

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

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

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

[Click to Contribute Now](#)

[Receive the printed version](#)

then continue to the magazine . . .

The HOLY ENCOUNTER



MAY / JUNE 2019

A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

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



God's Loving Arms

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

A cartoon strip shows a little boy sitting with his grandmother looking at a picture of his grandfather, who had passed on. The little boy asks, "If we talk to Granddad, can he hear us in heaven?"

"Certainly, dear," says Grandma, "I often tell Him how I miss him."

The little boy looks heavenward and waving his hand says, "Hi, Granddad! It's me – Jeffy! Grandma really misses you! Come visit her sometime. Okay? Bye!"

In the last panel of the cartoon, we see

Grandma sitting on the bed and the transparent figure of Granddad with his arm around her. The little boy walks out of the room saying, "I don't know if he heard me or not."

Many times we do not feel as if God has heard us; we are not even sure He is

around. But, just like the message of this cartoon, no prayer or request goes unanswered. The moment we ask for help, it is given us. God is holding us gently in His Arms, supporting us. The Course uses the metaphor of our being held in God's Arms to help us not only feel comforted, "...I am safe forever in His Arms." (W-235), but to remind us of our purpose... "I am a messenger of God, directed by

His Voice, sustained by Him in love, and held forever quiet and at peace within His loving Arms." (W-267) As we remember our purpose as God's messenger, the idea of ever being alone or disconnected from God becomes impossible.



"In the last panel of the cartoon, we see Grandma sitting on the bed and the transparent figure of Granddad with his arm around her. The little boy walks out of the room saying, 'I don't know if he heard me or not.'"

An Impossible Mission?

We say we want to hear God's Voice or know God's Will for us, but it often seems like an impossible mission or at best a "sometimes yes, sometimes no" mission. Often we

feel that He is selective in His listening and helping. He only doles out support to those on whom He smiles – you know, the less messed-up among us. We have forgotten that God is an equal opportunity listener.

The issue is not His listening, but our willingness. Now, our willingness may seem waning at times, as if it takes way too much

Continued on page 14

The Miracle Mug Now available for purchase

This high-quality Miracle Mug, encircled with fifteen of our favorite inspirational quotes from *A Course in Miracles*, was exclusively designed and created by your Miracle Distribution Center family.

Our hope is that each quote will bless you as you pour your first cup of coffee into the mug in the morning until you sip your last cup of tea at night. The quotes were chosen to encourage and remind you of the joy and support you are entitled to every day, every night, and every moment of the day.



15oz.,
Dishwasher
Safe

Originally offered only to our *Holy Helpers*, the Mug is now available for purchase.

To order visit our online store at
www.miraclecenter.org
to see a video of every quote
as the mug spins
or call 1-800-359-ACIM (2246)

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

For more information go to
www.miraclecenter.org or call 714-632-9005

● **Are you forgetting to do your daily lesson?** Our daily lesson email service is a great way to keep your Workbook Lesson from the Course by your side. Each day we send

you your own personal Course lesson for the day, automatically. During the quick sign-up process, simply indicate the lesson on which you'd like to begin. On each succeeding day you will automatically receive the next lesson.



The daily messages can be read on your smartphone, tablet, or home computer. Each email includes the lesson title in an attractive graphic. Directly below it, a link will lead you to the entire lesson. You may start and stop at any time and even reset the number on which to begin. Visit the "Services" tab in the menu bar on our website to sign up.

● **Being Truly Helpful** - Now, when you become a new *Holy Helper* with an ongoing commitment of \$15 or more each month, we will send you our **Miracle Plaque** with our favorite inspirational prayer quote from *A Course in Miracles*. This plaque was exclusively designed and created by your Miracle Distribution Center family and is available only to new *Holy Helpers*.



● **Choose-A-Quote** - "I just want to say how the "Choose-A-Quote" web page is appreciated daily. I have it "saved" on my work computer and just one click away when I want a quick reprieve or respite. Thank you so much!" We want to thank Patricia in Chico, California, for letting us know how this new service of the Center is benefiting her. It's because of the loving tax-deductible support of our readers that we can create these inspiring free services. You can go to "Services" and click on "Choose-A-Quote."



● **"I recently ordered some ACIM items from the Center over the phone. It was so comforting to be talking to someone who is also studying the Course... and to be treated with such loving kindness, filled my heart to the brim."** This lovely note from Martha in Rochester, Minnesota, meant a lot to us. For the past 41 years, the Center has provided this type of personal service because that's what we would like to experience. Technology is wonderful, but there is no substitute for a live voice! Plus, **when you order your items from the Center, the proceeds fund our many free services and assure the Center's continuation!** The Center is open Monday - Friday from 9am - 4pm Pacific Time with a live person to help you by phone. We can also

serve you 24 hours a day via our website.

● **ACIM Retreat in September** - "This retreat was one of the most amazing opening healing experiences I have ever had. I have carried that feeling with me forward to this day! Thank you all for such a wonderful opportunity. I can't wait for the next retreat." This is how Deb Rahalski in New York, felt about her retreat experience in 2018. That was our third 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 **September 20-22, 2019**. Please join us for this intensive experience of *A Course in Miracles* with Beverly Hutchinson McNeff through lectures, guided experiences, intimate sharing times, music, and so much more. Visit our website to see all the details and hear what others have said about this inspiring retreat by clicking on "Events" in the menu bar.

● **Course Lookup Improved** - Have you ever tried to find a favorite quote in the Course? Perhaps you had some idea of its location, but couldn't quite pinpoint it? Then our ACIM Lookup is just the tool for you! Type any word or words into the box and click "Search." You'll immediately find any and all references contained in the Course, highlighted in yellow to make their exact location easy to find. We recently made some improvements to the search results page, and we think you'll find it is even more accurate than before. You'll find it under "Services" on the menu bar at our website.



A thought you can cling to!

"Today I wake with joy, expecting but the happy things of God to come to me."

Our vinyl "cling" features this powerful truth from Course Workbook lesson 285, that gives you a focus to meet your day. Adheres to smooth surface such as windows, mirrors, etc., by static electricity. Send your request for one or more clings to

info@miraclecenter.org or call 714-632-9005



Continued on page 15

Don't Miss Out on this
Incredible Weekend!!

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2019

Holy Encounter Retreat

This retreat is designed to help students to not just talk about A Course in Miracles 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.



International lecturer, author, and founder of the Center, Beverly Hutchinson McNeff brings over forty 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.



"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."



Come and
experience first hand
the healing power of
A Course in Miracles!

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.



environment and food were great...I just had a great time overall!!

"I came away with down-to-earth principles that helped me make sense of things in terms of forgiveness, judgment, etc. The



**Register
Today!
Space is
Limited**

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 or call 1-800-359-ACIM (2246)





Miracle Musings...

Open Door Policy

by Paul McNeff

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose..." (Acts 16:25-26)

I am not the victim of the world I see.

"How can I be the victim of a world that can be completely undone if I so choose? My chains are loosened. I can drop them off merely by desiring to do so. The prison door is open. I can leave simply by walking out. Nothing holds me in this world. Only my wish to stay keeps me a prisoner. I would give up my insane wishes and walk into the sunlight at last." (W-57.1)

According to the Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization, as of January 2019, 362 people previously convicted of serious crimes in the United States had been exonerated by DNA testing since 1989. Almost all (99%) of the wrongful convictions were of males, with minority groups constituting approximately 70%.

In the case of Malcolm Alexander, charged and convicted of rape in 1979, after a

reinvestigation of this deeply flawed case by the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office of Gretna Louisiana, a district court judge dismissed the conviction and ordered his record expunged. After wrongly serving 38 years from the rape conviction which DNA evidence proved he

didn't commit, on January 30, 2018, Malcolm Alexander walked through the open door of the Louisiana State Penitentiary Angola to the sunlight of freedom. In the year since his release, Alexander reunited with his son and grandson (both named Malcolm), married his childhood sweetheart and started a job as a laborer for Jefferson Parish.

Put yourself in this man's shoes. How would you feel being imprisoned for a crime you didn't commit? Incarcerated for nearly 40

years, the system had robbed him of the best years of his life. If it were me, I think I would be really pissed! Not Malcolm Alexander. Shortly after his release he commented, "Really, I'm just appreciating the fact that I'm free. It's been almost one year since I was freed, and it's been a very good year. If you want to live, live in a life



Malcolm Alexander reunited with his son and grandson (both named Malcolm)

"In the case of Malcolm Alexander, charged and convicted of rape in 1979, after a reinvestigation of this deeply flawed case... a district court judge dismissed the conviction and ordered his record expunged."

that prison cell, or the equally confining bars of hatred and bitterness, Malcolm Alexander decided he would do the one thing within his power he could do: change his attitude toward his unjust circumstances.

A *Course in Miracles* offers us the same deal as Malcolm Alexander got – an opportunity to walk through the open door to freedom. But, more often than not, our loss of freedom is self-imposed. There is nothing more our ego likes to do than to shackle us

behind the illusory bars of self-delusion. How many times have we found ourselves in that place? As the Course says, *"I made up the prison in which I see myself." (W-57.2:2)*

For a long period of time I saw myself as a victim of fundamental Christianity. Some years ago, after leaving a professional position as musical director at a large Baptist church, I had also arrived at a point in my life where I was fed up with evangelical Christianity. It had worked its negative psychological effect on me stemming from years of indoctrination. However, because of my exit from the church, it was to be a very stimulating and adventurous time of searching. I was eager to explore other belief systems. After a few detours through alternative paths, I eventually found *A Course in Miracles*.

From the start, I loved the Course. Even though it was filled with Christian terminology, it contained a welcoming and inclusive re-defining of terms such as salvation, atonement, and forgiveness. I wasted no time in starting the workbook lessons and studying the text with the loving help of the Miracle Distribution Center (MDC) folk.

At this juncture, as a professional choral director and singer, I made a vow I would never return to serve another Christian fundamentalist church in music ministry. I couldn't reconcile fundamentalist exclusive doctrines with my newly found spiritual path. Fortunately, a few more years down the road, I started a new job in a Presbyterian Church at which the pastor was open to "progressive" ideas more analogous to the Course.

Some years later however, the church hired a new pastor, one who was much more informed by his Baptist fundamentalist upbringing. His sermons reflected repressive theological ideals that dredged up deep emotional wounds within me I thought I had left behind long ago. For many reasons, I didn't feel I should leave the church; we had already founded **KidSingers** (our inner-city youth chorus), the church was in the heart

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

of **KidSingers'** demographic, and we were enjoying free rehearsal space along with concert facility usage. I felt I would compromise **KidSingers'** residency should I pick up stakes and seek out a new church. In the end, buttressed with the conviction that I could still do my music, have a vital ministry at the church, and keep **KidSingers** safe, I stayed.

As the years progressed, I couldn't shake

“As the years progressed, I couldn't shake my old judgments revolving around Christian fundamentalism. Like an ominous cloud hanging over my head, this self-imposed judgment had become a prison of my own making.”

my old judgments revolving around Christian fundamentalism. Like an ominous cloud hanging over my head, this self-imposed judgment had become a prison of my own making. I had become very “righteous” in comparing the pastor's theology to the Course.

His always came up short. Finally, at a staff meeting in which we were discussing taking my annual educational study leave to attend one of MDC's Course conferences, it all came to a head. Vaguely knowing I was a Course student (I never discussed the Course with this pastor, but he knew of my association with it), the pastor took a hardline position: I could not use church educational study time to lead music at an *A Course in Miracles* conference. The Course was not consistent with the church's doctrinal message.

This shocking assessment was quite disturbing and added damning evidence to my judgments about the church.

Wasn't I a victim here? Somehow, I felt I had failed as a good Course student because those old judgments continued to play in my mind.

Then one day it dawned on me. I am

serving a mainline evangelical church. What message did I expect them to be preaching other than traditional Christian theology? I had missed the point. The Course is never about getting a right theology. As it often poses the question. “Do you prefer that you be right or happy?” (T-29.VII.1:9)

Moving forward with this idea, the Course gives us a simple mission:

*“I am here only to be truly helpful.
I am here to represent Him Who sent me.
I do not have to worry about what to say or what to do, because He Who sent me will direct me.
I am content to be wherever He wishes, knowing He goes there with me.
I will be healed as I let Him teach me to heal.”* (T-2.VA.18)

In that same moment of epiphany,

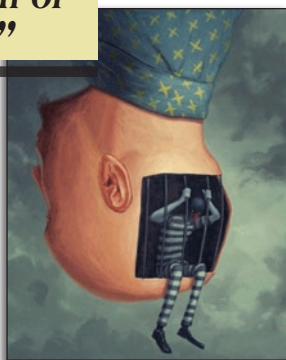
I sensed an inner guidance, “Paul: walk through the open door from the darkness of your judgment, to the sunlight of freedom. You no longer need to carry the weight of judgment about evangelical Christianity around with you as if it was your personal albatross. Nor do you need to bring about change to

anyone's belief system. It is your choice. Just be yourself as God made you. Be here to be truly helpful. Step back and let Him lead the way.” The Course sums up this process well when it says:

“I made up the prison in which I see myself. All I need do is recognize this and I am free. I have deluded myself into believing

“In that same moment of epiphany, I sensed an inner guidance, ‘Paul: walk through the open door from the darkness of your judgment, to the sunlight of freedom...’”

it is possible to imprison the Son of God. I was bitterly mistaken in this belief, which I no longer want. The Son of God must be forever free. He is as God created him, and not what I would make of him. He is where God would have him be, and not where I thought to hold him prisoner.” (W-57.2)



This revelation was a real turning point during my tenure at the Presbyterian Church. Free from the prison of my judgment, I completed many more years of faithful service.

Like so many other lessons, I have sometimes fallen back into judgment, but my awareness of it is so much more acute. And so, I invite you to join me in this journey to real liberty. The next time we find ourselves in the prisons of someone else's, or our own making, let's join hands, and like Malcolm Alexander, walk together out of the darkness through that open door to the sunlight of freedom. ♦

Let Peace Fill Your Life...
With these beautiful recordings from Beverly Hutchinson McNeff and Steven Halpern

A Touch of Heaven
Awakening through A Course in Miracles
Beverly Hutchinson McNeff, Steven Halpern

The Ark of Peace
Healing Relationships through 'A Course in Miracles'
Beverly Hutchinson McNeff, Steven Halpern

Looking Within
Awakening from A Course in Miracles
Beverly Hutchinson McNeff, Steven Halpern

The Holy Instant
Guided Experiences from A Course in Miracles
Beverly Hutchinson McNeff, Steven Halpern

plus
The Forgotten Song,
The Invitation to Healing and
You Are Entitled to Miracles

CD \$10^{ea.} mp3 \$8^{ea.}
Buy all 7 for \$60 - Save \$10!

www.miraclecenter.org
OR 1-800-359-ACIM (2246)



Change Your Mind Change Your Life

The Power of Positive Imagination

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

Every morning we start the new day by making the decision that this present day is going to be the happiest and best day of our lives, regardless of what is put on our plate and regardless of the state of our bodies. By affirming this, we set our intention to have each and every experience be a positive lesson we can learn from – regardless of how the ego would judge it as a “good” experience or as a “bad” experience.

Many years ago, we discovered that both positive imagination and negative imagination play an important role in life and how we experience it. What we call the ego, the personality self, is a persona we created with our imagination and imbedded into our belief system. Thus, we think this is our True Self, but in fact it is the self we made up. Its negative belief system believes we are born to suffer and then die, and that is the end of consciousness. The ego does not believe in kindness or forgiveness and justifies that we should attack back whenever we perceive that anyone is attacking us. It believes peace is impossible to find in the world we live in and also believes in linear time and pressures us to suffer in the present because of what did or did not happen in the past.

Through our work we have found that positive imagination can be even more powerful.

Our dear friend, Jack Keeler, who created the cartoons in *Love Is Letting Go of Fear*, was a well known illustrator who did not believe in God. We asked him one day if he would create an educational cartoon that could help people be less fearful of catching AIDS through casual contact as well as address the psychological/social needs of those who were HIV Positive.

Jack's immediate, irritated reply was, “I cannot do that. You know I'm a cartoonist and I draw things that make people laugh.” I (Jerry) replied, “Jack, I know you don't believe in God, but just for a moment would you imagine there is a God and that God is going to help you create this cartoon?” He left the room mumbling, as if it were not going to happen.

A week later he came back with an illustration of a little



child who had AIDS.

It said, “I have AIDS. Please hug me. I can't make you sick.” This

poster has been so positively helpful globally that the World Health Organization (WHO) distributed this poster as their own global symbol for work in HIV/AIDS because it “was the most helpful educational tool available that addressed the psycho-social-spiritual needs of persons with AIDS.” Little did any of us know the degree of positive influence this simple poster could have.

Years ago, I (Jerry) was working with people who had chronic hypertension (high blood pressure). When I asked what they thought this diagnosis meant, they said everyone knows what it means. It means “You've had hypertension for a long time, you have it now, and you'll have it for the rest of your life.”

I asked them if they would be willing to change their belief system and stop living in the past or the future. I asked them, “Are you willing to believe that even though you have

hypertension this very minute, that doesn't mean you will have it for the rest of your life?” I asked them to start making inner peace their only goal; to make inner peace more important than holding on to the diagnosis of chronic hypertension.

As the patients began to have peace of mind as their only goal and learned to meditate to quiet the ego chatter in their minds, they found they no longer had to be dependent on a drug to reduce their blood pressure. Most of these patients found that through changing their minds about their illness, they could reduce or eliminate altogether the drugs they were taking. They were no longer fixated on the idea that they would have hypertension for the rest of their lives. Almost all of these patients found they could change their blood pressure by changing their minds about their condition. They also began to believe nothing was impossible.

I also used this method with children who were having trouble in school and were acting out quite a bit. I taught them the power of the mind. They learned to calm their minds and to live in the present without worrying about the past or future. They learned to put the

Continued on page 11

Daily Reflections on

A
COURSE
IN
MIRACLES

 Vibe™
Upgrade Your Consciousness

The Vibe Mobile App
www.vibe.me/acim
\$2.99/mo.

Reflections by Gerald Jampolsky, M.D.
and Diane Cirincione, Ph.D.

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



Recognizing Spirit

Our Role in Healing and the Power of Listening

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.

Many people are concerned about our current world situation, and not infrequently I am asked what *A Course in Miracles* and *Inspirational Psychology* have to say about it all. In the last issue of *THE HOLY ENCOUNTER* I shared some of my thoughts, and continue here.

"Now it becomes your task to let the illusion be carried to the truth." (M-27.7:4)

This quote suggests that we are mistaken to dismiss the world as illusion or deny suffering and walk away. The Course may say the world is an illusion, but it also teaches that we have a function in God's plan; we have a role in bringing an end to illusion and to bring freedom from suffering. This is the beauty of the Course; it tells us of the cause of pain and the origins of illusion, and then gives us a purposeful part in bringing awakening to love into fruition.

The Course states, "Only love is real" but is not dismissive of the world; instead, it directs us to what thoughts and actions speed up healing, including reducing suffering through our actions. Some Course students are confused about the illusory nature of the world and may mistakenly think the Course suggests an attitude of complacency or ignoring the suffering in the world. The more one practices the Course the more the importance of a life devoted to reducing suffering is realized.

Although the Course teaches us that we can awaken from the illusion at any time, doing nothing or waiting around for transformation is not what it suggests. Through

the Workbook, the Course offers a practical means to recognize the real problem: that we are separate from each other and God, and how to heal this illusion.

What We Can Do?

"The first duty of love is to listen." -Paul Tillich

As many readers know, I am almost completely deaf. The Course has taught me how to hear. Not to hear again, but to hear as

never before, to listen to words with the intent to understand beyond the words, not to judge or be quick to react or defend. Imagine, as someone speaks, that you can hear their soul, their wounds, their heartbeat, their dreams, and their essence. Try this: Take time to listen to the wind in the trees,



the water lap upon the shore, the birds flying overhead, and then go beyond listening with your ears. Listen with your heart to the stirrings of love beneath and beyond any pain, suffering, or conflict. Listen in these ways and your life will be transformed, and someone else's may be as well.

There is undoubtedly a lot of personal and political finger-pointing in our world these days. Many overlook that it is easier to accuse and blame others of operating from fear, conflict, dishonesty, anger, and hate, but it is our own – no matter how minuscule or large – we are accountable to heal. I see many people trying to solve problems from an

unquestioned fearful, conflicted, angry, and even hateful mindset. This mindset is likely to contribute to the problem they are looking to answer, when listening with love could bring the solution.

Many people want to bring about change, but not that many want to, or know how to, truly listen. My first experience of the importance of our mindset and listening in creating change and alleviating suffering was spending time with Mother Teresa in India. The experiences impacted my life for the last four decades.

One experience took place on the way to an event as we were driving through streets filled with homelessness, poverty, death, and beggars. I found myself overwhelmed with sadness and a wave of discouragement came over me as I felt impotent and thought how impossible it appeared to impact such vast suffering. I looked at Mother Teresa to see how she was reacting. Her hands in prayer, she was softly smiling and making eye contact

with each person: she was listening to the heart of each individual and to God. A short while later I told her what I had experienced, and I asked her if she minded me asking what she thought as she smiled to each person. She answered, "It is enough to meet each person who is suffering. To meet them, you only have to get near them and smile; the smile is

the beginning of love, it is beautiful. The smile may appear like a small thing but it is not the magnitude of our actions that matters, it is the amount of love that we put into them that matters."

At that moment something shifted within me; where a moment ago I was experiencing intense turmoil about suffering I believed there was nothing I could do about, I now felt a wave of peace come over me and wash away the discouragement. I witnessed and

Continued on page 11

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. He is a retired psychologist and currently offers online spiritual mentoring and coaching. He can be reached at lee@drleejampolsky.com

God Friendened Me

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff



There's a new television show on CBS called *God Friendened Me*. Here's the premise. A man who has abandoned the concept of a higher power is now faced with that higher power talking directly to him through his cell phone. Quite an update from the burning bush! Needless to say, the protagonist spends the first half of the show denying God, but in this case he simply "deletes" God's friend request over and over again. He finally "confirms" the request and so begins the process of God suggesting other people our hero might like to be friends with, and we are off on some touching encounters that heal past and current hurts in those individuals' lives. Of course, our hero is also getting his chance to heal, as well.

What I found hopeful, as I watched this show, is that our social consciousness is advocating connection with each other through help and service, which not only assists the receiver but inevitably heals the giver. *A Course in Miracles* reminds us over and over again that giving and receiving are the same, and we definitely see this concept magnified in this series.

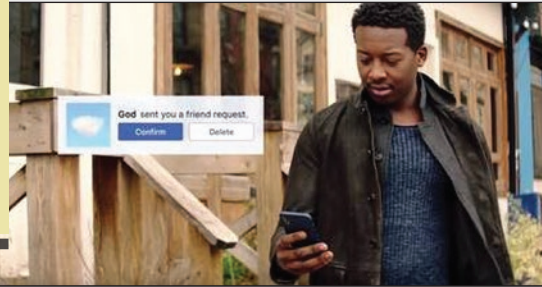
Of course, this is certainly not a new idea. The basic concept of the Golden Rule is found within every perennial philosophy, but this rule has been strained to the breaking point in our current society, with hate and attack being advocated by some of the loudest voices in our land.

It is easy to fall into answering like for like — someone attacks us, and we attack back. Some even attack back ten times harder and brag about it. But how is that helpful? Is it really strength to attack or is real strength the

ability to see the calls for love in these acts and let compassion and understanding lead the way? This does not mean that we do not speak out or stop acts of hate and attack, but it does mean we will be guided in such

a way as to promote a solution that can heal, rather than one of "an eye for an eye." As Martin Luther King

"He finally 'confirms' the request and so begins the process of God suggesting other people our hero might like to be friends with, and we are off on some touching encounters that heal past and current hurts in those individuals' lives."



Jr. once said, "That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind. The time is always right to do the right thing."

King was right: the time is always right to

do the right thing, but it is not always easy for us. Recognizing that giving and receiving are the same is an alien concept to the unforgiving mind that thinks it can attack and separate from others with no consequence to itself. But if we truly want to be at peace, to be healed, to know the power of God in our lives, then forgiveness must lead the way and now is the time to "confirm" God's friend request.

It is always the right time to let forgiveness lead the way; again, we do this not because we want to deny what is going on, but because we want to end what is going on. It may seem like kindness, understand-

ing, and compassion are forgotten concepts today — ideas we choose to "delete" instead of giving them the attention they deserve. However, there is no time like now, because,

Keep Connected to the Inspiration

Every week, MDC sends out an email blast of inspiration and information. The article "God Friendened Me" is one such piece of inspiration. This particular article received so many responses that we wanted to share it with readers of *THE HOLY ENCOUNTER* who might have missed it.

We at the Center are honored to be able to offer support and inspiration through so many different formats: on computer or mobile device via our live stream lectures (which, if you are a subscriber, can be viewed at a time convenient for you), on our website which includes a wealth of insight, and also through the printed version of our magazine, *THE HOLY ENCOUNTER*.

*Your support of MDC's free services is always appreciated
and is tax-deductible. Thank you!*

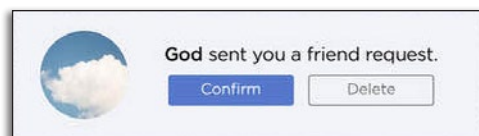
If you would like to receive the inspirational weekly emails, please send your email address to MDC: info@miraclecenter.org or give us a call: **714-632-9005**

as the Course reminds us, there is no time but now. In this moment, miracles are possible because they are always present. As we are told in the Course...

"This world is full of miracles. They stand in shining silence next to every dream of pain and suffering, of sin and guilt." (T-28.II.12)

This empowering passage is one we used at our Holy Encounter Retreat last year. I still have this quote sitting on my desk on a little yellow card we passed out at the retreat. I see

"Are you seeing miracles? Maybe you need to 'confirm' God's friend request. But, remember, answering His call means you cannot cut yourself off from any part of His creation."



this reminder every day, and I am inspired because it affirms to me that the world of hate, fear, and attack is doomed, for miracles are here now! But (and here comes the big "but"), the choice is mine as to where my focus will be. Just as the hero in the TV show *God Friended Me*, we can keep "deleting" God's friend request and ignore the miracles standing here right now.

What will be your choice today? Isn't it time we look with the wonderment of a child at this world that is presenting us with exciting opportunities to heal, to help? Or will we choose to close ourselves off to others and their needs and thereby miss the answers that are here for us to see in this moment?

Are you seeing miracles? Maybe you need to "confirm" God's friend request. But, remember, answering His call means you cannot cut yourself off from any part of His creation. Anyone He sends to you throughout the day, whether in person or in your thoughts, is an opportunity for your healing and the awareness of miracles. You will not know the miracles that are all around you as long as hate, attack, or separation finds a place within your heart, for that is the sign you have "deleted" the request.

Let's tap "confirm" together and let the healing miracles be experienced now!



FREE ACIM Live Stream Wednesdays



Wednesday Evenings @ 7pm PT / 10pm ET

Please join us for the broadcast of our weekly *A Course in Miracles* meetings with Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

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



Inner Peace Boot Camp

by Jacob Glass

"You who want peace can find it only by complete forgiveness." (T-1.VI.1)

The ego cannot steal our joy if we do not allow it. Inner Peace does not require we have no attack thoughts, but it does require we have none we would keep, none we would justify and defend. But we would not even be doing *A Course in Miracles* if we had not made at least a slight decision that we really DO want the Peace of God. And so, let's begin by remembering we already have it — totally. Just think we will never have any more peace than we have right this moment because we have ALL of God's peace. However, we DO still turn away from it when tempted to judge and hold onto being RIGHT.

Surely by now you have seen the connection between judgment and your body. Attack thoughts always attack the host which holds them. You could easily ask yourself, "Do I want this grievance and rash, or do I want to let go of being right and have happy skin?" (Or headache, or whatever manifestation has happened).

This is very simple. Just notice how you FEEL. Ask yourself, "Am I coming from a peaceful place in this moment?" Then, adjust accordingly. This is about progress, not perfection. It is about SOOTHING our way into alignment with Source one thought at a time. And the Holy Spirit is here to help at our slightest invitation.

I was on the phone for quite a while yesterday morning counseling someone who was in a war with her adult daughter over the way she is raising this woman's granddaughter. They are very close, so this was extremely painful for her, and she was crying and suffering quite deeply since they hadn't spoken,

since the argument a week ago.

I had to go hardball Course with her and tell her it is only ego that is keeping her separate from her daughter. She was still holding onto being right and justifying her "story" of judgment on her daughter. Of course, her daughter felt attacked and had viciously attacked back. You know the drill. It's as old

as "Cane killed Abel." It's only a matter of degrees and we've all been there.

We were on the phone for more than an hour with me just gently reminding her "to say I want the

"Attack thoughts always attack the host which holds them. You could easily ask yourself, 'do I want this grievance and rash, or do I want to let go of being right and have happy skin?'"

peace of God is nothing, but to mean these words is everything." And I remind-

ed her (and myself) that we cause our own suffering when we will not LET GO, which really is all forgiveness is, letting go. She told me the two words she'd said which started the war, and I said, "You might have just said nothing verbally and inside said, 'God, I surrender. I want Your peace more than anything else. Help me. Help us.'" I warned her about the self-inflicted suffering of needing to have the last word, of needing to have the other person "own their part" and how hopeless and depressing that is. The other person's lesson is none of our business. "You who cannot even control yourself should hardly aspire to control the universe." (T-12.VIII.5:4)

I was very honest with her. I told her I don't LIKE this anymore than she does but that I constantly work on my thoughts with

the Holy Spirit because NOTHING is more important than that I feel good — and peace is what FEELS GOOD. I don't know about you, but I've suffered enough in this life. So, I told her all that I needed to remember and we were healed together.

She called me an hour or so later saying she'd called her daughter and made amends. A miracle of grace by letting go of her position. She admitted her judgments and attack thoughts and told her daughter she was going to stop giving advice, and was going to do her best to give up her judgments and come from peace and love only. Miracles humble us since "pride will not produce miracles." It's a continual practice of letting go, letting go, letting go. And we must give ourselves some credit for whatever willingness we have in the moment. It's not self-will, it's willingness. You've got to be determined

to not let ego steal your joy by being very diligent and honest with yourself, but also by giving yourself understanding and patience.

You are amazing. You are doing amazingly well. Relax. Breathe and keep going — easy does

it. No race, no rush. Let go of needing to have the last word. Let go of looking around at what is wrong and who isn't doing it to your satisfaction. GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK because it is physically and mentally exhausting to police the world. And your grievances are exactly the block to your dreams coming true. It makes no difference if the attack thought is about another person, a job, a situation, or yourself and your personality, or your body, or whatever.

So, when you find yourself in an attack loop of stressful thinking, STOP and say within, "God, I surrender. I let go. I want Your Peace."



The Power of Positive...

Continued from page 6

future in the hands of God. I taught them to use their positive imagination to help them let go of judgments and to be more peaceful. I taught them to forgive themselves and their past. Most of these children improved tremendously.

As time went on their behavior continued to improve and they were able to concentrate longer without letting their minds wander. They got along better with their teachers and classmates. By letting go of the past these children learned to stop judging themselves about their negative behaviors in the past.

There was one child I remember who became very fearful whenever it was time to have a test. As a result, he had poor grades. I taught him to use positive imagination to see himself taking a test and feeling very peaceful. As he practiced using his creative imagination and stopped focusing on the negative experiences he had in the past, his

grades improved from Ds and Fs to mostly Bs and even some As.

Another time, I taught a group of children to use their active positive imagination to imagine their hands were in warm water. With practice, most of them were able to increase the temperature in their hands by 2 or 3 degrees. Whenever they were in class and feeling fearful or anxious, they could imagine their hands were in warm water to become more relaxed, which helped them become more successful in school.

When I became a student of *A Course in Miracles*, I realized that when you allow Holy Spirit to direct your life,

when every decision is based on love instead of fear, you will experience a more positive and fulfilling life.

Being students of the Course, we both have learned that God's goal for us is perfect happiness. God's goal for us is eternal peace of mind. We learned that our real identity is our True Self.

We love the statement in the introduction to the Course, "Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God." Now we are following God's plan for us rather than manufacturing goals with our imagination. We feel more peaceful than ever.

"I taught him to use positive imagination to see himself taking a test and feeling very peaceful. As he practiced using his creative imagination and stopped focusing on the negative experiences he had in the past, his grades improved from Ds and Fs to mostly Bs and even some As."

Our Role in Healing...

Continued from page 7

experienced this same peaceful beauty in the Missions of Charity as the Sisters worked with people suffering unspeakable misery. Where I had once only seen suffering, I began to understand what Mother Teresa and her Sisters practiced: The amount of love in their listening and actions, the amount of tenderness as they listened, with and to the hearts of each.

Some of my work since that time has been working with people wanting to bring peace to the world, ranging from a member of Congress to business owners, from peace workers to grief counselors, from all across the political spectrum and from many countries. Though I am certainly no Mother Teresa, I do my best to focus less on the content of their project or work, and more on their mindset and love they work from. In other words, to the best of my ability, I listen deeply. To this end, I have found the following two questions helpful to ask as we do any work, service, or seek change.

"She answered, 'It is enough to meet each person who is suffering. To meet them, you only have to get near them and smile; the smile is the beginning of love, it is beautiful.'"



of your heart. This is the beauty of service and creating good in

the world; it always is asking us to look deeper within our self, to be more conscious, to love more fully, to listen more completely.

I want to share a poem I wrote to myself a while back to personally remind myself of all of this:

1. Before you take any action ask, "Is my mind quiet?" This is because a still and quiet mind can hear and see far more than one only packed full of even the best ideas.
2. Before you meet with another person ask, "Is my heart open?" This is because an open heart can transform conflict with tenderness, love, and forgiveness.

I invite you to join me, and each day ask yourself not only about the quality of your work but also about the quality of the mindset and the tenderness

For a moment each day stop presuming or pretending that we are separate, and you will come to realize that we are not. Truth will quietly dawn upon you gently correcting all errors in your mind. Remember there is no need in this moment other than to accept your oneness with God, and meet with love whoever you are with.

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

- Mother Teresa

It's FREE



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

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

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

www.miraclecenter.org



Laws I Made

by Joseph Miller

"Let me not bind your Son with laws I made." (W-p11.277)

To speak about "law" is to speak about the essential behavior of a phenomenon or the guiding principles of an action. Law is the unchanging and invisible truth of a thing. The human mind understands something, not by changing impressions through the senses, but by the "sight" of thought. To "understand" is to grasp the stability that "stands under" deceptive, shifting appearances.

In its efforts to make plain the path to self-knowledge, *A Course in Miracles* begins with fifty principles. These are laws of the inner life. They are ignored at peril; not the peril of an

afterlife of hellfire, but the pain and confusion of thinking and acting contrary to our divine nature. The separative ego devises substitute rules or "laws of the body" that concern the currencies of "power, fame, money, physical pleasure" (M-13.2:6). "The ego uses the body for attack, for pleasure and for pride." (T-6.V.A.5:3) And there are rules to maximize that use.

What are these "laws I made?" How are they recognized? The following is my attempt to identify ten familiar ones.

1. I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine.

Bargaining is inherent to the special relationship, based on the premise of scarcity. It is contrary to the divine generosity and trust of "the law of love" which gives without condition. Love does not bargain. In the Holy Relationship my brother is my savior. In the special relationship I choose to make of him a "tiny measure" of my specialness instead.

2. Safety is secured through attack.

Defensive thinking will engender fear, and thus distort my perception of the world. My attacks attack my own sanity. As my awareness grows of the inner treasures of the spirit, so does my sense of invulnerability. For what is real about me is beyond the reach of injury. Yes, circumstance or the hostility of others might harm my body and possessions; but I can awaken to realize

that my Identity and spiritual assets remain unaffected. This alone is the basis for true forgiveness.

3. To have, I must keep. The true law is that I must give to

"Bargaining is inherent to the special relationship, based on the premise of scarcity. It is contrary to the divine generosity and trust of 'the law of love' which gives without condition."

receive. The Course teaches that the ego sees itself as a body, and regards the body as a

container or a fence. A metaphysics of scarcity logically results. When my daughter was a little girl, I turned to a plumbing analogy to make the point that our creative being is inexhaustible and uncontained. Body identity is bucket metaphysics; a container can be drained. But in truth we are divine faucets that are replenished as we give.

4. What goes around comes around.

Both the Holy Spirit and the ego have interpretations for this law. The ego cherishes this formula as a law of vengeance and shouts it as a threat when others do not

conform to its wishes. "Mistreat me now," it declares, "and you will get your comeuppance." The Holy Spirit formulates the law thus: "And what would have effects through you must also have effects on you." (W-26.1:4) The point of this law is not to accuse, but to offset the temptation to project. You will not find liberty and righteousness by condemning others.

5. If only that didn't happen. Here is a detour straight into regret. It is hard not to fall into despair over twists in circumstance. But this thinking is scarcity itself. It underestimates Divine Resourcefulness which often manifests through healing and reparation. It is natural in our egotism to want life to unfold according to our liking and on our terms. But our terms are incomplete and faulty, and were they not interrupted by unexpected happenings, we would cozy up forever to our idols and never seek God (Truth, Love, Identity).

6. You make me sick. This is vengeance and the attempt to burden another with feelings of guilt. One of the foremost indicators of spiritual maturity, according to *A Course in Miracles*, is mental and emotional responsibility. "I have a kingdom I must rule." (W-p11.236) If we are to accept our Identity as the Son of God, the extension of His creative love, we cannot believe that our inner well-being is at the mercy of the behavior of others.

7. Never forget. This is intended to comfort another, and underscore our solidarity with them, by honoring the gravity of their suffering. There is nothing wrong with appropriate gravitas. It expresses stability of mind, self-respect, and intimacy. It may comfort another's distress with calmness. But the Course teaches there is a vital difference between the false empathy of the ego, which weakens another by attempting to join in a victim-vengeance mentality, and true empathy of the Holy Spirit which



Joseph Miller is a writer, broadcaster and drapery tradesman. He has practiced the Course for twenty-five years, and participates in a weekly study group at Unity Church, Santa Barbara. He is also an associate of United Lodge of Theosophists. He lives in Goleta, CA with his wife, Kim.

only joins in strength. Furthermore, “Never forget” also implies vengeance, and the pseudo-reassurance of tribalism. “Take comfort,” it seems to say, “your enemies are my enemies.” It is, in fact, a kind of vow to eternally cherish grievances, and never rest short of revenge.

8. Special love is what makes life

worth living. Special love seems to offer

consolation within a world seemingly bound by the unholy trinity of uncertainty, separation, and guilt. Special love seems to offer refuge, comfort, and high-voltage drama. But it does not question the truth

of the unholy trinity; for certainty, unity and innocence would spell the end of special love. My special love for you does not honor you as God created you, but as the image I wish to see and use. Special love is an alliance of falsehood, a bargain between

two people to cherish mutual distortion and weakness. Waking up alone is what makes life truly worth living.

9. You have to be cruel to be kind. We can find this thinking in the parental maxim, “Spare the rod and spoil the child.” It is the notion that cruelty is a disagreeable, but necessary, aspect of human relations; and it protects things from going off the rails. Only

faint-hearted “snowflakes” deny harsh truths. Workbook lesson 170 says, “When you think that you attack in self-defense, you mean that to be cruel is protection; you are safe because of cruelty.” St.

John, on the other hand, wrote, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love is the casting out of all fear.”

10. By His stripes are we made whole.

This is from the book of Isaiah and is regard-

ed as a prophetic reference to the flogging of Jesus. It is often quoted to support the theological doctrine of vicarious atonement, which is only a large-scale application of the principle, “You have to be cruel to be kind.” The Course dismisses the notion of vicarious atonement. It is simply magical thinking to believe that you will benefit by cruelty inflicted on another. You honor Jesus not at the foot of the cross, worshipping a broken body. You honor him by following the Way of spiritual self-transformation. Thus, do you resurrect from the tomb of egotism to the glorified liberty of Christ.

These ten laws of the ego are not exhaustive or systematic. I’m sure you can think of a few that belong on this list. The point is that we subconsciously condone rules for understanding and behavior that imprison us, and we remain enslaved until we awaken to their presence and correct our thinking with the help of the Holy Spirit. Thus, the ego’s laws are repealed by unlearning, and God’s laws (eternally established already) consciously legislated in our minds. ❖

“The Course dismisses the notion of vicarious atonement. It is simply magical thinking to believe that you will benefit by cruelty inflicted on another.”

Update: Prison Project

Dear Beverly,

I am sending you this letter to request some assistance. I would like to understand the Course more deeply and ask you to help me with any books or study aids you could send me. Here at the prison we can receive books as long as they are from a distributor like yours (Miracle Distribution Center). The Course has literally eased my mind. If I am in turmoil I must have chosen wrongly and I can choose once again! Except for seven months on the street I have been incarcerated since 1993. I say quite certainly that I would not have been able to grow in peace without the Course. The Holy Spirit speaks to me daily and I at times hear and listen; but of course, while I’m not “there” yet, I really am.

Bobby, Miami, Florida



We receive letters like Bobby’s on a daily basis. These men and women are hungry for the teaching the Course offers. They want books and they love our magazine **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER**, both of which they share with other inmates. After they’ve read the books, many

of the inmates donate them to the prison library for others to read. And as a non-profit organization, we have better success at getting materials into prison libraries.

Through your donations to the Prison Project, we can ensure more inmates will get the books they’re so eager for, and we’ll be able to continue sending our bimonthly magazine **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER**, for them to share, as well.

We thank you for your continued support in offering love and forgiveness with your generous contributions.

Read more about the Prison Project under “Services” at www.miraclecenter.org



effort to join with God, but the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. If you feel overwhelmed today, you simply must start with the smallest step. You might say: "Help me, Father, to start again" . . . "Help me to relax" . . . "Let me remember I am Your child in whom You are well pleased" . . . or any similar thought that comes to mind. Even a simple, "Help" will do. The words are not the concern; they only indicate to us that we want another way.

After all, God does not hear our words but rather the prayer of our hearts. God doesn't see our mess, He sees our truth (the gift we already are), and He gently points us to our potential, not our problems.

What is our potential?

A *Course in Miracles* leads us on a journey – a journey to what and where we have always been. As it says, "The journey to God is merely the reawakening of the knowledge of where you are always, and what you are forever. It is a journey [to God, to what we are] without distance to a goal that has never changed." (T-8.VI.9:6)

We don't go anywhere physically, but we do change our minds. As the Course tells us, "Enlightenment is but a recognition, not a change at all." (W-188) It is the recognition or the change of mind about who we are. We are not alone in all the universe, nor do we awaken to our reality alone. We need each other and most importantly we need God's Help in remembering we are worthy of love.

Whose treasure are we?

I have always found such comfort in the parable of the prodigal son from the Bible, because I feel it reinforces the love of God. Are you aware that the Course tells this parable as well? Let me share it . . .

"Listen to the story of the prodigal son, and learn what God's treasure is and yours: This son of a loving father left his home and thought he had squandered everything for nothing of any value, although he had not understood its worthlessness at the time. He was ashamed to return to his father, because he thought he had hurt him. Yet when he came home the father welcomed him with joy, because the son himself was his father's

treasure. He wanted nothing else." (T-8.VI.4)

This is such a comforting message from the Course expressing how much we are loved by our Father. It is a love that has nothing to do with what we have done or have not done, a love that is so encompassing that in its presence all illusions we hold about ourselves or others simply fade away, for in the

"We are God's treasure and therefore each other's treasure. Although to experience the treasure we are and the love that is so healing, we have to stop running away from God."



presence of truth there can be no illusions.

We s God's treasure and therefore each other's treasure. Although to experience the treasure we are and

the love that is so healing, we have to stop running away from God. We run away from God every time we hold a grievance against another or ourselves, whenever we feel alone and isolated, or whenever we feel anxious or depressed. These emotions are all ways we reinforce our seeming reality in fear and thereby close ourselves off from our potential and our treasure. But we can never truly run away from God, for His love is all around us. When we finally realize this, we can stop our running. There is no use to run, for there is nowhere "to" run; we are in God's loving Arms always.

"We are much like that bunny; we try desperately to run away from God. We may not become a fish or a bird, but we make distorted images of ourselves, images we believe will take us further and further away from God."

Are you a runaway bunny?

When I became a mother, I was given the opportunity to be exposed to classic

"baby" literature. You know, *Goodnight Moon*, *Guess How Much I Love You*, *The Wheels on the Bus* and, of course, *Runaway Bunny*. Most parents know *Runaway Bunny*, and they always nod with a knowing smile when the title is mentioned. After I read it (which takes about two minutes), I understood why they smiled.

Runaway Bunny is about a little bunny that runs away from his mother. Wherever the bunny goes, however, his mother is right there. Here's how it goes . . .

Once there was a little bunny who wanted to run away. So he said to his mother, "I am running away."

"If you run away," said his mother, "I will run after you. For you are my little bunny." "If you run after me," said the little bunny, "I will become a fish in a trout stream and I will swim away from you."

"If you become a fish in a trout stream," said his mother, "I will become a fisherman and I will fish for you."

"If you become a fisherman," said the little bunny, "I will be a bird and fly away from you."

"If you become a bird and fly away from me," said his mother, "I will be a tree that you come home to."

"If you become a tree," said the little bunny, "I will become a little sailboat, and I will sail away from you."

"If you become a sailboat and sail away from me," said his mother, "I will become the wind and blow you where I want you to go." . . .

As you can see, the bunny tries hard to run away, but each time his mother finds a way to stay with him, reminding him always that she is with him. We are much like that bunny; we try desperately to run away from



God. We may not become a fish or a bird, but we make distorted images of ourselves, images we believe will take us further and further away from God. We make ourselves calculating, distant, distracted, dispassionate,

uncaring, unloving, depressed, incompetent, etc., and think in some way that keeps us away from God and His Love. Perhaps we are now yearning to get back to His Love and Help, but we really don't know how. We think we have been gone so long, done so many terrible things, are simply not worthy, and so on. Well, *Runaway Bunny* continues . . .

"If you become the wind and blow me," said the bunny, "I will become a little boy and run into a house."

"If you become a little boy and run into a house," said the mother bunny, "I will become your mother and catch you in my arms and hug you."

"Shucks," said the bunny, "I might just as well stay where I am and be your little bunny."

And so he did.

"The bunny found his way back, it was through the awareness that there was never a time or place where he could be absent from his mother's love. This is the awareness that must dawn on our minds and will if we simply stop running..."

The bunny found his way back, it was through the awareness that there was never a time or place where he could be absent from his mother's love. This is the awareness that must dawn on our minds, and will, if we simply stop running and look straight at the challenges of life and know we are safe in God's loving Arms.

"Father, Your way is what I choose today. Where it would lead me do I choose to go; what it would have me do I choose to do. Your way is certain, and the end secure. The memory of You awaits me there. And all my sorrows end in Your embrace, which You have promised to Your Son, who thought mistakenly that he had wandered from the sure protection of Your loving Arms." (W-317)

How do we tie it together?

Intellectually knowing we are worthy of God's love and knowing we are with Him always is a start, but experiencing that is quite

another thing. How do we tie it all together? The Course explains:

"There is no question but one you should ever ask of yourself;—'Do I want to know my Father's Will for me?' He will not hide it. He has revealed it to me [Jesus] because I asked it of Him, and learned of what He had already given. Our function is to work together, because apart from each other we cannot function at all. The whole power of God's Son lies in all of us, but not in any of us alone. ... We cannot be separated. Whom God has joined cannot be separated, and God has joined all His Sons with Himself." (T-8.VI.8)

We are told again that we cannot run away from God for we are tied to Him, joined in love. And, we are joined with each other, for that is God's Will. You cannot know who you are or your value while you hold one aspect or part of the Sonship as separate from you. If we do so, we will not know God's Will for us, feel his loving Arms surrounding us, hear His



Voice, know our true potential, or be able to function at all.

We do not have to be perfect in our attempts; we just need to be willing to know God's Will for us.

Let us not run away from His Will. Ask yourself, "Do I want to know my Father's Will for me?" Your willingness to say "yes" means you are willing to face those limiting thoughts, knowing you are God's treasure. You are willing to face those seemingly "justified" attacks you have made, knowing they have not changed God's opinion of you. You are willing to give those who walk this world with you some compassion and understanding, knowing this will be the gift you receive the moment it is given. And, in doing so, you will remember...

... all my sorrows end in Your [God's] embrace, which You have promised to Your Son, who thought mistakenly that he had wandered from the sure protection of Your loving Arms." (W-317.2)

What's Happening

Continued from page 2

● **We don't pray to change God**, we pray to know ourselves. The purpose of the prayer ministry is to show us we are not separate from our brothers; we are joined. We may not be going through the exact form of what another is experiencing, but we are all focused on the same result: Healing, regardless of the form it takes. As powerful children of the Infinite, when we join with each other for healing, we ignite that power. We invite you to join with us daily in prayerful thought for yourself, loved ones, and those in the Miracle Prayer Ministry. Every day at 4:30pm (Pacific Time), pause, join, and let the healing begin.

Thoughts for:

May: God's Voice speaks to me all through the day. (Lesson 49)

June: I want the peace of God. (Lesson 185)

July: My part is essential to God's plan for salvation. (Lesson 100)

Are you tired of being blown by the winds of a fluctuating market?



Find security through a Charitable Gift Annuity

With fixed income for life, you no longer need to watch the markets. Help charity and have security.

- **Secure fixed income for life**
- **Bypass of capital gain on gift**
- **Tax-free income portion**
- **Higher income based on age**
- **Charitable deduction / tax savings**
- **Remainder to charity**

log on:

www.miraclecenter.org

or call: **1-800-359-2246**

The HOLY ENCOUNTER

MAY / JUNE 2019

In This Issue...

- God's Loving Arms
- Open Door Policy
- The Power of Positive Imagination
- Our Role in Healing and the Power of Listening
- God Friended Me
- Inner Peace Boot Camp
- Laws I Made



Miracle
Distribution Center

Founded 1978

3947 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92807

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2019

Holy Encounter Retreat

For more
information
see page 3

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

We invite
you to
become a

Holy Helper

For more than 40 years, Miracle Distribution Center has been an oasis of support and guidance for students of *A Course in Miracles*. Our life-affirming outreach, however, would not be possible without our **Holy Helpers**, our core group of donors whose support provides the Center with a constant source of funding that can be relied upon to guarantee that the Center and its valuable services will be here when you or others need them.



Weekly Study Group,
Podcasts and Blogs

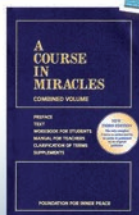


Prayer Ministry
and Prison
Outreach



Comprehensive
website with Study Group info.,
on-line catalog & Course reference materials

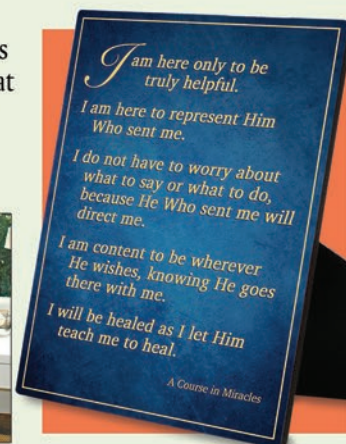
The HOLY
ENCOUNTER
Available
in print
or online.



ACIM available
in print, CD
or mp3
download

Join today & receive a **FREE** welcome gift

Now, when you become a new **Holy Helper** with an ongoing commitment of \$15 or more each month, we will send you our **Course Prayer Plaque**. This beautiful 5" x 7" navy blue, wooden plaque with the words of a Course prayer that has become a mantra for Course students around the world.



Plus
as a Holy Helper you will receive a
10% DISCOUNT
on purchases from our bookstore and
FREE Shipping for orders
over \$45.00

We look forward to
welcoming you to our
Holy Helper family!

(Current **Holy Helpers**
can obtain the plaque at a
special price.
Please contact us for details.)

If you have any questions please contact us at:

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