

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



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020
A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

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



Dreaming

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

Growing up, my family spent many lazy days on the rugged, mystical Oregon coast where my grandmother lived. The drive from where we lived near Portland, through the mountains to the coast, was beautiful.

On one such trip, when I was very young, I remember sitting in the back seat and

needing to look up to see out of the car window. I was mesmerized as I saw a magical fog hanging



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

This world is not your home...

"This world you seem to live in is not home to you. And somewhere in your mind you know that this is true." (W-182.1)

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 streamed weekly commentaries on Course principles have become an inspirational study and spiritual family for many around the world. View her free weekly live stream meetings at www.miraclecenter.org

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

People use this thought the Course so

boldly puts forth as a way to discount the Course or to say it is blasphemous. Casual readers of the Course use this thought as an excuse to be detached

"I can still feel that experience to this day, and the thought that came to my mind, 'This is not real.'"

from the world, feeling that if it is an illusion, then it doesn't matter what they do. But if understood correctly, this thought really is our salvation.

... no more than a reminder...

"Salvation is no more than a reminder this world is not your home." (T-25.VI.6)

This idea is really not a new thought in the realm of spiritual truth. According to the old Christian hymn, "This world is not my home. I'm just a passin' through..." The Aboriginal tribes of Australia call our present experience "dream-time." Most spiritual teachings have some sort of reference to this thought or idea, but, nevertheless, it doesn't make this thought any less challenging to live

Continued on page 3

A Campaign that Counts!

Your responses to our 2020 fundraising appeal began arriving earlier this fall. As always, we at the Center are grateful not just for your support during this annual appeal, but for those of you who generously and loyally support MDC's work all year long.

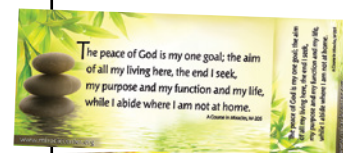
Our monthly **Holy Helpers**, along with all our consistent donors, keep the Center functioning year-round, serving Course students and reaching out around the globe. You are important to us, and as a way of saying "thank you" our recent letter included a peace affirmation card, which features two poignant quotations from

A Course in Miracles.

We hope you have already detached the wallet-sized card to carry with you, while

keeping the larger portion on your desk or refrigerator.

If you have yet to respond to this year's appeal, please consider joining the ranks of those who keep MDC's doors open and the Course's teachings going out into the world. You may use the return envelope you received with this year's fundraiser, the envelope bound inside every issue of **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER**, or the donation link at www.miraclecenter.org. We are deeply grateful for your support.



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

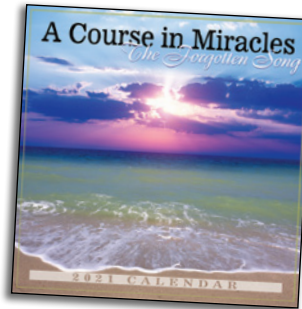
For more information go to
www.miraclecenter.org or call 714-632-9005

● **Daily Lesson Email** - is a great way to keep your Workbook Lesson from the Course by your side. Each day this email service sends 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. Each day thereafter you will automatically receive the next lesson. The daily messages can be read on your smartphone, tablet, or home computer. The 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 lesson number on which to resume.

● **"A friend in the hospital just called me and said, 'I need to hear some words from the Course, I'm a bit uptight.' Since I was at my computer, I clicked on my saved tab for the Choose-A-Quote link on your website and read her two quotes. She was so grateful to hear the comforting words. How wonderful to have important tools such as this so readily available! Thank you for all that you do."** We thank Patricia in Chico, CA, for sharing

her experience with this valuable service of the Center. Go to our website and get the Course's inspired wisdom on our Choose-A-Quote page under "Services." With nearly 450 quotes, you can receive a thought from the Course selected just for you, and then you can choose a new quote over and over again!

● **2021 A Course in Miracles Wall Calendar** is now available to give and receive as the perfect holiday gift! It features stunning full color photos along with inspiring quotes from the Course, taken from the recording *The Forgotten Song*, for each month. This calendar is sure to keep the Course's message of peace and healing in the forefront of your mind all year long. Plus, each calendar contains a free mp3 of the recording by Beverly Hutchinson and Steven Halpern. It's a meaningful gift you can give to all your family and friends... and the more calendars you purchase, the lower the price!



● **Free Holiday ACIM e-Cards** - Share a thought from the Course electronically with friends and family this holiday season! We have come up with a variety of beautiful, full color e-cards with poignant Course quotes for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, so check them out. It's easy and FREE on our website!



● **Giving a truly meaningful Gift** Here's what many students of the Course have done: Given a tax-deductible donation to MDC in someone's honor or memory. If you would like to give in such a way, send your donation and request, and we will send him, her or the family a personalized letter acknowledging your appreciation and support. It's a wonderful honor for that dedicated someone or their family. And, what a blessing it will be to those the Center serves, for your donation will go to support its free services! **Gift in memory of...** Kay Bittenbinder from her friend for over 60 years, Klara Burger, in Massachusetts.

● **"I could see peace instead of this."** This early lesson (#34) in the Course shares the power of peace. It's not about denying our problems that we will find peace, but by looking clearly at the challenges of life and not being distracted by their illusive influence. The promise of peace to prevail and transcend the limitations of the world is inevitable for, in truth, only peace is possible because that is the Will of God. It's time we join with our real power instead of our diminishing thinking. We invite you to unite with us daily in prayerful thought for yourself, loved ones, and those in the Miracle Prayer Ministry. Every day at 4:30pm (Pacific Time), we invite you to stop and join us. The gift you give is the gift you will receive! Thoughts for:
November: Love is the way I walk in gratitude. (Lesson 195)
December: I am the holy Son of God Himself. (Lesson 191)

A Holiday Blessing

from Your Friends at Miracle Distribution Center

"Each little gift you offer to your brother lights up the world." (T-22.VI.9)

It all begins with you! Please join with us as together we nurture and extend the light of love that is within us this holiday season. Remember, that "light" is the translation of this world into Heaven.

"I am the light of the world. That is my only function. That is why I am here." (W-61)

"If there is light in the soul,
There will be beauty in the person;
If there is beauty in the person,
There will be harmony in the home;
If there is harmony in the home,
There will be order in the nation;
If there is order in the nation,
There will be peace in the world."
Chinese proverb



or apply.

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

... a gentler dream...

"So fearful is the dream, so seeming real, he could not waken to reality without the sweat of terror and a scream of mortal fear, unless a gentler dream preceded his awaking, and allowed his calmer mind to welcome, not to fear, the Voice that calls with love to waken him; a gentler dream, in which his suffering was healed and where his brother was his friend. God willed he waken gently and with joy, and gave him means to waken without fear." (T-27.VII.13)

I remember having a dream that brought this idea home. In my dream, my husband and I were to meet our friend at the stage door of a theater on Broadway in New York City. Our friend had performed on Broadway and always had the best stories to share. We were both so excited to see him and hear about his latest escapades.

Suddenly, I realized I didn't have my shoes on, and I knew they were inside the locked theater. Paul, my husband, found a way in, and said he would go and get my shoes. So, I stood shoeless outside for quite a while as my anger grew. I knew my husband had forgotten about me and was busy talking and laughing with our friend. As there is really no logic to dreams, all of a sudden the locked doors to the theater were unlocked. I walked in and found my husband, shoes in hand, standing there talking and laughing just as

I expected. I was so mad! "How could you forget me?" I furiously questioned. I then woke up, but I was still angry.

Paul was already up making coffee downstairs. I could hear him happily humming away. "He is so uncaring," I fumed. I walked downstairs and just

"What,' I angrily exclaimed, 'I'll tell you what! You left me outside that theater with no shoes while you went inside to have fun!'"



looked at him.

"What?" he asked.

"What," I angrily exclaimed, "I'll tell you

what! You left me outside that theater with no shoes while you went inside to have fun!"

As those words left my mouth, I knew how silly they sounded, but I didn't care. The irritation was still so real to me. I went on to tell him the whole dream.

After all my ranting, he looked at me with confusion on his compassionate face and said, "But, sweetie, it was just a dream."

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



"...our heavenly inheritance is not dependent upon anything we have done or not done; it is solely dependent on Who our Creator is. We are part of our Father's DNA..."

You are the dreamer...

"You are the dreamer of the world of dreams. No other cause it has, nor ever will. Nothing more fearful than an idle dream has terrified God's Son, and made him think that he has lost his innocence, denied his Father, and made war upon himself." (ibid)

A Course in Miracles tells us we are as God created us. That is our true essence, and yet we often see little reason to validate this fact in the world. War, starvation, and even the slightest acts of anger toward each other make us feel less than Christ-like. But, our heavenly inheritance is not dependent

upon anything we have done or not done; it is solely dependent on Who our Creator is. We are part of our Father's DNA, so to speak. We cannot escape that, but we can act unlike Him. If we act like unruly children, does this mean we have really separated from Him? In the illusion, it feels that way, but in truth, no.

So here we are. We are children of infinite love experiencing a finite, depressing existence. This experience can make us feel limited, lost, and alone, but it cannot change the reality that we are complete, loved, and safe.

... perfectly capable of awakening to reality

"You are at home in God, dreaming of exile but perfectly capable of awakening to reality. Is it your decision to do so?" (T-10.I.2)

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

our reality, but it did distract me from that awareness.

What helped me let go of my desire to stay in the anger of the dream was my husband's willingness to listen and to join with me in understand-

ing. He didn't get mad

for being unjustly accused. He simply listened and reminded me it was a dream. He didn't dismiss my feelings; he loved me through them. His understanding helped me forgive him, not for what he had done, but for what I thought he had done.

"Forgiveness is the only thing that stands for truth in the illusions of the world."

We are told the function of the Holy Spirit is to help us look at what we think is happening in our lives (our dreams that obscure our reality), and move past those "dreams" to the truth. According to the Course, that is

Continued on page 15



Miracle Musings...

Path to Peace

by Paul McNeff

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

"The stillness of the peace of God is mine." (W-273)

As I watched the first presidential debate just weeks ago, my emotions ran the gamut from rage to despair. I felt the decorum of our nation's presidential discourse had just been flushed down the toilet for the last time. I screamed at the TV. I felt nauseated. Perhaps more than any other moment in my lifetime, I feared for our country's democratic way of life. Like Elvis, my peace had left the building. I was left caught up in a whirlwind of troublesome scenarios of how this year was going to play out.

Following a sleepless night, as the haranguing voice of the president drifted in and out of my consciousness, I woke to my Course lesson for the day in my inbox... *"The stillness of the peace of God is mine."* As I read, the voice of ego blurted out, "Boy, you really blew it last night." To which I acknowledged, "Yes, I did. After all, I'm only human." But, after years of practicing the integration of the Course into my life, I was vividly aware of the "gotcha" moment my ego had just relished. At the same time, I knew I didn't need to stay in that unpleasant frame of mind for long. I could choose once again and let Spirit gently lift me off the guilt train to experience a better place.

Reinforcing my recovering state of mind, this workbook lesson 273 goes on to say,

"Perhaps we are now ready for a day of undisturbed tranquility. [Ah yes, I was ready for that!] If this is not yet feasible, we are content and even more than satisfied to learn how such a day can be achieved. If we give way to a disturbance, let us learn how to dismiss it and return to peace."

The Course never diminishes or berates us for our failings, but rather like an old genteel country doctor, offers us a simple antidote:

"We need but tell our minds, with certainty, 'The stillness of the peace of God is mine,' and nothing can intrude upon the peace that God Himself has given to His Son."

So why do I find a peaceful state of mind so hard to maintain? Having sung from *Handel's Messiah*, "and his name shall be called... Prince of Peace" a zillion times in my long career as a choral conductor and singer, it would seem like this peaceful state of mind would be deeply embedded within my psyche. Shouldn't I be able to call it up at a



moment's notice? Sadly, this was not the case in that moment.

This all reminded me of the *Peanuts* cartoon that my wife Beverly likes to share at retreats and workshops where Sally, Charlie Brown's little sister, says to him, "I hate the world. I hate everything!"

Charlie Brown questions her with his reply, "But I thought you had inner peace?"

To which Sally says, "I do, but I still have

outer obnoxiousness."

Maybe that's our problem too?

It was the great American statesman, Adlai Stevenson, who said, "Making peace is harder than making war." Perhaps that is why we seem to have a propensity to be at war, whether as a country with an antagonistic country, or one individual with another. The wherewithal of attaining peace requires much more introspection than a "shoot from the hip" mentality where we give every thought that passes through our minds a voice! We need to think, step back, and consider what we are thinking and the possible consequences before we just "let it fly!" Perhaps then we won't find ourselves in misunderstandings where we have to walk back our words.

We can take heart in our journey, however, if we take time to listen to that still small voice within, instead of the "shrieks of sinners

mad with guilt," as the Course bluntly puts it in lesson 134. Over and again, the Course reminds us the ego speaks first and its voice is always the loudest! But we

can begin again and focus on peace.

We're not alone in our struggle to find a better way. Sages throughout our history have taught about peace. St. Francis took an active approach when he said, "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love." Centuries later the Dalai Lama taught, "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves."

But like anything else that is worth our spiritual development, it turns out the answer is the same as the question on one of my favorite t-shirts, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" Practice, practice, practice!

Practice does seem to be a key. We can't change those neural pathways in our mind by

"As I read, the voice of ego blurted out, 'Boy, you really blew it last night.' to which I acknowledged, 'Yes I did...'"

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

just thinking about it. As the Course counsels us,

“You claim this power when you become vigilant only for God and His Kingdom. By accepting this power as yours you have learned to remember what you are.” (T-7.I.2)

Like a farmer, we need to plow the field, prepare the soil, and water and fertilize the seeds of peace so they can firmly take root. My whole life as a musician has taught me the importance of practice. As a youth, I have fond memories of practicing my violin in front of my polio-stricken grandmother who lived with us. It was a win/win. I got my daily practice in, and she got to derive pleasure from hearing me in her wheelchair-ridden state. Later in college, as a vocal performance major, I spent hours singing scales and learning solo repertoire. As a choral director, I’ve spent thousands of hours perfecting choral performances for audiences near and far. And I did finally make it to Carnegie Hall where I performed Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis* with one of America’s most renowned choral conductors, Robert Shaw.

A peaceful state of mind can be no different. That is why the Course repeatedly states we must be vigilant. One of the first Course lessons I put to music was a passage Beverly often refers to in her weekly livestreams and has sent out to all of MDC’s supporters on a beautiful card to display and affirm daily. It says...

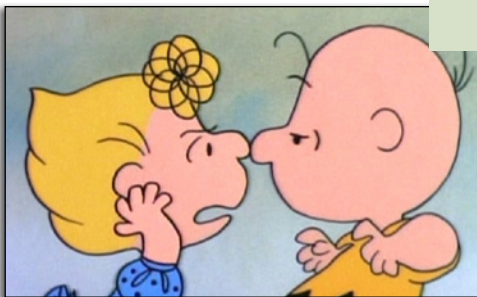
“The peace of God is my one goal; the aim of all my living here, the end I seek, my purpose and my function and my life, while I abide where I am not at home.” (W-205)

Beyond the concept of practice, however, the Course assures us of yet another path to peace. And it is the true key. It ensures us our peaceful state of mind is not derived only as a product of practice, but also as a product of offering the “little gift” of willingness. Spirit does the rest.

“We have repeated how little is asked of you to learn this course. It is the same small willingness you need to have your whole relationship transformed to joy; the

little gift you offer to the Holy Spirit for which He gives you everything; the very little on which salvation rests; the tiny change of mind by which the crucifixion is changed to resurrection.” (T-21.II.1)

The effortlessness of this process to peace is striking, as this passage says: “the small willingness you need”... “little gift you offer”... “the very little on which salvation



“Charlie Brown’s little sister, says to him, ‘I hate the world. I hate everything!’”

rests”... and “the tiny change of mind” will move you from your crucifying

ideas to your resurrection of release.

By doing this, we will discover there is so much to gain, with so little to give. But the ego posits, “This cannot be true! No pain, no gain is the way this equation is supposed to work.” In contrast, the Course emphatically teaches the opposite and guarantees our awakening to peace: “... it is so simple that it cannot fail to be completely understood. Rejected yes, but not ambiguous.” (ibid) The Course leaves us no wiggle room to entertain any other



way as it drives home the point, “And if you choose against it now it will not be because it is obscure, but rather that this little cost seemed, in your judgment, to be too much to

pay for peace.” (ibid)

While attending a course on car mechanics, I learned the little acronym: KISS – Keep It Simple Stupid. It can also apply to our spirituality. Gently but firmly, the Course instructs the path to peace is a choice we must make. Truth is not difficult unless we allow ego to be

the master in our classroom.

It’s amazing how something we all seek and want can be so simple to achieve. To illustrate this point, consider a cute little puzzle that Beverly often shares at her workshops, the Chinese finger trap. The finger trap is a simple puzzle that traps the participant’s fingers (often the index fingers) in both ends

of a small cylinder woven from bamboo. After inserting the fingers into the trap, the initial reaction of the unsuspecting victim is to pull their fingers outward, but

this only tightens the trap. Counterintuitively, the way to escape the trap is to push the ends toward the middle, which enlarges the openings and frees the fingers.

The next time you, like me, find yourself screaming at the TV as a method of recovering your peace, remember KISS. The path to peace is not through struggle, but rather by release. When caught in the tightening web of the ego, simply push the “small willingness” inward, and allow the Spirit to free your mind, joyfully returning it to the path to peace. ♦

What Kind of Legacy Will You Leave?



A Bequest is a gift made through your will or trust. There are several ways to make a bequest:

- *Specific dollar amount*
- *Specific asset*
- *Percentage of your estate*
- *Residue of your estate*

For more information on how to create a lasting legacy through a bequest, please contact us.

1-800-359-ACIM (2246)
or e-mail:

info@miraclecenter.org



Recognizing Spirit Obstacles to Love

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.

This morning's sun rises above the eastern mountains as I walk. I repeat my lesson from the Course with each step I take, slowly, intently. When the world appears unsettling, I do this morning practice, shining light on love's intimate connection through all that lives.

Perhaps like you, I have times of not being entirely sure of how to find my center, my home with God. In this article, I share some writing from the last few months, some highly personal. I include poetry, which is often a way I feel the Holy Spirit speaks to me. I hope you find the departure from my usual Holy Encounter articles useful to you on your journey.

Finding Our Joy, Faith, and Peace

Many of us are experiencing difficult emotions during this challenging time. Last week, while driving home, I glanced in the rearview mirror and saw my downturned mouth, not looking happy, not reflecting love, not smiling from the source I want to live. I was shocked by the face looking down at me, scowling from the floating sliver of mirror amidst the landscape rushing by in a blur. I had unknowingly sipped the Kool-Aid the world is serving up lately in sticky gallon jugs, forgetting who I am, who you are, the power of us joined in purpose, and my role.

Arriving home, I reached up and tilted the mirror upward to see my eyes; glazed with fatigue.

"What happened to me?" I wondered, "Where is my joy, my faith, my peace? What about the Course?"

I looked deeper, and there, beyond the layer of fatigue and lost hope, were the eyes of the man who trusts the gentle wisdom of

Christ pointing the way.

"You can transcend this conflicted world entirely," I knew once again. "Not by death or withdrawal, but by changing your mind about the purpose of the world, remembering your role, and listening to the call for love beneath the fearful chatter dragging you astray."



"Last week, while driving home, I glanced in the rearview mirror and saw my downturned mouth, not looking happy, not reflecting love, not smiling from the source I want to live."

I begin today with this meditation to bring me home to the tender embrace of love I may have forgotten for a moment in time.

Remember...

Remember that you are either living and solidifying your purpose every time you speak, or postponing and eroding your purpose.

Remember that with every thought you believe to be true, you are building your experience in life.

Remember, with every action, you express fears and defenses of the ego-mind or act from the voice of gentle wisdom, showing you how to be a messenger of love.

Remember today to choose to go beyond worry, rhetoric, drama, and conflict, and instead listen to the call for love from each you meet. Rise above harsh discord and listen to the gentle whisper from your brothers and sisters expressing the deepest of longings

that live in each of us.

Every time you speak, lead with your heart silently saying, "I hear your call."

If you, as I did, see a downturned mouth and sad eyes in the mirror, remember that beyond the scowl is the profound yearning in every one of us. Respond with the eyes the

Sufi poet, Hafiz, knew when he wrote:

"... why not become the one with a full moon in each eye who speaks that sweet, beautiful moon language that every other eye in this world is dying to hear?"

Unexpected Teachers

Careful not to put yourself in harm's way or stay when your soul tells you to go, but be watchful for unexpected teachers along your path.

Don't be deceived by ugliness in people. Wonder about the struggles going on deep inside where freedom long ago lost to fear.

Those who act as though they don't want compassion are the ones who need it most. Thank them for teaching you to trust in tenderness.

Those who turn their back on Love are the ones whose soul is making the loudest call. Thank them for teaching you to listen.

Those who constantly attack and defend are the ones who forgot the magnificence of humanity. Thank them for reminding you who we are.

Be humbled by what you can learn from those you thought had nothing to impart, and see them as your unexpected teacher.

From this Place of Strength

I have heard from many people as of late, "I don't think I can take this anymore. I can't

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

do this again.” From the ego’s perspective, it appears in these sentences that the solution is addressing, stopping, or changing the situation one finds oneself in. It isn’t. The critical thing in this sentence is not the “this,” it is the “I.” The situation (i.e., the “this”) is not what is causing the pain; it is the person you believe you are and the thoughts about yourself (i.e., the “I”).

This current time in your life is a time of shifting in meaningful ways, remembering your purpose, a time to see that you are not the person your ego, through the lens of the past, defines you as. Indeed, when we are stirred up in a profound way, there is a potential good. It is the kind of “stirred up” that comes from your higher Self (Holy Spirit) showing you that the things you once tolerated are no longer okay, no longer tolerable, and seen as untrue when the light of love is allowed to shine.

This is a time to stop being defined by your fears, your past, and your guilt. You are entering a time to reaffirm what you have

known all along: your beauty, your Truth, your power through love and forgiveness. This does not mean you are entering a time of doing nothing or fighting protracted battles; it merely means you are no longer willing to live in fear of any sort and to recognize love within yourself and others. It means you are standing solidly in your True Self, valuing your authentic voice (love) over your false self (fear). You will come through this time standing more firmly in Self, in Love. From this place of strength, you will see more clearly what does and does not deserve your energy and focus, and an ease will emerge that you have longed for – for yourself and the world.

The Paradox of Change

With all the talk of needed change, it is essential to pause and ask what the nature of

change is. There is a fundamental difference between deep change and surface change. Surface change is primarily behavioral or cosmetic to the body, environment, or problem. Deep change is a paradox because it is not change at all; it is recognition of who you are, who we are together, and the power and light of love within each of us that remains unchanged throughout all trials and tribulations. This is important not only



“You are entering a time to reaffirm what you have known all along; your beauty, your Truth, your power through love and forgiveness.”

in creating the life you want but also in helping and healing others and the planet.

In the 1970s and 1980s, my training as a psychologist coincided with being a student of

A Course in Miracles. People came to me for therapy stating they wanted to change; they came with a long history of trying and failing. Some came after having other people in their life beg them, shame them, and reason with them. They came with a history of feeling guilty, even hating themselves, hoping I could finally help them change. In some cases, they came with the realization of knowing they needed to change to survive.

Although I never ignored the behavior patterns or feelings of anxiety, depression, and despair they wanted to change, I never saw that as my primary role as a student of the Course. My deeper purpose was to help quiet the voices within and without that shame, blame, fear, and added guilt create. They are the obstacles to love, barriers to creating the life they want, blocks to seeing who they truly are or the true source of their lack of forgiveness. In short, I was there to help remove the obstacles to love’s presence.

Essential to this purpose in life is seeing the light of love in each, including me. Individually and collectively, this approach can light our way. Without this, we will only engage in continuous surface change. With this, we will rise above our inner and outer battlefields to create something beautiful from love.

We invite you to become a Holy Helper



For over 40 years, **Miracle Distribution Center** has been an oasis of support and guidance for students of *A Course in Miracles*.

Available in print, CD or mp3

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



Weekly Study Group, Pod Casts and Blogs

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.



Comprehensive website with Study Group info., on-line catalog & Course reference material. **The Holy Encounter** available in print or online.

Prayer Ministry and Prison Outreach



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

Become a **Holy Helper** with an ongoing commitment of \$15 or more each month and we'll send you our license plate frame with a quote from the Course as a gift.



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!

If you have any questions please contact us at: **1-800-359-ACIM (2246)** or **www.miraclecenter.org**

Did You Know??

Our caring staff is available to help you during our regular office hours of Monday - Friday from 9am to 4pm just call

714-632-9005

We look forward to assisting you!



by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

Looking at the Holidays

I would like to share with you some thoughts about the upcoming holidays that have become apparent to me over my years of study with *A Course in Miracles*.

Thanksgiving

Although the Course does not speak of Thanksgiving, and some of our readers don't live in the United States where this is a major holiday, I would like to offer insight into the spirit of this holiday. Traditionally we in the U.S. celebrate Thanksgiving as a time when our forefathers, after a hard struggle to survive in a new land, sat down together to celebrate the fact that they did survive — they made it! Other countries may have a similar type of day with a little different form of observance, but what is constant is the desire to celebrate overcoming the struggle and to give thanks.

Perhaps you are going through a struggle right now. Perhaps you are exploring a new experience and you feel like you are on shaky ground. Let us take a moment to give thanks, not necessarily for the struggle but for the fact that we do not go through this alone. We have each other and we have the power of God to transform any struggle in our lives. The Course asks us to not use these struggles as a sign that we are separate from God (which is what our egos would like us to do), but as a reminder to give the struggle to Him who would show us how everything is an opportunity for healing and peace. We are asked to say:

*"Take this from me and look upon it, judging it for me.
Let me not see it as a sign of sin and death,*

nor use it for destruction.

*Teach me how **not** to make of it an obstacle to peace, but let You use it for me, to facilitate its coming."* (T-19.IV.C.11)

In admitting this and coming to Him with open hands, we place God in control of what we so incapably tried to control. By our

"We have each other and we have the power of God to transform any struggle in our lives."

release He will work through our life situations and relationships to help us feel His peace and power. Let us give thanks for His love that is eternal and for His creations of love, which are each of us. "For love cannot be far behind a grateful heart and a thankful mind." (M-23.4)



"It is time we become aware of His Help by being willing to allow the Prince of Peace be born to us this Christmas."

Christmas

Christmas is one of the two holidays the Course actually addresses (the other being Easter). The Course tells us that:

"The sign of Christmas is a star, a light in darkness. See it not outside yourself, but shining in the Heaven within, and accept it as the sign the time of Christ has come." (T-15.XI.2)

Now this is a beautiful thought, but have any of us truly accepted the time of Christ God is holding out to us? Perhaps we don't

understand the conditions. Well, according to the Course, the time of Christ means there is no sacrifice asked of us, there is no loss, love must be total in our hearts, we must see our fears for what they are, and release them because they are illusions that hold no value to us. We must truly invite Christ in (and truly want Him there) and thereby see He is there already for He never could have left.

You may say, "Well, I think I've done this." But the question is: Have you done this for all of God's children? Is there anyone you have left out of your circle of love? For if you have, you have left yourself out and thereby missed the meaning of Christmas.

Now, as we search our minds for those who provide our greatest challenges (be they personal relationships or global ones), let us not feel overwhelmed by all the areas that still need healing. Remember, God is not limited by our limits or limited thinking, nor has He ever left us alone. The moment we ask for His Help, it is there. It is time we become aware of His Help by being willing to allow the Prince of Peace be born to us this Christmas. Let us bring to mind those with

whom we have even the slightest irritation, and invite the Christ to truly be born in these relationships. Here is how the Course invites us to awaken to the Christ in our lives:

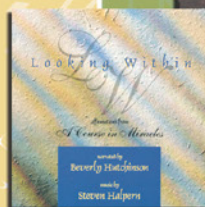
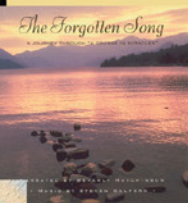
"This is the time in which a new year will soon be born from the time of Christ. I have perfect faith in you to do all that you would accomplish. Nothing will be lacking, and you will make complete and not destroy. Say, then, to your brother [any relationship that challenges you]:

I give you to the Holy Spirit as part of myself.

I know that you will be released, unless I want to use you to imprison myself.

Continued on page 14

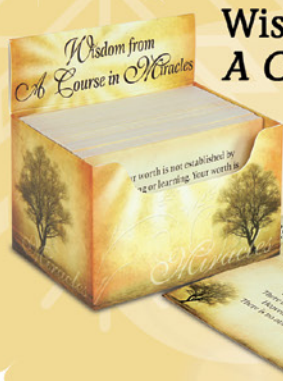
Give the Gift of Miracles



**Inspirational Recordings from
A Course in Miracles**
Beverly Hutchinson McNeff
and Steven Halpern



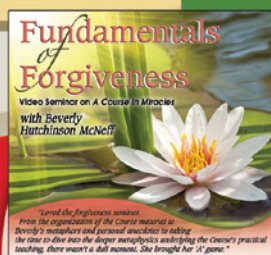
**Insight from
A Course in Miracles**



**Wisdom from
A Course in Miracles**



**A Course in Miracles
Perpetual Flip Calendar**



**Seminars on
A Course in Miracles**

Presented by
Beverly Hutchinson McNeff
**Fundamentals of
Forgiveness**

**Getting God's
Guidance**

On-demand
Video Seminars



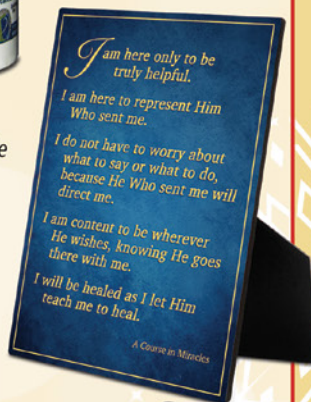
Great Stocking Stuffers



"Forgiveness is the
key to happiness"
-A Course in Miracles

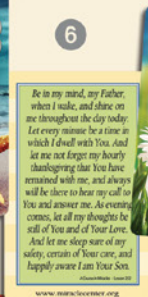
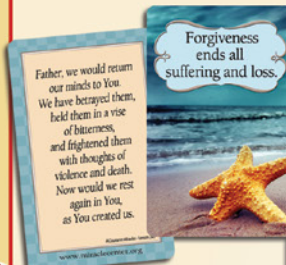


These items are available
only thru the Center!



- 1 **Key Chain** Brass finish
- 2 **Keep Calm Mug**
- 3 **Miracle Mug**
- 4 **Wristbands** 18 different ACIM quotes.
- 5 **Miracle Plaque** 5"x7" wood, with words of a prayer that is a mantra for Course students
- 6 **Affirmation Cards** 12 - two-sided cards affirmation on the front and prayer on the back

Both mugs are 15oz.,
2 sided, dishwasher &
microwave safe



Remember
When you buy from the
Center you help support
its many **FREE**
services!



To Order:

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

and click on "Store" to see our large selection of books, CD's and other Course related items



A Holy Interrupt

by Joseph Miller

A Course in Miracles has taught me a most empowering fact: that I can pause right now and make a difference to my state of consciousness. Moreover, this is the difference that really counts, precursor to all changes I may want in the “outer world.” A change of mind is not a little thing.

I regard the holy instant as a “holy interrupt” to habitual negative thought patterns that are not serving me well. Fathered in unconsciousness, they are triggered time and again, gaining renewed life by my attention and consent. But the Course teaches there is another way. There is a power within greater than habit, a faith undampened by defeatism, a willingness unshackled by inertia. And in my hour of need I can call upon the Name of God, my divine Identity, the peace of God, the love of God, or my holy purpose.

The holy instant does not change everything once and for all, but it makes a difference now. And by experiencing its practical effectiveness, as the Course says, I grow in confidence. I come to feel that, in time, total transformation is inevitable. The sequoia seed of practice will become the greatest of trees.

I was thinking about this lately when I heard about the death of Rep. John Lewis of Georgia. I was brought to tears as I watched his casket, in a horse-drawn hearse, following a rose petal pathway across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. Rep. Lewis repeatedly declared to those who would follow his path, “You must find a way to get in the way.”

That, too, is a holy interrupt. The larger culture is a reflection of our individual moral and mental culture.

To really ask for inner peace is to release a power that goes far beyond self. Many have said the words, “I want the peace of God,” says lesson 185. “But few indeed have meant them. You have but to look upon the world you see around you to be sure how very few they are.”

The non-violent social reform practiced by John Lewis, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi deeply interests me as a student of A Course

“Rep. Lewis repeatedly declared to those who would follow his path, ‘You must find a way to get in the way.’”

in Miracles. The influence of Jesus is central to its inspiration, coming through Leo Tolstoy who believed non-violent reform was at the core of Christ’s life and teaching. It is not hard to recognize themes from the Course that share kinship with non-violent principles.

The Course tells us that truth does not attack error. Like light, truth merely dispels the darkness of falsehood. The Course emphasizes the invulnerability of truth:



more, only “in my defenselessness my safety lies.” (W-153)

Progressive social discourse today wisely speaks of “interrupting” racism, not condemning and shaming (to demonstrate one’s own “innocence”); but accepting that we are all immersed within thought patterns – inherited, subconscious, institutional, structural. The point is not to identify the guilty; the point is to heal. Not only racism, but all expressions of the enchained lower mind can be so regarded. We need a habit interrupt, and that is the holy instant.

Non-violent direct action is not peo-

ple-pleasing or “being nice.” Unless it provokes a response, it fails. It is intended to make others uncomfortable and force them to act out their discomfort. It functions as an amplification of conscience. Because “the still small voice” has failed to create discomfort in those who are doing wrong, non-violent demonstration

comes to its aid. It forces a public demonstration of moral choice for those who have either refused to take that choice, or who have shrouded harmful choices from the public eye. And so, darkness is brought out

of hiding and into the light of public opinion.

Just as the Course teaches that Atonement is a defense that cannot attack, so non-violent social reform does not condemn, humiliate, or punish an “enemy.” It only seeks to convert an opponent, while

respecting their dignity and volition. Gandhi acknowledged it as a form of coercion, but the holy coercion of “soul force,” not the degrading coercion of brute force.

Isn’t this true of our personal spiritual life

“Non-violent direct action is not people-pleasing or ‘being nice.’ Unless it provokes a response, it fails. It is intended to make others uncomfortable and force them to act out their discomfort.”

“Nothing real can be threatened,”

(Preface) Further-

as well? Doesn't the Voice for God bring to light our errors, and precipitate moments of choice? Aren't we awakened by the bugle call of truth from our slumber of indifference and inertia? Jesus "finds a way to get in the ego's way."

The Course has much to say about the hidden nature of our motives and preconceptions. Each of us is bound by the world's conditioning until it is brought to light and consciously disowned. "Heaven is chosen consciously," we are taught in lesson 138.

"The choice cannot be made until alternatives are accurately seen and understood. All that is veiled in shadows must be raised to understanding, to be judged again, this time with Heaven's help." (W-138.9:2) "Choice is the obvious escape from what appears as opposites... Without decision, time is but a waste and effort dissipated." (W-138.3)

You and I may or may not feel called to participate in non-violent direct action. In any case, we can take heart, for our spiritual efforts are potent contributions to the larger transformation. If we learn anything, it is that we cannot separate one mind from all minds.

Today calls upon my creativity, not my passivity. I am required to be a divinely creative presence in my mind, and thus in the world. When I don't grasp this, I am caught in the past, misusing present thinking to reinforce my illusions. Through practice I can realize the assured ability to call forth a noetic intervention in the mind's constrictive habit patterns. The holy instant is a brief respite of whole-heartedness.

Forgiveness is the way I get out of my own way. I release what does not matter in order to make room for what does: my eternal belonging, my sinlessness, my essential part in God's plan, my unity with the Presence, my love for all of God's children.

"As you share my unwillingness to accept error in yourself and others, you must join the great crusade to correct it; listen to my voice, learn to undo error and act to correct it. The power to work miracles belongs to you." (T-1.III.1:6) ❖

Remember... When you buy your Course-related materials from the Center, you help support its many free services.
1-800-359-ACIM (2246)
or **www.miraclecenter.org**



Same As It Ever Was

by Jacob Glass

"In my defenselessness my safety lies. You who feel threatened by this changing world, its twists of fortune and its bitter jests, its brief relationships and all the 'gifts' it merely lends to take away again; attend this lesson well. The world provides no safety. It is rooted in attack, and all its 'gifts' of seeming safety are illusory deceptions. It attacks, and then attacks again. No peace of mind is possible where danger threatens thus." (W- 153)

I've been giving weekly talks based on *A Course in Miracles* for 30 some years now, some weeks I held two or three lectures or classes, and in all that time I've only ever cancelled twice – once because my mother passed away and once because the road was closed to get to the venue. During these three decades it seems like I've been giving a talk on the very day of some huge cultural upheaval or within 24 hours of it. I taught at a large church in San Diego the day after 9/11, at a lecture hall in Southern California the day of the O.J. Simpson verdict (which was HUGE here), the morning after mass shootings, and on and on. And yet, I've never had to change these talks at all because of any cultural "current events." As I've written here before, there is nothing new about any of this. "Cane killed Abel" is how far back the fear and "ancient hatred" goes. Spiritual Truth does not change according to circumstances or any notion of a "new normal." What is normal here is insanity. This is not our home. It's a temp job.

Lately, I've been reminding my groups that this is a war planet. War is the norm here. People love their daily wars, big and small. We go so far as to FIGHT the "visible signs of aging." There is very little we cannot wage a war against – the war on drugs, the war on cancer and so on. The ego has even infiltrated "spirituality"

with the ridiculous notion that you can be a "peaceful warrior" or a "spiritual warrior" or a "spiritual gangster or spiritual junkie." We live in a culture in which people are fighting



"Spiritual Truth does not change according to circumstances or any notion of a 'new normal.' What is normal here is insanity."

emotionally, and even physically attacking each other, over wearing masks or not.

For so long I've talked about inner

peace being the goal of the Course and asked people "do you REALLY want the peace of God above all else?" But it seems to me that the vast majority of people who say they want peace are fooling themselves. What most people really want is to have already WON their wars. For some it is the war against racism, for others the war on a virus, a war on the left or the right, a war against sexism or homophobia or ageism or any number of "righteous" wars. It may even be the war against their weight or neighbors or a war against what their family says about them. Ah, the ego is so

Continued on page 14

Jacob lectures in Southern California and has a global ministry of his recorded weekly talks. His eight books are available from the Center. You can contact Jacob at www.jacobglass.com



Change Your Mind Change Your Life

The Power of Spirit

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

We often say we truly believe that “nothing is impossible.” But do we really believe it? We tend to put limits on ourselves based on our past experiences and what people tell us about what we can or cannot do, what we are capable of... or not.

If we think our eyes tell us that what we see is real, we are limited by our ego's restrictions and beliefs. But, when we believe real vision is Spiritual Vision, we experience ourselves as part of the Higher Self, which is unchangeable, unlimited, formless, and timeless. This Self never changes.

Only egos believe we are made up of just our five senses and the limitations held within each one of them. The mind knows no limits when we do not limit our reality to just physical senses.

“Nothing is impossible” means moving past what we previously thought was possible by shifting our perceptions as to what is “real.” Likewise, when we stretch our imaginations beyond the limits of our physical senses, we can make our imaginations real, and perhaps experience what we never thought was possible. Changing our belief structures can eliminate our limitations.

In our book *Teach Only Love* we share the complete story of a young woman named Colleen. Some years ago, Colleen came to our Center to try to find some peace of mind. She had lost nearly all of her vision from a medical mistake shortly after birth. She had

an unhealed relationship with her parents for not preventing her earlier mishap. She came to the



groups regularly and, gradually, began to see no value in holding on to her condemning thoughts. When she got to the point of totally forgiving them, much to everyone's surprise, her vision began to improve.

After about a year and a half, she moved to Seattle, Washington. We kept in touch with her, and, indeed, her vision continued to improve. It improved so much so that she was able to get a driver's license for the very first time.

A few months later, she came back to our Center for a visit, and she invited me to lunch and a drive in her car. I did so, but could not see a thing because I had tears in my eyes the whole way. At that time, she told me a fascinating story.

Colleen's guide dog, King, was scheduled to be taken away from her by the court, since she was now legally sighted. They were a really close team and had a telepathic communication between them. Clearly, neither of them wanted to be separated. After the judge decreed that Colleen must give up her

“...when we stretch our imaginations beyond the limits of our physical senses, we can make our imaginations real, and perhaps experience what we never thought was possible.”

guide dog as per the original agreement, King began to snivel and snarl in a vicious growl that startled and somewhat frightened those present. The judge then demanded she “get that dog out of here and take him home. He's not fit to be with anyone else.” I have

a feeling King was smiling all the way home.

In those days, there was not yet a body of research validating how our thoughts help create our reality and that our bodies are affected by our thoughts and attitudes. We all believed it was true, and so did Colleen.

Many people have changed their belief systems from thinking something was absolutely impossible to feeling it could indeed be possible. No one thought the world was other than flat for thousands of years, nor did anyone really think humans would walk on the moon, or possibly run a mile under four minutes until Roger Bannister did it. Today we know much about the universe and human possibilities. Neither the universe nor our abilities have changed that much, but our thoughts about them have definitely shifted.

Tom came to our Center with an inoperable brain tumor, after his doctor told him

Available from the Center

Teach Only Love

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

Teach Only Love explains twelve principles which are based on the healing power of love, forgiveness, and oneness. They provide a powerful guide that allows any of us to heal our relationships and bring peace and harmony to every aspect of our lives.

Remember when you purchase from the Center you help to support its many free services.

\$15⁹⁹

Plus CA Sales Tax, S&H

TEACH ONLY LOVE



ATTITUDINAL HEALING
The 12 Principles

GERALD G. JAMPOLSKY, M.D.

1-800-359-ACIM(2246) or www.miraclecenter.org
and click on “Store” to see our large selection of books, CD's and other Course related items



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

he had only a few months at most to live. He told us he fired his doctor and found one who would be more optimistic. He attended our support group for over four more years. He was so grateful he had those extra years before he left his body.

Barbara was diagnosed with terminal cancer and prognosed by her oncologist as having only one month to live. She clearly told her doctor he was mistaken because, while it was just early February, she planned on staying alive long enough to dance at her daughter's wedding the following December. She lived long enough to attend the wedding ceremony and celebration; she passed away a month later. Very frequently we find that the spiritual will pays no attention to the ills in our bodies. Oddly enough, her doctor developed a fast-growing brain cancer and died before Barbara did.

Mary came to our Center when she had been diagnosed with breast cancer, which had spread rapidly through her body. She attended our support group as did her five-year-old son who joined the kids' group. Then came Halloween. In celebration of the night, the Tiburon Fire Department decided to have a parade and invited kids from our Center to ride on the fire engine wearing fireman hats.

The day of the parade I made a house visit to Mary who was so weak she could hardly move. When it was time for me to leave, Mary said, "I will see you tonight at the Halloween

**"...frequently we find
that the spiritual will pays
no attention to the ills
in our bodies."**

parade." I replied, "Great! I'll look forward to seeing you there," although in my heart of hearts I was sure she would not be physically able to make it. As I got in my car, I said to myself, "What spirit Mary has even though she probably only has a day or two to live."

Well, you can imagine my surprise when I saw Mary standing on the street in costume and make-up, smiling ear to ear to watch her child on the fire engine. You can imagine the tears of happiness I had that night. Mary passed on a few days later. I share more about how Mary deeply touched our lives in our book *Teach Only Love*.

We have been so blessed by having both kids and adults teach us the Power of Spirit that defies rational thinking. ❖

Update: Prison Project

The Prison Project of Miracle Distribution Center sends *A Course in Miracles* and other Course-based items to those in prison. Through your generous donations, we have been able to supply many newly-started spiritual libraries in prisons. In some cases, we have been able to provide multiple copies of books so more inmates can read about the love that is their essence. These principles are truly making a difference and quenching a thirst for truth that those in prison have found no other place.



The letter below shows the importance of our continuing dedication to publishing **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** in printed form. There are many who benefit from a hard copy of our magazine, whether it is prisoners or many of our other readers. Your generous donations help us to continue sending our publication to those who do not have computers or internet access and also help us provide books and other materials for their spiritual growth.

Dear Beverly and Gang,

Please, Please, Please, keep sending me **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER**. The mail system inside the prison walls is not very efficient so mail sometimes doesn't go out, or, at other times, come in.

My hand writing has never been very good, and, at this time, I am in isolation with my second case of COVID-19. We are housed in the Intensive Management Unit – the "Hole." Protocol dictates that we follow IMV controls, and I am using a rubber pen to write with, adding insult to injury. My first case of COVID-19 was mild. I had a cough for about a week and this last time no symptoms whatsoever.



I am blessed to have had both of my last two copies of **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** delivered while I have been in isolation. That way I could read them currently. Right now I am waiting for envelopes. I ordered some in the store just before I received **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER**. Good thing, hopefully they will arrive today in the store so I can stay in contact during this time.

I found *A Course in Miracles* in 1988 and waivered a bit over the next 20 years. My situation helped me to delve into it deeper since then. I learned about **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** around 2014, and it seemed to be right up my alley. Thank you very much for sending it to me and for your time and services.

Love, Jeff incarcerated in Monroe Correctional Complex, WA

We are honored to be able to meet Jeff's request and each request that is sent to us because of your generous support of the Prison Project. If you are aware of an inmate who would like to receive books related to the Course or **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** magazine, let us know. Because of strict rules for sending items into prisons and secured facilities, please check with the particular institution before you request items to be sent.

Together we can experience healing by demonstrating healing through our willingness to be truly helpful to others. We invite your tax-deductible donations to support this project. To read more click on "Prison Project" under "Services" at www.miraclecenter.org

very clever. It cares only that you stay tense and focused on fighting “the good fight” as if such nonsense were possible.

There are no “good” fights or wars: None. No war has ever been won. In fact, the Civil War of the United States never ended; it merely changed form. And slavery itself has never ended but merely changed form. The hypnotic spell of the ego has enslaved ALL humans regardless of race, creed, gender, age, sexuality, status, privilege, wealth or lack of it, or any other tribe, label or group you can name. Just because you have a nice cell doesn’t mean you’re not locked in a nightmare prison of the mind. Rich straight white men are notoriously depressed and suicidal within the nightmare. And making a contest of who has it worse is simply another war tactic of ego for “the ego literally lives by comparison.”

Now, this can seem very depressing if you don’t understand that we are to exchange this world for another one we experience right here, right now as well. Heaven is not some location in the sky we head to after we drop this body. It is experienced in any instant we RISE ABOVE THE BATTLEGROUND in consciousness. To say and MEAN, in my defenselessness my safety lies, is to end all wars in that moment by exiting the realm of the battle mentally even while still walking the earth. It is a releasing of all hostages, of needing to have the last word, or get our point across, or NEEDING to “correct others” in any way. It is freedom from the enslavement of the ego thought system. And that freedom leads to JOY.

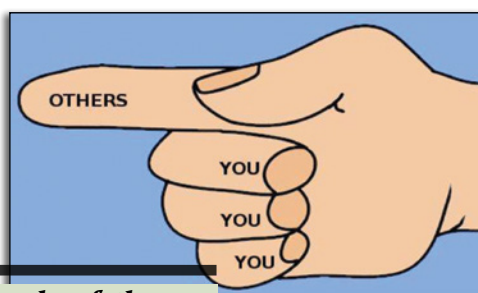
“See no one from the battleground, for there you look on him from nowhere.” (T-23.IV.7)

I don’t watch the news. I haven’t for years. Even so, it’s everywhere so I do know what’s going on in the world, and it seems so ridiculous to think of it as “news” because it’s really the “olds.” Nothing really new is happening. As humans we can be vicious and awful. Unless you’re new to the planet that should not surprise anyone, and you don’t need to turn on your TV to find that out. It’s the same as it

ever was — the serial adventures of the body go on and on. Until you DECIDE there must be another way.

The ego says that it is by remembering the past that we prevent it from happening again. Truth says it is remembering the past that keeps it happening in the present. Jesus never asked anyone about their past, their family history, how long they had a symptom, or anything of the sort. He just asked if they wanted to be healed here and now. It’s a simple yes or no question. Keeping track of the daily crucifixion is merely another way of keeping the war within going as we gather evidence against a brother and keep our fear and judgment activated.

There is an old gospel song about joy and love that says, “The world didn’t give it to me,



“Keeping track of the daily crucifixion is merely another way of keeping the war within going as we gather evidence against a brother...”

and the world can’t take it away.” I think of that frequently. The lie is that “the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away” but Truth is the exact opposite; the

world-ego giveth and taketh away. What God gives cannot be taken away by the world or the things of the world. Whatever we “get” we can and will eventually lose. What God has given is ours forever. Once we really get this, we can be quite happy here and have a really good time even in the midst of a pandemic and social chaos. There are so many other things to focus on — the sun coming up every day, the stars at night, flowers in the garden, kind people and good friends, water to drink, electricity to light our home, a heart that beats itself and lungs that breathe, a Holy Spirit to guide us, the ability to choose our own thoughts, a Course that is filled with affirmation of God’s love and presence in our lives. There is so much overwhelming evidence that life can be joyous if we are willing to honestly admit to ourselves where we have been warmongering rather than exiting the battleground and rising above with Christ.

This is not ignoring the suffering of others, but rather is saying, “Hey, look up here! Join us above the battleground. Life can be joyous and fun! Drop the shield and sword and join the party!” If that seems outrageous, horrible and simplistic, just remember that salvation IS simple, but “simplicity is very difficult for twisted minds.” (T-14.II.2:3) And at a certain point you have to ask yourself whether you believe what the Course says or not. It’s an awfully big book that takes a long time to go all the way through and seems a huge waste of time and energy if you are ambivalent about what it says and don’t want to actually put it to the test in daily life. It took me a long time to fully embrace it so, no rush. But remember, miracles are a means of saving time (and energy).



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.

www.miraclecenter.org

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

Looking at the Holidays

Continued from page 8

*In the name of my freedom
I choose your release, because
I recognize that we will be released
together.*

So will the year begin in joy and freedom. There is much to do, and we have been long delayed. Accept the holy instant as this year is born, and take your place, so long left unfulfilled, in the Great Awakening. Make this year different by making it all the same. And let all your relationships be made holy for you. This is our will. Amen.” (T-15.XI.10)

No matter the holiday or season, may we take assurance in knowing that we are always cared for and supported in even our smallest attempts for healing and joining. As we are told in *A Course in Miracles*,

“You do not walk alone. God’s angels hover near and all about. His Love surrounds you, and of this be sure; that I will never leave you comfortless.” (W-Epilogue.6)

forgiveness. Forgiveness is a willingness to stop the insanity that we think is real and allow the Holy Spirit to show us what is really going on. One of my favorite passages on forgiveness is in workbook lesson 134. It says,

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

What is the world showing you? Are you experiencing the peace, love, and joy that you were created to extend? Or are you stuck in a nightmare of anger, fear, depression, frustration, and judgment? It may feel like a nightmare, but it can be transformed into a happy dream.



“Allow God’s love to gently awaken you to a new vision, a new experience of the world and yourself. It’s time to wake up together.”

We can begin to awaken to truth, as we let forgiveness rest on our minds and listen as it gently whispers, “What you think is happening in this situation or in that experience with another, is not the truth.” Allow God’s love to gently awaken you to a new vision, a new experience of the world and yourself. It’s time to wake up together. This dream is no substitute for the real thing!

May this holiday season be one where we together look with love, kindness, and compassion and allow the reality of Heaven, not the illusion of lies, to be born in us and the world.

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

The HOLY ENCOUNTER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020

In This Issue...

- Dreaming
- A Campaign that Counts!
- Path to Peace
- Obstacles to Love
- Looking at the Holidays
- A Holy Interrupt
- Same As it Ever Was
- The Power of Spirit



 **Miracle Distribution Center**
Established in 1978
3947 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92807

MDC Exclusive!

www.miraclecenter.org

Give yourself a gift by
becoming a **Holy Helper**
and receiving this
miracle license plate frame!

Teach only love, for that is what you are

See page 7 for details or
go to www.miraclecenter.org & on our
home page click on "See License Frame".

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

2021 A Course in Miracles *The Forgotten Song* WALL CALENDAR

A Course in Miracles *The Forgotten Song*

Inspirational quotes from
the renowned spiritual
teachings of *A Course
in Miracles* unite with the
beauty of nature to create
a year of peace and healing.

Now we are sure
we do not walk alone.
For God is here, and with Him
all our brothers. Now we know that we
will never lose the way again.

We walk to God.
Pause and reflect on this.
Could any way be holier,
or more deserving of your effort,
of your love and of
your full intent?

Peace is the bridge that everyone will cross,
to leave this world behind. But peace begins
within the world, perceived as different,
and leading from this world perception to
the gate of Heaven and the way beyond.

You are the Holy Son of God Himself.
Remember this, and all
the world is true.
Remember this, and earth
and Heaven are one.

May

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Large 12"x12" format,
printed on high quality,
heavy gloss paper.

Free!
With Calendar Purchase
An mp3 of
**The
Forgotten Song**
by Beverly Hutchinson
& Steven Halpern

VOLUME PRICING

1-2	\$13.95 ^{ea}	6-9	\$11.95 ^{ea}
3-5	\$12.95 ^{ea}	10+	\$10.95 ^{ea}

ALL PRICES ARE PLUS S&H AND CA SALES TAX

Call: **1-800-359-ACIM(2246)** or
www.miraclecenter.org



GO TO "STORE" THEN
"NEW AND FEATURED ITEMS"