

Who's Who in the PLC FOCUS

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PLC of Oakhurst

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The PLC FOCUS

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MESSAGE FROM DR. ANGIE
The Feminine Principle
By Rev. Angelo Pizelo, Ph.D.

During the Month of May we not only honor the birth and lives of our mothers, but we also honor that spiritual presence within each of us that is referred to by metaphysicians as the "Feminine Principle."

Each of us is blessed with what can be called the "responsive" activity of the Divine - that part of the nature of God that always says **yes** to our desires and acts upon them.

This "Feminine Principle" accepts our energized thoughts impersonally. It does not judge whether our



thoughts are correct or not, it merely says yes to them.

We are blessed to have this ability to create our life experiences through this awesome Universal Principle.

This puts the responsibility on our shoulders for our own manifestations. If we do not appreciate or like what we are experiencing, we merely need to change the focus of our thoughts. Complaining about what is happening to us will not change a thing but merely prolongs the undesired manifestation.

So, during this month, we reawaken our awareness to this awesome creative aspect of God, knowing that what we put into mind is what we will experience in our lives. 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.

Rev. Jeff Hartwig greases the wheel that makes Sunday Services so organized and successful. This quiet, unassuming man makes all the arrangements for weekly hosts and people to present our meditations and spiritual thought. In addition he arranges to have local musicians come from throughout the area to delight us with their talent. This gives us a chance to en-



joy a wide variety of music, and also gives the musicians a place to showcase themselves. **The thing is,** Jeff makes what he does look easy. It isn't. The schedule of musicians is published in the newsletter and on the PLC website, so he has to have

them lined up a month in advance. Then he has to plan each week with the other folks who do

various jobs in the service. **Jeff has been with the PLC** about twelve years and was instrumental in setting up our sound system. Angie has nothing but praise for Jeff. He said he can always come up with creative ideas for any project we launch including fund raising and other financial programs. **Jeff, however, is not just a worker bee.** When it comes to spirituality, his level of consciousness automatically affects those around him. Jeff works with the school system, and one of his co-workers, Sam, spoke to Angie one day. He said, in essence, Jeff is one of the most inspiring people he had ever worked with. When he and Jeff are working together there is a feeling of harmony and well-being in every situation. **I know one more thing about Jeff.** He likes hugs. So when you see this PLC angel, give him a big one.

WHO'S WHO at PLC

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Angelo Pizelo, Ph.D.

CO-PASTOR

Rev. Marie Lane, Rs.D.

RITUALS AND SUNDAY SERVICES MINISTRY

Rev. Sandy West, Rs.D.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH MINISTRY

Kanya Ellington

YOUTH CHURCH MINISTRY

Drs. Tom & Mary Brownell

COMMUNICATIONS/ MEDIA & WEBSITE MINISTRY

Rev. Joyce Sterling, Rs.D.

Dr. Janna Lewis

Mary Elliot

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Rev. Maggi Butterfield-Brown, Rs.D.

Rev JoAnn Burgess

DIRECTOR OF ON-LINE STUDIES

Dr. Janna Lewis

PASTORAL COUNSELING MINISTRY

Rev. Rozella Dudley, Rs.D.

BOOKSTORE & LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Sheyla Cook

MUSIC DIRECTOR & SERVICES SCHEDULER

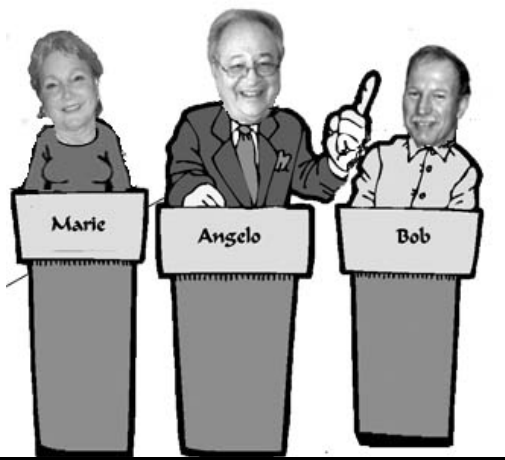
Rev. Jeff Hartwig

NEW CHURCH & FUND RAISING MINISTRY

Rev. Marie Lane, Rs.D.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Mark Henning



WHO & WHEN MAY 10:00 A.M. SERVICE

May 7

Speaker: Rev. Bob Hand

Music: D' Elle

May 14

Speaker: Rev. Angie Pizelo

Music: Debra Martsof
and Jeff Hartwig

May 21

Speaker: Rev. Marie Lane

Music: Johnny and Trish
Lightfoot

May 28

Speaker: Sheyla Cook

Music: Patrick Edwards

To receive I-Focus
e-newsletters of timely
events and information,
e-mail: plcstaff@sti.net

THE MAIN CONCEPTS OF NEW THOUGHT

Formulated by
The Seminary of the Sierra
Graduating class of 2007

God is everything; everything is part of God.

Ideas are realities and all primary causes are internal forces.

When we change our thinking, we change our lives.

Mind is primary and causative, while matter is secondary and resultant.

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.

Sin and moral evil are ignorance of Infinite Love; a separation from the Divine.

New Thought is profoundly spiritual in consciousness.

New Thought is the present and progressive revelation of Truth.

New Thought has no formal creed.

New Thought is a philosophy of life.

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

or

Mary Elliot:

leclair@hotmail.com.

MIND SHOP FEATURED BOOKS

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME . . . AGAIN

By Dr. Janette Marie Freeman

This book is a must read for anyone who wants to improve any aspect of their life. What she gives is a time-tested and proven system that works.

Janette clearly outlines how one can have the lasting change in their life that they desire. The power that she describes is available to everyone and all can use it! This is a guide that will take you clearly through the steps of awakening to the highest self . . . to live life in the greater joy.

This book is superb and it can be



yours for only \$19.95.

THE ART OF SPIRITUAL DREAMING

By Harold Klemp

In this book you can learn how dreams can help you find more love and happiness. Some dreams create, some dreams heal, some dreams initiate; this remarkable book encompasses them all.

Your life is a canvas. You are the artist. Paint a more fulfilling life for yourself using this author's proven techniques in The Art of Spiritual Dreaming.

Learning to see and use the wisdom you receive from your dreams is an art. Harold Klemp places the spiritual dream in its

rightful place, at the center of the whole subject of dreams. He shows you how to discover your dreams "spiritual gold".

Your dreams are real. Learn how dreams can help you gain insights from the past and future, grow in confidence, heal yourself spiritually, and make decisions about your career and finances.

Add this wonderful read to your home library for only \$14.00

And remember all PLC members get an additional 10% discount off all books they purchase in the Mind Shop Bookstore.

MIND SHOP NEWS

We are glad to see you have been reaping the wonderful used books from the \$1.00 and \$2.00 shelf in the bookstore. And, more books are being added all the time, so come in and browse often.

Don't forget to put your name in the "can" for the Great Give-a-way. We are still giving away a \$10 gift certificate to use for purchases of books or gifts from the bookstore. This Great Give-a-way campaign will only be for two more months.....May and June. So, don't miss your chance to win.

We encourage you to come in and look around.....we get new books in all the time. And, we can always "special order" any book that you don't find on the shelf.

We thank you for supporting the Mind Shop Bookstore.

Usual Book store hours: (Staffed by Volunteers)

Monday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Calling ahead is always a good idea as sometimes volunteers have medical appointments or family emergencies that prohibit them from being at the bookstore. (559) 642-4614.

Our Book Reviewer, Sunny Baker, will no longer be available to report on new and old books after June. If there is any one in our audience who enjoys reading and writing and would be willing to report on one or two books each month, please contact one of the editors - either Mary Elliot or Janna Lewis. Sunny, thank you for all the work you've done for us in the past.

Focus On Youth

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

While preparing for this article on the *subconscious mind* and the *Lord's Prayer*, whether it was reviewing books or simply discussing opinions with my mother, Sheyla Cook, and my friends, I came to realize that the deeper I burrowed into these topics the more complex the whole idea became.

The subconscious mind, as I understand it, takes its cue from the conscious mind. It does not judge; instead, it performs a support system for our conscious mind and takes in the ideas of the conscious mind. It believes without hesitation everything the conscious mind thinks. (The subconscious mind must not be confused with the unconscious mind, which is another topic all together, for another time.) The subconscious mind is not logical, nor is it reasonable. It does not have the ability to recognize something as positive or negative. It simply supports the ideas of our conscious mind. The subconscious mind generates energy to express the goals of the conscious mind, hence the enormous responsibility of determining what we feed our conscious mind. If we do not choose with awareness what quality of knowledge we will put into our conscious mind, then the world at large will do it for us. We would end up absorbing randomly the beliefs of our environment. When I understood this, all I could think in awe was "Oh My Gosh! I must be strong and aware of what I feed my mind at all times."

We are all conscious, have a conscious mind, but to use our minds effectively we must **choose** to

accept that *we are not* our emotions, *we are not* our possessions, *we are not* our thoughts. What **we are** is intimately connected with the universal power of God. **Nothing else.**

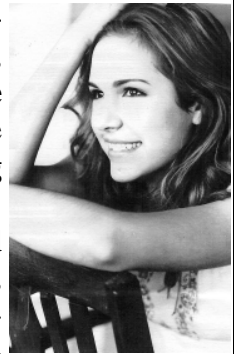
I enjoyed reviewing bits and pieces of David Hawkins book, *Transcending the Levels of Consciousness*. When Mom and I reviewed the levels of consciousness as shown in this book, it all seemed so reasonable and clear.

And simple.

Basically I learned that we must identify the physical, mental and emotional aspects of who we are. It takes a lot of practice, will power, and the desire to invite God along for the ride, but the reward is in the relief I feel when I realize this Truth of a Higher Order: That all of what I consider 'my' emotions, 'my' thoughts, 'my' physical attributes are indeed **mine** but they are **NOT ME**.

It is my strong desire to be above my animal nature, my ego. And I know that I do not need to do this alone; I am never alone. When I repeat the words of the Lord's Prayer, I understand that this prayer is one of positive reinforcement. And when I say this prayer with consciousness, then I feed a positive direction to the energy of my subconscious mind, this generator of energy which colors the quality of my growth, of my life.

It is time I truly live with personal responsibility for "*It is done unto me as I believe*"



You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Focus On Sunday School

By Kanya Ellington

It is Spring in the Children's Church! As you may remember, in April we covered the Science of Mind Topic: Immortality. The lessons in April covered such topics as: We are not our bodies; The Easter Story (from the Bible); The Cycle of Life; Spring-time: A Time of Rebirth and Renewal; and Planting the Seeds of Manifestation.

In May we are continuing to learn more of the fundamentals of the Science of Mind. We will be focusing in depth on the core concept, Abundance. We will be covering 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 the Spirit of Abundance, we look forward to sharing our experiences and abundance with everyone. Peace and Blessings. See you there!

MARY & JANNA talk about . . . PRAYER-TREATMENT



me in Truth that there is only one Power. Lastly, if my demonstration fails to come, I know I can go back to the drawing board and work on myself even more. This process is one of invocation and evolution “Involving” our consciousness with spirit so we can “evolve” to a clearer knowledge. Your thoughts?

Janna: I think it’s interesting that in New Thought we combine the words ‘prayer’ with ‘treatment’. Prayer has the connotation of ‘asking; imploring’, while Treatment implies ‘the handling’ of some matter. I’ve often wished we could change our terminology since we do not ‘ask, beg, or implore anything or anyone (including God) for anything – particularly regarding the handling of ‘matter’. That there is only one Power, as you stated, is exactly why we don’t *ask*. And, because Everything is Spirit, is why we don’t *treat matter* (substance). Only one Power means WE are included in That Power. The problem seems to come in getting our minds around that fact. When asked “What is God?” there is only one answer: I AM. It is when we struggle with this awareness that we have failures in producing our intentions. Each day in my meditation I need to “evolve”, as you say, to that awareness before I can be effective. Do you have a method, or any particular steps you take to get into that level of awareness?

Mary: I make myself a verb. I sit with my morning tea waking up, and as the thoughts of all my worries, coulda’s, and shoulda’s come up I gently tell them, “Spirit is **All That Is** and I am the experience **That.**” I do this for a period of time until the problems slowly fade. A wonderful feeling of bliss enters my mind, and I sit, experiencing that I AM, until one of the attributes of God comes to me. I take that as guidance for my prayer work and my day. As you can see, this is really the first two steps of Spiritual Mind Treatment. Then, as I turn to my prayer list, I make everybody on it the experience of God. Period. I don’t acknowledge anything else. My most successful prayer work has been done this way, often with almost spontaneous results. What do you do to “get there?”

Janna: Something similar. I use several meditation techniques. First, I need to ‘blank’ my mind (empty it, so to speak). I do this by paying attention to my breathing only until outside thoughts stop coming into focus. At the same time I watch (with my inner eyes) for the Light in the distance. It grows brighter as It comes closer and soon I’m immersed in It. It is like being back in the womb – totally secure, loved and pro-

ted. While surrounded by this light, I’m still separate, but slowly losing the feeling of separation. When I have become one with this Light, I lose awareness of ‘me’. At this point I am aware only that I AM. I don’t actually ‘think’ about this at the time, but can bring it back later throughout the day. During this time of emergence with the Light, the Consciousness of I AM widens and broadens until it encompasses a vastness beyond description. This is where all healing takes place. I agree with you that “if the demonstration fails to come, I know I can go back to the drawing board . . .”, the drawing board of my mind, that is. What do you feel about those who have some hidden agenda – hidden even from themselves – deep in a subconscious layer; those that perhaps really don’t want to be ‘healed’ of whatever they express as a problem?

Mary: I think it is none of our business. As Practitioners we work only with Spirit or Cause. By having our clients not get “fixed” is discouraging at the ego level. But we are not in the business of manipulation and control - rather we deal in the realm of Creation. We absolutely cannot know (and neither can our clients) how this game of circumstances they are engaged in will play out. All we can know is the Truth: The Universe is orderly, and always, always supplying our Absolute Good. As we declare this for a client, the lesson they learn through suffering will set them free. But as for a “hidden agenda” not to be healed, I think by asking for prayer/treatments, clients really want healing. I’ve experienced thinking I, Mary, knew what the perfect outcome should be only to have a more perfect solution appear. Has that happened to you?

Janna: I think that all people *believe* they want to be healed. However, I suspect that many reasons could be given when there is *no apparent change*, one of them being the unconscious reward for continuing the problem. An example might be a person who receives much longed-for attention when they are ill. Like you, however, I believe totally in the orderly lovingness of Life and accept that Perfection already exists and is merely waiting to be recognized. That this outcome is not always viewed as the Perfection the person thought they wanted is merely another illusion; we always receive exactly what fills our *greatest* need at the moment. I believe it is part of my duty as a Practitioner to help the person uncover the Perfection in the outcome, so this becomes a part of every prayer/treatment: With heartfelt thanks I acknowledge, without a doubt, that the absolute, perfect good of all involved is being served that very moment. And so it is. See you right here, same place, next month.



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 PLC on Tuesday nights at 7:00 and check it out.**

Facilitators are Rev. Angelo Pizelo, Ph.D. 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. Held in the coffee-room at PLC.

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 at PLC from 5:30-6:45.

**Facilitator Rev. Rozella Dudley, Rs.D.
(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. Sandy West, Rs.D.

ON-GOING CLASSES

PLC is not a teaching institute, but offers classes that are accredited by Emerson Theological Institute.

EMERSON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

The Following people will be receiving accreditation in the Graduation Ceremony being held in conjunction with the Affiliated New Thought Network (ANTN) Conference:

Sandee Scott Archer - Practitioner Credential
Mary Elliot - Bachelor of Religious Studies
Rev. Rozella Dudley - Doctor of Religious Studies
Janna Lewis - Doctor of Religious Studies

The Graduation Ceremony will be held at The Pines Resort at Bass Lake on
May 4, 2006 at 4 p.m.
Everyone is welcome. Join us in celebration!

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 practioners and practicing ministers. It has already begun, but Rev. Marie said if you are willing to play "catch-up" ,you are welcome. Held in Angie's office - around back - at PLC.

Facilitators: Reverends Angelo Pizelo, Ph.D. and Marie Lane, Rs.D.
For information call (559) 642-4616

Thursdays: 4:30 -600 p.m. The Abundant Life At Home, At Work, At Play

The PLC is offering a new class based on Eric Butterworth's classic book, "Spiritual Economics". Many highly successful people have attributed this book as a crucial step in their achievements. The focus of the course is that within each person there is limitless life, limitless substance, and complete access to Infinite Intelligence. When we understand and embody these ideas, and are grateful for them, we become channels for a flow of abundance that draws great things into our lives.

The class will run from **April 27 - June 1**, and meets in the Mindshop Bookstore.
Cost is \$75. Everybody is invited. Emerson students receive 1 unit of credit.

Facilitator: Dr. Connie Thomas

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. Rozella Dudley, Rs.D. (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. Sandy West, Rs.D.

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.

HEARTBEATS

By Izabel Sonia Ganz

Your heartbeat came from within me
although my head was resting on your
breast.

Your heart's current carries on
in my own heart, as it keeps beating.

Birds sang in the trees outside the window
your touch was so sweet, so sweet.

I love you.

How much light can be released
by accepting all the darkness.

How great are today's treasures
uncovered by giving up all yesterdays.

We have come round full circle
thrown away old fetters,

And threading lightly unknown paths
strewn with fragrant uncreated flowers

We are fulfilling what we are,
what we came to fulfill together,

Erasing all past bondage,
In freedom of flight and in beauty.

I love you, Mother.

Written May 1985

BEFORE I WAS MYSELF

YOU MADE ME, ME

Author unknown

*Before I was myself you made me, me
With love and patience, discipline and
tears,
Then bit by bit stepped back to set me free,
Allowing me to sail upon my sea,
Though well within the headlands of your
fears.*

*Before I was myself you made me, me,
With dreams enough of what I was to be
And hopes that would be sculpted by the
years,
Then bit by bit stepped back to set me free,
Relinquishing your powers gradually
To let me shape myself among my peers.
Before I was myself you made me, me.*

*And being good and wise, you gracefully
As dancers when the last sweet cadence
nears
Bit by bit stepped back to set me free.
For love inspires learning naturally:
The mind assents to what the heart
reveres.*

*And so it was through love you made me,
me
By slowly stepping back to set me free.*

MAKE ME CLEAN AGAIN, DIVINE MOTHER

By Paramahansa Yogananda - Taken from Whispers from Eternity

Thou didst dress me in raiment immaculate, and sent me out to play. I wandered away and frolicked among the fruitless trees of delusion. The shadows of the forest of suffering enveloped me.

I went out spotless; now I am besmirched with the mud of ignorance. O Divine Mother, wash me in waters of Thy wisdom! Make me clean again!

WHAT PRACTITIONERS DO

By Mary Elliot

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, although no one is turned away for lack of money. 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.

MINE YOUR GOLD By Carrie Wilson

"It's in every one of us, to be wise." So the song goes. Wisdom is that vein of gold that is lodged deep within each of us. Sometimes, though we are so distracted by depression, illness, uncertainty, or loss of a job, a loved one, a home, that we forget how to mine that gold. That is what a spiritual counselor is for, to help you mine for your gold. They have the expertise to know where to start, to know how to help you dig without gouging or scarring, to know when to back off and shore up the tunnel.

Spiritual counselors help us to step back from the drama of whatever is overwhelming us, and hold for us a safe place so we may tap into the fabulous spiritual wealth that is our heritage from God. I know because Rozella has always been there for me.

RELIGIOUS SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS

Rev. JoAnn Burgess
559 222-8307

Sandee Scott-Archer
559 658-8373

Rev. Sandy West, Rs.D.
559 877-3775

Also

Rev. Maggi Belle Butterfield
-Brown, Rs.D.

Rev. Rozella Dudley, Rs.D.

Rev. Jeff Hartwig
Alan Languhoff
Tiami Stavas

INTERN-PRACTITIONERS

Dr. Connie Thomas
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. Rozella Dudley, Rs.D.
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

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.

PROGRAMS OFFERED:

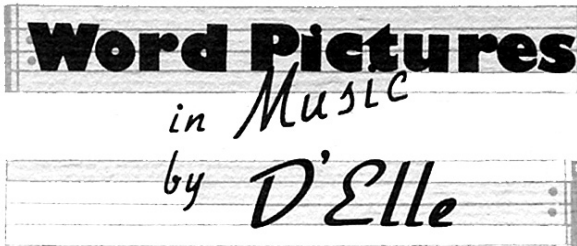
- ◆ Personal Growth
- ◆ Ministerial Credential
- ◆ Practitioner Credential
- ◆ Bachelor of Religious Studies
- ◆ Masters of Religious Studies
- ◆ Doctor of Religious Studies
- ◆ Doctor of Divinity

We're on the Web
www.emersoninstitute.edu

MEMBER SERVICES

Are you in need of help with *home plumbing* or *electricity repairs*? Do you need a *graphic design artist*? Desperate for a *bookkeeper* or *website designer*? Does the *computer* have you stymied? Need your *house sold* or a *land investment located*? Want your home *Feng Shui'd* or need *organizing help*? Does your *car need repairs*? In the spiritual realm do you have need of *prayer/treatment, pastoral counseling, meditation help, or energy healing*?

Before you search the Yellow Pages, why not check out the member services displayed on these pages as well as the communications wall of the coffee room. You'll find many services that might benefit you, and in return, will give your fellow PLC members an opportunity to experience greater prosperity. You'll also benefit and experience the joy of work honestly, reliably and cheerfully done well. **We are One!**



P.O. Box 1687 Oakhurst, California 93644
(209) 683-4837



**Buying?
selling?
I Deliver!**

BYRON LEWIS
Realtor®

Home Office : (559) 642-2880
Cell : 760-0598

Call me for free:

* Comparative marketing analysis.

* Brochure on how to prepare your home for sale.



CAL LIC. #560668



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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION by Dr. Janna Lewis

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

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

You shall not make unto yourself any graven images
(Exodus 20:4)

This commandment is closely related to the first one (and is actually included in the first one in many religions). Graven images are those things we idealize, be they property, concepts, or people. As I mentioned in the last commandment, we make gods of our illnesses by giving them power over us. We make gods of our TV. personalities, sports heroes, even our gurus. We make gods of our high powered cars and fancy houses, or high ranking positions in our businesses. This is not to say we shouldn't strive to be our best and do our best. Nor does it mean there is anything wrong with worldly possessions - since we believe that God is in and through everything. It does mean that God is Spirit, and Spirit is all there is. Spirit, therefore, is the substance within everything, giving it its value; the value is not in the *thing*, itself. Spirit has no corporeal form; when we confine God to a certain form, we are attempting to make a 'graven image' of God. God is making us aware, through this higher-consciousness statement of Moses, that to put value in something over and above (or instead of) our spirituality can only diminish our perception of our spirituality. God is All-There-Is. It will never work to try to have just a part of God, or pretend that God is less than All. Finding contentment in the present as well as the future means recognizing our Real Nature, our own god-ness.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
(Exodus 20:7)

This is truly another of those ideas that, by its very nature, has to be a statement of Truth, and not a commandment. To take something 'in vain' suggests *futility or ineffectualness*. It means *without success*. It implies something *empty or hollow, without worth or significance*. None of these things can be associated with the NAME of God. Name means NATURE - the inherent character or basic constitution of a person or thing; its essence. We are also told here that the very *nature* of God is our lord, our higher consciousness as defined earlier. We know through our learning and through our actual experiences that the nature of God is anything but 'empty' or 'without worth'. Ernest Holmes tells us that "The Universal Spirit, which is God, operates through a Universal Mind, which is the Law of God; and that we are surrounded by this Creative Mind which receives the direct impress of our thought and acts upon it."

We believe, in fact, that we are exact *experiences* of this creative mind. What this means is that when we direct our attention to the nature of God (Goodness, Love, Perfection, Abundance) as our higher thoughts and prayers, and when we believe in this Nature and express through this Nature, making positive statements such as I AM healthy and I AM happy, then great things happen - we get what we ask for - actually, we **are** what we ask for. The I AM is God in US; it is God's nature as expressed through us, as us. (When I first wrote that statement, I wrote it as 'The I AM is God in USE.' Before I could correct

my typo, I had this zing go through me at the truth embedded in my Freudian slip.) So, this Third Commandment/Statement means that if we should connect God's name with a negative condition, for instance when we say 'I AM sick' or 'I AM unhappy', we are using God's name in vain - to express a quality that is not a part of God's nature. It is not in God; it is not in us.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8)

This is one of those statements that have both literal as well as metaphysical value. We get very caught up in our secular lives, busy doing and getting. And when we have done too much, gone too far, our bodies and minds become quite literally too tired to be open to the re-freshment of God's Presence. The metaphysical interpretation of the Sabbath is *rest*. So we are instructed to rest and to keep this restful state devoted to goodness and righteousness (a holy state). But there is a deeper meaning in this Fourth *Statement*, a meaning that goes beyond a direct order. This is a statement of fact: When we rest our minds (remain in communion with God) our outer life reflects this peace and the barriers cease to exist between our spiritual and our secular lives; God becomes the whole of our existence on all levels and the holy Sabbath (rest) exists within us. It is in this way that we grow to understand the Truth of the New Thought statement: ***Wherever we are, God is, and all is well.***

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT (STATEMENT)

Honour your father and your mother (Exodus 20:12)

No one will argue with the literal value of this statement. Most of us have been taught from childhood to honor our parents. And for most of us this isn't merely a moral obligation, but an aspect intrinsic to child/parent love.

On a deeper level, the level of Universal Truth, God is our parent, what we often refer to as the Father/Mother-God. God as *parent* represents the dual nature of mankind, being both masculine and feminine, the giving and the receiving aspects of human nature, and we are true reflections (children) of this whole, unified God. The Father is Wisdom, the Knowing (mental) part of God, and the Mother is Love, the Feeling (emotional) part of God. In humans these aspects are often referred to as 'right-brain' and 'left-brain' activity. When we allow our individual natures to get out of balance - too much thinking without enough doing, or too much emotion without the balance of reason, we create chaos in our world. Ernest Holmes says that ". . . Heaven is within us, and that we experience It to the degree that we become conscious of It". Heaven is the presence of God within man, the Christ-consciousness; this is the whole unified God. And to the extent that we are aware of this wholeness of God, we can experience Its wonder. So, in this commandment/statement, God-consciousness through Moses is telling us that we must love both aspects of ourselves; the mother/father, masculine/feminine which is our true nature, and we must love and honor them equally in order to remain balanced and happy.

(Final five Commandants will be examined next month.)