



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Nancy Morgan

Dear ACTheals Members and Friends,

Our God never ceases to amaze! His word is trustworthy. The journey with him might be arduous and longer than we would like, but his love is faithful and without limit or reservation. He does, indeed, love ACTheals.

It is with a sense of awe and unbounded gratitude that I share the news that ACTheals has received an incredible gift from the Trust of Charles Weber, ACTheals President (2001-2002). It currently awaits ACTheals board decisions for its investment and cautious use to advance Christ-centered healthcare... one healer at a time.

I first met Chuck Weber

at a Southern California Conference in San Diego in 2002. He came in with Art Thomson from our San Diego region. **I was startled when I met Chuck with his long, wild, curly grey hair and blue eyes. Art introduced him to me as the president of ACT. Somehow, he didn't seem to fit the mold! My response changed after talking to him, as I noticed his glistening bright eyes and his kind, joyful manner that made you feel like you were his long lost friend.** At the 2003 conference in San Diego he showed us a not-yet-released clip from the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. Chuck was excited about it because he had a starving young actor living at his house. He laughingly said to us that we should go see the movie so Jimmy could move out and live on his own. Well, the young man was Jim

Caviezel...the man who played Jesus in the film. It was his first big break...and the rest is history.

Chuck, as you might assume, was a very dear friend of many ACT members from the Los Angeles Region. Two of them have written some memories on page 3 of this publication. Doug Schoeninger joins them by sharing memories of Chuck's prayerful, joyful and powerful presence and work with the ACT international leadership team.

Chuck, as you might assume, was a very dear friend of many ACT members from the LA Region: Marilee Walker, Fr. Joe Scerbo, Rev. Georgie Rodiger, Roby Gallegher and others who look down on us now along with Chuck in the "Heavenly Region of ACT."

Charles Weber was born in Germantown, Ohio and is a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Dayton. After graduation he got a

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Nancy Morgan *ACTheals President*

Nancy Morgan, LMFT is a Marriage, Family Therapist in Private Practice and a retired teacher/advisor of at-risk students. She has served as a prayer minister at ACT events and conferences (local and international) as well as at the Branches of the Cross Christian Healing Center in Vista, CA. She is a member of OSL (Order of St. Luke)

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The vision of ACTheals is to be an international, ecumenical association of Christian healthcare professionals, clergy, and associates equipped and extending the healing presence, heart, and mind of Jesus Christ to their patients, clients, colleagues, and institutions, under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The mission of ACTheals is to provide resources and support to enable healthcare professionals, clergy, and associates to: 1) Personally experience the healing power of Jesus Christ; 2) Integrate their professional skills, spiritual development, healing ministry, and theological understanding; and 3) Extend the healing presence, heart, and mind of Jesus Christ through their work and ministry.

We invite your comments/suggestions, written thoughts, or submissions. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles without notice. Your name can be withheld by request in *InterACT*, but must be included with a contact phone or email when your article is submitted. We also request that a current digital "headshot" photo of you accompany your submission.

**The next deadline for *InterACT* is
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CHARLES (CHUCK) WEBER, Ph.D.

Former ACTheals President, Friend and Benefactor

*"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way,
which through us produces thanksgiving to God"*
Corinthians 9:11

Professional Background

Charles Weber had a distinguished 44-year career at USC, specializing in spread-spectrum systems, signal acquisition and tracking, radar systems and blind equalization, areas that are close to Andrew Viterbi's research expertise. Viterbi served on Weber's Ph.D. committee at UCLA, where Weber earned his doctorate in 1964. Prior to that, Weber was a Hughes Fellow during his graduate work at USC.

"He authored many technical publications and textbooks and developed several new courses that continue to be offered in the electrical engineering curriculum, said Alexander "Sandy" Sawchuk, chair of the Ming Hsieh Electrical Engineering-Systems Department. One of his publications co-written with Professor R. A. Scholtz, was nominated for the Browder J. Thompson IEEE paper of the year award. "With experience at Hughes Aircraft Company, Axiomatix Inc., and other companies," said Scholtz, Fred H. Cole Professor of Engineering in the Hsieh Electrical Engineering-Systems Department, he published a textbook, *Elements of Detection and Signal Design*, "He has been a reliable and supportive colleague and a major contributor to the development of the teaching program in electrical engineering."

Through the years, Weber worked on several projects for NASA and was a key contributor to the space shuttle's docking system. In 1982, he became the founding director of USC's Communication Sciences Institute. Seven years later, in 1989, he received



the USC School of Engineering Service Award. As a distinguished radar and communications technologist, Charles Weber continued his research in the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Southern California.

Weber was a life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and, in 1988, was selected as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Dayton, Ohio.

In June 2008, Charles L. Weber, an expert in the design of radar and communications systems in the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering, was appointed professor emeritus in recognition of his exceptional achievements and contributions to the field.

Personal Memories of Charles (Chuck) Weber

Douglas Schoeninger, Ph.D.

Chuck was always delighted to see me and ready to discuss how ACTheals could improve. He was ever grateful to ACTheals for all of the healing he had received through ACTheals members. He is fondly remembered for applying his gifts at ACTheals by:

- Establishing and improving ACTheals first website
- Serving as Treasurer, First Chair of ACTheals Councils, Board Member, President, Chair of the Associates Specialty Group;
- Drafting ACTheals Policies and Procedures (P and Ps) with Eva Staneff;
- Guiding ACTheals leaders to complete the P and Ps, for each area of responsibility and maintaining periodic revisions;
- Developing Degnon Associates and guiding their transition to management;
- Establishing ACTheals Councils and implementing strategic planning;
- Supporting the publication of the Journal of Christian Healing;
- Structuring the annual ACTheals budget.

Chuck was earnest with me in fostering the development of ACTheals as an ecumenical Christian organization and in working with me to create online membership recruitment and new member application. He welcomed Frances and me into his home.

Most of all I miss Chuck's presence, the joy in meeting together, his support for my leadership and eager investment in ACTheals' future. His energy, enthusiasm and affirmation continue to inspire me."

Laurie Gallagher

(SEW group leader in the Los Angeles Region)

My husband Roby and I met Chuck Weber soon after we joined ACT in 2003. I was initially struck by his piercing blue eyes. Later, I was impressed with his profound generosity with individuals and our LA/Orange County Areas Region, his sense of humor, work ethic (hours and hours on website, program creation and other ACT interests), his steadfast friendship with all of us who were privileged to call him friend and his persevering faith, despite his numerous personal hardships.

He would get frustrated when meetings bogged down in minutiae, drove a rattle trap car, and had us wash the plastic "silverware" after events at his home so it could be re-used. (Which still cracks me up.)

When my husband Roby died suddenly 1/13, I asked Chuck to be one of his pallbearers and he responded with a "yes" immediately.

Our region lost Marilee Walker, Roby, Chuck and Fr. Joe Scerbo in a short time and even though Region Heaven got to benefit from their presence we have felt their loss acutely.

Mary Green

(ACTheals member, Los Angeles)

I considered Chuck one of my best friends having worked on the Dove (an LA Regional newsletter) with him in his home office. My daughters & I stayed at his house in Sherman Oaks many times over the years, since it was on the way to Santa Maria, where my dad lived. I also spent time at his Westlake Village home. I did several dinners at Chucks's home for ACT dinner teachings. He was an amazing man! We shared a lot about our faith, ACT, our joys & disappointments of life. He was very wise, and brilliant. My youngest daughter, Sara asked him a lot of faith questions because he could explain things so well.

I really miss him and am still grieving his death. I did write his life story as dictated to me and will be sharing it with ACTheals.

"Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7



ACTheals (Acts 4:8-10 NIV)

Advancing Christ-Centered Healthcare - one healer at a time

2018 ACTheals International Conference



"In my name... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mk 16:17-18)

Integrating Christ- Centered Healing in Healthcare

Up to 12 CEUs Available!

This conference highlights presentations focusing on how healthcare providers can integrate Christ-centered healing in a variety of settings. This will be an uplifting conference where you can hear professionals share life-changing experiences in healing, grow spiritually, learn the power of healing prayer, gain enduring fellowship, pray with Christian liturgy, contemplate, and much more...all in one weekend experience!

Please join Fr. Richard McAlear, Dr. Janet Johnson, Rev. Nigel Mumford and other Healthcare Professionals as they share their journeys in Medicine, Psychology, Spiritual Growth and Healing.

Come and Enjoy Spiritual Nourishment, Experiential Knowledge and Healing Fellowship!

OCTOBER 18- 21, 2018

MARITIME CONFERENCE CENTER, BALTIMORE, MD

VISIT WWW.ACTHEALS.ORG FOR DETAILS.

CONFERENCE PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you sent Your Son, Jesus, into the world that we might have life and have it in abundance. Send forth Your Holy Spirit upon us In His Name, that we might experience a great outpouring of His gifts during this conference. Your Love and Your Life lead us on. May we carry Your Word and healing to our brothers and sisters in healthcare and strengthen them for the task You set before them: to go forth and heal in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

Maritime Conference Center
692 Maritime Blvd,
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
(866) 900-3517
www.mccbwi.org

Just 4 miles (or 10 minutes) from Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Thurgood Marshall Airport and the BWI Amtrak® Train Station, MCC offers complimentary shuttle service to and from both locations.

ROOM RATES AND RESERVATIONS

A special daily conference rate of **\$145.00 single & \$195.00 Double (includes dinner and breakfast)** is being offered to ACTheals conference attendees. Guest rooms include complimentary internet and self-parking. The conference rate is available two days before and two days after the conference. Please come early, and then stay to enjoy Baltimore's many attractions. The cut-off date for securing a room at this price is September 17, 2018. Please reference that you are with ACTheals when contacting the hotel to secure this rate.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Please visit us at www.actheals.org for more detailed and updated information such as conference schedule, speaker biographies, and abstracts of the plenary and workshop presentations.

CEUs

The conference meets the qualifications for up to 12 hours of continuing education credit for Chaplains, Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Clinical Social Workers. Please check the website for full details on CEU offerings.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Fr. Richard McAlear
The Role of Forgiveness in Healing

Rev. Nigel Mumford
Healing the Wounded Soul

Dr. Janet Johnson
Faith and Healing – Incorporating Spirituality & Prayer in Medical Practice

Music Ministry:
Piano - Charles Worle
Vocalist - Jacquelyn Morales

WORKSHOPS

Growth in the Spirit Seminar (Healing Our Image of God)

HEART Model Revisited: Lessons Learned in Trafficking Research

Faith, Health and Healing

After the Trauma the Healing Begins

Divine Love and Mercy Prayer (DLMP)-- A Model of Inner Healing Prayer Ministry Based on Sacred

Scripture, Rational Emotive/Cognitive Behavioral (RECBT) & Forgiveness Therapy, Positive

Psychology, and the Spiritualities of Sts. Thérèse of Lisieux and Faustina Kowalska

Understanding the Neuroscience of How Music Enhances Clinical Therapeutic Interventions or Teaching Methods for Integrating St. Ignatius' 14 Rules of Discerning Spirits

Healing through Forgiveness

Malignant Narcissism and Its Discontents: Christ-Centered Considerations for Prevention, Damage Control, and Treatment of Survivors of the Dark Legacy of Destructive Leaders

"Action Prayer"- A Way of Integrating One's Life with God's Intent

Countertransference with Children

Healing Seven Generations: Integrating Generational Healing Prayers and Real Time Intergenerational Dialogue

Providing Presence and a Listening Heart as We Work with Those who are Suffering

An Approach to integrate Christ-Centered Healing in Health Care Practice from the Perspective of a Christian Family Physician-Mother-Patient as a Wounded Healer

Healing of Mental, Psychological and Spiritual Suffering through Scriptural Reflection of a Flawed Person in the Bible



2018 ACTheals International Conference

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 12, 2018

Register online at actheals.org



Complete this form and forward with your check



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Specialty Group Preference: *Circle Only One* Allied Health Associates Clergy & Religious Nurses Pastoral Care
Psychotherapists Physicians/Dentists/Chiropractors/Healthcare Practitioners

YES, I am interested in Continuing Education Units.

FULL REGISTRATION <i>Meals included: 2 lunches, AM & PM snack foods/beverages</i>	Early Registration Ending September 6, 2018	Standard Rate September 7, through October 12, 2018
Member: FULL REGISTRATION	\$425	\$460
F/T Clergy/Religious: FULL REGISTRATION	\$225	\$260
Spouse of Member: FULL REGISTRATION	\$425	\$460
Non-Member: FULL REGISTRATION <i>Includes ACT membership through 12/31/2019</i>	\$525	\$560
Member: SINGLE DAY RATE*	\$160	\$160
F/T Student: SINGLE DAY RATE	\$80	\$80
Circle One: Friday Saturday <i>Meals included: 1 lunch, AM & PM snack foods/beverages</i>		
Non-Member: SINGLE DAY RATE*		
Circle One: Friday Saturday <i>Meals included: 1 lunch, AM/PM snacks/bev.</i>	\$185	\$185
TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE(S)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Can't attend the conference? Consider making a donation or contribution to the International Conference Scholarship Fund. IC SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT Registration and Donation	\$ _____	\$ _____

***ONLY ONE SINGLE DAY RATE PURCHASE PER PERSON.** More than one Single Day Registration requires purchase of a Full Registration.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE to meet our speakers, view (downloadable) conference schedule, make hotel reservations and see available Continuing Education Units.

REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS All cancellations must be made in writing. Written cancellations before October 1, 2018 are subject to a \$50 processing fee. Refunds are not possible after October 1, 2018 except for emergencies (subject to approval of the ACTheals Leadership). All refunds will be processed after the meeting.

ACT reserves the right to cancel any event due to lack of enrollment or other factors.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 11:2-3

**Denise
Dolff M.A.**



Denise Dolff, M.A. (Psychology) is the immediate Past President of ACTheals, a member of the Board of Directors, and consultant to the Board and the Executive Committee. She is a retired Christ-centered psychotherapist with a focus on severely abused and traumatized patients, and also intergenerational healing. She has travelled to Rwanda on four occasions, ministering with Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, and is a qualified teacher of Christian Listening.

by Denise Dolff M.A.

As we continue our study of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as found in Isaiah 11:2-3, we will now begin to look at the Gifts of Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel and Wisdom. These four are understood as the discernment gifts of the Holy Spirit. Working together, they are the bases for understanding and accepting God's will, and for seeing things from God's perspective, to the extent that God desires us to see, at any point in time. Essentially, there is no actual gift of discernment, although we often refer to discernment as if it were a specific gift. There is a Corinthian gift that is the discernment of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10). However, it is utilizing and developing these four gifts of wisdom, knowledge, counsel, and understanding that leads to what we most generally refer to as spiritual discernment.

The Gift of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge enables one to evaluate created things at their true worth i.e. in their relation to God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity, and directs us to glorify Him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, knowledge teaches us to put first things first, and prize the friendship of God beyond all else.

It enables us to recognize that everything comes from God, points to God and leads to God. The Psalmist declares this in saying: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands Psalm 19:1.

It is important to understand that **the knowledge attained through this gift is not mere human information, but new information that comes from seeking revelation of the Holy**

Spirit regarding the truths of God.

It is not traditional human solutions but the insight and knowledge that can come only from God. Again the psalmist recognizes this in declaring: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain Psalm 139:6.

This knowledge grows as one persists in seeking the Holy Spirit for answers to questions about God and God's truths as revealed in scripture. I can give a personal example from many years ago when I struggled with 'the first and greatest commandment – you shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your soul, your mind and your strength' Matthew 22:37. Every time I heard this I would lament before God that if this is indeed the first and greatest commandment, I was doomed. I could not imagine or believe that I could ever achieve such pure love of God. Then one day, as I was praying this passage and bemoaning my miserable state before God, I sensed the Spirit saying: How did it feel in those moments in your life when you felt truly loved? I responded that it feels wonderful, it is an incredible, affirming, uplifting experience. Then I heard a further question: And what do you want to do in response to such love? I replied immediately that I wanted to love back in return. Then I heard the Spirit say: Bingo! You just got it. But I asked what it was that I just 'got'? I didn't understand. God's final response to me was: You have been going about it all backward. You have been trying to love me with all your heart, instead of letting yourself receive all the love I have for you. As soon as you allow Me to love you first, you will automatically love Me back with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. With this, I finally understood, and no longer avoided this scripture. God gave me the

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CRITICISM

(PART A)

Have you ever criticized someone? Have you ever been criticized?

“If you hear that someone is speaking ill of you, instead of trying to defend yourself, you should say, “He obviously does not know me very well, since there are so many other faults he could have mentioned.”

—Epictetus

Fr. Alan
Phillip, CP



Fr. Alan Phillip, CP, is a Passionist priest who lives at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in Sierra Madre, CA. He works at the Retreat Center and at local parishes. www.alanphillipcp.com.

By Fr. Alan Phillip, CP

Imagine these scenes:

A child wants to get up before a class to give a speech, but decides not to do it. He is afraid that others may criticize him if he makes a mistake.

A teenage girl wants to take a role in a school play, but chooses not to do it. She fears that some of the other kids will make fun of her weight.

A young man wants to run for public office, but opts out of the race at the last minute. He doesn't want his family subjected to the vicious scrutiny of the press.

The list of examples goes on and on. There are multitudes of people who could have, should have, would have done great things, but decided *not to even try* because of the fear of criticism. Many of us can still remember the childhood jingle that went, *“Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”* Not true, not true! In my judgment, **nothing is as powerful as critical words to stifle enthusiasm, suffocate creativity, squelch initiative, stomp on a self-image and kill joy.**

Karen Carpenter was a very popular singer in the 70's. I heard that once, during an interview, someone referred to her as “chunky.” Not a very flattering thing to say to a young girl. The word burrowed deep into her consciousness. She started to diet. She dieted some more. Then she couldn't stop dieting. She developed a serious case of Anorexia Nervosa, and eventually died

of it. A great loss to the entertainment world. Would that the name-caller had thrown sticks and stones at Karen rather than that deadly critical word.

A. When can I criticize someone?

Some say that criticism is necessary, that we need to correct others and tell them what's wrong with them. I say that criticism is seldom necessary, that we need to affirm others and tell them what's right with them. In my judgment ninety-five percent of all criticism is useless, hurtful and counterproductive. The one who dares to criticize another should first ask himself/herself, *“Will this criticism be helpful to this person, or is this criticism springing from my own feelings of inadequacy, my inability to deal with diversity, my need to have things my way, or my personal jealousy?”*

Five percent of the time criticism can be helpful, even necessary. So I would like to offer the following guidelines.

1) Remember that silence can be a virtue. All human beings are imperfect. That's a given. And how do imperfect people live together in peace? They simply ignore most faults and foibles in others. In the words of Henry Ward Beecher, *“Everyone should keep a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of their friends.”* That would include spouse, children, neighbor, fellow-worker, etc.

2) Don't sweat the small stuff. And most people's faults and failings are small stuff. The advice of Ben Franklin about marriage is good advice for all situations. He sagely suggested,

“Enter marriage with both eyes open, and live it with one eye closed.”

3) There is a hierarchy of importance to issues.

A few years ago I remember reading about a church community struggling with a controversial issue. Some of the members were upset about girls serving at the altar. Those protesting couldn't change the pastor's mind, so they appealed to the local bishop. The newspaper reported that, “the bishop could not be reached for comment regarding altar girls because he was in Washington, D.C. discussing nuclear survival.” If you have energy with which to criticize, save it for the big issues. Write letters, raise funds, and speak out against world hunger, oppressive governments, violence in our streets, human rights violations, drunk driving, etc. Don't waste time and energy on the small stuff.

When I was a pastor I heard the usual criticism about the music in church being too loud, the decorations too gaudy, or the garden too shabby, etc. When someone finally voiced a criticism that we were not doing enough for the poor in the city, I smiled. It showed an awareness and concern for a genuinely important issue.

The petty chitchat and negative blather in the gossip columns of today is forgotten by tomorrow. Critical literature such as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, or an eye-opening analysis such as *Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson, were classics that inspired generations into action. They teach us to concentrate on the genuinely important issues.

4) Criticize the action, not the person.

For instance, drug abuse is wrong. Abortion is wrong. Terrorism is wrong. And we can rightfully criticize such action. But we don't know how aware or intelligent or knowledgeable the ones involved are. How free are they from emotion and pressure? What is their background and education? What are their fears? What kind of self-image do they struggle with? William Longfellow observed, *“If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we would find their suffering and sorrow enough to disarm all hostility.”*

5) Realize there are no experts in anything. To know all of reality is beyond our grasp. The most intelligent persons among us have a very limited amount of knowledge and experience. A graduate degree means that a person has acquired a significant beginning in learning. Even Pulitzer Prize winners and Ph.D.'s are just novices to truth. Most controversial subjects/situations are quite complex. We never have all the facts or understand all the feelings involved. The truly wise person is humble and realizes how little he knows. He is always ready to listen, to seek further information, to understand more deeply. His words are chosen carefully. Often he is silent. He has learned, *“A closed mouth gathers no feet.”*

6) When angry, report your feelings.

“This upsets me.” “I feel let down.” “I am hurt by your words.” “I am anguished by your decision.” “I am disturbed by your actions.” Statements like these give the other person a chance to explain, to question, to apologize, or respond in some way to our feelings. Reporting feelings at least keeps communication open. Avoid making statements that put the other person down. *“You dummy.” “How could you be so stupid?” “Why don't you grow up?” “Act your age.”* Words like these put the other person on the defensive, invite retaliation, and erect walls that cut off effective communication.

7) They say that the loudness of one's voice is in proportion to the weakness of one's argument. I say the loudness of one's voice is in proportion to the weakness of one's charity. **Be gentle. Feelings are everywhere.**

8) Set aside a definite time and place (never meal time!) to hash out problems. Don't nag all week long. Put all your nags in one basket and bring them to a once-a-week or a once-a-month session. Settle the issues as best you can, and then forget them. The constant pick-pick-pick of criticism is like the constant drip-drip-drip of water. Drops of water can eventually crack a boulder. **Constant nagging can break apart the strongest marriage or friendship.**

9) Before criticizing another, it is a good practice to first look in the mirror. No mirror? Look down. Notice your feet of clay. Recall Jesus' words to those preparing to cast stones at the woman caught in adultery. *“Let the one among you who has no sin be the first to cast a stone at her.” (John 8:7)* A reminder like that is a lot more effective than counting to ten.

10) If you see something serious that needs correcting or improving, try saying “I will...” rather than “Why don't you...?” **There is energetic power in the statement, “I will try to improve this situation myself.”** It is positive action that counts. No statue has ever been erected to honor a critic.

11) Some criticism comes under the category of “Tough love.” But tough love is, first and foremost, love. Criticism, in order to be effective, must be accompanied by compassion and affection. I find much wisdom from the author, James Dobson, in his book, *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women:*

“The right to criticize must be earned, even if the advice is constructive in nature. Before you are entitled to tinker with another person's self-esteem, you are obligated first to demonstrate your respect for him/her as a person. When a relationship of confidence has been carefully constructed, you will have earned the right to discuss a potentially threatening topic. Your motives will have been thereby clarified.”

Blessings to all,

Fr. Alan Phillip, CP (Region 21)

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Fr. Alan's books, *The Ten Things You Must Do Before You Die*, and *From Blues to Smiles to Joy*, are available at Amazon.com.



The Holy Spirit in Clinical Practice

Douglas W. Schoeninger, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist and President of the Institute for Christian Healing in Coatesville, PA. An ACTheals member since 1977, his private psychotherapy practice integrates spirituality and prayer as healing resources and is focused on the healing of persons and relationships within an intergenerational perspective. He has extensive training in Contextual Family Therapy with Ivan Nagy and Barbara Krasner, as well as family tree healing experience with Kenneth McAll.

At my request, Frank Braun has for several years been sending me his writings which I have been slowly digesting. His writings are inspirational and scholarly. I have grown to appreciate his expressions by spending time using his concepts as a window to my experience. Frank is a long time ACTheals member, and a faithful steward of the insights with which the Holy Spirit has blessed him. Following is an excerpt from Frank's writings in which he shares some of his healing journey. An article of his will follow in the next issue of the Journal of Christian Healing (JCH 34-1, Spring/Summer, 2018). This excerpt is extracted from the author's e-books, *The Spirit and Me* and *The Unruly Spirit* published by Ruah Publishing and distributed through Smashwords. Copies of the excerpt may be made for personal use, but all other copyrights are reserved as stated in the author's books. *Douglas Schoeninger, PhD*



Frank A.J. Braun

Physical Presence

By Frank A.J. Braun

Moses! Moses!.. I am the God of your father...the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. Exodus 3:4-6

Of the three God-given attributes, omnipresence (presence-mass) gets perhaps the least emphasis. Yet it is finite measures of presence that form the materialization and structure (mass) that gives all things a point of reference, as well as the means needed to birth, grow and multiply.

Presence, in the form of mass, is exemplified in the neutrons and protons of the atom, the carbohydrates and companion molecules of cells, and the

physical body of the human soul. Presence gives the atom, cell, organism and incarnate soul specificity and reality; the ability to stand apart or unite; even to bond with other forms of presence.

The Genesis story tells us that eating fruit from the tree of good and evil gave Adam and Eve wisdom and understanding of right and wrong. Through this act, the human species was given access to God's *infinite knowledge*: the ability to experience, rationalize, compound and pass intelligence on to others and future generations. However, Scripture relates that the price for this privilege was the loss of their Creator's personal *infinite presence* and *infinite power*, the tree of life. Nevertheless, there was an implication of hope

for humanity's eventual restoration of God's personal presence based on His forewarning to the serpent when Adam and Eve departed from Paradise (Genesis 3:15); and His continued contact with members of the human race, as evidenced in religious and cultural historical stories.

We of Judeo-Christian heritage are told God again restored His personal presence in contacts with Abraham, Moses and finally the whole Hebrew nation. To Moses and the Egyptian slaves, He introduced Himself as *Yahweh*, meaning "*I Am the Divine Presence.*" (Exodus 3:13) To prove His *infinite* presence to His Chosen People, He delivered them from slavery through signs and wonders. He established His order with Commandments and rituals, and provided guidance to the tribes of Jacob through the Prophets. Fullness of God's physical presence came with the promised Messiah, Jesus, who told His listeners, "...I am the gate for the sheep." (John 10:7) *Jesus promised before His crucifixion that after His death and return to the Father, He would send another Counselor, the Spirit of Truth, who would endow the "People of God" not only with His continued presence, but also infinite power—the tree of life—that would provide entry into the Kingdom of God; fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.*

St. Paul and early evangelists stressed the importance of God's enduring presence through the Holy Spirit in the Good News, but with time Church

dogma and doctrine emphasized rituals and standards of righteous living as the means to a heavenly afterlife.

Reception of the Sacraments and being in the "state of grace" at the time of death set the ideal for Christian living. For the errant, confession and repentance were the way back.

For a scrupulous person like me in my early life, seeking forgiveness was a revolving door. Confession was not unlike the temporal animal sacrifices experienced by the Hebrews. God was up there, and I could only expect his help when I was in a "state of grace," an unreachable state for me. This is pretty much the way it was for many people until Vatican II.

Thankfully for me, at age 40, this changed when I participated in my first Cursillo, a form of retreat. My spiritual counselor, a wise old Monsignor, asked: "How can I help you?" I informed him of my problem with scrupulosity. He then asked my occupation. I told him I was an insurance adjudicator. His next question was, "Do you have problems with your claim decisions?" My emphatic answer was, "No! I try to make an honest decision and never look back unless I later learn that I made a mistake." His response: "Apply this to the rest of your life decisions. Remember, God is *always present* to help you. Reflect on your decisions just as you do with claims and always remember: In case of doubt, God will rule in your favor!" Then, contrary to the teaching at the time, he told me not to make any more daily "examinations of conscience." If I committed a wrong or later became

aware that I erred, I was to note it and resolve it then and there. Praise God, I was healed.

Several years later, while preparing a talk from the Cursillo Manual, I read: "To live a life in grace one must have a *personal relationship* with Jesus." As I recall, I yelled out: "Jesus, this is what I have been looking for all my life!" While I did not see Jesus, to my surprise a sense of His presence became real to me and has been with me ever since. A year later I was Baptized in the Holy Spirit and learned that it is through the Spirit that Jesus is present to us. Also, life experience has taught me that God never tires of hearing us contritely say, "I did it again!"

In my book, *The Spirit and Me*, I provide a graph that illustrates how through the *three historical God-man encounters*, humans were endowed with access to the *infinite attributes* of knowledge, power and presence that open the gate to the Eternal Kingdom—infinity with God. These epiphanies (God-human encounters) occurred when Adam and Eve ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (infinite knowledge); when Moses and the Hebrews were delivered from Egypt (infinite presence); and when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples during Pentecost (infinite power).

Whether we use the Genesis story or the theory of evolution, there came a point in history when *Homo sapiens* were endowed with access to the infinite gifts of knowledge, power and presence; when the human race moved from the temporal status of living souls

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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summer internship with Hughs Aircraft in Los Angeles that turned into a permanent position. He went on to get a Masters from USC and a doctorate from UCLA. He worked with NASA and is remembered as a key contributor to the space shuttle's docking system. In 1982 he became the founding director of USC's Communication Sciences Institute. Thus, he was on the ground floor in the instruction and development of computer technology...no wonder he put so much time, energy and financial backing into ACT's original website! He began ACT's finance committee in 1988 and remained on the committee until his death in August 2013. He knew well that his gift would be appreciated. He was on the staff of USC for 44 years and was honored with many awards...the last being Professor Emeritus of USC's Viterbi School of Engineering in 2008.

Chuck began dictating his life story to ACT member Mary Green before he became ill towards the end of his life. We will be writing more about Chuck in the future, so if you would like to share a memory with

us, please send it to me for possible future publication.

Thank you Chuck for the generous personal and financial gifts you have shared so freely with us in ACT. We pray that you are enjoying God's presence right now. You have blessed so many. I pray that we will be able to bring these blessings forward in ways that are pleasing to God and to you as well.

This year's International Conference is in Baltimore October 18 - 21. It will be led by two of our favorite spiritual leaders: Father Richard McAlear and Rev. Nigel Mumford. They will be joined by Dr. Janet Johnson, MD. **We are exploring the possibility of live streaming.....so stay tuned!** Of course those special ACT hugs, personal connections and prayer times can't be captured digitally...you have to join us in person for the full experience!

I pray that you enjoy a peaceful, relaxing and blessed rest of the Summer and Fall. See you in Baltimore in October!

Love in the name of Jesus,
Nancy Morgan, President, ACTheals

PHYSICAL PRESENCE

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to servants, and finally to heirs in God's Eternal Kingdom. Through teaching and rituals, religious leaders introduce us to these benevolent epiphany encounters, but there must also be an acceptance, understanding and willingness on our part to receive and utilize these unmerited gifts on our journey of life. As Jesus told us, just ASK: Ask... Seek... Knock!

Frank A.J. Braun was born and reared on a small farm in Osage Bend, Missouri, the second of eight children. After three years of undergraduate study and two years of law at St. Louis University, he entered the United States Air Force where he served as a Special Agent in the Office of Special Investigation. While stationed in Tokyo, Japan he completed a B.A. degree at Sophia University in 1956.

Upon completion of his tour of duty, he worked one year for the FBI and then put his investigative training to good use, spending the next thirty-six years in claims work with State Farm Insurance. During this time, he graduated with an M.A. in Religious Studies from Gonzaga University, Spokane Washington. Since retiring in 1994, Frank has spent his time in research and writing.

Frank and his wife Evelyn made their home in Billings, Montana. They had four children and five grandchildren. Evelyn passed away in 1999.

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NEW MEMBERS

ACTheals

Dr. Tyrone Bostic

Indianapolis, IN.
Psychotherapists Specialty
Group, Ohio Valley Region.

Elise Botch San Diego, CA.
San Diego Region.

Diane Davis

Coronado, CA. Nurses
Specialty Group, San Diego
Region.

Jodi Dunphy

Mount Pleasant, SC.
Psychotherapists Specialty
Group, South East Region.

Michelle Eldridge

Brockton, MA. Associates
Specialty Group, Northern
New England Region.

Sherri Grady

Mt. Pleasant, SC.
Psychotherapists Specialty
Group, South East Region.

Dr. Geraldine Kerr

Long Valley, NJ.
Psychotherapists Specialty
Group, Northern New
England Region.

Moira Noonan

San Diego, CA. Pastoral Care
Specialty Group, San Diego
Region

Diane Pearson

San Diego, CA. Nurses
Group, San Diego Region.

DECEASED MEMBERS

ACTheals

“The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and
no torment shall touch them.” Wisdom 3:1

Joseph S. Franchina 1932-2017. Ohio Valley Region. Spouse of Ohio Valley Regional Coordinator Francesca Franchina and father of member, Anthony Franchina. After retirement, when Fran went to pray with people, Joe accompanied her and prayed along with her for private intentions. In the nursing home, he and Fran prayed daily for ACTheals’s members’ needs as well as the needs of the caregivers working in the care facility.

Father Joseph Kane OMI 1929-2017. Canada Region. Member of the Religious and Clergy Specialty Group. Speaker at the Canadian Conferences.

Father Joseph MacDonald Canada Region. Member of the Religious and Clergy Specialty Group. Speaker at Canadian conferences. Passed away on July 10, 2018.

Andy Orso passed away July 12, 2018, husband of Maureen Orso, Canada, who manages the internal ACT prayer line.

Rev. Dr. Georgianna G. Rodiger 1931-2018, Los Angeles Region. She was a member of the Psychotherapists and the Religious and Clergy Specialty Groups. Served on the Marketing Committee. Was former Regional Coordinator for the Los Angeles Region. Hosted a weekly SEW group in her home each Sunday which also included services and a meal. Retreat leader, led Sunday morning worship services for non-Catholic members at the International Conferences. Known as Georgie to members.

Betty J. Scully 1925-2018. Member of the Associates Specialty Group. Former Regional Coordinator for the San Francisco Region and active in California conferences. Member of the Prayer Teams at the International Conferences.

Jean Teschner 1932-2016. Michigan Region. Former Regional Coordinator with Sr. Nancy Smith from the Michigan Region. Psychotherapists Specialty group. She was a social worker for many years working with the poor in Detroit and Haiti.

Father Robert Massiocchi Northern New England. Father Robert Massiocchi 1927-2017. Northern New England Region, Clergy and Religious Specialty Group, Former Regional Coordinator, Served on the Board, Honorary member.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual Light
shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

Living with Scriptural Guidance amidst the noise of today.

The question was, “*who is my neighbor?*” Jesus responded by relating the parable of the Good Samaritan, where three men passed by the robber’s victim without rendering aid. He then presented the question to His listeners, “*Which of the three was neighbor to the robber’s victim?*” Jesus answered this Himself, “*The one who treated him with mercy. Go and do likewise.*” (Luke 10:29-37)

For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, “*Love your Neighbor as Yourself*”. (Galatians 5:14)

One Body, Many Parts. As a body is one though it has many parts, ***and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.*** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now a body is not a single part, but many. (1 Corinthians 13:12-14)

Rules of Conduct “When an alien resides with you in your land, do not molest him. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the Lord am your God. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

Judgement of the Nations “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, ***a stranger and you welcomed me,*** naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Matthew 25:35-36)

Amen I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me. (Matthew 25:45)

Hope through Scripture

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you fall upon me.” ***For whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*** (Romans 15:1-4)

HOLY SPIRIT

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knowledge I was seeking. The same is true for each one of us: as we continue to seek God’s truths, we grow in this gift of knowledge given us through the Holy Spirit.

Growing in this gift draws us closer to God and produces a certainty in faith, and trust in God’s word. It helps us to keep our priorities straight, and focus on what counts, so that we can declare as did the psalmist: Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain Psalm 127:1.

St. Paul says much the same in his letter to the Philippians: But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ Philippians 3: 7.

We can cultivate this gift of knowledge by continuing to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, asking always for a greater understanding of the Scripture, desiring always to grow closer to God. *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect Romans 12:2.*

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for Your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to You, and Your eternal rewards. Amen.



ACTheals (Acts 4:8-10 NIV)

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear ACTheals members and friends,

I hope you would enjoy this issue of InterACT Summer 2018.

In addition to the insightful pieces by our contributors, we have made special mention of Charles Weber, who passed away recently. He was a former ACTheals President, noted engineer, educator and now, generous benefactor to this association.

Please do note the details regarding our ACTheals International Conference, October 18-21, 2018 in Baltimore, MD. Your attendance would truly be worth time and effort as this conference would certainly enliven and soothe your spirit.

Finally, our next deadline for submissions would be October 15, 2018. Receipt of your articles, creative artwork and poetry is most appreciated. Please do include a recent photo and a two line description of yourself with your submission.

Peace,

Alphiene Anthraper
Editor, *InterACT*
alphiene@anthraper.co