you will, for much inspired and instructive spiritual literature is being written right now, in an age of planetary spiritual awakening that is just beginning — believe it or not.

With The Urantia Book, you will begin to understand the spiritual watchcare over evolution in the time and space worlds. The Urantia Book provides a huge foundation of truth for all of your spiritual searching.

Understanding you are part of a vast, love-dominated universe, and that evolution, a technique of God, is proceeding as planned, and that even your suffering and death here in this mortal life means little in the overall design of your personality’s life and growth can be extremely comforting.

But you shouldn’t take my word for the authenticity of this book. Read it for authentication in your own mind. It is the fruit of the text that speaks eloquently to fulfill my endorsement. Several chapters follow in which we will delve into some of the concepts of the revelation, hopefully to whet your appetite for more.

2 — The Teaching Mission. There is a huge influx of celestial teachers of spirituality joining us on the planet. They are not exclusive to Urantia Book study groups, but they do use the book as their text. Communication with them is through a process known as transmitting/receiving, similar but with a distinctive difference to trance channeling in that the receiver-transmitter’s free will is always in control, and it is accomplished in an aura of worship, prayer and love.

It is not a matter of calling in a hired channeler and paying them; transmitting-receiving is a voluntary service that group members have to do for themselves. Some groups have one transmitter; others have a number of members who have learned the technique,

and several celestial teachers can then participate in sessions, giving lessons and answering questions.

Urantia Book study groups have been a fertile ground for the new celestial teachers since they already understand the cosmology of the superuniverse. But spiritual guides and teachers are working with many humans by many methods in these modern times, in the way they can best receive spiritual guidance. We can all only imagine the vastness of their spiritual “Correcting Time” for our planet, as we watch it unfold.

Most, but not all, of our visitors in the Teaching Mission are ascending personalities who have lived as mortals on other planets and are now in what the Urantia Book refers to as in a “morontia” form, a refined type of body mechanism invisible to our mortal eyes. These teachers use the Urantia Book as their text. The order of the universe ascension is that you learn by doing, and that you teach those immediately behind you in the ascension plan. Our teachers have been mortals and know much of what it’s like, although our planet is much more problematic than most.

Higher teachers also come through to the various study groups, even the leader of the planetary Correcting Time, Machiventa Melchizedek from Biblical times, as well other Melchizedeks and celestial administrators, and Christ Michael as well, the one we knew as Jesus in his earthly incarnation.

It is truly amazing to be able to talk and interact with celestial teachers, and certainly it will seem unlikely, even fantastic, to some. Increasingly, though, we know them by their fruits, inspiring and expanding spiritual lessons from nearly 50 groups at present all over the United States and beyond. Hundreds of pages of transcripts of beautifully wrought, ever-loving, instructive and very compatible Teaching Mission transcripts are being exchanged freely, on paper and via Internet.

3 — Transmitting/Receiving. After some weeks of real effort, I became a TR (transmitter-receiver) for our Urantia Book study group, as others had done before me. This does not imply or bestow special spiritual status, and is strictly a service for the group.

While in the relaxed alpha state, I learned to verbalize the teachers, speak words they dictated to me -- as you can as well if you choose this path. TR requires stilling your usually busy human mind, and through true worship, prayer, faith and trust opening your mind fully

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to a spiritual teacher-guide whom God will make available to you. This is predominately for your personal spiritual growth, but if you truly desire to be of graceful service, without ego aggrandizement, then you may be asked to TR to a group as well.

4 — TR via computer. From verbalizing the teachers, it was a short stretch to learn this skill at the keyboard. A collective of personalities representing the Teaching Mission was willing and able to answer my questions and concerns via the keyboard. You can do this too. In fact, most transmitters find it easier than oral transmitting. So this kind of transmission, whether it is called automatic writing, TR, channeling or whatever, may be the best first step for you.

5 — Celestial Artisans. In my case, this led further to communications with a colony of spiritual artisans. They have served here to some degree through the ages, instilling higher spiritual purpose to our creativity, and seeking to enhance the creative spark with which we are all imbued. Again, the spiritual energy circuits are being increasingly opened, in increments on our planet, Urantia, so that the works of angels, guides, teachers and artisans can be more easily accessed by human searchers.

You may tap into these spiritual energy circuits to enhance your own creative work, and this can include everything from teaching to plumbing. Bakim, the colony's chief administrator, urges us to live our very lives as an artistic expression, moment by moment, to be artists in all we say and do, especially in representing higher spiritual truth. If you desire creative inspiration that promotes true spiritual values, ask the celestial artisans for help while in the meditative "stillness," the quiet time of worship and prayer that every human should make a part of their life each day. From these times will come the spiritual energies that can move your life.

6 — Creativity. Learning to access spiritual sources in creative work was the next link in my break with cynicism. For cynicism, like other spirit poisons, is not destroyed by fighting it, but rather by manifesting and expressing love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and service to all around you. Do this by creating some kind of art. Stay busy. In the presence of the eternal values, cynicism shrinks. Then in the presence of inspired creative effort that promotes higher values, it literally vanishes.

7 — Living in love. By learning and accepting God's evolutionary plan for worlds of time and space as a

technique of creation, one begins to philosophically accept the way things are, however imperfect, for it is our task to bring them, and ourselves, to perfection. This is God's plan. This is our adventure, our learning and growing experience. Things are as they should be in our classroom/laboratory of material experience. Why be cynical about it?

To make this first, very human reach toward perfection, we will be best served by striving to live our lives in unconditional love — accepting the benevolent and loving Fatherhood role of God and, therefore, our brotherhood and sisterhood with all of the personalities he has created here. Such a small planet in such an out-of-the-way sector of the universe. Let's work harder to bring all people here together.

We can learn to live in love through a daily time of stillness and spiritual upreach, with worship, prayer, forgiveness, and loving service our watchwords. Through the stillness, our personal visit with God, the Father, each day, we will be given the strength, the energy, to do so, as well as incremental increases in the truth, beauty and goodness that we are able to assimilate, experience and express in our lives. When we are imbued with this spirit, we will be encouraged and empowered to radiate loving service each day.

The critical link to living in love and making spiritual growth possible is this regular time with God. A daily stillness program, practicing the four important elements of your spiritual life — worship, prayer, forgiveness and love — can be the synthesizing influence which will finally allow you to wipe out those persistent vestiges of cynicism.

Ironically, this simple exercise of devoting 10 minutes a day to your relationship with God may be the most difficult thing of all to accomplish. Many fail just because they can't still their mind. But nothing of real value is had without striving, and in every session of attempted spiritual upreach to God, we are blessed and rewarded whether we are mentally cognizant of it or not. This is true. We have made the effort; God judges us largely by the intent within our hearts, not by our weaknesses of the flesh.

Your author is not a perfected master of meditation. We all continue to work on our relationship with God, and will do so throughout this mortal experience and beyond. Here, we do so at our own levels, for each of us is a unique being in our own special place.

Through daily stillness practice, we can live more balanced lives of mind-body-spirit. This, in turn, helps

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guarantee that egoistic fears and hidden agendas don't creep onto the open canvas that we seek to make available to our spiritual teachers and artisans who long to visit with us in these quickening, energy-expanding times, be our friends and guides, and tell us truths that help us grow spiritually.

If and when you seek direct spiritual guidance daily, even to transmitting to others, do not expect or even desire perfection in any of these steps; expect of yourself honest effort according to your abilities. This is enough for God, and for yourself.

Feelings of being inferior, of your shortcomings, are not of value in this process. You are gloriously imperfect. God purposefully created you this way so that you can grow. This doesn't mean you can't make contact with God through the Teaching Mission and get your own personal spiritual guide.

Get your busy mind settled and at peace in a quiet time with God. Be fully open and non-judgmental/analytical about what you're hearing. Just hear it, take it down, and study it. Pretty soon, you may have a real budding friendship with a spiritual guide.

My seven-step plan was not a quick fix, of course, but has become a long vocation, with new challenges for growth continuing in waves. A cynicism built over years of coffee shop grumblings is not wiped out in a day. But every day that you live in love and give of yourself in creative loving service is a day in which the absence of cynicism is refreshing indeed.

As best you can, fill your days with truth, beauty and goodness. Create art in your stature, your voice, your bearing, your skills, your kindness to others, the goodness you can shine forth from your very being. There will be no room for the base urges of the animal ego. Humankind has used the ego effectively for survival and human progress; now as we reach to a higher level of spirituality in our lives, the ego just gets in the way.

You will learn to live without your angry denunciations of what is wrong that essentially poison yourself, and then move beyond to ask and respond to the question: What will we do about it? What can I myself do about it? Do I not actually have the power to radiate loving energy around me every day? Can I just start to change the world by changing myself, and trying to turn those around me to love through my own goodness?

We come to the realization that the world will be changed one person at a time — and that's the best way

to do it. In part, because it gets every one of us involved.

We all have greater powers than we think to radiate love and change the very environment around us, physical and spiritual. Can we really make a contribution toward changing the bad things about the world? Much more than you now realize. God only asks us to service truth, beauty and goodness within our own arena. That is enough. We don't have to take on the world's problems. But we can expand our aura, to live in greater peace ourselves, and to share true perspectives with an increasingly larger audience. The angels will bring them before us; opportunities will be here, there and everywhere.

But wait — this book is supposed to be for cynics. We'd first better heal ourselves from the idea that the world is hopelessly screwed up and people are no damned good. If you're a true cynic, this first chapter won't fix it. And we all have to grow ourselves before we can have any logical inclination to try to teach others to live in love.

Spiritual growth means achieving more love in our lives, bringing with it a greater feeling of peace inside. Aligning our will with God's provides this vital link. Putting our lives and our best efforts in his hands. "The act is yours, the consequences, God's," says the Urantia Book. The act of accepting God's plan for you and striving to represent eternal values will put you in the everlasting arms of your ultimate Creator.

The stillness each day cannot be overemphasized. It is the threshold to future growth, your personal relationship with God in action. It is a conscious step of faith and, in your prayers therein, of loving service as well. If you respect God as your Father, you've got to visit him often, because he's right inside you. If you respect God, you will also nurture and do good to your brothers and sisters of the human family.

That final realization of God's piloting presence inside will give you the peace of mind you need, having already learned from The Urantia Book the truth of your personality's survival, if you choose to go on.

But before we hear what the celestial teachers have to say about all of this, let's clear up a couple of concepts — spirituality and apocalypse.

Is our world headed toward an end or a beginning, or both? And how can spirituality help if it hasn't already?

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FINDING SPIRITUALITY, NOT DOGMA

Once disillusioned by dogma, many in the modern age have disdained spirituality. Though these two things are hardly the same, they're often interwoven in patchwork ways.

Churches have been bastions of spirituality, even as they have sometimes indulged in great evils — consciously and unconsciously. They are no more impervious to error and corruption than the other institutions which are shown to be failing us so dramatically in the 1990s. We must re-form them all and bring into them a spiritual essence.

Churches are mankind's ideas and interpretations of what religion should be, some of them well-meaning, others historically corrupted by egos, ignorance and power struggles.

But the churches and the partial errors they teach should be approached with a balanced view, not the kind of cynicism I once heaped upon them. I used to get worked up about both fundamentalist Bible beltors and guilt-giving, sex-suppressed Catholic clergy before I learned to love everyone, regardless of their condition. The healthy and balanced view must see the good and the bad together in all things human, and like everything we encounter there are elements of both within our myriad of churches. We see this good-bad dichotomy even when we look in the mirror.

True religion, as opposed to organized churches, is your personal relationship with God, our Universal Father. If we accept that we are a child of God and all humankind our brothers and sisters regardless of how they understand things, we can begin to work together to forge the kind of planetary cooperation that will be needed to reach a higher plane of life, a higher state of spiritual consciousness, for all people.

But we are not asked to change the world, but to change ourselves. That is all that is asked by God.

Affiliation with a church can be good for socializing and instruction, but each person should be strongly encouraged to develop their personal relationship with God. Priests and preachers have too often gotten between mankind and God, filling a vacuum with service, appealing to the spiritually lazy, but also exerting fear-based control based on ancient superstitions that never were true in the first place, often put in place only to aggrandize or reward the priesthood.

There is much primitive evolutionary garbage that humankind incessantly drags forward to hamper new revelation. Misunderstandings of Paul and others even polluted the teachings of Jesus. Judaism was hard to forsake entirely for many, as have been longstanding myths of other faiths that unfortunately survived time and were deified falsely for their ancient age.

With Jesus, as interpreted by Paul and others, we have focused greatly on the miracle of the resurrection to the exclusion of much of Jesus' message, which centers around the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of mankind — all mankind — Jews, Samaritans, Romans, Greeks, Englishmen, Russians, Muslims, and Hare Krishnas. And, of course, wo-man is as much a part of man or mankind as are males. It is so far above the concerns of mortal sex creatures.

Our modern-day Christianity is much according to the views of the apostle Paul, how he understood Jesus' message, and it focuses on the miraculous events of Jesus' life without full regard to his teaching that the Kingdom of God is within each one of us.

Supporting my early disillusionment with churches were history books, where I discovered that more people have been tortured, enslaved, and murdered in the name of religion than anything else except perhaps the acquisition of real estate, and actually those reasons were usually as intertwined as a bed of snakes.

I'm sure there are others who have let history's realities besmirch religion so thoroughly in their minds that they no longer have much interest in organized spirituality. Others have come to accommodate the truths they know from the Urantia Book while also enjoying the camaraderie and blessings of various churches. In truth, the Urantia Book and the Teaching Mission respect all efforts to know God and be like Him.

But the most valuable religion is inside each of us. No matter the historical realities of life on our planet, the true religion is with you and your God, in-close and personal, together, interacting, sharing life's experiences each day. This is real spirituality. One-on-one with God. And you're as worthy to talk to God and get spiritual guidance as the next person. You just have to recognize it and act upon it when it comes. It is most often cloaked in an opportunity for you to grow and learn.

What about religion's dark history? Well, it's just history, and cluttered with mankind's mistakes and follies. Better to live in the present-day, take it from here. In fact, better to learn to live in the moment, and

fill the moment with non-judgmental, unconditional love through the spirit of God that indwells us all. And live it artistically as well.

We don't have to necessarily like everyone and want to spend time with them, but God tells us to love them. If we do, we will, in turn, be blessed. We must try. That's all that God asks.

I now have a dear friend who is a retired Catholic priest, a dedicated Urantia Book student. Actually he works harder since retirement, ministering in prisons and wherever he can, energized to a life of service for God. He knows of my struggles with dogma and loves me gently, helps me grow. And he has a perfect line for those who know of the injustices the Catholics have wrought, the error they still perpetuate. "Well," he says, "the church is still evolving." If we are wise, we will know that we are too, all of us, and not be so hasty to criticize and make judgments.

The sins of mankind's religions through history has seeded much deserved mistrust, and so we have a secular society in the U.S. today that strives to keep dogma out of public policy. But secularism serves also to retard the divine goal of living in spiritual love in everything we do. When we put God back into our society, in a way that respects all concepts of God, then we will begin to put God back in our lives, in our parenting, in our ethical administration of corporations and government agencies, in providing jobs and self-respect for all, in learning to rehabilitate those who fall rather than punish, alienate, and poison them so that they, in time, return with a vengeance to punish us — sometimes again and again. Prisons can be opportunities for spiritual rehabilitation, not schools for hatred and alienation.

Today, our planet teeters on the brink of a spiritual awakening, brought on by a powerful combination of evolutionary pressures, a pivotal turning of the millennium, a time when key issues will be faced and resolved before it's too late. These issues are being brought dramatically before us, day by day, in the media, in those we see around us who are twisted, trivialized, lonely and in pain, longing for a peace of mind that seems beyond reach.

In this time, we must turn inward for spiritual guidance if we are to withstand this age's challenges, then radiate God's energy that we find and fill ourselves with, to others around us. We must learn to become love radiators.

Fortunately, love is in there inside us, just shoved aside

by our sardonic cynicism, perhaps, that is designed to portray us as clever and cool, nobody's fool. We fool ourselves, not surrendering to the great truth. Inside each of us is a glowing spirit of light. This inner presence of Godliness can be nurtured and it will give us strength in a time of trials and tribulations and reckonings that are upon us, what some Christians refer to as an apocalypse.

WHAT APOCALYPSE?

Finding spirituality during what apocalypse? Some doomsdayers think the world is hell-bent for destruction, a final battle between good and evil. Traumatic times of upheaval. Quakes and other disasters as payback for our environmental excesses. And God may actually allow us to destroy ourselves in our evil and greed — or do it for us.

Many New Agers entwine this rhetoric with our environmental pollution, saying that natural disasters will ensue from our excesses. Some believe that celestial beings will help rescue at least the righteous among us, if we're really tuned in. Some put their services on the commercial market.

Some of us would argue any kind of end of the world is near. Annihilation would be pointless, even to God, especially to God. The idea of an apocalyptic end to an evil world conflicts with the very nature of God once you understand him as a Father who created you and loves you, and certainly loves his larger creation here on Urantia with an even more expansive love.

Enhanced spiritual energies are giving many hope of this submerged reality of an all-loving God today. The truth of these anticipated earth changes, within us and around us, may well be a lot less dramatic than our imaginations have made them. But enhanced energies are definitely at work here, the pace of change and expansion has quickened, compressing time. Many are attuning to genuine spiritual energies through their longing upreach.

Yet those who aren't spiritually attuned, living with little hope or faith, grow increasingly frustrated, not knowing where to turn for the love and peace they need. From their lack of spiritual-centeredness, they are and will continue to turn to frustrated destructiveness in their despair.

In these quickening, emotional times, in which the powers of electronic communication bring the suffering of the world into our living rooms, there is deep contemplation about true values. The spiritual-minded

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will feel and respond to this as enhanced love energy, with an attendant desire for purifications, to heal themselves and one another, put away the old ways of greed and gain. But the restlessness of the unspiritual, who don't know how to channel the growing energy, and who resist the growing insistence of their spiritual urges, can actually turn to angry attack.

If we can help turn some of these brothers and sisters loveward, Godward, in the critical years ahead, no matter their comprehension of these things, we can help our world get through these times of apocalyptic change — in the best way we can, through loving service.

There is a growing hunger. With all of our contemplations and frustrations has come an awakening general and personal yearning for truer, deeper, more personal spirituality, whatever that may be construed to be. This is happening throughout the entire planet, wherever people live. In fact, the heightening energies actually are far greater than just global. We must begin to be cognizant of universes, even universes of universes, for they are there. Billions of planets, trillions of beings. And plenty of service opportunities without even leaving the planet.

If you would be a spiritual helper and teacher in these times, you will have plenty of opportunities. The restlessness is becoming rampant; the quest for spiritual clarity is growing more intense.

And many of us are finding this clarity through something still unthinkable to the scripture-bound -- direct celestial contact. In these times of planetary spiritual change, there are many volunteer personalities in the spirit world who are anxious to visit and serve here in these exciting times of epochal change.

The more perceptive among us are even seeing churches rumbling from within. They are slow to show the public their change, of course, but insiders in various churches talk of a restlessness to find this higher and deeper level of personal spiritual reality. The new energies being pumped in are working.

We see it too in the so-called new age melange of disciplines, dogmas and enlightenments. These various paths, which often stress methodology, are a booming business, only awaiting a great unifying realization that God is the Father of all humankind and we all are ONE as his children. Generally speaking this is the New Age's missing link.

In time, humankind will realize we're all talking much about the same thing with different terminologies, and arguing too much over conduits, methodologies and mortal errors. Often, new agers express different versions of the same truths. The overriding truth above the all of everything of humankind's philosophy and religion is simple:

Love is the ultimate power. God is love. Serve Love.

From this is created truth, beauty, goodness, harmony, euphoria, whatever we need in our long, ascending universe career. Why else would God create you and allow you to live here in free will, except in love?

One of these days, we'll all discover that God's love is the answer to all questions. With the one simple realization and acceptance of this, current barrier questions of the scientist, the philosopher, the mathematician can be answered readily. Accept God and things will become clear.

Many are feeling an enhanced aura of spirituality from various fields of exploration, and many of them are bearing fruit. We should continue to seek the truth in all things, and make our own judgements. This is life, our learning and growing experiences.

Angels, our constant seraphic helpers, are very active all around us, and we are so much more aware of it than ever before. From the current wave of popular, inspiring and instructive Angel books will come a new wave of works from the same authors and others who will explore deeper and more meaningful spiritual truths. Angels are celestial messengers; the message itself is what we need. And we need to find the source of the message of truth, based on our own path to understanding. We are.

The spiritual teachers and guides coming through to us in the Teaching Mission are yet another part of the planetary awakening, the "Correcting Time" in their terminology. And they have many associates. The communications and broadcasting activities within a local universe of planets are truly amazing beyond our comprehension.

It's a busy, busy universe of personalities out there, and many different personalities are tapping into our energies with their own to give us their own particular kind of focused guidance in these changing and accelerating times. We are finding that their messages, though unique by personality and perception, are in essence the same — God, love, oneness, faith, the

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individual quest for truth, beauty, goodness, greater sharings thereof, service as the greatest calling. They will come to pass.

But meanwhile back on present-day Urantia, we know about disillusionment because we disappoint ourselves. We will find humans who will turn real, embellished and imagined spiritual powers to their own ends for money and standing. This will inevitably happen. We still have animal-like egos, necessary for us to progress this far. We are still very self-serving life forms, and this gives rise to both admirable characteristics and unenlightened ones.

There is good and bad, truth and error in all of us. There is even good and bad in the characteristics which shape us all. Some who make genuine spiritual contact have and will use it to bring disciples under their supposedly more enlightened aura, for power or profit. This is the kind of human ego trap that we must avoid. This is not celestially inspired; it is altogether from the human ego which has often been conditioned to fear and respond in fear, and seek to overcome it with aggrandized self-importance.

We must also guard against disdaining all true spiritual growth paths when we find that one has been befouled by a self-seeking or disillusioned human. This has happened through the ages, even following genuine spiritual contact, and it will continue as long as prideful and defensive egos push people into confused imaginings. To deal with the ego, read “A Course in Miracles” and the large outpouring of secondary works.

But having said there are rotten apples out there in humankind, there are also some excellent spiritual growth paths to follow out there. Don't let shysters and the misguided make you sour toward the idea of spiritual growth. Our objective with this book is to get you beyond that — in regard to all fields of humanly tainted endeavor, from lawyers to repairmen to fortune tellers to preachers and accountants.

Grow by letting God lead you to the right paths for you. Talk about these paths with God each day, then listen patiently for the answers to your concerns. They will be forthcoming. And if you want a constant, loving companion, ask for a personal spiritual guide-teacher who will talk with you each day.

You can even get a name from your teacher if you wish, and personalize this experience as much as you choose. The choice is yours. This can be more important to your spiritual growth than any kind of socializing and

sharing activity you could get involved in, although they are quite valuable too. The key, however, is the personal relationship with God each day through the stillness. From there, you can get a personal celestial teacher in time; they are here in great numbers and eager to make contact and serve.

Beyond all and everything, you don't need to pay someone to make celestial contact for you. This is a gift that is yours for the striving, and when you finish this volume you will have the foundation of knowledge and the understanding of concepts that will allow you to do so.

It will be as simple as pouring your concerns out to God, the Father, in your personal time and letting your personal assigned teachers speak or write through you to get the stream-of-their-your-consciousness experience that will give you some very illuminating, sometimes startling, spiritual truths.

As far as the material world out there, a sampling of many kinds of activities is often good for you in your human life — but remember that you and God can have a personal relationship whatever your life path, and that's all you need for guidance. You have an inner light.

In these times, many are reaching to grasp an enhanced level of spirituality, more enlightened views leading to a truly altruistic society. Building a deeper personal relationship with God and all the fruits that this will bring is the key. This person-by-person growth and person-to-person service is what our planet's “Correcting Time” is all about.

To the perceptive, who can see just a little with spiritual eyes, there are signs everywhere that the world is changing, moving into an elevated state of consciousness. Sure, we see a lot of the “bad” in the media, but the bad must be exposed and brought to light before it can be dealt with. And things are being dealt with — dramatically. The issues of parenting, child abuse, family breakdown, the folly of war, lack of personal responsibility, political frivolities, corruption, legal system frustrations, ad nauseam are everywhere in the news, on our minds.

Much of the news disgusts, repels us, but our exposure to it by our infantile media is necessary. It must be brought forcefully to our agenda in order to drive correction, to inspire us to awaken to true spiritual values. The media, in time, will also be awakened as to what it should be doing to inform and promote under-

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standings. This is happening already, with the great interest in matters of spirituality and healing. There is also an influential and vastly growing alternative media movement, print and electronic, that is beginning to change the face of planetary communications. Exciting times are ahead, people.

In politics, we have seen the world change almost overnight with the collapse of communist rule in the Soviet Union, and peace talks breaking out where war did before. The fall of the Soviet defused a horrific scenario of thousands of nuclear missiles alert and ready to be launched to the utter destruction of our planet. This seems an apt place to have begun our planet's "Correcting Time" if you were a celestial help force. Defuse the danger of complete planetary destruction first of all.

Yes, apocalyptic changes were forthcoming. Change brings resistance. Russia broke out in ethnic wars. Peace in the Middle East brought fanatics out to assassinate. But the spiritual awakening will overcome all of these backlashes. We will increasingly see peace breaking out.

We see also a burgeoning disgust with the failure of institutions, the realization that we have to take more civil responsibility to safeguard our much overemphasized civil rights, that we must take back our institutions from the mindless regulatory (and secular) nightmare that they have become by raising ourselves up to take a greater share of personal responsibility for our schools, our courts, our government, our churches, our lives, and those of our children.

We are learning that we can't turn our children's education over to the schools, our government over to bureaucrats, our religion over to the churches. We will soon realize more, deeper things, as these spiritual energy circuits are opened incrementally to help us lift ourselves to a higher consciousness — if we will attune to them.

Are we tuning in yet? The cynic in me would say: too little. The search for endless entertainment and the rush toward self-gratifications of all kinds have turned too many into junkies these days, glued to the tube, searching out new drug highs, sinking into alcoholism, capturing strange new flesh in bed. This kind of behavior has spawned generations of judgmental finger-pointers who had rather form their own enclaves of exclusiveness than to reach out to all brothers and sisters who are lost in their lack of understanding the

path to truth, beauty and goodness.

So if the planet is a classic showcase of alienation, how can it be said that we're emerging into a spiritual awakening? Isn't the cynic right about people's irresponsibility and greed?

It's not a matter of rightness. It's a matter of moving beyond the recital of woes about human nature and what it has led to, and start doing something about it by reforming ourselves and our institutions on strong spiritual values.

It is necessary for a realization of mankind's horrible mistakes to be brought to the agenda, to within the minds and hearts of people in order that we be disgusted and motivated to deal with them. We made the mess and we must be the ones to clean it up. We have free and open access to an enhanced level of spiritual assistance to help us do it — to show us how.

With this cleansing will come more opportunities in our continuing stream of learning and growing experiences that make us spiritually stronger. While we're just on the first life experience of our long, personalized ascension trek to ultimate perfection, it all begins right here, and it's a critical and important time for us.

So exposing the problem is necessary before we can start solving it. That is a first order of business during a spiritual awakening, and that is what some Christians might call an apocalypse. Things look bad for awhile. Disintegration, say the celestial teachers, is always seen before new growth.

It is my firm belief that the redemption of our planet will be a co-creative, co-cleansing process, humans working with celestial guides under the auspices of God and his Creator Son, who was Jesus.

The so-called apocalypse will be the end of an old era, an old way of thinking, followed triumphantly by a new era that features higher manifestations of truth, beauty and goodness within, without, and for all of us.

Is it an end or a beginning for you? Will you help gladly to spiritualize our world and correct its many problems, or will you say it's hopeless and just fight for the status quo, your own self-interest here in this short, mortal life?

Is the glass half-full or half-empty? Do you have faith and trust in your God that He will not allow the complete annihilation of our planet as a sinful world?

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Or is your God wrathful and judgmental, willing to let us destroy ourselves, concerned not so much with this material planet as with your higher purpose in an afterlife if you follow the teachings of the Bible? What is your view?

I would encourage you to envision God as love. This is absolute truth. And then think accordingly.

In this end and new beginning that will mark the change of the millennium, you will have the opportunity to think deeply about spirituality, and to actually participate in this time of epochal change, a time when spiritual energies are beginning to help elevate mankind's level of thinking, the individual and collective consciousness, in order to bring forth, in a sense co-create, this major planetary change.

Sounds a lot like New Age mystique, doesn't it? Well, there is no discounting the significant role of the New Age spiritual seekers of many kinds, many of whom are genuinely able to tap into universal spiritual energies whether or not they are able to completely understand and express them free of their own error and imagination. This is not easy for any of us. They are at least bold enough to try to understand more, and to move the planet forward compared to many of fundamentalist, scripture-worshipping mindsets.

In fact, there is no more error in the New Age movements than there is in the various religions and pseudo-religions. So let's not throw out babies or bath water. Let's all work together on this tiny planet to grow beautiful and spiritual babies and work to purify the deep spiritual waters which can unite us all in unconditional love and service to one another. Don't judge another's path. Blaze your own personal trail to God realization, working with the constant guide God has provided you from within and the other newly arriving "unseen helpers" who are anxious to be your friends — every day.

Is it really possible to bring this kind of spiritual idealism to our planet? Maybe not in our lifetimes. We'll have to accept that. This time-and-space adventure of ours is so extensive that it will require many generations to carry it forward to a state of what is called in *The Urantia Book*, the Era of Light and Life. This truly has to be an exercise in multi-generational cooperation. Evolution. Creationism too.

Will any of the Heavenly Father's multitude of planets achieve this Light and Life stage? Yes. Will all of them? Yes. Have many of them achieved this state

already, and is our planet as primitive and backward as we often think it to be? Yes again.

We will talk later about our planet's rebellion, what the Bible refers to as the "war in heaven," the true nature of Lucifer's and Satan's rebellion against God. We will see how this struggle continues today, and will come to ultimate triumph for God in these apocalyptic times during which we will all learn and grow.

During this coming spiritual awakening, we can actively participate for the rest of our lifetimes and then cheer on the struggles of our children and grandchildren who carry on after us on this, our native planet, using the values we instill in them. This is why parenting is such an important, indeed noble, calling on our planet.

This "apocalypse" of change may last ten years, a hundred years or a thousand. Only God knows. It depends literally upon millions of free will decisions that haven't even been made. There is one thing for sure — more information and revelation is coming. God continues to reveal himself through the ages. Truth is ever-growing as a giant oak, as we have the roots of knowledge to sustain it.

Some still worship certain information just because it is ancient and has withstood the centuries. Why? There was certainly no less confusion and corruption in ancient times than there is today. The age of a text does nothing to verify it, certainly not to one who has delved into the histories of religions and the politics and fantasy that swirls through these documents.

Certainly better than searching ancient histories for spiritual truths is the practice of living your spirituality daily through worship, prayer, forgiveness, service, living in the moment and reading some of the inspiring works that are flooding your bookstores in recent years. Ancient truths won't get you through these changing times; open to the newer revelations of God that you, yourself, are now ready for.

There are many kinds of people living today, on many paths. Some have stopped moving, have no interest in spiritual matters. Yet many are getting re-motivated.

A multitude still satisfies itself reciting the problems, wallowing in cynicism, disgusted with dogma, searching out self-gratifications, without love of humankind, or much hope for the future. Some become entertainment junkies.

Another multitude clings to faith and good values with

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an increasing restlessness that the old ways aren't working and that we have to have fundamental, spiritual-value based change everywhere, starting with the family, the government and their churches. They are the good people, the salt of our earth for whom the old concepts of religion are quite enough if people would only practice them. And they wonder how this could come to pass.

And there is also a rotten core of evil and corruption that poisons our world as we look upon the vast panorama of the various continents and the incredible, depressing array of their people's needs. Can we truly love the oppressors in this multi-generational epic of evil that inflicts suffering upon the innocent. It continues unabated on most of the planet. We can love the sinner, while hating the sin.

And finally there are the sufferers, those borne and living in ignorance and poverty, struggling to get through the days alive. Understanding little. But with the spirit of God inside them, working with them at their own level.

All of us on this tiny planet together. Facing an apocalypse of change, a convergence of energy forces that will wrought major alterations upon the world in the immediate years ahead. Your years and mine. These are exciting times in which to live. We will not reach Light and Life here ourselves, but we will start the world moving in that direction.

How shall we face this apocalypse? Can we become centered, balanced in mind, body and spirit, so that we may survive, resist cynicism, and even thrive in giving loving service during this time? Yes, we can.

As the world's problems and its frustrated masses reach an evolutionary breaking point, and as new spiritual energies come down in a benevolent mission to help us rise triumphantly in the spirit above all of it, we can find solace, comfort, love and guidance by looking within — to God.

Years ago, my conscious spiritual growth began when a friend shared with me a remarkable book. It was the encyclopedia I needed to answer all the questions I ever had about God, the planet, the universe, the facts behind the Adam and Eve story, which enthralled me, and the unadulterated, logical truth behind all the legends of the Bible. Amazingly, it puts virtually everything in the universe into a clear perspective.

What is "Urantia?" It is the name of our planet on the universal registry. The Urantia Book perfectly synthe-

sizes all science, philosophy and religion into one huge 2,100-page volume. In four parts, it explains the superuniverse, our local universe, our planetary history, and the greatly expanded and magnified life and teachings of Jesus.

Jesus of Nazareth turns out to be Michael of Nebadon, now known as Christ Michael, who incarnated on Earth (Urantia) as both the Son of God and Son of Man. In that dual identity lies much of the true message of this great earthly teacher, who now rules the local universe he created and is the guiding force behind our planetary awakening, which prepares the way for his Second Coming.

Did you ever think you'd get a planetary history by revelation? I didn't, and I certainly resisted accepting it as such. Validation comes from reading and study, and accessing the Spirit of Truth inside. Join me in considering the concepts of this remarkable book.

Then we'll hit the computer keyboard and talk to a fascinating collective of celestial personalities. You can read it as either the dictations of spiritual teachers or as inspired imaginings from within our complex human mental-spiritual organism, a phenomenon not to be understood. You can make it as simple or as complicated as you want.

In any case, I hope you'll find the Celestial OneTeam as fascinating as I have. We will hit them with the toughest, angriest, questions we can and read their answers. You may find them more than a little surprising.

First The text that will give you all the knowledge of the universe that you need right now. It'll help you accept evolution, creationism and your life purpose for what it is.

And it's certainly nothing to be cynical about.

On our Light and Life Destiny From the Urantia Papers

"The advanced stages of a world settled in light and life represent the acme of evolutionary material development. On these cultured worlds, gone are the idleness and friction of the earlier primitive ages. Poverty and social inequality have all but vanished, degeneracy has disappeared, and delinquency is rarely observed ... Life is refreshingly simple; man has at last co-ordinated a high state of mechanical development with an inspiring intellectual attainment and has overshadowed both with an exquisite spiritual achievement. The pursuit of happiness is an experience of joy and satisfaction."

The Impatience of Eve ... and the call to Spiritual Action

by RICK GILES

Often we hear the admonition that we should avoid falling victim to impatience, that Eve's actions in the first garden is illustrative of what happens when we are impatient. Her mistake cost the second epochal revelation its full fruition.

Paper-74 Section-8 Para-14 Page-838 Line-38 Para-6
The "golden age" is a myth, but Eden was a fact, and the Garden civilization was actually overthrown. Adam and Eve carried on in the Garden for one hundred and seventeen years when, through the impatience of Eve and the errors of judgment of Adam, they presumed to turn aside from the ordained way, speedily bringing disaster upon themselves and ruinous retardation upon the developmental progression of all Urantia.

How does this apply to we human beings? In my opinion - very little. I will discuss this very little aspect.

Eve was revelator; we are evolutionary mortals. Eve was under revelation mandates when she accepted her assignment to this world as a biologic uplifter and revealer of truth. We all know the lengthy admonitions, warnings, and rules that Immanuel gave to Michael just before his seventh bestowal. He was given some very specific guidelines, never to have a child is one. Eve was given the order along with Adam, and it applied to their offspring, that they were not to breed the violet blood with other human strains until the gene pool could become large enough and be better able to uplift all without diluting the violet source to soon. She had clear cut orders. Do we humans have these same orders, at least orders that apply to evolutionary free will mortals? We obviously are not under revelation mandates. In reflecting, I come up with a few mandates:

Be you perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect. Love God with all your heart, mind, strength, and soul. Love your fellows as you love yourself. Contribute to the growth of the Supreme.

In Eve's case impatience was an element in the disruption of the second epochal revelation, but impatience wasn't the error, the action taken was the error. I wouldn't be surprised if every celestial on the planet at the time of Edenic Mission would have cheered heartily for the rapid adoption by the surrounding clans of the teachings and lifestyle of the Adamites. So yes, we can heed the admonition to not let impatience get the best of us, but Eve is in a category different than ours. She was here to reveal; we are here to grow. She had a decided advantage over us and was not to step too far ahead for our sake. That she didn't

heed. We are on a peer level together. We need to help each other apply our mandates (listed above). As peer level evolutionaries I don't think any one of us can step too far ahead of anyone else and thwart the mandates that apply to us. If that were the case then Jesus would be in the wrong for attaining the first circle and qualifying for fusion at the young age of 29.

Impatience ought not to be misconstrued to imply that we need only take a passive attitude to conditions on this world or in our own life, that all things work for the good, just wait on God. He has mandated us to become perfect, not to wait patiently for Him to perfect us. We must not side step our mandates; that is the only connection we have with Eve. Otherwise we should get on with our work just like she spent several hundred years getting on with her work before her default.

Good things to consider regarding impatience:

Paper-54 Section-4 Para-4 Page-616 Line-11 Para-3
Most of the liberties which Lucifer sought he already had; others he was to receive in the future. All these precious endowments were lost by giving way to impatience and yielding to a desire to possess what one craves now and to possess it in defiance of all obligation to respect the rights and liberties of all other beings composing the universe of universes. Ethical obligations are innate, divine, and universal.

Paper-130 Section-5 Para-3 Page-1436 Line-26 Para-5
One day when Ganid asked Jesus why he had not devoted himself to the work of a public teacher, he said: "My son, everything must await the coming of its time. You are born into the world, but no amount of anxiety and no manifestation of impatience will help you to grow up. You must, in all such matters, wait upon time. Time alone will ripen the green fruit upon the tree. Season follows season and sundown follows sunrise only with the passing of time. I am now on the way to Rome with you and your father, and that is sufficient for today. My tomorrow is wholly in the hands of my Father in heaven." And then he told Ganid the story of Moses and the forty years of watchful waiting and continued preparation.

Both these passages illustrate that impatience goes wrong when it attempts to supplant the natural course of time with artificial means for effecting change. It also shows that much of what we long for we already have. Jesus was proactive in his ministry simultaneous with his patient waiting upon time. (He would plant the tree THEN wait for it to grow.)

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This proactive orientation is what we can have rather than a passive (avoiding impatience) stance which only leads to stagnation. The ten talent parable speaks to this point. No matter what psychic circle we each are on, how educated we are, how much we long for change in this world we are to put to use our talents and are expected to make increase. Only then are we to be patient as we await the course of events that allow us to make further progress and change. Eve was proactive in volunteering for her assignment on Urantia. She made many efforts toward improving the planet, all of which were seemingly radical and strikingly different than what the surrounding tribe cultures were like. Her work toward this end wasn't impatience.

Wouldn't it seem absurd to say to Eve, "Hey Eve! Back off. Don't you know you'll never get anywhere using impatience to motivate you? Give us a break with all this advanced agriculture, social enlightenment, and biologic uplift agenda of yours. Wait on God. He'll straighten it out." No! She was to make progressive moves and THEN patiently await the turning of time for more opportunities to uplift the world. Patience must follow action not replace it. IMHO

What about speeding up our growth? (emphasis is mine)

Paper-19 Section-5 Para-12 Page-221 Line-9 Para-2
And from all this, you mortals, just now taking your first step on the eternal journey, can well see that you must advance a long way before you will progress by "sight" and "material" assurance. You will long use faith and be dependent on revelation if you hope to progress *quickly and safely*.

Paper-131 Section-3 Para-5 Page-1447 Line-11 Para-2
"No religionist may hope to attain the enlightenment of immortal wisdom who persists in being *slothful, indolent, feeble, idle, shameless, and selfish*. But whoso is thoughtful, prudent, reflective, fervent, and earnest—even while he yet lives on earth—may attain the supreme enlightenment of the peace and liberty of divine wisdom.

I view these passages above as a balance between the proper use of patience - waiting for the fruition of time - with the improper use - burying your talent so as to not offend the master if by chance you lost your lot. The second is patience leading to inaction, the first is patience following after action. I'll repeat, Eve took action, then was impatient. Her mistake was when she did become impatient that she took the wrong action based on the revelation mandate.

Paper-48 Section-5 Para-8 Page-551 Line-14 Para-3
One of the purposes of the morontia career is to effect the

permanent eradication from the mortal survivors of such animal vestigial traits as procrastination, equivocation, insincerity, problem avoidance, unfairness, and ease seeking. The morontia life early teaches the young morontia pupils that postponement is in no sense avoidance. After the life in the flesh, time is no longer available as a technique of dodging situations or of circumventing disagreeable obligations.

Let's not let patience fall into that category of vestigial animal traits.

Paper-100 Section-1 Para-2 Page-1094 Line-18 Para-5
Some persons are too busy to grow and are therefore in grave danger of spiritual fixation. Provision must be made for growth of meanings at differing ages, in successive cultures, and in the passing stages of advancing civilization. The chief inhibitors of growth are prejudice and ignorance.

Let's not let patience twist our orientation such that our busy mundane lives take precedent over doing good work for the kingdom of heaven.

Paper-149 Section-2 Para-1 Page-1670 Line-11 Para-3
Jesus understood the minds of men. He knew what was in the heart of man, and had his teachings been left as he presented them, the only commentary being the inspired interpretation afforded by his earth life, all nations and all religions of the world would *speedily* have embraced the gospel of the kingdom. The well-meant efforts of Jesus' early followers to restate his teachings so as to make them the more acceptable to certain nations, races, and religions, only resulted in making such teachings the less acceptable to all other nations, races, and religions.

It's okay to foster growth, to enhance progress, to speed along evolution IF one can also pace oneself along with the velocity of cultural progress. Caligastia didn't pace himself; neither did Eve. Both were here on Urantia with the express purpose of effecting major changes in the condition of the world. They just didn't want to wait.

Are we humans, who's mandate is to be perfect, love God, love all others, and help grow the supreme, going to let patience be distorted to mean we continue to impede all nations and all religions of the world from speedily embracing the gospel of the kingdom?

Paper-100 Section-1 Para-8 Page-1095 Line-17 Para-3
Religious habits of thinking and acting are contributory to the economy of spiritual growth. One can develop religious predispositions toward favorable reaction to spiritual stimuli, a sort of conditioned spiritual reflex. Habits which

Quotes to Note: SERVICE

Teaching Mission:

Your belief has motivated you towards service, and this is the secret of faith, and this will be a formula for your continued ascension in the realms beyond Urantia.—Elyon

Urantia Book, P.2090 - §4:

To “follow Jesus” means to personally share his religious faith and to enter into the spirit of the Master’s life of unselfish service for man. One of the most important things in human living is to find out what Jesus believed, to discover his ideals, and to strive for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it.—Midwayer Commission

favor religious growth embrace cultivated sensitivity to divine values, recognition of religious living in others, reflective meditation on cosmic meanings, worshipful problem solving, sharing one’s spiritual life with one’s fellows, avoidance of selfishness, refusal to presume on divine mercy, living as in the presence of God. The factors of religious growth may be intentional, but the growth itself is unvaryingly unconscious.

We are to be patient when it comes to grow itself. But are we not also encouraged to proactively “develop religious predispositions toward favorable reaction to spiritual stimuli”? Patience follows action. The desire to improve the world is not impatience. The efforts made by anyone of us is not impatience. The error of impatience comes from not letting the effects of one’s actions run with the natural course of evolution. That was where Eve stepped in and ignored her mandates.

Yes, Eve ran aground through impatience, thwarting the revelatory plans for this world. But she, both before and after the default, never succumbed to complacency (distorted patience). To use Eve as example of why another brother or sister’s action is a sign of impatience should only be used when and after a brother/sister has taken actions toward growth and can’t face the reality of the passing of time for the effects to occur. Then we ought to counsel with patience. But to use Eve as an example for not stepping forward and effecting change on this world in the first place is to fall into the trap of fostering stagnation and retarding the growth of this world to Light and Life.

Mortal existence must be visualized as consisting in the intriguing and fascinating experience of the realization of the reality of the meeting of the human upreach and the divine and saving downreach. The Urantia Book - P.1125

LIVES AND LINES

by Jim Cleveland

There is a line in the cities
that leads to soup and bread.
There are lines of soldiers here and there
that lead us to fear and dread.

There is a line of poverty
that reaches from mother to child
There is a line that divides us
into colors and class and pride.

There is a line that cuts our land
when false judgements everywhere ring
There is a cutting line that opens our blood
to spill on each changing scene.

There is a line that some call straight
that sits in narrow judgment.

There is a line that’s drawn by greed
for power and wealth gone hell-bent.

CHORUS

*There are lives on the line in our times
Every day we face the talkers and the mimes.
Reaching out, pulling in, wondering why
All these lines just make it difficult to try.*

*Let’s all get together in one big bed.
Forgot the past and all that stuff we said.
Draw the line right here against fear and dread
Don’t make judgments. Let our lights shine instead.*

LIFE POTION

**There are those who say the world’s insane,
and this is their bane.
There are those who say Grace will come again,
good unrestrained.
And there are many without the foggiest notion,
Life’s mysterious
Like the ocean.
They’re just after a good time
From any potion
and forever that refrain.**

(JC)

JESUSONIAN STUDIES: *My Peace I Leave With You*

by **MARTY GREENHUT**

“There cannot be peace between light and darkness, between truth and error.” UB, p1905

UB: 1824:6:

“...You preach peace on earth, but my mission will not bring peace IN THE MATERIAL AFFAIRS OF MEN-not for a time, at least. (emphasis mine) Division can only be the result where two members of a family believe in me and three members reject this gospel. Friends, relatives and loved ones are destined to be set against each other by the gospel you preach. True, each of these believers will have great and lasting peace in his own heart, but peace on earth will not come until all are willing to believe AND ENTER INTO THEIR GLORIOUS INHERITANCE OF SONSHIP WITH GOD. (emphasis mine). Go into all the world proclaiming this gospel to all nations, to every man, woman and child.”

Hi All,

I want to thank you for these excellent posts this morning relating to our conflict and our struggle to manage the material affairs of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. I was deeply moved by these posts and wish to develop this exchange a little further.

Our membership in the human race on earth is a fact of our mortal careers on earth. Our sonship with God in eternity is the gift of life that we are born into in this mortal career. We are both members of a race of material beings... a fact of our existence... and are given the option of sonship with God which is eternal brotherhood with all those who so choose. (This is the gospel of Jesus as I understand it. Preaching the Gospel to all nations and to every man, woman and child on earth is to bring this truth to each other in every thought and act and deed... in every which way we are opportuned to do so.)

As in material life where our bodies grow and develop, so it is in our mindal and spiritual lives. In families where siblings of different ages are growing up together, our parents always tell us that we need to give the younger siblings the slack that they need to be immature, and room to grow.

“Be an example to your younger brother and sister, of the truth that you have attained” is the message that parents

give the older children when impatience and conflicts arise in the family.

My friends, we are definitely a family in conflict and we have our share of indignation, of frustration, of rage and willfulness. We also have the example of our elder brother, Jesus, who surely gives us the slack that we need to be immature and the room to grow.

His example of infinite mercy, revealing the perfect love of God, is the role model that we strive to become.

His message is to trust our Father completely and totally; to consecrate ourselves to doing

His will and dedicate ourselves in child-like innocence to His watchcare.

This means to me that we can drop the burdens of our frustration, rage, unfulfilled expectations, indignation and willfulness in the knowledge that all the promise of truth, beauty, and goodness will be fulfilled. What is required in this fulfillment is that we give each other the slack... the room to grow, the mercy of time (forbearance, long suffering, forgiveness) and the understanding love which our Father gives each one. Loving service is the acting out of the gospel in our very lives.

Implicit trust in the Father’s law and mercy; His truth and love, brings us into His everlasting peace. Once there, we are equipped to deal with the restlessness of our souls and are poised to bring the truth of the gospel into greater meaning as we can attain it.

Now this is my view of the relationship between our spiritual attainment and the material affairs of our family. It will be in the outworking of this ascendent dynamic that we will be brought into peace and cooperation in our family affairs.

Thank you for being there, friends; brothers and sisters. Let us not think that we know anything at all except that which each one of us has actually attained. All else is speculation and fantasy.

Peace between light and darkness, between truth and error cannot be achieved until light dissipates darkness and truth liquidates all error. This will not happen until God reigns exclusively in every heart on earth. Until then, we have the mercy of Jesus; of Michael of Nebadon to emulate.

Explorer Endnotes

Hi Spiritual Trailblazers,

I hope you've enjoyed another issue of spiritual adventure. Looking back, I can see that the paths we explored most were into the inner self. Crystal caverns of inner discovery ... insights into the essence of the GodInside that indwells us all.

What about the major changes going on in our societies, our climate, our religions? To be sure, there are epochal changes, subtle and not, going on all around us. The spiritual quest is not solely an internal experience. The necessities of our time and space world are that we then externalize what we learn through service.

Should we not deal with these institutional changes in these pages too? Yes. Earlier in the quarter, I began collecting newspaper clippings that confirm to me society's ongoing and quickening spiritualization. I would edit them into a cohesive collection and to share them in this issue. However, the pages filled up expediently with the fine expressions of 20 human contributors, plus yours truly, and 13 celestial teachers. May they help you in many inner discoveries of insight that will prepare you for these pivotal times ... this magnificently dawning age of spiritual discovery.

Next issue, we'll just try to have a bigger collection of evidence that the secular world is struggling to come to God. Please send your contributions. And I also encourage you to discover these evidences of spiritual upliftment yourself. Yes, we see disintegration and terror around us, but we see the attendant heartfelt revulsion via the magic of mass communication and, in time, we will see planetary spiritual redemption as humankind rallies individually and collectively in answer to the inner Holy Spirits that can motivate and energize us in fruitful search of Light and Life.

As loving spiritual seekers and servants, we are sowing the seeds for our children's children's children in every kindness we perform, every insight of truth we can offer to an increasingly frustrated, motivated, hungry and receptive human family.

Now, to close this issue, let's ask our celestial teachers to give us some final insights. This is live, folks. (title added later)

FRIENDSHIP JEWELS

Your friends are there, my friends, and they are lonely too. In a world so crowded and bursting, they are bursting in frustrations at their lonely lives.

Count your friends and make it your vocation to know them more deeply than. Treasure them in your growing understanding of their struggles, and how their struggles and yours are intertwined, meaningful unto themselves and unto each other, in the OneChildren of the OneGod reality that can permeate your presence from inner to without, from deep urging to florid expression. In the quest to make friends, treasure them, know them and share them with others.

You disdain so many for frivolities, for quirks you do not choose to understand, thereby depriving yourselves of learnings. You are quick to judge, quick to discard, quick to embrace that which is wrong but is suited to your egoistic pursuits. Be balanced in your decision-making, in the knowingness of the spirit that you access, in the genuine regards that come from living the lovelife in the holy spirit. You will be happy then. And you will make friends for the lifetime, and beyond.

Friendships, glowing and personal, framed in love, rooted in holiness, will be among your cherished possessions in the eternity.

LIGHT AND LIFE TO YOU ALL! jc&teachers



MESSAGES FROM MICHAEL:

Patience, Tolerance, Experience

(from a personal message to an Oregon seeker)

Impatience is ever the lot of your benighted heritage - impatience, and impatience with impatience - of which the second is perhaps the most bemusing. For if some of you wish to see your world entirely uplifted tomorrow, others of you appear puzzled that your brothers and sisters are not entirely uplifted today! You cannot have tolerance without patience, and therefore few of you are truly tolerant. Tolerance understands the process of things, and while it sees the distant goals clearly, it has the faith in the eventual success that does not waver in the face of the current imperfection of progress towards that goal. To a great degree, your impatience with one another, regardless of its focus, is a manifestation of your immaturity and ignorance, yet think a moment, and ask yourselves why you expect yourselves and others to be as wise as elders when you are yet young.

Children dress up in the clothing of their elders and try to act adult, but fail to do more than create a semblance of maturity because they do not yet understand the content beneath the surface of

what they see. You are children such as these, but lest you think I chide you, do you not take delight in watching your own children in their awkward moves of growth? Know then how much I love you, for you are my universe children and you are doing a wonderful job of being the imperfect but striving children that you are meant to be. I ask you simply to remember that you ARE children in the universe, and any perfection you believe has been attained by yourselves or any of your fellows cannot yet be. If your respect for one another lies in such apparent attainment, you will be sorely disappointed. Learn to trust rather in sincerity and dedication - true motivation — not necessarily as manifested in outward show, but as shown by persistent loyalty to high values. For the loyalty of him who stoops, falls and struggles to stand again and move ahead is greater than the loyalty of him who is yet untested by the trials and vicissitudes of life. It cannot be otherwise.

This is the value of experience. Experience fosters strength of character and individuality of expression. The uniqueness of experience and personality combined culminates in your real gift to the evolving Supreme of yourself dedicated to your unfoldment as requested by the Father's will. Even as you seek to be perfect as He is perfect, remember that in this life, such will remain almost entirely a goal. So be tender with one another in this rough and ready journey on the wild planet of your origins.

I came to call you to the Father's abundant love, manifest to us all as truth, beauty and goodness from all directions. After you have sought such things with the Father, seek it next in one another's eyes. Close not your eyes to one another, for you are my apostles and with the example of your real and hard-won love for one another will you change our world. You have been told before, but I say to you yet again: YOU are the mission - you are the eyes and ears and hands of the Father's love upon Urantia. My teachers are here to assist you in your tasks, but these tasks of planetary uplifting love are yours. Do them, and know that you never walk alone. Always, I stand beside your every heart's desire; always you have my understanding and my love. - Michael of Nebadon.

Seek and Ye Shall Find

(from *Coeur 'd Alene, Idaho*)

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.