



UNITY

A WAY OF LIFE

JANUARY 1980



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VIEW FROM UNITY VILLAGE

1980—a new year and the beginning of a new decade! It is an exciting time to be alive and to be living the Truth.

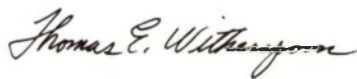
This month's issue of UNITY Magazine has several interesting articles on the theme of the new year. Perhaps the one which has the most intriguing "plot" is entitled "A New Party for You" and is written by Eric Butterworth, Unity's well-known New York City minister. The new year will bring us a lot of political activity, and Butterworth proposes a new spiritual party.

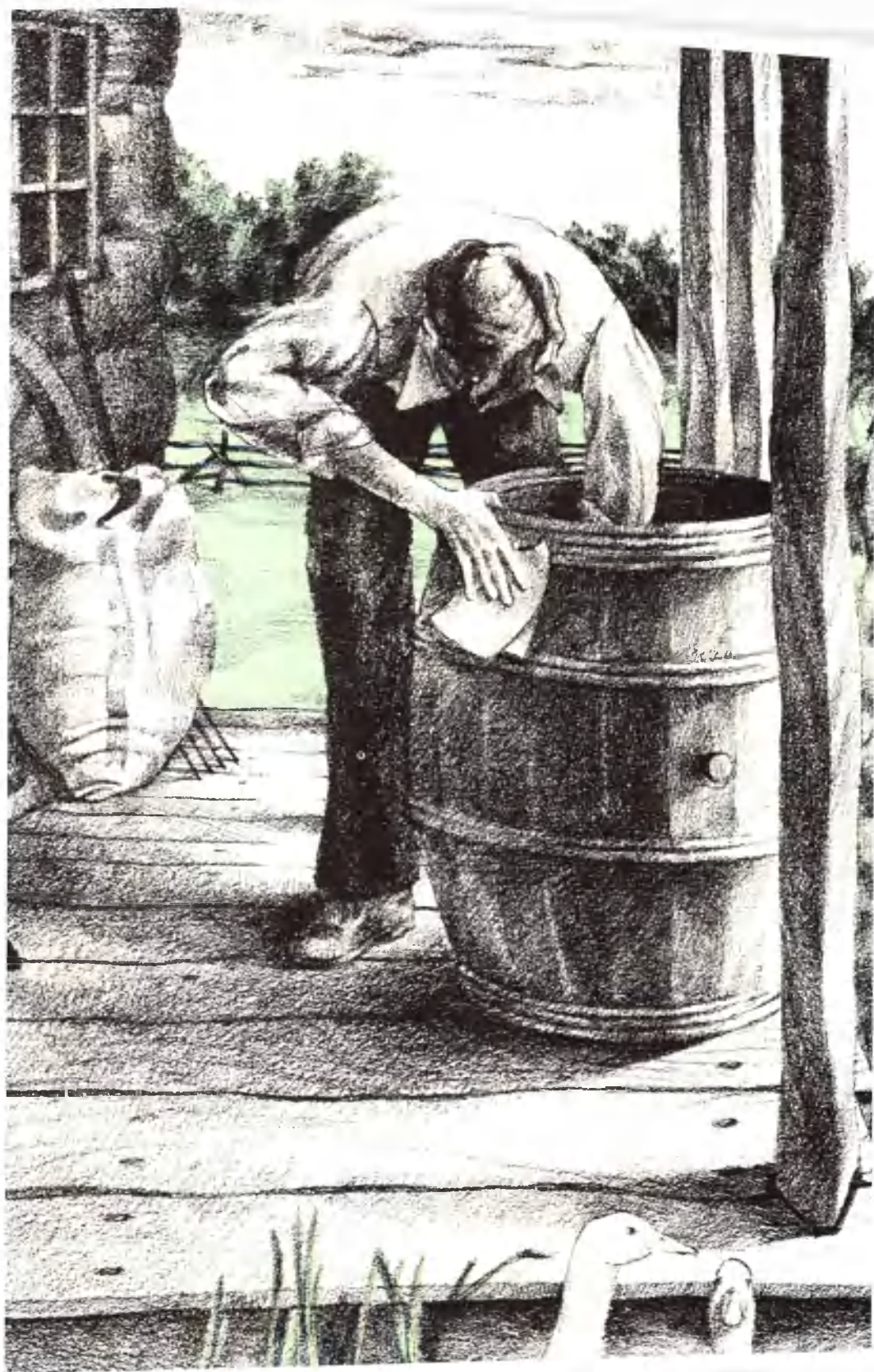
Other seasonal offerings are "Timeless Beginnings" by Lei Lanni Burt; "Doorways" by Margaret Pounders; "The New Year as You Like It" by Glenn Clairmonte; and "All Things Made New" by Charles Fillmore.

Our lead article this month, however, is not about New Year's. It is, instead, about that book that so many people resolve at the end of each year to read next year—the Bible. William Earle Cameron, minister of Unity on the Plaza, Kansas City, Missouri, presents the first article in a new series entitled "Great Dramas of the Bible." Each article will be independent; that is, a reader may get the complete message in each installment and not have to wait each month for the next chapter. The first article is subtitled "Abraham—Father of Believers." Cameron will take us through some of the great adventures of the Old Testament and then delve into the metaphysics of Jesus and Paul. Many of our readers have asked us for such a series.

Another article that deserves special mention is "Reach Out in Faith" by Walter Mattheiss. We rarely publish this kind of writing, because a very high degree of skill is required to give the work credibility. Some call the technique *faction*. In other words, a true event is embellished by the writer with specific detail. Mattheiss has done this beautifully with his account of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment.

In God's love,

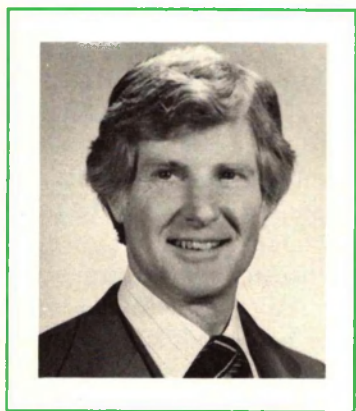




Great Dramas of the Bible

Abraham -- Father of Believers

BY WILLIAM EARLE CAMERON



YOUR OWN STORY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Starting this month readers will have an opportunity to share in humankind's greatest adventure—an epic journey through the "Great Dramas of the Bible." In the series, readers will follow a historical procession in the saga of humanity's evolving awareness of God. William Earle Cameron, minister of Unity

on the Plaza, Kansas City, Missouri, and a popular author of articles for UNITY Magazine for many years, has prepared the series. The Bible is the most instructive history we possess, for it is truly the story of each one of us. From beginning to end, the teachings of the Scriptures can reveal the truths of our own potential and guide us individually in learning and growing and becoming what God intends us to be. All the great portrayals of characters in the Bible have their counterpart in each of us, and their dramatic impact can be brought right into our mind and heart. The Bible is your story. Its dramas are unfinished; they await your recognition to become a powerful and exciting influence in the greatest adventure you can ever know—the evolution of

your own spiritual nature.)

WE ARE GOING to accompany Abraham on his original journey of faith toward the Promised Land—first through the ancient Bible lands of 4,000 years ago, and then within you, in the interior journey of your own soul growth.

Abram had been his name in the beginning; he was the son of Terah. It was Terah who had received the first inspiration to leave the old city of Ur in the Euphrates Valley (the capital of a great civilization, rich in tangibles and culture, but steeped in idolatry and morally and spiritually impoverished). Terah had led his family as far as the Oasis of Haran, but there he was content to settle down again. After Terah died, when Abram was seventy-five years old, he received the call: "Get thee out of thy country," and he went out not knowing his destination. But, he knew what he was looking for—"... a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God," which is the Hebrew way of saying that he was looking for a new spiritual life based on the foundation of truth of one God, one Power and Presence.

Before Abraham, there had been no feeling of belonging to God. But with Abram's acceptance of God's "travel orders,"

the foundation was laid for a covenant (a partnership agreement) between God and man, upon which three great religions of the future would be based.

The Bible reports simply that Abram left the Oasis of Haran with his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot, and he arrived at Canaan. It was a hard journey of 300 miles from Haran to Canaan, however, and it must have taken weeks. Like our American pioneers, they entered a land that was already inhabited and they were generally not warmly welcomed. Every tribe had its own gods, and images were proudly displayed. Tribesmen were ready to fight at the sight of other god-like images. Abram's way must have been made much easier because his God was invisible.

Down Into Egypt

Upon reaching Canaan, Abram erected altars at Shechem and Bethel. He went south, and because of drought and famine he soon abandoned the Promised Land and went "down into Egypt," a country much like the one he originally left.

Because he feared what might happen to him, he asked the beautiful Sarai to pretend to be his sister. She was taken

into Pharaoh's house to live; and as her "brother" Abram was honored and rewarded with many herds, servants, and possessions. But we read in the story that the Lord plagued Pharaoh because of his affaire d'amour with Sarai; and although Pharaoh was quite angry at Abram for not telling him that Sarai was really his wife, apparently wanting no more trouble with their God, he sent Abram away intact with his wife and all his new possessions. Upon their return to Bethel, now quite wealthy, strife broke out between Abram's and Lot's herdsmen and they decided to separate. Here Abram did something remarkable (almost unheard of in those days, for, as the older man, he had prior claim to everything): in the spirit of high-minded generosity, he gave Lot first choice! Lot took advantage of his uncle and chose the land that seemed to be far richer and greener, but he overlooked one thing—the presence of a certain people who lived in a city called Sodom.

You probably remember how Lot's wife, in disobedience, "looked back" and turned into a pillar of salt as Sodom was being destroyed. From then on everything went downhill for Lot. He eventually had to be rescued from invaders by

Abram. For this gallantry, and for doing the best he could to save Sodom, Abram became full leader and was honored by Melchizedek, a very important character in the Bible. Lot, on the other hand, lost everything and became a fugitive.

Abram and Sarai were then renamed. In the Bible a name always refers to a person's nature. Abram, which meant *high father of a tribe*, became Abraham, *father of multitudes*. Sarai, meaning *contentious, quarrelsome*, became Sarah, *princess, mellow, noble lady*. Their expanding faith had reached a point where it could move mountains, and anything can happen with such faith. Yet they couldn't quite accept the miracle that had been promised to follow—a challenge certainly, to anyone's faith—a couple, almost one hundred years old, to have a child! So when the Lord told them this, Abraham and Sarah laughed!

"God Laughed"

Abraham decided to do what seemed the obvious thing to do—he had a son, Ishmael, by Sarah's handmaid, Hagar. But eventually, through angelic inspiration, they were both convinced that the impossible could happen, and they had their son. They named him

"God laughed"—Isaac. There was one sad note: Sarah, worried about heirship for her son, convinced Abraham to cast Ishmael and his mother out of the tribe. They, however, were well cared for by God.

Lastly in this story came Abraham's great moment of faith when he believed that he was called upon to sacrifice his son Isaac. The story is loaded with emotion and drama. Abraham believed he was asked to make a burnt offering of his only child, whose birth was a miracle and whom he must have dearly loved. And the young boy—so trusting—followed his father up the mountain, innocently asking where the sacrificial lamb was. It was only at the last moment, his hand raised with a dagger, that Abraham realized this wasn't required of him.

This is a classic example of the Bible storyteller's way of going to great extremes to get a point across. In this case, it was to show that God must be trusted implicitly. The Bible compilers also used it as a teaching point against the practice of sacrifice, a primitive custom that all the prophets were against; and they were shown in this early story that God doesn't want our possessions but our hearts. Anyway, it ended happily. Abraham lived a blessed life to a ripe old

age. Isaac became the second patriarch and even Ishmael became the founder of a mighty people, the Arab nation. Abraham had truly become the father of believers, the father of all who believe in the reality of one living God and who follow and trust the divine urge that calls each of us to reach out for the spiritual life. He is the symbol of the great quest of all our souls for their source. Just as the Bible is the epic story of God's nature unfolding in the life of man, the story of Abram becoming Abraham is the story of the activity of faith in us—starting us on our path of spiritual growth and refinement.

The story may or may not be completely historically accurate; but it is true, for it is typical of the inward spiritual experience any of us have when we step out on faith. And it reveals the principles and pitfalls of the beginnings and the continual expansion process involved in working with faith and developing our spiritual consciousness—the Promised Land.

God Calls Us

All of us receive "calls" from God. Many are subtle, almost constant, and often undiscerned and unheeded. Occa-

sionally, the calls are quite dramatic—sudden, powerful, life-changing experiences that point us toward our destiny.

I heard a story that seems incredible, yet is a fairly typical “call from God.” The story is about another Abraham—Abraham Lincoln. It happened in New Salem, Illinois. Abe and his partner Berry were on the porch of their little store discussing their failing business. Berry asked: “How much longer do you think we can keep going?” Abe answered, “It looks like our business has about winked out.” And then he continued, “You know, I wouldn’t mind so much if I could just do what I want to do. I want to study law. I wouldn’t mind so much if we could sell everything we’ve got and pay all our bills and have enough left over to buy one book, ‘Blackstone’s Commentary on English Law’; but I guess I can’t.” About that time a strange-looking wagon came up the road. The driver drove close to the porch and the man looked up at Abraham Lincoln and said: “I’m trying to move my family West, and I’m out of money. I’ve a good barrel on here and I could sell it for fifty cents.” Lincoln’s eyes went along the wagon and came to the man’s wife, who looked up at him pleadingly, her face thin and emaciated;

and Abraham Lincoln put his hand in his pocket and took out, according to him, “the last fifty cents I had,” and he said, “I reckon I could use a good barrel.” All day long the barrel sat on the porch; Berry kept chiding him about it. Late in the evening Abe walked out, looked down into the barrel and saw something at the bottom—papers he hadn’t noticed before. His long arm went down into them and rumbled them around, and he hit something solid. He pulled out a book and stood petrified. It was the “Commentary on English Law,” by Blackstone.

Now, these are his words: “I stood there holding the book, looking up toward the heavens. There came a deep impression on me that God had something for me to do—and He was showing me now that I had to get ready for it. Why this miracle otherwise?”

That day God touched the heart of Abraham Lincoln, and his life blazed out in glory to do the thing that God needed to be doing in the United States of America. That’s the way spiritual journeys often start—from a book, an idea, an awakening. “Get thee out of thy country.” “Look up! God has something for you to do!” Although in looking back we sometimes discover that preceding that lasting impression,

represented by Abram's faith in God, there was a parent inspiration represented by Terah, Abram's father—an urge for something higher which we perhaps followed for a short time and then forgot and settled back into the old ways.

We can begin to see how the underlying truths of the Bible are often concealed in biblical names. The Abram traits are quite human. Even after he discovered God's infinite intelligence and power as the very personal help in every need, and trusted in God for guidance and inspiration, he made mistakes. He left the Promised Land soon after he arrived for the old material securities of Egypt during the time of drought and famine. He, rather cowardly, disowned his wife and let another man take her. And after a lot of proof of God's power in his life, he still laughed at God's promise to him of a son of his own. Even the notion of sacrifice was something out of his own subconscious, for this is completely out of harmony with the character of God. And surely Abram had other plans for himself when God called. He was probably well off. He may have been fairly secure where he was and his life was undoubtedly upset by going off into a strange new land. How typical!

For this is the way rebirth happens to us—inside. As spiritual aspirants we reenact the whole epic story of Abraham in our inner life.

When we receive the Abram inspiration, we will experience all the elements of this marvelous story. There will be times of exalted states of mind, fruitful and prolific as the Oasis of Haran. We will, nevertheless, still wrangle with our as yet contentious, unregenerated emotions (Sarai) and our unremitting negative thoughts (Lot). There will be droughts and famines—dry periods in which we can no longer seem to remain inspired or are even afraid to really trust the inspiration we have already received—times in which even our most fervent prayers seem unanswered. And we will be tempted to go back down into the seemingly reliable old worldly beliefs (Egypt), which always draw us right back into the same old bondage. We may indeed, at some time, abandon our high callings and allow the ruling materialistic mentality (Pharaoh) to entirely take over our emotions.

But this is wonderful to remember: God's Spirit in us can rescue us from any of our mistakes and failures, redeem our emotions, help us honorably and nobly part company with our Lot-type thoughts and

• establish us in righteousness (the blessing of Melchizedek).

• With spiritual growth there will come a time when our uplifted thoughts and feelings will actually alter our nature.

• We will receive a new name—and the promise of a son of our own, the birth into our human nature of our true spiritual nature. Even then there may be tendencies to feel that in working with God it would somehow appease Him if we sacrificed the glorious Truth of our spiritual identity. But we will find that we are not to give this up, that this is the very realization that allows God to bring forth His divine heritage for us, through us. And we will learn, as did Abraham, that the only sacrifice God ever wants from us is our heart—to give up the lesser so that He can add the greater. When we sacrifice the “ram” (the butt-headed notions that disclaim the estate of our spiritual birth-right), and when we give up those concepts that separate us from God, He will somehow tell us, “This is my child, in whom I am well pleased.”

In spiritual growth there are many “promised lands.” Each new state of spiritual awareness is filled with the good of God, just what we need when we need it. For this reason more Bible Truth is caught

than taught, and the marvel of the Bible is that each story lesson is capable of revealing level after level of new, progressive, living inspiration and guidance. If you possess a good basic understanding of the Bible, then it will always be there when you need it.

If you understand the deeper implications of the story of Abraham, you will know many important truths about your spiritual unfoldment. You will know that you have within you the invincible power of God's Spirit, that there is within you that which always knows what is highest and best, and can do all things—lawfully, lovingly, and divinely. You will know there is nothing too hard for the Spirit of God in you to overcome. And you will know that God-in-you comes forth more and more powerfully, efficiently, and effectually as you trust in His promises and center your faith in the principles and plans that He provides for a divine partnership in your life.

Is your indwelling God coming forth and growing in your nature? Are His promises coming true in your life? We all need that spirit of Abraham, father of believers, who proved that “greater is He that is within you than he that is in the world.”

TIMELESS' BEGINNINGS'

BY LEI LANNI BURT

THE NEW YEAR is traditionally a time of reevaluation, rededication, and reestablishment of goals. In fact, it really involves "timeless beginnings." The definition of *timeless* in Webster's dictionary is: "Independent of or unaffected by time; unending;

eternal, not assigned or limited to any special time, era or epoch." *Timeless beginnings*, then, represents the beginning or starting of whatever we choose to change and the time element involved. These changes are not governed by clocks, calendars, or age. Life is



really a process of timeless beginnings. We move from one evolutionary process into another all through our spiritual growth cycle.

Let us examine our timeless beginning in reference to self-evaluation and rededication to new goals. Paul says in Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world. . . ." *Conformed* means: "To be adapted to prevailing standards or customs." Therefore, if we conform to this world, we adopt the apparent prevailing standards or customs and we get involved in race consciousness. Isn't it customary to get old or to "catch" whatever is going around? Don't we seem to get caught up in what others say is happening to our economic world? These are samples of conforming to the physical or outer world.

In Unity we recognize that all changes in the outer begin and take place in the inner. When we are God-centered, our thoughts and feelings about age, illness, and inflation change from worldly standards to spiritual standards of youth, health, and prosperity. We are eternal spiritual beings, living in a spiritual world, governed by spiritual laws.

Stand Firm in Truth

When we seem to be chal-

lenged by "bugs" and "viruses," do we choose to conform to worldly standards, or do we stand firm in Truth and claim our natural immunity as a child of God, replacing fear with faith?

When our pocketbook seems to become deflated because of inflation, do we conform to worldly standards, or do we claim God as our instant, constant, and abundant source of all supply—giving thanks for everything, knowing that we are always provided for by a loving Father?

Paul goes on to say: "but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. . . ." The word *change* stresses transformation, so perhaps Paul was emphasizing a change in consciousness. In other words, do not adapt to outer worldly standards or customs, but change your world through thinking and feeling. Scripture does not indicate that you cannot make changes if you are "old" or "sick" or "poor."

This is the timeless beginning, for there are no time limits or conditions—that's an eternal promise. We are the ones who say, "I'm too old," or, "This condition is even too serious for God," or "I'm on a limited income." We limit ourselves through our thinking and feeling, and receive limited results in living.

Don't Conform

The last part of Paul's scripture says: "... that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect." In other words, Paul says do not conform to the outer world, but be changed by renewing the inner world of your mind and thus prove what is the will of God—absolute Good—perfection. Jesus put it in a different way by saying: "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Paul is really giving us the process of denial and affirmation. He is saying to not conform (deny) to the worldly facts which seem to have power over you, but be changed by renewing your mind (affirm) with the spiritual reality of your oneness with God. Prove the will of God as your good, acceptable, and perfect Father.

A formula in conjunction with timeless beginnings can be derived from the letters in the word *change*. For each day in every way we are dealing with some form of change—changes relating to friends or relatives, or health, or prosperity—all areas of living have change in them. Each day holds a timeless beginning, so let us begin with the letter *c*. *C* stands for *correcting causes*. If we are unhappy with a condition in mind, body, or affairs,

we must *correct* the *cause*. We must correct our thinking and feeling by aligning them to the Truth of God, the Truth of Being. I am sure you have each used or at least have seen type-writer correction fluid. It is white and goes over typing or writing errors. In other words, it covers the mistake so you can type or write in the correct word. That's exactly what we need to do in this first step, use *spiritual correction fluid* on error thoughts and feelings and write over them with the true thoughts and feelings. Put new causes in motion. Instead of holding on to, "I'm too old," use spiritual correction fluid and write in: *Spirit is ageless, eternal; and I am Spirit. Correct* any and all error thoughts so that you are ready for the next step.

H stands for *habitual*. Have you ever thought of yourself as a creature of habit? When we were first born our parents had to teach us habits to survive by, and as we grew and evolved we acquired more habits. Some of them were good and some not so good. You see, correcting our thoughts and feelings can become *habitual* through repetition. Once we learn to use the spiritual correction fluid and replace the error with Truth, it becomes a habit which becomes the second step in creating change.

The third letter is *a* which stands for *attitudes*. Our attitudes are reflected by our reactions and responses. They can become so imbedded that they seem natural, but actually they are not. Modern terminology says that our reactions and responses are taped. Taped responses and reactions seem natural because they are automatic; however, as mentioned in the previous step, habitual repetition changes us. Observing our reactions and responses to certain conditions and circumstances will show us those needed changes. For instance,

what attitudes do we show forth when someone cuts in front of us in traffic? Remember, that spiritual correction fluid allows us to fill in a new habit by responding in a true way. Recognition of all persons as children of God, wherever they are in awareness, helps us bless situations in traffic rather than curse them. I know it sounds difficult to bless someone who almost caused an accident or who has been very rude. However, I began reprogramming my taped responses with my freeway experiences. Freeway driving provides am-

Christ Life

By Marlene Abdulky

In quiet confidence
the rose gives forth
each petal from
within its depths,
perfectly formed
in grace
and love.

Much like the rose,
the Christ
is found within
then blossoms out,
reflecting forth
God's glory
in our lives.



ple opportunity to reprogram responses and reactions by observing yourself and stopping your previous response, using that spiritual correction fluid and replacing it with a desirable one.

When I began this process of blessing instead of condemning, a thought suddenly occurred to me. In the past I had probably offended someone with my driving without meaning to and I certainly wanted to be blessed rather than cursed. Always remember that it is not the action you are blessing, it's the person. Be patient with yourself and give things the "light touch." Shed the light of Truth on all situations. Repetition will form the habit thus resulting in a changed *attitude*. This enables you to move on to the fourth letter.

The fourth letter is *n* which stands for *now*. Life can only be lived in the *now*. Each moment is *now*; it is neither past nor future. If we can truly live in the *now* we can make our corrections successfully. *Now* living is the timeless beginning, for there is no procrastination in *now* living. Take each day one step at a time until habits form and attitudes change *now*.

The *g* stands for *gain*. When we correct habitual attitudes in the *now* we *gain*. Freedom is

our biggest gain, because we gain freedom in mind, body, and affairs by using these previous steps. Life is a progression of change which leads to all spiritual gain.

The final letter, *e*, stands for *effects*. When we use spiritual correction fluid on our thinking and feeling, we put new right causes into motion and the end result is that the *effects* change in our life. As in our formula, the letter *e* is the last, so in our lives we see the *effects* last. The inner *change* must take place by correcting the *habitual* unwanted *attitude* in the *now*; then we will *gain* freedom through changed *effects* in our life.

Take Charge Now

As Paul said: "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." In other words, *change—correcting habitual attitudes now gains effects*—that's what change is all about. You are never too old, too sick, too young, or too poor to enter into the timeless beginning of change.

Take charge of your world and begin this new year by reevaluating and rededicating yourself to a better way of life.

SHE LAY STILL as death, staring wide-eyed at the ceiling. Her white garment, bloodstained and rumpled, draped loosely on her emaciated body. Only her face showed traces of former beauty—fine-textured skin, large dark eyes, and a soft, expressive mouth.

She scanned the room without moving her head, and her lips moved silently. This was the place of her birth, and would soon be the final resting place of a futile life. The cursed bleeding from her womb had drained her completely—of strength, money, and faith in God. She shivered in angry rebellion at the thought of death, too

Reach Out in Faith

BY WALTER A. MATTHEISS

weak for any more screaming protests against an unresponsive Jehovah. Why had she been stricken? What had she done to be snatched from a devoted husband and a newborn child? How had she sinned?

Indomitable willpower had brought her home. Why? To die amidst memories of a dead faith? She paused in reflection and, like a breath of light, knew why she had survived the grueling journey. Faith is everlasting, a gift that is beyond earthly repudiation. Human hope was dying, but still faith cried out one more humble plea. Her voice was barely audible.

“Tell Me My Sin”

“Jehovah, God of my father Abraham, tell me my sin or let me die.” As though released, she slipped into oblivion. It seemed but moments later that she opened her eyes, feeling as though she had transcended this life. A stocky maiden looked down on her with a friendly smile.

“Mistress Azelia? I am Mahalah, bondmaid in the household of Rabbi Jairus, come to serve you.”

She was fully awake now. “You are new.”

“Five years have I served Rabbi Jairus.”

“Five years,” she mused. “You were a child playing with dolls when I ran away from home.”

Mahalah smiled; her face radiated warmth. "Are you strong enough to get up? I brought corn cakes and slices of mutton."

"I feel no hunger, though I should eat to regain my strength. Would you wash my body that I might feel refreshed?"

She watched as the girl filled an earthenware basin from the water crock and returned to lift her to a sitting position. She deftly removed the stained garment and washed her body gently and thoroughly. Azelia looked down on her scarred, wrinkled body.

"I am an old woman, Mahalah."

"Oh no, Mistress Azelia, you are not yet thirty."

"I am weak and tired . . . and old."

The girl slipped a clean garment over her head and lifted her to the high-backed chair, the only piece of furniture in the room. Mahalah squatted on a seating pad on the earth floor while Azelia ate slowly, without appetite, and soon pushed it aside.

"How did Jairus know I had come home?" Her face reflected curiosity.

"The master has many friends who keep him informed."

Azelia eyed her seachingly. "Do you know about me?"

"Master Jairus told me."

"What did the good Jairus say about me?"

"He told me that you had an issue of blood since the birth of Sharai, and have traveled to many distant lands seeking a cure, and now you have come home."

No Hope?

"Jairus always was a man of few words. Some things he would rather not speak of, but I have no reason to hide the truth." Her tone was mocking. "The priests provoked me to seek pagan gods. For two years Jairus brought costly gifts to the altar while they intoned prayers enough to stir the dead. The sacrificial animals were unblemished, but obviously I was not, for their flow of blood did not stem mine. It was the last straw when that sly Rabbi Jabez hinted of some evil in my life for which I was being punished." She mimicked his authoritative tone. "'Confess it to me and offer atonement, or there is no hope for you.'" Her voice rose in anger. "Could I confess what I did not know? He said my stubborn pride would lead me to destruction." Her mood changed to mild bitterness. "If he spoke for Jehovah, I was already judged a sinner and shut off from all hope."

Mahalah listened in shocked silence. Then she asked: "Jairus said nothing about divorce?"

"I insisted he give me a bill of divorcement, but he refused. When Rabbi Jabez demanded that I confess my sin, I drove him out. 'Seek your evil confessions elsewhere,' I shouted at him. 'I am clean though I shed the last drop of my blood.' " Anger gave power to her voice, but now she drooped wearily. "After that, Jairus had no choice but to give me a bill of divorcement. I moved in here for a while and then started on an endless search for a cure, goaded by a burning passion to get well in spite of the priests. Jairus was good; he continued to supply all my needs. I will not waste any more of his money."

Mahalah regarded her affectionately. "Do not tire yourself, Mistress Azelia. There is yet hope."

She laughed sardonically. "Hope had sustained me to suffer many tortures under the guise of healing. But now, I have exhausted all hope." She leaned back, gazing reflectively. "My daughter... how is she?"

"Sharai is like a frail flower, so beautiful and delicate. But she is not well; Master Jairus is deeply concerned."

Tears filmed Azelia's eyes.



Walter A. Mattheiss

"I have not seen her for more than ten years. She would not know me, and there is little chance she ever will."

A New Healer

"Master Jairus is heartened; he says you have returned at an opportune time. There is a new healer."

Azelia stared coldly. "A new healer? I have come home to die, and you tantalize me in my last moments. Does this healer have a form of torture I have not yet tried?" Hatred contorted her features. "A curse on all healers; they are tormentors from satan, and extortioners, who prey upon helpless souls and drive them deeper into hell." She sank back in exhaustion. Mahalah, frightened

by her vehemence, sat in rigid silence. Azelia's tenseness subsided.

She smiled wanly. "Forgive me, dear one. I should not have poured out my bitterness on you."

Reassured, Mahalah spoke from her heart. "From the time Master Jairus spoke of you, I have prayed to Jehovah for your recovery."

"Thank you, Mahalah. Tell me about your new healer."

"He is a teacher called Jesus, who speaks intimately of God and calls Himself the Son of man."

"I have never heard of Him. Is He from the Temple in Jerusalem?"

"He comes from Nazareth."

"That shabby village in the hills of Galilee?" she sounded disappointed. "What does He do there?"

Unity Churches, Centers, and Teachers

If you would like to know the location of your nearest Unity church or center, and cannot find it listed in your telephone directory, please write to The Association of Unity Churches, Unity Village, Mo. 64065. They will be glad to give you any desired information about Unity churches or classes in your vicinity.

"He is a carpenter, but Master Jairus has said He speaks with authority, not like the scribes. He calls Jehovah Father, and speaks of a new kingdom on Earth. The Pharisees oppose His teachings."

"How is it that Jairus approves of Him?"

Mahalah hesitated, and answered haltingly. "It is not for me, a bondmaid, to judge my master, but all good men are attracted to Jesus of Nazareth."

No Violence

"Does He have enough followers to cast out the Romans and establish His new kingdom?"

Mahalah shook her head. "He does not teach violence. He says we must return evil with good, and do more than is expected of us." Her voice softened as though sharing a secret. "Jehovah is not to be found in the heavens; His Spirit dwells within you, and me, and everyone. That is the nature of the new kingdom."

"Jehovah has shown no life in me." Azelia commented wryly.

Mahalah's tone was persuasive. "He heals by faith. By the power of God within you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will."

Azelia laughed mockingly. "Prayers? My tongue is worn smooth from endless praying. What good has it done? By Jehovah's silence I know not whether my prayers were rejected or even heard. Have I not shown belief enough, suffering without complaint?"

Mahalah gazed at her with compassion. Azelia spoke without turning her head. "What healing has He done?"

"Everyone is talking about His amazing deeds," Mahalah said warmly. "Last week as He came ashore near Gadara, He was met by a man possessed by many demons. He was so wild and dangerous, they had bound him in chains, but no chains could hold him; he was living..."

Azelia interrupted impatiently. "Enough of the details, Mahalah; what has He done?"

"Yes, Mistress Azelia," she said meekly. "Jesus cast out all the demons and they entered a herd of swine." She looked to Azelia for approval, but her eyes were closed as though in sleep.

"In Capernaum, they brought a man who was paralyzed in the legs and could not walk. He healed him and the man picked up his bed and ran home. And in the synagogue on the Sabbath, He healed a man with a withered right hand. The Pharisees were furious be-

cause He had desecrated the Sabbath." Azelia smiled knowingly. Mahalah was encouraged. "As Jesus entered the city of Nain, the only son of a widow was being carried to his burial tomb. Jesus had compassion for the woman and awakened her son from death. All of the mourners witnessed this spectacle." Azelia turned her head to listen. "In Bethsaida, He healed a leper; and it is said two more persons were healed in Capernaum."

Azelia leaned forward and asked, "How does He perform all these works?" Mahalah hesitated, puzzled by the question, so Azelia added, "What does one have to do to be healed?"

The Need for Faith

"Oh. He asks only that you have faith. And it happens immediately according to your faith."

Azelia sat upright and stared at Mahalah in disbelief. "And many have been healed this way?"

"People have flocked from all over the countryside to be healed. Sometimes He touches the spot to be cured."

Azelia sank back and closed her eyes. Could this be, to heal with words or a touch? Her treatments had been like the

(Continued on page 60)



1980 IS A "political year!" It is a fever that strikes the country at least once every four years. All year long we will be bombarded with *pols* pointing with pride and viewing with alarm, and with *polls* forecasting who is in favor of what party and what issue. One of

the alarms that everyone seems to agree upon is that among the increasing number of uncommitted people, a large percentage may be so turned off on the system as it is working that they are not going to vote at all. In a democratic country this is, or should be, a source of great concern. It is truly a national crisis.

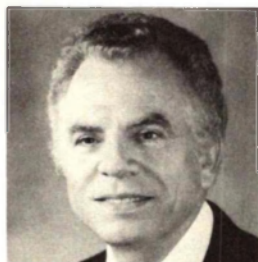
It is interesting that the word "crisis" translates to Chinese by making use of two word symbols: "danger" plus "opportunity." The alarming percentage of non-voters in recent elections is dangerous, because it actually puts more and more power into the hands of fewer and fewer people. But it is an opportunity, for it seems to indicate a readiness for a new kind of politics. We are seeing the progressive emergence of a "grass roots" attitude. The traditional concern in our two-party system has been with outlining differences. Now there seems to be a growing interest in identifying likenesses. The political view has always been divisive. There is a new concept in which there is an interest in some kind of unity. Whereas the politician has tried to put across a point of view, the new politics may be looking for a point of contact. Whereas viewpoints have been based on a simplistic definition and black-and-white

analysis of what is wrong with the country, there is a new concern with trying to determine what is right with the country and with people, and with what is good for the whole.

In our system there is a great deal of emphasis placed upon who or what to vote for, with great chauvinism relative to voting the straight-party ticket. Perhaps the new politics that is emerging is more aware of the need for every person to know himself first, and then to vote out of that self-awareness. In other words, more important than who or what to vote for is the personal need to vote *from* a consciousness of one's own contact with the divine flow of guidance. George Washington called this, "a tiny celestial spark which one may desecrate but never quite lose." This inner spark must light the lamps of polling places on Election Day. People voting in self-awareness will bring together a national referendum that will truly be the will of God. This, in the sense of the Latin axiom that "the will of God is the will of the people."

"Follow the Gleam"

The polls put much pressure on people to get on this or that bandwagon. This would tend to preclude any personal assessment of what is right or wrong.



Eric Butterworth

Join the party. It will decide the issues for you. This is the subtle appeal. Emerson had a thought about this that is beautifully apropos: "A sect or party is an elegant incognito devised to save a man from the vexation of thinking." It is a whimsical comment, but an important observation. How important it is that, as persons, we respect the flow of our own reason and good judgment. Emerson also said, "There is guidance for each one of us and by lowly listening we will hear the right word." How important is it that we take the time to "lowly listen," and that we courageously "follow the gleam."

There may well be a need in our land for a new party. Not a new divisive political party, for we have more parties than can conveniently fit onto the ballot as it is. No, we are not advocating a new line on the ballot, a new lever on the voting

machine. We are referring to a new perspective for the individual voter, the need to become a party to a new awareness, a new insight into the reality of wholeness.

Edwin Markham sings, "He drew a circle that shut me out, heretic rebel, a thing to flout; but love and I had the wit to win; we drew a circle that took him in." How often it appears that there is a deep divisiveness that shuts us out of an issue because of the compulsion to be for or against it. The result is we get shut out by this faction or that group. People are beginning to sense that all issues cannot be reduced to a simple yes or no vote, that there is a transcendent view that relates to wholes. People who are disenchanted with the political system of the country need to be encouraged to have confidence in themselves and their own unique flow of guidance. There are times when everyone may need to stand steadfast in his conviction to deal with wholes rather than parts. It is a very simple need to say, "Though I may choose to vote for this or that party, or person, or issue, fundamentally, I am voting for God."

On Election Day when you walk into the voting booth, you are faced immediately with all those levers, calling for many decisions about propositions

and candidates and issues. Why not use the ideal of Edwin Markham. Let your first move be to draw a circle of love around the whole thing. Not literally, of course, but in consciousness. Bless the whole election, and the voting process. Bless the politicians involved, and the parties, and the issues, and all the advocates for and against. Before you make your decisions and take your choices, draw a figurative circle of wholeness around the entire country and its Election Day procedures. Let your first vote be for God as a powerful Presence surrounding the nation as a whole and all the citizens of the land in particular. Lovingly rejoice in the realization that all persons on every side of every issue are spiritual beings, and that we are all part of one great society. Shakespeare says, "There is a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will." Become aware, in a moment of profound thought, that there is a divinity involved in the whole election process that will regulate and direct the destiny of the nation, no matter how we vote, or how other people vote. Have faith in the process, the divine process that is at work through all the day and in all the polling places in the country. Let your first vote be for wholeness, for unity. And trust

the process completely.

Circles of Wholeness

The practice of drawing circles of wholeness can be a helpful technique through the long campaigns of the political season. Whenever a politician or commentator begins to talk about something that is disturbingly divisive, or negatively details how bad things are, just stop for a moment, turn your thoughts within, and draw a circle of love and wholeness around him or her. This is not to suggest that you close your mind or refuse to listen. But it suggests that you "stand on the vantage ground of Truth" as you consider the discussion with sincere objectivity. This way you will keep the awareness of unity. The politician may be urging you to vote for *him* on Election Day; but if you draw a circle of love and wholeness around him whenever you hear his voice, you will be voting for God day by day.

If you are interested in the *unity party*, you will want to take inventory of the attitudes that influence so much of your thinking. "Prejudice" is a word that is overworked in our time; but it is true that many of us have our share of preconceived notions about things and about people. It is the "love-and-hate-

at-first-sight syndrome." How often we make snap judgments, and then work intensely to justify them. It is not possible to really love or really hate anyone at first sight and on first hearing. But through the visual impact of the television screen we do tend to make judgments based on appearances. This is something a whole person will work to overcome. You can never hate a person you don't know, and you can never really know a person through the haze of prejudice. Thus we need to work diligently to overcome the tendency to react emotionally to people and to issues. In every case, form the habit of drawing the circle of love around the person giving the talk, no matter what he outwardly represents, and no matter that (and especially if) you have an instant negative reaction because he is on the "other side." You have failed yourself and limited the democratic process unless you can listen with an open mind, and in a "Namaskar consciousness." (*Namaskar* is a Hindustani word that means "the divinity within me salutes the divinity within you.")

A popular election procedure is to have the key candidates featured in a debate of the issues. It is a marvelous opportunity to be a strong advocate of the *unity party*. Draw the

circle of love and wholeness around the various parties involved in the debate. Emmet Fox once wrote that in all disputes or bargaining sessions or peace conferences, "God is on both sides of the table." Issues may be clearly defined, but God is on both sides. It is important that you know this for yourself to enable you to keep yourself in the divine flow of guidance. But while you are knowing it for yourself, you are projecting a very real and powerful blessing that will have its influence on the whole process of the debate and the people listening to it.

This is a practical technique that can be used in many different ways. For instance, if you see two people squabbling on the street, in the office, or in

your home, in consciousness draw a circle of love around them. Establish yourself instantly in the feeling that there is a basic unity that binds them together, even if they do not know it, and though they may not act like it. Should there be a challenge in your business or with some labor negotiation, something that may be a threat to your job or to the economy as a whole, draw a circle of love and wholeness around the situation. Cast your vote for God! Be a strong representative of the *unity party*.

A Divine Process

"Blessed are the peacemakers," said Jesus. You can become one, for that is what the *unity party* is about. You

Prosperity Through Creativity

Some of us shy from the word *creativity*. We think it has to do only with artists and writers and musicians. But every moment we are creating, for every moment we are thinking or speaking or doing something. Each word, each thought, each action changes our life. With them we create what we are as individuals and what we experience. Our life is truly created—by us. We use our creativity either for us or against us. When we are negative, or accept negative ideas, we create experiences we do not like; when we develop faith and understanding of our relationship with God, we are creating good for ourself and for those close to us.—*Mary Katherine MacDougall*.

can become a silent majority in all relationships, all discussions, all election processes. Know that there is a "divine process that shapes our ends no matter what we do." In this consciousness you will be an influence, for you will be on the side of solutions instead of being on the side of problems. And you will be impervious to all the cynicism and jaded views and the tired clichés. No matter what "they" say about the sad state of things in the world, you can keep alive the realization of the goodness of mankind and the ideals of the nation. Draw the circle of love around all persons and you will see from the perspective of wholeness. As Paul says, "When that which is perfect is come (into consciousness), that which is in part shall be done away."

Join the *unity party* and become an active worker in its campaign. Of course we do not mean an involvement instead of, but rather in addition to how you deal with your actual political inclinations. You see, you are actually a participant in the political process just by your attitudes and thoughts. The good Truth student will want to be sure that the influence of his consciousness is unitive and not divisive. Your work for the *unity party*, the party of transcendence, can be

a great underground activity of loving and blessing, working between the party lines, around and between people.

Certainly you should carefully evaluate the issues involved in any democratic election, and the choices available in terms of the candidates to support. Of course, you should give your support and your vote to those potential leaders whom you really believe will best serve the country. But don't become deluded with the politician's inference that the choice is between everything or nothing, between "heaven" or "hell." Lend your support to that which you sincerely believe is right. But be humble enough to believe that God is on both sides of the issues and that the election outcome will be that which the nation needs at this time. Go to sleep on election night completely secure in the awareness that "God is in charge and all is well." This is to cast your ballot for unity, for love, for peace, and for divine order.

Understand, the *unity party* is not an organization. There is nothing to join, except to unify yourself in consciousness with the flow of good. There is no party line to endorse, other than a sincere conviction that the right leaders will be called at the right time to do just the right things. And there is no

commitment required, except the willingness to work diligently in the campaign of drawing the circle of love and wholeness around all campaigns and all candidates and all issues. When you work with the *unity party* you are always on the winning side.

Consciousness the Key

The exciting part of it all is that numbers do not count. Pollsters will be telling us the percentages of the populace who are for this or that party or candidate. But consciousness is the key. Deuteronomy suggests that two shall put 10,000 to flight. More dramatically, "one on God's side is a majority!" One person centered in the consciousness of love, diligently drawing the circle of love everywhere, will assure victory for the *unity party*.

So, as a student of this new insight in Truth, you are invited to join the party. The coming election may well be crucial for the affairs of the nation, and of the world. Keep yourself in "perfect peace" and become an instrument of that peace in all you think and say and do in the campaign that lies ahead. Be a peacemaker. Draw the circle of love and wholeness. Deal with all the people involved in the election

in the Namaskar consciousness. Affirm often, "The divinity within me salutes the divinity within you."

And, lest you feel that one person is quite helpless in the face of all the forces involved, just keep in mind that beautiful conviction voiced by Canon Farrar:

"I am only one,
But I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something.
What I can do I ought to do,
And what I ought to do,
By the grace of God I will do."

You cannot change the election, but you can change your attitudes about it. You can stop worrying and start praying. You can turn from that feeling of hopelessness and helplessness and become a dynamic majority of one. You can put your trust in the ultimate destiny of the nation and the peace of the world, and you can become an active peacemaker. If you do these things, you are already actively campaigning for the *unity party*. Whatever else you do during this election year, be sure to keep alive the campaign for love and unity. You are a most important worker. Keep the faith.

Remember, it's the *unity party* in 1980!



BY MARGARET POUNDERS

Doorways

IN A BOX OF old papers I recently happened upon a letter in my handwriting which read: "To be opened January 1, 1975." Curiously and excitedly I opened it. The paper inside contained the heading: "Goals for 1974." I scanned the page and happily noted that each of the three goals listed had come about in the most beautiful of ways, though at the time I wrote them—11:30 p.m., December 31, 1973—their successful culmination had seemed, if not impossible, unlikely at least.

The letter had been written as a part of a New Year's Eve service. As we had entered the church, each person had been given two pieces of paper and an envelope. On one sheet of paper we wrote our goals for the coming year, then sealed it in the envelope to be opened one year later. On the other sheet we listed conditions or attitudes we wished to overcome. At midnight each of us set fire to the list of negatives by the flame of a candle, then dropped it into a "burning bowl" where it was quickly consumed. I do not recall the things I burned that night. Apparently they were successfully elimi-

nated from my life, since they no longer exist even as memories.

Each year our family attends a Unity Watch Night Service. We have found no more fulfilling way to welcome the new year than with the burning bowl, the setting of goals, with thoughts of God or good for the coming year, and the prayers of like-minded persons. It is an experience of great spiritual power and inspiration. Jesus told us, "If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Guardian of Doorways

It is especially fitting that the Watch Night Service begins during the waning hours of the old year and extends into January. *January* was named for Janus, the Roman god of beginnings. In Roman mythology he is pictured as the guardian of doorways and represented as having two faces, one looking to the past and one to the future. The word *holiday* comes from the Anglo Saxon, "halig daeg," which literally translates as "holy day." A holiday, therefore, is a day of wholeness, health, wealth, and happiness.

Since they are the doorway from the old to the new year, the holidays of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day symbolically represent the denial and affirmative states of mind which bring about wholeness or holiness in every phase of our life.

Many have never realized or experienced the beauty of this symbolism. As we all know, there are more popular ways of celebrating New Year's Eve than attending Watch Night Services. For some it is a time of revelry and overindulgence, thus an overnight lesson in the law of cause and effect, as the celebrant suffers the results of his festive endeavors on the "morning after."

To others, New Year's Day is for observing traditions and superstitions. In some parts of the country black-eyed peas are eaten to insure prosperity for the coming year. It is often a time for families to get together. For many, New Year's Day without at least four football games on television is a New Year's Day wasted.

Amid these observances, very often the spiritual significance of the passing of the old and the coming of the new year is forgotten. Let us not forget life's meaning as we individually prepare for the year 1980. Let us symbolically stand in the doorway with

Janus and look backward to the old year. This is the time to relinquish all things which hold us in bondage to the past. This is the time to deny their power over us. Charles Fillmore described *denial* as the "mental process of erasing from consciousness the false beliefs of the sense mind. Denial clears away belief in evil as reality and thus makes room for the establishing of Truth."

Through denials we free ourselves from all past mistakes of thought, word, or action. It makes no difference what you have done in the past, what you have been, how huge and menacing the results of your deeds might loom. The good news Jesus brought is that when we cease making the error, its effect is no longer a part of our life. As we forgive ourselves, we are no longer the same person who erred. We are, indeed, a new creation.

Denying Self

Jesus said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself. . . ." The self he admonished us to deny is that self which believes the unreal to be real, the false to be true. We lose nothing by denying this self, for it never really existed at all. The "me" Jesus told us to follow is our own indwelling Christ, the Lord of our

Being, our eternal Self.

To assist in bringing about this change of mind, verbally declare: *I relinquish all persons or situations that I have allowed to imprison me. I free them to their highest good. I also free the self I once was from the prison created by my own misunderstanding of life.* Then with the psalmist say, "Create in me a clean heart, O God and put a new and right spirit within me."

New Year's Day is an affirmation to beginnings. Mr.

Midway

By John D. Engle, Jr.

Ever the green memory
of youth,
ever the ripe memory
of love.
The first,
a mountain stream
weaving its music
in my veins;
the other,
a slow, warm wind
passing velvet hands
over the flowering meadows
of meditation.
God leans lightly
against my mind
and smiles,
blessing all my dreams
before their birth.

Fillmore described affirmations as positive statements of Truth by which "we claim and appropriate that which is ours. . . . The 'yes' action of the mind; . . . the mental movement that asserts confidently and persistently the Truth of Being in the face of all appearances to the contrary."

As students of Truth we have every right and reason to go forth into each day with the expectation of joy. Know that even though you do not always have the power to choose the situation you meet as you journey through life, you do have the God-given free will to choose the way you will think and act within those situations. And when you refrain from calling a condition, "bad," "frightful," "fear-some," as you change your attitude regarding that circumstance, as you change the inner vision of your self, a real miracle occurs. The outer circumstance changes accordingly.

In describing this affirmative state of life, the apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians wrote, "Do I make my plans like a worldly man, ready to say Yes and No at once? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes or No. For the son of God, Jesus Christ . . . was not Yes and No; but in him it is always

Yes."

As we approach the new year, let your word be a resounding yes! to life. Gratefully and with conviction affirm: *This is the year which the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it! This is the year that my dreams come true. This is the year of my health. This is the year of my prosperity. This is the year of my success. This is the year in which I love and am loved in return.*

It is not necessary that we wait for a particular day to burn the waste from our consciousness in the purifying flames of love. Nor must we wait to set new goals and proclaim the truth of our wholeness. Not only New Year's Day, but every day of the year is a "holy day" designed for the new birth of life and the burying of the dead past.

As we stand in the doorway between the old and the new, we need not be like the two-faced Janus. The past is over and done. We turn from it. The future is unwritten. We can turn from it as well. As the clock approaches the hour and the horns sound at midnight, we look forward into the "now." We salute it, knowing that this moment, this eternal instant is the only one in which we live, and in this moment we live forever.



PRAYER POWER

Excerpts from letters to Silent Unity, quoted with permission of the writers.

Child's Complete Recovery

Dear Silent Unity: My eight-year-old granddaughter was in critical condition when she was rushed to the hospital. Her condition was diagnosed as Reye Syndrome—cause unknown, cure unknown; a disease that kills children.

Prior to this time my daughter had called Silent Unity and asked for prayers. I talked with my granddaughter and told her Jesus would heal her and take care of her. All day I prayed. As my daughter was taking the child to the hospital she asked her mother where Jesus was, and she told her He was right beside her. She became unconscious.

I drove 250 miles to the hospital. She did not realize I was there until five days later. The first thing she asked me was, "Did you pray?" I told her I had been praying all the time and others were praying for her too.

The doctor said her condition was fatal. I told him there was a Source we had turned to and the doctor said, "Hold on to it, because that is all you have to hold

on to now."

S— was between life and death for five days. Then she was transferred from ICU to the children's ward. Two days later she was released from the hospital and walked out on her own. Praise God! During the crisis, her father gave his life to God. In our conversation with you I had asked you to remember the family members that were not in touch with God, and He answered in a powerful way.

The doctor has given S— a clean bill of health. Praise God! She tells everyone, "Jesus healed me," and He did. She has always been a very active child, demanding her way, but now she is very calm and you can reason with her.

I want to say thanks a million for your toll free number for use in a time of crisis. I praise God for



THE LIGHTED WINDOW AT SILENT UNITY

To call for prayer help, phone (816) 251-2100. (If you have an urgent need and have no means of paying for a call, dial our toll-free number: 800-821-2935.)

A Message fr

"Some day scientists will be able to measure the energy that is exerted by prayer. But for now I know from experience that it is a powerful one," one of our friends wrote to us recently.

Many of the letters written to Silent Unity come across my desk. Often I read in them how people called us in the night full of anxiety and pain, unable to sleep, and after we had prayed with them, given them some words of assurance, a prayer to use, they had hardly hung up the telephone and begun to pray before they fell asleep, and when they awoke in the morning, the pain and anxiety were gone.

When I read such a letter, I always think with a grateful thrill, "Oh what a power there is in faith-filled prayer!" There is no doubt in my mind about

how great the power is.

Some day scientists probably will have analyzed the mental and bodily processes involved in faithful prayer, and they will have scientific names and scientific explanations for what occurs. They will no doubt speak authoritatively of electrical discharges in the nerves and chemical reactions in the cells.

There is probably a scientific explanation for everything. The material and spiritual are not separate, but one. They are merely two ways of looking at events.

When scientists find a scientific cause for an event, it does not mean that spiritual forces are not at work, and when the religious claim that certain events are spiritual in nature, it does not mean that scientific causes are not involved. Usu-

Silent Unity and the work that helps countless thousands of people. God richly bless you. — E.M., West Virginia.

Answered Prayer

Dear Friends in Unity: I must write to you and give you a good report

on my husband who had a growth removed from his colon. The doctor reports it was noncancerous, much to our joy and thanks to God and prayer. It seems God meets our daily needs also.

Please continue prayer for us both. A love offering is enclosed in gratitude. — H.G., Florida.

m Silent Unity

ally we just have not looked to see the connection. So I have no doubt that some day scientists will measure the energy of prayer.

But for now, when we hear of healings like these that occur when people call or write Silent Unity, I suppose the best word we have to explain how they occur is *faith*. Faith does not have a very scientific sound, but I imagine there is a tremendous element of faith in most scientific experimentation, too, though scientists, being scientists, do not often call it that. They probably talk about laws and probability tables and balance of nature and the like.

A chemist once told me that there is a point in every experiment when things could just as well go one way as another, but they don't.

All I know about the healing

energy in prayer is that when one prays in faith, lets go and lets God, truly releases the problem, the pain, the troubled mind in the serene conviction that it is being taken care of, a tremendous power pours through the whole being that can change conditions in mind, in body, and in life.

Some day I feel sure scientists will find scientific causes for these spiritual processes. But whatever name they give them, it will still be faith and prayer that set them in motion, and it will still be the ruling order of the universe that is the power that does the work.

As for now, whether we want to think of them as miracles or as the working of unknown scientific laws, let's just be glad that they are there.

Jonas Diller Freeman

Well Again

Dear Silent Unity: Late one night my husband was rushed by emergency ambulance to a hospital. His condition was grave. He was unaware of his surroundings and unable to stand.

I feared the worst, and in my

need called your Prayer Room. Then I felt some calmness, reassurance, and hope.

Early the next morning when I returned to the hospital, I found that there had been great improvement. There was a slight lessening of his fever and a return to full comprehension, although

he had no memory of the events of the previous night.

He is now well again. I know that the healing was accomplished by your faith in the living Christ power within. We are both tremendously grateful for your prayers. — *D.G.R., Florida.*

Quick Recovery

Dear Unity: Thank you for the reassuring blessings from your Prayer Room when I phoned you.

We had taken my husband to the hospital for gallbladder surgery. They had to perform surgery the same day we got there as conditions had become acute.

When I phoned, the prayer given to me was "the healing currents of health are making you whole." Four hours later my husband was back in his room and he was stabilizing so successfully that he bypassed the intensive care unit.

The following morning his nurse, smiling, said, "Spring forth," and he was on his feet. His healing has been almost instantaneous and he was back to work in two weeks.

Again, my very great love to all of you in your powerful prayer program. — *A.L., Illinois.*

Financial Pressure

Dear Unity: I wrote to you with a special prayer need. We were having much financial pressure

and there was a seemingly insolvable situation involving other people that kept us under this pressure. Strained conditions had existed for more than a year. My husband and I prayed constantly during that year and meditated about the problems we faced. During that time I sought Unity's help often.

We made it through those months of worry and pressure and three weeks ago the situation resolved itself. The people involved, who had made things so difficult for us, who have behaved in a selfish and angry way, made a complete change and became fair and worked with us even more than was ever expected. Truth prevailed and a miracle took place. A final meeting was held, and although we knew in our hearts that God answers prayer and we knew how long we had prayed, we were not prepared for the shock we felt when these people changed their minds and our problems were completely solved in a matter of less than an hour.

We fell to our knees and cried tears of joy when we were alone, for we knew what we had just witnessed and experienced. Praise and glory to God. Thank you, Silent Unity, for helping, guiding, consoling, and praying for our situation.

Please accept our love offering to be used to further help others in Unity's work of Truth. — *R.L.B., Tennessee.*

A "HEAVENLY" BLUE RAINCAPE

BY RITA H. FIGULSKI



THE PAST PROVIDES a treasure chest of memories. When the vital force of a memory lifts the lid of that chest and propels the memory

into the present, it can often bring fresh insight into one's clouded perceptions.

A memory strong with meaning for me is of a time when I was seven years old and on a shopping trip with my mother. A blue raincape (with a hood!) captivated my attention as I stood, eyes shining, looking at it in a store window. It was too beautiful to think of having, for in those days luxuries were out of reach. I didn't ask for it; but one dark, rainy morning as I was leaving for school, I went to get my coat and found, instead, that beautiful, unobtain-

able blue raincape-with-a-hood. To a child of seven it was a miracle. Now I know that it was the miracle of Mother. She did not have to be told of my longing for that blue raincape, for she saw the shining eyes of her little daughter looking at a dream, heard her heart speaking, and she made that dream come true.

I walked to school in the rain feeling so safe, so secure, and so loved in my blue raincape. Now that the raindrops could no longer get me wet, they became my friends and pattered a little tune on my rain hood. My memory brings back the distinct feeling I had that if that raincape could have so miraculously appeared without having been asked for, certainly there was nothing that was really

impossible.

As I reflect on the warmth of my mother's love as she wrapped me in my raincape, I realize that it was God's love flowing to her, inspiring her to let that love flow to me, planting in the fertile soil of a child's consciousness the seeds of faith, confidence, and love. This memory reminds me that when I am willing to be aware and receptive, His love and guidance will always be manifest in my life in ways that are

just as warm, real, and practical as my mother's insights were into my needs as a child. My Mother-Father God knows all about "heavenly" blue rain-apes.

The past is always linked with the present, and in the present are the settings of the future. Someday, sit quietly and let a memory-jewel slip out of your treasure chest and then let Him lead your reflections toward the many faceted diamond He wants your life to be.

From the Writings of Charles Fillmore

All Things Made New

"BEHOLD, ALL THINGS are become new." It will make a great difference what kind of thoughts you hold in mind during the new year; and every year; in fact, every day and every minute. "Now is the acceptable time." New ideas make new things. A new year with old thoughts simply perpetuates the old year. You must have new thoughts if you want a new year.

This passage from the Revelation quotes the Lord God as

saying, "Behold, all things are become new." To you, the individual, it is the *I*, the Lord of your consciousness; it is that in you which decides. It is the lawmaker that says, "I make all things new." The *I* is never old. It lives in the now, in the beginning. This divine *I* is in each individual. We may have thought that the great overruling law is outside ourself; but as we enter the new year, let us realize that the *I* that makes all things new is within.

"The Lord said unto my Lord,
Sit thou on my right hand,
Til I put thine enemies
underneath thy feet."

The mind must be inspired by a tremendous ideal. What is your ideal? To what end are you working? You desire unity, harmony, and accord in all the forces of your mind? Then concentrate all your thoughts and your efforts to one end—the accomplishment of your ideal. Paul said: "But one thing *I do*."

One Great Purpose

Refuse to let discord or indefinite activities turn you aside from your one great purpose.

Your ideal must express itself in a formed objective. If, for example, you have your highest ideal in the Christ and you are studying and striving to think and live the very highest in you, you must throw the full force of your thought on the glorification of all your faculties after the Christ pattern.

Jesus said: "Verily I say unto you, that ye who have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." This means

that when the ideal is glorified and has attained the mastery, all the twelve powers of the mind will reflect that glory and in their sphere of action exercise like power and dominion.

Just as before the worlds were formed creative Mind was quiescent and contemplative, so realize that you are centered and poised in Christ and are peaceful and meditative, that the image of your perfect world is now formed in Divine Mind, ready to come forth into manifestation.

The idea of perfection is Christ, the first-born of every creation; and Christ becomes manifest through the Holy Spirit. You are God's idea of a perfect creation; and when you come into the time of unfoldment, when your perfection is in the ascendancy, divine principles will organize in your life to the extent that the Christ is placed in control. Then you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Then the Holy Spirit will become mediator between God and you. "For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men."

Trinity Defined

The Father is always first in the divine Trinity, the Son, second, and the Holy Spirit, third. The function of the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of truth, is

to reveal to you the deep things of Spirit; to guide you into the experiences that are for your highest good; to reprove you when necessary; to judge the real motive behind your every act; and to instruct you in all ways. The Holy Spirit is the law of God in action, always working to perfect the soul. The Holy Spirit comes into conscious touch with the life in you at many points until you are enveloped in its power. In the light of the Holy Spirit, the soul may seem to take on the characteristics of personality, but far transcending the personality of the intellectual person.

The Bible is full of instances bearing testimony of the Spirit of truth. Every book of the Bible has many incidents that bear proof of the direct and personal interest of the Holy Spirit in all our affairs. The Holy Spirit is God manifest. "Jehovah looked forth upon the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of cloud." The Children of Israel were guided out of Egypt into the Promised Land by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit "goest before them, in a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night."

Joseph, the espoused of Mary, was led by the Holy Spirit to take Mary and the infant Jesus into Egypt to pro-

tect the young child's life. "Behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I tell thee: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

Paul was guided continually by the Holy Spirit. "The Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer; for as thou hast testified concerning me at Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome."

The Revelation came to John when he was lifted up, or inspired, by the Holy Spirit.

By separating ourself from God in consciousness, we shut out of our life the help of the indwelling Guide. But Christ connects us with our spiritual Source and opens the way by which we can receive direct communication from God. Jesus spent whole nights in prayer and meditation, until His very breath emanated the Holy Spirit. He became so at one with God through the Holy Spirit that He "breathed upon them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit."

The "good tidings," or gospel of Jesus Christ, is that everyone shall become the "only begotten Son," just as Jesus was and is. "In that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in

you." The only way we can be in the Father as Jesus was is to have the same consciousness that Jesus had. To be one in the Father, as He is one, and thereby fulfill His prayer, we must be equal with Jesus and able to do the works that He did. If we have a sense of inferiority, if we feel that Jesus had greater wisdom, or power, or love than we are capable of unfolding, we are not measuring up to the promise in the Revelation: "He that overcometh, I will give to him to sit down with me in my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let

him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches."

Health and abundance are ours by divine birthright. In Spirit we are even now perfect and whole and prosperous. We awaken the consciousness to that which is already finished in Spirit. The word *Jerusalem* means, "Habitation of peace." The city of Jerusalem is the great city of spirituality, the city founded on perfect peace. Thoughts emanating from this spiritual consciousness radiate peace, abundance, faith, power, and love. We must have these qualities before we can reach high spiritual unfoldment.


The Next Ascent

By Joan H. Ward

Aging
is like a rose
clinging to the bud of youth
until
the petals of understanding unfold
and ascend to a radiant bloom.

The rose
pauses in glorious consummation—
then surrenders to the Creator
only to pause
in timelessness again
before the next ascent.

There is a certain power in an intellectual perception of all good things, but there is a greater power in spiritual realization. During this New Year's season let us realize and know that the principles of Truth, rightly applied, are able to work out any problem for us. When we make that inner union with God-Mind to the ex-

tent that we can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we come to know what Jesus meant when He said: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." "I make all things new." 



ILLUMINATION—Happy, joyous thoughts open the way for the ever-present Father-Mind to pour its splendid resources into our mind; we are enlightened and inspired. "... every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."

God is light. He directs my path and I am filled with guidance, inspiration, and vision.

HEALING—Jesus taught that God in His divine perfection is intimately associated with us in each of our life's problems. We need only to ask and affirm in His name. If our need is health, this brings new life into our body and begins the healing, harmonizing action.

God is life. His perfection is manifested in my mind and body and I am healed.

PROSPERITY—God's ideas are the source of all that appears. We are realizing there has been prepared for us from the beginning an interpenetrating substance that, like a tenuous bread of heaven, showers us with its abundance.

God is good. He supplies unlimited abundance for my every need and I am prospered.

A Recent Revelation

BY JIM ROSEMERGY

Part IV

“Take, eat; this is my body . . . Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”—Matthew 26:26-28.

“Receive the Holy Spirit.”—John 20:22.

The Sacraments

The Master's View of the Sacraments

LONG AGO, the prophets sought to shatter the idols that man had constructed to worship. These men of God knew there could be no substitutes for Truth. They knew that symbols were a part of man's spiritual life, but that a symbol's value is only in what it represents. If symbols are to have any impact upon your life, they must point to God and Truth. When you fail to look beyond a symbol, it becomes an idol. It is like trying to drink from an empty cup when you are ex-

pecting living water. Your thirst only grows.

If the prophets were to walk the Earth today, their quest would still be to destroy the idols that are worshipped in the streets and on the altars of the temples and the churches. Your puzzled reply might be, "But we know nothing of these idols you speak of." This is because your vision does not extend beyond the idol; therefore, you know nothing of the truth behind the symbols you have been given.

If I asked you these questions, what would be your reply? Can you be baptized without water? Can you partake of the Lord's Supper without the bread and the wine? You can, only if you understand the water, the bread, and the wine to be symbols, not idols. You can if your vision extends beyond the limited horizon of the symbols. If you see a symbol's purpose, you have no real need of that symbol. It becomes only a familiar guide and friend, not to worship, but simply to remind you of the essence of life.

If the River Jordan were to cease flowing, John the Baptist would stand in the dry river bed and still baptize as he did many years ago. John knew that water cleanses only the body and that it is the mind and heart which truly must be cleansed. The water is a friendly reminder of a spiritual process in which one is cleansed of all negative thoughts and feelings. You may receive baptism by John, for to do so is to rid your soul of all that is impure; but you also must receive my baptism.

I never stood beside the River Jordan because I used no symbols. My baptism is of the Holy Spirit. What can I tell you of this Holy One? If the air you breathe is God, then the Holy Spirit is the wind. It is

the movement of God through you into expression. I gave my disciples the key to this baptism when I said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." I foresaw after my death and resurrection a time when these frightened men would turn not to me, but to the Spirit within them. At that moment, they would be receptive to my Father. The infilling would kindle a faith so strong that many would say that fire was dancing upon them. Their infilling came on the Pentecost; yours can begin today. Be receptive, as the little child.

I wish you could have been with my disciples and me in the Upper Room. I wish you could have felt the love and friendship there. I knew it was to be our last time together before the trials were to begin. We shared a meal that would nourish us forever. You have celebrated the supper many times, but many times you have left the table still hungry. It has been as I have said. You have taken the cup to your lips expecting living water and have found the cup to be empty.

I ask you now to come with me to the Upper Room and sit and share the Last Supper. If you seek a room in the city, you will not find me, because the Upper Room is found within your soul. It is a place of communion with the Father in

which you will find enlightenment. You will take the bread in your hands and eat of it and discover such nourishment that you will never hunger again. You will press the cup to your lips and be nourished by living water. You will never thirst again. Since the Upper Room is within your mind, it is in this sacred place that you must uncover the meaning of the bread and the blood.

On one occasion, I told my disciples to beware of the bread of the Pharisees. They amused me when they searched for bread they could hold in their hands; but soon they found I was speaking of the teachings of the religious leaders of our day. Their teachings were not Truth and could give no true nourishment. The bread I offer my disciples and you is my teachings, which are Truth. When you partake of Truth, it brings you nourishment of which you have never dreamed. It is the hidden manna that only the Father can give. When

I spoke of blood, many did not understand. They were thinking of the law which forbids the drinking of blood. Do you not know that I was speaking of life? What is Truth if it is not lived? What is the sun if it does not have an Earth to shine upon? You must drink my blood, for you must live the Truth I gave you. Drink my blood, and you will live a life that even the saints see only as a vision. The physical food and drink you partake of builds your body; so the blood I offer you will build your life. Only you can eat and drink what I have offered. That is why I spoke of eating and drinking so often in my ministry. Who can eat food or drink for you? And how often do you do so? You eat and drink each day; so you must live Truth each day.

Come; a place has been prepared for you at my table. Journey to the Upper Room and sup with me. We shall share a meal that will nourish us forever.

A View of the Master's View

NOW, DO YOU FEEL the message of the sacraments as I do? These mysterious rituals have always intrigued me, yet they seemed to withhold their treasure from me. It is now evident that I thought that the

symbols were the treasure. I was wrong. How many times did I partake of the Lord's Supper, but did not understand the meaning of that sacrament? It is as He has said: I was expecting food and living water; thus

I returned to my seat empty. My first response was to wonder what was wrong with me. The other people appeared so satisfied. One day I had the courage to speak of my emptiness, and it became evident that I was not alone. We ate and drank the symbols, but failed to realize that they were only symbols. Not to understand what the bread and the wine signified is like peering into a bottomless pit—the light is swallowed up in darkness.

But now there is a sacredness to the Lord's Supper that touches me. It is not just a celebration that finds its origin in the distant past in a hidden room; it is a celebration of life. I know that the sacred process of appropriating the Truth and living the Truth in my life is not to be entered into once a month, but once a moment. Hopefully, I can now participate in the Last Supper as I am about my work. I can sit alone upon a hill and sup with the Lord of my being and eat the bread. Then I can rise and enter into life drinking the blood and eating the bread as I live the Truth that I have been given.

I have also been puzzled by the meaning of baptism. Maybe it began years ago when I was held in the arms of a smiling gentleman as he sprinkled water upon me. Perhaps I

wondered what manner of circumstance this might be. Of course, I do not remember the baptism that I had as a child; but I do remember the baptism that occurred later in life. While I was still young, my parents told me of my infant christening, but it held no real meaning for me. As I grew older, I was amused by the smiles and tears upon the faces of the adults in a church service when a child would be baptized. Always the question formed in my mind: how could this beautiful child need to be cleansed of sin? He hasn't even had the opportunity to make the mistakes I have made. I wondered if it wouldn't be better for the minister to wait until the children become adults and then to baptize them. A problem resulted when I became an adult and still did not understand baptism. I noticed that the church used water, but that Jesus did not. Why then was there an insistence upon the use of water? Can you see my dilemma? The standard ideas that surrounded baptism in shrouds of mist left me empty once again. There has to be more, I thought. I could understand the importance of John's baptism and its cleansing; but to me that seemed to be a continuous process.

It is true that you will find if you seek. The Christ Spirit

spoke within me, and I discovered that the baptism is an infilling. I also learned that this movement of the Holy Spirit depended upon me. That is why Jesus' words are so important. Remember that when He baptized His disciples, He enjoined them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Therein lies the key. It is receptivity. We must receive the activity of God into our lives. When we are receptive and open, the infilling will begin. It is like going to answer the door to allow a friend to enter. In this case, the friend is the movement of God into your life. How many times have we not even cracked the door when

Spirit knocked? However, the knocking continues; and when we are open, the blessed experience begins. It is the ability to be receptive and to accept the gift of God that determines the divine flow in our lives. Perhaps the baptism is performed when we are infants because when it occurs we are just beginning life. But every day of my life is now a beginning, for every day I take time to open myself to the Holy Spirit. That simply means that I am receptive to the movement of God into my life. It is as if I can hear the knock at the door, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

(To be continued)

Spirit

By Carol A. Heckman

Like wind that sweeps through branches of a tree
Spirit moves so easily through me.

Like roots of grass within the living Earth
Spirit holds me, nurturing my birth.

Like lightning which illuminates the sky
Spirit lights the path before my eye.

Like notes of music from a singing bird
Spirit sings the joy my heart has heard.



Of Barnacles and Shore Birds



BY MARION IMPOLA

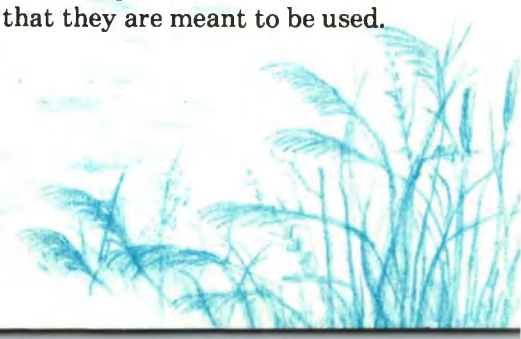
A WINTER STORM rages along the seacoast. Swollen by the high tides of the solstice, waves crash far up the shore, tormenting huge driftwood logs into a frenzy. With every surge, the barnacle-encrusted giants heave and groan against each other, a menace to themselves and to anything else that comes within reach. But there is one slight exception. A bevy of jaunty gray-brown birds, each no larger than a handful of feathers, flits along the battle-scarred logs, picking up bits and pieces of breakfast and twittering genially over the latest gossip. When a wave strikes, the birds simply take wing, circle, and then return to their business.

Not so fortunate are the barnacles. Having fastened their faith and their hopes to the most solid facts of life they could discover, they have spent their energies clamping small calcareous fortresses onto the driftwood. Now, as their refuges crash together, the barnacles can only hold on tighter and hope against hope. Under the circumstances they did the best they could (somewhere along the way even barnacles

may grow wings?).

But blessed are birds; and still more blessed are those children of God who have been given the option of choosing in time of crisis whether to cling more closely to earthbound, solid securities or to go adventuring on wings of prayer into the upper atmosphere of Spirit. The conscious awareness of God's power and presence is a lifting experience. Not being tangible, it may seem even more fragile than the wings of a bird. But its protective upthrust is far more miraculous; and what joyous surprises are waiting up there in the serenity!

Like wings, prayer grows strong through daily use. Given due exercise in everyday affairs, it will always be ready when needed. Then, if storms do strike, if personal or world affairs seem swept into chaos, one needs only to remember as cheerfully as do the shore birds that wings are available—and that they are meant to be used.



THE NEW YEAR AS



YOU LIKE IT

BY GLENN CLAIRMONTE

THE FUTURE IS UPON us, and it is ours.

New Year resolutions were quite the fashion during the 1880s, and even before that, for all I know. They will undoubtedly still be the fashion in the 1980s, for they are eternally within the human aura. They are the constant upreach from what has been to what will be, always signaled by some prophetic motive.

Do you have in your remembrance of the past a day in your teens when some relative gave you a diary with all the new year dates handsomely printed, page by page? You were uplifted at this first suspicion that your daily doings were important enough to be recorded.

You decided, "I'll write down my adventures for all the world to read."

Feverishly you began with a sharpened pencil and a private promise to be faithful to the task. You would tell all, describing the world-shaping happenings at your doorstep. Your personal history would reveal deeply moving events from your youth to your eventual fame; and a clear confession of the glories of your life would inspire later genera-

tions.

Then, after several days of touching the lead tip to tongue and squeezing earnest fingers around the slim yellow pencil, the serious enterprise came to a halt. You glanced at what you had written, and you had misgivings. In shame you tore those pages out of their cover. You had believed that your thoughts could be of use to others, but now blushed at such arrogance.

Of course that short-term effort had been caused by a presumption that your future with its hazy ambitions would be justified in a crystallization of your proud hopes. But now, overtaken by an unusual modesty, you wondered, "What made me place such a high value on my meager self?"

Hard Work Needed

Just the same, your character had this far improved: it could no longer expect unearned success. Any fine outcome could be only the result of patience. Besides, there would be a long trail to any culmination. It was then that you made a discovery: something later to be known as *hard work* made its silent entrance into

the childish plan.

Any good result of any heartily chosen expectation is exactly what resolutions are made of. They are even kin to a commitment—the offspring of determination, an intention to bring about some special desire.

Recently an astronomer began one of his books by quoting Sophocles: "Numberless are the world's wonders, but none more wonderful than mankind." Certainly we people do seem to be Divinity itself, for we are always assuming new value, forever increasing our reach.

We are everlastingly asserting enlarged aims, one after another, never failing to harness them, focusing upon ever new samples of achievement. The president of a famous enterprise once admitted, "The final act of business judgment is intuition." You can see how he was trying to apologize for the miracle of thinking, knowing as he did that a great deal of his own accomplishment had been the result of his humble cogitations.

Others less businesslike have admitted to the habit of "listening inside"—seeking the right answer to any problem that arises as the brain mellows. Isn't all this the proof that a certain pressure within us is constantly uncovering

more and more of our innate worth? We know we are better than we seem to be, and we are steadily expanding, even when we dare not admit that we depend upon the mysterious support of the Self within.

Remote Sensing

The whole human race keeps trying to do better. For example, the worldwide ambition to find out what the moon is made of led us to become more knowledgeable about the elements of the Earth. In order to ferret out information about the moon's attributes we had to develop a lens through which we could survey even the Earth from an elevation, and scientists have named this new method "remote sensing." That expression presents the possibility that much of what has previously been considered too hard to see (and therefore imaginary) has finally become respectable.

The new lens clarifies many things we could not believe in without it, and at last it makes many hard facts acceptable even by a skeptic. Through remote sensing, then, we increase our capacity to study layers of reality long doubted. Landscapes we now see not only from greater distances but also with greater thoroughness. We have learned to analyze colors

of a far scene to the point of determining its variety of foliage and soil and the minerals it contains. A great deal that heretofore was barred by our ignorance is today examined in detail—and found to be surprisingly real.

Having transferred to the study of the Earth the techniques that revealed the surface of the moon, we also tap sounds beyond our former range of hearing. Before long we shall no doubt develop other convenient devices that used to be labeled out of the human range.

Within the natural scheme of things the properties that once did not exist for us now encourage the “practical” student to observe. Realities were once denied because they seemed to be only the product of wishfulness. For instance, how foolish it was to suggest that the circulation of the blood was a fact! But today such a wonder is accepted as ordinary, and even the practice of resolution is at last given its importance.

We Are Explorers

The human race is noted for its talent to explore, both geographically and intellectually. The early voyagers used ships; the recent investigators rely upon computers. We are always experimenting with

new ways to aid and abet human intelligence. The brain itself is now the object of observation, its possible powers examined by the most ambitious of former doubters. Just as the geographical world gradually increased to our view, now various formerly unrealized areas of the mind are recognized. What we used to call *psi* (that is, the unbelievable) we have come to see as an accommodation of our new demands.

A scholar recently said, “We are entering a transitional stage of evolution similar to that of the first sea creatures who laboriously dragged themselves out of the swampy bogs to begin the difficult and complex task of coping with the problems of living on land.”

Yes, and we are now planning to do whatever is required to make it possible for us to create the future as we like it.

Remote sensing gives us more than the telescope can provide, for it encourages our natural intelligence to enlarge. One example is in matters of physical health. Today’s physician claims, “There is growing evidence that, in the future, health will depend upon a vigorous mind.” An Indian sage says the same thing in his own words: “The body should reject illness as energetically as in the mind we reject falsehood.”

And a psychologist now suggests that disease is "nothing but" an out-of-tune behavior of some organ of the body upon which a harmonizing rhythm can be applied, returning that organ to its normal condition. In addition, "This may be the principle of psychic healing"—a remark never in earlier years

heard from the mouth of a scholar.

The Future is Ours

By means of the physical body each of us reveals a personal kind of intelligence, and without fanfare we are all busy at self-orchestration, letting what we are appear through all that we do. It is still a secret as to how a phase of rebirth wells up in us whenever we make a new resolve. But the ego is developing to the point of daring to mold a satisfactory future, and we have already set out upon this task. But the means by which we do this is not wholly visible to everyone.

Somebody once said, "ESP appears to break the laws of Newtonian science, and only electrons can get away with that."

Very well. Let's call our natural impulses the result of the activity of electrons. That makes the result more easily welcomed. We take advantage of our options when we make a resolution, for thus we betray the pressure of the inner quest.

Are we hoping for the future, or are we founding it?

The future is ours—let us make it what we want. Let us choose carefully the resolutions we make, and let us have the gumption to carry them through.

Revelation

By Elizabeth Searle Lamb

The airplane
after takeoff
climbs quickly
through clouds
and suddenly
breaks through
into the joy
of sunshine.

So my spirit
prays through
a fog of doubt
and reaches
suddenly that
still place
where I know
the Oneness.

The sunshine
of joy
floods
my entire being.



Questions on the Quest

... with answers by
MARCUS BACH

THE IDEA To answer readers' questions about anything related to increased spiritual understanding and deeper integrative growth. To discover not only what people are asking but what people are thinking about in the area of beliefs and practices in the world within and without. To help others—and us—in the spiritual search. To stimulate the search itself.

Question: Please deal more with animals and pets! In the kind of world we live in, they are lifesavers, reminding us of virtues we humans seem to have lost.

K.W.

Answer: If I were St. Peter, I
January 1980

would have a special Golden Gate that opened automatically to the touch of a paw or the snuggle of a warm nose, or the friendly wag of a tail. A gate that stood ajar at the flip of a wing, the peck of a beak, the sound of a purr, or the sight of pleading eyes that said, "Please, let me in!"

Life before life, life after life, eternal life, endless life, let's trust God to do right by His creations despite man's frequent inhumanity to those who were created before the Sixth Day.

I can't resist sharing a letter from one Irene Cassidy in upstate New York. She took time out to tell me,

"I agree with you. Pets have souls and some of them understand love better than we two-leggers. Our cat, called Mister, suddenly refused to eat his breakfast. Instead, he turned to the door, complaining bitterly, obviously wanting us to open the door. When we did, he went out and a cat from outside darted in, dashed to Mister's food, gobbled up every morsel and drank the water from the water dish. Then he left. My husband fixed Mister a second breakfast which Mister happily ate. This situation went on for



Marcus Bach

days.

"It became clear that cats have a way of communicating with each other. Out in the yard, the alley cat had obviously said, 'I'm starving! I'm thirsty. No one feeds me. No one at all!' To which Mister obviously replied, 'You come to my door every morning. Be ready. I'll fix my two-leggers so they will open the door. You can have all my breakfast, all my water.'

"Was not this a show of love fully as good as that of many two-leggers? I believe it was."

Thank you, Mister. And thank you, Irene, for your imaginative parable!

MB

Question: As I was leaving my father's funeral in zero degree weather last winter, the flowers said to me, "We are going to freeze tonight." This made me want to gather them all up and take them back to the funeral home and place them into homes. How

sad to leave them out in the cold! I never send flowers for a funeral, but send fruit which can be used as sustenance. What do you think about this?

Eddie S.

Answer: The custom of banking the grave with flowers is becoming more and more outdated. Preference seems to dictate a "living memorial" of some kind, such as a gift to a worthwhile cause or charity or a living plant or a tree designated for some suitable site, such as a park or a greenbelt or the cemetery itself.

Your sentiment about the flowers' fate during zero weather is understandable. I respond to it. However, every time we so much as cut a leaf or pluck a flower, a case can be made for lack of kindness to the members of the flora kingdom. But think of the millions of flowers that bloom unseen, the additional millions that freeze without ever having been gathered, that live, struggle, and die against the elements, untouched by human hands.

What impresses me about your letter is you. You must do what you think is right and best. To give fruit as a funeral courtesy to relatives of the deceased or to offer it in remembrance of the departed is a

custom as old as time. In certain instances, fruit might be appreciated more than flowers. Some cultures believe in giving gifts of gold or ornaments and the like, often with the request that these be buried with the deceased. It is up to you as to what you consider right and proper.

As for my opinion, flowers or even a single flower, given in love, would seem most meaningful to me. Best of all, perhaps, would be a wild flower which has lived at oneness with the elements and knows the nearness and the beauty of the Earth. That would be better than some fragile cultured greenhouse plant. Pick a living flower from the out-of-doors. It might even miraculously endure the frigid cold or, if not, be happy to fulfill a secret, silent mission of love and sharing on a wintry night.

MB

Question: Just where do we separate love and sex? In dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc., the definition of love always seems to include sex, such as a kiss and love, holding hands and love, or a hug and love. The further I go into this study the more sex and love appear to be the rule. Does the Bible state that we

possess more than one kind of love?

Joan O.

Answer: If, by sex, you mean the sexual act or the fulfillment of a desire to express physical affection, you will hardly find the answer in dictionaries or encyclopedias. Nor will you find it in the maze of journals, books, tapes, films, or crash courses on sex, because no one knows the true you and your responses but you. Of course, there is a theory that we are not capable of knowing ourselves, a contention that has given rise to an array of experts, many of whom, helpful in helping others, are seemingly incapable of helping themselves.

Several facts are self-evident. Love craves physical expression. Physical expression is a natural extension of love. The sex drive is coded in individuals along with the love drive, the hunger drive, the drive for self-preservation, and so on. Why can't we take sex in stride as we do our other impulses? Because we realize there are levels of love higher and more lasting than physical gratifications. That is part of the crux of the matter, the awareness that sex is thrilling but love is fulfilling.

Orthodox religion erred in implying that sex is a dirty

word and that all sex is sinful. Liberal religion often makes sexual morality too simplistic. Religious beliefs, cultural conditioning, social customs, physical, mental, spiritual, and psychological factors from imago to environmental influences play their part in the game of love and sex, but the answers are best discovered in your own honest evaluation of yourself, your moral, spiritual, ethical, and esthetic responses and what they do to you.

The evidence is incontrovertible that love based only on sex becomes loveless, that love with sex can be romantic and sex without love can be rape.

The true meaning of love for the Christian is enhanced by a deepened understanding of the love of Christ, both as expressed in the life of Jesus and as a living experience of the Christ-consciousness within oneself. The Bible's language of love, as far as Christianity is concerned, is still I Corinthians 13. Older concepts of love and sex remain distributed throughout the Old Testament in such a tangled fashion that they must by all means be reassessed in the light of our time.

MB

Question: What is Unity's view on birth control? I have three children and frankly

don't want any more. I am using birth control pills now. I don't feel guilty, but I do think it is wrong because it is a foreign substance. Sterilization is also wrong for me. Is there an affirmation one can use to keep from getting pregnant?

Serious

Answer: Unity, unlike dogmatic religious movements, has no stated pronouncement on birth control of the kind found in many other faiths. Authoritarian denominations such as the Roman Catholic Church restrict birth control to the rhythm method which demands periods of sexual abstinence. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, also authoritarian, tells its members that marriage is for the purpose of bringing children into the world and that a couple will "reap disappointment" if sex is indulged in merely for enjoyment. The Mormon Church, generally, is opposed to birth control methods of any kind excepting where inception might endanger the life of the mother.

While most historic churches have doctrines and dogmas governing matters of morals, metaphysical groups are generally more liberal and humanistic. Unity, being Christ-centered, seeks to create a spiri-

tual consciousness on the part of its members by which each person will develop the necessary insight for dealing with personal and ethical responsibilities. The matter of birth control is not singled out any more than are other questions related to moral or personal challenges. Many fundamentally oriented churches are critical of such an approach. They feel it leads to self-justification and sensuousness. Nonetheless, the Unity way is an attempt to raise one's perception above the dogmatic pronouncements. Its working definition of religion is: realize Christ-consciousness and make your decisions on that basis. It recognizes that in marriage both partners are involved in decisions, especially in the subject under discussion. Each can and should help the other in resolving the problem.

As to your request for an affirmation. How about affirming that willpower is better than pill power? You see, your letter reflects a basic dilemma in modern thought, namely *the assumption that solutions to our problems come from sources outside ourselves*, psychoanalysis for every kind of aberration, medication for stress, drugs for sleeplessness, a pill for birth control, even though, as in your case, you feel that it is wrong. The in-

evitable answer to our challenges requires *inner discipline* and *self-discovery*, but the way of the world is to tempt us to look for outer, artificial mechanisms which in the long run merely compound the problem. The pill, vasectomies, and other means of sterilization may be dangerous to health.

Why not think in terms of self-control as well as birth control? Why not try, through Unity or whatever philosophy or way you wish, to tap the spiritual strength and power within yourself to bring your life-style up to your highest ideal? That, after all, is part of everyone's adventure; and in your case, no one can take the responsibility for it but you, yourself.

MB

Question: *Where does the quotation, "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" come from? I read it a lot in Unity literature and might like to make an embroidery design with it. Is the quotation correctly worded?*

Janna M.

Answer: The quotation comes straight out of the Bible and should do well as a sampler, neatly embroidered or needle-pointed. In the Revised Standard Version of the Bible,

Romans 12:2, Paul says, "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of

God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Good sewing!

MB

Reach Out in Faith

(Continued from page 21)

tortures of hell. She would forever taste the acrid concoctions from the apothecaries of Egypt that had burned and knotted her insides with excruciating pain; her skin had shriveled from the mud baths on the Isle of Cos and the hot packs in Pergamum; and the lengthy immersions in the warm springs of Laodicea had merely stained the water with her own blood. Her body still bore the scars from the shock cure in Antioch; the fiendish beatings to induce physical and mental shock had bruised and disabled her for months. Weakened and depressed on the homeward journey through Tarsus and Damascus, she had been refused help from physicians because they feared she might die under the treatment. She had answered a thousand questions about her malady, but no one had ever asked if she believed she could be made well. Why had she endured those cruel tortures when in her heart she had not believed

they would help her? Was this the stumbling block to getting well, her lack of faith?

She came back to Mahalah who had been sympathetically silent during her reflections. "Does Jairus believe in this wonder worker?"

"The master has said this Teacher is sent from God. No ordinary man could perform such wondrous deeds."

"Has Jairus seen any of these healings? Does he know for certain that the men were healed?"

"Master Jairus saw the man in the synagogue after his hand was made whole."

Azelia considered for a moment. "Have you seen the new Teacher, Mahalah?"

Powerful Words

"I have listened to Him several times. He is so gentle and kind, yet His words come forth with such power that I feel cleansed and uplifted from within. I do not know how to explain my feelings."

Azelia chuckled. "He has cast a spell over you." And then seriously, "Where is He now?"

"One never knows. He travels the countryside, arriving and departing unexpectedly, for He is in constant danger."

"Do you believe He can restore me to health?"

Mahalah hesitated. "He has said, 'All things are possible to him who believes.'"

Azelia relaxed. "It is mid-day. You may go now, Mahalah. I am grateful for your help. Will you visit me again?"

"I shall return tomorrow with food and clean garments."

"Express my gratitude to good Jairus."

Mahalah gathered the stained garment and bed covers. She gazed affectionately on Azelia, noting spots of color in her cheeks.

"I left the cakes and mutton, if you get hungry," she said from the doorway.

Azelia did not respond. Her eyes were closed, and she was thinking of the new Teacher with the astonishing power to heal by word and a touch. Jairus, a conservative man, believed in Him. She should have remained here instead of letting pride and spite drive her deeper into hell. Rabbi Jabez had spoken the truth. She had paid in pain and disillusion-

ment to satisfy her rancor against the priests. Was there still time to pierce the bitterness in her heart, to reach the Spirit of Jehovah in her ravaged body? Her breathing quickened. If she could regain her strength and go in search of the Teacher, she might learn from Him how to reach the silent Jehovah. Perhaps Jairus could bring Him here. Would He come?

She lapsed into deep sleep, peaceful and dreamless. A voice seemed to be calling to her—a soft, muted voice. She strained to listen above the chatter of excited voices.

Someone shouted, "Jesus is coming." Azelia lifted herself from the chair and walked unsteadily out the doorway. One thought filled her mind—He is here—as though in answer to her need.

Thrill of Hope

She saw a tall majestic figure in a flowing white mantle at the head of a group of people walking up the slight incline from the shore of Galilee. Many more were gathering from all directions so that He was quickly surrounded. She could still see His face in the midst of the multitude. The fleeting glance of the white-clad figure had sent a thrill of hope through her body—a

spark of elation she had not experienced since her infirmity.

She must not let Him pass, and yet, how could her weak voice be heard above the noisy crowd? What if He ignored her appeal? As she stood irresolutely, inspiration came like a flash. If she could touch His pure garment, she would be made well. There was no time to reflect on the thought, for He was almost opposite her door.

She lunged forward so that her path would intercept His. Intense pain made her stoop, but she clenched her teeth and pushed her way through. Unable to see Him, she kept on determinedly, murmuring apologies as she bumped into others. Dazed by her exertion and feeling her strength waning, she looked up frantically and suddenly saw His white mantle going by. She swerved to follow Him and reached out in desperation, barely touching for a moment His loose-fitting garment.

She stopped short, her body snapped upright as though pulled by an invisible force. Strength surged through her in such measure she scarcely dared move to test it. People pushed past her, and suddenly, everyone stopped.

"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

The disciple whom He ad-

dressed looked at Him with surprise. "With this crowd pressing upon You, how can You ask who touched You?"

But Jesus persisted. "Someone touched me with intention."

Azelia came forward. Trembling with fear for her bold act, she knelt at His feet. His gentle expression encouraged her. Words tumbled excitedly from her lips.

"For twelve years I have suffered with an issue of blood, and I have traveled over land and sea to the best physicians, but none was able to help me. I have given up hope until I heard You were coming. A voice within me said if I could touch Your garment I would be made well. And it has happened! I know I am well." She looked up joyfully.

Go in Peace

He touched her hair. "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

Strong hands grasped her from behind to help her rise. A familiar voice made her turn in surprise.

"Rabbi Jesus, this is my beloved wife, Azelia." Jesus smiled knowingly.

"Jairus, what brings you here?" she managed to blurt out.

"I came for Rabbi Jesus that

he might lay hands on Sharai and make her well, as he has done for you."

"Is she seriously ill?"

His countenance was sad. "I fear she is already dead. Will you come along?"

"Oh Jairus, is my joy to be so fleeting?"

"Do not consider such a prospect. Come, let us go."

Jesus had already started forward, so they followed Him, and the noisy crowd trailed behind.

Azelia whispered to Jairus. "Why are all these people following us?"

"Crowds always follow Him, hoping to see or hear something unusual. A few at the shore heard me ask for His help, and the word spread like dust in a windstorm."

They heard the sound of weeping and the high-pitched wail of death as mourners came out of the courtyard ahead. Azelia's grip tightened on her husband's arm.

"Amasa, the mourner," she whispered, trembling.

Amasa raised his arms. "Your daughter is dead," he shouted. "Do not trouble the Teacher any more." Jairus and Azelia turned mutely to Jesus.

She Shall Be Well

"Do not fear," he said calmly. "Only believe, and she shall

be well."

Amasa laughed mockingly. "You are too late, she is dead."

Jairus waved the mourners aside and led his wife firmly toward the outer gate. Within the courtyard, relatives, close friends, and servants of the household were weeping and wailing in bitter anguish as though their deafening cries would waken the dead. Suddenly there was silence as they became aware of Jesus. His gaze encompassed all.

"Do not weep, for she is not dead, but sleeping."

Incongruously, several burst into laughter. "We know she has been dead from the moment Jairus left the house."

Jesus responded firmly. "Your task is finished. Leave us with the child." In shock, all eyes turned to Jairus.

"Please leave quietly. There is no further need for weeping in my house." In stunned silence they filed out slowly.

Jesus beckoned to Jairus and Azelia and three disciples to follow Him upstairs to the child's room. Mahalah was holding Sharai's hand. Tears filled her eyes.

"Oh Master Jairus, I prayed that you would find Him." She came forward to leave the room.

"You are a faithful, loving servant, dear Mahalah," and he kissed her forehead as he

would greet his daughter.

Jesus went to the bed while the others stood inside the doorway, scarcely daring to breathe. She lay still as death, pale and beautiful in repose, like a sleeping doll. He smiled lovingly and grasped her hand.

"Little girl, rise up!" His voice was gentle and clear. She blinked her eyes several times and smiled. He took her other hand and helped her to sit up.

"Give her something to eat," He said casually, "and do not tell anyone what has happened." He and His disciples were gone before they could express their gratitude or were recovered from their joyful shock. Sharai looked momentarily at her father and then turned wonderingly to the woman at his side; her eyes opened wide.

"Mother," she exclaimed, holding out her arms. Azelia rushed to her side and held her in a warm embrace.

"How did you know me, my beloved?" she whispered in her ear. "You have not seen me since you were a baby."

Sharai pulled away to look at her. "Father has described you many times. You are lovely, just as he had pictured you. I am so happy you have come home."

Azelia held her tightly, her voice shook with emotion. "Your father is a wonderful

man. His goodness has saved you and me."

Jairus heard her words as he walked over to them. He looked toward the doorway through which Jesus had passed.

No Glory for Himself

"Jesus of Nazareth is a remarkable man; He has performed many wonders, yet He seeks no glory for Himself. Never have I seen such a demonstration of power and humility in one man."

Azelia spoke softly. "But Jairus, why did He admonish us not to tell anyone that Sharai was awakened from the dead?"

"It does seem strange," Jairus mused. "He said she was only sleeping, and it was so. We should leave it that way." His face radiated excitement. "What a great Teacher! He demonstrates Truth by His own example. Truth does not have to be defended. Only lies and false beliefs have to be defended. All who saw Sharai before the Teacher came, and who see her now, will know the Truth. But most amazing of all, by my own experience I have learned the meaning of faith. All my life I have believed that faith is obedience to a rigid code of laws fashioned by men. One intimate experience has shown me that

I must act upon my inner promptings without thought as to how others might react."

Jairus put his arm around Azelia and gazed with smiling affection at Sharai. "I shudder to think that if I had hesitated going to Jesus of Nazareth for fear of damaging my reputation in the eyes of my colleagues, Sharai might now be in the sleep of death instead of being wholly well." And turn-

ing to his wife, he said, "My dear Azelia, were you not prompted to act in the same way?"

Azelia nodded in agreement. "If I had paused to consider my ability, I would not have had the strength to do it."

"Enough of these reflections," said Jairus. "Let us get solid food for Sharai, who still hungers while we feed her words."

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Letters to the Editor

It is with the utmost pleasure that I renew my subscription to UNITY Magazine. All I can say is, Praise God! I have never read a finer publication. Between the pages of UNITY Magazine I have absorbed so many lovely and wonderful truths which have taught me to let go and let God. Thank you and God bless you. — *J.R., West Virginia.*



UNITY Magazine has provided me with many hours of worthwhile reading and food for thought. I would be reluctant to be without it. — *Mrs. W.P., Pennsylvania.*



I am especially grateful for the illumination that the article in August 1979 UNITY Magazine, "Contacting Spiritual Substance" brought to me. It seems that all of Charles Fillmore's articles and books have helped me make more headway in the understanding of Truth. However, this article was like a bolt of lightning from the "blue." — *G.M.D., Arkansas.*



Thank you for your inspired and inspiring efforts toward

developing the spiritual consciousness of the members of our family who are temporarily residing in this village we call Earth. The clarity, power, and broad appeal manifesting through your work, which has managed to extract the breadth and depth of the Christ from Christianity while leaving the -ianity behind, are most heartening. To see the Truth explored from the various diverse yet complementary perspectives presented in UNITY Magazine gives substance to the hope and belief that the time is soon approaching when the family of man, while retaining its outer differences and interesting individuality, can come together in common inner understanding and spiritual unity. — *J.J., California.*



I was sitting in the hospital waiting to be seen by a doctor and I walked over to the book rack to get a magazine. As I was looking among the different ones, my eyes beheld this little UNITY Magazine, and I can't tell you the joy and satisfaction I received from reading it. So, I am sending for a one-year subscription. Please start my UNITY Magazine as soon as possible. — *C.C., New York.*

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Open Your Hand

By Dorothy R. Fulton

Truth, like a mysterious, silken cat,
eludes one's anxious grasp, yet comes
silent and unbeckoned to the
motionless lap of a quiet soul.

Love, like a fragile bubble from a child's pipe,
is broken by the anxious grasp, yet settles its
delicate rainbows gently on an
outstretched, open hand.

Peace, the silent presence holding Truth,
the warm wind that carries love, cannot be grasped,
for it is in us, and around us, yet beyond us—
our beginning, our conveyance, and our journey's end.