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# The HOLY ENCOUNTER



JULY / AUGUST 2018

A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

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



## A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

People love to quote Rumi, Buddha, Jesus, Gandhi, and so many others, but I like to quote Fred Rogers. Known to many as Mr. Rogers, he said, or rather sang, everyday on his landmark children's television series on PBS,

*"It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,  
A beautiful day for a neighbor.*

*Would you be mine?  
Could you be mine?  
Won't you be my  
neighbor?"*

Mr. Rogers seemed to say it all in those simple phrases. Every day is a beautiful day in a neighborhood when we see everyone as a "neighbor" who is worthy to be known and treated with respect. That doesn't mean we have to approve of everything they do; we may actually disagree with them, but that does not change the fact that they are worthy. The awareness of worthiness is what opens us up to our own worth and value.

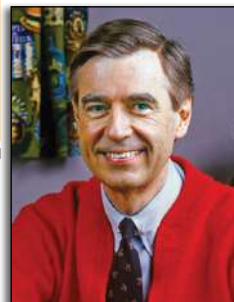
As *A Course in Miracles* tells us, every encounter with another is a holy encounter; as we see them, think of them, or treat them, we do the same to ourselves. We have to remember that the day we choose to experience is not dependent on the outside world, but instead on the thoughts we choose to hold.

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.

*"My holy brother, think of this awhile: The world you see does nothing. It has no effects at all. It merely represents your thoughts. And it will change entirely as you elect to change your mind, and choose the joy of God as what you really want."* (Lesson 190)

It seems almost impossible in a world of such turmoil and anger that simply changing our minds is our salvation. Yet, we have all

had experiences where we have been so angry and unmovable on something only to have those feelings melt away as a new perspective was given us.



Mr. Rogers

One such example was shared by a weekly MDC meeting subscriber in Florida, Rae Karen Hauck. Even though the following experience took place many years ago, she still recalls how it brought her to a place of healing towards her dad and still serves as a memory of healing today.

"A recent story Beverly shared reminded me of a long forgotten memory of my dad.

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## 40 Years in Retrospect

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

### The Life of Miracle Distribution Center Part IV: Divine Decisions

*"We will not let the beliefs of the world tell us that what God would have us do is impossible. Instead, we will try to recognize that only what God would have us do is possible."* (W-45.4:5)

The Course spends a great deal of time inviting us to withdraw our belief in what the world shows us, and to instead allow God's Voice to guide and direct our lives. This certainly makes sense considering that for most of us, trusting in the world is a teeter-totter ride at best. Of course, the world and our ego want us to believe that God can't be trusted, or at least that He isn't too terribly interested in our lives. The world can be a shining example of failure and despair, if we let it be.

*A Course in Miracles* says, "There is no limit to the power of a Son of God, but he can limit the expression of his power as much as he chooses." (T-4.IV.8:2) In this same passage Jesus goes on to say, "Your mind and mine can unite in shining your ego away, releasing the strength of God into everything you think and do. Do not settle for anything less than this, and refuse to

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In celebration of MDC's 40th Anniversary, we will be sharing our journey through six articles that highlight the Center's birth, growth, life, and purpose, as it continues to evolve and support students of *A Course in Miracles*.

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

For more information go to  
[www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org) or call 1 714-632-9005

● **The top song in the country in 1978** was “Night Fever” by the Bee Gees, and the hot movies were “Grease” and “Jaws 2”; the U.S. minimum wage was \$2.65 an hour, and the Dodge Aspen was voted one of the best-looking cars of the year; the first computers



1978 Dodge Aspen

were installed in the White House and Sony introduced the Walkman. 1978 also saw the birth of **Miracle Distribution Center**. We look forward to our next 40 years of serving students of the Course!

● **Encircled by Miracles** - Now, when you become a new *Holy Helper* with an ongoing commitment of \$15 or more each month, we will send you our **Miracle Mug** encircled with fifteen of our favorite inspirational quotes from *A Course in Miracles*. This mug was exclusively designed and created by your Miracle Distribution Center family and is available only to new *Holy Helpers*. See page 16 for more details.



● **The Gift that Gives Back** - Through a charitable gift annuity, donors are able to make a lasting gift to the Center and, in return, receive income for the rest of their lives. New, higher rates have just been announced by the American Council on Gift Annuities. This is the first rate increase in more than six years. Watch a video about this innovative retirement option by visiting the Legacy Page on our website. Help our outreach on behalf of *A Course in Miracles* as you help yourself!

● **“Wow! My order shipped 20 minutes** from when I placed it. This truly is a “Miracle Distribution Center!” We thank Nannette in Nevada for her kind comment about our online bookstore. Since our founding in 1978, we’ve tried to provide the level of

service we ourselves would like to receive. Unlike the larger online superstores, we are always happy to talk with you on the phone to help find the perfect books and recordings to help with your study of the Course. And, all of the proceeds from your purchases help to fund our many free services, including **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER**. Just go to our website and click on “Store” or call **1-800-359-ACIM (2246)**

● **“The wisdom and common sense of the meetings are my lynch pin. I thank every one of you beautiful people for the group.”** That’s how Sandra in Turkey feels about the *A Course in Miracles* meetings that are live streamed free from the Center every Wednesday at 7pm (Pacific Time).

Join us to experience the common sense wisdom of the Course as presented by Beverly. If you can’t join us live, consider becoming a subscriber to watch at your leisure and have access to over 100 archived meetings. Find out more at the Center’s website or call us!

● **“I just loved Beverly’s article on time and A Course in Miracles.”** This is how Linda in Montana began her post about a recent article in **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** (March/April 2018). She continued, “The article really clarifies the true purpose of time and how to use judgment wisely. I need to read and re-read all you wrote because it is so uplifting/clarifying that I can’t take it all in at once!”

After reading the article one time, I feel like I have been missing something in the Course material – for reasons I don’t understand, I always judge myself as ‘doing it all wrong’ and wasting time and the gift of the Course because I can’t ‘get it right.’ This article’s perspective is just the shift I needed – I will start doing my lessons with more compassion for myself!” We are grateful to be here for students’ awakening. Your tax-deductible gifts are appreciated to keep this free magazine available to all who benefit from its blessings. Thank you!

● **“The memory of God comes to the quiet mind,”** says *A Course in Miracles*. When we take those quiet moments during the day to have faith that God can and will settle every problem now, we call upon the power of the universe, the power of love to work miracles in our lives. We invite you to practice this awareness with us every day at 4:30pm (Pacific Time) as we join with all in our prayer ministry to remember the power of love to transform our lives and this world. We welcome your prayer request.

Affirmations for:

**July:** *Your grace is given me. I claim it now.* (Lesson 168)

**August:** *I am not a body. I am free.* (Lesson 199)

**September:** *I will step back and let Him lead the way.* (Lesson 155)



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## 40th Anniversary of MDC

This year we celebrate the Center’s 40th year of service to *A Course in Miracles*. We are honored to be here for students, helping them to apply the Course’s powerful healing experience to their lives and world. To that end, we are taking a pause from the typical conference format to provide deeper experiences for students. Our **Holy Encounter Retreat**, is just such an experience. See the facing page for more details!

We hope you will join us in September, as we truly experience the miracles we are entitled to!



Don't Miss Out on this  
Incredible Weekend!!

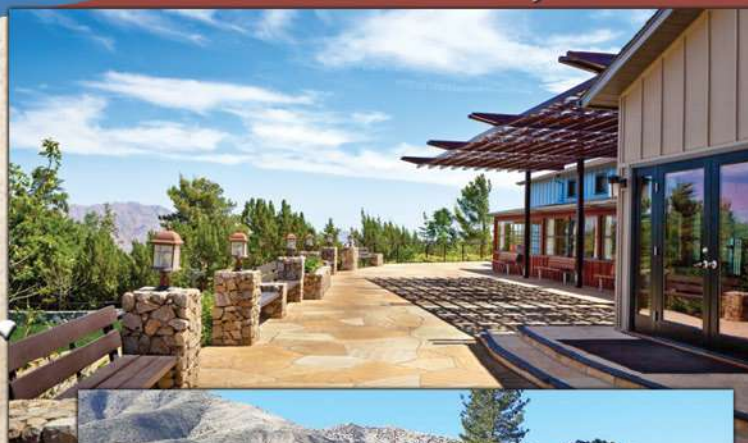
SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2018

# Holy Encounter Retreat



International lecturer, author, and founder of the Center, Beverly Hutchinson McNeff brings her 41 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 principles that helped me make sense of things 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.*

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

gardens, beside a tumbling stream, or peaceful 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.



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



To register visit [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org) or call 1-800-359-2246





# Miracle Musings...

## Citizenship and Sonship

by Paul McNeff

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

*"Be vigilant only for God and His Kingdom. ...I have already told you that you can be as vigilant against the ego as for it. This lesson teaches not only that you can be, but that you must be."* (T-6.V.C.2-4)

I have just finished reading presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winner Jon Meacham's new book, *The SOUL of AMERICA – The Battle for Our Better Angels*. During this time of political and moral crisis in our country, I am both troubled by his insightful historical analysis and critical perspective and hope-filled as well. Drawing from storied portraits – some not so good, some exceptional – of Presidents Lincoln to Johnson, and social activists including Susan B. Anthony to Dr. Martin Luther King, Meacham weaves the story of the soul of America; how the protection or abuse of our bedrock values of liberty, equality, opportunity, decency, fairness, and justice for all, define us as a nation.

As one of the first Republics in the world to offer equal citizenship status to every person (regardless of race, creed, and religion), George Washington called our nascent nation the Great Experiment. With the abolishment of slavery, women getting the vote, and civil and gay rights established, this Great Experiment has slowly moved forward.

In many ways, I find the principles of *A Course in Miracles* resonate with our U.S. Constitution. Chief among these is the idea of liberty. In America, it is the liberation of the citizen. To achieve vital partnership in this "American experiment," as citizens we must be fully vested in our citizenship: being well informed, voting, holding to account our elected officials, and yes, speaking truth to power, even to the President of the United States. Similarly in the Course, it is the liberation of the mind of our collective Sonship (yours and mine) that requires focus on "removing the blocks to the awareness of love's presence."

Robert Kennedy once said: "Democracy

is messy, and it's hard. It's never easy." In our modern culture, politics has increasingly become a pejorative, something that seems crooked, mean-spirited, and rancorous. But, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, politics means: *"the activities of self-government, members of law-making organizations, or people who try to influence the way a country is governed"*. Democracy should involve spirited debate over issues that matter to us as a country. We need to be ever vigilant about staying informed, knowledgeable and engaged in our nation's challenges.

Similarly, as a Course student, if we truly desire the "fruits" of spiritual freedom, we need to be willing to take our Sonship

***"As one of the first Republics in the world to offer equal citizenship status to every person (regardless of race, creed, and religion), George Washington called our nascent nation the Great Experiment."***

seriously, and work hard to understand the text, and practice our workbook lessons. Citizenship, like Sonship, is not for the fainthearted. They both take vigilance, if we are to reap the benefits.

American history is full of vigilance. An axiom attributed to Thomas Jefferson bears this out: *"The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance."*

In the same way our spiritual freedom beckons for vigilance. But, we say, how do

we stay focused on our peace when we have to get an education, go to work to make a living, raise a family, and, oh yes, make some time for a little fun? The Course says little about these activities in the world, but it does teach us a lot about how we can inculcate these spiritual principles into our consciousness throughout our busy day. "Pray without ceasing," does not mean that you need to be on your knees in prayer 24/7, but it does mean keeping your ultimate focus on spiritual principles, knowing that at any time you can return to them to regain a true perspective and balance.

In the same way the Course goes on,



*"This lesson teaches not only that you can be (vigilant), but that you must be. It does not concern itself with order of difficulty, but with clear-cut priority for vigilance. This lesson is unequivocal in that it teaches there must be no exceptions, although it does not deny that the temptation to make exceptions will occur."*

(ibid)

Let's face it, none of us is perfect. But we all have the ability to make decisions. As an over-arching message, the Course is suggesting we have as our daily purpose the intention to lift our minds above our daily activities in this temporal world to a place of permanency, that of spirit.

Many years ago, our family took a trip to the Grand Canyon. With its breathtaking views and expansive grandeur, it is easy to wonder how this natural marvel of nature came to be. When we asked our four-year-old which he thought was more powerful, rock or water, he replied rock! To which I replied that the canyon was made by the constant flow of water over millions of years cutting through the rock. A light went on in his little mind that

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](http://www.kidsingers.org)

what is often perceived as being harder is not always so.

Such is the case of our mistaken ego thoughts about who we are and what our purpose is. Do we derive our identity just from our body shape, nationality, job description, gender, or do we see more clearly, through the illusions of this world, with the help of our spiritual practice? As we learn in the Course, we can gently carve through the rigidity of ego identification of form, to a true spiritual state of being where peace, truth, and wholeness reign.

*"The wholeness of the Kingdom does not depend on your perception, but your aware-*

***"To which I replied that the canyon was made by the constant flow of water over millions of years cutting through the rock. A light went on in his little mind that what is often perceived as being harder is not always so."***

*ness of its wholeness does. It is only your awareness that needs protection, since being cannot be assailed. Yet a real sense of being cannot be yours while you are doubtful of what you are. This is why vigilance is essential. Doubts about being must not enter your mind, or you cannot know what you are with certainty. Certainty is of God for you. Vigilance is not necessary for truth, but it is necessary against illusions."* (ibid)

Observe vigilance in nature. For example, take the pearl. Instantly recognized as one of the world's most precious gems, it takes some serious time for the pearl to be formed. Natural pearls form when an irritant, usually a parasite or minute piece of shell, works its way into an oyster, mussel, or clam. As a defense mechanism, a fluid is used to coat the irritant. Layer upon layer of this coating, called "nacre," is deposited until a lustrous pearl is formed. Generally, this process can take between two to three years for a thick layer of nacre to be deposited, resulting in a beautiful, gem-quality pearl.

This natural occurrence of pearl creation can be a teaching tool for our spiritual development. It takes vigilance, time, and maturity to create something of beauty. But, in the case of spirituality, it is more like

an unlayering of years of illusion that have built up around ego miscreation to get to the truth of who we really are. This is where vigilance is most needed. Just as a beautiful pearl is found within that mollusk shell, Sonship is found within where our true being abides.

*"Beautiful child of God, you are asking only for what I promised you. Do you believe I would deceive you? The Kingdom of Heaven is within you. Believe that the truth is in me, for I know that it is in you..."* (T-11.VIII.8)

Like the pearl, we as spiritual beings are in process. As defined by the illusion of time, our process will undoubtedly take longer than the pearl, but nonetheless, we are on the path. And, it goes without saying, we always have the help of the Holy Spirit, if we just ask. It has taken a lifetime for us to build up value in illusion. As the Course says, we have expended great effort to preserve it.



Lastly, we must take a final step, one of recognition over perception. When our son Jeffrey was about six years

old, he came home from school, and casually told me that his best friend Joshua had said, "My brother asked me why you were such a girl." I was astonished that Josh's brother (who was also a friend of Jeffrey's) could be so mean, but I didn't want my judgment to rub off on Jeffrey, so I calmly asked him how this all happened. He told me that since we had put some Care Bear stickers on his book, Josh's brother, Drew, saw it and made the comment.

"What did you say when Josh asked you that?" I questioned him, looking for any sign of hurt in his face or voice. Surprisingly, I found no hurt feelings as Jeffrey calmly replied, "Nothing, cause I'm not a girl. I guess

***"This is where vigilance is most needed. Just as a beautiful pearl is found within that mollusk shell, Sonship is found within where our true being abides."***

those stickers are what girls play with, but I still like them." Then he went off to play.

Jeffrey didn't let Drew's prejudice become his illusion. I, on the other hand, was ready to call his parents and "do battle" with this judgmental, intolerant little boy in order to protect my son. It was clear, though, Jeffrey knew the truth. Without saying a word, he simply focused on who he was and saw no need to get upset or attack back.

If we truly know our identity as God's holy and innocent child, just as Jeffrey most confidently knew he was a boy, then we will have taken the final step away from vigilance against the ego to true being where there is no need of vigilance.

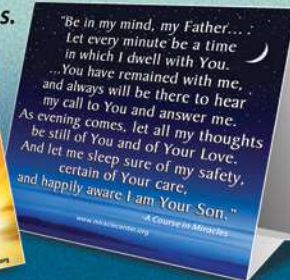
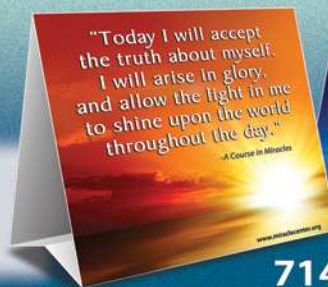
Citizenship and Sonship. What they have in common is they both take work on our part. We cannot attain true freedom without our resolve to participate fully. Citizenship however, can be fleeting. Depending on what country you are from or what time in history you may inhabit, it can be very exclusive. That's where Sonship has it over Citizenship: it is eternal and 100% inclusive.

## *Morning & Evening Miracles*

We received an enthusiastic response last year to our beautiful 4" x 4" table tent featuring a morning and evening prayer from *A Course in Miracles*.

We still have a limited quantity available. Any donation for this free gift would be greatly appreciated.

*"I love the table tent. It is so comforting and I read it every morning and night and have noticed a positive difference."* Karen Scopetski, MA



**714-632-9005**



# Change Your Mind Change Your Life

## Healing the Heart That Heals

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

**A**re you caregiving for anyone in your life? Perhaps it is a child with special needs, a spouse with specific challenges, or a parent or parents with physical and/or emotional or mental conflicts that need ongoing attention. You could be caregiving more than one of these.

Many women who no sooner finish raising children, are then helping with grandchildren, and caring for their or their partner's parents one or two at a time. Certainly in our families, and even in our home, this has been the case. I, Diane, can recall being so tired and burned out one day while caring for Jerry (when he was really challenged), that in my mind I said, "I have nothing else left to give." Since I had never in my life ever felt that depleted, I knew I was in trouble. It was then that I reached out and got help and support.

Maybe you are caregiving as a professional health care worker. Many social workers, nurses, and home health aides take care of their client/patients eight to twelve hours a day and then come home to care for their family members who require ongoing care. There is little doubt those of us who are caregiving in one way or another play a

cost is stress associated with long hours of exposure to difficult and unusual situations with little or no opportunity to deal with our own feelings and fears.

If those of us providing care are not given the opportunity to discuss our experiences and feelings, additional stress most often occurs. Research shows that unchecked stress is one of the major causes of not only burnout, but disease.

For various reasons, many of us often spend long hours caring for others while neglecting ourselves. Stress, fear, and grief can be overlooked for only so long before we become overwhelmed and fatigued in both

***"...many of us often spend long hours caring for others while neglecting ourselves. Stress, fear, and grief can be overlooked for only so long before we become overwhelmed and fatigued in both our personal and professional lives."***



prominent role in the lives of our loved ones, our patients, their families, and friends. Guiding others through long and difficult illnesses, we are looked to for information, guidance, advocacy, hope, and both physical and emotional support.

To meet these expectations with consistency and compassion, most of us caring for others pay a price — often a heavy one. The

our personal and professional lives. This is commonly referred to as "caregiver burnout."

Bouts of depression, insomnia, irritability, helplessness, feelings of inadequacy, and a breakdown in communication with family and co-workers signal an onset of caregiver burnout. Anger and frustration may be directed towards family, friends, co-workers, institutions, etc. For sure, it points somewhere.

We, who are caring for others, need emotional support in looking at and coping with issues around the pending or actual death of patients, co-workers, friends, and family, and identification with their fears and concerns. We also need to acknowledge our feelings

of helplessness, inadequacy, and problems with respecting our own physical and emotional limitations.

It is apparent that while we love those for whom we care, experiencing burnout makes us increasingly less effective in carrying out our responsibilities. In time, we may be lost completely to the care work we are doing. Clearly, the cost of burnout is tremendous in terms of its personal toll on the individual and the economic impact on the healthcare system, and the institutions that must rely heavily on these individuals in order to function.

The problem is serious enough in many homes as well as healthcare settings to desperately need a solution.

Attitude plays a major role in every aspect of our lives, and, certainly, in caregiver burnout. The concept of Attitudinal Healing is based on the belief that it is not people or events outside of ourselves that cause us to be burned out, upset, and hurt, rather it is our own thoughts and attitudes that create these feelings. We can choose to change these negative, fearful, and guilty misperceptions by developing new ways to look at the world... at life... at death. The Course gives us those ways which have been adapted into Attitudinal Healing and used worldwide.

Learning to have peace of mind, and the willingness to forgive and let go of grievances, blame, and condemnation of ourselves and others are key elements for the healing of our attitudes.

We use a process that involves focusing on specific issues and concerns and giving mutual support while practicing non-judgmental listening and sharing. During Attitudinal Healing support group meetings, each member, including the facilitator, is seen as a teacher as well as a student, and each person's experiences, perceptions, and reactions are held as valid. Seeing the value in others allows unconditional acceptance and provides

Continued on page 9

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 from the Center at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org)



# Recognizing Spirit

## The Intelligence of the Heart

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.

*No grip holds as tight as hateful thoughts toward the one you once "loved." No release is as freeing as forgiveness.*

*To learn about what love is, recognize what it is not.  
By doing so, you begin a path of removing the blocks to the awareness of love within your heart.*

What do you do when you find yourself upset? Most people ask somewhat logical questions: "What in my life is making me feel this way? What happened that made me sad? What happened that made me angry? Why am I so bored?" Although these can be helpful questions to ask, when we ask ourselves these things we do not realize we may also be perpetuating the upset.

Questions like the ones above can assume the cause of the upset and the answers are solely found in the world around us. If you answer the above questions with a description of an external event or situation, you are likely perpetuating the upset. We think this way because we believe that it is other people and situations and not our thoughts that make us upset. Further, we don't realize there is deep wisdom within the heart that guides with the voice of love, the Holy Spirit.

It is a somewhat radical statement to make, but when we are upset there is nothing outside our minds that cause us to think or feel the way we do. As long as we believe otherwise, a web of blame and projection traps us, and freedom eludes us. Sure answers will come through looking to the spaciousness within, not a long list of questions leading to only more thoughts and disagreement.

Part of the practice of *A Course in Miracles* is becoming a curious observer of your thoughts and emotions. This is how to discover in more detail the actual cause-and-effect relationships between what you think, what you feel, and what you see around you. Most of the lessons in the Course are devoted to this process, and if we take care to be diligent and persistent in our practice, we will begin to see the deception in our mind that believes events and actions of others cause our per-

ceptions and emotions. Slowly but surely, we discover that our emotions are caused only and completely by our thoughts. Of course, becoming aware is easier said than done when we are in the middle of a wave of negative emotions.

To people new to the Course I often say one of the early gains will be having an increasing awareness of emotions, without being taken by them. This may not sound like much, but there is a marked difference in life between being aware and being unaware of negative emotion. Saying, "I am so angry

***"It is a somewhat radical statement to make, but when we are upset there is nothing outside our minds that cause us to think or feel the way we do. As long as we believe otherwise, a web of blame and projection traps us, and freedom eludes us."***

right now" is experientially very different than saying "I am aware of being angry right now." Awareness equates with observing, with being able to say, "I have this emotion right now, but this emotion does not define me." Without this ability, there is not any awareness in the moment that you are a person having a negative emotion, but the emotion is not who you are. The consequence is that a barrage of negative feelings overcomes you. What becomes of your inner peace and spaciousness within your heart when this happens? With

no internal space for the wisdom of love from the Holy Spirit to emerge, the inner pressure of increasing negative energy will fuel and control what you say, do, and think. In short, you become controlled by your negative emotions.

It may sound like such a little thing until you begin to experience it, but with the awareness that you are experiencing a negative emotion but are not that emotion, a sudden "observing presence" emerges within your consciousness. For many students of the Course, this happens, to some degree, reasonably early in the study. This presence may be initially far in the background, but it is there and is more rooted in your true identity – in

love – than your negative emotion and ego that is vying for a hostile takeover of your inner world. You may still be experiencing the negative emotion, but you are there while it is happening. With this ability to observe you can then, with increasing frequency, begin to decide to turn to the Holy Spirit.

### Cause and Effect

When someone we care about is sad, angry, or upset in some way, we tend to ask, "What is upsetting you?" When they tell us about the person or outer situation they perceive as the cause of their feelings, we often support their perception, and rarely question their view of cause and effect. Though listening with love and without judgment is always helpful, encouraging someone's mistaken view of cause and effect – that their situation determines what they think and feel – is not helpful. I do not intend to say we should go around challenging others' views all the time



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Dr. Lee Jampolsky is the founder of Inspirational Psychology and the author of ten books in fourteen languages. For free articles and free online courses visit [www.drleejampolsky.com](http://www.drleejampolsky.com). He is a retired psychologist and currently offers online spiritual mentoring and coaching. He can be reached at [lee@drleejampolsky.com](mailto:lee@drleejampolsky.com)

# Join in the Celebration!

To commemorate MDC's 40th year of service... we'd love to hear from you if our work here at the Center has blessed your life in any way. Your comments will be shared with our readers in upcoming issues and on-line.

Please limit your submission to 300 or fewer words.

*We look forward to hearing from you*

Dear Bev,  
Congratulations on your 40th year of celebrating

A Course in Miracles! We're so thankful that the Holy Spirit had us enroll in your celestial speed up classes. Your lessons and meditations have been light and life sustaining. My spiritual tool box is jammed full of Course remedies for every pitiful ego occasion.

Thanks for being such a great teacher; Paul, too, with the music and sharing!

Thanks to the whole MDC crew. The Prayer Ministry, The Holy Encounter magazine, and the Live Stream state of the art meetings are all so invaluable. Most of all thanks for your loving kindness and support for all. You are the Light of the World!

Love and joy to all,  
Rae Karen & Elliot Hauck, Florida

E-mail your comments to [info@miraclecenter.org](mailto:info@miraclecenter.org) or mail to our postal address



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## Healing the Heart...

Continued from page 6

an opportunity to learn tools and strategies for coping with fears, as well as how to make choices based on love and not fear; choices based on asking for Inner Guidance about what we should think, say, and do what is best.



***“Attitudinal Healing fosters a shift in perception and allows a situation that has previously caused stress and anxiety to be experienced with greater ease and a sense of peace.”***

Attitudinal Healing fosters a shift in perception and allows a situation that has previously caused stress and anxiety to be experienced with greater ease and a sense of peace. If we think our main goal is “to make someone happy,” “to take away their pain,” “to keep them from dying,” “to have a script for their dying a peaceful death,” or any other goal, we are at some point sure to feel like a failure and feel burned out for trying. On the other hand, as *A Course in Miracles* suggests, if we have only one goal of “peace of mind, peace of God,” we know we are all able to choose that goal and succeed at any given moment. This awareness has saved our sanity on many occasions and returned us to a more peaceful state of being, rather than one of frustration, exhaustion, and hopelessness.

From years of being with those in chronic, critical, and/or life-threatening situations, we have experienced time and again that the very greatest gift of all that we can give another in need is the gift of our own peace of mind. With our own hearts healed, we are sure to connect more deeply with another heart at the level that is our most authentic – that place where we are all connected in Oneness, where there is no death or separation.

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# Walls ...A Student's Journey

by Steve Physioc

**M**y wife and I have been *A Course in Miracles* students for 22 years, and were blessed to be part of Beverly's study group. I am so grateful for Beverly's insight and inspiration that helped guide me along this peaceful spiritual path. She has an incredible ability to make even the most puzzling lesson easy to understand. A thank you also to Marianne Williamson's *A Year of Miracles* and Karen Casey's *Daily Meditations for Practicing the Course* which have become part of our daily devotion over the years. My practice has made me more observant of my own thoughts, doubts, and judgments and led me to write a book.

For 42 years I've been a play-by-play broadcaster for team sports and have always been fascinated in the chemistry of success; to see athletes put their personal ambitions aside for the common good is indeed inspiring. Many times I have heard athletes say, "We are family" or "We're all about team," but unless you see it in action it is only hyperbole.

When the Anaheim Angels won the World Series in 2002 and the Kansas City Royals won the title in 2015, I personally saw young men leave their egos in the locker room and come together as a TEAM. They didn't care who got the credit or the accolades, there was an esprit de corps that connected them when they put others first and success organically followed.

That led me to the question, what if we did the same in our everyday lives? What if we truly lived by the Golden Rule and treated others the way we want to be treated?

I recently released my first novel, *The Walls of Lucca*, in which I focus on that scenario. It's a story about two families trying to produce a great wine during Italy's dark

days of World War I and the rise of Mussolini and fascism.

Lucca is a great, medieval walled city; at one time a rich banking capital at the end of the silk trade. Because of their affluence, Lucca wanted to protect what was theirs. They built walls to defend their beloved city: Pre-Christian walls, medieval walls, and the current Renaissance walls one can walk on today. It was an imposing military system; its massive ramparts held inner workings to store weapons and move soldiers or draw water from the Serchio River to flood the plain in case of an attack. Interestingly, in



***"For 42 years I've been a play-by-play broadcaster for team sports and have always been fascinated in the chemistry of success; to see athletes put their personal ambitions aside for the common good is indeed inspiring."***

over 2000 years, Lucca's walls were never put to the test. No one ever attacked Lucca.

Then, I thought, do we do the same as human beings? Do we manufacture danger in our minds that poisons us with fear or worry about what might happen unless we defend

ourselves?

My story takes place in a vineyard north of Lucca and all of my characters represent us; humanity's doubts and fears which hold us back from discovering the divine that is within each of us. My protagonist is a young lady named Isabella Roselli, who is born into a philosophy that God is found in nature — in the seas, the air, the mountains, and the seasons. Isabella's parents die when she is eleven and she's placed in a fundamentalist Catholic Convent outside the walls of Lucca.

At first, Isabella struggles with the strict Catholic doctrine, but then she peacefully forms a faith all her own, one of deep spiritual conviction. While the world is going mad with war, Isabella is determined to find peace through service. Her faith is one of strength and unconditional love in its purest form. She believes that the way to discover this Love and inner peace is through forgiveness.

If Isabella were born in our times she would be an example of the Course's lesson 84, "Love created me like itself. I am in the likeness of my Creator. I cannot suffer, I cannot experience loss and I cannot die. I am not a body. I would recognize my reality today." Or, if I may paraphrase lesson 47, "There is a place in Isabella where there is perfect peace. There is a place in her where nothing is impossible. There is a place in her where the strength of God abides."

Continued on page 15

## Available from the Center

New

### The Walls of Lucca

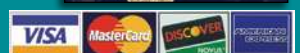
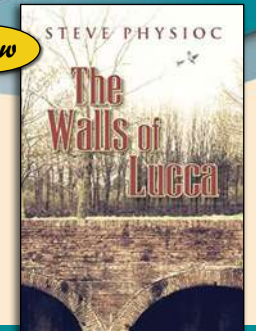
by Steve Physioc

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# God's Fabulous, Prosperous, Sexy Will for Me

by Jacob Glass

*"Let me remember I am one with God."* (W-124)

I was first introduced to the principles of *A Course in Miracles* sometime in 1983 and began the workbook in 1984; it's pretty much been emblazoned on my mind ever since. I still frequently find I am just beginning to understand something I've read 800 times and even quoted extensively – some little sentence I may have intellectually understood, or thought I understood, will suddenly hit me deeeeeep and profoundly – as if I had never heard it at all. This, I think, has to do with the undoing aspect of miracles and mind-training.

I was raised in a traditional religion, though at this point it seems to me more like brain-washing, but actually I stopped going to church at around age 16. It is amazing to me that over 40 years later I am still undoing the things I was taught during those first years of life in the body! There are still religious hang-ups that are like mental strongholds the Holy Spirit within me gently dissolves over time, like the water of the Tao wearing away rock over the illusion of time.

It's not that unusual for the ego, though. I've had experiences where I dated or was in a relationship with someone for a year, and then it took 10 years to REALLY let it go when the form changed. I may be a more stubborn soul than others, but I don't think I'm alone in this. Thankfully, I've gotten better under His tutelage. Anyhow, this year has been like a MAJOR realization for me, allowing the Holy Spirit to dissolve a very old stronghold in my psyche, and it's brought a new obvious clarity to me about this amazing Course.

It now seems to me that the Course is almost always talking about two things at all times:

1. Who or What we are.
2. Who or What God is.

This is the main path to inner peace, that is the purpose of the Course. Honestly, nothing

has been more difficult for me to ACCEPT than these two things, because the major religious teachings I was hypnotized into believing told me I was a horrible, damaged, evil sinner, and that God was a dude in the sky who is mentally imbalanced and easily triggered. So, even though that particular God was very scary, it's been very difficult to entirely give up that concept. In a lot of ways, I just dressed it up in spiritual terms like "the Universe", but I know that inside, it still felt that something outside of me – something out there to be dealt with and "connected" to or with.



***"Yes, I totally get that kind of fear of God on a cellular level, due to my early programming. 'I have to play smaller and more humble so God doesn't lose His sh\*t and crush me like Job.'"***

I keep waking up to realize that the "blasphemous" thing I am now ready to accept is that there is no connection to God, because in order for there to be a connection, there would have to be two separate things. You have to connect this separate thing to that separate thing. This realization is SO simple and OBVIOUS and yet even though I knew that mentally, I did not yet have the COURAGE to accept it for myself. It took courage for me to move it from an intellectual concept into a way of BEING and living – to

ACCEPT it as Truth. In other words, to accept the atonement FOR MYSELF.

In the 1970s, Bette Midler wrote a book about her European concert tour called, "A View from a Broad." In it, she told a story about her choreographer, Toni Basil. The anecdote was about Toni seeing Baryshnikov and Kirkland dance *Giselle*. Toni said, "I loved it, but they were so brilliant, and so pompous. I was afraid God would strike them dead."

Yes, I totally get that kind of fear of God on

a cellular level, due to my early programming. "I have to play smaller and more humble so God doesn't lose His sh\*t and crush me like Job." I didn't believe that consciously, but the old subconscious religious cult-thinking had me by the b\*lls, so to speak.

The outrageous blasphemy of thinking, much less saying, that GOD LIVES IN ME AS ME and that by living fully I am actually glorifying God-in-me, took me a loooooong time to get down into my bones. In so many wonderful ways I am receiving the comfort of my own teaching as I continue to talk to myself in rooms full of people while I teach, as well as when I write a book. I feel my biggest lesson has come at last – the acceptance of Who I am, Who God is, and the realization there is truly nothing to fear because I am one with God, just as wave is one with the ocean. There are not two – only One.

*Fear of the Will of God is one of the strangest beliefs the human mind has ever made.* (T-9.I.1:1)

*Nothing can disturb me. My will is God's. My will and God's are one. God wills peace for His Son.* (W-74.3:6)

Continued on page 13

For most of my life I was afraid of him. He had served in two wars and earned medals for bravery but had a drinking problem. I was a new bride and not much of a cook. The company I worked for gave each employee a frozen turkey as a Christmas bonus.

A winter snow had hit our area, and I was on the phone with Mom as she tried to give instructions on how to release the bound turkey legs. Struggling with the defrosted bird, I heard a knock on the apartment door.

**“He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1963, but he was really drawn to the potential of television. He never had a church. He had TV.”**

Through the peephole, I saw my Dad in his Bavarian felt-hat dusted with snow. I was so surprised. He marched into the tiny kitchen with his pliers and did the job! Giving me a quick hug, he told me he loved me. And then he was gone.

That precious moment melted my frozen heart. Fifty years ago... it is still as fresh as the day it happened. Thank you, Bev, for the healing.”

*“The world may seem to cause you pain. And yet the world, as causeless, has no power to cause. As an effect, it cannot make effects. As an illusion, it is what you wish.” (ibid)*

Of course, our egos want to persist and say it's not that easy, but the Course counters with the thought that the grievances and anger we hold onto are really limiting us, and if for one moment we could release them, we would see the benefit. We may still visit those painful, limiting thoughts, but they will not hold the same attraction as they once did. Finally, we will find ourselves visiting them less and less often until we eventually don't return again. If we truly understood the cost of our unforgiving thoughts, as Workbook lesson 68 instructs, and the benefit of releasing them, perhaps we would find the motivation...

*“It is as sure that those who hold grievances will redefine God in their own image, as it is certain that God created them like Himself, and defined them as part of Him. It is as sure that those who hold grievances will suffer guilt, as it is certain that those who forgive will*

*find peace. It is as sure that those who hold grievances will forget who they are, as it is certain that those who forgive will remember.*

*Would you not be willing to relinquish your grievances if you believed all this were so? Perhaps you do not think you can let your grievances go. That, however, is simply a matter of motivation. Today we will try to find out how you would feel without them. If you succeed even by ever so little, there will never be a problem in motivation ever again.”*

If we actually realized the power that is released in every choice we make for healing and love, would we not pursue it? If we experienced the peace and comfort of that release, even if just for a moment, why would we not choose to make that a consistent choice?



Let's return to Mr. Rogers for a moment. He was born in 1928, so he lived during some pretty turbulent times: World War II, the threat of nuclear war, the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam, assassinations, and I am sure he had some of his own personal challenges. He seemed to persevere through it all with calm and grace. I think it was because of his personal belief in love. Mr. Rogers once said,

*“Love is at the root of everything... all learning, all parenting, all relationships... Love or the lack of it.”*

It's a message similar to that of the Course when it tells us the purpose of this course is the removal of the barriers to love's presence, because love is all there really is. *“The only remedy for lack of love is perfect love.” (T-2.VI.7:7)*

Mr. Rogers perfected the art of love and its extension. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1963, but he was really drawn to the potential of television. He never had a church. He had TV.

His work for children was honest and genuine. It was said that he spoke without

irony because he understood that children take words literally. He used puppets and make-believe to talk to kids about feelings and childhood dilemmas. *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, which debuted in 1968 during the time of assassinations and racial tensions, addressed these issues and the fear surrounding them. He was honest about his own struggles, showing kids how they could work through their own problems.

In a recent PBS television documentary, an original staffer on the show said, “A director once told me that if you take all the elements that make good television and do the exact opposite, you have *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*: low production values, simple sets, an unlikely star — yet it worked because he was saying something important.”

Director Judd Apatow, who will be filming a feature motion picture about Mr. Rogers starring Tom Hanks, said, “He [Rogers] was pure love.” Apatow went on to say that the example Mr. Rogers set “was the bar of how I would like to behave.”

I did not grow up watching Mr. Rogers, but I did have parents who exhibited the same moral fortitude as Mr. Rogers. They modeled for me and my brother the kind of people we should be by “walking their talk.” In those days, it was referred to as “more is caught than taught.” My parents' lives reflected kindness, caring, acceptance, and love. They didn't just talk about it, they lived it.

This is what my husband and I have tried to do for our son, Jeff. Kids are always watching. When Jeff



**“A director once told me that if you take all the elements that make good television and do the exact opposite, you have *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.”**

was little and we would drive him everywhere, we never realized how much he was watching our driving skills. When he began to drive, I would remind him to always use his turn signal, which he was very good at doing. He said he watched how his Dad did not consistently use his turn signal, so he wanted to be better at it! Sometimes our kids are watching our misbehavior, too, and luckily making better choices.

These better choices are also being made in our world today. In this current climate, we hear name calling, disrespect, and disregard for human safety in favor of financial gain at the highest levels of our government. Thankfully, our children are teaching us how to behave and making their voices heard with compassion and honesty. They are using the political system that former generations have put into place in a way that is inclusive and

**“...one teenager carried the sign: ‘Arms are for hugging not killing.’ These youth are looking to raise the consciousness of the country, not attack it.”**

unifying. It is not lack of love, but love, that will win the day.

In the current gun debate, when addressing the need to ban semi-automatic weapons, one teenager carried the sign: “Arms are for hugging not killing.” These youth are looking to raise the consciousness of the country, not attack it.

Common sense gun laws (universal background checks, raising the age limits, and mental health restrictions) need not be seen as an attack on the 2nd Amendment, but rather a correction to bring it into the 21st century. The framers of our Constitution intended the document to be a living breathing text that would change with the times and inventions. Sensible control on weapons of war is not an attack but a correction, and that is what our function on earth is for. As the Course says, “your function in this world is healing,” (T-13.IV.1:3) the correction of our perceptions.

In Hugh Prather’s inspirational flip calendar (which I recommend everyone have), he says, “Your thoughts are the atmosphere in which you move. So if you fight your thoughts, you are in a battle zone. Just add God to your thoughts. Just worry in peace; worry in happiness. Gently drop each worry into the still lake of the Divine.”

The Course tells us that it is the Holy Spirits function to save. “How He will do it is beyond your understanding, but *when* must be your choice.” (T-22.II.8) Therefore, we must, as Hugh Prather instructs, bring the battle zone of our thoughts to God, to invite Him into everything we do. Drop all of our worry,

pain, anger, fear and judgments into the still lake of the divine. Let this “divine” encompass those blocks to the awareness of love’s presence.

Again, this does not mean that we withdraw from the world – quite the contrary. As we are told in the Course, teachers of God, miracle workers, are needed now more than ever before; we are here to be bringers of peace.

*“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-r.in.4:4)

It is time we accept this

mission every day. We are here to bring the love of God to every person, experience, or thought that comes our way; to embrace everything with peace. In doing so, it will be a beautiful day in the neighborhood. ❖

## God’s Fabulous...

Continued from page 11

*God’s Will for me is perfect happiness.*

(W-101)

Now, I have shifted into fabulous outrageousness as the Mad Mystic of California because I affirm daily, “I eagerly align with God’s fabulous, joyous, prosperous, sexy Will for me today!” I realize now that there are not two separate beings, or two separate wills, unless I am consulting the mythical ego thought system. For me, now when the Course says “perfect” happiness it means “unconditional” happiness. Ego happiness is conditional. There has to be some reason or thing making the ego happy – some condition. But a reason or a condition can change or disappear at any given moment, so that cannot be “perfect” can it? My perfect happiness is my unconditional happiness – meaning it is all based on my THINKING, not on conditions. “As a man thinketh.” What could bring more unconditional happiness than KNOWING Who God is, and Who we are? Because nothing can change that, ever.

*The goal of the curriculum, regardless of the teacher you choose, is “Know thyself.” There is nothing else to seek.* (T-8.III.5:1) ❖

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accept anything but this as your goal."

These passages highlight the way we at Miracle Distribution Center (MDC) have made our "divine decisions." We do our best to release the strength of God into everything we think and do. If we are making a decision from fear or lack, we realize we are Edging God Out (focusing on ego limits). It then becomes our choice: with God or without God. It is amazing how often we have tried to "run our own show," only to find that when we let God in, the "show" not only runs more smoothly, but practically runs itself!

A good example of this is the name of this publication. For years we struggled over selecting a name — and I would venture to say the reason **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** didn't have an earlier birth was we didn't know what to call it! We would sit and discuss it for hours. It is clear to me now that during all those discussions we were not inviting God in — we thought we could come up with the perfect name — it seemed a holy purpose, but we were leaving out our strength.

It wasn't until one late night, when I couldn't sleep, that I got up and prayed my eyes would be opened to the perfect name for our magazine. As I opened my Course, my eyes lit upon the section entitled **"THE HOLY ENCOUNTER."** As I read those words, I knew this was the perfect name, since our goal for this publication was to remember our real purpose: joining together to heal the mistaken thought of separation between ourselves and God, and the way

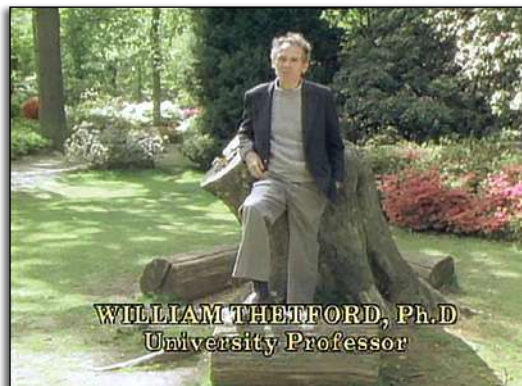
will learn it, because your decision to learn it is the decision to listen to the Teacher Who knows of light, and can therefore teach it to you." (T-8.III.1:2) Yes, we had asked for a name, and all it finally took was a decision to listen and learn from the strength of God.

Many of the "decisions" at MDC don't seem to occur in the traditional "decision making manner." For example, we have been advised by those who "know" the way to "get the message out" to purchase advertising that

seem easy, but the answer did,

*"...[release] the strength of God into everything you think and do. Do not settle for anything less than this, and refuse to accept anything but this as your goal. Watch your mind carefully for any beliefs that hinder its accomplishment, and step away from them. Judge how well you have done this by your own feelings, for this is the one right use of judgment."* (T-4.IV.8:3)

After prayerful discussion, we went



target our "market," to use other organizations' mailing lists, and spend more money than we have in order to give people a reason to support our organization through calculated donation appeals and the erroneous belief there is some need to get the Course's message out, above any other. (The Course may certainly be *our way*, but it is not the *only way*).

All of these approaches just haven't felt "right" for us, even though they may be the sound, worldly approaches. The decisions we make at the Center are effortless, not because they are always easy, but because they are made "by

**"This would be the first public showing of the 2-1/2 hour documentary film made by a producer from the BBC. Remember, this was before the ease of the internet to share this type of film, so we needed to rent a projector unit and a screen large enough for 500 people to view."**

ahead and rented the necessary equipment. Exactly one week before the showing, when the rental payment was due, we received a letter and donation from a woman who had received counseling and support from MDC during a very difficult time in her life. Her financial gift was the exact amount needed for the equipment.

There really is only one decision we ever have to make at the Center: does this bring peace or conflict? When we choose peace, we invite the strength of God into our minds and actions, and our decisions are apparent. When we get caught up in conflict and confusion, however, we split our minds. The way to get back on track is to stop in the mist of the confusion and turmoil and reflect on this: "Think honestly what you have thought that God would not have thought, and what you have not thought that God would have you think. Search sincerely for what you have done and left undone accordingly, and then change your mind to think with God's. This may seem hard to do, but it is much easier than trying to think against it." (T-4.IV.2:4)

Deciding with God is not so impossible — it is actually the only thing that is possible and inevitable!

Next issue . . . **"Vocation of the Center"**

**"It wasn't until one late night, when I couldn't sleep, that I got up and prayed my eyes would be opened to the perfect name for our magazine. As I opened my Course, my eyes lit upon the section entitled 'The Holy Encounter.'"**

to do that is by healing the thought of separation between ourselves and our brothers. The first paragraph in that section again reminded me, "Ask and it shall be given you . . . If you want understanding and enlightenment you



First issue of THE, 1989

releasing the strength of God" into them.

Let me go back in our history, to March 1987, to share an example. We wanted to premiere *The Story of A Course in Miracles*. This would be the first public showing of the 2-1/2 hour documentary film made by a producer from the BBC. Remember, this was before the ease of the internet to share this type of film, so we needed to rent a projector unit and a screen large enough for 500 people to view. The cost of the equipment rental alone was prohibitive. The decision did not

## The Intelligence...

Continued from page 7

or become intent on setting them straight, but I do propose that we should do our best to see the truth of cause and effect and practice it in our own lives.

The more we demonstrate this on our own, the more helpful we are to others. Inspirational Psychology teaches that, as *A Course in Miracles* tells us, "It is always the thought that comes first, despite the temptation to believe that it is the other way around." (W-pl.17.1:3) I have contemplated this truth for years, and have had periods of extended peace when I have successfully applied it to my life. Sometimes, my ego sneaks in, and I find myself perceiving a situation in such a way that fear, attack, and defense seem rational and necessary. It is then that it is essential for me to turn to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit speaking within my heart, for therein lies true strength. The paradox is that the more vulnerable and tender our hearts become the more invulnerable and powerful we become, and the more we can give and receive love.

## How the Mind Works

When I want to practice grasping how my mind works, I imagine my mind is like a movie projector, the world is a blank screen, and my thoughts are the film in the projector. I imagine I can only do two things: I can either project onto the world an unhealed past, or stop the film and extend love from the now. All of my perceptions, thoughts, and actions will emanate from one or the other, and I do my best to be conscious of my choice. The Course helps me practice

***"The paradox is that the more vulnerable and tender our hearts become the more invulnerable and powerful we become, and the more we can give and receive love."***

this and realize there are only these two choices in how I conduct myself and how I interact with the people around me. Thus, I ask myself if I am projecting my ego's fearful

perceptions and ideas, or extending the loving kindness emanating from the Holy Spirit showing me a forgiven world.

Though many may think of the tenderness of forgiveness as naive or a weakness, it is the source of our invulnerability. To see the love within you is to find safety; you do not find it in thoughts that attack others or in defenses you may be tempted to employ and develop.

The other day I visited the dictionary for expansion on the word "invulnerable." Synonyms offered were *invincible*, *safe*, *indestructible*, and *secure*. I contemplated these words and thought how the Love within us, and within every compassionate thought and action, offers all of these. Opposite of arrogance, the most humble of statements is to say, from a place of stillness and love within, "I am invulnerable." May we each rest in this and listen throughout our day to this quiet peace. By so doing we will bring something beautiful to our lives each day.

*May you know today that the core of who you are is incapable of being wounded, hurt, or damaged. May you know today what is most sacred within you is immune to attack.*

## What's Happening...

Continued from page 2

● **Take the Pledge!** - In our hectic lives, we want peace; we want to know God's Will and guidance for us, but we are just so busy, or we forget, or we just have too much else to do today. But what if we had the support and encouragement of others . . . what if we realized that we were accountable to each other . . . what if we realized that we truly were entitled to the peace that we are searching for? Affirm with us that the peace of God is your one goal by joining the **Pledge for Peace** and adding your placemark on our world map. You can find it on our website under "Services." It just takes an instant (a holy instant) to do it! Join us today.

● **ACIM Free Overview** - Would you like a brief, written overview of *A Course in Miracles* to help introduce it to a friend? Or perhaps a two-hour audio introduction? We offer a free version of each on our website. Just go to [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org), click on "About" and then "About A Course in Miracles." You can then print it out, send a link to a friend, listen to the audio version, or download an mp3.

## Walls

Continued from page 10

When the orphaned Isabella happens on the Martellino vineyard, she pulls in a widowed mother of four, a shell-shocked soldier, and an imperious matriarch. As these and other characters in Lucca get to know

***"My story takes place in a vineyard north of Lucca and all of my characters represent us; humanity's doubts and fears which hold us back from discovering the divine that is within each of us."***

Isabella, they are challenged to surrender their fears. Fascism is taking hold of the heart of Italy, and it is ensnaring all Italians in a web of brutality and dictatorship. Will Isabella's

simple love and friendship be enough to break fascism's hold on the residents of the vineyard?

I am incredibly indebted to the wonderful people who inspired me to write this book. To my wife, Stace, who has joined with me in studying *A Course in Miracles* the last 22 years. To Miracle Distribution Center, where Beverly, Paul, Darin, Sandy, Tess, Maria, and so many others helped me better understand the Course teachings of love and the power of forgiveness. As the Course so beautifully says and I have truly experienced, "Love is the way I walk in gratitude."



# The HOLY ENCOUNTER

JULY / AUGUST 2018

## In This Issue...

- "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"
- "Citizenship and Sonship"
- "Healing the Heart That Heals"
- "The Intelligence of the Heart"
- "God's Fabulous, Prosperous, Sexy Will for Me"
- "Walls ...A Student's Journey"

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For more information see page 3



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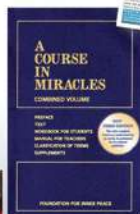


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