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The HOLY ENCOUNTER



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021

A Miracle Distribution Center Publication

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



Misinformation: Opportunities for Healing

by Beverly Hutchinson McNeff

"The trouble with the world is not that people know too little, but that they know so many things that ain't so." Mark Twain

When I first read this quote by Mark Twain, I was struck by how true it was. With the number of talk shows and news programs on television and radio (not to mention the bevy of inaccurate information that floats all over the Internet) it is no longer

surprising how much information is out there that just "ain't so." Whether it be bogus election

global health, emergency relief, education, and who had pumped around \$1.75 billion into COVID-19 relief efforts, was putting microchips into the Covid vaccines to track people. The ramblings of those conspiracy theories had an effect. According to a survey by Yahoo News at the time, "a quarter of Americans believed that Gates was using the vaccine to implant microchips under people's skin." Gates had no idea why people would believe such ideas. He said he was just focused on writing checks so as to keep people and particularly children safe from this disease.

In the wake of the misinformation and conspiracy theories running amuck on the internet and social media, this controversy is just another example of Twain's quote and makes it pertinent for us today. But it also proves to us the need to be aware of what

kind of information we are ingesting.

We all have a deep desire to know. The problem is, in our desire to know, we have

"In the wake of the misinformation and conspiracy theories running amuck on the internet and social media, this controversy is just another example of Twain's quote and makes it pertinent for us today."

and voting fraud claims or falsehoods about Covid vaccines and mask-wearing, there's a lot of inaccurate information out there being touted as truth.

One current erroneous story stands out. Near the beginning of the Covid vaccinations, some on the internet seem to have decided that Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft and the man whose philanthropic work and money is focused on

We are here only to
be truly helpful...
FREE Recordings for You!



In 1983, Steven Halpern and Beverly Hutchinson teamed up to create a healing series of seven recordings blending the words of *A Course in Miracles*, read by Beverly, with Steven's sound-health music. Nearly 40 years later, these recordings continue to stand the test of time, providing a way for the transformative power of the Course to slip into our minds through the vehicle of music. Countless listeners have shared how the recordings have brought peace, comfort, and healing during their most challenging times.

"Your recordings are boosting my capacity to listen to the Voice within. Thank you for these beautiful gifts."

Maria in Norway

We are honored to have provided these miracles in the lives of so many. There is no doubt we are all in need of a focus on the truth for our healing, and that is why we are making our mp3 recordings available **free of charge**. Each recording deals with a unique focus. Browse the recordings, make your choice, and let the healing begin. Go to: miraclecenter.org and click on store.

Please send us any comments or stories about your experiences with the recordings. As always, your tax-deductible gifts are greatly appreciated to maintain our many free services. Thank you.

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 livestream meetings at miraclecenter.org

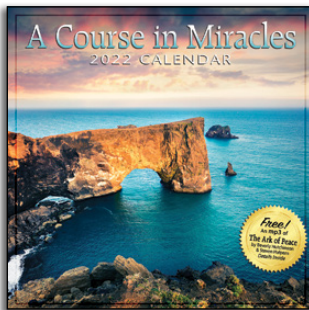
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What's Happening...with the Course and the Center

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

● **"Above the Battle Ground: Finding Peace during Turbulent Times." September 25, 2021** - is the next in our series of seminars on the Course with Beverly McNeff. You may attend via livestream. You will be able to interact live during the seminar and have access to all materials and recorded sessions after the event. As one attendee of our last seminar said, "What an awesome workshop seminar! Thank you so much for Beverly's amazing Course teaching!" You can find all the details on the facing page.

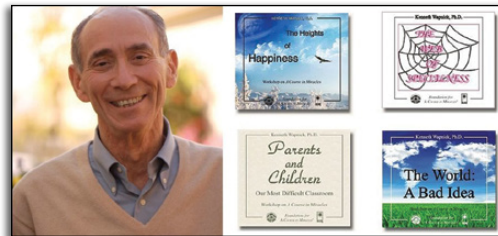
● **Looking forward to a Miraculous New Year!** Our **2022 A Course in Miracles Wall Calendar** is now available to give and receive as the perfect holiday gift! Featuring stunning full color photos along with inspiring quotes from the Course for each month, this calendar is sure to keep the Course's 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!



● **Did you Know??** When you call the Center during normal business hours you will be talking to a real person and fellow Course student! Not a recording telling you to leave a message, or an automated greeting. Our caring staff is here, available to help you

Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm Pacific Time. Call **714-632-9005**. Just another one of the many services your donations make possible.

● **Goodbye to CDs?** - As we all become more and more comfortable with streaming audio and video on our electronic devices, traditional compact discs are being phased out. Our remaining stock of CD albums by Kenneth Wapnick will not be replenished. If you've wanted to add titles to your library in a permanent, hardcopy format, now is the time to make your purchase. Select from our large selection and get them before they're gone.



● **Encircled by Miracles** - This high-quality Miracle Mug, encircled with fifteen of our favorite inspirational quotes from A Course in Miracles, was exclusively designed and created by your Miracle Distribution Center family. Our hope is that each quote will bless you as you pour your first cup of coffee into the mug in the morning until you sip your last cup of tea at night. The quotes were chosen to encourage and remind you of the joy and support you are entitled to every day, every night, and every moment of the day. Find it in



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! **Gift in memory of... Jerry Jampolsky** from Diane Stanger in WI. "He did indeed teach only love. Thank you, Jerry!"

● **"Dear Miracle Prayer Ministry...** It was so nice to receive a letter from MDC and then a handwritten card from a prayer partner. It lifted my spirits a lot. Even better to know I can pray daily and know all of you are joined with our prayers as one. The time for prayer with you is 4:30pm (Pacific Time), but for me it's at 7:30pm. Thank you for keeping me in prayer. I am excited to watch all the miracles around us." We are honored to join with all seeking hearts in prayer and invite you to join us every day as Colette in Canada does! As the Course reminds us, "Healing is holy. Nothing in the world is holier than helping one who asks for help. And two come very close to God in this attempt, however limited, however lacking in sincerity. Where two have joined for healing, God is there."
(P-2.V.4)

Thoughts for:

September: *I am as God created me.*
(Lesson 110)

October: *I am one Self, united with my Creator.* (Lesson 95)

November: *God goes with me wherever I go.*
(Lesson 41)

Our 2021 Bookmark is Available!

Thoughts in the Miracle Prayer Ministry 2021
Each day at 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Time) we stop for a moment of prayer as we join our minds with God for the healing of all His children. We hope these lessons from the Workbook of A Course in Miracles will serve as a guide for your prayerful joining.

January: I rest in God. (109)
February: I feel the Love of God within me now. (108)
March: I could see peace instead of this. (94)
April: I am the light of the world. (81)
May: Forgiveness is my function as the light of the world. (82)
June: I walk with God in perfect holiness. (106)

July: God's peace and joy are mine. (105)
August: God is the Mind with which I think. (48)
September: I am as God created me. (110)
October: I am one Self, united with my Creator. (95)
November: God goes with me wherever I go. (41)
December: I rest in God. (109)

Please send your prayer requests to: prayer@miraclecenter.org - Include a postal address for a personal response.

Request your **FREE** full-color bookmark today which lists all the thoughts in the prayer ministry for 2021.

call **714-632-9005** or at **miraclecenter.org**

Above the Battleground

finding peace in turbulent times



On-demand seminar on *A Course in Miracles*
with **Beverly Hutchinson McNeff**

This world has gone through a tough time. In the U.S. alone, 614,000 of our fellow citizens have died from the Covid-19 virus. Now more are threatened by the Delta variant. The signs of global warming are wreaking havoc around the world with floods, fires, and droughts. How about closer to home? In your own personal experience, has this been a rough couple of years? Personal as well as political unrest, violent domestic terrorism, and a flood of misinformation have caused more than a little chaos. Where do we go from here? The answer is: We go within. As *A Course in Miracles* so beautifully reminds us in workbook lesson 318...

"I was created as the thing I seek. I am the goal the world is searching for. I am God's Son."

I have received so many stories about what people are going through, from sickness and death of loved ones to painful relationships of separation and financial insecurities. In every case these same people also share miraculous inspiration. We all innately know that we must rise above the battleground of chaos, separation, and fear, if we are to find the peace and healing that we are entitled to.

As the Course explains...

"Forget not that the motivation for this course is the attainment and the keeping of the state of peace. Given this state the mind is quiet, and the condition in which God is remembered is attained." (T-24.in.1)

If you are ready to rise above the world of chaos and attain the state of peace where God is remembered, I invite you to join me for this seminar. I will be honored to share my 44 years of study and insight into *A Course in Miracles* along with Judith Skutch Whitson, Dr. Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, and Dr. Lee Jampolsky (along with others) who will join me to share the tools they have learned in rising above the battleground to that place of peace.

If the last few years have taught us anything, it is that teachers of God are needed now more than ever before. So join us in taking your rightful place in the salvation of the world by making the commitment to heal and bring peace to your life now.

I look forward to joining with you
above the battleground!

Beverly

On-Demand Seminar
on *A Course in Miracles*

Live Saturday, September 25th,
then archived for unlimited later viewing

presented by...



Beverly Hutchinson McNeff
the Co-Founder and President of Miracle Distribution Center and the editor of *THE HOLY ENCOUNTER* magazine. Her livestreamed lectures on the Course are enjoyed weekly by viewers around the world.

with appearances by...



Judy Skutch Whitson
the Co-Founder and Chairperson of the Foundation for Inner Peace, the original publisher of *A Course in Miracles*.



Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, Ph.D.
the Founder and Executive Director of Attitudinal Healing International and a therapist in private practice.



Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.
the Founder of Inspirational Psychology, the author of ten books in fourteen languages, and a retired psychologist.

plus...

Personal stories of
triumphs from Course students

Live Saturday, September 25, 2021 • 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Pacific Time

Registration: **\$99.00** Includes the livestream, chat room, and **unlimited viewing** of the archived recordings

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Miracle Musings...

The Uncovering

by Paul McNeff

"Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

(Luke 17:21)

"In me salvation's means and end are one. In me, God's holy Son, are reconciled all parts of Heaven's plan to save the world." (W-318)

There is a stigma attached to mental illness, so much so that those who are affected often choose to keep it, and the physical effects it causes, hidden. But, as *A Course in Miracles* tell us, "There are no idle thoughts. All thinking produces form at some level." (T-2.VI.9:13) With this in mind, we must look at all forms of illness to allow us to heal at the level of cause (the mind) and not just at the level of effect (the world of form).

Recently I was amazed to hear the news that Simone Biles, the most-decorated American gymnast of all time, had withdrawn from all team events during the first week of the Tokyo Olympics. She cited mental health issues and a condition that is commonly known in gymnastics as the "twisties" – a phenomenon wherein an athlete suddenly loses his or her sense of spatial awareness. Had she continued with that condition, she could have caused severe injuries to herself. Her withdrawal was a disappointment for many, especially when she was expected to win more gold medals for America. It must have taken a lot of inner fortitude for Biles to admit she was having mental challenges and needed to make the right decision for herself, not for anyone else.

Sports fans often look down on their athletic heroes when they don't perform up to expectations. After all, if you're a fan, it's all about you, right? But I think in Biles' decision to withdraw from gymnastic events, and also tennis superstar Naomi Osaka's decision to withdraw from the French Open after citing

mental issues, we are starting to shed light on how the unseen bogeymen of mental anxiety and stress are just as legitimate as physical injuries.

Years ago, as a professional singer, I had come to the end of my rope. We've all heard of writer's block; I was having singer's block and was suffering from a real "head trip" when it came to my solo performances. A good friend suggested I seek help from a therapist he knew who had helped several singers transcend their inner demons. After placing me in a light hypnotic alpha state he guided me to journey deep within and insisted that I not stop until I experienced a state of uncon-



"It must have taken a lot of inner fortitude for Biles to admit she was having mental challenges and needed to make the right decision for herself, not for anyone else."

ditional love. At first, I was hesitant and a little frustrated that I didn't really know how to do this. Drawing from my Christian upbringing, the love of God came with a quid pro quo: ask for God's forgiveness of your sins, and He would love you, but reject His overtures, and He would send you to hell. Unconditional love was a strange concept to me, far from the spiritual construct of God that I had always believed.

I continued to relax in the moment, and I gradually allowed the feeling of being totally accepted for who I was to take root. Personal boundaries gradually faded in what seemed

like a blip in time. This awareness was brand new to me. Words cannot do it justice. I felt like I was suspended in an eternal moment of acceptance – an unadulterated state of love. Eventually, as the therapist gently brought me back, I heard his voice say to me, "When you sing, sing only from that place of love." The answer was clear. My singing was too focused on the physicality of correct vocal technique, and the inner well-spring of love had been missing. From that moment on, I never sang without that focus on love.

A Course in Miracles is all about taking us on that inner journey to love. A couple of weeks ago in Beverly's Wednesday night livestream meeting, we were focused on the beautiful workbook lesson 318. It powerfully says...

"In me, God's holy Son, are reconciled all parts of Heaven's plan to save the world. What could conflict, when all the parts have but one purpose and one aim? How could there be a single part that stands alone, or one of more or less importance than the rest?"

We are all part of the solution of our seeking for love. We seek in so many outward places, but in truth the answer remains within, where it never left. We can look in other places like sports, money, prestige, worldly power, but we will always come up empty.

I remember a fable Beverly told years ago in one of her seminars that illustrated the ignorance of the ego and how it can distract us from that inner journey to love. The fable tells of a time when mankind had grown so evil that the angels decided to take all goodness and wisdom away from him. But once taken, where would they put it? Man's hunger for domination over everything was so insatiable that no place was safe. One angel suggested burying it deep within the earth, but the other angels knew that man would mine the earth in search of all its riches and find goodness and wisdom, so that would

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: kidsingers.org

not work. Another suggested the ocean, but again that idea was squelched. After pillaging the earth, man would certainly move to the ocean to grab its treasures, and would then find goodness and wisdom. What about the outer reaches of space? No, there was no way man would stop at the earth and ocean. In his quest, man would move out into space to try to conquer that as well. No, goodness and wisdom would not be safe there. Where



“I would never have imagined the answer to my pain was within me; my ego had told me that sinlessness is only found in the domain of God.”

could they put it? Finally, one wise angel said, “We will put goodness and wisdom inside of man, for with everything we know about him, that is the last place he will ever look.”

I was so struck by this little fable because of the picture it painted of me. Perhaps you can relate, too? In my singing experience, I had abdicated my power to physical vocal training only. I found, however, that to really empower my singing, I needed to link that physical training with the inward reality of love. The Course guides us to this inner place. “I am the means by which God’s Son is saved, because salvation’s purpose is to find the sinlessness that God has placed in me.” (ibid)

I would never have imagined the answer to my pain was within me; my ego had told me that sinlessness is only found in the domain of God. The Course, however, boldly teaches us we are also where love resides. It just needs to be uncovered, as it were. The Course so beautifully and powerfully affirms for us, “I was created as the thing I seek. I am the goal the world is searching for. I am God’s Son, His one eternal Love. I am salvation’s means and end as well.” (ibid)

This is our truth. We must stop listening to

Continued on page 7

A Gift of Peace for our Planet

On the anniversary of 9/11, as we do every year, we send out an email blast featuring a powerful music video that was created in 2013 by Steven Halpern and Miracle Distribution Center. The five minute video entitled *Peace for the Planet* features

Steven’s healing music and passages from *A Course In Miracles* read in Hebrew, Arabic, and English.

We always receive such powerful comments from viewers, but a few years ago Rachel in Arlington, Virginia shared her story of working in the Pentagon on that fateful day in 2001. We hope you will be as moved by her experience and awakening as we were.



“Thank you so much for sharing this video with us on this, the anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, as well as the plane that was taken down in Pennsylvania.

I was working in the Pentagon that morning and will never forget feeling the impact of the plane

tearing into the building and the ball of fire that rose up outside our windows on the fifth floor.

Although I had not yet ‘found’ the Course, I remember praying to Jesus and my recently departed mother and thanking them as I safely walked through smoke-filled corridors and exited the building to a safe gathering spot.

Looking back, I often think about the anguish I felt that day and in the following weeks as I digested the fear and enormity of the situation. It was only in studying the Course, in the years that followed, that brought me to a place of acceptance and forgiveness.

This beautiful message is what we all need, not just on this day, but every day and always. Thank you for a wonderful way to start my day.”

Like Rachel, may we all learn that forgiveness is the answer to any attack so that peace may finally prevail. The video may be viewed here:

miraclecenter.org/peace-video



Forgiveness ends the dream of conflict here. (Lesson 333)

Conflict must be resolved. It cannot be evaded, set aside, denied, disguised, seen somewhere else, called by another name, or hidden by deceit of any kind, if it would be escaped. It must be seen exactly as it is, where it is thought to be, in the reality which has been given it, and with the purpose that the mind accorded it. For only then are its defenses lifted, and the truth can shine upon it as it disappears.

Father, forgiveness is the light You chose to shine away all conflict and all doubt, and light the way for our return to You. No light but this can end our evil dream.

No light but this can save the world. For this alone will never fail in anything, being Your gift to Your beloved Son.



Recognizing Spirit

The Gentle Hand of Forgiveness

by Lee Jampolsky, Ph.D.

“Condemn and you are made a prisoner. Forgive and you are freed. Such is the law that rules perception.” (W-198.2)

What if “out there” isn’t? Or at least not what we thought it was – a world laced with good and bad, riches to be had or lost, loves to be searched for, problems to be conquered or capitulated, transgressions to be judged or forgiven, villains and victims to be scorned or saved, heroes and offenders to be rewarded or reprimanded. What if “out there” is not there at all? Nobody to blame or idolize, victimize or vindicate, hate or exonerate. What if all we ever respond to is our thoughts? Suppose beyond the chaotic multitude of thoughts we think are real and right is but one unifying, constant, beautiful, tender thought beyond all time, pettiness, and self-righteousness.

How would we act if we saw the unreality of believing we are separate from each other? What would we see if we uncovered a single shining thought beyond any reason to not forgive, beyond any obstacle to be kind? What if the single source to all the problems we ever had is within reach right now? Would we welcome the news with a homecoming party or march with chants against it shouting a list of loud demands of how others are to blame? Would we choose chains of the past, or choose to step into this present moment that always was and forever is where true freedom found in Love never left?

Every day starts with an offering to us, a blank canvas to paint our creation. But this is not how we often experience our days. More typically, you might open your eyes in the morning and think about everything you need to do, your problems, or your worries. Many people become increasingly busy with endless lists of things to do and problems to solve. In short, the day loses simplicity, layering the offering of the blank canvas with paint

until the colors mix into one dark, muddy, and cracked creation that we deny creating. Day after day, life feels like it happens to us rather than something we have any part in creating.

A *Course in Miracles* is a kind, patient, and gentle solution, honest in ways that are often difficult to accept fully. Nothing is torn from you, and you are not commanded to change your feelings or how you perceive the world abruptly. Instead, we become interested

“Every day starts with an offering to us, a blank canvas to paint our creation.”



in cleaning the canvas to create beautiful moments filled with intention, purpose, and compassionate action. To do so, we practice becoming aware of the layers of muck we paint on our canvas each day – and take ownership of the dark paint that our judgments, fears, and guilt project onto it.

We are encouraged to begin to recognize that how we see the world and react to it is based on a series of misperceptions, even lies we tell ourselves and believe to be true and beyond question. The greatest one of these lies is that we are something other than Love, that we are separate, alone, and left to survive in a cruel and harsh world. In such an existence it makes sense, then, to believe survival is dependent on judgment, condemnation, attack, and defense.

You may have noticed in your practice of

the Course you feel a sense of freedom from past guilt and come into each moment with a loving heart and open mind. The Course shines here in helping us use forgiveness to uncomplicate our lives.

“Do not forget today that there can be no form of suffering that fails to hide an unforgiving thought. Nor can there be a form of pain forgiveness cannot heal.” (W-198.9:5)

We are never confused about how to react when we have no desire other than to come from forgiveness. With forgiveness, we see the light of innocence in every being beneath and beyond any behavior we are tempted to judge. When we seek

in every situation to experience the pure goodness that can unfold using forgiveness to guide our thoughts and actions, our day is less complicated. Our blank canvas is offered anew with the opportunity to bring Love to every moment. This can be our reality today, and a loving focus can become our only intent, the only brush strokes upon the canvas of our life.

“Forgiveness is the only road that leads out of disaster, past all suffering, and finally away from death. How could there be another way, when this one is the plan of God Himself? And why would you oppose it, quarrel with it, seek to find a thousand ways in which it must be wrong; a thousand other possibilities?” (W-198.4)

“Only my condemnation injures me. Only my own forgiveness sets me free.” (W-198.9:3)

When mistakes are made, and we fill our minds with condemnation, our day does not go well. However, our day becomes luminous and beautiful when we focus on forgiveness and extending love.

There are no neutral thoughts, no actions

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



“The greatest one of these lies is that we are something other than Love, that we are separate, alone, and left to survive in a cruel and harsh world.”

that don't demonstrate what I believe I am. With each word spoken, or soundlessly in every thought, in every place I am, have been, or will go, forgiveness always holds its gentle hand out to me. ❖

The Uncovering

Continued from page 5

the voice of our ego and start embracing the inner voice of Spirit. The concept has become so profound to me, but it is not always automatic. The ego, as the Course teaches, is learning the Course right along with us. But once we've experienced those moments of release that love brings, just as muscle memory helps us complete those exercises we did in our youth, our spiritual memory reminds us that love is within us, and it will always win the day.

“I seek my own Identity, and find It in these words: ‘Love, which created me, is what I am.’ Now need I seek no more. Love has prevailed. So still It waited for my coming home, that I will turn away no longer from the holy face of Christ. And what I look upon attests the truth of the Identity I sought to lose, but which my Father has kept safe for me.

Father, my thanks to You for what I am; for keeping my Identity untouched and sinless, in the midst of all the thoughts of sin my foolish mind made up. And thanks to You for saving me from them. Amen.” (W-229) ❖



by Jacob Glass

A Course in Prosperity

“Sacrifice is a notion totally unknown to God. It arises solely from fear, and frightened people can be vicious.” (T-3.1.4)

I love money. I think money is awesome. Having money is a lot of fun and makes life much more pleasant and enjoyable. Notice how it makes you feel when you read that. Religious and spiritual folks can get VERY upset over conversations around money. They may want to remind you the Bible says that the love of money is the root of all evil. But the Bible says a lot of things that are utter nonsense.

To me, saying that I love money is no different than saying I love pizza, I love Italy, I love linen tablecloths, and I love Nag Champa incense. None of these things can love me back. None of them are my source. But I do not think my love of pizza is

the root of all evil or that it separates me from the peace and presence of God. But people can get very upset and downright vicious when you talk about spirituality and money. A *Course in Miracles* itself could not get published until someone gave a huge chunk of money to the Foundation for Inner Peace to pay the printers.

I do not worship money or the things of the world, but I also know that I am not asked to “sacrifice” them in order to be closer to God. I was raised in the religions of the angry dude in the sky who needed blood sacrifices and lots of servants who would give up sex, money, and anything fun in order to pay homage to the big “Him” on a golden throne in the clouds. How silly. How unnecessary. I see no reason why inner peace and prosperity would not go together in a most harmonious way for the children of God, as long as we stay

in balance.

In fact, I think of this as a course in inner peace, prosperity, and joy! It is the extreme opposite of what I was taught as a child. Over and over the Course tells us that sacrifice is the way of the ego, not of God. As far as I can tell the only thing we are really ever asked to give up is fear and the guilt that goes with it. Those are the only things I fast from now. I go on a guilt-and-



“I do not worship money or the things of the world, but I also know that I am not asked to ‘sacrifice’ them in order to be closer to God.”

fear fast and instead feast on God's lavish extravagant gifts of love, joy, peace, and guidance.

I have just written my 11th book, A

Course in Prosperity, because I believe this is an area in which there is still a great deal of healing needed. There are still so many anger, guilt, separation, and attack thoughts around the subject of money and “rich” people, which only cause more fear, guilt, and suffering. Suffering and sacrifice are of the ego, not of God. And when we are not in joy, we are not listening to God's joyous Teacher – regardless of how “worldly” the subject may be.

The great metaphysical teacher Louise Hay always said, “It's just a thought, and a thought can be healed.” So, if the subject of money pushes your buttons, you might ask yourself, “What the heck am I doing with this button anyhow?” If we change our thoughts around money and prosperity from thoughts of fear and limitation to ones of peace and joy, we have one less button that can be pushed. I love that! ❖

Jacob has a global ministry and his recorded weekly talks and can be found at jacobglass.com



Change Your Mind Change Your Life

Do I Truly Want the Peace of God?

by Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, Ph.D.

We often say “I want the peace of God. The peace of God is everything I want.” But how much do we really mean it? How consistent are we in our intentionality? We want to believe we have consistently good intentions, but all too often find that the thoughts in our mind and the actions that may follow are not congruent with this thinking. As a result, we often find ourselves roiling with internal and perhaps even external conflict. Our mind can readily fill with resentments or blame or judgments about a script we have for another person (or persons) that is not being “performed” in the way we prescribe. In other words, a person is not acting, behaving, or responding in the way in which we want. Here, we choose our script for another person over wanting our own peace of mind. This can, and often does, result in conflict when we do not get our way.

What does it mean to not just want, but to actually have the peace of God shining in us and emanating outward? It most likely means many things to many people. It’s important for each of us to understand, however, what it means to us personally so we can always choose once again if we are at the risk of losing it.

A Course in Miracles has been my daily path for forty years, most all of which has been done in concert with my beloved friend, partner, and spouse, Dr. Gerald “Jerry” Jampolsky. I cannot count the number of times we have read through the entire Course, one day and one lesson at a time, exploring all the concepts on our joint journey towards inner and outer peace.

Each and every morning, just after waking and without exception, we would say out loud as we invited each other to greet the morning

and have a peace-filled day:

**“I am not a body. I am free.
For I am still as God created me.
I want the peace of God.**

The peace of God is everything I want. 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)

Today is going to be the best and happiest day of my life, regardless of what is put on my plate and regardless of the state of my body. Today, I will have no thoughts or actions that are hurtful to another person or myself. I will not use words as weapons, and I will let Love be the way I walk in gratitude.

I am the Light of the World, and so is everyone else, regardless of their behavior.

“What does it mean to not just want, but to actually have the peace of God shining in us and emanating outward?”



Today we are all innocent, guiltless, formless, timeless, ageless, and interpret-less. We are One

with All That Is Life, Spirit – not a body. We are unconditionally loving and unconditionally forgiving, open-minded and open-hearted. We are the Will of God. We are vehicles for the Universe’s Abundance that flows through us without any boundaries, borders, or blocks in total service and in Love.

Both of us believed deeply that it was not our role to “teach” anyone else about the Course, because, as is clearly indicated, it is a “self-study-course.” It is just that: A course to be self-studied. It is not anyone’s place to

dictate what is ours to discover in our search for peace and the healing of the illusion of separation. That doesn’t mean, however, that some of us can’t be called to explore and inspire each other in our evolution of learning by presenting the core elements of the Course in very public ways.

One of the original examples is Dr. Kenneth Wapnick, who, as a recipient of the original manuscript, was appointed by Holy Spirit through Dr. Helen Schucman and Dr. William “Bill” Thetford (co-scribes of the Course) to be a teacher of the material. Likewise, Judith Skutch Whitson, the other recipient of the original manuscript, was appointed the role of publisher. She retains that role to this day through the Foundation for Inner Peace. Over the decades many excellent presenters have emerged globally who add so many dimensions to the way the Course principles can be experienced.

Course groups have formed around the world and can be an example of where there may sometimes be a tendency for one person to “rise” to the position of “teaching” and “knowing” more than the others in the group. Clearly, some of us have more experiences to share than others newer to the Course, and that is a positive thing when shared in an egalitarian way. It is when, within a Course group, the “teacher” relegates everyone else to be the “students” that the core premise of the Course – *that we are all equal students and teachers to each other* – is lost. In actuality, nowhere in the Course does it even suggest that study groups be formed.

To my knowledge, the first known Course “study partnership” began in 1975 with Judith and Jerry reading together each day over the phone in their joint intentions of moving from a “special” to a “holy relationship.” The first known Course “group” was actually a coming together at Jerry’s home in Tiburon, Califor-

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nia of Bill and Judy and Jerry along with Bob Skutch, Jules Feingold, and Drs. Roger and Frances Walsh, to read the Course together each day. They were all equal students and teachers to each other.

How can we access a state of peace inside of us when we are feeling justified in our feelings of anger, resentment, fear, blame, and so many other negative judgments about something or someone either from the past or right in front of us? And does accessing a peaceful state mean that we become passive and do nothing about a social justice issue at hand? It can be confusing to say the least. For example, I have been asked a number of times over the years if it is “unspiritual” to sue someone.

My response is that whether or not you sue someone is really not the issue. Rather, it is your mindset and intentionality when you decide to sue

that matters. If you want to sue someone to really hurt them and to get revenge, then that presents a real challenge to your search for inner peace. If, on the other hand, you have taken full responsibility for your own thoughts and feelings and asked Holy Spirit what you should think, say, and do... and you get a “yes,” then going ahead seems to be a good course of action.

Peace of mind and peace of God-Consciousness can be seen as the same. It is a state of mind where we have a clear consistency, a harmony, and an integrity in what we are thinking, what we are saying, and what we are doing. If any one of these is not consistent with the other two, then we can experience inner conflict and feelings of separation from others as well as from our Higher Self. This higher part of ourselves knows the Truth of the fact that we are all interconnected, and love is our binding force. True inner peace can come when we fully recognize without exception that the essence of our being, and that of all others, is Love.

A Course in Miracles is a profoundly seminal, self-study text for our times, as it can open our materialistic reality into a metaphysical one. Relatively modern scientific thought has deduced that the mind is not distinct from the brain, but is, in some yet-to-be-defined way, only a product of the brain. When the body dies, it is the end of existence. This is in contrast to the viewpoint emerging through

rigorous, international, scientific study in quantum physics that our minds, while in relationship to our brains, are, ultimately, independent of them and part of a larger field of unexplained consciousness known by many, ancient, traditional names, including God. This viewpoint posits that the mind can have experience and can continue to be conscious while the functions of the brain are shut down, as in the cases of fifty years of scientifically documented near-death



experiences (NDE's). This has led to implications that the mind

may possibly continue beyond the end of the life of the physical body.

Furthermore, current scientific research is focusing on the connection between the

observer and the observed, which can no longer be assumed as completely independent of one another. Also being investigated is that each mind, while still in bodily form, may create the physical world through its own projections and perceptions. In other words, what we perceive outside of ourselves is actually a projection of our inner experience out-

ward which creates our perceptions and is in reality a mirror and not actually a fact. These concepts being explored today in quantum physics are also those underlying the Course.

We are deepening our connections through scientific

exploration, meditation, mindfulness, yoga, and other means to the inner observer of our own thoughts and experiences. As a result, we may be able to finally gain peace of mind and, thus, open ourselves further to intuitive ways of coming to know our own higher levels of consciousness.



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Sacrifice

by Joseph Miller

Find something humbling and ennobling about a firefighter who is wounded or killed in the line of duty. Likewise, someone who spontaneously throws his body in front of another to stop a bullet is truly heroic. Their memory is rightly branded with the idea of noble sacrifice. The word sacrifice is used, too, in baseball to describe a hitter who intentionally pops out to move his teammates along the bases. Sacrifice is also the English word used to translate the Sanskrit yagna, which refers in Hinduism to the intercourse between material and formless worlds, preserving cosmic harmony and fertility, and reenacted in ritual. In all these contexts sacrifice is a helpful concept to me.

But, as students of *A Course in Miracles* know, the word “sacrifice” has theological and psychological connotations that deserve scrutiny. Virtually every one of the 127 Course references to “sacrifice” are negative. These have nothing to do with yagna, baseball or taking a bullet in the cause of justice or protection. Rather, they refer to the ego’s weaponizing of guilt in relationships, and a deep-seated confusion between conditionality and love. This tendency is responsible, too, for devising theologies to suit the purpose of diminishment and control. People can be emotionally bullied as much by churches as by spouses, parents, or bosses. Furthermore, the darker side of sacrifice undergirds degrading practices of vengeance and punishment. The scope of the Course’s treatment of sacrifice is far-reaching.

Orthodox theology holds that humanity is estranged from God by sin; that the sin is deserving of wrath; and that the death of Jesus was a blood sacrifice to pay the debt. (Guilt may be regarded as moral debt; the German word *schuld* means both “debt” and “guilt”). The figure of Jesus’ execution, kept in the forefront of attention by the omnipresence of

icons, serves also as a fear-inducing reminder of one’s guilt. The Course, on the other hand, advances Atonement without sacrifice. This is a gnostic idea, based on entirely different assumptions. Humanity is estranged from the Divine only in awareness, not in fact. Atonement is a matter of enlightenment, which is achieved through a reversal of thought and the unlearning of mistakes (forgiveness). Divinity, which humanity shares with God and all creation, cannot be harmed. Sin is no real offence or lasting



its appearance. It is only our perception of ourselves and our function that can be “damaged.” Yet, there is no limit to the redemptive resourcefulness of God. Finitude cannot dent Infinitude. “There is nothing my holiness cannot do.” (W-38)

By emphasizing the reality of sin and moral debt, orthodox theology does more than attempt to justify judgment and condemnation. It establishes a template for self-hatred and the trafficking of guilt in personal relationships. We speak of someone “playing the martyr” and snidely quip, “Get off the cross, we need the wood,” which only goes to show how intertwined are theological and psychological dimensions. We recognize the relevance because we all understand at some level how the theology of sacrifice is used to bully the faithful into assent and compliance.

The Course proposes that we are afraid of love because we believe love will trick us out of our defenses and exploit us. We are caught

by a false dilemma into believing we can either be “host to the ego or hostage to God.” (T-15.X.5:4) Separateness seems to offer strength and liberty which love would take away. Perhaps we are yet burdened by life-denying images of clergy, as Blake wrote, “The priests in black gowns were walking their rounds and binding with briars my joys and desires.”

“Atonement is a matter of enlightenment, which is achieved through a reversal of thought and the unlearning of mistakes (forgiveness).”

The ego’s perceptions, however, are inverted, and if there is anything resembling sacrifice, it is the ego’s diminished perception of self, others, and the world. To view my brother as a body, we are told,

is to blind myself to his splendor as a Son of God. Thus, I sacrifice the truth about him to reinforce my own distorted images.

The ego’s misuse of relationships, what the Course calls “special relationships,” is characterized by guilt trips. The unspoken credo is, “Your demands are my diminishment.” We all, I am sure, have experienced a “race to the bottom,” an escalating argument about who sacrifices more in a relationship, and who is most unfairly treated. The special relationship “thrives” under the patronage of Lord Scarcity. With “not enough” as the gnawing undertone, the relationship is merely transactional, and not really love at all. It becomes a careful keeping of points, where investments in sacrifice on the part of one become liabilities of guilt for the other. The Course teaches that we must reverse our investment in scarcity, otherwise we will always see giving as diminishment. Scarcity, in turn, is rooted in our sense of separation from Source, Who is Resource. To become generous in relationships graced by unconditional love (the only love there is), we must reverse this debilitating sense of estrangement from the divine. And this is restored, at first by tiny doses, in the practice of the holy instant.

Sacrifice is also involved in scapegoatism. Here the purification of a group is affected by transfer of guilt onto one representative, who is then exiled or slaughtered. This thinking persists in punitive models of justice (in contrast to restorative models). The transactional nature of the relationship is evident in various expressions, as for example, the idea that a convict is “paying his dues” to society, or that a death row inmate “pays for his crimes” with his life. This scapegoating is evident in public outcries for a “justice” which is, in fact, only institutional vengeance. In all cases, guilt is considered a real moral debt, which must be paid by sacrifice; that is, through some transaction of shame, humiliation, and deprivation.

Sacrifice is involved, too, in economic exploitation and slavery, where some portion of the population is used and disposed of for the welfare of another portion. This is shrugged off as “the ways of the world”, God’s will, or social Darwinism. These same “laws,” then, seep into my personal sphere, viewing myself “as a victim of sacrifice, justified in sacrificing others.” (T-15.XI.5:2)

If all of this seems formidable and far-reaching, it is. And yet these are but forms of one problem that requires one solution. “...there is but one shift in perception that is necessary, for you made but one mistake.” (T-15.X.4:2)

“It is not necessary to follow fear through all the circuitous routes by which it burrows underground and hides in darkness, to emerge in forms quite different from what it is. Yet it is necessary to examine each one as long as you would retain the principle that governs all of them. When you are willing to regard them, not as separate, but as different manifestations of the same idea, and one you do not want, they go together. The idea is simply this: You believe it is possible to be host to the ego or hostage to God.” (T-15.X.5)

The choice is really between conditional and unconditional love. Am I suspect of kindness? Do I deflect sincere communication? Do I see shared purpose as a threat to my autonomy? Do I give only for a return? If so, I am confusing love and sacrifice. I cannot be bullied out of this confusion, for that only compounds the problem. But if I am willing, I will gradually be healed from within, and that is the work of the miracle. I will see that only the ego holds hostages, and that the host to God becomes a cradle for the birth of the Light of the World.



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 following letter gives an indication of the importance of our Prison Project in many inmates' lives. We are grateful that we are here to bring the truth and inspiration that *A Course Miracles* so beautifully offers.

Brothers and Sisters of the One-Self,

First, I would like to thank you very much for sending the DVD sets for “The Story of *A Course in Miracles*,” and “Classes on the Text.” These were exactly what I was looking for.

I have felt an awakening and an uplifting in my thinking, just in this short period. I appreciate you sending these DVD sets free of cost under your “Prison Project” and I appreciate everyone that is willing to donate to help you provide



these materials to people that cannot afford them. I see the Course reaching out to many people in this world. For us that are currently working to change our lives, after making errors that have landed us in a secure facility, it is very appreciated to be afforded the materials and assistance we need. People like you, along with people willing to donate, make it easier for us to be

able to connect with the Course and work to awaking back to our Spirit Self and fix the errors of our ego thinking.

I may not be able to afford to give you the purchase cost of these DVD sets, but I do want to send some money to donate to your cause. I am able to make more money than others in prison and want to give what I can for the materials you send me, and to help you send others material they need.

Enclosed is a donation. I can't guarantee an exact monthly amount, but I do want to send what I can. Therefore, I will commit to sending what I can donate each month.

I would appreciate if you could use some of this donation to send me a copy of your wall calendar.

Sincerely, Jason Conley, St. Peter Regional Treatment Center, MN

We are honored to be able to meet Jason's request. We are grateful for his support of the Prison Project, which helped him and will now help others in prison. We are able to meet Jason's request, and that of so many others, because of your generous support of the Prison Project and the Center.

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 miraclecenter.org

filled in the blank spaces with our own assumptions (or taken on others' assumptions) and now these assumptions have become fact with the actual truth in a far second place.

The world we have built is one based on a lie: the thought that we could be separate from our Creator (God, Love) and thereby separate from each other. And even though this may be a lie, we have built a good case for it in the world of separation. We prove separation with differences we see in our bodies, our ideologies, our feelings of right and wrong, justice and injustice, and the list goes on. So, even though this world is built on a faulty premise, the justifications we see all around us seem to make sense and justify the lie. The lie has now become our truth, and, even if we wanted to change, it seems almost impossible to stop the insanity and make that change.

"The separation is merely a faulty formulation of reality, with no effect at all." (T-13.VIII.3:5)

The Holy Spirit knows that we have accepted a faulty formulation of reality or "alternative facts," which is the favorite catch phrase used today for a lie. His purpose, nevertheless, is to help us gently undo the mistake. He will not attack the mistake, for that would give it reality; rather, He merely shows us another way so we might make a better choice instead.

"Now you are being shown you can escape. All that is needed is you look upon the problem as it is, and not the way that you have set it up. How could there be another way to solve a problem that is very simple, but has been obscured by heavy clouds of complication, which were made to keep the problem unresolved? Without the clouds the problem will emerge in all its primitive simplicity. The choice will not be difficult, because the problem is absurd when clearly seen." (T-27.VII.2)



The Problem

"If you could recognize that your only problem is separation, no matter what form it takes, you could accept the answer because you would see its relevance. Perceiving the underlying constancy in all the problems that seem to confront you, you would understand that you have the means to solve them all. And you would use the means, because you recognize the problem." (W-79.6:2)

A Course in Miracles tells us over and over again there is only one problem: the thought of separation. And, if we could identify this

one problem within the many forms it takes in our lives, the problem would be solved. The only reason we don't



see this constancy is because we have devised such elaborate issues; therefore, to simply say the problem is the thought of separation between us and God seems naive. Yet that is exactly the ego's plan. It wants us to believe in the complexity of the world, our lives, and our problems so we would never believe that a simple mind change (which, as we all know, isn't necessarily a simple job) could make any difference at all. So, the ego sends us on a wild goose chase looking for our answers in the world: a better, more exciting job, a more caring relationship, anything new and intoxicating, more

"Lucky for me, I caught myself directing my self-righteous attitude at this young man and realized what I was doing: Making him bad and myself good."

money, food, alcohol, sex, drugs, and the list

goes on. At our journey's end, however, we are left wanting more and feeling alone.

The ego is always quick with an answer when we get to this point, lest we turn within.

The ego projects the problem onto others and eventually, God. "What did you expect?" is the ego's question. The ego quickly answers for you by saying: God doesn't care about you, or He doesn't exist, has little time for you, or has abandoned you all together because of this or that. You're alone and you only have the little happiness the ego gives you mixed with a lot of pain and suffering that you know you deserve. This message, or a message similar to this, plays in our minds and throughout our experiences in this world unless we stop all the misinformation and start relearning the truth.

The Answer Part 1: Who we really are.

We must remember Who created us. We are not self-created but created by One who has endowed us with everything: an abundant and loving spirit, a strength of holiness, and eternal life. Our Creator, God (or whatever name you give it), loves and cares for us more than we can imagine.

We will need to have faith in these basic premises, but once we are willing to allow these thoughts into our minds and hearts (whether or not they are fully believed), miracles begin to happen. The miracles, or shifts in our awareness from fear and loneliness to love and joining, are natural if we get our fear and stubbornness out of the way. No matter how justified we may feel in our opinions or views about a person or situation, we must be willing to stop and question whether those views allow us to be as we were created, and to be loving and caring to ourselves and others. Our goal is not to find more support for our opinions, but rather to heal. And we cannot

heal when we are so locked into what we think is right or even the ways we *should* heal. We heal when we allow the Answer that God has given us, the Holy Spirit, to remind us of Who we are.

One of the services at the Center is

our free, weekly livestream meeting on the Course. We are privileged to have viewers from around the world, and I often share the miracles that viewers have shared with me. Their miracles are simple, powerful, everyday experiences wherein they choose to: "Behold the Son of God, and look upon his purity and

be still.” (T-13.X.11:10) The following experience came from a subscriber in New York. She wrote:

“First I wish to thank all of you for offering these livestream and archives – they help me stay motivated in keeping consistent with the Course. I wanted to share a miracle. I was grocery shopping and went to check out, the cashier was young and delinquent-looking. I also judged him as rude and indifferent, with several earrings throughout his ear. Lucky for me, I caught myself directing my self-righteous attitude at this young man and realized what I was doing: Making him bad and myself good. I looked at him after I acknowledged my judgment and, in my mind, I said, “You are a child of God.” I kept repeating it to myself.

Well, the whole dynamic changed. We joked around a little and both ended up smiling. The shift was a whole new perspective. It was a humbling experience to see how wrong I was. I realized that what I originally saw in this young man was not really there. I understood that I could, and we all could, have days filled with peace by simply remembering each encounter is with a holy child of God.

Thank you again for being a wonderful reminder to me that there is another way to be in this world and for reminding me of my true function: to bless and acknowledge the truth in each person I meet. Life is so much better when I can remember to do this. Thanks for being a light in a dark world.”

This transformative miracle helps us to see the simple truth that can be experienced when we silence the ego’s misinformation and concentrate on who we really are. We are angels with amnesia, and we need to re-remember who we are. The Holy Spirit is there to help us do just that – that’s His job.

The Answer Part 2: We need each other, because we are each other.

“Your brother is the mirror in which you see the image of yourself as long as percep-

tion lasts. And perception will last until the Sonship knows itself as whole.” (T-7.VII.3:9)

If we believe what *A Course in Miracles* is telling us, that separation is the basic problem from which all our pain and unhappiness stems, then it would make sense that the way to correct the problem would be to join with another. That may be easier said than done. This again is where the Course lends us a helping hand.

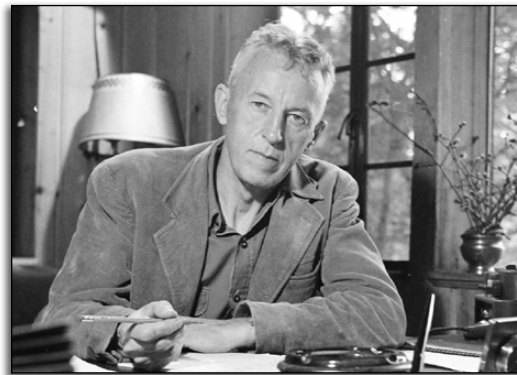
The Course tells us we merely need to look at the problems we



answer. That’s it. We are not asked to do the healing or tell God how the healing should be done. We are just asked to look at our pain and be willing to ask for help. We are not asked to do what lies beyond our abilities.

Healing is the Holy Spirit’s job, not ours. When we try to do what only He can do, He merely

“I was so moved to read the story of William Wilson (known now in AA circles as Bill W), founder of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12-step program.”



waits for us to change our minds.

Many of you may remember the television ministry of Rev. Robert Schuller’s *The Hour of Power*. He was considered the pastor who started the contemporary televangelist movement in the 1970s. One story he told has always stood out in my mind. It was a time he and his wife were in Hawaii on vacation and they had stopped at a market for some groceries. His wife went inside while he stayed in the car enjoying the breeze with the windows rolled down. Wanting to enjoy the

breeze even more, he opened his car door and accidentally bumped the car next to him. The man in the car (even though no damage was done to his car) leaned out of his window and yelled his disgust in some pretty rough language. Tempted to respond in anger, something reminded Schuller of what he said every Sunday to his television audience: “God loves you and so do I.” Well, he said that he didn’t feel like saying that, but he was willing to say to himself, “God loves you, and I’m trying.”

We must be willing to “try.” We must be willing to remember that no matter what another says to us, does to us, or tempts us to do, they are

God’s holy child – not necessarily in deed and action, but in truth. And the more we hate them or hold them in the prison of our anger, the more we stay there with them, affirming ourselves as unworthy of love or help. We break free of our prisons of isolation as we are willing to let the Holy Spirit help us to see the perceptions of separation we hold against our brothers and allow Him to release us from them.

The Answer Part 3: “The ark of peace is entered two by two...” (T-20.IV.6:5)

I have heard some people say relationships are so painful it is best not to have them, and that truly spiritual people don’t need relationships. Well, that is just foolish thinking and more a form of denial than help. We cannot hide from relationships; they are all around us.

Our relationships are

the closest thing in this world to the awareness of God’s love and healing.

I was so moved to read the story of William Wilson (known now in AA circles as Bill W), founder of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12-step program. Growing up in an alcoholic family, Wilson became a soldier and then a businessman and drank, both to alleviate his depression and to celebrate his successes on Wall Street.

He married in 1918 and by all appearanc-

Continued on page 14

es he and his wife looked like a prosperous, promising young couple. But by 1933 they were living on charity in his wife's parent's home in Brooklyn, New York. Wilson had become a drunk who disdained religion and panhandled for cash. Finally, he was inspired by a friend who had stopped drinking to attend some meetings of the Oxford Group, which was an evangelical society founded in Britain. He also underwent a hospital procedure, which was state-of-the-art in alcoholic treatment at the time called "purge and puke."

While incarcerated for the fourth time at Town's Hospital in Manhattan, Wilson attended group meetings and read Carl Jung's writings as well as William James' *Varieties of Religious Experiences*. It was during that stay in 1934 that he had a "spiritual awakening." He experienced a flash of white light, which he described as a liberating awareness of God. This would not only transform his life but the lives of countless millions around the world.

A few months later, still sober, Wilson went on a business trip to Akron, Ohio. There, one night, after a deal had fallen through, he was tempted to drink. Drawn to the sound of the bar in the hotel where he was staying, he suddenly became convinced that by helping another alcoholic he could save himself. Through a series of desperate telephone calls, he found Dr. Robert Smith. Smith was a skeptical drunk whose family persuaded him into talking with Wilson for at least 15 minutes. Their talk went on for hours. A month later Dr. Bob (as he is now known in AA circles) took his last drink. The date was June 10, 1935, which has become the official birth date of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

AA is based on the idea that only an alcoholic can help another alcoholic. As Bill W wrote, "Because of our kinship of suffering, our channels of contact have always been charged with the language of the heart." Those are powerful words. If we are in this world, we all have a "kinship of suffering." Our suffering, pain, or problems may look different than another person's, but beneath the ego disguise is the same problem we all suffer

from — the thought we are alone, apart from each other, and separated from God. But we are not alone and apart. We need each other to remember this and to heal "with the language of the heart." The profound impact of AA on lives is a living testimony to this truth.



"As Bill W wrote, 'Because of our kinship of suffering, our channels of contact have always been charged with the language of the heart.'"

Aldous Huxley called Bill W "the greatest social architect of the 20th century."

The work of Bill W gives us a scaffolding to work from — we need each other. Those who walk this earth in

pain (and this is all of us) can and must help each other. We can become beacons of light to each other, helping each of us to see that our acts of kindness to another helps us and the world. We journey together in this life and the road we take is so much more blessed if we remember we are together and not alone — one with each other and with God.

The following is a profound and beautiful passage found in the Course's Workbook for Students in lesson 315 that I feel also gives us a scaffolding to work from:

"Each day a thousand treasures come to me with every passing moment. I am blessed with gifts throughout the day, in value far beyond all things of which I can conceive. A brother smiles upon another, and my heart is gladdened. Someone speaks a word of gratitude or mercy, and my mind receives this gift and takes it as its own. And everyone who finds the way to God becomes my savior, pointing out the way to me, and giving me his certainty that what he learned is surely mine as well."

Let us not allow the misinformation of the world to cause us to turn away from God or each other. A faulty premise, a lie, is nothing to build a life on. Let us look clearly at the ego's lie of separation and not be distracted

by its artificial web of complexities. And let us together allow the Holy Spirit to do His job by showing us the opportunities and way to join with our brothers. For together, we are the way out of pain. Let's not miss another opportunity for healing.

FREE Support! Is Just a Click Away!



Our interactive website allows you to access these services anytime around the clock.

Weekly Livestream Meetings Presented by Beverly

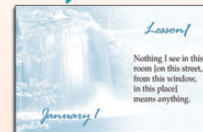


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Course's entire text, Workbook, and Manual for Teachers is available in an online searchable format.



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Receive your Course lessonin via email each day. You can begin at any number.

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Your generous tax-deductible donations help us to continue to provide our services free. Please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website.

Our Journey Together

"Except for God's teachers there would be little hope of salvation, for the world of sin would seem forever real. God's teachers are not perfect, or they would not be here. Yet it is their mission to become perfect here, and so they teach perfection over and over, in many, many ways, until they have learned it."

This quote from the *Manual for Teachers of A Course in Miracles* seems to indicate that we have a mission in this world to "teach" or rather demonstrate the truth of God's love over and over in many, many ways until we have learned it. This seems to be a process for most of us; we all need as much support as we can get!

The Center has been here to help students understand and apply the Course for 43 years now, and with your help, this will continue. Now we'd like to share ways that you can help us continue to serve you.

In addition to regular financial support, many of the Center's friends have also made a statement of their desire to have the message of *A Course in Miracles* continue into the future. Our Legacy Community was created for this purpose. Many people who support our mission say they derive great satisfaction from their generosity, but they are on a fixed income and cannot afford to give more than they already are.

One of the simplest ways you can leave a legacy is by

naming Miracle Distribution Center as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. Another popular way to make your support felt is with a gift annuity. Not only are there an array of tax benefits, but you can also receive steady, secure payments for life, often with higher yields than those you'd receive from other investments.

If you notify the Center of your intent to support our work with a planned gift, you will become a member of our Legacy Community. Members receive a lifetime subscription to **THE HOLY ENCOUNTER** and are entitled to a 10% discount on purchases from our store.

Plus, your support will allow us to be able to use these contributions to keep the message of the Course alive by building an endowment that will help keep this message available for future generations.

Below are easy ways that you can include the Center in your planned giving. If you have any questions contact **Darin Zakich** at Miracle Distribution Center. He will be happy to be truly helpful.



I want to help the Center by making a monthly commitment

Many of our friends have found that making a monthly commitment is the easiest way they can help the Center. In doing so, you become a **Holy Helper** of the Center. We are able to charge your credit card or debit your checking account

on a monthly basis and you are able to budget throughout the year to continue supporting the Center and its many free services.



How do I Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity benefits both you and the Center. Your gift provides an immediate tax deduction and then pays you a fixed income for the rest of your life, part of which may be tax-

deductible as well. Annuity rates are based on your age, with annuity payments as high as 9% for more senior persons.

How do I include the Center in my Will or Living Trust?



Add this wording to your Will or Living Trust...

"I give, devise and bequeath to Miracle Distribution Center, a California 501(c)(3) corporation with offices located in Anaheim, California, the sum of \$_____, to be used for its general purposes as determined by its Board of Directors."

Contact: darin@miraclecenter.org or call 800-359-ACIM(2246)

The HOLY ENCOUNTER

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021

In This Issue...

- Misinformation: Opportunities for Healing
- The Uncovering
- The Gentle Hand of Forgiveness
- A Course in Prosperity
- Do I Truly Want the Peace of God?
- Sacrifice

...and so much more!



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A Course in Miracles

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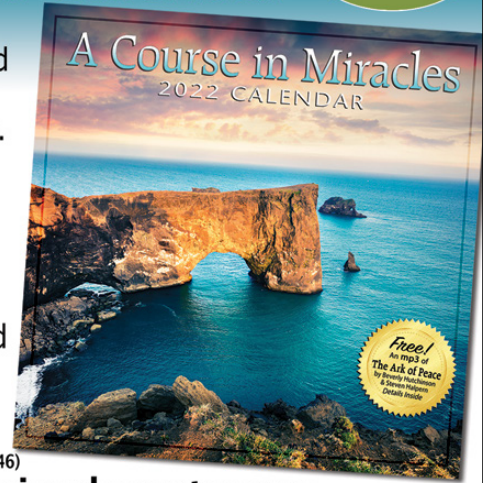
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Above the Battleground

finding peace in turbulent times



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*"I have never had
Course concepts
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plus...

Personal stories of
triumphs from
Course students



If you are ready to rise above the world of chaos and attain the state of peace where God is remembered, we invite you to join us for this seminar. Beverly will bring her 44 years of study and insight into *A Course in Miracles* along with appearances from Judith Skutch Whitson, Dr. Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky, and Dr. Lee Jampolsky, as well as personal stories of triumphs from Course students; all will share the tools they have learned in rising above the battleground to that place of peace.

We hope you will join us in taking your rightful place in the salvation of the world by making the commitment to heal and bring peace to your life now. We look forward to joining with you above the battleground!

*"Beverly's wisdom and honesty is a blessing. She has an amazing way of
always bringing the focus back to the essential message of the Course."*

*"Beverly does a
brilliant job of
explaining
the Course."*

See page 3 for more details

REGISTER online at **miraclecenter.org** or call **800-359-ACIM (2246)**