

# The HOLY ENCOUNTER

...when you meet anyone, remember it is a holy encounter.



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## Dreaming

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff



Growing up, we spent many lazy days on the rugged, mystical Oregon coast where my grandmother lived.

The drive from where we lived near Portland through the mountains to the coast was beautiful. On one such trip, when I was very young, I remember looking up



Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

out of the car window and seeing a magical fog hanging like a cloak near the top of the mountains. I can still feel that experience to this day and the thought that came to my mind, "This is not real." I had no idea what that meant at the time, and simply dismissed it. It wasn't until years later when I found the Course that this thought and vision came back to me and I began to see what it truly meant.

*"This world is not your home and somewhere in your mind you know that it is so."* (T182)

A *Course in Miracles* tells us that this world is not our home. The world that we see is an illusion we have chosen to value rather than our home in Heaven. It tells us that the world is nothing more than a dream to be awakened from. This seems not only to be the most difficult concept for us to grasp but also the most contro-

versial. People use this thought that the Course so boldly puts forth as a way to discount the Course or to say that it is blasphemous. Casual readers of the Course use this thought as an excuse to be detached from the world, feeling that if it is an illusion then it doesn't matter what I do. But if understood correctly, this thought really is our salvation.

*"Salvation is no more than a reminder that this world is not your home."* (T530)

This idea is really not a new thought in the realm of spiritual truth. According to the old Christian hymn, "This world is not my home. I'm just a passin' through..." The

Aboriginal tribes of Australia call this time we live in "dream-time." Most spiritual teachings have some sort of reference to this thought or idea, but, nevertheless, it doesn't make this thought any less challenging to live or apply.

We feel very bound to this world and because we do, it would make no sense to deny it. The Course does not ask us to do this. It asks us to look at what we think is our reality, and decide whether we value it more than the peace of God. If today we answer the world with all its feelings of separation and judgment, then we get the world. But, if we answer with the peace of God, then it is time for us to do the work that allows this world to be a

*"The world that we see is an illusion we have chosen to value rather than our home in heaven."*

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## Rev. Hugh's Homilies

### Forgiving After Having Forgiven

by Hugh Prather

**Editor's note:** After Hugh's death in November 2010, I was looking through a file of the articles he wrote for THE HOLY ENCOUNTER. These articles are a wealth of truth. So, for this year, we have decided to run some of his past articles as a tribute to him and a gift to you! We hope you enjoy them.

Many people who have pursued a spiritual path for several years or more come to believe that they have forgiven everyone they need to forgive and that they no longer form new grievances and grudges. If



Hugh Prather

questioned whether they harbor ill feelings toward a particular individual, they quickly deny that they do, without ever looking deeply and honestly within. They tell themselves that if they still have any unforgiveness, it does not run deep and that in the course of their regular spiritual practices, it will dissolve. It is precisely at this point that their shadow side or ego begins to grow darker and more powerful.

Ironically, individuals who are new to a spiritual path usually do not assume that they are unequal. They don't think of themselves as spiritually superior. They are more aware of their dislikes and hatreds and work harder to release

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Beverly is the co-founder and president of MDC, one of the longest running organizations based on *A Course in Miracles*. As a student, lecturer and author on the Course since 1977, her recorded weekly commentaries on Course principles have become a wonderful source of inspiration and study for many around the world. Receive a FREE recording by contacting MDC.

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# What's Happening

■ **99.9% of my growth** Lois Hanson in Arizona says, "I really have to credit 99.9% of my growth in the Course to the recordings of the Center's study group meetings — and Beverly in particular. Just the way she brings everything out from the pages and into the real world creates a setting that opens my eyes and mind to the true meaning of the Course." We hope you will join Lois and our worldwide family by becoming a listener today! Subscribe online at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org) or call: 1-800-359-ACIM(2246).

■ **Giving a truly meaningful Gift** Here's what many students of the Course have done: Given a tax-deductible donation to MDC in someone's honor or memory. If you would like to give in such a way, send your donation and request, and we will send him, her or the family a personalized letter acknowledging your appreciation and support. It's a wonderful honor for that dedicated someone or their family. And, what a blessing it will be to those the Center serves, for your donation will go to support its free services!

**Gifts in memory of ... Maureen Des Chenes** from Rev Storm.

■ **Don't forget to check out the Center's** website as Linda Manley in Iowa emailed, "I have studied the Course for over 25 years and your site has helped me understand a LOT of the Course I have never quite gotten a grasp of...so I want to THANK YOU!!" We thank you, Linda! We hope everyone will visit our site, join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. We are constantly adding new things, ideas and experiences, so check back often at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org).

■ **"This is God's Final Judgment:** "You are still My holy Son, forever innocent, forever loving and forever loved..." says the Course. Sometimes it's hard to remember that truth, so we have constructed a Wall of Innocence on our website to help us remember. Elsie Shrawder in California just emailed us her adorable 6 year-old photo with a note saying, "This is a great idea —

thank you so much!" We invite you to send us your childhood photo (around the age of 5 or 6, but younger is okay, too) so we can post it on the Wall. You can email us your photo or send us an original which we will scan and return to you. Please include your name, city and state and your approximate age at the time of the photo. Check back to our site often to see the Wall grow in love and innocence. Go to [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org).

■ **When you place your order** for books at our website you will now receive Postal Service or FedEx tracking information as soon as your order is sent. This helpful service is one of the many ways we try to make your ordering experience easier and more convenient. In our online catalog you will find more than 300 items based on the Course, all available for immediate shipment. And remember that by placing your order with us you are helping support our many free services including the publishing of this magazine. See it all at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org)

■ **Let's bring this world closer to heaven in 2011** — Watch our Youtube Peace Video! If you have not already taken the Center's Pledge for Peace, go to [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org) and take it! There you will see the Youtube video by Beverly as well as have the opportunity to pledge for peace and have your pledge posted on the worldwide map...plus you will receive a wristband with the thought, "The peace of God is my one goal." We hope you will join the over 2,000 people who have already pledged! Let it be our goal this year to bring the world closer to Heaven in 2011!

■ **2011 Annual Course Conference dates set!** Join us on August 13-14, 2011 in Irvine, California for our annual International Conference on A Course in Miracles. "The Peace of Heaven" is the title and it will feature Beverly McNeff, Marianne Williamson, Jon Mundy, Jacob Glass, Lee Jampolsky, Tama Kieves, Dick Gayton, Paul McNeff and Michele Addino-Colchin. Mark your calendar to join us! As Heather from

Montana said on Facebook about last year's conference, "I'm so grateful I could attend the conference — what a glorious experience! The speakers, musicians, staff and fellow participants were wonderful! It was uplifting, incredibly helpful, and an absolutely transformative gathering."

■ **"I just listened to the Miracle Moment Webcast.** Many issues and questions I have been experiencing lately were answered for me. It brought much awareness to where I have to find my Wholeness, not the answers that my ego has been presenting me with. Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunities given us from MDC, it is my connection to stay in touch with my spirituality." We want to thank Anne from New Jersey for taking the time to let us know how our free webcasts are helping. If you have never listened to one, go to [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org) and click on Miracle Moments. Each Moment features Beverly and co-host Paul McNeff sharing the message of the Course in regards to your personal questions. It is a practical way to experience the Course. If you would like a CD of a Miracle Moment, you may order one for \$7.00 by calling 1-800-359-2246.

■ **"We have been told that God is love.** We have been told that God is always with us. We have been told that even if we make our bed in hell, God is there. We have been told that God's peace has been given to us and left in our keeping. We have even been told that it is God's great pleasure to give us the Kingdom. There may be room for overconfidence, but there is certainly no room for confusion." These inspiring words from Hugh Prather's book *Morning Notes . . . 365 Meditations to Wake You Up*, reminds us of God's never-ending love for us. We hope that you will join with the Miracle Prayer Ministry through the Center each day at 4:30pm (Pacific Time) for a moment of prayerful support as we experience that love together.

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# Recognizing Spirit

## The Power of Surrender



..... by Dr. Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D. ■

Although following what you hear from your inner wisdom is of obvious importance, it can still remain shy of a more complete surrender.

Though phases of *A Course in Miracles* study can be challenging, practicing surrender can be partic-



Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.

ularly elusive. The good news is that surrender is within us, wanting to move through us like a gently flowing river. Though somewhat different than what occurs as an adult, most of us had a type of experience of surrender as children. I remember carrying my kids when they were a year or two old, cuddled so close in total trust. They would sleep in complete safety in my arms, surrendering in the moment without a doubt that they were held in safety and in love. Similarly, especially during a challenge, the moments I have been successful at surrendering to God in such a way have been my fullest experiences of true peace, even in the midst of physical illness or other challenge.

Practicing and directing your mind toward the Love of God on a daily basis is of paramount importance, no matter how you are feeling physically or what your challenges may be. This is how the mind is quieted. If you are speeding through one task or project after the other you will have a tendency to go on automatic pilot. When we are doing this we are trying to have the world go "according to our plan," and we are essentially at war with "what is," or with Holy Spirit.

Surrender can be described as the acceptance of what is from Love — being completely present with the way things are in the moment *and* inviting Love into the moment. The times that I have been able to surrender more completely have come from seeing in the clearest of ways that any worry, suffering and unhappiness come from my not wanting things to be the way they are, not wanting my body to be as it is, not wanting people in my life to be how they are, not wanting myself to be how I am, not wanting my situation to be how it is, not wanting the world to be as it is...and the list goes on.

There are certain thoughts and beliefs that keep you from surrender. I am a person who, not unlike many others, had struggled much of my life in one way or another with the uncomfortable and damaging emotions of anger, jealousy, pettiness, envy, and so on. Surrender can not co-exist with these emotions. I have studied the Course for over thirty years, and, after all of these years, what I have found is most true about keeping surrender away can be said in one simple sentence:

*When I become angry, jealous, petty, envious, and so forth, it is always because I am denying Love, and wanting some person, some thing, some body, or some situation to be different than it is in that moment, and peace of mind eludes me.*

Surrender is about learning to be present with "what is" *while resting in the grace of Love*. This is the purest of goals in achieving true peace, and the most profound path to God. Surrender leads to a much simpler life than the ego's constant cravings, desires, and striving. It

also brings a unique peace during our most challenging times.

Although I am far from perfect at surrendering, if I find myself upset, I pause, breathe, and focus on accepting the way things are (or, more to the point, stop wanting things to be different) *and* on feeling the presence of Love, only then do I experience peace. In contrast, when I get worked up about the way things are, don't turn to the Holy Spirit, and constantly try by my sheer will or blind hope to make things different, I am heading for guaranteed conflict, increased stress, and decreased health.

It may sound like surrender means never wanting to accomplish anything, improve our health, or work at making the world a better place. Nothing can be further from the truth, though further explanation is necessary.

Surrender allows you to come to the moment unencumbered by your past and Fear-Based Thinking, in order to experience the only "want" that has any meaning: *Wanting the peace of Love*. In this way surrender brings you back to what is most real. In experiencing even moments of surrender you find what it is like to *really* want something important and valuable, which is the peace of God. There is a paradox that when you stop wanting your situation to be different from a place of fear and attachment, and have the single goal of wanting the peace that God bestows, then you are able to actually make a difference of a profound nature.

Below is an exercise leading to surrender. In italics are statements to make in order to put what is discussed into action, beginning right now. It is always good to start your day with this, and if possible, to do it several times throughout your day.

- **Ask** your inner wisdom for direction in your life and protection from your own

“Practicing and directing your mind toward the Love of God on a daily basis is of paramount importance, no matter how you are feeling physically or what your challenges may be.”

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Dr. Lee Jampolsky is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Carmel, CA. He is the author of several books based on *A Course in Miracles*. Lee can be reached at [www.DrLeeJampolsky.Com](http://www.DrLeeJampolsky.Com)

# You are the Light of the World:

## Taking your Pain into Promise



..... by Tama J. Kieves ■

**T**he wisdom tradition of *A Course in Miracles*, teaches us, “I am the light of the world. That is my only

function. That is why I am here.” When I first read that line part of me stood at attention as though its true name had been called through a fog and cobweb of centuries. The other part of me felt screwed.



Tama Kieves

At the time, I looked around at my life of half-written manifestos, unused yoga videos, and abrupt tectonic shifts of doubt and fear, and thought humanity could definitely benefit from a more reliable guide. But I have come to see that limita-

tion is spirit calling my name. Limitation puts pins in my sofa and lumps in my pillow so that I do not fall asleep in my life. Limitation calls me to seek for strength, focus, achievement, and liberating powers I did not know I had. And, in the end, limitation gifts me with a

one-of-a-kind credential in this world. It’s because as I come to experience freedom in the midst of defeated circumstances, I become a hope and light to others.

We, who are questioning our lives and our abilities, are the light of the world. We will be a beacon of comfort, hope and direction to those who need us. We are in the soup, but it is healing broth. We are the ones who are learning to find joy and full expression in the midst of bruised conditions. Every spiritual tradition teaches us that freedom is not being liberated once the job comes through, the check comes in or the skinny jeans fit.

Freedom is learning how to be at peace no matter what, no matter when.

Our world is changing. The old ways are falling apart. Some talk about being in a revolutionary evolution of consciousness. We are the ones. We are the ones who are discovering our sacred resources and responses and bringing them to the table. We are the ones who write poems or sing praises to the divine, even as the stock market crumbles. Our dark days and stumbles are our training grounds. We are learning how to recognize a magnitude that is never threatened or taken away. We are discovering the river of faith in the dryness of our desert. We are the ones. We may not get it right every single day or even for weeks on end, but we are the ones.

**“Limitation calls me to seek for strength, focus, achievement, and liberating powers I did not know I had.”**

Your pain is your relentless guru. How do you gain instruction from the sting? How do you resist the urge to curse it, deny it, or lie down in a ball for a thousand years? How do you love yourself? How do you forgive yourself? How do you sit down right now and trust the perfection of where you are? This is the juncture of your freedom. This life is not about just sweeping the kitchen one more time, or sending in a resume. It’s about feeding the wild blue bird in your heart on berries not of this world. It’s about feeding the wild blue bird so that it flies free no matter what.

I do not wish you pain or suffering. But I know that pain will cause you to seek freedom and freedom will teach you who you are and why you’re here. You are the light of the world, and you have love, talent, and healing to offer us. Because of the sand, the oyster yields the pearl. Peacocks grow their signature colorful feathers by

eating thorns. “What is to give light, must endure burning,” wrote Viktor Frankl, who taught about how he found liberation, through mental focus, in the harshest hours of living in a concentration camp. And Buddhist nun Pema Chodron says, “Only to the extent that we expose ourselves over and over to annihilation can that which is indestructible be found in us.” You are the light of the world. And it’s pain that reminds you, like a ferocious drill sergeant, to abandon your useless definitions of security, and penetrate the limitless grace within you.

We may not have easy lives at this time. But it’s not because we’re failing, falling, or inadequate. It’s because our souls demand healing more than coping, soaring more than just reaching cruising altitude. We are the teachers, healers, visionaries, social entrepreneurs and architects of the coming bright times. We are the sensitive ones, the canary in the mines. We have never truly been fit for this world. That’s why we are the ones who will change it.

We will change it with our compassion. We will change it with our twigs of peace. We will change it by sitting in our dark corners until the pain passes and transmutes into new energy that can sustain the rest of our lives— and we have a new stronghold to offer our brothers and sisters.

We will turn darkness into hope, as humanity has always done. We will prove that pain passes and leaves strong alchemy in its wake. We will run a new mile, inspire new actions, bring clean water to the needy, or paint images of wonder and faith. We will find our unique way to channel inexhaustible strength to hungry conditions. We will bring the new into the world by expanding our minds, communing with our creativity, and

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opening our boundless hearts. We are in the study halls now. Many of us are getting ready for our certifications.

We are the light of the world. We are the ones who have mercy for others. We are the ones who lend a hand. We are the

ones who share a bit of writing, a dance, a reiki session, a vibrant expression filled with courage and forgiveness. We are the ones who question limitation and habits and demonstrate the raw and formidable power of love and alignment with our

source. We are the ones who believe there is enough here to work with and we are about the business of working with it. Jesus walked on water. We may be doing something far more electrifying in these times. We are walking in this world. □

# Update

..... by Maria Zakich ■

Many of our readers may remember the story of Michele Molina. She is the woman who — nearly twenty-four years ago — participated in the murder of Dick Gayton's wife and the brutal stabbing of his secretary. Dick has written about his experience in his columns in **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** and in his book *The Forgiving Place*.

It was through Dick's study of *A Course in Miracles* that he was able to allow forgiveness to envelop his tragedy. He had no idea how he could or would forgive such an experience. Nothing in his past had prepared him for it. Thankfully he did not try to do it himself, for he could not. In turning toward God and allowing forgiveness to heal him, he was eventually guided to reach out to the two who perpetrated this act. The man who instigated the murder has not wanted to talk or meet with Dick, but Michele, the woman who was only eighteen at the time of the murders, was literally transformed by the meeting. As a confused teenager, she was influenced and threatened by the older man who convinced her if she did not participate in the acts, he would kill her and her family.

She entered prison as a scared teenager, but she has transformed into an example of what can happen to our lives when we step back and let God lead the way. Michele knows that she is helping those who could only be helped by someone on the "inside."

Some of you may be aware that Michele was up for parole last year. A petition was again signed by many Course students who were familiar with

her case and transformation, encouraging the court to approve her parole. Dr. Gayton's secretary who survived the brutal attack still attends every parole hearing and testifies for Michele's continued incarceration. The secretary is still afraid and angry, which is certainly understandable. Michele understands this, too, and, even though she was disappointed by the parole rejection, Michele continues to wait with patience and confidence, knowing that she is where she is for a greater purpose than she can see.

The Prison Project continues to support Michele and all those who are incarcerated and are choosing a path of inner healing through the Course. We wanted to share Michele's letter before her parole hearing as a testament of how love and support are not limited by the effects of the world.

*Dear Beverly,*

*I received your most supportive letter for my next hearing. I am very grateful for your continuing love and guidance you and many other Course students give me every day.*

*I look forward to visiting my MDC family soon. I have many gifts I've been blessed with and I want to share with others to bless them. In the meantime I allow the light of God to shine through me right where I am.*

*Even where I work offers many opportunities to teach and learn. The Forestry Dept. is where women train hard to go out to a camp in the community to fight wildfires. I'm always ready to encourage and inspire them, if only just to*

## Prison Project

*say "you can achieve anything you want; connect with the strength of God that lies within you; go forward with a new attitude with joy and peace."*

*"There is a place in you where there is perfect peace. There is a place in you where nothing is impossible. There is a place in you where the strength of God abides." (W76)*

*Much more flows through me from Spirit that I cannot put into words myself.*

*It was two weeks ago a "camper" came up to me and asked "Michele, who do I tell "I quit?" I told her to "tell God" and it was her I encouraged to go forward. Now, every time I see her she greets me with a smile and a "Thank you!"*

*There is so much that lies within each one of us. With so little we can set someone free, and in return we free ourselves. The woman I encouraged that day will transfer to one of the three women's CAL FIRE camps soon, and she will fight fires saving property and perhaps, lives. I saved her that day and now she goes forward to encourage and save others.*

*Although I've been convicted of murder, I will walk into my next Board Hearing in August as a peace maker with an abundance of peace, joy, and love in my life. Freedom is a choice for those on either side of prison bars. I choose freedom.*

*Please keep me in your prayers during my hearing, August 18, 2010 at 1:00 pm. Miracles happen every day. Miracles are a natural occurrence.*

*"Miracles occur naturally as expressions of love. The real miracle is the love that inspires them. In this sense everything that comes from love is a miracle." (T1)*

*Peace and gratitude, Michele* □

Maria Zakich coordinates The Miracle Prison Project at MDC. For more information visit us on the web at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org), click on "Services" then "Prison Project". We thank you for your ongoing support of this service.

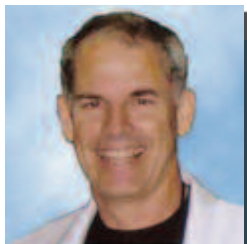
# Emotional Healing

## My Life as a Eunuch



..... by Richard Gayton, Ph.D. ■

**A** *Course in Miracles* students like sex and so do I. However the old Kinsey Report has exaggerated the male gender's interest by suggesting they think about sex every 7 seconds. It's a lot less than that — perhaps once a minute for the average Joe and every 90 seconds for those getting the senior discount at my local movie theater. I have no idea what women think about. During my religious childhood I was told that Jesus was upset with me for thinking about sex. Now I know what Jesus was thinking about during all that boring carpentry work.



Dick Gayton

Lesson 50 from the Workbook tells us we are sustained by the love of God, not by the love of money or pills or anything of this body. Jesus suggests we misplace our faith in trivial and insane symbols like money, prestige and approval. It says, "All these things are your replacements for the Love of God. All these things are cherished to ensure a body identification. They are songs of praise to the ego. Do not put your faith in the worthless. It will not sustain you."

Now as harsh as that sounds, it also doesn't tell us to stop those worldly things, but rather to invite the Holy Spirit into them. It is not about taking sex away from us but instead helping us to use it in a way that leads us out of our illusions. "The body was not made by love. Yet love does not condemn it and can use it lovingly, respecting what the Son of God has made

and using it to save him from illusions."

Then prostate cancer came along to give me one of those growth experiences none of us wants. As I was deciding whether to fry or slice my prostate to rid me of cancer, my doctor came up with a temporary treat (I actually meant to write treatment but then decided to leave that word in) called A.D.T. It sounds innocent enough, but then I learned that Androgen Deprivation Therapy and most other prostate cancer treatments temporarily or permanently damage sexuality. My mind freaked. Certainly I would find a treatment that would not do that since I am my prostate (see previous article).

I kept pressing my doctor for a way not to hurt my sexuality. Thinking this might be new information to him, I said, "A.D.T.

*"Then prostate cancer came along to give me one of those growth experiences none of us wants. As I was deciding whether to fry or slice my prostate to rid me of cancer, my doctor came up with a temporary treat..,"*

means I am getting castrated." He said, "Think of it as a way of strengthening your relationship without sex." I said, "How about not doing A.D.T.?" He said, "Which do you want, cancer or sex?" I said, "I'll have sex, pass on the cancer." He said, "Oh I see, you are a 'have your cake and eat it too kind of guy.'" Knowing I am spiritually evolved, he suggested I start thinking with my spirit instead of with my other body parts.

My mind squealed, but I took his advice and started A.D.T., because it shrinks prostate tissue and tumors. It also gave me time to pick the next step, a definitive treatment. ADT is a happy cocktail of testosterone killers starting off with Lupron, Casodex and Avodart. Then chasers of Fosamax, Valium, Cialis and Dostinex for side effects. Not to mention about a dozen supplements.

So I started downing pills and got this nice big painless injection of Lupron, the

Queen mother of all testosterone reducers at my oncologist office. After one month, voila, nothing changes in the sexuality department and I figure the universe is finally noticing how special I am, and I will just cruise through this. Month two, injection number two, it hits. Crying spells, strange irritability but sexuality is still possible. By the third month, extreme sensitivity to everything has set in and I want to run away to Tajikistan and hide in a yurt. I don't care about sex and have arrived at true Eunochness. I want no contact with anyone despite great love shown to me by those around me. I find hours of peace between episodes by praying and reading from the Course.

Most men don't respond to Lupron as I did and my attitude toward the drug was anticipatory paranoia. My doctor took me off it, keeping me on the others. Ultrasound of the prostate showed that it was now 10% of its previous size and probably the tumors with it. My doctor says it's too bad I don't like Lupron or this could be my treatment for 12-16 months and I would have a remission for five years or maybe forever. I said maybe we could stick toothpicks in my eyes and pull out a tooth every day instead.

From the start I asked the Holy Spirit's guidance and have always gotten clear answers. Not the answers I wanted but direction to loving, wise people who have guided me every step of the way. As I have attended conferences, support groups and talked with PC friends, I kept hearing about radioactive seed implants (Brachytherapy). This seemed right for me, but I just couldn't trust a simple answer, and seeds have their own side effects. When I began to fuss, the Holy Spirit suggested I investigate. I went on with "I will have my cake and eat it too." Pretty soon my ego knew everything and I had no idea what to do.

My doctor had now determined the

Dick Gayton is a psychologist and writer. His book *The Forgiving Place: Choosing Peace After Violent Trauma* is available through the Center.

aggressiveness of my particular cancer and offered alternatives. I wanted him to tell me exactly what to do, but A.D.T. long term was unacceptable. My mind reacts to the drugs and I would fear the cancer returning as long as I had active prostate tissue. I surrendered and asked the Holy Spirit, my doc and two other docs and they all agreed that either one of two different Bracytherapy procedures was fine for me. So most likely by the time you read this I will have radioactive seeds implanted.

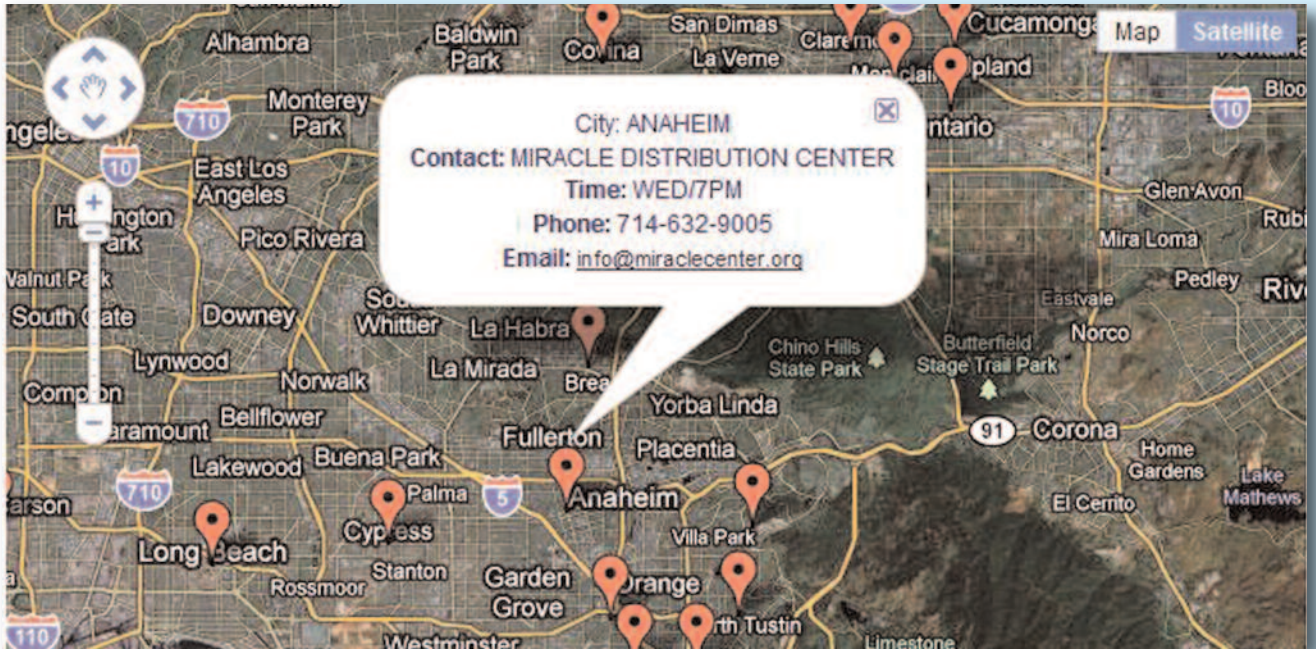
I guess my time as a Eunuch is not here yet. Looks like I will get a few more turns of the karmic wheel and a few more rolls in the hay. Thanks be to God.

# Study Group Lookup

**NEW**

We are pleased to announce a major improvement to our worldwide study group database. Users can now search by city, state or country, instead of telephone area code. Results will be displayed on a map as placemarks and in a grid below the map. You may zoom-in and click on a placemark to view the details of that study group. We list approximately 2,000 groups in 55 countries and in the last year more than 47,000 searches were performed through our database.

[www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org)



## Wall of Innocence

*Join the Awakening!*

It's amazing the smiles we see on peoples' faces when they look at their own childhood photos.

They remember their innocence, and if they can remember their own perhaps they can think that way about people who tempt them to anger. Our innocence, no matter what we have done, can never be lost. It's time for us to awaken to the truth that we all are for each other, so we invite you to send us your childhood photo (around the age of 5 or 6, but younger is okay, too) so we can post it on our **Wall of Innocence** on MDC's website at

[www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org)

You can email us your photo or send us an original which we will scan and return to you. Please include your name, city and state and your approximate age at the time of the photo. Check back to our site often to see the wall grow in love and innocence.



# Heal Your Mind, Heal Your World

## The Art of Compassion

..... by Gerald Jampolsky, M.D. and Diane V. Cirincione, Ph.D. ■

When we think about compassion, we think about the many people who have come into our

lives to be powerful teachers to us by how they demonstrated the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



Jerry Jampolsky & Diane Cirincione

It has been our experience that the compassionate person has a deep empathy in which he or she can, in a way, get inside another person to sense how they feel and in the process lose their own self-identity in their loving, caring attitude for another.

Compassion is an attribute of love for everyone. It allows us to have an experience of Oneness of Spirit and the Oneness of our minds. Have you ever thought about the fact that when you are in a compassionate state of consciousness, you are not experiencing fear, anger, judgments or feelings of separation as you allow another person's heart to become one with your own?

When we let go of our blocks to love, compassion becomes more accessible in our everyday consciousness. As we become more consistently compassionate with others as well as ourselves, we can begin to notice that we stop attacking. We begin to have a compassionate attitude rather than being separated by a warring one which makes us feel separate from our Source, and others, as well as ourselves.

It has been often said that "love is a many splendored thing." Compassion is an

integral component of the Sacred Love of the Creator.

### *An Example of Compassion: Joe Shohan*

In a previous article in *The Holy Encounter*, we wrote about Cheryl Daniels Shohan. She was a 33-year part of the heart of our original Center for Attitudinal Healing. Joe Shohan is the 28-year-old son of Cheryl and Paul and was an amazing example of compassion during the last months of his mother's life. By the way, Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross was Joe's Godmother, and I, Jerry, am his Godfather.

Joe had been living in Hawaii trying to find himself. He never really liked school and never felt he really did well there or at any thing he had attempted. As a result, in our opinion, his self-esteem had not been the best. He tried many jobs such as tending bar and working as a stock person in health food stores.

Joe came into a family that had suffered the deepest of losses. Before he was born, his parents had two pre-teen children who died within the same year of unrelated forms of cancer. In his adolescence and young adulthood, Joe had typical problems that many people have and he and his parents had typical challenges with each other during those years.

Joe felt uncomfortable about his mom's illness and tried to avoid conversations about it. But about three months before his mother died, he made a decision to come home and become her chief caregiver. This took a tremendous amount of responsibility and turned out to be a 24/7 responsibility. Before and after Cheryl was under the care of hospice while in her home, her medications and personal care

were quite complicated.

Many friends who loved Cheryl were also part-time caregivers. They, as we, were amazed and deeply moved by witnessing the transformation process that Joe was undergoing. One of the many volunteers who spent time with the family during Cheryl's last days was our dear friend, Barbara Kirk, an RN and Psychiatric Social Worker.

We would like to quote Barbara about her experiences:

"As Cheryl's primary caregiver, Joe tended to her every complex need with the deepest compassion I've ever witnessed in one so young. The resources and skills he developed within himself during the experience were the greatest gifts to his mom and dad and a blessing to his parents and to himself—and to all of us who shared in the loving tasks of caring for Cheryl, witnessing both her transformation and Joe's."

All of us who were there witnessed Joe putting forth his gentle and loving consciousness in being totally focused on giving. He slept in the hospital at night with her. He attended her every need with such joy and peace. He did everything humanly possible to make her more comfortable, peaceful, and out of pain. Almost overnight he seemed to be a new person who had found himself. He had great joy in knowing he had found something that he was really good at...loving and caring for his mom.

Joe had found something that he didn't learn from books. He found the joy in losing himself in helping another person, his mom.

Even though he suffered from a tremendous lack of sleep and many people came to visit Cheryl, we never saw him impatient. He maintained a sense of gentleness and kindness even at those times that Cheryl was under pain and

“When we let go of our blocks to love, compassion becomes more accessible in our everyday consciousness.”

Gerald Jampolsky, M.D. and Diane Cirincione, Ph.D., international lecturers and bestselling authors, share their insights and experiences in applying the principles of *A Course in Miracles* in our world. Jerry and Diane's books and other items are available at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org)

stress and had her own unkind moments.

Joe felt a new sense of usefulness that he never had experienced before. Any symptoms of selfishness and a "me first mentality" totally disappeared. And he received wonderful feedback from all those who were privileged to see him be the Light of Compassion.

It is both our belief and experience that when you lose your own self in the giving process of helping another with Unconditional Love and Compassion as Joe did, you begin to remember the Light that has always been inside of you and you begin to not be afraid of shining that Light on others.

Joe's amazing experience of being totally involved in caring for and helping another person transition has influenced and matured him greatly. He's not sure yet exactly what he is going to do with his life and is considering the possibility of becoming a nurse or a Hospice Counselor.

Everything is a lesson God would have us learn.

### **Hearts of Compassion: Michael and Kimberly Kounoff**

The second example is that of Kimberly and Michael Kounoff. Michael's story is that he was a well known and respected photographer in Hawaii when tragedy occurred. While playing Frisbee at the beach, he tripped in shallow water, broke his neck, became a paraplegic, and his life totally changed.

He lived alone and had a series of caregivers coming through his home that he was totally dependent upon. Michael, as many paraplegics do, had a series of medical problems. Among them were kidney and bladder infections and bedsores that were resistant to healing.

Then one day a beautiful being — inside and out — came into his life. Kimberly's guidance from early on was to be a caregiver for Michael and that he was her soul mate and they fell deeply in love with each other.

They have now been together about six years. In the last half year there have been

a series of major medical problems including a kidney stone with tremendous pain. He was in intensive care, had a tracheotomy, and there was serious question about whether he was going to make it through the ordeal. Kimberly practically never left him day or night. At

the time of this writing they are home on Maui but he has developed serious bedsores even though he is turned over quite frequently.

Kimberly is his primary caregiver. That means she does everything... and we mean everything. When there is a fecal impaction, she is the one that puts on a glove and removes the impaction.

The love between these two special beings is incredibly beautiful to behold. They are on a constant honeymoon with each other regardless of the seemingly insurmountable challenges they face. They both have great senses of humor, which oftentimes has been their saving grace.

We have never heard Kimberly or

Michael complain even once. In our way of seeing it, they look past each other's bodies, and look into each other's loving eyes, to swim as one soul together. Their compassion for each other is not measurable and they both believe that they are on a spiritual journey together.

Michael and Kimberley's Compassion for each other brings a radiant light around them wherever they go. We feel spiritually renewed every time we talk with them (which is almost every day) and every time we see them. Michael still makes time to help other paraplegics online who are going through their own challenging times.

Their state of Compassion has a Light which is so very brilliantly strong that we don't think that either of them sees each other's body. They see only the Light in each other and Dance in the Light together. □

**“ They are on a constant honeymoon with each other regardless of the seemingly insurmountable challenges they face. ”**

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# Share a Miracle

This column shares the everyday “miracles” or, as *A Course in Miracles* says, the “shifts in our perception” that are constantly taking place in our lives to remind us of our unity and love. We invite readers to share their “miracles” with us.

## Spirit Connections

by Helen Bonner ■

After the shooting of the Arizona Congresswoman, I asked Holy Spirit what responsibility we have for the

wounding or killing of exceptionally caring leaders like Ms. Giffords, the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, and others. Should we crack down on guns, the mentally



Helen Bonner

ill, or hateful political rhetoric, possibly creating more problems? As I listened for an answer, a very old memory surfaced.

Home alone one snowy Minnesota night, I turned on *60 Minutes*, a program I seldom watched. A distraught mother was traveling the country, telling how her trusting daughter was murdered after her car stalled on a lonely road, her body left floating in a swamp.

The killer was now in prison and the mother was demanding the death penalty. Watching the photos of the lovely girl, I cried deep, wrenching sobs that tore me apart, long after the program was over. Why? In my lifetime, I had heard hundreds of such stories, but never reacted so strongly.

A few months later, my *A Course in Miracles* group was focusing on the

Course's difficult concept of forgiveness, most of us, including me, feeling that some acts are simply unforgivable. By coincidence we had a visitor from the Twin Cities at that meeting. "You need to hear this," she said, handing me a tape. When I turned on the tape player I recognized the voice of the same woman I had seen on

*60 Minutes*, telling the rest of her story. Here it is:

"When I got home from my nationwide tour, my husband sat me down. You had two daughters, he said. Our youngest lost her sister, and now she's lost you. I quit the road trips and tended my family, but on sleepless nights, I asked myself if anyone in the world could suffer as I was suffering. Then I thought of the killer's mother. I found her, a woman whose only son, in the throes of drugs, had raped and murdered my daughter. 'If you would see him,' she pleaded with me, 'you would know he is not the monster you think.' Reluctantly I went with her to the prison, where I saw a broken man just waiting for the death sentence to stop the memory of what he'd done. We

three cried together."

"One night shortly after that incident," the mother's voice softens in awe, "I was awakened by my deceased daughter, standing at the foot of my bed. 'Mother, that is why I came; to teach you forgiveness.'"

The tape clicked off. Again, I cried.

Martin Luther King wrote that we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality — whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly — this is the

interrelated structure of reality, he said. Quantum physics says our thoughts, words and feelings are energy, interrelating on a constantly shifting force field. Marianne Williamson in her book *A Return to Love* says, "Emotional energy has got to go somewhere: turned inward it

becomes our personal hell; projected outward, it becomes our collective hell."

With Giffords' near assassination, some want more laws, but laws have never stopped us from killing one another out of fear, hatred or insanity. So what can we do? Forgive. But before forgiveness can happen, we need to give up the idea that we are separate — separate from the troubled, from the poor, from those we think are not like us.

I know now I am not separate from the mother on *60 Minutes*. I know the power of that mother's experience reached me, over immeasurable time and space, touched me and changed me. I believe the Course's ancient teachings — We are all one. Whatever we do to others, we do to ourselves. Whatever the question, love is the answer. Whatever is not love is fear. Forgiveness. Compassion. Empathy. □

**“A distraught mother was traveling the country, telling how her trusting daughter was murdered after her car stalled on a lonely road, her body left floating in a swamp.”**

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Helen Bonner is the author of three books, all influenced by the Course: *Laid Daughter*, *First Love Last*, and *Cry Dance*. Her e-mail is [hbonron@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hbonron@sbcglobal.net) and website [www.hbonnerbooks.com](http://www.hbonnerbooks.com)

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## The Strength of A Course in Miracles

by Larry Glenz, New York

It has been two months since my 27-year-old son, Kevin, died of a heroin overdose. My experience of this has been strongly affected by my beliefs acquired from my 16-year study of *A Course in Miracles*. What value would all that mind training have if it did not positively affect me at the toughest times of life? Never before have the principles of this spiritual thought system been more comforting. I feel a strength within me that would otherwise seem unimaginable.



Larry Glenz

Kevin wasn't always a heroin addict; in fact, he was quite the All-American boy. And together, we were an admirable picture of father and son. I was the local high school history teacher/football, wrestling, lacrosse coach; Kevin was a very successful student athlete in the same school. Both of us received many accolades, particularly for our roles in athletics. To the great pride of our school and community, we won two New York State lacrosse championships (lacrosse is the most popular game on Long Island). Kevin went on to earn a scholarship to the University of Massachusetts and achieved impressive results as a player.

Handsome, athletic, and charming — Kevin should have had the world at his feet. But toward the end of his college career, he picked up a dangerous opiate habit — starting with oxycontin and progressing into heroin. Thus began a seven-year effort of rehabilitation and recovery. There were many inpatient and

outpatient rehabs, Twelve Step programs, addiction counselors and psychologists, AA and NA meetings — and, unfortunately, just as many relapses.

In his last effort at a clean and sober life, Kevin moved to Iowa to go to another 28-day recovery program and live with his cousin in a drug-free environment. It was a fresh start in the attempt to avoid the many “triggers” that preceded his relapses in New York. While clean and sober, he found his beautiful Iowa girlfriend, Melanie. And as God would have it, she quickly became pregnant with his child.

Kevin relapsed again about half way through Melanie's pregnancy. Then another effort at rehab and recovery failed.

He died from an overdose of heroin only two months after his daughter, Olivia, was born. The shock to all our family, friends, and community is understandably enormous. It has been only two months now since Kevin passed.

The following *A Course in Miracles* beliefs sustain me during this difficult time.

First, in this story of Kevin, only the love was real. The story of the heroin addict was an illusion

— a projection of my own fear based thoughts. That story was never the truth. The powerful love we shared was real — the only part of that story that was.

Second, there is no death. The Spirit is eternal; it was never born and cannot die. We are all at Home in the Oneness of our Creator — but we are dreaming of exile. Awakening from that dream is our only function here.

Forgiving Kevin is not difficult with a firm belief in these principles. Kevin was an innocent, guiltless, Child of God. His story of the horror of heroin addiction and death was never true. Therefore, I can forgive him — and forgive myself for my projection of my own unconscious guilt that caused the body's eyes to make that false image.

I still cry at times. I still feel terribly sad and wonder about all sorts of things. But it doesn't last too long. And I can hear Kevin saying to me, “You know better, Dad.” And I do. I really do. I have Kevin's love locked inside my heart. When I turn to Holy Spirit, I feel Kevin's powerful love. I have his help to recognize whether I am choosing to hold the hand of the ego or the Holy Spirit in any situation. And I feel gratitude for feeling his powerful love at this, otherwise, difficult time.

“Kevin wasn't always a heroin addict; in fact, he was quite the All-American boy. And together, we were an admirable picture of father and son.”

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steppingstone to Heaven.

*“So fearful is the dream, so seeming real, he could not waken to reality without the sweat of terror and a scream of mortal fear, unless a gentler dream preceded his awaking, and allowed his calmer mind to welcome, not to fear, the Voice that calls with love to waken him; a gentler dream, in which his suffering was healed and where his brother was his friend.*

*God willed he waken gently and with joy, and gave him means to waken without fear.” (T584)*

I remember having a dream that brought this idea home. In my dream, my husband and I were to meet our friend Paul in New York City at a theater on Broadway. Our friend had performed on Broadway and always has the best stories to share. We were both so excited to see him and hear about his latest escapades. Suddenly, I realized that I didn't have my shoes on, and I knew they were inside the locked theater. My husband found a way in and said he would go and get my shoes. So, I stood shoeless outside for quite a while as my anger grew. I knew my husband had forgotten about me and was busy talking and laughing with our friend. As there is really no logic to our dreams, all of a sudden the locked doors to the theater were unlocked. I walked in and found my husband, shoes in hand, standing there talking and laughing just as I expected. I was so mad! “How could you forget me — didn't you think!” I exclaimed. And, then I woke up, but I was still angry.

My husband was already up making coffee downstairs. I could hear him happily humming away. “He is so uncaring,” I thought. I walked downstairs and just looked at him.

“What?” he asked.

“What!” I said. “I'll tell you what! You left me outside that theater with no shoes while you went inside to have fun!” As those words left my mouth I knew how

silly they sounded, but I didn't care. The anger was still so real to me.

I went on to tell him the whole dream. After all my ranting, he looked at me with confusion on his compassionate face and said, “But, sweetie, it was just a dream.”

He was right. It was just a dream, but it was a dream that seemed so real that I felt justified to carry my anger with me into waking.

*You are the dreamer of the world of dreams. No other cause it has, nor ever will. Nothing more fearful than an idle dream has*

*terrified God's Son, and made him think that he has lost his innocence, denied his Father, and made war upon himself. (T584)*

*A Course in Miracles* tells us that we are as God created us. That is our true essence and yet we often see little reason to justify that in this world. War, starvation and even the slightest acts of anger toward each other make us feel less than Christ-like. But, our heaven-

ly inheritance is not dependent upon anything we have done or not done, but solely upon who our Creator is. We are part of our Father's DNA, so to speak. We cannot escape that, but we can act unlike Him. If we act like unruly children, does this mean that we have really separated from Him? In action, perhaps; but in truth, no. So here we are. We are children of infinite love experiencing a finite, depressing existence. This experience can make us feel limited, lost and alone, but it cannot change the reality that we are complete, loved and safe.

*You are at home in God, dreaming of exile but perfectly capable of awakening to reality. Is it your decision to do so? (T182)*

We are all simply dreaming. And, we can awaken. Sounds simple, but is it? I clearly knew my dream was a dream, but I still was angry with my husband. I could even justify my anger; my thinking made the dream real to me whether or not it was real. It was a dream that, if I let it, masked the reality of my husband and myself. It did not change our reality, but it did distract me from that awareness. What helped me let go of my desire to stay in

the anger of the dream was my husband's willingness to listen, to join with me in understanding. He didn't get mad for being unjustly accused. He simply listened and reminded me it was a dream. He didn't dismiss my feelings; he loved me through them. And, that helped me forgive him — not for what he had done but for what I *thought* he had done.

We are told that the function of the Holy Spirit is to help us look at what we think is happening in our lives (our dreams that obscure our reality), then look through those dreams to the truth. According to the Course, that is forgiveness. Forgiveness is a willingness to stop the insanity that we think is real and allow the Holy Spirit to show us what is really going on. One of my favorite passages on forgiveness is in lesson 134. It says,

*Forgiveness is the only thing that stands for truth in the illusions of the world. It sees their nothingness, and looks straight through the thousand forms in which they may appear. It looks on lies, but it is not deceived. It does not heed the self-accusing shrieks of sinners mad with guilt. It looks on them with quiet eyes, and merely says to them, “My brother, what you think is not the truth.”*

What is the world showing you? Are you experiencing the peace, love and joy that you were created to extend? Or are you stuck in a nightmare of anger, fear, depression, frustration and judgment? We are in a nightmare, but we can begin to awaken to truth as we let forgiveness rest on our minds and listen as it gently whispers, “What you think is happening in this situation or in that experience with another, is not the truth.” Allow God's love to gently awaken you to a new vision, a new experience of the world and yourself. Come on, let's wake up together. This dream is no substitute for the real thing! □

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## \*\*\*\*\* Forgiving...

Continued from Page 1

them. If they persist in making the effort to forgive, they often experience a breakthrough and feel a great weight lifted from their hearts. Yet now a common mistake can occur.

Knowing for certain that they have forgiven the individual in question, they assume that their work is done. But forgiveness is like weeding a garden, and although the garden may never become as overgrown as it once was, it does not remain weed free. And if out of false confidence it is never weeded again, it can become so smothered and entangled in weeds that it will appear destroyed. In this way many devout people forsake their ability to forgive. And without the recognition that as long as we are here we never outgrow our need to forgive, we may lose sight of the true goal, which is not to appear spiritually superior, but, instead, to

“*We know that we are ordinary and equal and just as vulnerable to ego temptations as anyone else.*”

awaken completely to our oneness with each other and with God.

As we continue our spiritual efforts and truly reach higher levels of learning, rather than needing to forgive less, our need to forgive grows greater and eventually becomes like breathing. We are acutely aware of the call to compare and judge that comes from all corners of the day. We are “humble before our God” and do not

assume that we have special powers to resist the lure of separateness. We know that we are ordinary and equal and just as vulnerable to ego temptations as anyone else. In fact, if we grow in awareness, we see that accompanying the experience of love and oneness is an increased, not a decreased, susceptibility to the darker impulses within the people we encounter. Oneness is a two-way street, and as we open our hearts, we also become more sensitive to pain, anger, sadness, depression, cynicism, and so on. This protects us from hurting the people around us — because if we do, we immediately feel the hurt — but it also increases our need to release, continu-

ously and systematically, the mental toxins we absorb.

Many people on a spiritual path are surprised to discover that awareness of the Divine does not protect them from awareness of the more destructive attributes of the world. Naturally, if steps can be taken to lessen our encounters with those individuals who call to our particular ego, they should be taken. But no matter how we structure our lives, we are still surrounded by little cruelties and small betrayals and still aware of the plight of so many others caught in tragedy.

Does this mean that we are powerless, doomed to depression and sadness? Of course not. Only if out of arrogance we deny that we hold each other in our hearts and that the possibility for spiritual transformation and healing are always present can we stay mired in gloom. But if we are humble, if we strive for equality, if we take responsibility for our weaknesses, then the Divine gradually begins to dominate our experience. We see the mistakes clearly that we and other people make, but now we see their purity and holy destiny as well. And like a mother who picks up and hugs her fallen child, we feel God’s sweet embrace, and know that all is well. □

## \*\*\*\*\* The Power of Surrender

Continued from Page 3

Fear-Based Thinking during your day. *My way has fear and won’t work well, I humbly ask for new direction and care in my life.*

- **Listen** with the full intent to hear, with a willingness to let go of your preconceived ideas about all matters, outcome, and what you think you want. *In order to listen in each moment*

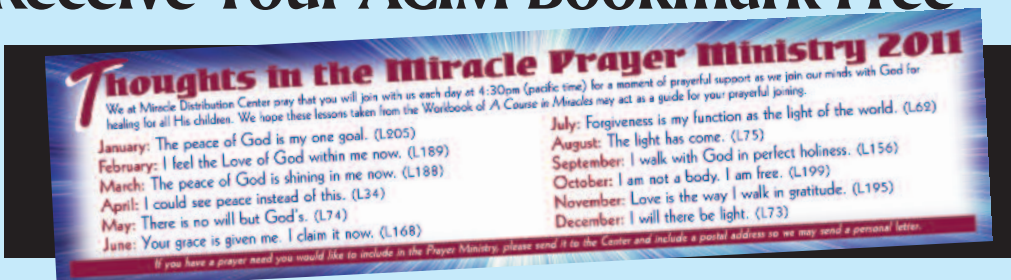
*to my inner wisdom rather than fear, I am willing to let go of what I have thought I wanted and needed.*

- **Trust** that you can utilize this time in your life as an opportunity to learn the lessons God is teaching. *I trust that each and every day during any challenge there is a lesson for me, an opportunity to learn more of love and compassion, and of how to extend understanding and empathy.*
- **Follow** the guidance of your inner wisdom, being certain that it will bring you peace and healing. Have the

*courage to take action in your life when guided to do so, and to be still when guided to do so. I commit to putting my inner guidance into action in my life through Love. These actions are, in the most literal sense, labors of love. Stillness can be an action as well.*

- **Surrender** by being present with “what is” while resting in the grace of God. *I surrender to the present moment and find and share Love’s tenderness.* □

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## A Lesson and a Blessing

by Pamela Whitman ■

A year ago, I had the privilege of performing as an opening act for Marianne Williamson. This was the

first time that Roadie Jim had ever worked for me. He came along to help me with my sound equipment. On the drive to the event, I told him a



Pamela Whitman

story that I had just heard about bamboo. When a farmer cultivates bamboo, he must nurture the little plant for years with no visible results. Finally and suddenly the stalk shoots up and can grow up to eight feet in one year. During all of the early years that the farmer invests in cultivating the small plant, the bamboo has been developing the profound root system necessary to sustain the plant’s rapid,

eventual growth. Once the plant does become established, bamboo can take over the yard. I loved the imagery. Jim remarked that he had a friend in Florida who operates the *Bamboo Arts Center*. The center presents spiritual events

and concerts. He arranged for me to play a show there, and just like bamboo it multiplied into a three-week tour.

The first day of the tour we, (and by that I mean Jim) drove for seven hours until we reached North Carolina. We wanted to stop somewhere before dark and knew that there would be one stopover before the first show in Wilmington, North Carolina. I went online and found a last minute deal through an internet booking agency and booked two rooms, reserving

them with my credit card. I was so pleased with myself for having the internet, GPS and all of the mobile office arrangements. This was going to be easy.

We pulled up to the hotel and the ladies behind the counter gave us one key — one. I explained that no, I had reserved two rooms and that I had paid for them in advance with arrangements for nonsmoking and first floor for the equipment load-in. I told the ladies all about my self-initiated plan. *A Course in Miracles* tells us, “A healed mind does not plan. It carries out the plans that it receives through listening to wisdom that is not its own. It waits until it has been taught what should be done, and then proceeds to do it. It does not depend upon itself for anything except its adequacy to fulfill the plans assigned to it. It is secure in certainty that obstacles can not impede its progress to accomplishment of any goal that serves the greater plan established for the good of everyone.”

“We were in a room full of others who were also cranky and trying to figure out who was guilty.”

The ladies behind the desk were not impressed with my planning. In this lobby we met several other parties of past customers to this same establishment who had used this same online booking agency. Apparently, the internet

company was taking the money for two rooms and sending the money to the hotel for one. The hotel was refusing to let the customers into the second room unless they paid a second time. It went quickly downhill from there. We were tired, hungry and at this point — CRANKY. We were in a room full of others who were also cranky and trying to figure out who was guilty. I imagined that the credit card company could help me. We would simply go elsewhere. I was surprised that they were of no help. I had paid for those two rooms and that was final. I was being

given one room. Nobody was budging. Someone was obviously guilty. When the credit card company would not help, I was tired enough to entertain the idea of calling the police...but there was a military man there having the same exact problem. I needed to appeal to some HIGHER AUTHORITY...

That’s when I remembered there is one answer to all of our perceived problems. I got back into the car and prayed. Every morning I pray for everyone in the world. Therefore, the people behind the counter at the hotel desk were my Beloveds, for whom I pray every day. The internet book agency itself was an illusion, but the PEOPLE who own it, operate it and work there are my Beloveds, for whom I pray every day. I held them in my field of prayer, blessing them for the second time that day. *A Course in Miracles* tells us to see no strangers, only dearly loved and loving friends.

Jim came back in the car and I told him what I had just remembered. He went back into the hotel with a fresh mind. I tried the internet booking agency again, and this time I remained really calm. I got a different person on the line. I was a different person on the line — I was as God created me. I explained that I was on a tour for world peace and that it was the first day; that we had driven for seven hours and that we were doing this for love. I explained that we were doing this on faith and were not in a position to be double billed, that we could not start our tour on that foot. I asked her to help me. I was not a whiny, victim — simply calmly stating Truth. She said she would see what she could do and put me on hold. While on hold I put the situation into the hands of the Holy Spirit. I had remembered my true Higher Authority.

Flutist Pamela Whitman ([www.pamelawhitman.com](http://www.pamelawhitman.com)) performs classical, world and original meditation music on a collection of rare flutes from around the globe, incorporating multiple creative mediums and genres. Her ACIM radio program *The Miracle Revolution* can be downloaded from <http://unity.fm/program/MiracleRevolution>

Thoughts for:

**May:** "There is no will but God's." (L74)

**June:** "Your grace is given me. I claim it now."  
(L168)

**July:** "Forgiveness is my function as the light  
of the world." (L62)

“  
*But sometimes our  
assignment is not what or  
where we think it will be...  
We are all teaching, all the  
time. Our full time job is to  
love and we are to fully love  
the people that we interact  
with in all  
aspects of our lives.*

”

Jim came out to the car with one of the ladies from the hotel and said, "First of all, here is the key to the second room. But you have to get out of the car and stand up." I did. The woman said, "I want to hug you. He told me that you were praying for me." We embraced and blessed one another out loud. I remembered that my *A Course in Miracles* workbook lesson for that day was "Forgiveness is the key to happiness."

That set the tone for the tour. I remembered that sometimes the assignment is our job, which in my case is playing peace concerts. But sometimes our assignment is not what or where we think it will be. I do not know what anything is for. We are all teaching, all the time. Our full time job is to love and we are to fully love the people that we interact with in all aspects of our lives. Our lives are our ministries 24 hours per day. In the words of Stephen Stills, "Love the One you're with."

# Our Journey Together

*"Except for God's teachers there would be little hope of salvation, for the world of sin would seem forever real. God's teachers are not perfect, or they would not be here. Yet it is their mission to become perfect here, and so they teach perfection over and over, in many, many ways, until they have learned it."*

This quote from the *Manual for Teachers of A Course in Miracles* seems to indicate that we have a mission in this world to "teach" or rather demonstrate the truth of God's love over and over in many, many ways until we have learned it. That seems to be a process for most of us. So we all need as much support as we can get!

The Center has been here to help students understand and apply the Course for 33 years now and with your help this will continue. So, we wanted to share with you ways that you can help us continue to serve you.

In addition to regular financial support, many of the Center's friends have also made a statement of their desire to have the message of *A Course in Miracles* continue into the future. Our Legacy Community was created for this purpose. Many people who support our mission say they derive great



satisfaction from their generosity but they are on a fixed income and cannot afford to give more than they already are.

Two of the simplest ways you can leave a legacy is by naming Miracle Distribution Center as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. Another popular way to make your support felt is with a gift annuity. Not only are there an array of tax benefits, but you can also receive steady, secure payments for life, often with higher yields than those you'd receive from other investments.

If you notify the Center of your intent to support our work with a planned gift, you will become of member of our Legacy Community.

Members receive a lifetime subscription to **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER**, are entitled to a **10% discount** from our catalog and also **receive free admittance to any of our events**.

Plus, your support will allow us to be able to use these contributions to keep the message of the Course alive by building an endowment that will help keep this message available for future generations.

Below are easy ways that you can include the Center in your planned giving. If you have any questions, please call **Darin Zakich** at Miracle Distribution Center, he will be happy to be truly helpful.

## How do I include the Center in my Will or Living Trust?

Add this wording to your Will or Living Trust...

*"I give, devise and bequeath to Miracle Distribution Center, a California 501(c)(3) corporation with offices located in Anaheim, California, the sum of \$(specify amount), to be used for its general purposes as determined by its Board of Directors."*



## How do I Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity benefits both you and the Center. Your gift provides an immediate tax deduction and then pays you a fixed income for the rest of your life, part of which may be tax deductible as well. Annuity rates are based on your age, with annuity payments as high as 9.5% for more senior persons.

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- Lee Jampolsky explains "The Power of Surrender"
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