

*Who's Who in the FOCUS*

**Publisher:**

- *PLC of Oakhurst*  
*Rev. Dr. Angelo Pizelo,*  
*Director*

**Communications Director**

- *Rev. Dr. Joyce Sterling*

**Editors:**

- *Mary Elliott*
- *Dr. Janna Lewis*

**Staff Writers:**

- *Mary Elliott*
- *Dr. Janna Lewis*
- *Alexia Montagnoli*
- *Sunny Baker*

**Graphics & Layout:**

- *Dr. Janna Lewis*

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[www.plcoakhurst.org](http://www.plcoakhurst.org)

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**The PLC FOCUS**

P O Box 2127 Oakhurst, CA 9364 (559) 642-4616 Fax (559) 683-2748

**Message From Angie**  
*The Father Within*  
**By Rev. Dr. Angelo Pizelo**

**During the month** of June we not only honor the birth and lives of our fathers, but we also honor that spiritual presence within each of us that is referred to by metaphysicians as the "Father Within."

**Dr. Ernest Holmes** stated many years ago that "There is a Power and a Presence in the universe greater than we are and we can use it." It really doesn't matter whether we believe this statement or not, or whether we reject it or not, we definitely are part of a tremendous creative energy that responds to our thoughts and our emotions. Ralph Waldo Emerson defined it eloquently when he said, "we lie in the lap of immense intelligence which makes us receivers of



its truth and organs of its activity."

**During this month**, let's take the opportunity to reawaken to the Golden innovation that we are an individualization of a mysterious Divine Presence

that's with us at all times and responds to us when called upon to do so. As we move our awareness to this Glory of our being, we empower ourselves to take responsibility and dominion over our human experiences. We come to the realization that if we are an individualization of God-Presence, then nothing could possibly harm us?

**We accept the fact** that we are here to "showcase" the Glory of the Divine; that God works through each of us as us; and that we are a life form of God, an immense intelligence that makes us "receivers of its truth and organs of its activity."

**And So IT Is.**

**ANGEL OF THE MONTH** by Mary Elliott



**Each month The Focus features someone who works for the good of PLC without being in the spotlight. They are our Angel of the Month.**

**Sweet" comes to mind** when you talk to Kanya Ellington. She has a gentle voice and a perpetual smile. But make no mistake, under that mild-mannered exterior is a highly intelligent and capable woman.

**According to Angie**, she's also a miracle. When our last Sunday School teacher died in an accident, Angie put into mind that another person would appear to take on the job. A few days later Kanya asked him if she could do it. Since starting she has changed the focus of the Sunday School to studying basic *Science of Mind* principles and how to use them.



**She is a second year student** in JoAnn Burgess's advanced classes. JoAnn says she is devoted to her studies and an excellent student.

**We are holding a series** of raffles to raise money for the land and building fund - the first being Angie's 1982 Toyota pick-up. Kanya, with typical grace, accepted unhesitatingly, the responsibility to chair that raffle. **I really like this woman**, and especially I love to watch her interact with the children. She always has a loving pat or hug for them, and when they join us at the end of the service to show us what they've done that day, she looks on with beaming pride. So, when you see her, give her a big hug and a "thank you."

## WHO'S WHO at PLC

### SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Angelo Pizelo

### CO-PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Marie Lane

### RITUALS AND SUNDAY SERVICES MINISTRY

Rev. Sandy West

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH MINISTRY

Kanya Ellington

### YOUTH CHURCH MINISTRY

Drs. Tom & Mary Brownell

### COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA & WEBSITE MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Joyce Sterling

### EDUCATION MINISTRY

Rev JoAnn Burgess

Rev. Dr. Maggi Butterfield-Brown  
Dr. Janna Lewis

### PASTORAL COUNSELING MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Rozella Dudley

### BOOKSTORE & LIBRARY

#### DIRECTOR

Sheyla Cook

### MUSIC DIRECTOR & SERVICES SCHEDULER

Rev. Jeff Hartwig

### NEW CHURCH & FUND

#### RAISING MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Marie Lane

### DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Mark Henning

## THE FOCUS

*The PLC Newsletter*

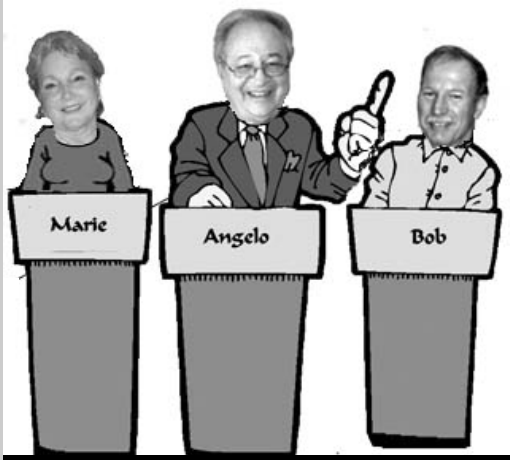
You are invited to participate in this on-going dialogue with others of like mind by sharing personal stories, poems, inspirational pieces, humor, etc. The **PLC FOCUS** is published **monthly**. Please have your submissions in the office by the **15th of the month**. If you prefer, you may e-mail your article to either:

Janna Lewis:

[jannalewis@sti.net](mailto:jannalewis@sti.net) or

Mary Elliot:

[leclair@hotmail.com](mailto:leclair@hotmail.com).



## WHO & WHEN JUNE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE

### June 4

**Speaker:** Rev. Bob Hand  
**Music:** D'Elle

### June 11

**Speaker:** Rev. Marie Lane  
**Music:** Jean Butterfield

### June 18

**Speaker:** Rev. Angelo Pizelo  
**Music:** Tom Brownell

### June 25

**Speaker:** Rev. Angelo Pizelo  
**Music:** Debra Martsof  
and Jeff Hartwig

**To receive I-Focus  
e-newsletters of timely  
events and information,  
e-mail: [plcstaff@sti.net](mailto:plcstaff@sti.net)**

## THE MAIN CONCEPTS OF NEW THOUGHT

Formulated by  
*The Seminary of the Sierra*  
Graduating class of 2007

1. God is everything; everything is part of God.
2. Ideas are realities and all primary causes are internal forces.
3. When we change our thinking, we change our lives.
4. Mind is primary and causative, while matter is secondary and resultant.
5. The remedy for all defect and disorder is metaphysical, beyond the physical, in the realm of causes which are mental and spiritual – we do not deny sickness or pain – but we hold that they are not realities – but rather lack of ease, harmony and health.
6. Sin and moral evil are ignorance of Infinite Love; a separation from the Divine.
7. New Thought is profoundly spiritual in consciousness.
8. New Thought is the present and progressive revelation of Truth.
9. New Thought has no formal creed.
10. New Thought is a philosophy of life.

## MIND SHOP FEATURED BOOKS

***Dancing In The Flames***  
*The Dark Goddess in the*  
*Transformation of Consciousness*  
By Marion Woodman and  
Elinor Dickson

**I think** Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D. and author of *Crossing To Avalon*, gives the best description of this book, "Dancing in the Flames gives us a remarkably rich and deep knowledge of the Dark Goddess. Her hidden presence in the psyches of men and women becomes visible through Marion Woodman and Elinor Dickson's perceptive insights. Seen and unseen, appreciated or denigrated, in history, myth, and culture as well as in individuals, the Dark Goddess carries transformative power and feminine wisdom, which are revealed in this beautifully conceived book that can affect the reader like a major dream or evocative poem."



**This powerful book** about the Dark Goddess is a rich and intimate exploration that brings together history, mythology, psychology, and religion. The authors have written a seed text that is wise, vigorous, and revelatory.

**Add this book** to your home library at the discounted price of only \$10.00, less your PLC 10% discount.

***Goddesses In Everywoman***  
*A New Psychology of Women*  
By Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D.

**Gloria Steinem** writes the forward for this Woman Series book, "The highest value of Goddesses in Everywoman lies in the moments of recognition it provides. The author labels them as moments of 'Aha!': that insightful second when we understand and internalize; when we recognize what we ourselves have experienced, feel trust because of that

truth, and then are taken one step further to an understanding of 'Yes, that's why.'"

**Just as women** used to be unconscious of the powerful effects that cultural stereotypes had on them, they may also be unconscious of powerful forces within them that influence what they do and how they feel, and which account for major differences among women. Author, Jean Bolen believes that an understanding of these inner patterns and their interrelationships offers reassuring, true-to-life alternatives that take women far beyond such restrictive dichotomies as masculine/feminine, mother/lover, careerist/housewife. And she demonstrates how understanding them can provide the key to self-knowledge, and wholeness.

**Own the great book** for just \$9.80 less your PLC 10% discount.

## MIND SHOP NEWS

**Summer is here**, the days are getting warmer, and the sun is shining brightly. What great weather to take a book and go out into the backyard, stretch out in the old lawn chair and relax the day away reading. Or even better, pack a picnic lunch and take a drive over to the lake. Spread a blanket under a tree, and read away the afternoon.

**The Mind Shop Bookstore** has books that will appeal to every reader: fiction and non-fiction works, mythology, self-help, spiritual healing, diet and health related books, and a many other categories. So, come in and treat yourself to a new book, or one of our very reasonably priced used books, and then enjoy one of these wonderful Summer days by spending a few hours out in nature reading.

**Also, this is the last month** for the "Great Give-a-way" of a \$10.00 gift certificate for the Bookstore. So, don't miss your chance to win. Come in and put your name and phone number on one of the Great Give-a-way tickets and put it into the "Can" on the desk. It could be your month to win!

**There is generally** a volunteer at the bookstore Tuesday through Thursday, but call ahead to be sure we're open. Because we are staffed by volunteers, previously scheduled appointments or family emergencies can prohibit our volunteer from coming in. Our number is 559/642-4614

### Usual Hours are:

Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

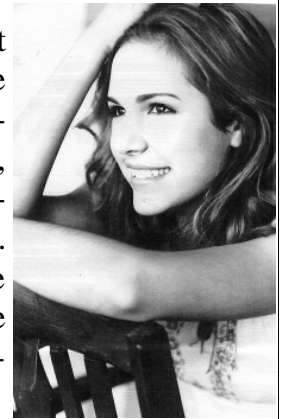
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**And, of course**, there is always someone there on Sundays after service who can assist you with a book purchase. Don't forget all PLC members get a 10% discount on purchases from the Mind Shop. **Enjoy!**

## Focus On Youth

By Alexia Montagnoli  
(17 years old on December 8, 2005)



**The section of the mind** which is responsible for the processing of information is the *conscious mind*. It organizes, analyzes, assesses and plans. It is the logical, reasonable part of the mind that can change its point of view at will.

**As we learned last month**, the subconscious mind is not logical and it simply supports the conscious thinking but does not recognize thoughts to be positive or negative. We must make the choice; that is, use our free will to choose what information or knowledge we will allow into our present moments. We can also choose to use our free will to dissolve what we have gathered throughout our lives that no longer serves us. If we do not make this conscious choice of what we want to focus on, we are at the mercy of the beliefs 'out there' that might come our way, the thoughts and words of others as well as our own. As we think, so we are.

**Our behavior is nothing more** than energy being used to express verbal and/or non-verbal statements, attitudes and beliefs. When we do not direct our conscious mind towards higher consciousness-constructive thoughts, the energy will be directed by chance or circum-

stance. As I stated earlier, that puts us in a situation where we are susceptible to less constructive goals which, in turn, could develop into fears, anxiety, failure or even illness. This is what takes place at the subconscious level when we aren't in control of the conscious level.

**We all have different levels** of consciousness and different levels of will power. By activating our desire to grow, we can use persistence and begin our journey into our truer selves. I recognize, for myself, that it is sometimes hard to access it properly. This is one of the reasons why I come to the PLC, to share, to give and receive, the positive thoughts and positive energy that flows here!

**Here is a quote** from Deepak Chopra's *The Book of Secrets* that made me feel happy: "The choice is to be conscious or not, which brings us to the possibility for transformation . . . . The key to true transformation is that nature doesn't move forward in step-by-step movements. It takes quantum leaps all the time."

"Now there is just a sense that when I am present God is present. When I am wholeheartedly in the moment nothing is separate from God." From *Leaning Toward the Light* by Stephen Levine.



## Focus On Sunday School

By Kanya Ellington

**In May** we learned about the Science of Mind core concept Abundance. We covered such topics as: What is Abundance? What is Infinity? An Abundance of Love; To Bring in the New We Must Clear Out the Old; and Infinite Possibilities.

**In June** our focus will be on Forgiveness. The topics we will cover are: Qualities Of God, The Law of Cause And Effect, The Bible Story of The Prodigal Son, and Letting Go Of Anger. We will practice the art of forgiveness by playing a game of "What-if." We will read stories that relate to forgiveness and resolving our angry feelings. We will make cards for our Fathers for Father's Day. And wrapping it all up, we will write our angry feelings on paper airplanes and send them flying away. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to cover such important life skills with our children. I look forward to seeing everyone at PLC.

## JANNA & MARY talk about . . . The Conscious Mind and Change



**Janna:** Recently I overheard a conversation in which someone was saying they thought they should be wary of their subconscious mind because they were never sure just what it would ‘cause’ to happen in their lives at any given moment. I recognized the confusion the person was having regarding the conscious and the subconscious mind. We get so caught up in the drama of our lives and often attribute that drama (both pleasant and unpleasant) to the “unknown” workings of the subconscious mind because we are taught that the subconscious is the “doer” aspect of creation. What we forget is that it is the conscious mind that imagines (creates in image form) that which the subconscious works on. The subconscious has no choice; the conscious mind does. Your thoughts?

**Mary:** Good topic. I think where most people get the idea that their subconscious mind is “out to get them” is from Sigmund Freud. His greatest discovery was the existence of the subconscious. But if I’m not mistaken, he also believed it was the home of all our crazy urges, and it causes us to run amuck. Add to that the belief that the subconscious cannot be “known”, and it’s enough to make anybody feel insecure, if not downright fearful. As you pointed out, the truth is the conscious mind is really the seat of creation. It directs the subconscious. The problem, I think, is people are afraid to examine the contents of their own conscious minds. We say, “change your thinking, change your life.” I’ve spent years digging out false beliefs and replacing them with Truth. How about you?

**Janna:** Alas, me too. And, it’s an on-going journey. There will never be a time – in this world, at least – that we are without an individualized conscious mind, so we are much better off using it for our good. Not always as easy doing as saying, of course. So many of us live with beliefs that have been foisted upon us by family tradition and societal conditioning, to say nothing of our own thought-less acceptance of something that, given half a moment of *conscious* thought, we’d realize just doesn’t work for us. It’s interesting that when given some attention – like your ‘digging out’ – we begin to realize that many of the things we believe are merely habit (unconscious acceptance). These could be changed, because, as you say, until we change how we view the world and our lives in it, we will continue creating through our belief system exactly what happens. To arrive at that place where we realize that *we are not victims*, **ever**, except of our own beliefs, can be the toughest hurdle of our lives – but also the most rewarding. It’s the *individualized conscious mind* that we need to examine, and its relationship

to the *Universal Conscious Mind*. What do you think?

**Mary:** Um. I can’t say I agree with you that examining our conscious mind in relationship to Universal Conscious Mind is productive. There is only ONE mind, and “relationship” implies duality. But I’d like to quit waxing philosophical, and get down to HOW to examine beliefs. Say something is happening in my life that I don’t want to appear. The first thing I do is take responsibility for creating it. Then, bravely, I trace back in my conscious mind to the belief that is causing the effect. Then I usually say, “That’s not a belief, that’s Truth.” Knowing that beliefs change, but Truth doesn’t, I try finding exceptions to my belief. (There always are some. How about, “If I eat that piece of cake I’ll gain weight.” Listen, I have thin friends who eat like a horse.) Then I am left with a vacuum in my mind, but with persistence and direction I will soon discover the Truth and plant that in my conscious mind. Is that how you do it?

**Janna:** I agree that we need to dig out the root of a belief to determine if it is the underlying cause of our discomfort. And I also agree that there is only ONE mind, and that the word “relationship” implies duality. However, since we accept that we live in this world as spiritual beings inhabiting a physical body, duality is built into our thought processes. For me it is easier recognizing that there is only One mind and that **when** I’m consciously aware of using this One mind I can choose to change anything I desire changed. That’s the relationship I’m talking about. Regarding your friends with the horse-like eating habits, perhaps it is that beliefs are individual while Truth is Universal. What do you think?

**Mary:** I have to say, you are a “better man than I, Charlie Brown.” I wish it were that simple for me to make a change. Sure, I might choose the change I want, but the act of choosing means there is something I don’t want. Just because a belief isn’t Truth, doesn’t mean it doesn’t work. (“As a man thinketh, so he is.”) Therefore, when I choose to change, there is all this junk that conflicts with that. I’m left in the position of being the ball in a football game, bouncing back and forth. Unless I clear myself of the false, limiting, conflicting beliefs, not much is going to manifest; and that’s where this month’s themes come in: choosing what we want, directing the mind to separate Truth from false beliefs, and having persistence in discarding the limited and experiencing the new. See you next month, same time same place.



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

### ***TUESDAY NIGHT - LIVE! AN ON-GOING SPIRITUAL DISCUSSION***



**Everybody from the community** is welcome to drop in at our Tuesday night Spiritual Discussion sessions. In the spirit of Easter and springtime, the month of April has to do with Truthfulness, Renewal and Transformation. Drop in and share your story about these issues. These meetings are always fun and exciting because everybody gets to throw in their opinions. We welcome folks from all belief systems to add spice to our mental stew. The only criteria for attending is having a pulse. **Stop by on Tuesday nights at 7:00 and check it out.**

**Facilitators are Rev. Dr. Angelo Pizelo and staff.**

### ***TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY***

**Murder, mayhem, backstabbing**, and a really dysfunctional God. That was my reading of the Bible before I was introduced to the metaphysical meaning of all those stories. What we are discovering in our Bible class is that all those stories are about growing in consciousness and how to do it. All the characters, places, and drama's have something to do with personal growth. Our group is constantly surprised at what we discover, with lots of laughter and "ah hah's" thrown in for good measure.

**For more info call Mary Elliott at 642-6655. Or just drop by Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.**

### ***TUESDAY NIGHT THE COURSE IN MIRACLES***

**Students world-wide** study *The Course in Miracles* to learn about love, forgiveness, non-judgment, change in perception and much more. It teaches that miracles are an everyday event and how to achieve them. The teaching is based on self responsibility, and that thoughts and actions produce reactions in our lives. There are no fees. Group meets Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:45.

**Facilitator Rev. Dr. Rozella Dudley  
(559) 683-4212**

### ***THURSDAY NIGHT SPIRITUALITY AND MANIFESTATION IN DAILY LIVING***

**One of the great things about the New Thought** philosophy is that it is practical. Rev. Dr. Sandy West facilitates a support group on Thursday evenings to help us utilize this philosophy to solve problems and manifest what you want in everyday life. This is an on-going group discussion involving topics such as, "*why isn't my life working; how can I manifest what I want; why am I 'stuck' and how can I get past it?*" Drop in to PLC Thursday evenings at 7:00 for an interesting evening.

**Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Sandy West**

## ATTENTION PLEASE!

Would you pay \$25 for a good, experienced Toyota pick-up? PLC is beginning a series of fundraisers for our building fund, and Rev. Angie's 1982 Toyota pickup (mileage 143,000) will be the first raffle. It's a good deal. The tickets are \$25 each or six for \$100. The beauty of this offer is only 500 tickets will be sold, so your chances of winning are very good. Tickets will be on sale between June 10 through July 20 only. Kanya Ellington is chairing the effort, with Barney Berrier, and Janna Lewis assisting. For tickets contact the PLC at 642-4616.

### ON-GOING CLASSES

**Monday: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. *EXCUSE ME, YOUR LIFE IS WAITING***

Why not spend your summer in the enriching environment of 'fulfilling your desires' by joining our class on Monday afternoons.

**Starts June 26th**, PLC (upper-back of building - classroom/offices) for 6 weeks \$75.00

**Facilitator: Rev. JoAnn Burgess (559) 222-8307**

**Wednesday: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Seminary Class***

A two year seminary class is held Wednesdays in the church office. This class is open to all completed Practitioners and practicing ministers. It has already begun, but Rev. Marie said if you are willing to play "catch-up" you are welcome.

**Facilitators: Reverends Angelo Pizelo and Marie Lane**

For information call **(559) 642-4616**

### ON-GOING STUDY GROUPS

**Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *Metaphysical Bible Interpretation***, Facilitator: Mary Elliott (559) 642-6655

**Tuesday: 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. *Course In Miracles*** Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Rozella Dudley (559)683-4212

**Tuesday: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. *Spiritual Discussion*** "Tuesday Night - Live!" Facilitators: Dr. Angelo & staff

**Wednesday : 6:30 p.m. *Reiki*** Facilitators: Bill & Betty Fleming (559)683-2274 or 642-6389

**Thursday 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. *Spirituality and Manifestation*** Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Sandy West

**Friday: 9:30 to Noon *Life Story Writing*** Facilitators: Dr. Ed Hibler & Jackie Hibler, e-mail: edhib@sti.net

## Members' Page

PLC Members are encouraged to submit original works and/or interesting pieces written by others.

### A CHANGED BEE

By June Bayley  
(JoAnn Burgess' Sister)

**It had been a few** years since I attended an ANTN conference. I had forgotten how determinedly upbeat they can be. I was always slightly uncomfortable with the hugging and I excused myself when they asked us to "turn to the person on the left, look into their eyes and repeat: I love the Spirit in you," for ten minutes.

**This year** at the Pines Resort at Bass Lake, I was determined to present my pass and slip in the door, unseen and anonymous. However, as I was making this attempt, from the corner of my left eye, I sensed a tall Figure in Black speeding towards me. I tried to avoid her but could not. I then received the compulsory Big Hug. The Figure in Black could sense I was unsure what to do next. She then picked me up and set me in a large bowl filled with warm water and rose petals. They made me wash my hands, dry them and they set me back on the floor. I vaguely heard something like "may this cleansing assure you happiness for the rest of the week." I doddered towards a chair as close as I could sit to the door in case I needed to escape.

**They were playing** music and singing. Very loud and with great gusto. Hearing a commotion from the back of the room, I turned to see men and women clapping and waving their hands. Soon people were dancing in the aisle. Everyone was GLOWING.

**From this point** on, my mood lifted. I smiled and clapped and even sang a little. There people really were upbeat. Nothing fake here.

**When I attend** the conference next year, I shall walk right through the door, into the arms of the Figure in Black, for my hug. I will bless the person in charge of the rose petals. I may even DANCE in the aisle for I will have returned a changed bee.

### My Heart's Home

By Don Long

*When I find a place where they  
will invite me to listen rather than  
encourage me to believe . . .  
When I find a place where they will invite  
me to journey rather than show  
me the path . . .  
When I find a place where they will share  
their joy without denying my happiness . . .  
When I find the place where I can rest,  
centered, no longer striving for the truth . . .  
Then my heart shall have found its home.*

Written Feb. 18, 1995

### FAMOUS "FATHER" QUOTES

**My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass." "We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys." *Harmon Killebrew***

**Fatherhood is pretending the present you love most is soap-on-a-rope. *Bill Cosby***

**When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years. *Mark Twain***

## WHAT PRACTITIONERS CAN DO FOR YOU

By Mary Elliott

**The Religious Science Practitioners** at the PLC want you to know we are here for any of you facing challenges, whether they are physical, mental, or spiritual. Why go through these things alone? Prayer/treatment is the most powerful tool for change in the Universe.

**We are specifically trained** in two areas: First, knowledge of New Thought history and methods of scientific prayer (prayer/treatment); second, and most important, attaining a high level of consciousness. When practitioners work with someone, they know the truth in the situation - that there is only Good. In other words, we do not deal with the appearance but with the mental cause of the appearance. We work strictly within our own consciousness in this process. We do not manipulate or control, but rather **know** Good will be revealed.

**Practitioners love their work.** It is extremely fulfilling to see our clients' lives changed and problems solved through prayer/treatment. But there is a selfish reason too. Because we work within our own minds, our consciousness expands with each case we handle, causing our lives to improve dramatically in harmony, love, and all the other attributes of God.

**Phone or personal prayer/treatment** is available for a fee from a licensed practitioner. Intern-practitioners services are free. You can also take advantage of the prayer/treatment offered by the licensed practitioner available after church services each Sunday morning - for no charge.

**Practitioner and Intern Contact List below.**

## What is Pastoral Counseling?

By Rev. Rozella Dudley

**Pastoral counseling** is a listening ministry. It creates a safe, confidential space to vent, discuss, and just be yourself without expectations or judgments. It does not give answers but allows space and time along with gentle questions or feedback to help the seeker find answers within themselves. It can be a time of self-exploration into personal problems or to assist in a chosen spiritual path. It is strengthened by prayer treatment.

**As a pastoral counselor** I have had the privilege of being a listener for various situations and dilemmas in people's lives. For example, a widow was having problems deciding whether to leave this area after her husband made his transition. She had no family here, had not developed deep or lasting friendships, and most importantly she did not like living in the mountains. She missed the larger metropolitan area from which she had originally moved.

**With pastoral counseling** she was able to confront her fear of making decisions on her own, and she discovered that she also had even more options. This particular session involved only 1 1/2 hours. This lovely lady has since moved to a larger area and is satisfied in her new life. By having someone to listen, getting feed back, and answering a few gentle questions she found her own answers within, then had the courage to act.

For more information contact:

**Rev. Dr. Rozella Dudley 559-683-4212 or rozell@sti.net**

### RELIGIOUS SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS

JoAnn Burgess  
559 222-8307

Sandee Scott-Archer

559 658-8373

Sandy West

559 877-3775

Also

Maggi Belle Butterfield-Brown

Rozella Dudley

Jeff Hartwig

Alan Langunoff

Tiami Stavas

Connie Thomas

### INTERN-PRACTITIONERS

Sheyla Cook  
Mary Elliott  
Betty Fleming  
Dr. Janna Lewis

### Looking for That Bridge Over Troubled Waters?



**In addition to a prayer ministry**, the PLC offers pastoral care for its spiritual family. We can help you bridge difficulties and anxiety over finances, career, health, relationships, major life passages or other concerns.

*Pastoral Counselors:*

**Rev. Dr. Rozella Dudley**  
559-683-4212 or rozell@sti.net

*All counseling is confidential. Pastoral counseling is NOT, however, psychological counseling. It has a definite spiritual basis to it, to help you change your thinking and thus change your life.*

**For more information** on pastoral counseling, visit the website:

[www.plcoakhurst.org/counseling](http://www.plcoakhurst.org/counseling)

### EMERSON INSTITUTE

**As the educational arm** of ANTN (Affiliated New Thought Network) of which the Positive Living Center, is a member, Emerson Institute's vision is to awaken people to empowering Universal Principles and provide the instructional resources that will facilitate the development of healthy relationships, spiritual communities and the realization of potential.

**To accomplish its vision**, Emerson's core curriculum embraces the spiritual philosophy of the presence of God in humankind and the power of right thinking. It emphasizes the existence of One Life, One Mind, One Power, One Presence, in, as, and through all creations.

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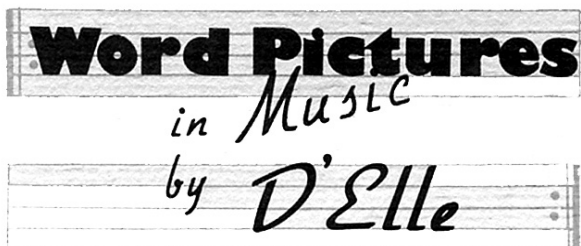
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# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION by Dr. Janna Lewis

*This is the final in a series of articles examining the Ten Commandments/Statements of the Bible using New Thought beliefs.*

## SIXTH COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

*You shall not kill. (Exodus 20:13)*

**This commandment** is another of those that must be realized on more than one level; more than a mere commandment of moral law, it is an emphatic statement of a Universal Law at its most fundamental stage. In the realm of Spirit, *nothing can be killed* because all is Spirit and Spirit cannot die.

**Since this seems** only too apparent, I believe that God is suggesting another level of understanding (inspiring higher awareness). It is obvious that this statement must be taken literally in the physical as well as metaphysical realm in order to live in today's world. On either level, physical or metaphysical, the fact that it is a moral law means that it carries legal as well as karmic connotations that will have to be dealt with at some time. God has imbued our lives with personality, character, values, and physical attributes. For another to try to take that life – in any manner – would be to dishonor the God-essence of the individual, and that includes the maligning (killing) of a person's character, name, nature or physical being. These are all God-given-attributes and what we do to someone else we do to ourselves - and vice-versa (karmic consequences). But the deepest cut is that ultimately what we do to ourselves or someone else, we do to God who is our true essence. When we wear that awareness for a while, it has a tendency to promote a greater Love for all humans, both as beings and as *becomings*.

## THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

*You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)*

**We are all aware** of the moral nature of this commandment/statement. To adhere to it as our daily standard of conduct is tantamount to personal purity and needs no further explanation on that level. On another level of thought, adultery means to corrupt or debase or make impure by the addition of a foreign or inferior substance or element. It is important to understand the meaning of 'impure substances' as used here. Impurities begin in our thoughts, so this is a statement of fact that by raising our thoughts to the level of God/Self-realization we can maintain a level of consciousness that can not be diluted by such impurities that might be contained in otherwise more worldly thoughts and emotions. Throughout the Old Testament, *adultery* and *idolatry* were often used interchangeably, so this Seventh Statement is strongly linked with the First and the Second in which we were told the error of worshipping the false gods of bodily pleasures and appetites.

## THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

*You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)*

**This is another** of those statements on how we should quite literally be treating our fellow human beings, and it has long been considered an integral part of the Golden rule. Nobody wants their possessions stolen, and for the most part no one steals from another. This type of stealing can be carried a step further to encompass the theft of freedom from individuals and the usurpation of free-will from those under the power of another.

**But what was** the God-consciousness level in this message about stealing? Is this a statement that we quite literally *could not* steal from each other because everything already belonged to every one (as in All are One)? Very probably. Does this commandment/statement mean that there truly is nothing, **no-thing**, to steal? This time, most certainly.

**We need to remember** that all that we possess, whether it is material wealth, physical health, good working conditions, beauty, and/or gracious personality are gifts from God – but not in the sense we might think. God does not *give* us a good job, nor does God *give* us a healthy body. What God has given us is It's Self. God is Mind, Consciousness. And since God is All There Is, our individual consciousness is God-consciousness. Consciousness means *being aware* – usually of something within ourselves. This means that our individual consciousness, as a gift from God, is awareness of our God-Self. This is the only gift God has given us; it is the only gift we will ever need, and it can never be stolen.

**But what about** our lifestyles, our homes, our cars, our possessions, you might ask. Haven't we always been taught that these are gifts from God?

Yes, we have. And they are. But not, as I said before, in the usual manner of gifts. When we can realize that what appears as our material good, that which seems to be of human value, is actually created through the unfolding, the revealing, the blossoming of our own state of consciousness, we will begin to understand why it can never be stolen; why it is the only gift we will ever need; and why it would be impossible to envy or desire another's possessions. This is how we arrive at the conclusion that what we can conceive and believe, we can have. God gave us God-consciousness in the form of individual consciousness – how we use it is up to us.

## THE NINTH COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)*

**Quite obviously** we should not lie; that's a forgone conclusion. *Why* is slightly more complex. In New Thought, we believe that we create with words; words have power. We also believe that through our lineage from Divine Spirit, we are all One; therefore, what I say about another will most assuredly come home to rest on my own pillow.

**Emmet Fox explains** it in another way when he says: "... the fundamental meaning of this commandment . . . is that you always express what you are. You cannot be one thing and express another." He means that we cannot continue to lie, to permanently '*bear false witness*' about another because the other's true colors, if they aren't already, will soon become apparent. On the other hand, so then will ours; it can't help but to become apparent that it is we who are false, not the person we have attacked. And Jesus admonished us to judge not, because to do so will undoubtedly bring judgment down on our own heads; we get back exactly what we give out.

**On another, deeper,** level we can conclude that from the same lineage of Divine Spirit that makes us one with All, comes the assurance of our own Divinity; therefore, to speak of anyone in terms that would signify something less than the perfection in which they were created would be a lie.

## THE TENTH COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

*You shall not covet . . . anything that is thy neighbor's. (Exodus 20:17)*

**Coveting is painful**, whether it's your neighbor's goods, your neighbor's spouse, or your neighbor's level of spirituality. Coveting brings disappointment, mental enslavement, and despair; it can lead to anger, hatred, and aggressive behavior which will, in turn, lead to further regret and dependency. It is a vicious cycle and, worse yet, it is completely meaningless.

**As pointed out** in the Eighth Commandment, we **can not** have what another has because what any one person possesses has come to him through his own conscious awareness of *who he is* – an individual with God-consciousness. Besides which, coveting implies a belief in lack (*they have something, so I don't have it*) and since God is Supply and we are channels of this supply through our own God-consciousness, the only lack would be in the level of our personal awareness. We need only look to ourselves, not to our neighbor for that which we desire.

## So ends the list of

## The Ten Statements given by God through Moses.

**Having said all that** and taken many words to do it, I'll just make one last observation: There are really only **Two Commandments**.

**When asked** which was the greatest commandment, Jesus had an answer ready even though he knew this to be a trick question. If Jesus were to presume to question even one of God's great commandments, it could be (and was) very detrimental to his well-being. But his answer could not be faulted.

**He said**, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself*" (Mat. 22:37-39).

**It is from this teaching that we learn LOVE is the key to LIFE.**