

The birth of Jesus occurred over two thousand years ago.  
However, the birth of Christ can come at any time in your life  
through recognition and expression.

When Jesus asked Peter, "*But whom say ye that I am?*"  
Peter answered, "*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*"  
Matthew 16:16

While on earth Jesus expressed the Christ spirit openly for all to see, but only a few,  
including Peter, possessed the spiritual discernment to recognize it.  
---Harlan M. Oyer

# SPIRIT in ACTION

A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter  
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Mary Eckard, Secretary

## December 2005

### We Welcome You!

(In 1972 Margaret S. Mattson shared a true story that she had read about an incident in WWI)

Under adverse and austere circumstances during World War I, the everlasting spirit of Love brought forth fraternization in a most surprising way. It was nearly midnight on a bitterly cold Christmas Eve, the story goes, when sounds of warfare gradually died away in a section of the Western Front where German trenches faced those occupied by British forces.

All was still. The only movement in the trenches was that of soldiers trying to keep themselves warm. Suddenly, into the silence came the sound of German voices singing the carol, "Silent Night, Holy Night." When the German version came to an end, English voices took up the refrain. Then, in turn, "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" was sung. Finally, troops from both sides joined together in ---No Man's Land--- to celebrate Christmas. Christ love was there, just as it is here today. Wherever God is, Love moves mankind to action.

*What a never-to-be-forgotten experience this must have been for all concerned, proving as it does a statement from Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."*

## Christmas Eve Surrender

Shepherds, give your ragged cloak and staff to me tonight.  
For I would tend the hill-grazed sheep  
and catch that burst of light.

Wise Men, you who found the Babe,  
O point me to your Star.  
And tell the way of your searching feet  
and why you journey far.

Mary, let me see his face.  
My wandering is done.  
For he's the Answer, he's the Hope---  
This blessed Christ, your son.  
—Marguerite Arabel Wing

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## Christmas Story

So many years ago  
a plodding donkey brought a weary maiden, close  
upon her time, into a crowded, noisy town.

So long ago,  
a worn and anxious husband vainly sought some  
shelter for the night, and found at last a stable ...  
helped her down upon a bed of straw among the  
quiet beasts;  
made a manger-bed ready for the newborn Child.

So many years ago  
upon a barren windy height above that town,  
shepherds watched their meager flocks by night.  
And suddenly a radiance shone around, blazoned  
the dark---day-bright.  
And choirs of angels filled the air with celestial  
sound;  
A voice proclaimed the birthing of that One who  
came to save all men.  
The shepherds came and found it so, even as the  
angel said.

Was it so long ago?  
Two thousand years seem but a passing hour:  
for still we marvel at the Christ Child's birth.  
And still we worship at the manger-bed the Radiant  
One who came to save our earth.

Still we may see the brightness overhead, feel a new  
upsurge of hope and love again,  
Still hear the angel voice of prophecy;  
"Glory, all glory to God in the highest;  
on earth peace, good will toward men!"

—Barbara L. Wolfe  
Practitioner  
\* \* \* \* \*

**Praise the Omnipresent One!**

**Praise is more than just words:  
It is an attitude of the soul.**

## NOW

### STAYING IN NOW

is one of the hardest lessons we ever have to learn.

We are not a society that keeps in the moment. We rarely stay focused on the what, who, and where that we are. With cars, phones, computers, I-pods, electric devices that keep us ever on the move, it is considered almost foolish to concentrate on one thing. When was the last time you spent Saturday relaxing with your parents and family around the old back porch? Ask yourself, *what is of greater value*, finishing some task that will mean nothing when you wake from this dream, or visiting with the people you love, getting to know them and letting them get to know you?

"To recognize yourself as eternal *now* is true adoration. To realize yourself as one with God is true meditation." \*

Jesus did not go to Capernaum because he was lazy, but because he needed to get away from all the voices and confusion that pulled him back into the non-existent material world.

Keeping up with all the demands of people around us, taking care of all of our so-called conveniences, answering our multiple non-important communications, keeps us constantly moving but always going no where.

Jesus went to Capernaum to commune, to be with God, to get out of error and affirm the truth, to recognize eternity and realize true oneness with God. He alone never could have risen to the "consciousness of being Life and Truth." \*

Staying in the *now* teaches us to listen to our intuition and that is true obedience. It brings Spirit to the surface of our life and we begin to live not only our conscious mind but our subconscious and super-conscious mind as well.

*It blends intellect with reason, wisdom with knowledge.*

Free from the illusive beliefs, opinions, and suggestions of others, there is one Will or Law, and there is no separation or desire other than the Divine.

To be in NOW is to be in intuition.  
It is a "still small voice" and you may miss it if you have a million things on your mind.

**SLOW DOWN, STOP, and LISTEN NOW!**

—Reverend Mary D. Rezendes  
Minister at large

(\*Quotations are from *Divine Science and Healing*, M. E. Cramer)

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The Catalyst: ---Mildred N. Hoyer  
Faith is the Catalyst  
That takes the words "I can't"  
And miraculously makes them "I can." 2

## **The Christmas Light**

**JoAnn Pecoraro**

(a sharing from the December 1980 Aspire )

Rev. JoAnn Pecoraro (now Corsiatto) was minister of the Divine Science Church of the Healing Christ, Long Island, NY

Like St. Francis, **Lito**, a Pueblo Arizona Indian, was a great storyteller, but the greatest story of all took place three years ago (1977) at Christmas time

When Lito, built a stable scene of the Nativity of Jesus, people from all the neighboring areas came to look at it. He would often sit and tell the stories of the New Testament, and many wonderful legends of his family.

It was the first week of December. I was visiting the reservation and Lito's family, Beside Lito, there was his wife, Rosa, and two daughters, Maria and Aurelia. Maria, seven-years-old, had been blinded by an accident when she was three. Deeply spiritual people, they loved all living things. Their lives were centered around God.

When Maria was asked what she wanted for Christmas, she replied, "To see Christ on Kitten Mitten." Kitten Mitten is the name of a nearby mountain range, considered holy ground by most of the religious Pueblo people. Lito explained to her that she could see Christ in her heart, but she insisted that she wanted to see Christ for herself on Kitten Mitten.

During the following weeks, the family began to worry about her desire. So concerned were her parents that they drove into the city to speak with Maria's physician again, but he repeated his former diagnosis that the damage to the optic nerves could in no way be repaired. Nothing they said would convince Maria that she was not going to be able to see Christ on Christmas.

Christmas morning was filled with joy and love. Everyone was up, exchanging the gifts they had made for one another. There was so much laughter and excitement that for awhile no one noticed the absence of young Maria. When they finally missed her, the family looked everywhere, but she was nowhere to be found. As the hours went by, Lito gathered the neighbors to form a search party. Maria had never wandered off like this before. As they searched the sky grew darker and darker.

Then someone noticed an unusual white light in the distance, like a candle shining against the sky. The light was coming from Kitten Mitten Mountain. Immediately everyone ran in that direction. There was Maria clutching her favorite doll. As she ran with open arms to her father, he knew that she could see. She told of the bright light that surrounded her and of her visit with Christ.

For a while Maria had lost her physical sight, but her spiritual sight had remained rich and abundant. She had a great awareness of the Christ within. She had never doubted for a moment that she would see.

The faith of a child can inspire us to greater faith!

The Spirit of Light is born anew and with this birth comes a new meaning to all that happens at this special time of year.

We experience a true Christmas in the act of opening our heart, mind, and soul to the light of the Christ, which reveals to our awareness the ever-renewing Spirit of Christ in us. We open ourselves to this Truth and our hearts seem to burst into songs of joy and love and peace and thanksgiving for the spiritual light brought to mankind by the holy Babe of Bethlehem.

Have a special Christmas this year as you let the Christmas story be your story!

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## **A Matter of Choice**

**Carolyn Shaw**

In popular literature today we read a great deal about relationships---about the problems of husbands and wives, of parents and children, and of employers and employees. We also read about ways we "might" be treated, about how we "might" have more fulfilling relationships, about the kind of person who "might" best fulfill our need.

Actually it is in giving, in allowing outflow of the God within us, that our relationships are harmonized. *We are always fulfilled from within first.* No person can fulfill us or make us happy or sad. The popular literature about relationships may help us to define what we see as our problems, but it is only by turning the focus of our awareness inward that we can find answers. As long as we are preoccupied by problems---defining and shaping them---they only become larger; our sense of lack and loneliness may become overwhelming.

When we focus within---on God---we do not come from a sense of lack and loneliness but rather from Reality, from the Knowledge and Power and Substance of God. Out of our experience of oneness with God, we know that we are one with all mankind and that accordingly all our relationships are in Divine Order. There is harmony, peace, and joy with our families, friends, and associates.

Alignment with God causes us to be understanding, loving, patient, kind, and helpful. All activities/interactions begin to reflect harmony; smiling, helpful, and dynamic people appear. We begin to realize, as Emma Curtis Hopkins often said, that "we walk through a finished kingdom." *We discover that we are our own answer.*

There is a choice---preoccupation with outer appearances, or single vision of the Good. Either will tell its story in our world of experience. Let us choose wisely. Fulfilling relationships are a matter of choice.

**We welcome Edward A. Magraw to our family of Lifetime Members. He was gifted this honor by an anonymous donor. Among his accomplishments is the Divine Science Federation website which would not move as smoothly and efficiently without his devoted assistance. Thank you Ed!**

## Developing Christ Consciousness

John Seaman Garns

There are dangers in a generalization such as the phrase,  
"Christ Consciousness."

The average individual does not know what he/she means  
when it is said.

Stop a moment! Ask yourself:  
"Just exactly what do I mean by 'Christ Consciousness?'"

When you refer to your inner experience,  
do you not find it registering  
merely a sense of elevation and idealism---  
nothing very tangible, definite, or attainable?"

Who knows what Christ Consciousness implies?

What are we expecting when we aspire to it?

Exactly what are the concepts that must be put into practice  
before we can have any experience of this Cosmic Power?

Here are just a few of the principles that go to make up a  
practical view of the Christ:

1. Consciousness that the "I" within us is the absolute--is  
absolute Love and Power.

The one thing about which Jesus seemed most clear was that  
"I and my Father are one." John 10:30

The identity of the "I" within us with the Absolute is an  
understanding that must be first conceived and then repeatedly  
and constantly practiced until it is established as idea, feeling,  
conviction, and concrete action.

2. Continuous occupation of the whole consciousness with  
this sense of oneness with Absolute Love and Power.

Such one-pointedness is the result of a process--  
contemplation of the powers, attributes, and qualities of God  
until we make identity with them.

(Do we grasp what is involved in occupying our consciousness  
with God continuously?)

3. Realization that one Mind initiates all forms and creations  
and that our mind is this One Creative Mind--thinking.

I AM the Creative Thinker individualized, here, now.

(This is a revolutionary proposition.

Are we awake to its implications?)

It is the essential step in developing the Christ.

In the Christ, we constantly realize that the intelligence in  
ourselves is operating in unison with the Intelligence of God,  
and that it can, therefore, do anything.

4. Realization that there is a Law of Creative Thought which  
we already inherently possess but which we must learn to  
discipline and direct.

Any clear concept when declared in the consciousness of our  
oneness with God will be objectified.

Man joins the very creative process of God under the  
marvelous Law of Creativeness.

5. Acting in all ways "as if" this consciousness were already  
established; proving it.

It is not enough to theorize, to meditate and to feel.

Jesus was constantly putting his high consciousness of unity  
with God to the test. He walked the ways of suffering  
humanity; he continually contacted people who were deep in  
misery and trouble; he healed aching hearts and broken  
bodies; he avoided nothing that could be a test of his ability to  
manifest the love and power of God. Tempted in all ways even  
as we are, he still was without fault and without weakness or  
failure. He proved that man can be God incarnate. That is what  
we, too, are to prove.

The last point to be emphasized is  
that the movement into Christ Consciousness is *self-initiated*.  
It is not a miraculous emotionalized conversion.  
For some people some kind of conversion may be a first step,  
but the Christ Consciousness of active and potent unison with  
God is a matter of experimentation and training.

First, we catch a glimpse of what it may and must be.  
(We should frequently go over the principles listed above.)  
We should also often take time to realize that these ideal  
elements are already within us.

Over and over again,  
we ought to cause our mind to contemplate  
the beauty and the marvel of the Christ.

Then comes the daily work of experimentation  
in just the place where we now are.  
This may be (in our present estimation) an ugly place;  
it may be an unsatisfactory place  
for our final, perfect expression, but  
*we are to walk out of it  
by an acquisition of power from within.*

We are to do so through realization of our own identity  
with God  
and through observance of the Law of Creative Thought,  
which is the unfailing principle of spiritual power.

*In Memoriam  
Reverend Mary Fay Schoonover  
Divine Science Minister  
Freeport Illinois*

**I was regretting the past and fearing the future.**

**Suddenly my Lord was speaking.**

**"My name is I AM." He paused. I waited. He continued, "When you live in  
the past with its mistakes and regrets,**

**it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WAS.**

**When you live in the future, with its problems and fears,**

**it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WILL BE.**

**When you live in this moment, it is not hard. I am here.**

**My name is I AM."**

---Helen Mallicoat 4

## **The Art of Forgetting**

We are told on the highest authority to let the dead past bury its dead. (Matthew 8:22) We have more important things to do if we are alive. Unless we renounce them, the specters of past injustice, suffering and grief haunt us. If they haunt us, though we have not yet passed on, neither do we belong in the realm of the truly living.

We are to forget all evil of the past as spring forgets winter, and as harvest time forgets spring planting in the exuberance of its own fruitfulness. All that has been has been for a purpose; we have gained wisdom from every experience, even if it seemed bad at the time or too grievous to be borne.

All things make for good to them that love God and goodness, no matter how hard the way has been, no matter how many mistakes we may seem to have made. We hear now and then of memory systems, of how easy it can be to learn to remember facts, names, faces, and figures by the law of association. It is high time we used the same law to learn to forget.

We can forget what we want to by reversing the law of association; we can dissociate ourselves from negation of every kind, linking ourselves with positive affirmations of the infinite, the impersonal, the universal. We always remember what really interests us most. Shall it be good or seeming evil? The choice is our own. If we are not interested in vice, crime, evil, disease, lack, or limitation, it will not cling to our consciousness. Let us choose this day whom we will serve. That to which we are receptive in consciousness stays with us and comes to us.

The subconscious mind records all that we think, say, see, hear, feel, and do. (It can also be instructed to disbelieve or "clear" anything it may have recorded.) We have to guard ourselves from taking mental poisons. If we are to keep sanity and sweetness, we must forget our sins and sorrows. Much damage is done to happiness and spiritual growth when we remember negative experiences, especially in the conscious mind, which should be kept clear to record the ever-new pleasant experiences of life.

We are delivered from our troubles the moment we cease to hold them in mind. Let us free ourselves now from the rusty, dragging chains of the past. No one can hold us to old memories but ourselves. We can loose ourselves from them instantly when we pour in new thoughts and present satisfactions. Let us go on about our Father's business here and now. we are living now; we are meant to make the best of it.

There is much to be said, as Robert Louis Stevenson did say in "An Apology for Idlers," for rich days of doing nothing at all but dreaming and pondering. To commune with one's soul is good. We should take time to remember our blessings. If we think we are too busy, let us take a day off just to be alone, a day to remember just who and what we really are, this is, children of the living God.

*"All things are at last good, constructive, healing and blessed."*

We are to replace our worries with constructive plans and dreams for the future. We can fill our consciousness with positives, with lovely memories, with eager anticipations, with kind thoughts about friends and neighbors. We can fill it with plans to do or say something nice for someone else's pleasure. It is easy to forget ourselves and all our troubles in the joy of planning some sweet surprise or happy outing for another. All negation is sin, that is, denial of God and goodness. All positive affirmation and constructive thinking is practicing the presence of God.

In place of thoughts of lack, we can think of inexhaustible supply, the universal abundance that fills God's universe and that is ours to draw upon at any moment. In place of loneliness, we can think thoughts of love for all the world, and see how it comes flooding back to us a thousand-fold. In place of weakness, we can know access to omnipotence at all times. In place of fear, we can take heart, rejoice, and be glad. Great is our reward in harmonious consciousness.

Let us forget all that is bleak and unworthy of children of the living God. Memories should bless, not burn. Our rosary of happy days is our real prayer chain. We can remember only that which is good. (Past mistakes may eventually be remembered without pain when we see what we have learned from such experiences. We have gained; we are stronger; we have become wiser.) All things are at last good, constructive, healing, and blessed. There are only good times in eternity.

Let us learn to forget by remembering God. Let that mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5) God is of purer eyes than to behold evil. In our essence we also are. We are eternal, positive, immortal, infinite, spiritual. There are only eternally new beginnings. Each day is a fresh page. Always, God is with us and blesses us, makes his face to shine upon us and gives us peace. ---Edgar White Burrill

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## **DECEMBER 2005**

A Divine Science Federation International  
Newsletter

**L**ove  
**I**ntegrity  
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**We Welcome You!**

The World Has Need of You  
--Evelyn Whitell

If it's ever so small the part you take,  
The world has need of you.

Be it big or little the effort you make,  
The world has need of you.

If it's only a thought you give by the way,  
If it's only love's word you pause to say,  
It's a part that nobody else can play.  
So the world had need of you.

By your smile you can change another's life;  
The world has need of you.

By a word you can bring peace out of strife;  
The world has need of you.

Then lift your head and never say die;  
Count every blessing, stop every sigh.  
Get busy...don't let a chance slip by  
For the world has need of you.

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