

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](#)

then continue to the magazine . . .

The HOLY ENCOUNTER



JULY / AUGUST 2016

A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

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



“Shake It Off, Shake It Off”

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff



May is the month for college commencement ceremonies. As excited students gather for the ritual that will mark their entry into the world of careers, these events are usually graced by noteworthy speakers there to deliver poignant prose.

In the commencement address offered by United States Senator Elizabeth Warren at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts, she spoke about the fact that life is full of “mistakes and twists and turns and failure” and she advised students to “embrace the unexpected.”

Warren said she never thought she would visit foreign countries, be a commencement speaker, or be in a Twitter war with Donald Trump! “As one of the great philosophers of our time, Taylor Swift, has said, ‘Haters going to hate, hate, hate, hate, hate,’” Warren said. “Knowing who you are helps you ‘Shake It Off.’”

Warren’s remarks got a good laugh, but there was truth in what she said. We cannot stop what the world or others may say or do, but if we know who we are, we definitely can “shake it off” and look at it differently.

Perhaps that’s why Taylor Swift’s song “Shake It Off” was so popular. Whatever you may think of Swift, her song hit a

chord with people. Warren might have been having a little fun with the comment that Swift is one of the “great philosophers of our time,” but she is somewhat correct in that comment, too.



Taylor Swift

“Knowing who you are
helps you ‘Shake it off.’”

Songwriters like John Lennon, Bob Dylan and now Taylor Swift are our cultural philosophers because they do strike societal chords that speak for us here and now.

There’s so much stress in our society and especially with our youth who are just developing their sense of self. The 24/7 news cycles, bombardment of social media, and the unreality masquerading as “reality TV” can cause us to feel hopeless and powerless to find that “peace that passes all understanding.”

How do we “shake it off”? How do we move past the pressures of the world that seem so real to find that place of peace that every spiritual tradition sets as our goal?

First and foremost, we have to redefine ourselves. We seem to believe we start out as a blank slate and then develop into the person we will become

Continued on page 12

Miracle Distribution Center...

More Than a Website!

Nowadays, many of our readers first meet us through our website. But we are so much more than that!

MDC was established in 1978. Long before personal computers and nearly twenty years before the Internet, the Center was standing as a physical location for connection and insight into *A Course in Miracles*. And, we are still here! Now in our third location since our founding thirty-eight years ago, we are proud to still be providing service, support and instruction for Course students around the world.

We have been visited by people from all over the United States and numerous international Course students have passed through our doors.

As in those early days, our staff still stands ready to help you seven days a week by email and five days a week by telephone and also by in-person visits.



If you find yourself in Southern California, please consider dropping by to meet us and see our facility.

We’ll be happy to make you some tea to enjoy while you read one of the books in our bookstore.

You can also explore our live streaming studio and meeting room.

Continued on page 13

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.

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

● **Beyonce and Jay Z . . . Course**

students? Pop music's reigning power couple, Beyonce and Jay Z, have been sprinkling a quote from *A Course in Miracles* in their songs and tweets. It began back in September of last year when Jay Z celebrated the one millionth subscriber to his new streaming music service in a tweet that began, "Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists." Next came a mention of the quote in Bey's song (from her new album, *Lemonade*), "All Night," as the eleventh verse signals a shift in her album's narrative to close on a note of forgiveness and reconciliation. Finally, earlier



this year, Jay Z brought the reference back in his track, "Drug Dealers Anonymous," which includes the lines, "I'm a course of miracles with this sh*t. Nothing real can be threatened, nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God."

● **"I love Miracle Distribution Center and wish I were not on the other side of the country because I'd probably be there every day. They are such a blessing."** We want to thank Barbie Muzyk in Michigan for this loving Facebook post! It really touched our hearts. Make sure you find out why Barbie loves us so much by visiting our website at www.miraclecenter.org

● **Marianne Williamson at USC...** where she shared her wisdom in a Baccalaureate speech in May to the graduates to the University of Southern California. Just as an acorn is programmed to grow into an oak tree, she argued that we are all programmed to become the best versions of ourselves. But we are also programmed, she said, to work toward the greatest good for society – not only for ourselves. "The

universe wants you to actualize," Williamson told the packed auditorium. "The universe does have your back and wants you to become your most glorious expression. But sometimes in becoming your most glorious expression, you will be confronted with choices." She went on to urge graduates to choose love over profit, humility over pride and gratitude over entitlement. To watch the full speech, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/zsykuq8> on MDC's site.



● **ACIM Retreat in February 2017! –** "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. The weekend includes well-appointed lodging and six organic, chef-prepared meals. We encourage you to visit our website to see all the details and hear what others have said about this inspiring retreat. Go to: www.miraclecenter.org and click on "Events" 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 memory of ... Paul Lucien Chester**, "the love and light he shared will live on in the hearts of all who love him," from his wife, Anya Woody in Arizona. ... "In honor of my son, **Jeffrey Bosworth**, who was my greatest teacher," from his mother Aileen Bosworth in Pennsylvania.

● **Coach credits "miracles"**

– The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Tim O'Toole, new assistant men's basketball coach of University of California, Berkeley, "begins most days, pen in hand, jotting down thoughts in a well-worn notebook. His inspiration comes from the pages of *A Course in Miracles*, a self-study curriculum aimed at centering its practitioners. The morning exercise helps remind O'Toole that miracles aren't the awe-inspiring phenomena seen in movies. 'The reality is, miracles occur every day in your life,' said O'Toole, 52. 'It's just whether or not you notice them. You get these kids, and they're 18,' O'Toole said. 'They all have high aspirations. I use these books to share a meaning or parable that'll



Tim O'Toole

Continued on page 15



Miracle Musings...

Things Are Not Always As They Seem

by Paul McNeff



"This world is not my home, I'm just a-passin' through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from heaven's open door and I can't feel at home in this world anymore." -Old gospel song by Jim Reeves

"The world you see is what you gave it, nothing more than that... Therefore, to you it is important. It is the witness to your state of mind, the outside picture of an inward condition. As a man thinketh, so does he perceive." (T-21.intro.1:2)

I remember thinking I would not make it through the night. Would I ever get out of this alive? Deep down I knew I was safe, as I had cautiously prepared my radio rig to endure this horrific assault of nature. But then again, all hell broke loose: ZZZZZTTT! CRACKKKKLE! POP! And finally, BOOM! At least an ear-splitting 180 decibels.

As if in a movie I sat there, a twenty-year-old Army Specialist 4 radio teletype operator, inside my tiny little radio teletype rig, fifty-foot whip antenna vulnerably perched atop the roof, in an expansive field at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. Heart thumping like a crouching tiger before the kill, in the midst of experiencing the terror and awesome beauty of a tropical lightning storm, I somehow summoned the courage to perform my perfunctory duty of radio checks on the hour. All night long the epic storm raged on. I was scared sh*#!less.

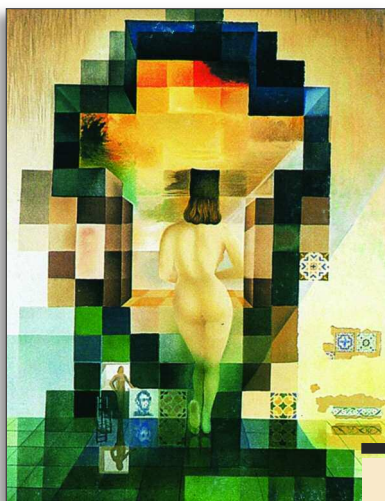
Feverishly energized by the adrenaline flow, I remember thinking – this is totally surreal!

Surreal. Ever mouth that word after a shocking or otherworldly experience? It seems the only fitting expression to describe the corresponding experience.

Surreal – the normal laws of nature, physics and time seem to be suspended. As a visual art, surrealism can be described as a method to expose psychological truth, stripping ordinary objects of their normal significance, to create a compelling image that is beyond ordinary form, in order to evoke empathy from the viewer. More

simply put . . . things are not always as they seem. Sometimes, we must go deeper to get to the truth.

I imagine most of us associate the idea of surrealism with the art of Salvador Dali. I've always been fascinated by Dali's work. During our Center's most recent Holy Encounter Weekend in Florida, in the little



Gala Contemplating the Mediterranean Sea

Of Dali's many masterpieces on exhibit, the one most captivating was entitled, "Gala Contemplating the Mediterranean Sea."

At first look, you see a glorious and luminous image of Gala (Dali's wife), an observer as she looks out a window toward the sun rising over the Mediterranean Sea, but there is definitely more to this painting than meets the eye.

There's a lot of symbolism in this wall-sized painting, and it even includes a

spare time we had, Beverly, Jeffrey and I surprisingly happened across the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg. Taking it in was a very enlightening experience.

"If you stand back about sixty feet (or view it through your cell phone camera), you will see that the pixels create a full portrait image of Abraham Lincoln!"

small portrait of Dali's favorite American president, Abraham Lincoln. But here's the really interesting part of the painting: If you stand back about sixty feet (or view it through your cell phone camera), you will see that the pixels create a full portrait image of Abraham Lincoln! Dali had a uniquely expressive way of showing us the world we see is not always what it appears on the surface.

It has been said we see what we want to see. One person's perception of a particular political candidate is that he/she is our savior; to another person that same candidate is our demise. In reality, our perception of this world is faulty at best. *A Course in Miracles* says, "Projection makes perception. The world you see is what you gave it, nothing more than that. But though it is no more than that, it is not less. Therefore, to you it is important. It is the witness to your state of mind, the outside picture of an inward condition. As a man thinketh, so does he perceive." (ibid)

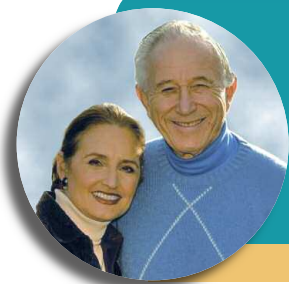
This is one of the first lessons the Course tries to have us understand. If we see only through our physical eyes, we see only a world of illusions. The 24/7

news cycle shows us a world of war, greed, violence and sometimes at the very end of an occasional nightly news broadcast, an inspirational story of love and acceptance. But, those last segments are rare and just not sexy enough to fill an entire news segment.

So instead of trying to change the world to fit into our little box of projection, the Course does an end run around our faulty projection and informs us: "Therefore, seek not to change the world, but choose

Continued on page 14

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



Change Your Mind Change Your Life

The Temptation to Lose Our Sanity During Election Time

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



It has been several decades since we became students of *A Course in Miracles*. During this past year, we both have felt a deepening in our spiritual lives, and we have been more consistent in seeing the value of not making judgments, and having inner peace as our only goal.

However, during this period of intense political activity in the United States of America, as we watch the debates between presidential candidates, we are forced to admit that the core of our spirituality has been tested and has sometimes flown out the window.

For example, at times I, Jerry, have found myself yelling at a politician on TV; some days it was the reverse situation, and Diane was the one doing the yelling! We have both felt pretty insane at different times.

When this occurred, it felt like our egos were working overtime; we became angry and judgmental with various political personalities and the goings-on within which they engaged.

It seems that most of the time, the candidates are fighting with one another, calling each other liars and worse; it seems to us that there is a pervasive lack of respect and compassion between those doing the talking. Attack and defense seem to be the rules of the day.

We choose to be responsible for everything we think, say, and do, and yet here we are attacking those who are running for office, doing nearly the same thing that they are doing to each other! We knew we had to find another way of looking at the world of politics, and the first

place (and perhaps the only place) was to look at ourselves, our attitudes, and our beliefs which were culminating in our actions.

Looking at our own behavior, we recognized that we were projecting our own fears onto the people running for office. We were unhappy and un-peaceful. It was time to stop and not be seduced into the ego's desire for us to be in conflict,

attacking each other, and seeing value in hurting others or ourselves.

As a result, we decided to look at the election beyond the obvious value of it —

"Instead of avoiding the TV, like many expected us to do, we gave ourselves and each other the challenge to watch, literally, every debate and interview..."

to elect candidates to office most representative of the majority of the citizens of the country.

Instead of avoiding the TV, like many expected us to do, we gave ourselves and each other the challenge to watch, literally, every debate and interview throughout the whole process, and work at healing our own minds. What would that look like to us? Good question. We decided that our only goal was going to be peace of mind — inner peace — without any judgment as we watched the warring candidates. If we were able to succeed at this goal, we would be happy.

We must admit that we definitely increased the time that we meditate to shore us up for this specific challenge with our egos. Interestingly enough, we became

calmer and began to return to our still and quiet minds. We were able to decide that we did not want or need to make the illusions of the election process more real than any other illusions in our lives. We reminded ourselves that the only thing that is real is love, and that we always have a choice to leave behind the fearful dream of the ego. We chose to not be part of the insanity of our ego's functioning, and to remember that we are not separate from the candidates. They were and are and will always be a part of us and all that is.

We did our best to see the light in everyone and identify with their spirits and not their physical selves or their actions or their opinions about the world. In this way, we were able to clearly hear all sides of the issues and make our decisions based on love instead of fear.

A number of years ago, we were invited to work with the Liard First Nation People in Watson Lake in the Yukon Territories in Canada. The Chief, Ann Bayne, was a student

of *A Course in Miracles* and asked that we bring Attitudinal Healing to the community to offer practical solutions to many of the challenges that were facing the population.

While we were there, local elections were being held for Chief for the second time in the tribe's history. The Chief decided to run for a second term and was taken aback when a relative of hers, of whom she cared dearly, had decided to run against her. This experience was the first of its kind that either of them had encountered. They both had feelings about it, and they were not sure how to handle it.

They asked if we had any thoughts or ideas on how they could get through the election cycle (30 days from beginning to



Marco Rubio and Donald Trump

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

end) and finish up without fostering dissent and friction within the voting community. Diane had the idea to ask the Chief and her relative if they were willing to come together and meditate and ask for guidance together as to how to proceed and find the best outcome possible. A little reluctantly, they both agreed.

We invited them to make an agreement for the remainder of the election that they would not attack each other, remind themselves of their long relationship, and continue to see the light in one another. They agreed not to use words as weapons to attack each other. They agreed that when asked to say something negative about the other, they would affirm they were 'brother and sister's before the election, during the election, and would continue to be close after the election. Then each would state what they would do if elected, where, when, why, etc. They succeeded in keeping their promises to each other. Chief Ann won the election again, and she immediately made her relative part of her council so his views would continue to be heard and considered.

In this present moment, we feel the peace of our Creator, and we know this peace can be continuous no matter who says what on TV or the outcome of the next presidential election. Our peace is not dependent on what happens in the external world that appears so crazy.

It seems to us that election time celebrates separation, bringing up the past, and condemning people in the present for what may have happened in the past. But we are doing our best to let go of seeing any value in these judgments and to resist the ego's temptation to make our own judgments about what is happening.

Interestingly enough, this awareness of maintaining our peace of mind during election time has brought us a deep sense of freedom and joy. ✨

You Can Follow Us On

facebook

Like

twitter

To sign up, just go to our home page at
www.miraclecenter.org

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



Recognizing Spirit Listening to the Truth from Stillness

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.



In the last issue of **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** I discussed identity. In this article I continue, adding the 2016 International Conference's theme of being still and listening to the truth.

Our true identity does not coincide with the self-image we have made and largely hidden from ourselves. Sadly, many people, even the ones who look like they have it all and are very confident, have hidden in their minds a dark view of themselves, marred by things they wish they had done or not done. Ironically, despite this view *not* being a reflection of truth, we can internally defend and argue for this low opinion of ourselves.

In one way or another we spend an enormous amount of energy maintaining this tainted view of ourselves throughout our life. People complain of not having the life they want, but are reluctant to look at the origins of the life they do have. If this were not the case, all psychotherapy would consist of is a less-than-two-minute discussion on who we are in truth, and the person would then leave with their corrected perception, free of the past. Obviously this is not the case. On some level, all therapy or growth begins with seeing at least a glimmer of how we have built a belief system that maintains and supports this poor self-image, and that our primary task is to begin a practice of consciously letting go of the self-image that is inhibiting our ability to see, quite literally, the truth and what is real.

Based on *A Course in Miracles*, Inspirational Psychology describes this as a three-step process of becoming aware of our self-limiting thoughts and beliefs, letting go of our attachment to them in the present moment, and seeing the truth of who we are. Any sort of practice of

mindfulness has this “awareness/letting go/seeing” aspect to it.

If observed carefully, at some level almost any true spiritual path or awakening includes seeing how we participate in blocking love and compassionate responses from our awareness. *A Course in Miracles* is uniquely focused on this by way of emphasizing forgiveness.

Finding purpose and meaning in our life is *not* based upon an external search for the right career, project, or relationship.

Rather, such purpose and meaning can only originate in getting a true picture of who we are, what we are, and what we are capable of. In this regard, I can say there were three

things that were true with every person I ever saw walk through the door to my office seeking psychotherapy: they vastly undervalued themselves as deserving of love, they underestimated the love they were capable of extending, and, to some extent, they believed their past cast a dark shadow on what was possible. My hope is that in some way the seed to the full awareness of who they are, love, was planted through my presence.

I try to remind myself that many people I encounter may feel as if they are something much less than who they truly are. Being “spiritual” is not all that complicated: I am living a truly spiritually based life if my single goal is to see beyond the veil of low or limited self-image. This, of course, must begin with myself. Then, applying it to others becomes, actually, a process that always benefits me as well, for as I see the true nature of another, I see it reflected back. Thus, there is no greater purpose I can have than doing my best to turn toward a wisdom that is always available, that seeks to be only a messenger of love. In this way, I never need to seek for the

right time, best circumstance, right words, or any other condition to be a healer and to be healed – I forever and always have all I need to be a messenger of love.

In this way, anybody wishing to practice the Course is practicing being a messenger of love, and receiving for themselves the message they bring. Without this basic goal of being a messenger of love – of seeing beyond the limits of personality, the past, and any self-limiting beliefs and behavior – something vital is missing in our lives. This is true no matter what type of relationship we are speaking of: therapeutic, personal, parenting, business, or our relationship with ourselves. This poem expands this idea:

Surrounding me
is all the life that reflects love,
calling to me in every breath,
speaking to me in every heartbeat.
My every thought can begin here,
my every action can be born from this
beautiful moment.
Here gentility fills my heart,
kindness brings purpose,
and compassion reveals forgiveness.
As I see love in you,
my mind becomes healed.
All I will ever need to love is given me,
and through loving I find peace.
Every breath I take is a moment I can see
and practice love,
bringing me strength,
offering me purpose,
giving me meaning.
Today may I go beyond
what I thought I saw,
what I thought was true about myself,
what I thought happened in the past,
and be held forever in the quiet
only love offers.

The practice of the Course entails seeing all people as teachers and learners to one another, thus not having any

“People complain of not having the life they want, but are reluctant to look at the origins of the life they do have!”

Let Me Be Still

...and listen to the truth

International Conference on
A Course in Miracles

August 20 & 21

Wyndham Hotel
Irvine-Orange County Airport
Irvine, CA

Attend in Person
or via Live Streaming Video



"It's hard to put into words my conference experience but I'll try... It was exhilarating!"

We talk about the importance of mindfulness, but taking the time to practice this approach seems almost impossible in our busy lives. *A Course in Miracles* tells us it only takes an instant to listen to the truth. This does not diminish the importance of practice -- and we all need to practice our willingness daily to focus on love instead of fear -- but, our Answer is found in this moment.

We hope you will join us in August as we explore the transformative power of a moment of stillness to create miracles in your life now.



Featuring...
Beverly
Hutchinson McNeff
Jerry Jampolsky &
Diane
Cirincione-Jampolsky
Marianne Williamson



Lee
Jampolsky



Steven
Halpern



Loral
Reeves



Jeffrey
Seibert



Paul
McNeff



John
Viscount
and his new
movie
The Principle



"I think I would call your conferences my gas station. Every time I come it is like fueling myself up with so many blessings and knowledge from not just the speakers but from everyone who sits next to you!"

TIMES: Saturday 9 am to 9 pm,
Sunday 9 am to 1 pm

COST: In person: \$189
Includes lunch on Saturday
(with vegetarian options available.)

COST: Live Streaming: \$69
(Includes access to archived video
sessions for 30 days after the event.)
*Special lodging rates available
visit our website for cost & reservations.*

Register at www.miraclecenter.org or call 1-800-359-2246

REFUND POLICY: Refunds are available until August 5th (a \$50 processing fee applies.) No refunds are available after August 5th.

hierarchical relationships. We join together to assist one another in looking beyond the belief that events and life situations cause our suffering. We look within our minds, to our thoughts and beliefs, to discover the root causes of suffering. Key to this approach is the belief there is a state of being beyond suffering that is kept safe for us to return to. This state is an awareness and experience of love, which is a constant, unwavering, unchangeable, unshakable state.

No matter what a person's past is, and despite all appearances in the world of

pain, lack, suffering, tragedy, and threat of death, the Course approaches the present moment with a belief that love remains forever available to us and that healing is always possible. Accessing, or becoming aware, of this state is what true healing is about. The constant availability of a loving state of mind is not of this world; it is independent from it. This independence from the world is why this state of being, love, is perpetually present and available to us. Despite what we may have believed, love is not affected by any conditions outside of ourselves.

The Course does not require blind acceptance of any of this as true, or of always seeing the illusory nature of the world and a reality beyond it. Most people come to this approach with at least a small thought that there must be a better way to go through life than they have been, and that there is some part of them that resonates with the idea that love is a state kept safe for them to return to. They may not consciously realize it, but they are stepping toward love.

The starting and ending point is the

Continued on page 15



From Tears to Triumph

by Marianne Williamson



We all face times in our lives when the pain of existence seems too much to bear. For some of us, these experiences happen rarely, and when they do, the pain is relatively mild. But for others of us, excruciating pain can weigh us down and make the slightest comfort very difficult to achieve. Deeper and deeper we fall into the well of our own tears, into a darkness that seems to have no bottom. We wonder where all this suffering comes from. And we wonder whether it will ever end.

If you, or someone you love, are living through one of those times – feeling that to take another breath, even to live another day seems difficult to contemplate – then I'm glad that you are reading this book. You may find here some pieces of the puzzle you have not yet explored. A mystery. Perhaps a miracle.

This doesn't mean that you won't have to make any effort. It doesn't mean that you won't have work to do on your own behalf. Miracles aren't a quick fix, or an easy answer. But they activate a spiritual power divinely authorized to help you. God is here, even here, in the midst of your suffering. And as you reach out to Him, He will reach back.

Consider the possibility now that anything could happen. I'm not asking you to believe this, but only to consider that it might be true. Simply thinking this thought – that miracles are possible – does more to pave the way for your healing than you could imagine. It opens the door to a realm of infinite possibilities, regardless of what you have been through or what you are going through now.

The pain you are going through is not what will determine your future; your future will be determined by who you are as you go through your pain. This is not to question the depth of your suffering. Within the mortal world, it is certainly real. But the reality in which you are ensnared is not itself what it appears to be, nor are you yourself quite the being you feel you are now. We can expand the definition of who you are, as well as what the world is – and your life will begin to change. Your human self might be in hell right now, but your divine self is literally untouched by your suffering. And your divine self is who you are.

Your subconscious mind is aware of

“Simply thinking this thought – that miracles are possible – does more to pave the way for your healing than you could imagine.”

your larger reality and will assume the role of showing it to you when you are ready for it to do so. This process will be one of the great journeys of your life, as you will

see things you haven't seen and know things you haven't known. Your tears, your hopelessness, your fear, your anger, your guilt, your resentment, your remorse, your terror – none of these will be papered over or denied. You will not dissolve them by keeping them in the dark, but by exposing them to the light. And as you do, you will see beyond them such magnificence – in yourself and in the world – that you will actually bless the journey of your suffering, for it led you to yourself and to the meaning of your life. Spiritually healing doesn't lie in denying your pain, but in feeling it fully and surrendering it to God. And then the miracles begin...

This book is a spiritual reflection on human suffering, both its cause and its transcendence. Spirituality is not some

pale-pink, gauzy, psychologically unsophisticated understanding of the world. Rather, it represents the most profound elucidation of how the mind operates and how it filters our experience. It recognizes the extraordinary depth of our most fundamental yearning – our yearning for love – and the extraordinary pain that we feel when we don't find it.

There is an epidemic of depression in our world today, and a myriad of options for how to treat it. Just as there are natural remedies for disease within the body, there are natural remedies for disease within the mind. And by a “natural remedy” for depression I do not mean herbs or homeopathic remedies; I mean the practical application of love and forgiveness as a medicine for the soul.

As a society, we invite depression by trivializing love. We have sold our souls for a mess of pottage. Human existence is not just a random episode with no higher purpose than that all of us should get what we want. Seen that way, with no overlay of spirit, our lives seem to have no ultimate meaning. And the soul craves meaning the way the body craves oxygen. In the absence of spiritual framework, we know the mechanics of life but stop short of understanding it. Failing to understand life, we misuse it. And misusing it, we cause suffering – for ourselves and for others.

Every great religious and spiritual philosophy speaks to the issue of human suffering. This book only touches the surface of the spiritual depth of insight available in the great religious and spiritual teachings of the world, but hopefully it gets to a point often obscured behind veils of doctrine and dogma.

For instance: Buddha's spiritual journey began when he saw suffering for the first time; Moses was moved by the suffering of the Israelites; and Jesus suffered on the cross. But the point is not simply that Bud-

Marianne Williamson is an acclaimed author and lecturer. Six of her eleven published books have been New York Times bestsellers. She lectures on Wednesday evenings in New York City. For information visit www.marianne.com

dha saw suffering; the point is that he transcended it through his enlightenment. The point is not simply that the Israelites were enslaved; the point is that they were rescued and led to the Promised Land. The point is not simply that Jesus was crucified; the point is that he was resurrected. Human suffering was only the first part of an equation; what matters most is what happened after God showed *His* hand.

We too are suffering and observe suffering all around us; we too are enslaved by an internal pharaoh; and we too are dying on the cross of the world's cruelty and lack of reverence. Whether it occurred thousands of years ago or is occurring today, suffering is suffering, oppression is oppression, and cruelty is cruelty. These things are not ancient realities that don't exist anymore. They're not *gone*.

And neither is God's power to eradicate them. Spirit enlightened Buddha; Spirit delivered the Israelites; and Spirit resurrected Jesus. If we know our suffering is the same as theirs, it makes sense to seek a deeper understanding of their deliverance, that we might more easily invoke our own. How arrogant we are, and how blind, to think that our suffering is the same as it's always been, yet somehow we've improved on ways to deal with it. Are any of us under the impression that Buddha could have transcended suffering by making more money, getting a better job, or buying a better car? Or that the Israelites could have escaped slavery if they'd had another round of negotiations with Pharaoh or a private jet to take them to the Promised Land? Or that Jesus could have risen from the dead if only cryonics had been around then?

Humanity, over the past few hundred years, has lessened the incidence of some forms of suffering and increased the incidence of others. We've diminished the threat of polio, but increased the threat of nuclear disaster. We've diminished the dangers of travel, but increased the chances that our entire ecosystem will implode. And if we think we don't do "rape and pillage" anymore, take a look at what's going on around the world.

There is no worldly solution to the suffering or self-destructiveness of humanity today that can compare to the solutions offered by the great religions and spiritual philosophies of the world. Which is exactly

why the ego mind has sought to co-opt them for its purposes. It has turned the power of peace into the power of the sword, both within the world and within our hearts.

Today's search for spiritual sustenance is not confined to a particular teaching. There is no right or wrong when it comes to Buddhism, Judaism, or Christianity, or Islam, or Hinduism.

They are all kaleidoscopic facets of one essential diamond. Whether we relate personally to the story of Buddha, Moses, Jesus, Muhammed, or

Krishna; whether we understand truth more deeply when it is expressed by Carl Jung, Joseph Campbell, or *A Course in Miracles*; the essential themes at the heart of all these teachings are universal. They apply to all people, and most significantly, to all times.

The great religious figures and teachings of the world are God's gifts, a divine hand reaching down to touch the minds of those who are called to them. While the ego uses the outer aspects of these teachings to divide us – sometimes even as justification to destroy one another – their inner truths unite us by teaching us how to live with each other. On an internal level, the great religions of the world have

always led to miracles. On an external level, they have as often led to violence and destruction. That must change, and will change, as more people come to recognize the mystical truths, the inner gold, that lie within them all. The greatest opportunity for humanity's survival in the twenty-first century lies not in widening our external horizons, but in deepening

our internal ones. That applies to us personally, and it applies to us collectively.

And we will be sad until we do. Our bodies, our relationships, our careers, our

politics, will continue to be sources of suffering when they should rather be sources of joy. Hidden within all great spiritual teachings is the key to turning that around. Once we find the key, and turn the key, we are amazed by what lies hidden behind the door that's been locked to God. We're not without hope; we just haven't been seeing it. We're not without power; we just haven't been claiming it. We're not without love; we just haven't been living it.

Seeing these things, our lives begin to change. Our minds are awakened. Miracles happen. And at last our hearts are glad. ✧

This article is excerpted from Marianne's book *Tears to Triumph*.

"Just as there are natural remedies for disease within the body, there are natural remedies for disease within the mind."

Autographed copies available only from the Center

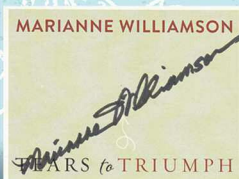


A New Book by Marianne Williamson

TEARS TO TRIUMPH

As a culture and individuals -- we have learned to avoid facing pain. Instead of allowing ourselves to embrace our hurt, we numb it, medicate it, or divert our attention so that we don't have to face it. True healing can only come when we face our pain and wrestle with what it has to teach us. This book,

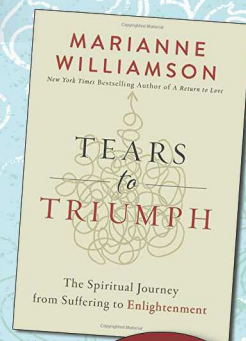
written with warm compassion and wisdom offers us a powerful way forward through the pain, to a deeper awareness of our feelings, our lives, and our true selves.



Autographed by the author on a limited edition book plate

To order visit our on-line catalog at:

www.miraclecenter.org Or call: **1-800-359-2246**



Hardcover
256 pgs.

\$22.99
When you order from the Center you Save \$3.00

Plus S&H, CA residents add sales tax





Jesus, Muhammad, Moses and Krishna are United in Heaven

by John Viscount

JOIN ME
at the
**Center's
Conference**
August 20-21

To me, heaven is not a place. It is a state of grace and a state of mind that derives its transcendence from the awe-inspiring knowledge of perfect oneness. It is a feeling we get when we perceive that, on the deepest level, we are all connected and there are no true differences between us. There are no individual agendas. There are no separate interests. There is nothing to be separate from. There is nothing to fear.

In this state of grace, I am you and you are me and together we enter the headspace of heaven, two becoming one, carried aloft on the wings of unity. But how does one get into this state in our modern world where billions of human beings from different cultures and different religions compete to assert their individual agendas?

There is only one way up the ladder. To experience heaven-like joy while still on Earth we have to move past the ego programming that ties us to this world and let

go of everything that keeps us separate from others. We have to master the art of being in the world while not being of the world. This is when transcendence occurs. And one of the unexpected benefits of doing this is that, when we learn how to transcend the world, we actually become much more effective in the world.

To achieve these higher states and a feeling of unity with all human beings, we must surrender the dearest weight of life, judgment. I'm not talking about the kind of judgment we use to decide when it is safe to cross the street. I'm talking about the judgment the ego uses to condemn and look down upon all those who pray to a different God than we do or who don't believe in God at all.

To avoid falling into that trap, it is helpful to remember that to effectively judge another is impossible anyway, as demonstrated by this passage from *A Course in Miracles*:

"In order to judge anything rightly, one

would have to be fully aware of an inconceivably wide range of things; past, present and to come. One would have to recognize in advance all the effects of his judgments on everyone and everything involved in them in any way. And one would have to be certain there is no distortion in his perception, so that his judgment would be wholly fair to everyone on whom it rests now and in the future. Who is in the position to do this? Who except in grandiose fantasies would claim this for himself?

Remember how many times you thought you knew all the 'facts' you needed for judgment, and how wrong you were! Is there anyone who has not had this experience? Would you know how many times you merely thought you were right, without ever realizing you were wrong? Why would you choose such an arbitrary basis for decision-making? Wisdom is not judgment; it is the relinquishment of judgment." (M-10.3:3)

Even if we could effectively judge another, why would we want to? Even when we hold onto just one percent of our judgment, peace is impossible. For just as the smallest drop of ink darkens an entire glass of water, the tiniest bit of judgment darkens the whole of our being.

Judgment is so counterproductive that it locks us out of the mental state of heaven. What could be worse? The material world and the mental state of heaven are mutually exclusive states. We can't have both, and the only one who determines where we will spend our time is us.

Every time we assert our individuality instead of unity, and separate interests instead of shared interests, we are building another addition to our home in the material world. Unfortunately, we will never reach the mental state of heaven this way.

In fact, judgment is so effective at

"I'm talking about the judgment the ego uses to condemn and look down upon all those who pray to a different God than we do or who don't believe in God at all."

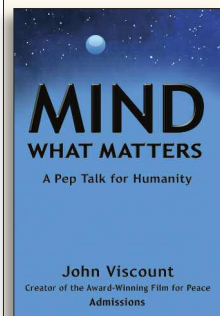
Available from the Center

Mind What Matters

NEW

A Pep Talk for Humanity

A rich treasure of stories and healing philosophies that articulate powerful shifts in thought that help human beings from all walks of life transcend the perennial obstacles to achieving happiness. Paperback - 172 pgs.



\$16⁹⁹

Admissions

Winner of 26 International Awards

This short film is a modern parable written in response to the 9/11 attacks to reflect principles of *A Course in Miracles*. DVD



\$9⁹⁹

www.miraclecenter.org or call 1-800-359-2246

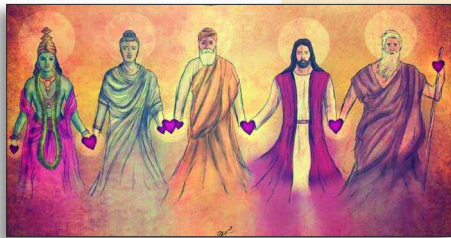


All prices +S&H and CA sales tax

John Viscount is the author of *Mind What Matters: A Pep Talk for Humanity* and creator of the award-winning film for peace "Admissions." He is also co-founder of PeaceNow.com which is gathering one billion signatures to create Peace Departments in governments worldwide. He has been a Course student for 18 years.

keeping us separated from each other that the followers of some of the greatest avatars to walk the Earth, those saintly folks who spoke most eloquently about how to get in touch with our Higher Self, are often at war! Imagine what the saints who inspired these followers would think

"What these saints alluded to on Earth and reflected in the transcendent states they reached here, they have now become in heaven."



if they came back today? They would have to start all over from the beginning.

But this is what happens when we create our own exclusive Gods and establish our own exclusive contracts with the divine. In essence, we define by divinity by

attempting to erect a fence around the infinite. We then proceed to have murderous border wars over the imaginary boundaries we have created, condemning others for not seeing things from our exact point of view.

In our attempt to get closer to God and secure heaven for ourselves, we inevitably leave others out. But, as long as anyone is left out, heaven is unattainable. Approaches like this prove only one thing: that we are coming solely from the ego. And no matter how well-developed its theology is, the ego only leads us back to planet Earth.

All we have effectively done is sentence ourselves to a place that bears no resemblance to heaven, a place where Jesus, Muhammad, Moses, Krishna or their

followers cannot possibly unite. This world, or more accurately, the thinking behind this world, won't allow it. The sad story of humanity thus becomes, to quote Shakespeare's Macbeth, "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

But the good news is that in heaven — the true unity state that we are all capable of achieving in our minds — Jesus, Muhammad, Moses and Krishna couldn't be closer. They are so close that they have dissolved into one, and there is no longer any troublesome individuality to mess up a perfect thing. They are in the healing embrace of shared interests, one with all that is.

What these saints alluded to on Earth and reflected in the transcendent states they reached here, they have now become in heaven. I am not talking about the heaven in the clouds beyond some pearly gates where angels serenade us with harps

Continued on page 15

Available from the Center

Soon Out of Print!

Books by Kenneth Wapnick



Since 1978, Dr. Kenneth Wapnick published more than thirty books based on *A Course in Miracles*. His publisher recently announced that when the current supply of books is sold, **the titles will not be reprinted.**

Take this opportunity to complete your library or gift list with Dr. Wapnick's works in print. We carry every title he has published.

<i>A Course in Miracles</i> and Christianity	\$8.00	Healing the Unhealed Mind	\$10.00
<i>A Talk Given on A Course in Miracles</i>	\$10.00	The Journey Home	\$22.00
<i>A Vast Illusion</i>	\$17.00	Journey through the Text of ACIM	\$40.00
<i>Absence from Felicity</i>	\$20.00	Journey through the Workbook of ACIM	\$60.00
<i>The Arch of Forgiveness</i>	\$10.00	Journey through the Manual of ACIM	\$22.00
<i>Awaken from the Dream</i>	\$12.00	Life, Death, and Love	\$25.00
<i>Christian Psychology in A Course in Miracles</i>	\$8.00	Love Does Not Condemn	\$25.00
<i>Ending Our Escape from Love</i>	\$10.00	The Message of <i>A Course in Miracles</i>	\$25.00
<i>Ending Our Resistance to Love</i>	\$10.00	The Most Commonly Asked Questions About ACIM	\$10.00
<i>The Fifty Miracle Principles of A Course in Miracles</i>	\$10.00	Overeating-A Dialogue	\$5.00
<i>Forgiveness and Jesus</i>	\$18.00	Parents and Children	\$20.00
<i>Form Versus Content</i>	\$10.00	The Stages of Our Spiritual Journey	\$10.00
<i>From Futility to Happiness</i>	\$10.00	Taking the Ego Lightly	\$12.00
<i>From the Lighthouse</i>	\$65.00	What it Says	\$10.00
<i>Glossary-Index for A Course in Miracles</i>	\$12.99	When 2 + 2 = 5	\$10.00
<i>The Healing Power of Kindness Vol. I & II</i>	\$20.00		

www.miraclecenter.org or call 1-800-359-2246

All prices +S&H and CA sales tax



based on our heredity, family, and experiences. The truth is, though, all of this “window dressing” does not make us who we are. Our reality is a gift from God that can be neither earned nor lost; it is eternal.

The Course tells us our reality is this:

“I am as God created me.

Love created me like Itself.”

Therefore, we are created in the image of love, and as we are told in lesson 67:

“Holiness created me holy.

Kindness created me kind.

Helpfulness created me helpful.

Perfection created me perfect.”

We cannot change our reality, but we can choose to assume “identities” based on past perceptions and perceived needs and thereby diminish the awareness of our true identity. Much as Superman assumed the identity of Clark Kent to fit in with the world around him, we have chosen to assume our “un-super self” to fit into this limited world.

But, we made this choice – no one else. Just as we don’t remember (or comprehend) Adam and Eve making that fatal error that cast us out of Eden, we may not understand how we could be

responsible for the choices that have brought us to the places and identities we experience today. Accepting responsibility for our lives now and embracing the place we find ourselves is not done so we can blame ourselves, but so we can finally be free.

If we can accept our responsibility for where we are right now – how we see the situation, ourselves, and others – then we can make another choice. If I am responsible for what I see, then I can choose to see it another way. And, this time, we don’t need to choose alone or choose from only the choices we seem to see before us.

By joining our minds with the power of love, the power of God, we can choose for “the joy of God instead of pain.” (W-101) When we invite the power of love to lead

the way, we become open to new perspectives. This is similar to how we might look at an impressionist piece of art. To the untrained eye, a work by Salvador Dali might seem crazy and confused, but when you are shown how to look deeper into the painting and told what the artist was trying to convey, a whole new world of understanding and art comes forth. [For more on Dali, check out Paul’s article on page 3!]

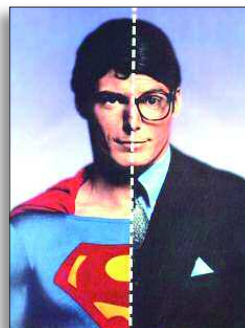
We have assumed identities within this worldly experience but that does not change the eternal truth about us and the peace that is our guarantee. The Course’s workbook lesson 230, “Now will I seek and find the peace of God,” gives us three precepts we should keep clearly in mind to help us “shake it off” and not be limited or confounded by the chaos of the world.

1. “In peace I was created.”

What gets us lost in this complex world is that we don’t have a solid foundation. Much like the man who built his home on sand, when the storms come we have no support. But, as we affirm this eternal truth

– in peace I was created
– we become like the man who built his home on rock; it will not only sustain us

“Much as Superman assumed the identity of Clark Kent to fit in with the world around him, we have chosen to assume our ‘un-super self’ to fit into this limited world.”



Christopher Reeve as Superman

during the challenges of life, but because it is the truth, it is supported by the power of God. Therefore, it can work miracles in our lives because we are connected to the power of love that connects us all.

When my son, Jeffrey, was little and people would ask him his name, he would point to himself with great enthusiasm and say, “My name is Jeffrey!” He clearly knew who he was; there was no doubt in his mind. He had been told what his name was, and he believed it. He confidently shared that truth with whoever asked.

This is the kind of self-belief we need to have about our reality and the peace that we are entitled to. God has told us who we

are (that we were created in peace) and like a faithful child, it is time we trust in His gift. This trust is not naive; it is just untried.

2. “And in peace do I remain.”

As I write and affirm this thought, I feel a deep release. We are forever in peace; there almost seems to be a silent “yes” connected to this thought as though it anchors us to something deep within us.

This affirming thought allows us to take a deep breath and rest into whatever situation or circumstance we find ourselves in and know we will be able to weather the storm. The Course reminds us this is the purpose of our learning. It says...

“The purpose of your learning is to enable you to bring the quiet with you, and to heal distress and turmoil. This is not done by avoiding them and seeking a haven of isolation for yourself.

You will yet learn that peace is part of you, and requires only that you be there to embrace any situation in which you are.”

(W-I.Review)

A few years back, the city where we live gave each household five small trees to plant to encourage environmentalism. We decided to have someone who knew how to plant trees do the job. He planted them and then put wooden poles and straps around each tree to secure them into place. He told us trees needed to let their roots anchor into the ground so the poles were very important to their life and success in growth. Once a tree’s roots are anchored, though, they clearly are secure. If you have ever had to have a tree removed, you know how deeply the roots are embedded in the ground.

This is much like us. The truths of the Course may be new to us and we may need to constantly nurture them within our minds by affirming the thoughts throughout the day, but we cannot alter that truth. We are deeply rooted in peace and no worldly identity or circumstance can change that.

3. “It is not given me to change my Self.”

“Your sinlessness is guaranteed by God. Over and over this must be repeated, until it is accepted. It is true. Your sinlessness is guaranteed by God. Nothing can touch it, or change what God created as eternal. The self you made, evil and full of sin, is

to change your mind about the world. Perception is a result and not a cause. And that is why order of difficulty in miracles is meaningless. Everything looked upon with vision is healed and holy. Nothing perceived without it means anything. And where there is no meaning, there is chaos.” (ibid)

I can think of no better illustration of “projection makes perception” than that found in the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird* by renowned American author Harper Lee. The mysterious and stealthy character, Boo Radley, is a recluse who slowly but unsuccessfully tries to reveal himself to the novel’s protagonist, Scout Finch. But Scout will have nothing to do with it.

With only rumors and unchecked imaginations about the mysterious events Boo went through as a teenager, the children in the town, including Scout, have come to believe Boo is a horrible and scary person, one to be shunned at all cost. Scout de-

“Not until these closing events transpire does Scout realize how wrong her projection of Boo had been.”

scribes him as being sickly white, with a thin mouth, and grey eyes, almost as if he were blind. Yet, in the story, Boo attempts only to reach out to Scout in friendship.

The true nature of Boo’s character is not understood until the end of the story as Boo saves Scout’s life from a violent attack perpetrated by the story’s antagonist, Bob Ewell, a desperately vicious man overcome by his own guilt. Not until these closing events transpire does Scout realize how wrong her projections of Boo had been.

Projection makes perception. Just as Scout had done, how often do we judge our experience on such ill-advised criteria? In one of the early workbook lessons, the Course further elaborates on our misguided thinking.

Boo (Robert Duvall) and Scout (Mary Badham) in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 1963



“My meaningless thoughts are showing me a meaningless world. This is the first idea we have had that is related to a major phase of the correction process; the reversal of the thinking of the world. It seems as if the world determines what you perceive. Today’s idea introduces the concept that your thoughts determine the world you see. Be glad to indeed practice the idea in its initial form, for in this idea is your release made sure. The key to forgiveness lies in it.” (W-11.1)

To the ego, stepping out and opening our mind to the lessons of the Course can be very scary. “You mean, I have to take responsibility for my meaningless thoughts?” Yes, that is exactly what the Course requires. But, when we venture out on this fearful turf, we receive in our experience a big pay off... “The key to forgiveness lies in it.”

The means of healing our sickly perception cannot be measured in formulaic methods such as daily two-hour meditation sessions, saying five hundred “Hail Marys” or, one of my favorites, chanting “God’s peace, my release” over and over again.

Although these meditative techniques may be very helpful in preparing our mind against the daily assaults of our world, real healing comes from taking responsibility for our thoughts, looking at them and turning them all over to a greater vision that is inherently within us.

May I suggest a simple three-step process toward healing our perception, to allow us to see the world as Christ would?

1) Take Responsibility. “Let not my world obscure the sight of Christ. I can obscure my holy sight, if I intrude my world upon it.” (W-304.1)

2) Get out of your own way. “Nor can I behold the holy sights Christ looks upon, unless it is His vision that I use.



Simon Peter (Stewart Scudamore) and Clavius (Joseph Fiennes) in *Risen*, 2016

Perception is a mirror, not a fact. And what I look on is my state of mind, reflected outward.” (ibid)

3) Be ready to take action. “I would bless the world by looking on it through the eyes of Christ. And I will look upon the certain signs that all my sins have been forgiven me.” (ibid)

“In the movie’s penultimate moment. Clavius responds to Simon Peter’s question, ‘do you believe?’ ‘Yes, I believe that I will never be the same again.’”

In the recently released movie, *Risen*, Joseph Fiennes plays the role of Clavius, a war-weary Roman Tribune in Judea, 33 AD, tasked with the job of finding the missing body of Yeshua, an executed Jew rumored to have risen from the dead. Of course, that missing body and executed Jew turns out to be Jesus of Nazareth.

Like the stalwart tribune he is, Clavius methodically investigates the circumstances surrounding the missing body. His search intensifies as he interviews many of Jesus’ followers, one of whom is Mary Magdalene. Already profoundly moved by his experience of witnessing the power of love surrounding Yeshua’s life and message, Mary offers counsel to him; “You are looking for something you’ll never find. Open your heart and. you will see.”

And that is the message of the Course... truth lies beyond what we normally see. It is not until we open our hearts and look through the eyes of Christ that we will experience healing.

In the movie’s penultimate moment, Clavius responds to Simon Peter’s question, “Do you believe?” “Yes, I believe that I will never be the same again.” And, we will never be the same again once we lay down the sword of fear and judgment and allow our inner sight to come forth.

On first look, I was a goner during that terrible lightning storm in Florida. A closer look reveals I was safe inside that radio rig. At first look, Dali’s painting showed a serene staging of his wife as the observer.

A closer look reveals a portrait of Dali's favorite president, Abraham Lincoln. At first look, Boo Radley was an offensive and scary character. A closer look reveals he was a genuine hero. At first look, Clavius was a violent Roman Tribune stopping at nothing to uphold Roman laws. A closer look reveals a man whose life had been transformed by the power of love. Yes, things are not always as they seem. We owe it to ourselves to take a second look, a Christ's vision look, as it were, and allow our healing to occur.

"God's Word has promised that peace is possible here, and what He promises can hardly be impossible. But it is true that the world must be looked at differently, if His promises are to be accepted. What the world is, is but a fact. You cannot choose what this should be. But you can choose how you would see it. Indeed, you must choose this." (M-11.1) ✨

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 it's many free services.

www.miraclecenter.org

Listening

Continued from page 7

same, the philosophy and theoretical structure consistent: love is a constant. Though we may not speak directly of this love at every turn of conversation or thought, there is an underlying thread moving through our practice of the Course, and that is, if we are not in touch with the peace of mind that comes from this loving state, it is because something is blocking it from our awareness. Thus, our practice of the Course can be seen as a path of removing the obstacles to the awareness of love, of Truth, no matter what our situation in life may be at any given time. ✨

What's Happening

Continued from page 2

help ease the burden of pushing to a higher point."

● **Make a Lasting Mark!** Through a charitable gift annuity, donors are able to make a lasting gift to the Center to ensure the Course's message continues into the future and in return receive income for the rest of their lives. Annuitants also receive a lifetime subscription to **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** and free admittance to any of the Center's events. The paperwork for gift annuities is simple to complete and without cost to you. Watch our new video to see how easy it is to establish a gift annuity to help continue our outreach on behalf of *A Course in Miracles* and benefit yourself in retirement. Go to www.miraclecenter.org and click on "About" then "Our Legacy Community."



● **"Thank you for the wonderful service you provide, especially the Daily Lesson Email and The Holy Encounter."** "Here's a gift to help support the Daily Lesson Emails." We want to thank Charlotte Holland in Colorado and Ruth Murphy in Georgia for their support of our work! We are honored to have been here for students of the Course for the last

thirty-eight years and we appreciate your support to ensure we will be here well into the future, providing the valuable service you have come to depend on. If you haven't supported lately, join Charlotte and Ruth by making a tax-deductible donation either online www.miraclecenter.org, by phone 1-800-359-2246 (ACIM) or by mail with the postpaid envelope in this issue. Thank you so much!

● **"Let me be still and listen to the truth."** This lesson (106) in *A Course in Miracles* is not only the title and focus for our international conference on the Course in August this year, but it also shares the secret to our healing. We are entitled to miracles, but we will never experience them as long as we are distracted by our frenetic world and lives. God does not ask us to give much, just an instant – a holy instant – to allow truth to reign in our life. We invite you to take that holy instant 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. Together, let us be still and listen to the truth.

Thoughts for:

July: *In quiet I receive God's Word today.*

(Lesson 125)

August: *My grievances hide the light of the world in me.* (Lesson 69)

September: *Forgiveness offers everything I want.* (Lesson 122) ✨

United in Heaven

Continued from page 11

and virgins serve us cherries. I'm talking about the heaven in our mind where all is one.

In the end, it is wise to remember that religions and the saints of religions are merely symbols of a higher level of truth that is impossible to put into words. As *A Course in Miracles* teaches, words are just symbols of symbols and therefore are twice removed from this ultimate reality that all religions try to express. This means there is no reason to get stuck on the details and start quarreling over how various cultures try to express what God or heaven

is. That just defeats the whole purpose of the spiritual quest in the first place. Instead, give yourself a taste of some real heaven, right here, right now. Let go of your words, definitions, categorizations, preconceived notions and anything else that creates separation between you and others. Open a sacred space inside of you big enough to hold the entire world in its embrace. Do this out of love and you will practice living in the only place in the world where Jesus, Muhammad, Moses, Krishna and their followers can be united forever – your mind. It's your true ticket to heaven. ✨

This article is excerpted from John Viscount's book *Mind What Matters* and is available from the Center's website @ www.miraclecenter.org

The HOLY ENCOUNTER

And Now in This Issue...

- "Shake It Off, Shake It Off"
- "Things Are not Always as They Seem"
- "Losing Our Sanity During Elections"
- "Listening to the Truth from Stillness"
- "From Tears to Triumph"
- "United in Heaven"

and more!



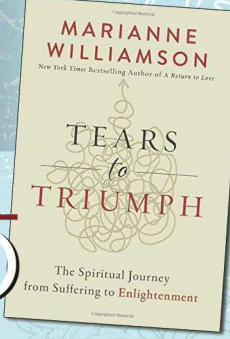
**Miracle
Distribution Center**
Founded 1978

3947 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92807

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



A New Book by
Marianne
Williamson



**TEARS
to
TRIUMPH**
The Spiritual Journey
from Suffering to Enlightenment

TEARS TO TRIUMPH

A book on facing the pain in our lives and
achieving true healing.
Autographed copies available only from the Center
See page 9 for more information.

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

Let Me Be Still

*...and listen
to the truth*

International Conference on
A Course in Miracles

August 20 & 21

Wyndham Hotel
Irvine-Orange County Airport
Irvine, CA

Attend in Person
or via Live Streaming Video



"You truly create
an environment
where it is safe to
open up and let
us experience
the love within
ourselves."

We talk about the importance of mindfulness, but taking the time to practice this approach seems almost impossible in our busy lives. *A Course in Miracles* tells us it only takes an instant to listen to the truth. This does not diminish the importance of practice -- and we all need to practice our willingness daily to focus on love instead of fear -- but, our Answer is found in this moment.

Register at www.miraclecenter.org
or call **1-800-359-2246**



Featuring...

Beverly Hutchinson McNeff, Jerry Jampolsky,
Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, Marianne Williamson,
Steven Halpern, Lee Jampolsky, Paul McNeff,
Loral Reeves and Jeffrey Seibert
from the Foundation for *A Course in Miracles*



Learn about
John Viscount's
new movie
The Principle



"Such a refreshing
spark of joy and
laughter laced
with true wisdom!"

See page 7
for more details!