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Aram started to cry out, “Who speaks?” but the words died in his mouth,
for he already knew the answer.

---David W. Frasure

SPIRIT in ACTION

A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter

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Mary Eckard, Secretary

August 2007

WE WELCOME YOU!

A Story About Prayer

Seeking and Finding

David W. Frasure

As Aram walked along the path, the cutting wind harshly whipped his sheepskin garments, causing him to feel more alone and isolated than ever. From out of the cold, gray sky the undying wind beat against his face, pulled at his long hair, and bit at his legs like an enemy. Dead leaves whirled around him and crackled beneath his boots as he stumbled along.

Stopping beneath the stripped branches of a willow, Aram fell to his knees and cried out, “Dear Master, why hast Thou forgotten me? Have you not heard me? Have you not noticed the things that I have done in Thy name?” His words fell on no ears except his own, but were felt by the world. He dropped his head to his chest and his arms collapsed to his sides. Hot tears stung his face. Minutes of complete silence passed.

Then sudden words shook his understanding like silent thunder, inaudible, but not to be denied. “Aram, do you really seek Me, or do you wish to plead with Me?” Aram started to cry out, “Who speaks?” but the words died in his mouth, for he already knew the answer.

“Aram, you have made your cry to the winds, hoping that someone would hear, and having heard, would say, ‘Poor Aram! He has helped the poor; he has given to the church. Why has God forgotten Him? Why has God not given him health and prosperity?’ Is this not the purpose of your cry?”

“But Master, I have given to the poor, I have given to the church, I have. ...”

“If you have given, Aram, then why did you give? Did you do it because it had to be done and you were the channel of my Love? Or did you do it to have your friends think highly of you and to show them that you have a good heart? Did you do it out of love for your fellow man, or did you want something in return? If you live this lifetime--- even for ten thousand years--- expecting some return for your deeds, you have missed the goal. You have missed Me.

“Aram, when you see a man drowning, do you save him from the swallowing waters for the awards that he and friends will give you? Or do you save him because he is in trouble, and because you have compassion on him, and love for mankind in your heart?”

“I would save him, Master, because he is in true need.”

“Then, Aram, should this not be the motive for all of your actions, regardless of how big or small--- because there is need, because there is joy and satisfaction in giving?”

Aram’s body hung limp in its frame. His mind was silent, without thoughts. In the silence his soul brought forth the truth he had hidden from himself for so long. Into his thoughts came the selfish desires of his past, his self-will, and his regretful deeds. He understood the darkness that he had caused. As he saw for the first time what he had been doing, the darkness from within began transforming into light. “Master,” he spoke meekly, “You have shown me by how far I have missed you. But I do seek you. Now tell me what I must do.”

“You yourself must learn, Aram. It is good to seek Me, but sooner or later you will have to stop seeking and begin to find Me. To find Me is to experience Me; and if you cannot experience Me, then you will always be a seeker and never a finder. Man would rather live in self-pity, in torment, in danger, in fear, and continually ask himself, and ask Me, why he must live this way. Instead of changing his life, and realizing My Good, he enjoys the hardships and terror, and pretends that it is My Will for man. Can you not see what I have given freely to all to behold? Often mankind sees, but he does not behold.”

“But Master, must I not work to grow food so that I may live? Must I not help the beggars and orphans?”

“You must do all that you are doing now, for in time you will see that the only thing you must do is to let My Life live you. You will soon find that work is not work at all. You will discover Me in the work. The more you know Me as work, the more you will love the work. You will see that to work is to love, to express Me. And the more you express Me, the easier your work will become, and you will produce so much that there are not vessels large enough to hold what I will give you ... Yes, the beggars and orphans need help, but you will soon discover that when you are truly helping, it is I who am helping. For when you are really giving of yourself, you are giving of Me. You and I are inseparable.

“Aram, can you not see that what you call suffering is what you have done unto yourself? When you can accept

with love and thanksgiving whatever comes to you, then you are starting to see Me, to know Me, to experience Me. When you can receive whatever comes to you and still thank e for it, you will see that it does not really affect you. You learn from that for which you have asked. You alone have set the prince. And if you do not fully learn from each experience, the lesson will be given unto you again, but wearing a cloak of a different color.

“Be cautious, however, not to judge your friends by their circumstances, for they alone know for what price they have asked. In your willingness, you must learn to be patient with life, with yourself, with others. If I had not been patient with you, where would you be now?”

“And when I am willing and patient with life, what is next, Master?”

“When you can see Me in every man as you know Me within yourself, when you can see that I am all things, when you place Me before all else, when nothing comes before Me--- then you will begin to experience Me. When you know that I am as much alive in the stones of granite as I am in the field of grain, that I am in the gentleness of the dove and the venom of the viper, that I am the pure white snow and also the soot from your fire that turns the snow black, that I am the parched earth and the falling rain--- then you shall begin to know Me.

“When you know that the sharp winter wind and the warm summer breeze are the same; when you know that in everything, I exist as vibrant Life and do not exist more in one thing than another, that I am equal in all things, then you will start to know Me. I am the Breath of Life to every single thing. Nothing can be without Me. When you see that to intentionally harm anything is to harm Me, then you will begin to experience Me.

“When you begin to truly experience Me, putting nothing above Me, putting no one before Me, you will know what life is about. I am Immutable Law, I cannot be changed or bargained with, I am timeless. Find Me! I will place a love in your heart that words cannot describe, for you can only know it, feel it, experience it.

“I have told you much, Aram. When you have grown to see more, I will tell you more. When you are ready and willing, I will always teach.”

As the voice of his inner Self withdrew, Aram cried out to the whistling wind, “But Master, but Master. ...” He knelt in silence beneath the willow, seeking, trying to find more inner contact, but found none. He arose slowly from his knees and started the long walk back to his 2

simple hut. The colorful leaves cushioned his footsteps with loving care. The wind was no longer his enemy, but seemed to dance around him, expressing the joy of life, gently kissing his face and playing with his hair. The chill of the wind only made him more aware of the warmth in his soul.

As the sun, hidden behind gray clouds, sank below the horizon, darkness fell upon his path, but Aram knew that the Son had already risen in his soul to Light his path forever.

"My Pet Serpent"

by Rev. Christine Emmerling 11/7/1994
(Current Minister of the Divine Science Community
Center, San Jose California)

What is my enemy? Always looming to scar me! Confirm my worst fears with full scale colorful dramas; suspicions, hurt, anger. Overwhelming threats to my security; loss of work, loss of possessions, loss of dignity, loss of love, loss of health, and even loss of my own life -- death.

"Who are you kidding? You fool!"

"Watch out for the big green dragon!" Splish! Splash!

"Can't you ever get it right?"

"Look at yourself now. Dummy, you're all wet!"

The dialogue echoing inside my head goes on and on. Some strange companion, my alter self I call EGO. Always lying, can't tell the truth because EGO is a lie based on the original deception of separation.

EGO has no life of its own. It is me that keeps forgetting who I am. Believing I am only the body. Believing I need all those precious belongings. Believing in appearances to become savior over and EGO reigns once again.

EGO is the critic taking center stage of my mind with its nonstop chatter. Just when I get fed up with being attacked or attacking, judged or judging, sentenced or sentencing, EGO changes its tactics like a chameleon

changing the color of its skin -- whispering...

"Go fix it, try this, try that, keep trying.

You deserve a break. Go play, have fun, go, go.

Always keep busy, all the time busy, busy, busy."

Why? EGO knows it is so very fragile. EGO Knows that it only takes a few very short moments of silence for the inner still voice of Truth to wipe out all that it has created.

Ego's last flight,

"At all costs don't be silent, don't listen,

don't give up my..."

Hush! "But!"

Hush! "Don't..."

Shhhh... Be still...

Here I AM! Poof!

A Sharing by

Reverend Lucy Faugno

of the Quimby Memorial Church, Secaucus NJ

Faith works wonders for us when we use it. Nothing is denied us when we hold to the truth, "I and the Father are one." There are some who have great faith, but little love and so their success is less than is needed. Love is always the catalyst; the healer, the restorer, the peace maker. When we turn our faces toward God we take the attention from the problem and we look to the solution. You and I live in the abundance of God. Yet it is not ours until we acknowledge it. God loves a grateful heart and is ever ready to supply and support us in all things.

We are never alone; never without means, never without the Presence and Power of God. "Be still and know that I am God," so reads the scripture. Be still your oneness with God and all of humankind. There is no greater love.

There is no difficulty that is beyond repair, no loss that will not bring comfort and peace. Know that God is healing you now.

Messages from Zion is a New Thought ministry. Its aim is to show the spiritual meaning of the Scriptures. The Church of the Infinite Presence, Oklahoma City OK You may reach us by phone at: 405-314-7439.

Advice Regarding Conversation

Zechariah 8:16

"These are the things you are to do, speak the truth to one another."

Zechariah is a latter testament prophet that speaks very strongly to the Children of Israel. Zechariah claims that God is speaking to him directly as a prophet, a spokesman between Israel and God. However we feel about that, we should understand that our Scriptural selection is sound advice.

Conversation between individuals is very important, since what is actually happening is that we are passing ideas around. The problem is, of course, that the ideas we are passing around may very well be of a destructive nature unless we are watching our thoughts and actions. In order to do this we must be aware of whom we are. This naturally leads to another bit of information--- Who and What God is. These two bits of information will either make or break our experience today.

Much is being said about the Law of Attraction these days. One thing that I am very aware of is that conversation on a negative or positive side will totally influence our experience. Paul once told the people that their conversation should come from the higher place and not the lower sense of creation--- that is excellent advice for us. Jesus told us to "watch" and that means to be alert.

This day will be filled with hundreds of conversations. What will the subject of our conversations be about? That of course will be up to us. Higher or lower, what will it be?

Prayer for the Day:

Dear Lord, Help me to keep my eyes open to that which is right and whole today.
Your Presence goes with me and I have peace.

Affirmation for the Day:

I have the Mind of Christ.
My thoughts are of perfection and Love. So it is.

Mankind shall turn within and behold. He shall be still and hearken to the Divine Inspiration. Above all other heeding, he shall take heed of the Presence abiding at the Inmost of his being. If he shall be steadfast in his inward attention, he will feel a great peace permeating his entire consciousness. ... ---H.B.Jeffery, *Fruit of the Spirit*

Divine Science

Our teaching is called a science because it is based on principle and law. The principle is Omnipresence – God eternally everywhere.

Our work is to change the basis of our thinking from observation to principle. In science, we are not working toward principle, but from principle. All existence proceeds from God. As we open to this reality, we discover that there is nothing in all of creation that is separate and apart from God. Creation is Divine Being manifesting in existence. God and God activity is all there is.

God of Infinite Grace, thank you that all may know your Presence, that all may know that each being is your individualized expression, your word made flesh. Thank you that we may know the Truth that sets us free. From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

Amen.

(Shared by Reverend Patricia A. Beach of the Divine Science School and the Divine Science Church of the Healing Christ, Washington D.C.)

Mystics and sages have spoken of the here-ness and the now-ness of God. To speak the words "God is" acknowledges the omnipresence of God. God is – not will be, but "is."

To perceive the presence of God, here and now, reveals that healing, love, and harmony are present now. It is not a matter of changing bad into good, sickness into health or poverty into riches.

When you acknowledge the Allness of God as the only existence, you will perceive the activity and law of God as the only reality. There are no ups and downs, no rich or poor, no sickness or health, just the presence of God as every good thing. And there is no judgment. What is there to judge?

To "see" in this way is to know God aright. To attain the mind that was in Christ Jesus is to "see" spiritually, to behold the spiritual world, to live, move, and have being in the kingdom of Heaven.

God is my sufficiency is my prayer of recognition, there is none else.

Amen

(Shared by Reverend Janet Friedline of the Divine Science School and the Divine Science Church of the Healing Christ, Washington D. C.)

A Sharing---

It is with mixed emotions that I share the information that I will be giving you, but before I do that, let me share an experience.

For more than two years I have been experiencing a great amount of pain and stiffness in my neck and shoulder. Working in a one-person office made it difficult for me to carry on at the Federation; through prayer, however, Spirit did give me the strength to do just that. I didn't miss even one day.

The pain and stiffness would last for sometimes as much as two months and then there would be a brief respite. I felt certain that there was a problem somewhere in my concept of forgiveness and began examining my past contacts and experiences. I prayed for assistance with my understanding and meditated on forgiveness. There was no relief.

Then I thought perhaps I had not forgiven myself for past events. I again examined my efforts at seeking out the item or items that I had neglected and still found no answer.

As I prayed and meditated the pain and stiffness continued. I sought assistance from the medical community and through it all the condition worsened. (Perhaps Spirit felt betrayed because I had doubts.) I returned to prayer and meditation.

Then, as I was typing the July/August 2007 *At-one-ment* I again spoke to Spirit and said "I really don't know how long I will be able to continue in this position. Maybe it is time for me to step aside." I then heard my answer and it couldn't have been more clear had it been audible, "Yes, it is all right for you to let go." With that answer the pain completely left and the stiffness was gone for the rest of the day. The pain has never come back. The stiffness did return, but with each task that I completed, which led to my retirement, lessened, and today as I stand with very little left to do, I have no stiffness at all.

Now, why did I hear this answer at this time, when I had prayed and meditated for two years? Only Spirit knows! Perhaps Spirit wasn't ready. Perhaps Spirit didn't feel that I was ready. All I know is that I am at peace.

Now returning to my original statement, it has indeed been my privilege and pleasure to have served you all these years (I am in my eleventh year). I count many of you among my friends as we have corresponded through the years and encouraged one another. I have gained so much more from being Secretary at the Divine Science

Federation than I have given. I love and appreciate you all. I am in my 78th year and I need to know that there is someone in this office that is equipped to carry on.

Believing that Spirit never closes a door without opening another, and since Spirit told me it was okay to go--- we know that there is another who is able and ready to take this position and serve it very well. With that in mind we are putting this advertisement in *Spirit in Action*, knowing that that person will step forward.

**DSFI is looking for an Office Manager
to replace Mary Eckard.
Do you know of someone
in the St. Louis area
who is well organized and
has a Divine Science or
strong New Thought background?
This is a part time position
but the hours can be flexible.**

**For more information,
contact the DSFI office via phone
1 800.644.9680
or email: divscifederation@aol.com
or Cathy Hall, DSFI Board President, at
chall_dsfi@yahoo.com**

One of our churches is also seeking. They are in need of a Minister to take up a position after September 2007.

**The Divine Science Church of
Crestwood
(St. Louis, MO)
is seeking interested
Divine Science ministers
to apply for our open minister position.**

**Interested parties should contact
Cathy Hall at chall_dsfi@yahoo.com
for complete information.
Applications will be taken through
mid-October at the latest.**

A Commentary---

In my final days as Secretary of the Divine Science Federation International, I should like to share some thoughts with you.

The Divine Science Movement was begun by Malinda Cramer in the 1890s and it began by teaching--- *she opened a school*. The Divine Science Movement was joined by and continued on by the Brooks sisters, Nona, Fannie, and Aletha, by teaching--- *they opened a school*. The students were encouraged to study, to practice, and to share. They were encouraged to go out into the world and teach others what they now knew.

When Jesus the Christ, our wayshower, was on this earth, he taught the disciples the way of the Lord, *in essence he opened a school*; and then he told his students, the disciples, "to go forth and teach all nations."

Malinda Cramer and the Brooks sisters knew that the important event that they had been privileged to experience, their healing and the sharing of it, was their mission on earth.

God has a mission for all of us and if we limit ourselves to a small area, or a small understanding, or a small group of people, we are missing the mission.

Dr. Max Ballard, a beloved Divine Science Minister, who served at the Pueblo Divine Science Church, CO; the Divine Science Church of Crestwood, MO; and the Divine Science Church of the Healing Christ, Wash. D.C. in the 1940s through the 1980s, told me in one of his last communications before he made his transition that the Federation and its work was the "heartbeat of Divine Science." That is why I feel so strongly that the material that the Founders and the early workers gave us is so important to be read and studied and shared.

Our *churches* are autonomous, which means that they have a base in Divine Science, but then are able to teach other material.

Our *schools* are autonomous, which means that they have a base in Divine Science, but then are able to teach other material.

The Divine Science Federation strives to retain the basic teachings, thus it serves as a hub, if you will. The World has a way of interfering sometimes with our concentration when we are not on guard to keep our thoughts centered. The Divine Science Federation endeavors to keep the balance in that when the World tries to tip the scale there is always a center where one may return.

The Divine Science Federation is not like most other church organizations in that the Central Office does not rule from the top down. Our only "Creed" references Practicing the Presence of God and believing in the Omnipresence of God. Neither are we ruled by hierarchy nor do we set down rules for the Divine Science organizations to follow within their own facility. We are a service organization. We serve the churches, the schools, but most of all we serve the people---both those who are seeking and those who wish to learn more.

I have come to believe that having many churches and being a large organization is not important. We do indeed have only a few churches around the United States and a scattering of churches and study groups across Africa, Australia, United Kingdom, Europe and South America. I also know that we are all social beings and enjoy being with people of like-mind to praise the Lord and to reinforce beliefs. However, my feeling is as Nona Brooks said, "We are not working to build organization or sect. There is something much larger than any organization. We must work to that end." She went on to say, "It is, of course, necessary to have a name. We wish it were not. We should all be workers in the 'Body of Christ.'" What she was really saying is it's "the message" that is the important item here. When the churches and the schools teach the message, God's message that we learned through the words of Jesus the Christ, and encourage the students to go forth and share that message, those that hear will join together to form their church--- "where two or more are gathered." It doesn't need to be a building, it can be a fellowship. It is, after all, the people who are the church.

Divine Science is really a "do it yourself" religion. We were told to "go into our closet and commune with God." There are only two directly involved: the individualized expression of God which is you and me, and God.

The Founders believed that no one had a corner on Truth and this includes Divine Science. Nona Brooks said, "We rejoice in the truth wherever given. We believe we have something worthwhile to give here and now. We invite others to share it with us. We are happy when they are benefited by their contact with us. We do not limit them. We encourage them to work for the Church Invisible--- the Church Universal."

---Mary Eckard, Secretary
Divine Science Federation International

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An inspirational sharing---

Suppose someone should come to you and say,
“I can show you a way of living that
if faithfully followed
will release you from sorrow and suffering.”
Would you not answer, “Show me the way”?

There is a key, which will unlock
the treasure house of God
wherein all health, abundance, and happiness
is to be found.
That key is faith, based on the acceptance
of the omnipresence of God.

... How does Divine Science
differ from other religions?

Are its teachings so different?

It does not differ so much in its teaching
as in the application of that teaching.
We are to put it to work in our every day life;
it must be our very life.

Christianity (man-made word),
as taught by Jesus,
was a statement of

what our daily living should be;

He gave it to the simple fishermen
and men from the lowest walks of life.

A child may comprehend its teaching.

It touched the problems and sorrows of life
and offered a solution.

The solution was then, as it is now, *faith*;
faith in the goodness of God,
faith in the ever-present love of God
for His children.

This simple, practical Christianity, however,

finally degenerated into ceremonial worship,
into observing the outward forms instead of
obeying the deep principles, which Jesus taught.

A new movement has arisen
(in the last hundred plus years)
to get back to the fundamental teachings of Jesus
as evidenced by the life he lived.
This has been done in Divine Science.

**Divine Science is a practical religion, not a
theoretical one.**

Divine Science does not ignore the findings
of the scientific world;
it finds no warfare between science and religion.
Divine Science redirects us
to the way in which Jesus pointed---
the way of faith---
wherein there is no sin, sickness, or death.

**As we look about us and
see the needless suffering of humankind,
the suffering they bring on themselves
by their belief in a power other than God---
when we see wars and conflicts among nations
and antagonism and friction among individuals,
we must search for a remedy.**

**If we live true
to the teachings of Divine Science,
we can know *no separation*
either from God or from our fellowmen,
and we shall hasten that time
when we can all live together in love,
conscious of our identity with all life.**

We shall live true to the teachings Jesus gave us
more than two thousand years ago.

---Jenice T. Marshall
from “*What Does the World Need Most?*”

“If you wish to realize supply, withdraw thought
from the contemplation of lack and its
accompanying inconveniences, and give full
attention to ever present abundance.

Live as if you believed in abundance; pay every
debt, no matter how great the sacrifice; be true in
every business transaction; be generous in
attitude.”

---Nona L. Brooks
Short Lessons in Divine Science

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**A Divine Science Federation International
Newsletter**

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We Welcome YOU!

“It will do no good to take thought for your life, your health, or your supply: it will do no good to go to God with a request, a petition, or a desire, because God possesses nothing that God is withholding, and God is withholding nothing that God possesses.

God is infinite active being. All that God *is* and all that God *has* is flowing constantly into manifestation, into expression, into form, and to think that prayer will influence God to speed it up, or deliver it to your doorstep, is foolishness.”

---Joel S. Goldsmith

**LIVE FROM WITHIN,
IF YOU WOULD HAVE POWER AND
PEACE!**

---Nona L. Brooks