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# The HOLY ENCOUNTER



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A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

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



## Our X-Ray Vision

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

When I was growing up, my brother and I read comic books. We read Superman, Batman, and even Archie. If you're of my generation, you may have done the same thing. Perhaps you recall that these comic books had advertisements in the back trying to sell you things like Sea-Monkeys and x-ray vision glasses. Boy, does this take me back!

Of course, we sent in our quarters. The Sea-Monkeys worked pretty well, but those x-ray glasses didn't quite give you the x-ray vision of Superman. You just looked sort of crazy when you put them on; maybe that was the point.



If you are an aficionado of Superman, you might recall that he not only had x-ray vision, but he also had a vision of compassion and service for the human race. Since he was from a planet far superior to earth, he could have wielded great power over its inhabitants. Instead he wanted to help humanity be better

than its baser nature. He seemed to see something more in humans than they themselves did. His x-ray vision had a way of not just seeing through walls or people's clothes (that was racy), but seeing into people's souls.

*A Course in Miracles* is asking us to use a sort of x-ray vision, if you will, when it says, "My holy vision sees all things as pure." (Lesson 263)

We are living in a very contentious time in our political and social history. Perhaps you are experiencing a form of contention very personally in your own life.

**"The Sea-Monkeys worked pretty well, but those x-ray glasses didn't quite give you the x-ray vision of Superman."**

With all that is going on, it may seem almost impossible to see the purity this lesson is promising us. Let us not worry how God could possibly see that person or situation as

pure; let us just realize He does. It is not up to us to try to figure out how God works, we just need to know that He does work.

However, He still needs us. God needs us to share His Vision or at least be willing to share His Vision. As this lesson tells us, God created all that is, and His Holy Spirit entered into it; God's Love gave life to it, so it would be arrogant of us to look on His creations as if they could be made sinful. That does not mean that we can't be mistaken and need correction. After all, the Course often calls the Holy Spirit "the Correction," so we clearly

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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.

## 40 Years in Retrospect

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

### The Life of Miracle Distribution Center Part V: Vocation of the Center

*"The Holy Spirit is the spirit of joy. He is the Call to return with which God blessed the minds of His separated Sons. This is the vocation of the mind."* (T-5.II.2:1)

The vocation of the mind is to join, to heal the thought of separation, and that has been the vocation of Miracle Distribution Center (MDC). Over the last forty years, we have provided services, classes, workshops, retreats, and events that have brought a sense of unity to students of *A Course in Miracles*, but we have done so in a way that transcends the world's approach of joining.

The world of the ego sees joining as a form, i.e., bodies joining with other bodies. In a "spiritual" vein, some have thought this "joining" might look like a community in which you live, a group you must join, the need to only associate with people of the same mindset or belief, an organization you must be a part of, etc. But the purpose of the Course is to help us to see that the form of our lives is not our emphasis; healing and joining beyond form is our purpose.

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

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

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

● **"Laverne and Shirley" was the most popular TV show** in the U.S. in 1978, Home Depot was founded, Garfield the cat made his comic page debut, the Blues Brothers first performed on SNL, Reese's Pieces appeared in the candy aisle, "Annie Hall" won Best Picture, and the price of a postage stamp was 15 cents. 1978 also saw the birth of Miracle Distribution Center. We look forward to our next 40 years serving students of the Course!

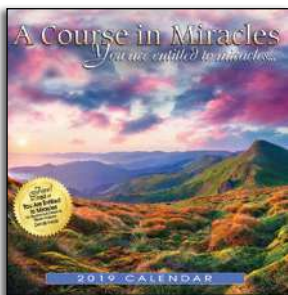


● **Hugh Prather recordings free!** Many of you know that beloved author and columnist for **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER**, Hugh Prather, made his transition into eternal life in 2010. Hugh's wife and our dear friend Gayle recently contacted us to tell of an exciting new project. Back



in the 1980s Hugh and Gayle led what they called "The Dispensable Church" in New Mexico. Now, through the donated efforts of supporters, Hugh's talks from the church are being made available in digital form as streaming sermons, for free. Visit [www.dispensablechurch.wordpress.com](http://www.dispensablechurch.wordpress.com) and you'll find more than fifty talks already available, with more to come. We are delighted that Hugh's message lives on through his inspiring presentations.

● **Our 2019 A Course in Miracles Wall Calendar** is now available to give and receive as the perfect holiday gift! Featuring stunning full color photos along with inspiring quotes from the Course for each month, this calendar is sure to keep the Course's message of



peace and healing forefront in your mind all year long. It's a meaningful gift you can give to all your family and friends – and the more calendars you purchase, the lower the price! See the back cover for all the details.

● **Facebook Fundraiser** – Steven Calhoun recently created on Facebook a fundraiser for our work, as a way to celebrate his birthday. Thanks, Steven! If you'd like to create your own for us, log in to Facebook and click on "Fundraisers," then choose "Donate to a nonprofit organization," then select "Miracle Distribution Center." You, and we, will enjoy watching as your friends step up to help.



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

● **A Handy Reminder** – "I called in to order more of the ACIM wristbands because the ones I had wore out from use! 'God goes with me wherever I go' and 'I am sustained by the Love of God' are the two I rely on most to get me through my somewhat difficult workweek," said Leroy Smith in Hawaii. We agree with Leroy! These



wristbands are such great reminders of the truth. Each is a unique color with a unique quote. We hope you will order one or all eleven as a set and join in our awakening! To see the collection, visit our online store or give us a call.

● **Giving a truly meaningful Gift** – Here's what many students of the Course have done: given a tax-deductible donation to MDC in someone's honor or memory. If you would like to give in such a way, send your donation and request, and we will send him, her or the family a personalized letter acknowledging your appreciation and support. It's a wonderful honor for that dedicated someone or their family. And, what a blessing it will be to those the Center serves, for your donation will go to support its free services! **Gifts in memory of... Geoffrey Bosworth**, from his mother Aileen Bosworth in Pennsylvania.

● **Loving THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** – "Thank you so very much for all the wonderful articles that you all take time out of your busy schedules to write. There are so many times I will either open a current issue or even a past issue and find the perfect answer to what every question is on my mind. I believe that the Holy Spirit leads me to the perfect article that resolves or at least puts me on the right track for the answers I need. I can follow up if I want to by going to the place in the Course that you use as a reference material. Thank You Again, Janet in Palm Harbor, Florida." Thank you, Janet, for letting us know how valuable our magazine is to you! We love hearing from all our readers and are especially grateful to be able to share this magazine freely with anyone who wants it. Your tax deductible



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# Miracle Musings... It's All In the Attitude, Baby!

by Paul McNeff

*"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

*I thank my Father for His gifts to me.*

*Today in gratitude we lift our hearts above despair, and raise our thankful eyes, no longer looking downward to the dust. We sing the song of thankfulness today, in honor of the Self that God has willed to be our true Identity in Him. Today we smile on everyone we see, and walk with lightened footsteps as we go to do what is appointed us to do." (W-123)*

On October 3, 1863, amidst a raging Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued his National Thanksgiving Proclamation:

*... I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.*

It seems unimaginable this national public appeal summoning up gratitude would be issued by a president in the middle of the worst internal conflict our nation has ever endured, the American Civil War. And yet, there it was! I think Lincoln instinctively knew, just as all other great champions of healing throughout the ages have known, to be thankful in all things.

Perhaps we have heard the secret of life is to practice "the attitude of gratitude!" In his article, "Selfless Gratitude," former CEO and Editor-in-chief of *Esquire* magazine, Phillip Moffitt writes, "The Buddhist practice of cultivating gratitude leads to the direct experience of the interconnectedness of all of life."

Jesus teaches through his "Sermon on the Mount" that we are blessed (exalted or happy) when we practice the spiritual tenets of gratitude as we extend kindness, mercy, peace, and love to others along our way.

But, as we get into our lives, the voice of the ego (always devoid of gratitude) seems to take front and center in an all-too-easy fashion. The ego erects powerful roadblocks to our hope of experiencing peace and

happiness. We hear its voice ever erupting in manifold ways that always put the blame for our unhappy lives on others and events outside ourselves. As the 70s iconic Lynn Anderson hit song says:

*"I beg your pardon, I never promised  
you a rose garden,  
Along with the sunshine, there's gotta  
be a little rain some time."*

And my favorite line in the first verse after the refrain:

*"I could promise you things like  
big diamond rings  
But you don't find roses growin'  
on stalks of clover."*

***"It seems unimaginable  
this national public  
appeal summoning up  
gratitude would be issued  
by a president in the  
middle of the worst  
international conflict our  
nation has ever endured,  
the American Civil War.  
And yet, there it was!"***

Following this song's basic premise, if we think life is not going to be fraught with difficulties, then we need to think again. Life's pitfalls are aplenty, so we might as well "man up" and face them squarely. Not bad advice, but I think we can find a better way, a spiritual practice that, if vigilantly practiced, will help us transcend those chasms in the road and find healing on the other side.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." In these pithy little phrases, Jesus taught a better way than the norm was advocating. And at the root was the practice of gratitude.

A *Course in Miracles* offers a version of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Workbook lesson 123. Look at it as a kind of "attitude of gratitude" primer. As in all the workbook lessons, we will gain nothing unless we internalize Course precepts into every fiber of our being, returning to them as a perennial spiritual base camp throughout our busy day. Hear Jesus' teachings:

*"Be glad today,  
in loving thankfulness,  
your Father has not left you  
to yourself, nor let you wander in  
the dark alone.  
Be grateful He has saved you  
from the self you thought you made  
to take the place  
of Him and His*

*creation. Give Him thanks today."*

One of the many things I like about my cell phone is its little flashlight. With one flick of my finger, I can find the flashlight icon, touch it, and voila! Instantly the darkness fades, and I see my way again. I once saw an electrician in our home use his cell phone flashlight to amplify his view inside a darkened electrical outlet. In the same way, isn't it wonderful that we can spiritually call upon the Jesus flashlight icon at any time to light our dark path?

I really love the promise of the next sentence as it sets the record straight for all eternity about who we really are. *"Be grateful He has saved you from the self you thought*



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



# Change Your Mind Change Your Life

## Politics, The Playground of the Ego

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

The temptation to listen to the ego's voices, and not the Voice which created us, are too numerous to name and extremely powerful at this time in our evolution. In our current politics, it seems okay to inflict injury or attack another person with untruths. The ego makes use of interpretations that someone is to blame, is inhumane, and deserves the wrath of our anger. This is all clearly insane. The game of politics where one person is guilty and another innocent, where one person is to win an election and another to lose, becomes a setup for attacking one's opponent, lying to the public, and saying and doing anything to win.

It's very difficult to resist the temptation to be angry, to attack politicians in one party or another, and to make ourselves right in all that we say and do. There seems to be no kindness or gentleness, or compassion, or open-minded thinking, and for sure, no forgiveness when it comes to witnessing political processes these last few years. Regardless of our party affiliation or political viewpoints, we seem to attack one another when we are attached to the past and also attached to the future. Our fear of the future is great during this time of global uncertainty and uncertainty in our own lives.

We are tempted to call each other liars and give evidence to our ego mind's assumption to prove it is true. Fear of the future is felt in

many ways. Will one country or another see a valid reason to attack another country with an atomic bomb? Where does one go to find peace of mind when the ego's fear becomes a playground that's there all the time?

Many of us are uncertain we have enough money to live on, and again, regardless of the political party we belong to, our fears seem real, and it's difficult for many of us to

***“Recently I, Jerry, purchased an Apple Watch and I have designed a watchband for it that says Timeless on one side, and Patience on the other.”***

stop worrying. We don't seem to recognize that worrying doesn't work. It doesn't make us more peaceful, and yet it is a tool many of us use over and over again, making us feel more and more exhausted in this time of uncertainty where there is so little kindness, gentleness, and compassion.

Recently I, Jerry, purchased an Apple Watch, and I have designed a watchband for it that says *Timeless* on one side, and *Patience* on the other. I chose these words because they are so important to me in living

a spiritual life, where there is no attacking going on, and only kindness and compassion and forgiveness and appreciation for others and love for oneself. I am reminded each day by my new watchband how important these all are.

The playground of the ego quickly makes use of seeing value in hurting another person. We believe it is our ego whose main function is to be a fault-finder, finding fault in ourselves and others, and tending to make us believe our fears are real.

We have been heavily influenced by *A Course in Miracles*, which states that truth doesn't change. We believe with all our hearts that the only thing that fits this definition is the Love that God created us with.

It is eternal, does not make judgments, it is kind and gentle, it has a total absence of fear. It believes life is eternal, and death is just another illusion.

We believe that we need to learn to see these bodies as an illusion, and that the only thing real is love. We believe love is our only reality, and the only solution to any problem we will ever have. Our purpose in life is to spread love to everyone we meet, regardless of their behavior. To find peace in the world means having trust and faith in the Source that's always peaceful, never attacks, and always sees each of us as part of our True Selves.

Today, we do our best to stop and remember when we find ourselves judging others, that there are only two emotions, love or fear. If someone looks like they are attacking, we choose to see it not as an attack, but instead that they are suffering from fear and giving a call of help for love. It's amazing how quickly anger can dissolve into nothingness when we see another person as fearful.

One of the most important tricks of our egos is to believe in linear time, that there



**Diane V. Cirincione, Ph.D.**

Transformation through Practical Spirituality

*“Love is always more powerful than fear”*

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

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

If you are guided that we might work together, please go to  
[www.DianeCirincione.com](http://www.DianeCirincione.com) call me directly at 415-725-1622.

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

is a past, a present, and a future. We use calendars to tell us that each day is different and we use our belief in the past and our belief in the future as ways of continuing to be unhappy and feeling a sense of hopelessness. When we are in the consciousness of God, there is no calendar and there is just a continuation of the fullness of love. We have discovered that when we do our best to live in the eternalness of the nowness of God's love and the eternalness of God's peace, which is forever, that we once again return to a state of peace and happiness.

In our work with the Course and Attitudinal Healing, we have come to believe that we can change how we look at the world. We believe in a consciousness where there's only peace and love that never ends. We are in conflict when we believe that death is real and that our perceptions, which are usually just interpretations from our egos, are beneficial to us and to the world.

When we make every moment a moment of forgiveness and of love where there's no interpretations and no will to change another person's behavior, we become peaceful once again, and return to our Source. God's love is happiness and joy. True peace that lasts beyond forever comes from our experiencing the oneness with our Creator and, ultimately, all others.

***“When we believe we are spirit, and not our bodies, there is no one to attack and our purpose is to love one another, to be kind to one another, and to look past behaviors and see them as fearful and giving a call of help for love.”***

When we believe we are spirit, and not our bodies, there is no one to attack and our purpose is to love one another, to be kind to one another, and to look past behaviors and see them as fearful and giving a call of help for love. This keeps us from making judgments about others. And, it is from this place of unconditional, non-judgmental love that we can ask the Inner Voice what we should think, say, and do about any given situation. When we proceed, it is with love and not fear – a much more powerful platform upon which to function.

We are all born as lovable, but over time

we develop hurts and beliefs that cause us to see others as unlovable. When we believe the past is gone and can hurt us not, it's a giant stepping stone to experiencing ourselves as the essence of love, and anxiety and fear begin to disappear from our consciousness.

The challenge we all face is to believe with our whole heart that we cannot be hurt when we are in the consciousness of love, pure love. Let us do our best to avoid the playground of the ego and to overlook people's behavior and see instead the core of the light that shines from everyone when we choose to see their spiritual Self.

## Divine Divining!

*Dip into the pool of the divine whenever you need inspiration!*

Scan the barcode or go to [www.miraclecenter.org/quotes](http://www.miraclecenter.org/quotes) and a thought will be selected for you at that exact moment.

As *A Course in Miracles* reminds us, “... no one is where he is by accident, and chance plays no part in God's plan.”



## Update: Prison Project

by Maria Zakich

*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 many in prison have found no other place.*

The letter below illustrates the importance of our continuing dedication to publishing **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** magazine in printed form. There are many who benefit from a hard copy of our magazine, whether it is a prisoner or many of our other readers who have limited access. Your generous donations help us continue sending this publication to those who do not have computers, and also funds our ability to distribute Course-related books to incarcerated individuals.

Your ongoing tax deductible donations for **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** and all our valued free services, assure that individuals (regardless of their ability to support) can receive them.

Your support is making a difference in healing lives, and we are grateful to you!



*MDC has blessed my life and various other lives, here at Purgatory Correctional Facility for the last eighteen months, with not only **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** but also with various books which always get passed around. I am very thankful for these resources. I always gain more understand-*

*ing of Course principles, which I share with the small group I lead. I look forward to the next issue of **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** showing up. By the way, could you please send a few of the 2018 ACIM Bookmarks my way?*

*Thank you.*

*May the joy, love, and peace of God be with you,*

Doug

Purgatory Correctional Facility – Hurricane, Utah

Read more about the Prison Project under “Services” at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org) or by contacting us at: 3947 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807



# Recognizing Spirit Miracles Beyond Defenses

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.

Once we see the invulnerability of love within us, we can then look more honestly at our defenses. One of the most practical themes within *A Course in Miracles* is the idea that our defenses only bring to us what we meant them to guard against. I return to this theme often in my contemplation, because it is so easily abandoned in our world in favor of shoring up defenses and judgments. When you feel a need for emotional defense in your relationships, you do not see who you truly are and have ignored the invulnerability of love.

I just stopped writing for a few minutes and did a little experiment, and invite you to try it as well. I thought of every negative, stressful or challenging situation I know of that is occurring right now, near and far, personally and globally, and as I did I thought about them from the stillness of love within the spaciousness of my heart. I was not concerned with the idea of being threatened, in need of defense, or who or what is right or wrong. I just placed the situation in the forefront of my mind and heart and considered it from the stillness of love. Suddenly the world seemed safer, better somehow, and I felt stronger and like I was doing something good. I smile as I write, for this is a mere taste of the power of love. There is so much more, so much unfathomable depth. What a sweet mark Love leaves upon our souls.

I have often marveled at how I ended up where I am, on this path of discovery and ever-deepening experience of Love. How did I come here from being so afraid, from such a place of low self-worth that I was an addict in my youth, to this moment of tenderness toward myself and the world? How is it that, though I have not always behaved in ways I am proud of, I find such peace in a single act of loving-kindness? I am amazed and humbled by this, and I think of the many

people who have come to see me in the past for help. I think of the thieves, the adulterers, even murderers I have worked with over the years. I think of the men and women who were raped, the individuals who had years of experiencing horrors — incest, abuse — at the hands of those they trusted; I think of individuals who described living through unspeakable things like the concentration camps during the war.

In this moment I do not think of the sum of their pain nor the reasons for their actions. I do not divide them into categories of victims and perpetrators. I am thinking of the courage many of them showed



***“I just placed the situation in the forefront of my mind and heart and considered it from the stillness of love. Suddenly the world seemed safer, better somehow, and I felt stronger and like I was doing something good.”***

and how so many found a reason to live, reason to go on, desire to rise above their past, to go beyond what they experienced themselves or the pain they caused others. My job was never to “cure” them, and my job in helping myself was never to “fix” me. It is all about remembering. It is about remembering who we all are. It is about going beyond a “them” and “me” to a “One.” It is not about fixing or curing; it is entirely about loving in the present moment from the spaciousness of our hearts.

I stand witness to, with gratitude, the fact that there is something in all of us that calls to us, telling us with a quiet presence that we are more than the pain, that we are something other than the way we have been treated, that

we are whole and complete despite having felt so broken, so damaged in the past or present. Something within calls to us, a voice beyond our guilt, pain, or hate, and when we are determined to listen, to see our lives differently, we begin to experience glimpses of the truth that our real Self is one of love. In this way we are invulnerable.

## Awaken to Love Exercise: Be a Love-Finder

It is not uncommon to accumulate a long list of someone’s faults. In fact, sometimes it takes only a few minutes with somebody before we have made such a list. Looking for and holding onto faults is like placing logs and debris in a river where love wants to flow freely. Even a secret list of faults from a prior relationship we never speak of can still negatively affect a new relationship by blocking the natural course of love. This is as true with our relationship with ourselves as well as with others.

You always have a choice to:

- a) See faults in yourself and others, or
- b) Look upon yourself and others from a spacious, grateful, and compassionate heart.

Try this: Imagine you have a delete button you can press anytime and completely erase your list of faults. Each time you use this you are choosing to open the door to more loving relationships by seeing yourself and others as the beautiful beings they are, their essence beyond their behavior and your pain. As you remove the obstacles to love — and your list of faults are such obstacles — you will find yourself naturally paving the way for more loving communication with all you know. You will also discover that you see yourself in a more positive light. Once you have seen the importance of being a Love-Finder, your next step is to act as if your heart has every reason to love because, without the list of faults, it does.

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



# Drifting and Listening by the Stream

by Bette Jean Cundiff

Time flows like a river, taking us along as fallen leaves floating in its current. When I look back at how the eddies and rapids pushed me into new territories unseen around the bend of the river, I am always amazed at where I have ended up and excited about what will come next. The book entitled *A Course in Miracles* floated into my life in 1976 when I was searching for something other than a religious upbringing that just didn't fit. Ever since then, its philosophy and discipline have become the foundation for my spiritual, emotional, and physical health.

The last workbook lesson in the Course gives precise advice on how to float along the currents peacefully. So, when I need an answer, insight, and guidance, I remind myself of the lesson's words, "If I need a word to help, He will give it to me. If I need a thought, that will He also give. And if I need but stillness and a tranquil, open mind, these are the gifts I will receive of Him..." (W-361 to 365)

Without realizing it, I (just like you) must have been open to the Holy Spirit and received a powerful thought because the Course seemed to drop right into my lap. Out of curiosity, I attended one of the new groups being started by Paul Steinberg around New York City in 1976. Several months later, Paul graciously brought me to meet and visit with Judy Skutch Whitson in her Manhattan townhouse (then the home of the Foundation for Inner Peace, publishers of the Course). When we left, Judy stopped at her door and announced pointedly that I would do something for children and *A Course in Miracles*. An interesting send off! Yes, I was a mother of three children, but doing "something for children" and the Course seemed like a real stretch. The river had just taken a jog around an unexpected bend, and over the next nine months *The Children's Material*, a complete course echoing the adult material, was born. My "fourth child."

People have asked me how I wrote this miracle course for kids. Here is how:

A week after seeing Judy, I was sitting

in a rocking chair gazing at my green lawn, mentally peaceful, as I waited for my three kids to come drifting, stomping, or exploding home from school. Without realizing it, I was waiting for the Holy Spirit's Voice, and the thought of Little Lamb came to mind — a lovely gentle animal who obviously represented Jesus.

The next day as I waited in my rocking chair, I could see (in my mind's eye) part of a scene play out from a

fable, from start to finish with almost no editing. Each of the fifteen fables covered a different concept like love, forgiveness, judgment, etc. I thought this would be it. But wait, there was more.

Before ever meeting with Judy, I had started to write short, simple, uplifting poems. It was something I had never done before. I ended up with fifty-two, and I realized they were the basis for weekly workbook lessons.



Paul Steinberg and Bette.

And so, with just a little tweaking and added information for adults that I felt "guided" to write, a children's miracle course was complete. The title simply became *The Children's Material* and immediately was accepted into the miracle community as it walked hand in hand with the adult book, *A Course in Miracles*.

Then the river added another twist. The fables and lessons were geared for young children. One of mine was ten years old and this book was too young for him. The thought of a course for pre-teens seemed needed. And so, one day the inner Voice started again with a complete novella about a boy facing

Continued on page 13

***"Out of curiosity, I attended one of the new groups being started by Paul Steinberg around New York City in 1976. Several months later, Paul graciously brought me to meet and visit with Judy Skutch Whitson in her Manhattan townhouse."***

story with Little Lamb. The next day I felt as if a Voice impelled me to type what would become the first fable about Little Lamb and the animals of the forest. Over the next several weeks, this process was gently repeated, first with specific animals or group of animals coming to mind, then a scene would play out clear as a bell, and the next day I would "hear" and then write another

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Since 1977, Bette Jean Cundiff has traveled the world speaking about *A Course in Miracles* and forgiveness to thousands of spiritual seekers. She lives in Arizona with her husband, Dan.

## Join in the Celebration!

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

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*We look forward to hearing from you*

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Dear Beverly,

Thanks so much for continuing to send me THE HOLY ENCOUNTER, in spite of no donations from me in a long time. My finances are skinny and I'm trying to keep my head above water. I became 80 years young on June 2nd, and I'm grateful to my wonderful never-to-be-forgotten memory of meeting you in the late 1970's.

Here's what happened... At one of your Southern California conferences I purchased A Course in Miracles set from you. While browsing some of the other exhibits I lost them. I was devastated. When I returned to your booth to see if anyone had turned them in, I learned that no one had. A beautiful smile came over your face as you said, "Here, I want you to have another set." I was blown away!

As a retired RN working in an alcohol / drug facility, I always posted the daily lesson on a card in my office. Residents would pop their head in to read it daily. Yes, some days make sense to me or them, but we learned together. It took me 1-1/2 years to complete the Course, and it was the most profound and rewarding experience I have ever had. Thank you Beverly for planting the seed within me.

Patricia Butcher in Nevada

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Sometimes in our relationships and lives, we are tempted to look at the glass and see it as half empty instead of half full. This "what is wrong" perspective can blind us to what is right and wonderful in the Now: Love. Here are two truths about love you will be well served to remember and embrace:

1. A central obstacle in your way of love is the list of faults you place in your mind and keep building upon.
2. Your heart is ready and yearning to, right now, love fully and unconditionally.



***"Try this: Imagine you have a delete button you can press anytime and completely erase your list of faults."***

Instead of looking at your life or any relationship as empty or with a list of faults, take a few minutes several times a day and act as if your heart is overflowing with love and that you have limitless reasons to love. This "pretending" will soon turn into your reality. I will close with these thoughts as a summary of what I have said:

1. Only love is real.
2. "Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God." (ACIM preface)
3. "Love reasons without reason."  
Shakespeare

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# Something To Be Humble About

by Joseph Miller

A teacher I knew once said, “You cannot be humble until you have something to be humble about” — which I took to mean that humility follows a perception of greatness or worthiness. Humility is the natural posture of deference before majesty. If your perception is uplifted, humility is as natural as breathing. *A Course in Miracles* makes a very helpful distinction between humility and self-debasement in Workbook lesson 61 “I am the light of the world.”

*“But the ego does not understand humility, mistaking it for self-debasement. Humility consists of accepting your role in salvation and in taking no other. It is not humility to insist you cannot be the light of the world if that is the function God assigned to you.”*

This is humility before the majestic perception of the spirit, the truth of God’s wisdom, the reality of divine identity. The same point is made clearly in the Text.

*“Humility is a lesson for the ego, not for the spirit. Spirit is beyond humility, because it recognizes its radiance and gladly sheds its light everywhere. The meek shall inherit the earth because their egos are humble, and this gives them truer perception.” (T-4.1.12:2)*

I will never forget my first time driving through Yosemite Valley. A clearing in the trees suddenly revealed the dazzling base of El Capitan. Dumbfounded, I struggled to comprehend the massive scale of this monument of granite. On the one hand, the surface looked like a crinkled sheet of white paper that I could almost touch; on the other hand, judging by the receding scale of trees, what I was seeing was huge and distant. I needed to wrap my mind around this, so I bent my head and strained to see the top through the car window. El Cap went on and on; it was impossible to perceive the end from the confines of the car. I was dizzy with giddiness. “Humility” is what I call that moment of self-forgetfulness. El Cap gave me something to be humble about.

Without the spirit’s “recognition of radiance” there is no humility. Humility is nothing in itself. (“Yet what is by itself? And what does ‘in itself’ mean?” asks Lesson 28 — implying that such isolation language is meaningless.) Humility is not a unilateral assertion. The diminishment of the ego moves hand in hand with the dawning vision of the spirit. I cannot attack the distortions of the ego on their own terms; I merely aggravate the inflammation, and “make the error real.” This is what we mean by humiliation. Humility, on the other hand, is a gentle letting go in order to move forward.

***“A clearing in the trees suddenly revealed the dazzling base of El Capitan. Dumbfounded, I struggled to comprehend the massive scale of this monument of granite.”***

Forgiveness is sister to humility in this regard. Its meaning is logically negative (though not emotionally negative). Forgiveness is important not for what it does, but for what it uncovers. As a response to obstacles to love’s awareness, forgiveness is valuable for what it restores — our spiritual inheritance. Look at the synonyms the Course so often uses for forgiveness: undoing, letting go, overlooking. These terms are meaningful only with respect to what they positively point to. An *undo* is meaningless without a *redo*; we *let go* in order to *take hold* of something better; we *overlook* so that we may see *beyond*. It is like walking: the planted foot pushes the ground away so that the moving foot can step forward. We forgive wrong perception in order to release right perception. Forgiveness, by itself, would only topple over, a walker off balance. All of this is epitomized in the Workbook lessons 128 and 129.

Lesson 128 starkly announces “The world you see holds nothing that you need to offer you; nothing that you can use in any way, nor anything at all that serves to give you joy.” But this is only half the truth. Lesson 129 follows. “Beyond this world there is a world I want.”



*“This is the thought that follows from the one we practiced yesterday. You cannot stop with the idea the world is worthless, for unless you see that there is something else to hope for, you will only be depressed. Our emphasis is not on giving up the world, but on exchanging it for what is far more satisfying, filled with joy, and capable of offering you peace.”*

Like many adults who strive for “conscious parenting,” I earnestly tried to identify and let go of faulty relationship strategies picked up from my childhood. My upbringing was heavily punitive. My parents got their way through violent bullying. I learned to misidentify fighting with an “honest” and direct response to disagreement. Then I became a parent.

When my daughter was very young, I observed my wife and my mother-in-law implementing a totally different strategy. Instead of butting heads with the child, they used sleight of hand and distraction. If my daughter got her hands on a fragile or dangerous object, instead of ripping it away and shouting “No!”, my wife would bring out a friendly fuzzy bear, and quietly slip the questionable object away unnoticed. This was a smooth and peaceful way to handle the problem. But as the Course teaches, love

Joseph Miller is a writer, broadcaster and drapery tradesman. He has practiced *A Course in Miracles* 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, California with his wife, Kim.

makes the ego very uncomfortable, and I found myself wondering if distraction might be shortsighted. Sure, it avoided a violent escalation of wills. But was it honest and truthful? Shouldn't the child squarely face up to her mistakes? If we shield the child's feelings, aren't we catering to her weakness, which will only make her vulnerable later on? And then I'd be responsible for turning out a weak child, merely because I was afraid of hurting a few feelings along the way. Loving relations can feel "unsafe" to anyone schooled in guilt and anger.

In our inner life, the ego does not go for fuzzy bears. It likes condemnation and attack. And it is very easy for someone with a sincere interest in spiritual self-transformation to declare war on the defects she sees in herself and others. She might hear about forgiveness, and attempt, through a unilateral effort, to neutralize and forget guilt. But merely forgetting errors may be as impossible as not thinking of a pink elephant. That is because you cannot forgive until you have something to forgive about; you cannot overlook without lifting your gaze to a positive object beyond.

And that object is *your Self*. Lesson 91 puts this negative-positive two-step in clear, beautiful terms. The erroneous belief that I am a body cannot be released without a replacement

provided by the Holy Spirit. I must feel something to put my faith in, something as inwardly majestic as Yosemite's El Capitan.



***"When my daughter was very young, I observed my wife and mother-in-law implementing a totally different strategy. Instead of butting heads with the child, they used sleight of hand and distraction."***

*"What you think you are is a belief to be undone. But what you really are must be revealed to you. The belief you are a body calls for correction, being a mistake. The truth of what you are calls on the strength in you to bring to your awareness what the mistake conceals. If you are not a body, what are*

*you? You need to be aware of what the Holy Spirit uses to replace the image of a body in your mind. You need to feel something to put your faith in, as you lift it from the body.*

*You need a real experience of something else, something more solid and more sure; more worthy of your faith, and really there."* (W-91.6:7) ❖

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## Pickles and the Intruder

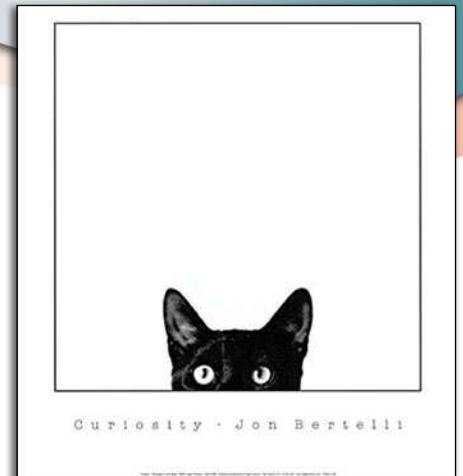
by Ann Keohane

I have a black cat named Pickles. She came to me because her previous owner, and good friend of mine, had a stroke and moved into a nursing home. Pickles follows me around the house and garden with great curiosity.

One day I was browsing through a catalogue of posters and saw one called Curiosity by Jon Bertelli. The picture is of a black cat, that significantly resembles Pickles, peering over the bottom of the frame. I ordered it, framed it, and placed it over my bathtub.

After hanging and straightening my new poster, I looked over my shoulder to see Pickles with every hair on her body sticking straight out. Her tail was absolutely huge! While laughing myself silly, I ran for my camera. When I got back, she wasn't quite as fluffed up but was still intently watching this interloper.

Even as this was happening, the parallel to what I do so frequently was obvious. How



many times have I indeed scared myself by making something real that was no more threatening than that picture of the cat?

I love how life gives us these lessons, especially if they are as funny as this. Since this incident, I have had several chances to laugh at myself as I thought of Pickles and her "foe."

*"In everyone you see but the reflection of what you choose to have him be to you."* (T-25.V.4) ❖

Ann Keohane lives in North Carolina and is enjoying retirement from the world of mental health and education with her eighteen-year-old cat, Pickles. She has been an active student of *A Course in Miracles* since the early 1980's and is a *Holy Helper* of the Center.



# Emotional Healing

## Who is Jesus?

by Dick Gayton, Ph.D.

The voice of Jesus drew me to *A Course in Miracles*. When I first picked the text up in 1987, the words were very familiar and comforting to me. It was the same message I heard when I was a small child in fundamentalist Sunday School; the same gentle warmth I felt from my adoptive mother who sang to me that Jesus loved me as I fell asleep most every night of my childhood. Helen Schucman identified a voice she heard dictating the Course to her as “Jesus,” yet Bill Thetford, who helped her transcribe what she was hearing onto paper, seemed uncomfortable with the idea of Jesus being the source of the Course and referred instead to “Christ Consciousness.” Helen and Bill were both from Jewish families, and so Jesus was a controversial idea at best.

Why does this matter? It doesn’t. Whatever way brings you home to a place of peace is what is important, and so it doesn’t matter what you call the Source: love, peace, Higher Self, or my Holy Bunion. For some of us, Jesus evokes a close connection to spirit that gives us astounding guidance when the ego and the world would make us fearful and hateful, as our unguarded minds wander into crazy thinking territory. When I read Helen Schucman’s words, as reported by Ken Wapnick in *Absence from Felicity*, I see that Helen had an ongoing conversation with a voice or entity named Jesus who gave her personal guidance before, during, and after the dictation of the Course. I connect to this Jesus, or at least they sure sound the same; the whole experience of talking to him and listening for an answer just hums for me and harmonizes the wild, frantic voices of my inner world as I look upon stroke, war, friends dying, children getting sick. When I think of Jesus, with my request to see the latest horror in a different way, or read his words in the Course, I look away from the crazy world I am seeing and look through love.

What if the thought of Jesus and asking for his help doesn’t bring you peace and loving

direction? What if his name brings up in your mind something the church did or said to you that is insane? I am impressed by the amazing range of loving symbols the fearful mind can distort, yet for some reason it is hard for me to turn away from the name Jesus, but if you get bad vibrations from saying that name or seeking guidance from that source, there is no need to go there. Follow Bill and look for Christ Consciousness or just turn to love. The words don’t matter, but the experiences of joy and peace and forgiveness are everything we need. I believe in the promise that if

***“The ego would like us to fight over Jesus. When I get in a spat with the Christians over his name, the ego is fed and strengthened. This is because I have used the ego to find God and the ego’s mission is to keep me separate from God.”***

we ask for help, we will receive it. If I look to the ego mind when I am hurting, I get hurt more; I descend further into fear and hatred.

The ego would like us to fight over Jesus. When I get in a spat with the Christians over his name, the ego is fed and strengthened. This is because I have used the ego to find God, and the ego’s mission is to keep me separated from God. Beginning just after the historical Jesus died, humans have bickered, fought and killed each other over who he was and what he meant by the command to love one another.

In 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicaea (there will be points deducted from your final grade if I see your eyes glaze over or if I see any more yawning), there was a fair amount of

bickering. Emperor Constantine I (Connie #1) was a new Christian – and as some of us know, when we first had contact with Jesus, we wanted to save everyone – AKA manipulate everyone around us into believing how we do.

Anyway, Connie #1, a new follower of Jesus, presided over a power-play between the Arians in the Eastern Church (Arians: not to be confused with the master race of Nazi Germany) and Pope Sylvester I (Sly #1). The Arians suggested that Jesus was not divine and not equal to God. This did not sit well with Sly #1 who did not attend, but sent his reps to get Connie #1 to suppress the Arians and their heretical view. We don’t know why Sly #1 stayed away, but I will bet he wished he had gone to the Council himself since Connie #1 set a precedent for Roman Emperors meddling in church politics, which popes don’t like. They want the final say on Jesus. Don’t we all?



But Sly #1 was probably busy dealing with the Donatists (wake up, you in the back row!). The Donatists were

wanting to do in the Christians, who renounced the faith in order to avoid crucifixion, beheading, and general unpleasantness from the Romans, who had other gods before embracing Jesus. Anyway, the Nicene Council did the politically correct (though scripturally inaccurate) thing, and said Jesus was equal to God. So that settled it or at least gave the ego a target for further discussion over the centuries.

So, if Jesus is equal to God, then you in the back row who are talking instead of listening and insist on calling the source of love in this world something else, well you

Continued on page 15

Dick Gayton is a psychologist and a writer. His books *The Forgiving Place* and *The Mind Travelers* are on Kindle. He is currently developing *Love in Country*, a feature film. You can follow its progress on: [Loveincountrymovie.com](http://Loveincountrymovie.com) and on Facebook and Instagram.

## Our X-Ray Vision

Continued from page 1

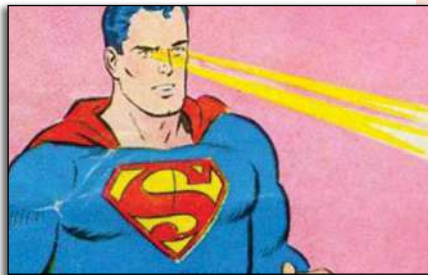
need help.

But, if we are seeing a sinful world, we are living in a madman's dream. This is not worthy of us, as creations of God. Therefore, it is time we call upon a vision that can cut through the confusion, darkness, and fear and show us the world God is holding out to us – a world that shows us the extensions of love and the calls for love, thereby making love the natural and normal response to all our interactions.

Now, this is definitely a process. Even

Superman had to learn how to fly and control his super-human powers, but he

succeeded, and so will we! Let us use that



holy vision to look past the blocks to the awareness of love's presence in those people and circumstances that make us afraid or angry. We still need to handle the things of the world, but we don't need to make our brother or ourselves sinful and guilty in the process. That really is the secret to our x-ray

***“If you are an aficionado of Superman, you might recall that he not only had x-ray vision, but he also had a vision of compassion and service for the human race.”***

vision: seeing past the hateful acts to the calls for love that really are our unity.

So, join me in putting on x-ray glasses and affirming,

“My holy vision sees all things as pure.”

I don't know about you, but I'm feeling a little more empowered. I think I'll go put on my cape! ♦

## Drifting and...

Continued from page 7

the usual struggles, helped by a slightly older teen named Wil, who gives him advice and eventually writes down daily thoughts and guidance just for the boy, all as part of the story. This book I entitled, *Help is on the Way*, a miracle course for pre-teens.

As we travel along the stream, other leaves float along nearby; sometimes joining us to help on our journey. By the 1980s, Miracle Distribution Center was growing into an important Light to guide the burgeoning miracle community of students and groups.

One day the thought was there, not to be dismissed: Ask Beverly and Miracle Distribution Center to print and publish *The Children's Material* and *Help is On the Way* as one book and offer it to the community. I was beginning the first steps toward a much-needed retirement. And Beverly and the Center said, “Of course.” They gave a wonderful new look to the cover and inside, and combined both books, keeping the title *The Children's Material*. For so many years, the Center and their intrepid helper, Darin, have been the loving guardians of my precious “fourth” child.

By 2001, other leaves had drifted by and

a loving group of miracle students in Spain translated the children's course into elegant Spanish. Sometime after that a fun thought “just happened” to enter my head. Why not create paintings of all the little animals in *The Children's Material*? The fact that I was not an artist didn't seem to matter. And while I was at it I could add a few cut and color projects,

***“By the 1980's, Miracle Distribution Center was growing into an important Light to guide the burgeoning miracle community of students and groups.”***

as well. So, with more than forty paintings, some “to do” projects, and a Spanish translation, a new edition was ready.

*The Children's Material* was growing up. This time, however, I was guided to separate out the book for older children, and we now have Book 1 – *Little Lamb's Miracle Fables* with “to do” projects and workbook lessons, and Book 2 – *Help is on the Way*, a novella for the slightly older child, each with Spanish translation included. (You can, of course,

## What's Happening...

Continued from page 2

support for **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** magazine will ensure it remains available to all who want it. Thank you!

● ***“I will step back and let Him lead the way.”*** This lesson is the thought in the prayer ministry for September and a favorite of so many. It reminds us that our way is certain; all roads will lead to God in the end and to His healing Will for us. But, while we still abide in this world where we seem to be distracted, we are asked to practice stepping back and asking Him to lead the way. Even if our willingness is so weak, we are assured He is there with us. Let us practice this willingness together daily for yourselves, loved ones, and those in the Miracle Prayer Ministry. Every day at 4:30pm (Pacific Time), we invite you to stop and join us.

**Thoughts for:**

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

**October:** *Forgiveness is the key to happiness.* (Lesson 121)

**November:** *The peace of God is shining in me now.* (Lesson 188) ♦

find both these books, plus another of my books, *Side by Side – the Twelve Steps and A Course in Miracles* at Miracle Distribution Center's online store).

The stream just keeps moving, with each of us along for the ride. Who knows what will be around the next bend? What other leaves will drift along with us for a while?

My husband and I live in southern Arizona with unlimited opportunities for us to enjoy nature. One of our favorites is an almost unknown lake in the mountains fed by a lovely stream, surrounded by grasses, wild flowers, and tall pine trees. I sit by it and allow my mind to drift along its currents and eddy as it bubbles around rocks. Leaves float by, get caught in its edges, and the sun dapples and shimmers on its waters. This is peace.

When I am there again, I will think of you. In our minds, together, we can rest allowing the streams of our lives to carry us along. In the quiet of this inner world, should we need a word, it will be given to us. And, should we need a thought, that also will be given. And, should we need stillness and a tranquil open mind, that will become the gift God sends us. ♦

## 40 Years in Retrospect...

Continued from page 1

The vocation of MDC may seem to contrast with the world's view of an organization. On one hand, we provide listings that keep track of groups studying the Course worldwide, but we do not necessarily advocate people studying in groups. The Course is self-study; groups may be helpful, but are certainly not mandatory and should never become the substitute for an individual's personal study.

***“Throughout the years, we have been blessed to have visitors from around the world make Miracle Distribution Center one of their stops.”***

We believe in the transforming teachings of *A Course in Miracles*, and have built our lives and this Center around its principles but have no need to convert anyone to its curriculum. There is no membership. The Course is just one version of the universal curriculum, and we are here merely to be a help and support for those who find this to be their path. We also provide classes, retreats, and conferences with the purpose of providing a forum for students of the Course to join without a need to be *the* forum.

Throughout the years, we have been blessed to have visitors from around the world make MDC one of their stops. We have an extensive bookstore of Course items and a meeting/studio facility in which we present ongoing Course classes and record them for free live streaming to the world. The walls of the room are filled with a pictorial history of Course events and presenters, as well as our national and international study group maps. Even though there is not much in the way of form at our Center, people seem to enjoy coming here – I think the spirit of the place has something to do with it!

We are a center in the truest sense of *A Course in Miracles*, for we really redefine the word *center*. We are a “center” in content and purpose, but we are not the typical worldly definition of a center, since we are somewhat “formless.” We are located in Southern California and yet our work is international. We have close relationships with people across the globe whom we may never

meet in person, and yet we feel as close to them as we do to the friend who lives down the block. As the Course reminds us, minds join, bodies do not.

The vocation of the mind is to join, not just to visit bodies, but to join minds and hearts! Don't get us wrong, we love having those



Pictured with Beverly are the president and staff of Natural Spirit, publishers of the Japanese translation of *A Course in Miracles*, when they visited the Center.

“bodies” stop by to visit, attend a meeting, event, etc., but we realize it is not mandatory that they do so for us at MDC to feel connected to them or them to feel connected to us. God is not found in a place, event, or any one special person. God is found in every heart and mind that wants to remember they are one with their brother – not necessarily in form, but in purpose.

***“Whenever a service of MDC is introduced, our primary criterion is whether a person – no matter where they are – can participate.”***

Whenever a service of MDC is introduced, our primary criterion is whether a

person – no matter where they are – can participate. That is why we have the national and international study group listings as well as our ongoing study group classes at the Center (which are recorded for listeners and live streamed for viewers across the globe), the Miracle Prayer Ministry, Prison Ministry, *THE HOLY ENCOUNTER* magazine, our Miracle Moment webcasts, weekly email updates, Daily Lesson Email, our online store, and our website at [www.miraclecenter.org](http://www.miraclecenter.org), to name a few of our services. Through these services, people can feel a part of our work and a part of each other without ever having to leave home. For some, this is their only contact with other Course students. MDC can help most anyone, anywhere, feel a sense of connection and support.

What is the vocation of the Center? Well, besides all the wonderful projects and services, MDC's vocation is joining – a joining beyond the form, a joining with each of you and thereby with God.

The next issue is our final installment of 40 Years in Retrospect, and it's entitled: ***2018 and Beyond: A Miracle Odyssey!*** ❖



Since we began live streaming our weekly meetings free every Wednesday evening, we have been able to share the Course's message around the world. Over the past year, viewers from 65 countries have joined us.

# THE HOLY INSTANT

by Beverly Hutchinson & Steven Halpern

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Guided Experiences from A Course in Miracles

Narrated by Beverly Hutchinson  
Music by Steven Halpern

*“I bought this incredible recording back in the 80's and listen to it every night while doing the Course - it's so healing and the music is so beautiful. I healed my relationship with my mother!”*

- Marsha in Hillsboro, OR

## It's All In the Attitude,...

Continued from page 3

you made to take the place of Him and His creation." No doubt, we all fall into step, creating a self image that is not based in our spiritual reality. And, in this world in which we live, it isn't a bad thing that we pursue a career or job title. To make a living and pay the bills, we all need to develop skills that we can market so we too can say, as Cuba Gooding Jr. did in the hit movie Jerry Maguire, "SHOW ME THE MONEY!"

**"A Course in Miracles offers a version of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Workbook lesson 123. Look at it as a kind of 'attitude of gratitude' primer."**

But regardless of how attached we are to our career or worldly persona, we need to recognize anything of form in this world is ephemeral and may change at a whim. So, as we recognize that our "business card" is not our true self, we are then open to the whole truth about ourselves. We are a child of God, forever one with our Creator. We are grateful that it is He who is in charge, not us, not our careers, not our bosses, and not any political leader. No matter what we do or don't say, that truth is inviolate and will never change.

Twenty four years ago, as Director of Choral Ministries at a mega church in Southern California, I was at the top of my game. Then, all of a sudden, it was gone! As a result, my ego went into overtime with the perfect scheme: Sue the hell out of them (the church) for unlawful termination. With a lot of prayer and soul-searching, we chose to not follow the litigious path. Instead, we negotiated seed money to establish our nonprofit children's chorus called **KidSingers**. It is now entering its twenty-second season reaching thousands of inner city youth with the power and transformation of music performance. Through this professional crisis, in a very powerful way, I learned the secret of giving thanks in everything.



The perennial question as to whether a tree that falls in the forest makes a sound has often been answered by a "no" because without the listener how is the sound interpreted? So, too, is the Course teaching on thankful-



ness. Thankfulness is inherent in the Voice of God. But, it will lie dormant until we activate our listening and waken the Voice into action, which in turn can only reverberate truth. The Course says "All are called but few choose to listen." So when we do listen, we hear:

*"And thanks to you for listening to Him. His Word is soundless if it be not heard. In thanking Him the thanks are yours as well. An unheard message will not save the world, however mighty be the Voice that speaks, however loving may the message be. Thanks be to you who heard (God's voice), for you become the messenger who brings His Voice with you, and lets It echo round and round the world."* (W-123)

That attitude of gratitude is a powerful force in bringing peace to our soul and countless other sojourners along our path. Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation has had a resounding healing effect on our national soul. In his second inaugural address, less than two years later, he continues this healing theme with a building block hewn out of gratitude:

**"That attitude of gratitude is a powerful force in bringing peace to our souls and countless other sojourners along our path. Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation has had a resounding healing effect on our national soul."**

*"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish*

*the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."*

As did Abraham Lincoln, let us continue to pick up the mantle of giving thanks and let it resound throughout the world, "Glory, Glory Hallelujah, His truth is marching on." Our willingness to hear is the only thing that is required. Then, we all can "sing the song of thankfulness today, in honor of the Self that God has willed to be our true Identity in Him."

## Who is Jesus?

Continued from page 12

are doomed, so to speak, going to h-e-double-toothpicks in a hand basket. Of course, that is the ego's solution to all theological discussions: send your opponents to hell, burn them, tweet smack about them, or block them on Facebook.

How to get the ego to quiet down about Jesus? I really don't know what to do. I keep thinking I can get the ego to behave: be tolerant of other views of Jesus or other's opinions in general. But, this is like asking Jack my spaniel to be quiet when his Uncle Jerry comes to the door or when the postman brings me an Amazon delivery. Jack starts howling when he hears them come up the walk. I say "No!" I try to reason with him or threaten dire consequences; at one point, I even sent him to dog manners school. About the only thing that works is to take him gently but firmly in hand and not let him run out the door when we open it. Or I just let him go.

But if I just stand back, Jack will run out the door, lick the postman's hand, or jump into Jerry's lap, and there will be a lot of mutual howling and then a love feast of cuddling, barking, and moaning going on as Jerry sits down and holds him and talks dog talk to him. Hearing the words and vibrations of dog love, Jack begins to settle down and pretty soon he is laying on his back for a belly rub.

If I can just let go, the ego doesn't have a chance. Solution!

Oh no, here comes the postman again. He has Jack's treats from Chewy.com. Jack, Jack, Jack!!!! I think a glass of wine is in order.

# The HOLY ENCOUNTER

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2018

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- Our X-Ray Vision
- It's All in the Attitude, Baby!
- Politics, The Playground of the Ego
- Miracles Beyond Defenses
- Drifting and Listening by the Stream
- Something to Be Humble About
- Who is Jesus? ... and more!



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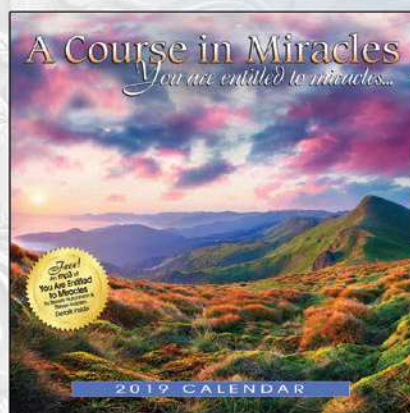
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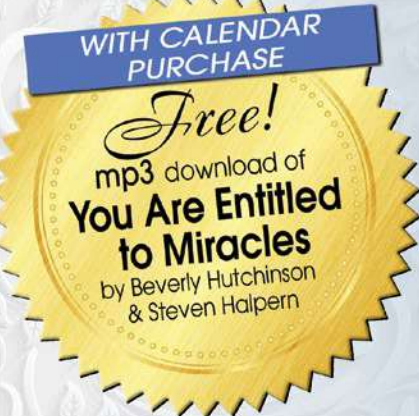
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