

If you appreciate this magazine (and our many other projects and services), we hope you will take a moment to make a contribution.

Without your assistance, *The Holy Encounter*, and our Center itself, will not be here to help.

Your gift supports all of Miracle Distribution Center's services for *A Course in Miracles* students . . . and for U.S. residents, it's tax-deductible.

[Click to Contribute Now](#)

[Receive the printed version](#)

then continue to the magazine . . .

The HOLY ENCOUNTER



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017
A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

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



I'm Rubber, You're Glue

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff



When our son Jeffrey was in the fourth grade, I remember talking to him about life on his elementary school playground. I was curious if things had changed from my experience so many years ago. Some aspects seemed to be the same, but the way kids were taught to handle conflict was different. It is now called a "peaceful playground." If kids get into conflict they are supposed to "walk, talk, or rock" to resolve things. That means you walk away, talk it out, or play "rock, paper, scissors" to find a winner. It seemed to work pretty well at his school, but that was because everyone was of the same mindset.

Kids today are taught (at least at our school) the importance of a peaceful resolution to problems, and that kindness and courtesy to one another should be the standard and not the exception. It sounds pretty reminiscent of "do unto others what you would have them do unto you."

When I was a kid, the playground was a very different place. We had our own way of solving problems; and even though it wasn't as creative as today's playground concept, it was a start. I often heard kids say, "I'm rubber, you're glue. Everything you say bounces off of me and sticks onto you!" When you think about it, that is a

very deep, spiritual truth. What we do or say to another really "sticks" to us, not to them, and can only affect them if they decide to participate in the experience.

In *A Course in Miracles* we read:
"The cost of giving is receiving. Either it is a penalty from which you suffer, or the happy purchase of a treasure to hold dear." (T-14.III.5)



"It is now called a 'peaceful playground'. If kids get into a conflict they are supposed to 'walk, talk, or rock' to resolve things."

When we bless or offer kindness to another, we feel good: "a treasure to hold dear." We've all experienced this, but we might not fully under-

stand how our attack thoughts or judgments towards another really hurt us. When we attack or condemn another, however, we do not escape the experience. Even if we feel our attack is justified in our minds, we are never at peace. We keep reliving how we handled it and how

Continued on page 12

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.

Make this Year Different...

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

A Course in Miracles invites us to "make this year different by making it all the same." It asks us to let all our relationships be made holy for us. This is its advice on how to make the year different from all our others: to consistently allow the Holy Spirit to heal our relationships for us.

You may think: "What are you talking about? All my relationships are just fine." But let's remember, we wouldn't be here if we were truly healed. We can all benefit by allowing the Holy Spirit into our minds and letting Him do the work.

So this year instead of resisting healing by saying I can't do it ... it's too hard ... I'm not spiritual enough ... there's nothing to heal ... let's just invite Him in. Let's step back from what we think we know and become comfortable with the presence of God, the presence of love that only wants our happiness and healing.

Most of the time we don't know why we are unhappy, depressed, or anxious. Don't let that stop you from inviting in the Holy Spirit's presence. He knows how to help even if you don't. Your understanding is not necessary for Him to work; only your willingness is.

I remember once going to a chiropractor for a backache. I was sure I knew where the problem was; it was

Continued on page 11

What's Happening...with the Course and the Center

● Estonian Edition

Published – Late last year the Foundation for Inner Peace, publisher of *A Course in Miracles*, announced the completion of the Estonian edition of the Course. This new translation joins twenty-five other languages into which the Course has been published. Now more than ninety percent of the world's population can read the Course in their native language.



● **ACIM Retreat in February** – “Thank you Beverly and team and all the beautiful Children of God who attended the retreat for giving me the opportunity to touch a piece of Heaven.” This is how Debra Coker, who joined us from Trinidad, felt about her retreat experience in 2015. That was our first retreat at the beautiful **RW Ranch** in Lucerne Valley, California and it was met with rave reviews for the transformative

experience and incredible facility and location! So, we are thrilled to present the next **Holy Encounter Retreat**, on **February 17-19, 2017**. Please join us for this intensive experience of *A Course in Miracles* with Beverly Hutchinson McNeff through lectures, guided experiences, intimate sharing times, music and so much more. Visit our website to see all the details and hear what others have said about this inspiring retreat. www.miraclecenter.org and click on “Events” in the menu bar.



● **“I have watched many of Beverly’s videos clips. That is how I found MDC and then found out about the subscription to the full video archive. Beverly does a fantastic job!”** says Sheila Q. from Virginia. Each week through MDC’s Live Streaming meetings, Beverly explores the Course and how we can use it to transform our lives. Visit our website to watch sample video clips and also to experience our free weekly live stream. Better yet, become a subscriber to watch the meetings on-demand, receive an audio recording each week, and have access to the video archives. Get the details at miraclecenter.org by clicking on “Services” in the menu bar.

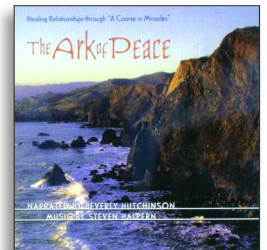
● **Giving a truly meaningful Gift** Here’s what many students of the Course have done: Given a tax-deductible donation to MDC in someone’s honor or memory. If you would like to give in such a way, send your donation and request, and we will

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 honor of...** Connie Daley for her birthday from her husband, Mike in California. **Gifts in memory of...** Marlene Zerger from her dear friend Maggie Batts in Michigan.Frank Stevens for the Frank

Stevens Memorial Fund from Alice Armstrong in Hawaii and Vicie Nowland in Kentucky... **Andy Perry** from his North Carolina ACIM group.

● **The Ark of Peace was released thirty years ago**, in 1987, by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff and Steven Halpern. This recording’s calming, synthesized musical score forms the background for passages on relationships from *A Course in Miracles*. Now, in celebration of its thirtieth anniversary, we are offering the CD and mp3 versions at **50% off**. That’s only **\$5** for the **CD** and **\$4** for the **mp3**! Visit our online store at miraclecenter.org to listen to a sample from this powerful recording.



● **“I could see peace instead of this.”** This early lesson (#34) in the Course shares the power of peace. It’s not about denying our problems that we will find peace, but by looking clearly at the challenges of life and not being distracted by their illusive influence. The promise of peace to prevail and transcend the limitations of the world is inevitable for, in truth, only peace possible because that is the Will of God. It’s time we join with our real power instead of our diminishing thinking. We invite you to unite with us daily in prayerful thought for yourself, loved ones, and those in the Miracle Prayer Ministry. Every day at 4:30pm (Pacific Time), we invite you to stop and join us. The gift you give is the gift you will receive!

Thoughts for:

January: *God goes with me wherever I go.* (Lesson 41)

February: *I feel the Love of God within me now.* (Lesson 189)

March: *Into His Presence would I enter now.* (Lesson 157)

Thoughts in the Miracle Prayer Ministry 2017

Each day at 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Time) we stop for a moment of prayer as we join our minds with God for the healing of all His children. We hope these lessons from the Workbook of *A Course in Miracles* will serve as a guide for your prayerful joining.

January: God goes with me wherever I go. (L41)	July: I am as God created me. (L110)
February: I feel the Love of God within me now. (L189)	August: I walk with God in perfect holiness. (L156)
March: Into His Presence would I enter now. (L157)	September: I rest in God. (L109)
April: God is the strength in which I trust. (L47)	October: I am one Self, united with my Creator. (L95)
May: I am the light of the world. (L61)	November: God’s peace and joy are mine. (L105)
June: Forgiveness is my function as the light of the world. (L62)	December: God goes with me wherever I go. (L41)

If you have a prayer request, please send it to: prayer@miraclecenter.org. Include a postal address for a personal response.

It’s Here!

Request your **free**, full-color bookmark today which lists all

the thoughts in the prayer ministry for 2017.

call **1-800-359-ACIM(2246)** or at miraclecenter.org



Change Your Mind Change Your Life

Perfect Love Casts Out All Fear

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

About a week ago, we were doing a lesson from *A Course in Miracles* titled, "Perfect love casts out all fear." It seemed to us that, if we were doing this lesson properly, we would be peaceful, happy, joy-filled, and living only in the present. The idea became so important that we both committed to regularly remind each other of this lesson for the next number of days.

To us, this lesson meant we could be totally united with the Consciousness of God and that love could be our only reality. It meant we could be detached from the ego world as well as the physical one, and that all form – including our bodies – would no longer be our focus.

In this God Consciousness, there would be no blame and no judgments or interpretations and a complete absence of fear and conflict. There is only pure joy, only light and no darkness, no past or future. There is no pain or illness and no illusion of linear time where we become fearful or angry about things in the past or thoughts of the future.

There is joy and peace and at-one-ment and a never-changing certainty that what we are is the essence of love. Living in a reality where there is no form, there is an unchangeable sense of knowing who we are and what our function is. In a sense, there are no attachments or special relationships, since there is no longer the existence of bodies and personalities. There is a consciousness of knowing that is beyond any kind of change or beyond any kind of belief.

This God Consciousness of creating a holy relationship over thirty-five years is something we continue to strive to experience daily, surrendering to the mystery that is beyond our intellectual comprehension while we are in these bodies and

personalities.

Most of the time we are not there with what we have just described. The distractions of daily doings capture our conscious attention and we are, like most other folks, once again caught in the illusions that make up the world and perceive it as 'real.' The difference now, however, is that our intention to choose once again the

"Today, I feel no sense of loss with my vision, because I have experienced deeply that real vision is spiritual vision that does not change..."

direction of our compass is at the forefront of our lives. And this choosing really does make the difference!

As many of you know, I (Jerry) have had glaucoma for over thirty years, and it's become much more severe in the past ten. Just this past year, I contracted a very serious infection in my left eye, which resulted in a major emergency surgery at UCSF. The doctors had to open the eyeball and clear out all the infection. This necessary operation has resulted in my left eye becoming totally blind which, amongst other things, deletes what was left of any

depth perception I had.

Shortly thereafter, and when it was safe for me to travel, we went to San Jose del Cabo in Mexico, where we can really relax in retreat, and I could have the opportunity to recuperate from the surgery. We stayed in a place where we do not know anyone, and, therefore, we have neither a social schedule nor a work one with meetings and conference calls, etc. As a result, we discovered a sense of timelessness throughout the day. We had more time to meditate, to devote to our relationship, and to focus on strengthening our commitment to be the Will of God.

I continue to not feel like a victim of my eyes, the infection, and the world around me. Today, I feel no sense of loss with my vision, because I have experienced deeply that real vision is spiritual vision that does not change; true vision is seeing no form, and seeing only light, love, and innocence in ourselves and everyone else. We do not need physical eyes to accomplish this.

During this retreat in Mexico, where Diane as always had been such a wonderful and powerful partner, we both focused on becoming miracle-minded. Many years ago, when I (Jerry) was having trouble with all the definitions of miracles in *A Course in Miracles*, I asked Bill Thetford to give me

Continued on page 5



Diane V. Cirincione, Ph.D.

Transformation through Practical Spirituality

"Love is always more powerful than fear"

Drawing on four decades of experience and education, I offer therapeutic support with an *A Course in Miracles* orientation in the area of interpersonal relationships, couples and family dynamics, marriage, divorce, forgiveness, gender issues, life choices, managing change, worry, stress, fear, anxiety, illness, caregiving, loss and grief, death and dying.

Private sessions are one hour and conducted by phone from anywhere in the world.

If you are guided that we might work together, please go to
www.DianeCirincione.com call me directly at 415-725-1622.

Gerald Jampolsky, M.D. and Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, Ph.D., international lecturers and bestselling authors, share their insights and experiences in applying the principles of *A Course in Miracles* in our world. Diane's therapeutic counseling practice specializes in applying ACIM to all aspects and situations in life. Their books are available at www.miraclecenter.org



Recognizing Spirit Who You Are

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.

Inspirational Psychology on Identity

I have nothing new to say, nothing new to have you discover, no secret to tell you about. I am here only to do my best to share the ancient truth about love, about who we are, about whom we live among, that is whispered to each of us beyond time. Perhaps there are a few more minds ready to listen and hearts ripe to hear what is unchanging — that we are all deeply and intimately connected, and we are each deserving of the tenderness of Love.

Each time I have presented a new book or idea to a publisher, someone wants to know how it is new, how it is different than what has been written before on the subject, how it is groundbreaking, or at least unique. My answer may or may not encourage you to read on, but it is the truth: I have nothing new to say.

I suppose the practical wisdom within this simple statement is not the greatest selling point in today's world that is full of the latest and greatest, the new and improved, the secret to love and riches. Yet, most arguments or conflicts can be ended once we realize that there is nothing to prove, but there are many experiences of love to create and share. It is this universal experience of love that the Course is devoted to.

It is difficult to find meaning and purpose in life if we don't know who we are. Many people believe they know who they are but their identity is linked to their thoughts, what they do, their body, and so on — in other words, the ego. In order to move beyond the ego and conditioned responses, in contemplative practice I have asked myself many times, "Who am I?" This has been valuable, but until recently not so many times have I asked, "Where do I live?" The latter seems so obvious, of course. I live in a house, in a town, in a state, in a country, and so on. One day it

occurred to me that asking where I live is really a deep facet of asking who I am. We tend to define where we live as the physical world around us, not the state of our consciousness. But what if we begin to transcend our physical environment, political climate, etc. and experience something beyond it all that is beautiful no matter what the environment itself may be?

I experienced this in one of the most difficult environments, when I was in India, nearly forty years ago. Mother Teresa's Missions of Charity were filled with orphans and with the dying, but it was such a beautiful place, a place filled with loving kindness.



Mother Teresa gives comfort to a sick child.

"As Mother Teresa would put it, the Sisters were making something beautiful for God. They knew that love — not the physical environment, political climate, or physical condition of the body — is what determines our true identities."

It was not beautiful in the physical sense of course, quite the contrary, but the feel of the environment by way of the consciousness of the Sisters was radiant and tender. There was something tangible there, a love that was not of this physical world. As Mother Teresa would put it, the Sisters were making something beautiful for God. They knew that love — not the physical environment, political climate, or physical condition of the body — is what determines our true identities.

I have experienced this (and probably most of us have, if we really think about it)

as moments where we are so focused on love that we are able to transcend our physical experience and the conditions of that experience. Such beauty.

This is where we truly live, where we each truly reside. We live in love. We live in the beauty of a tender heart. We live in pure love and compassion. The problem, of course, is that we don't consistently realize this. Or, more accurately put, we believe we are something other than love.

The remedy for this is to not think of how to become more loving, but rather to think about how to return to love. We start by acknowledging first that there

are no neutral thoughts, and second, by consciously choosing to be giving and receiving of love, including to ourselves.

There are No Neutral Thoughts

Neutral thoughts are impossible. The greatest responsibility you can ever take is to see and claim the fact that all thoughts have an effect. The most imprisoning thought you can have is "I am my thoughts." The most freeing thought you can have is "I am something more than this thought."

Now I would like to tell you something that you may not like. It is up to you to determine if it is true or not: *It is quite possible that a very large percentage of your thinking is repetitive, compulsive, faulty, and useless. Further, your thinking is probably often fear-based and negative, and because of this it is harmful.*

I tell you this for one reason only; I am an advocate for the love, wisdom, and stillness that is within you, that the Course teaches is our true identity. Even those

who do not consider themselves to be on any sort of a spiritual path would not argue with the effect of attitudes on our lives and on other people. Most of us have experienced how challenging it can be when someone around us is always negative, anxious, untrusting, or fearful. Despite all of this evidence of the strong effects of thought, most people act as though our thoughts don't have any power or energy in themselves, that they don't really matter to the bigger picture. They concern themselves more with the little details of getting a task done than with the attitude they hold while they are accomplishing whatever they are doing.

In a variety of ways, the Course tells us "There are no neutral thoughts." Let's take a closer look at this statement in order to learn how to look more deeply into what this idea of neutrality is. Every thought takes a role, becoming an advocate for either love or fear. Every thought has a distinctive quality, a hue set ablaze upon the horizon of your mind, a brush stroke of strong color to every moment we live, to every life we touch. Each thought has a charge, an energy we send into the world. Every thought has motion, a momentum that moves us through the world, determining what we see and how we respond.

Inspirational Psychology, like the Course, stresses that we are really always reacting to our *perception* of a situation, not the situation itself. Your thoughts, at this moment, are either leading you astray into worry, obsession, and fear, or are leading you home to love, freedom, and safety. There is no in-between on this.

One needs to be careful not to use the fact that our thoughts have power as a reason to identify them as who we are. Be careful not to think, "My thoughts are not without effects and are therefore powerful," and then add, "my thoughts are who I am and I am powerful." Such a statement may sound like a good thing, but it only continues the problem of identifying with the mind and missing the essence of love within our hearts. There are many books and workshops that make this mistake, recognizing the power of the mind and going about creating material wealth and various situations that we think will bring us happiness. A person can manifest a great deal of material wealth with no expanded awareness of love, and that is precisely why there are so many unhappy people with piles of money, and why so many studies have shown that vast increases of monetary wealth do not positively correlate with increased happiness. The solution is not, of course, poverty; rather, it is to focus on bringing a positive intention and energy into everything you do, one that is aligned with love and the betterment of the world.

During this time we live in, it is important to listen to a deeper wisdom in the space that is not thought. Claim happily today that as you see the power of your thoughts, you can also see the errors in your thinking, and, more importantly, that you are not your thinking at all! Ask yourself a riddle: What is the most powerful of all thoughts toward liberation from suffering? Answer: That you are not your thoughts.

Perfect Love...

Continued from page 3

a simple definition of a miracle. He thought for a moment and then said, "A miracle is a shift in perception that removes the blocks to the awareness of Love's Presence in our lives."

It has been fascinating that during this spiritual retreat some unhealed relationships came into our awareness, and we experienced the healing of these relationships. For us, this shift in our perceptions of others that removed the blocks to the awareness of Love's Presence in our lives, was nothing short of miraculous. What seemed to be ongoing and irresolvable shifted and changed as we shifted and changed our beliefs from *healing takes time* to *healing can happen in an instant*. Every time we heal our minds even a little bit, we heal ourselves and the world heals with us. Every time we choose love, it helps cast out our fear.

"What seemed to be ongoing and irresolvable shifted and changed as we shifted and changed our beliefs..."

In the past, I (Jerry) would have been so loaded with shame and guilt and a belief that I deserved to suffer, that to fully experience myself as innocent in the present would have been difficult to maintain. Somehow, the depth of our at-one-ment with God and with ourselves as innocent has become part of our sense of knowing. As previously indicated, we're certainly not saying that we are there all the time. What we are saying is that with our intentionality, we experience that consciousness more frequently and with more consistency.

We are feeling more joy, happiness, and light than we ever have had in previous decades. And the ego world of form, which we made up to avoid our oneness with God, is much less prevalent. Also, we have become much more patient beyond anything we have previously experienced, allowing us to live more consciously in the present.

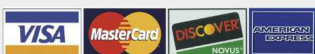
And, interestingly enough, I (Jerry) only think of myself as blind when I am making judgments.

Available from the Center

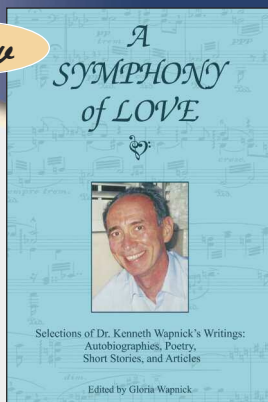
A Symphony of Love

Edited by Gloria Wapnick

Contains a collection of previously unpublished writings by Dr. Kenneth Wapnick. Two included autobiographies were written at different times in his life, the first requested by Helen Schucman, and the second by his wife, Gloria. The book also contains poetry, short stories, and articles by Ken.



\$30.00 Plus S&H and CA sales tax



Call **1-800-359-2246** or visit **www.miraclecenter.org** and click on "Store" to see our large selection of books, CD's and other Course related items.



Living the Course in Miracles

by Karen Casey, Ph.D.



I became a student of *A Course in Miracles* in the early eighties, and like many of us, no doubt, I was initially confused and put off by what I then considered the overly complicated way the material was written.

When the Course was first published, Jesus' message was presented in three separate volumes: the text, the workbook and the manual for teachers. One by one I discarded the entire thought-provoking program for changing my mind. It seemed beyond my ability to truly comprehend. And I vaguely doubted the veracity of it. But the books remained on my desk within easy reach, regardless. I guess instinctively I knew the message would eventually get my attention. And it did.

My actual entry into the Course didn't result from those initial attempts to read and understand any of the three books, however. Instead, it came from Gerald Jampolsky's small book, *Love Is Letting Go of Fear*. Before buying my own copy, I asked to glance through the book when I noticed an acquaintance in a 12-step room carrying it to all our meetings. She said its message had become indispensable to her spiritual journey. Even a cursory

look at her book hooked me. In short order, I had purchased my own copy.

The simplicity by which the tenets of the Course were conveyed by Jampolsky convinced me it was time to tackle the actual message that Jesus had so lovingly "spoken" to Helen Schucman, his scribe, a transcription that began in 1965 and continued until 1972.

"Since that first morning when I said, 'Here goes,' I have not looked back. I have never considered giving up my pursuit of a closer connection to the Holy Spirit."

I still can't say His message has always been easy to grasp, but I was determined then, and I remain determined now. I want more peace in my life. I want to be released from fear. I want the guidance I need to always be an expression of love. And I want a practical approach to discovering all three. *A Course in Miracles* offers that practical approach.

Since that first morning when I said,

"Here goes," I have not looked back. I have never considered giving up my pursuit of a closer connection to the Holy Spirit. I'm confident I will never close the door that opened and beckoned my ego to surrender to the inner voice that had, indeed, always been present, and had in fact, always been waiting for my little willingness to say yes.

My life has dramatically changed since that decision was made. The same is quite likely true for all of you reading this, too. And what good fortune we have experienced as the result of such a simple decision. Am I at peace every moment? Certainly not. Am I an expression of love in every encounter? On the contrary. Do I now have a practical way to experience both? I certainly do, and it's guaranteed to result when I make the tiny request: "Help me see this (whatever this is) differently." The moment I utter that request, my world shifts. My mood is changed. My willingness to become who God wants me to be is summoned.

I am so grateful for how my life has changed, and that gratitude brought me to the decision to write my most recent book: *52 Ways to Live the Course in Miracles*. It was a labor of love from beginning to end. In all honesty, all the books I have written were experienced as labors of love. (Some of you have possibly read some of my other books, *Daily Meditations for Practicing the Course*, in particular, which was published in 1995.)

I no longer doubt God pursued me to share the messages that have come through me in all the books. Being a writer was not part of any conscious plan of mine. Quite simply, I was called.

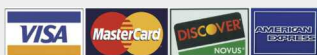
Actually, it's my feeling that each one of us is called to do that which we do in this life, in this illusion, in this classroom that is helping us to finally realize we aren't really here at all. We remain at home in Heaven. The ego has played a dirty trick on us, but our willingness to "stay tuned" to

Available from the Center

52 Ways to Live *A Course in Miracles*

by Karen Casey

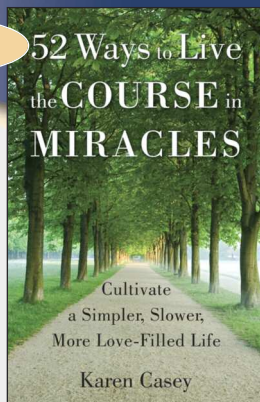
This book takes readers on a journey through simple ideas and affirmations for meditation. Casey not only offers an explanation of the ideas, but also shares her own experiences with them — stumbles and all.



Paperback.
256 pgs.

\$16.95

Plus S&H and CA sales tax



Call **1-800-359-2246** or visit **www.miraclecenter.org**
and click on "Store" to see our large selection of books, CD's and other Course related items.

the Holy Spirit will allow us to experience this classroom with a peaceful heart and a grateful mind.

52 Ways to Live the Course in Miracles has a simple purpose, a premise that is easy to absorb. In this book, as in every one of my books, it has been my intention to be a wayshower to others. I don't pretend to have all the answers. Nor do I think I am all that wise. But I listen intently to my inner guide, and I write that which I hear. Nothing more. Nothing less. And I am persistent. I have made a commitment to living a simpler, more peaceful life and that's really all I hope to show others how to do too.

Each essay in the book has taken a principle that I hold dear and expanded on it based on my own experience with it. I share my struggles to adopt as well as adapt to the principle, and I think that letting others see my own failings gives them the courage to continue trying, as well. It's not about changing our lives in an instant. It's not about doing anything perfectly. Ever. It's about being willing to listen, and then ask to hear the Holy Spirit's guidance yet again. What we need to do or say in the next moment will be gently conveyed. Always.

Those of us who have turned to *A Course in Miracles* as a pathway for peaceful living are truly quite lucky, I think. There is no pressure on us to move through the material with lightning speed. I certainly didn't, but I have read Jesus' entire message multiple times and will reread it many more times before I lay this body aside to Knowingly join, again, the home that has always claimed me.

Could any journey be more inviting? I think not. ✨



The Classroom Called Cancer

by Jon Mundy, Ph.D.

Sometimes the greatest miracles come in the ugliest packages.

On May 7, 2001, a tumor the size of a lemon was removed from my colon along with five cancerous lymph nodes. The doctors were sure there was cancer in other lymph nodes, and possibly other organs. I am still convinced everything is part of a divine plan, even when it doesn't look that way. I'm not saying that things like war and disease are part of God's plan. I'm sure they are part of the ego's plan, and the ego's plan has a built-in implode. When it fails, God's plan automatically takes over. Even "enlightened" beings die. Ramakrishna, Ramana Maharishi, and Ken Wapnick all died from cancer.

An Awakening Experience – The Day Seeking Stopped

Note: The following is written in the present tense because that is the way I experienced it.

I am awake in the hospital bed at four a.m., the morning after the doctor gave me the news that the cancer has spread. The anesthesia has worn off, and I am wide-awake! They wanted to do another colonoscopy and start chemotherapy. To my left, the window curtains are open, and it is dark out. There is a pine tree next to my window, and out past the pines is the hospital parking lot with its lights all-ablaze. A light fog hangs in the night sky making the lights look misty. I lay there in the dark, staring at the night sky thinking, "You could die. You could really die!" Tears come to my eyes, and I am overwhelmed.

What Does Dying Mean?

Maybe I'm going to leave, if so – so what? I'm not afraid of dying – thinking that's the end of things – I know better. During this life, I have accumulated too much evidence to the contrary. I imagine that the loss of the body is going to be an interesting adventure. Dying means letting go of everything – all hopes and dreams. I begin to let go of "good" things and "bad" things. Maybe even whatever it was I am supposed to do with my life, I am not going to get to do. Maybe I did it. Maybe it doesn't matter.

I take a good look at death. I decide

"I am not going to 'beg' God to spare my body. That's not real prayer. That is not saying, 'Thy will be done.' I understand that what is needed is a change of mind."

to give up completely. There might be no other choice. I'm not going to "fight" for my body as people sometimes do in a panicky way when they hear that they have cancer. I am not going to "beg" God to spare my body.

That's not real prayer. That is not saying, "Thy will be done." I understand that what is needed is a change of mind. Either my body is going to survive or not. If it is my time to go – I am going. I still think I have unfinished business to fulfill. Maybe I am wrong. God knows best. I open *A Course in Miracles* and read paragraph 7 from Lesson 189 – "I feel the love of God within me now."

"Simply do this: Be still, and lay aside all thoughts of what you are and what God is; all concepts you have learned about the world; all images you hold

Continued on page 14

Jon is a former university professor and the publisher of *Miracles Magazine*. He is the author of several books based on *A Course in Miracles* including - *Eternal Life* and *A Course in Miracles*.



It's FREE



Each issue of **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** is sent **FREE** to you!

To keep receiving, simply keep in contact with us once a year.

And remember,

your tax-deductible donations help the Center to continue to provide its many free services.

www.miraclecenter.org



Miracle Musings...

The Safety of a Pin

by Paul McNeff



"The best defense, as always, is not to attack another's position, but rather to protect the truth." (T-3.1.2)

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths." (Bible: Proverbs 3:5)*

I am always fascinated by the history behind inventions. Often a fairly simple and uneventful reason brings about some of the most useful ideas, and such is the case of the safety pin. Walter Hunt, an American mechanic, is credited with inventing the safety pin in 1849 simply because he needed money. He owed a friend \$15 and had no way to pay him back, so he decided to invent something, and the safety pin was born! He patented his invention and sold it to a company for \$400. He was able to pay back his debt and pocket the rest. Of course the safety pin went on to make the company millions of dollars, but that's for another story.

The safety pin is a pretty clever and essential invention even in our very high tech world. We still need to pin things up or fasten things together in a pinch, and those safety pins work miracles. But we are finding that the safety pin can also be a symbol of unity and joining on a consciousness level as well.

After the surprising U.S. election results, there is a lot of fear among the immigrant communities in our country. The angry rhetoric towards immigrants, even citizens of this country who don't look like

white America, has caused some very frightening threats to their safety and well being. Although the fate of immigration reform is currently unknown, the people

"We still need to pin things up or fasten things together in a pinch, and those safety pins work miracles. but we are finding that the safety pin can also be a symbol of unity and joining on a consciousness level as well"

who tell me there is no need to worry are white people. Those who are not white-skinned are not so casual about what was said, and they are very afraid, especially children.

As some readers may remember, twenty-one years ago, Beverly and I founded an inner city children's chorus called **KidSingers**. It is based in Santa Ana, California, in an area

considered one of the worst urban hardship areas of the country. Our demographic for **KidSingers** is 95% Hispanic, with the remainder being African American, Asian and Caucasian. The Hispanic community is in a panic. Even those who are American citizens have been called out and told to go back to Mexico. It is racism at its worst.

Well, here's where our safety pin comes back into the picture. The safety pin has been used as a symbol of support and safety for groups who were afraid or disenfranchised. In World War II, the Dutch resistance would wear safety pins behind lapels and under hems to indicate their participation and support of one another.

The safety pin has had a resurgence after the Brexit election for a similar purpose. The same type of xenophobia we are now experiencing in the U.S. is what gripped Britain and helped create its exit from the European Union. Therefore, people who wanted to show their support for immigrants and those of different skin color decided to wear safety pins to indicate to those feeling disenfranchised that they were with them.

Beverly and I knew we would have to address the concerns of our **KidSingers** at the first rehearsal after the election. We did a lot of praying and stepping back to allow God to lead the way, and our answer came in the quote with which I started this article: *"The best defense, as always, is not to attack another's position, but rather to protect the truth."*

What could we do to support the truth for our families and children of **KidSingers** who were afraid and feeling lost? We needed to do something that could make us all feel connected. Connected... safety pins... families... it all seemed to come together (no pun intended).

At our first rehearsal for **KidSingers** after the elections, we explained to our kids that our staff and directors will be

A Message of Unity

If you would like this card and pin that includes a message of unity from the Course, please use the **enclosed envelope** (in this issue) to request it, and include a donation of any amount. (Sorry, but we are only able to mail these to U.S. addresses.)



Paul McNeff is married to MDC's founder and has been a student of the Course since 1986. He is a professional singer and conductor and holds a master's degree in vocal performance. In 1997, along with Beverly, he founded **KidSingers**, an inner-city, afterschool children's chorus. The program has won many awards and been featured on *Good Morning America*. Learn more at: www.kidsingers.org

wearing safety pins as a way to pledge our support for them. We also gave each **KidSingers** and family member present a safety pin attached to a card that read: "You are safe with me. I stand beside you."

The care and compassion was palpable as we spoke to these one hundred children of many cultures, ages eight to eighteen. You could have heard a pin (safety pin!) drop; they were captivated as we reminded them of their very own **KidSingers** code:

"We pledge to respect one another, to be trustworthy and fair.

We will care about each other and be good citizens.

Above all else, we will take responsibility for our actions in our quest to build a better you and a better me."

There was such a sense of love and support for our kids and families, but it went a step further because they also wanted to be of support to others as well. We told them now is not the time to be afraid but to be strong in the truth; the truth that together we can work through anything. They wanted to wear their pins so they could feel the strength of helping others not be afraid.

Our children are always listening. They need to hear the message of unity and hope from those they look up to. Let us hope and pray the next president can rise to this occasion, but either way, we need to do it. Let's not wait in fear of this new administration. Let's do what we can do now to support all people of America, all people of the world.

Jesus' message was most needed by those who felt disenfranchised. That is why I chose the Biblical quote from Proverbs to begin this article:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."

We need to do what we know Jesus would do. As we lean on God's presence in our hearts and minds, He will guide us in a way that will truly bring us peace.

Giving to our kids and families gave them peace and gave us hope. I know now that those families will go forth and do that for others in their community, as well.

Continued on page 11

FREE FOR A LIMITED TIME Live Stream Wednesdays

Wednesday Evenings @ 7pm PT / 10pm ET

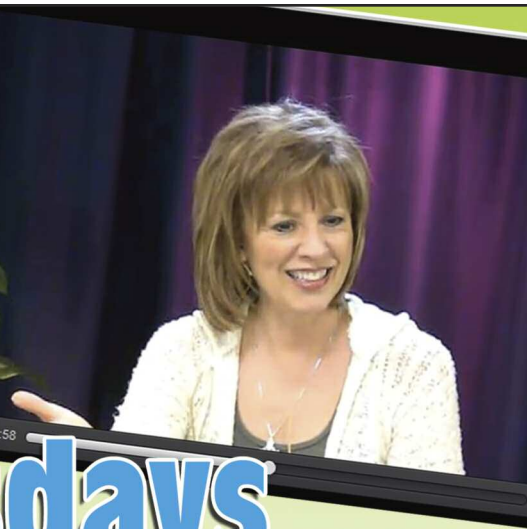
Please join us for the broadcast of our weekly meetings with Beverly Hutchinson McNeff, **FREE** for a limited time.

These meetings tackle real world challenges and view them through the healing power of *A Course in Miracles*. Each week we explore a workbook lesson and text section in the Course. Sections are explained for their theory as well as their application into our daily lives. As a student of the Course since 1977, Bev brings humor and down-to-earth practicality to the Course's principles.

"Bev's knowledge of the Course and all of her explanations are wonderful. I'm so glad you have the archives available of the classes, as seeing her when she teaches is so much more effective and enjoyable for me. And I can watch the class when it's convenient for me, too."

"I have been so inspired by Beverly's weekly meetings. I am so grateful to be able to watch her online."

Go to our website & you'll find a link in the right hand column



Become a Subscriber!

Our Weekly Meeting Subscribers have access to additional features including:

- Archived meetings to view on-demand – You can watch live or later at your convenience
- Receive an audio recording via CD or mp3
- Ask questions and make comments during the meeting
- Communicate on a private group message board, 24/7, with viewers around the world
- Become part of a worldwide family of Course students!

www.miraclecenter.org



Emotional Healing

Seeing Angels: A Stroke of Luck

by Dick Gayton, Ph. D.

Angel spotting. You probably think I have gone off my nut or launched into new age visions. I had been back from Thailand for about a month, and married my husband for a second time in a home wedding here in California so that it was legal under U.S. law. We were changing the house back into a living place from a party place and moved a heavy television from the bedroom into the living room. We were discussing honeymoon possibilities. I sat down and turned on my lap top to work a bit. However, when I tried to stand up, my left leg wouldn't work and neither would my left arm.

First, I was surprised. Now that's odd, I thought, they won't do what I tell them to do. Then my brain kicked in. I was having a stroke. No, I'm too young, too healthy, take too many supplements, do too much exercise for that to happen, even though my blood pressure had been high and climbing and I had just started BP medication. I called my doctor who simply said, "Call 911." Time to freak out.

Thus began the drama entitled Dick's Stroke, more accurately, my right cerebral cortical hemorrhage with accompanying medical four-part harmony performed live with angelic beings. Off we went to the ER with, count them, five paramedics lifting me into a gurney because we weren't exactly walking, but we did talk. Oh how we talked. I was afraid, but not that much. At least not the kind of afraid I would be later when I had the chance to think about having a stroke, imagining the blood escaping its channel for a few minutes into my brain and causing bioelectrical dysfunction and paralysis.

In through the doors of St. Jude's Hospital in Fullerton we went flying, just like on St. Elsewhere, and that's when it started happening. I didn't even hear "Code Stroke ER bed 7" being called out over the public address system. Instead, I was im-

mediately greeted by a very kind nurse who took my hand and told me I was going to be okay — and for no good reason I believed her. Though my ego noticed I still couldn't essentially move on the bed since my left appendages were frozen like a leg of lamb at Costco.

My husband had my other hand and pretty soon, my daughter was talking to me on the phone and my son-in-law appeared out of nowhere to bring his love and good wishes. I was held in the arms of God — as usual when the s—t hits the fan in my life.



"When I think of everyone who helped me — the paramedics, doctors, nurses, therapists, my husband, friends... I have a feeling they all were embodying the thoughts of God, and therefore, were angels."

Kindness seemed to be coming from everywhere: People moved me every hour or so, and nurses were taking my blood pressure and monitoring my everything while I sat in ICU, and a parade of well wishers came in and went out.

My, my, what wonderful attention. It was like I was a famous, though immobile, rock star; everyone was so conciliatory. Old friends brought little toys for me: a monkey hanging on a writing pen in case I needed to do monkey writing, a small self-powered fan of amazing power, and then there was the plastic head with big teeth who I named Ted. I squeezed him and in an annoying wheeze Ted reminded, "Take it easy. Don't stress out."

The lady from food services handed me a menu with this incredible variety of foods

which I could select for each meal. Was I on a cruise ship? The food was delicious. They even had a turkey sandwich on gluten-free toast that would have been a best seller at my local healthy restaurant and, for a midnight snack on demand, chocolate and vanilla ice cream in little cups.

There was only one problem or let's say a few problems: my left leg, foot, trunk, and arm wouldn't work at all, and when they tried to

sit me up on the bed, I did a little leaning tower of Pisa performance or, more accurately, a falling redwood tree simulation. My spiritual friend was watching this and left the room weeping.

I couldn't move very well, but my speech and thinking hadn't changed at all except for all these angel sightings. And "think" I began to do, unfortunately. This hospital thing was all very wrong. All these people coming to see me was not a good sign. They must think that I am going to die. Well look at you, you can't sit up in bed. Let's face it, your life is over and you're never going to have sex again. My husband will leave me and go find someone that doesn't act like a beached dolphin. As you can see my ego was activated.

How good a job are hospital staff really doing? Didn't I have to wait thirty minutes one time in the middle of the night for someone to untangle me from the sheets? And now the pharmacy doesn't want me to take my vitamins and supplements. In fact my doctor had the temerity to say he did not believe in supplements.

My blood pressure on numerous meds

dropped to normal, and my ego descended to fault finding and catastrophic futurizing. Yet angels kept dropping in: physical therapists dragged me out of bed with good humor and fitted me with a brace, and pretty soon I was sort of standing up. Recreational therapists came in to play games, teaching me Skipbo. But then the Speech and Language lady arrived with news I might have a higher processing defect and maybe couldn't swallow food properly, so the gluten-free toasted turkey sandwich was out, and soft everything was in. I explained my processing was fine enough to know I did not have a speech problem, knew everyone and everything by the way (since my ego was back in charge), and I had been swallowing toast for a week already.

The nice lady smiled sadly and nodded at the poor dumb dolphin and kept the orders for my swallowing disorder. I showed my doctor I could swallow fine and asked for a new speech and language evaluation. A new speech lady came and said they were just being careful. I suggested they go be careful down the hall, as I needed my turkey sandwich. She agreed to change the order, but then didn't. I wanted to kill. The angels began to disappear now as I tooled up for World War III. I wheeled into the Medical Director's office, and he agreed to stop all speech and language services. Now after reading this article, you will see that I do have a processing deficit: the ego.

Two weeks into the hospital stay, my arm and leg began to move, and I could walk with a lot of help. I worked hard in daily physical therapy (leg) and occupational therapy (arm), and I could see weekly, sometimes daily, progress. Being an overachiever from first grade on, I made the fastest progress St. Jude's had ever seen (that's what they said).

Even though my ego wants to take all the credit, the Holy Spirit is that still small voice that tells me all those angels had a lot to do with my healing. *A Course in Miracles* tells us that angels are the thoughts of God, not necessarily celestial beings. When I think of everyone who helped me — the paramedics, doctors, nurses, therapists, my husband, friends, and even the speech and language lady who took away my turkey sandwich on gluten-free toast — I have a feeling they all

were embodying the thoughts of God, and therefore, were angels.

Spotting angels might not be that hard. After all, if we're all the thoughts of God, then we're all angels. It just depends on where you put your focus.

"You do not walk alone. God's angels hover near and all about. His Love surrounds you, and of this be sure; that I will never leave you comfortless." (Workbook Epilogue)

Make this Year Different

Continued from page 1

where my pain was. However, the doctor told me the pain was just a symptom of the problem and that he would make the adjustment at the point of the problem, not at the effect. He also massaged my hurting back (which felt soooo good), but just to do that would have not cured my problem.

This is how the Holy Spirit solves our pains: He deals with them at the source of the problem, not at the effect. We only see the effect, He sees the cause. He lovingly 'massages' us through our effects, so we

feel nurtured and comforted while He heals our problems in such a way that they will not return to cause us pain.

Let's not try to figure out how the Holy Spirit could heal our lives or this world. Let us be assured that if God says healing is possible, then it will occur. Let us make this year different by trusting in God and allowing His will to be done.

The Safety of a Pin

Continued from page 9

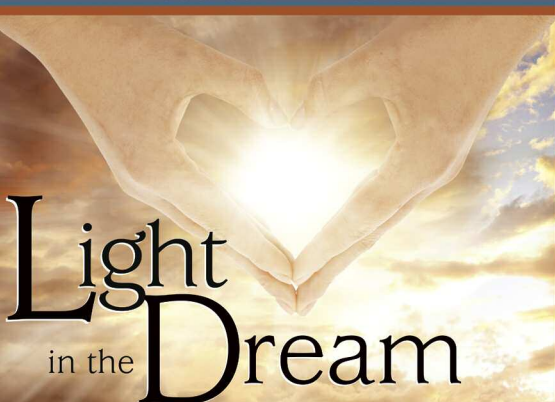
After we gave these safety pins out at *KidSingers*, Beverly decided to do the same at a recent study group meeting at the Center. She's also offering the pin to those who attend the meeting remotely via audio and video streaming. She created a card with a safety pin that includes a message of unity from the Course.

The Course tells us:

"This world will change through you. No other means can save it..." (W-125.2)

Let us join in unity together through the safety of a pin.

**Miracle Distribution Center's
International Conference on
A Course in Miracles**



**Light
in the Dream**

*"If you knew Who walks beside you on the way
that you have chosen, fear would be impossible."*

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

**August 19-20
2017**

Irvine, California

*"What a powerful
weekend! The agenda
was truly inspired. It was
just the shot in the
arm I needed."*

For the past thirty-nine years, MDC has delved into the powerful, practical message of *A Course in Miracles* and helped students integrate its principles into daily living.

One way is through our conferences which provide the inspiration to those just beginning to practice the Course as well as long-time students who need a little jump-start.

Through inspiring lectures by prominent Course speakers and individual interaction with students from around the world, this year's conference will help you experience the understanding, peace and joy you are entitled to.

Go online or call for more details:
www.miraclecenter.org 1-800-359-2246 (ACIM)

the other reacted. We search and search for justification, but there never is any permanence to our rationalization.

I remember reading a quote from the Dalai Lama who was asked why he did not fight back when the Chinese exiled him from Tibet. With a chuckle, he said, "War is obsolete, you know." Then with a more concerned tone, he went on to say, "The mind can always rationalize fighting back, but the heart would never understand. Then you would be divided in yourself, the heart and the mind, and the war would be inside you."

A *Course in Miracles* tells us we are inextricably connected to each other. That's a nice idea, but it is hard to wrap our minds around that thought. The Course uses the analogy of a drop of water to the ocean. We think we are a separate drop instead of part of the mighty ocean. We see ourselves as alone, isolated and in need of protection from the mighty ocean. And yet, the ocean is not our enemy but our source. We would be nothing without it, and it is actually impossible to keep ourselves separate. In fact, arrogance would say this drop is autonomous from the ocean. Yet, it is only when the drop once again joins with the mighty ocean that it finds its real strength.

This goes back to our basic nature. From the Course's perspective, you are as God created you, and that cannot change. That is why it tells us over and over again in many different ways we are the answer we are seeking. It says deep within us is everything that is perfect, ready to radiate through us and out into the world, because God goes with us wherever we go. It is our free will to experience this now, or not. The fact is we will return home to the loving awareness of God because there is nothing else. But *when* we will experience that is up to us.

Our Map Home to God.

Before the Internet, personal computers, cell phones and GPS systems, there were maps. Remember those? But now when I need to get somewhere, I simply Mapquest the address through the Internet or program the address into my car or cell phone's GPS system. I am then given

step-by-step directions to my destination. It is so easy!

My GPS system reminds me of the Voice for God in the way that it so compassionately helps me maneuver through this world. When I make a wrong turn from what my GPS system directs (and, yes, I still do make the wrong turns), it never tells me I am wrong, but just lovingly recalculates a new route. It doesn't point out my mistake (making me feel guilty for not being able to follow a GPS system – how easy can it get?!). It simply tells me I am "off course," and then offers me another way to my destination.

God's Voice is constantly offering

"He tries to explain his new-found powers by telling about the largest living organism in the world, which is a grove of Aspen trees in Utah..."

us a map home, and the map it offers is forgiveness. Forgiveness from the Course's perspective is not an action, but rather an awareness. You may feel guided to do something in this world as a result of this awareness, or not.

Forgiveness does not condone the actions of others; it helps us to see with clarity and compassion so that we all may be healed. Holding anger or resentment towards anyone (justified or not) imprisons us and causes us to be blind to the awareness of God. There is a saying that goes, "Not forgiving is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die."

A *Course in Miracles* reminds us we cannot be set free while we imprison anyone with our judgments. As it says:

"A jailer is not free, for he is bound together with his prisoner. He must be sure that he does not escape, and so he spends his time in keeping watch on him. The bars that limit him become the world in which his jailer lives, along with him. And it is on his freedom that the way to liberty depends for both of them.

Therefore, hold no one prisoner. Release instead of bind, for thus are you made free. The way is simple. Every time you feel a stab of anger, realize you hold a sword above your head. And it will fall

or be averted as you choose to be condemned or free. Thus does each one who seems to tempt you to be angry represent your savior from the prison house of death. And so you owe him thanks instead of pain." (WB-pl.192.8)

I owe WHO thanks?

"And so you owe him thanks instead of pain." Remember it says "thanks," not that



you have to have lunch with them, have them over to the house, give them a hug or loan them money. Healing happens in the mind, not through manipulating the world. If forgiveness is dependent on changing something in the world, then it is not forgiveness. Again, that does not mean we may not do certain things in the world or do them differently. We certainly may be guided to do that. Remember, forgiveness is an awareness, not necessarily an action.

Inner connectedness is our salvation.

Forgiveness allows us to experience our inner connectedness. As the Course says:

"Forgiveness takes away what stands between your brother and yourself. It is the wish that you be joined with him, and not apart." (T-26.VII.9)

Most of the time, we see in fragments. We think someone's actions are separate from us. We have a difficult time understanding that our judgmental thinking about another actually hurts us. Yet, at a deep level, we know it to be true.

We have all watched the troubled lives of former child actors like Lindsey Lohan and Britney Spears. They seem to be on self-destructive cycles. We can't imagine some of the escapades these people have done, and yet we are connected to them. We cannot be healed as long as we see them as separate from us. Our disgust over their actions or wastefulness keeps them in

the prison of our judgment, with us as their jailers.

Becoming aware of our connectedness is not a “new age” idea. The Native Americans spoke of our connection to every living thing. Chief Seattle, leader of the Suquamish tribe, is quoted as saying that our world is like a web, and what you do to one part of the web you do to the entire web.

The other night, I was flipping the channels (yes, women do this too), and I caught the end of the movie *Phenomenon* starring John Travolta. I saw it years ago, but it had even more meaning to me now.

In the movie, Travolta’s character, George, has a “light” experience that seems to give him supernatural powers. The people of the small town where he lives are very frightened by his change, but George is really no different, although he can spin sunglasses and lift them off the ground, to name a few of his feats.

He tries to explain his new-found powers by telling about the largest living organism in the world, which is a grove of Aspen trees in Utah (this is actually true... I Googled it!). This grove covers 106 acres and is connected by a single underground root structure. Some trees are large, some are small. Some trees have beautiful foliage and some are barren, but they are all connected. By focusing on that connection, we can create miracles because the power of God lies in all of us, but not in any of us alone.

We are all connected. No matter how different we may look on the surface, we are connected. When we look in disgust at another, we see ourselves. When we attack another, we attack ourselves. And, when we ignore this awareness, we lose ourselves. Everything we think is like a boomerang heading right back towards us, but not in some distant future, right here and now.

Forgive, and you will see this differently.

You may be nodding in agreement right now. If you are a student of *A Course in Miracles* or have been on any spiritual path for a while, these are probably not new thoughts. What becomes overwhelming to us is not that we do judge and attack, but how often and casually we do it.

The helpful thing about becoming aware

of this fact is not so we can feel guilty about it, but so we can become aware of it and allow healing to begin. Unlike the theories of karma or reincarnation, the Course tells us we can undo the effects of our wrong thinking through the gift of forgiveness *right now*.

The Course would tell us this is a course in undoing: undoing all the mistaken concepts we hold about the world and ourselves and instead relearning the truth. The Course does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, but rather how to remove the blocks to the awareness of love, which is our true inheritance. And, that is what forgiveness does. It asks us to bring those unforgiving, attacking and seemingly indifferent thoughts to the light of love, the Hands of God, to the Helper God has given us, where they will be gently and lovingly healed for us.

Our job now is to become aware that we want to be healed. For some reason, to do this, we feel we need to figure out how forgiveness should look, and who needs to atone before it can be bestowed.

I have often said that we all have a “back story” for the things we do and the way we are. Knowing that “back story” can give us understanding and compassion for people and circumstances, but that still does not justify their actions. The Course tells us forgiveness would be unjust indeed if it asked us to overlook the actions we believed to be true, in order to justify forgiveness. We are not asked to overlook actions of others, but rather to look through their actions to the truth that abides within them.

One of my favorite movies is *Forrest Gump*. Whenever it comes on TV, I have to stop and watch it. In one scene, Jenny, Forrest’s childhood friend and lifetime love, returns home to Alabama to recuperate from her painful, worldly life of external searching.

As they walk among the countryside, Jenny comes upon the dilapidated shack where she grew up with a father who

molested her. Recognizing that the pain in her life stemmed from that horrible upbringing, Jenny begins to throw rocks at the house until she throws so hard she falls down sobbing. Forrest’s character may be that of a “slow” person, but his wisdom cuts through the complexity as we hear him say in a voiceover of the scene, “Sometimes there are just not enough rocks.”

Sometimes there are just not enough rocks.

The only thing that will ever give us peace is love. Forgiveness becomes the expression of love in action, but it is an action that is not bound by the world – it is an expression from the heart.

“Recognizing that the pain in her life stemmed from that horrible upbringing, Jenny begins to throw rocks at the house until she throws so hard she falls down sobbing.”



Forrest (Tom Hanks) counsels Jenny (Robin Wright).
Forrest Gump, Paramount Pictures 1994

I go back once more to the movie *Forrest Gump*. What ended up being Jenny’s salvation was not her attack, but her surrender, her surrender to love. Forrest’s character always loved her. Through all of her escapades, he always loved her and she knew it. Most of the time she turned away from that love, but in her mind and heart, she knew it was there, waiting for her return.

So it is for us with God. He is waiting for our return, not in form but in heart. And even in this, He helps us. He has given us a Guide in the Holy Spirit who understands our seeming need to “throw rocks” and yet quietly sits with us as we sob, offering us another way.

It is time for us to accept His Help. Let us bring forgiveness into our hearts by stepping back from the wrongs and rights of the world and allow healing to come. But remember, healing can only come if we do not block the door. If we hold anger, judgment or indifference in our hearts for another, we have blocked the door to our salvation.

Continued on page 14

about yourself. Empty your mind of everything you think is either true or false, or good or bad, of every thought it judges worthy, and all the ideas of which it is ashamed. Hold onto nothing. Do not bring with you one thought the past has taught, nor one belief you ever learned before from anything. Forget this world, forget this course, and come with wholly empty hands unto your God.” (W-pl.189. 7)

I keep letting go. I let go of entanglements, hang-ups, regrets, and remorse — all the nostalgia about what might have been — relationships that did not turn out better — the belief that anything “had” to happen — even everything I am ashamed of. I go deeper and deeper. I take a good look at my secret sins and hidden hates. And then comes the last thing, the biggest thing of all. I even forgive myself for not having done a better job.

Lying there in the dark, I become empty in a way I have not been empty before. I take a deep breath, sigh and say, “whatever will be will be.” I enter a place of no will — nothing. I am so nothing I wonder, what is it that thinks, walks, and talks? I become empty of desire and anger, and I understand, in a way in which I had previously only understood intellectually, what Buddha meant when he said that the loss of desire is the key to enlightenment. I achieve by this “letting go” some sort of objectivity.

“To be one is to be of one mind or will.

When the Will of the Sonship and the Father are one, their perfect accord is Heaven.” (T-3.II.4)

I know that I don’t exist in an individual way. There is no subject and object. There is just Oneness. The Mind that is thinking everything, is one mind outside of time. Realization requires no effort! Finding can only happen without interference. There are no fears because all fears are concerned with the world. Dying means letting go of all worldly concerns. When you know you are going to die, why worry? We are born enlightened. To try to achieve something that already is, is absurd.

“It is important not to try to fix the world. Or, to be unhappy over some piece of brokenness.”

There is nothing to achieve. There is nowhere to go. There is nothing to be done. We are divine just the way we are. Problems only exist within a dream of separation. Problems do not actually exist. Being eternal, we are everything and nothing. What is needed is to be deeply involved in Life while remaining unattached to the drama. It is important not to try to fix the world. Or, to be unhappy over some piece of brokenness. I’m happy with what I have. I love my wife Dolores. I have a loving family, and I love my work. I’m very lucky.

What I Learned from Cancer

Truth is always simple. We always learn

simple things.

1. Love is all there is — it’s all that matters. The result of realization of Truth is Love: compassion, and humility and the love of everything is the love of Self.

2. We take so much for granted. The day I came home from the hospital, saying grace around the dinner table and watching our cat, Pockets, walk across the deck, still brings tears to my eyes.

3. When things don’t turn out the way we planned, it’s still the right thing. Another way to say this is Our Life is none of our business. Life is God’s business.

I think I got cancer just so I could have that experience in the hospital. I needed to engage in a deep, total letting go. I needed to step into complete silence. I needed to stop thinking. The only way to do it was to look at death. Something unneeded died that day, never to be born again. Afterwards, I felt clean and free.

We never lose an experience of the eternal. It may fade, but it is eternal and can never be lost. After I accepted the reality of death, after I said, “It’s okay to die,” I realized I was probably going to live. ✧

I’m Rubber, You’re Glue

Continued from page 13

Then let us begin again by allowing forgiveness to rest on our minds that we might see and think of our brothers as God would. When we forget, we will try again. If there are long interruptions, we will try again. Whenever we remember, we will try again. Our awakening and healing has been preordained. Now all that is needed is our awareness.

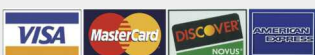
“Look gently on your brother, and remember the ego’s weakness is revealed in both your sight. What it would keep apart has met and joined, and looks upon the ego unafraid. Little child, innocent of sin, follow in gladness the way to certainty. Be not held back by fear’s insane insistence that sureness lies in doubt. This has no meaning. What matters it to you how loudly it is proclaimed? The senseless is not made meaningful by repetition and by clamor. The quiet way is open. Follow it happily, and question not what must be so.” (T-21.IV.8) ✧

Available from the Center

Eternal Life and A Course in Miracles

by Jon Mundy, Ph.D.

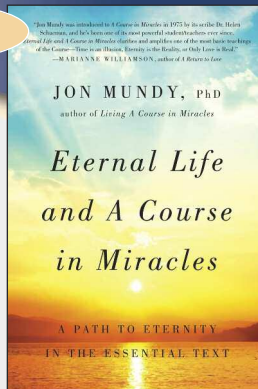
Jon discusses facing death and learning to let go, the ephemeral nature of the physical body and the eternal reality of the mind, and the reawakening of our Spirit as the one, true home.



Hardcover
288 pgs.

\$17.95

Plus S&H and CA sales tax



Call **1-800-359-2246** or visit **www.miraclecenter.org**
and click on “Store” to see our large selection of books, CD’s and other Course related items.

Don't Miss Out on this
Incredible Weekend!!

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2017

Holy Encounter Retreat



International lecturer, author, and founder of the Center, Beverly Hutchinson McNeff, brings her 39 years of Course study to this weekend that will leave you with the tools and understanding you'll need to experience miracles in your life.

Known for her ability to take seemingly complex lessons and reveal their truth and simplicity, Beverly will help you open up to the worth and beauty inside you now.



"I came away with a really good feeling and some down-to-earth things that really made sense to me in terms of forgiveness, judgment, etc. The retreat was great, the environment was great, the food was great... I just had a great time overall!"



"Beverly made the Course so easy to understand. I'm always getting this message that the Course is so hard and she makes it so simple."



This retreat is designed to help students to not just talk about the Course but to deeply experience its healing power. Through lectures, meditation, group sharing, music, and laughter, you will be helped to see, and look beyond, the limitations of this world and experience the possibility of God in every aspect of your life.

gardens, beside a tumbling stream, or beside ponds... each offering privacy, seclusion, and a distinctive setting.

Everything is included, the weekend retreat activities, well-appointed lodging, and six organic, chef-prepared meals. Our caring and experienced staff, coupled with an oasis in the heart of Southern California, will provide you a safe and wonderful atmosphere for learning and sharing – a weekend where you can truly spend time on your own internal healing.

Please join us as we take a "journey without distance" to find that even in a world of chaos, our goal of peace and forgiveness has never changed.

The Holy Encounter Retreat will be held at the spacious RW Ranch Spiritual Retreat Center in Lucerne Valley, California. Sessions will be conducted in spacious meeting rooms and time for reflection and meditation may be experienced in various landscaped parks, intimate flower



Registration begins at \$499 and includes all retreat activities, six organic meals, and lodging.



To register visit www.miraclecenter.org or call 1-800-359-2246



The HOLY ENCOUNTER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

In This Issue...

- "I'm Rubber, You're Glue"
- "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear"
- "Who You Are"
- "Living the Course"
- "The Classroom Called Cancer"
- "The Safety of a Pin"
- "Seeing Angels" ...and more!



**Miracle
Distribution Center**
Founded 1978

3947 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92807

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Keep miracles beside you all year long...
with these Calendars



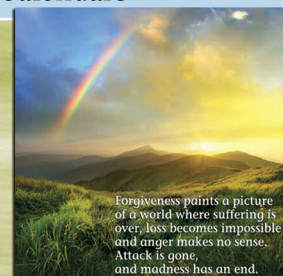
MDC's Perpetual
Flip Calendar



MDC's 2017
Wall Calendar

Hugh Prather's
Perpetual
Flip Calendar

Visit our website for details
www.miraclecenter.org



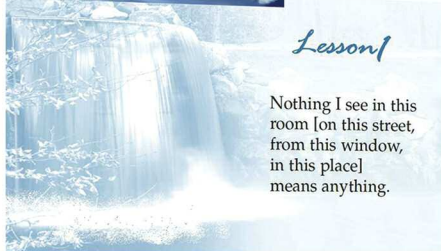
Forgiveness paints a picture
of a world where suffering is
over, loss becomes impossible
and anger makes no sense.
Attack is gone,
and madness has an end.



Non Profit
Org
**US Postage
PAID**
Santa Ana CA
Permit No 949

No more excuses that you can't remember your Workbook lesson!

Here's your daily ACIM Workbook Lesson courtesy of Miracle Distribution Center.
To read the entire lesson, click on the lesson link [below](#):



Lesson 1 *Nothing I see in this room [on this street, from this window, in this place] means anything.*

Oops, I missed my lesson today! Click [here](#) to restart at a different lesson number

Help support MDC's free services like Daily Lessons - **DONATE NOW**

**Kick-off
your New Year
with Miracles!**

Through this **FREE** service of the Center you will receive your lesson from the Course's *Workbook for Students* each day via email! The lesson's title is displayed in an attractive image, and just below the image, you'll find a link to the complete text of the lesson.

Imagine finding your lesson on your phone or your computer each morning, ready for you to begin practicing. You can begin with any lesson number. If you miss your lesson for some reason, or find you want to repeat a lesson, you can easily reset your sequence and continue from there.

**Start receiving your
daily miracles today!**



Go to: **www.miraclecenter.org**
click on "Services" then "Daily Lesson Email"