



THE LIGHT

THE MAGAZINE OF INNERFAITH MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE

DR. SHARRON STROUD - FOUNDER

MAY / JUNE 2008

**THE
ADVENTURE
OF LIFE:
DR. SHARRON STROUD**

REV. TRENT BLANCHARD:
**A DAY TO
REMEMBER**

ERNEST HOLMES:
**WHAT IS
LIFE?**

May/June 2008

The Light

The Magazine of Innerfaith Ministries Worldwide

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We are proud to present The Light in this new e-zine format.

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THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE:

A MESSAGE FROM DR. SHARRON STROUD



Dear Spiritual Partners,

One of my favorite authors throughout the years has been C.S. Lewis, who wrote *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. In this wonderful adventure C. S. Lewis weaves a work of profound symbolism, in which he creates a setting of an English castle, a professor, a too bossy House Keeper, and a magical wardrobe.

The energy of the story builds as Lucy; the youngest of four children joins in a game of Hide and Seek with her 3 older siblings, Peter, Susan, and Edmund. Lucy runs to hide and finds an old antique ward robe and quickly goes inside. As she hides inside the beautifully carved Ward Robe she begins to feel a strange kind of chill and puts on an old fur coat she finds hanging there. As she is putting the coat on she realizes that the Wardrobe is an opening for a strange new world! Lucy gazes out into what could be a painting, yet it is real! It is a scene of snow laden trees just beyond the Lamp Post and beckons her to begin her journey.

Lucy has some amazing experiences and

when she returns to share the events with her brothers and sister no time has elapsed at all in their world and they do not believe her. This is a major source of frustration for Lucy because she wants to share her adventures, yet she is cut short because this is not the reality that her family operates within. Lucy is devastated by this, yet holds her ground that she is telling the Truth whether anyone believes her or not!

Lucy goes into a period of isolation, until at last her siblings hide in the Ward Robe to flee the temperamental House Keeper, and lo and behold, the portal opens and they too share her experience in the land of Narnia!

The children meet up with the White Witch who has made the land always winter yet never Christmas! Their animal allies come to their aid, and lead the way to the Stone Table and Aslan, the King of the land who appears in the form of a Lion. Was not Jesus referred to as The Lion of Judah? As the archetypes show up as light

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workers and those who consort with the darker forces, the brother Edmund has gone the way of the ego and betrays his siblings to the White Witch who is scheming to get rid of all of them so the ancient prophecy cannot come to pass, where the Sons of Adam and the Daughters of Eve will take the throne of this sacred land. As the story unfolds the spiritual meaning of Father Christmas breaking through the White Witch's winter shows the intensity of consciousness. The Light penetrates the darkness and absorbs it!

Jesus said that "unless we become as a little child we shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." What this means for each of us is that we must remain open for the deeper truths. We are told to go into the closet and pray, out of this going within a portal will open and we will experience Christ Consciousness. We are given free will and the right to choose what we will experience in life. There is a part of us that wants to believe the White Witch of egoist consciousness of instant gratification and lording it over others, as Edmund did. However, once Edmund's Higher Self began talking to him in the form of his own reflection, he finally began to listen when he realized the true intentions of the White Witch, not the Queen of Narnia as she portrayed herself, but the Ice Queen of Darkness come to destroy all warmth and color that threatened her reign of terror.

When Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy confronted their fear it disappeared. When Aslan gave his life for Edmund, as the Old Magic called for when a life was relinquished by the forces of darkness, the Stone Table was broken and Aslan arose triumphant and victorious! The White Witch did

not know the Deeper Magic that anyone without evil, laying down their life for another could even break the bonds of death itself!

Each of us is the Son of Adam, the Daughter of Eve, with our humanity and all that that means. As we look with fresh eyes each experience opens up for us and we begin to experience life from a mystical point of view.

Come let us enter into the Secret Place of the Most High, and pray to our Father/Mother God in secret knowing that we are rewarded openly by the outward demonstrations of our lives! As Helen Keller wrote so eloquently, "Life is a daring adventure or it is nothing!"

Namast'e and Love,
Dr. Sharron Stroud,
Founder



DR. SHARRON STROUD
CO-FOUNDER
INNERFAITH MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE

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CELEBRATE WITH US



MAY THEME

Affirmation:

Today is a brand new day and I receive it in Joy, Peace, Love, Prosperity, and Wisdom. I Am Going Higher! And so it is.

- 4 The Arising New Consciousness
- 11 The Joy of Being
Happy Mother's Day!
- 18 The Lost Ring
- 25 Incontrovertible Proof of Immortality
A Memorial Day Tribute

JUNE THEME

Affirmation:

I embrace life with the power of the universe and I know that I Am supported in all my endeavors. And so it is.

- 1 Would You Rather Be Right or Happy?
- 8 Who Do You Think You Are?
- 15 The Secret of Happiness
Happy Father's Day!
- 22 Recognizing Your Child
- 29 The Peace That Passes All Understanding

Friendship Sunday Brunch

The first Sunday of each month

Please join us at the Hilton Hotel (across from the Spa Casino on Tahquitz). Special price \$7.95 to InnerFaith members and guests! All are welcome.

Prayer Ministry

Rev. Ed DiNicola will assist you with your prayer request at the prayer table in the foyer and pray with you personally if you desire.

Healing Service

9:30 AM each Sunday morning

Facilitated by the Ministerial Team; experience healing energy and the joy of deepening spirituality

Founder's Circle

Become a member of the Founder's Circle. Join today by tithing \$100 or more a month over your regular contribution. To join, write Founder's Circle on your check. Talk with Rev. Lloyd Brushett at 770-9263 about the miracles that come from giving to a Purpose larger than yourself.

Centering Meditation

By Musicians

9:50 AM each Sunday Morning in the Sanctuary Theater.



MEMORIAL DAY- A DAY TO REMEMBER

By Rev. Trent Blanchard

During my childhood, Memorial Day symbolized the beginning of summer—warm weather, cookouts, crazy days frolicking in the pool and most importantly, the impending conclusion of school. It was one of those wonderful holidays that included a long weekend, which we fully utilized by eating, drinking and playing to oblivion! However, as I look back, I realize we never took time from our busy partying schedule to reflect on why it was created a national holiday in the first place.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was intended to be a day of remembrance for those who died in our nation's service. It was dedicated to show appreciation to those brave souls who battled for the rights and freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this country today.

Even though I knew what this holiday was about, I was never encouraged to set aside time to pay my respect, and since I didn't personally know anyone who lost their life in service, the true meaning of Memorial Day was lost on me. I have since discovered I am not alone and just recently

made a conscious decision to do something about it.

I asked myself how I could make it more meaningful. I decided to schedule time each Memorial Day to honor those courageous people who died in service- while also honoring those living who served and currently serve. I am thankful to them and appreciative of their heroism, bravery, strength and courage.

During this time of reflection, I became aware that memories of special people from my own life whom had died were coming to mind. I was flooded with emotions that ran the gamut of extreme joy to deep sadness and longing. It was at that moment I expanded my outlook of Memorial Day- beyond what it is traditionally intended, it would become an opportunity for me to remember the people I loved who are no longer living - paying special attention to those I didn't have the opportunity to say goodbye.

To this point, last year I lost two people who were very special to me; one, a woman who was like a grandmother to me, and the other, a dear friend. They both passed away suddenly, which didn't give me the chance to say goodbye or tell

them how much I loved them. The sadness that was surfacing when I thought of them made me realize I hadn't properly grieved their loss, which I believe is necessary in living a healthy life.

Grieving, or lack thereof, affects us on many levels. People rarely allow themselves to properly grieve- often dating back to an important figure that died during childhood. This is not a surprise, since we aren't taught how to deal with death and hence, internalize the feelings of sadness and loss which often manifests physically in the body as disease or dis-ease. Moreover, unresolved emotions directly impacts every relationship in our lives, showing up as defense mechanisms which mask issues, such as abandonment, that hold us back having what we truly desire-intimacy.

Given my awareness of my own unfinished business with these two people, I did for myself what I have my clients do in this situation- deal with the grief directly. I started the process by creating a sacred ritual that would assist me in getting in touch with my feelings about each person; rituals are very powerful as they help us deal with, accept and come to terms with change or transition in our lives. I lit a candle, put on some soft music, flipped through photos and wrote each a letter. I shared my feelings, told them they were missed, and thanked them for their love and presence in my life. I then read it aloud and let the emotion surface. This exercise can also be a perfect opportunity to get in touch with any hurts or resentments still being carried around, giving an opportunity for them to be healed and released.

Shortly thereafter, I felt a sense of contentment and peace as my heart knew they heard me. I

was able to communicate my feelings through this ritual and by doing so, realized that although they aren't with me in physical form, they will forever be with me in Spirit and in my heart.

I encourage you to do whatever necessary to make this Memorial Day personal and meaningful. Take time to honor those brave souls who served and continue to serve our country, while additionally using it as opportunity to heal, grieve or joyously remember those you personally have loved and lost.

Make this Memorial Day a day to remember!

Trent Blanchard is available for Life Coaching, Spiritual Direction and Commitment Ceremonies. Visit his website at ***www.TrentBlanchard.com*** or call **760-481-4445** for more information.

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Mahatma Gandhi

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The Rose Baptism
MARCH 16TH, 2008  SUNSET PARK



I Am Somebody

I wished upon a distant star,
Someday I would go afar.
Grow up successful, strive, succeed.
Be somebody, fill a need.

The years past quickly, gone to dust.
Yet, even then I could not trust.
I worked I studied, goals I set.
I would learn to be somebody yet.

The hurts they came, the pain it went.
The joys filled in the little dents.
I was still trying so very hard,
To be somebody, though battle scarred.

I always settled for second best,
As I had not yet passed my test.
I did not feel I deserved respect,
As I somehow had a great defect.

Then one day I saw through the rain,
Felt it all through the nagging pain.
It was all a fantasy, as I was born a somebody.

Like each new life on God's earth,
I also had my special worth.
So I decided one fine day,
To pick up my life and walk away.

I was a person who cared for all,
I tried to answer every call.
I had wasted all these years,
Then I saw clearly through my tears.

I wish that I had known it then,
You are only somebody when,
You treat yourself with the care,
That you think you must always share.

As the good book filled with wealth,
States, love your neighbor as yourself.
Then only are you free to be,
that very special somebody.

Now even when my diplomas fade,
I will certainly have it made.
For I have everlasting wealth.
I have my very special self

-Denise Myers



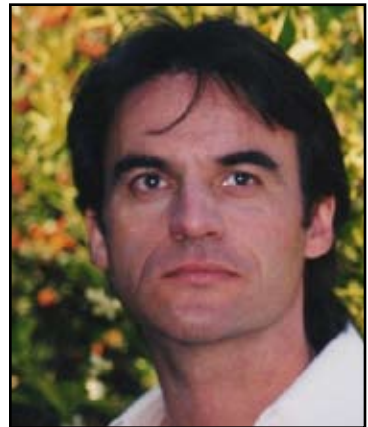
WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

YOUR MID-WEEK FAITH LIFT!

MAY

7th Frederic Delarue – The Music of Your Soul

Join us for an evening with our own very talented local musician and composer, Frederic Delarue who will select 2 different people, do their soul music and explain this process. The music varies from one person to another as we are all connected but yet all blossoming in our uniqueness.



14 Tricia Greaves – The Spirituality of Addictions: Why God Loves Addicts

While caught in the whirlwind of addictions we have little time for God. We may even wonder if God can heal us, or even cares. We may have overcome one addiction but are still fighting others. What is our love affair with Ben & Jerry's doing to our conscious contact with God? The fact is that anyone dependent on an unhealthy substance (or activity) to get by in life is limiting the flow of riches Spirit has for us. The good news is that God loves addicts and can heal anything! Tricia, an author and motivational speaker, has been featured on many TV and radio programs.



21 Ahriah Vocare – Calling All Angels

Join Ahriah, a life coach and Archangel and Ascended Master channel, as we acknowledge, study, and channel the Seven Mighty Archangels and their Divine Complements. These Archangels are the rulers of the twelve thrones of the Angelic Kingdom. Each represents an aspect of the Holy Spirit in the Cosmos. Let us merge with this amazing ministering energy of God's Creation. The time is Now!

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28 Alice Tomlinson – Free Your Spirit, Let it Soar!

The baby boomers have been the first generation of our times, to actually have the freedoms to come out of the closets, and be allowed to face our pasts, seek our present, and look to a future. However, with that freedom, comes the realities of what, exactly, that past has been. Through this motivating presentation, you will come to identify the ghosts of those whom your spirit has shared its captivity, set them free, change the familiars of your own spirit, and begin the cleansing healing you seek within your own heart and soul. Through the use of oneness of mind, thoughts, positive emotions, and actions, see how you can become the master of all that is really you!

A promotional graphic for a wellness program. The background is a blue sky with white clouds and stars. The text "MAKE THE MIND, SPIRIT & BODY" is in large, bold, yellow letters with a drop shadow. Below it, "CONNECTION" is in red, italicized, serif font. Underneath, "Every Wednesday at 7:00 Pm at the Spa Resort Hotel" is in a smaller, black, serif font, followed by "(off the main lobby at the Encilia & Tahquitz entrance)" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom center is a logo: a stylized human figure with arms raised, inside a brown bowl, which sits on a blue circular base. Below the logo, the text "WELL SPIRIT FITNESS CENTER" is written in a red, serif font.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

YOUR MID-WEEK FAITH LIFT!

JUNE

4th Rev. Ed DiNicola – An Introduction to Kabbalah

Join our own Rev. Ed for another inspiring presentation on the Kabbalah. This presentation, based on *The Way* by Rabbi Michael Berg of The Kabbalah Center in LA, will look at how the ancient wisdom of Kabbalah can lead to spiritual transformation and fulfillment in our daily lives. Kabbalah is the esoteric ancient Jewish mystical interpretation of the Bible. Kabbalah states: “In the beginning there was God, but before the beginning there is no place that God was not.” Rev. Ed, the Director of the Innerfaith Prayer Ministry and a spiritual counselor, has been interested in Kabbalah for many years. He is a graduate of the New Seminary in New York City, and was ordained at St. John the Divine Cathedral in 1997.



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11 Joseph Sheehan – Quantum Theology

From black holes to holograms, from relativity theory to the discovery of quarks, quantum theory unravels profound theological questions. What the mystics have known for centuries is now maturing into a supreme wisdom for our age. Joseph, who was a monk for 25 years, holds a masters degree in Holistic Health from J.F.K University in California. He also studied Western Spirituality at St. Mary’s University in Texas along with Eastern Spirituality at Vidyajoti Institute in New Delhi. His inner quest led to his study of astrology which he feels provides a profound tool for gaining insight into the Soul’s evolutionary journey.

18 Raven Longbow – Summer Solstice: Myth, Magic, & Medicine

The Summer Solstice is a time of light and of fire. It is a time to reflect upon the growth of the season: the seeds that were planted in the earth and the seeds planted in our souls. It is a time of cleansing and renewal. It is a time of love and growth as well. Come enjoy an evening of flute music and stories by Native American flutist, and humorist, Raven Longbow.



25 Brenda Burger – Virtual Dolphin Therapy & Thought Field Therapy

Join Brenda, president of La Quinta Healing Arts and Virtual Dolphin Therapy and a healing arts practitioner for 10 years, to learn home techniques to remove pain in minutes, treat anxiety, phobias and more. Last year she joined a group in the Bahamas where she swam with a pod of wild dolphins and was trained in a technique called Thought Field Therapy, which she uses in conjunction with Virtual Dolphin Therapy. Feeling a special connection to one of the pod members, she was inspired to bring dolphin energy to the world without the need to be in the ocean. Her key words in Virtual Dolphin Therapy are “Lose your mind. Come to your senses. Our dolphins will meet you there.”



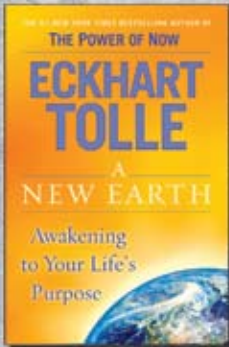
THE LIGHT WELCOMES



ARDICE FARROW

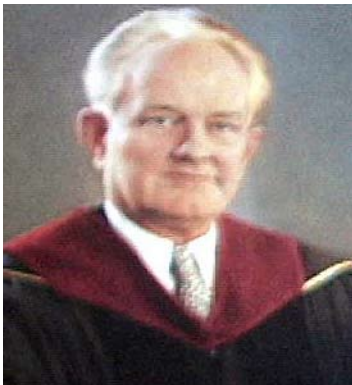
SHE'S BOLD, SMART, DYNAMIC, AND COMING SOON, THE NEWEST COLUMNIST FOR THE LIGHT!

InnerFaith Book Club Selection



Join others in the InnerFaith community to experience this truly transformational work. Discussion groups are forming. For more information, see Lee Friend for details...

And We Shall Go Higher Yet!



WHAT IS LIFE?

An Excerpt from **CREATIVE MIND AND SUCCESS** by Ernest Holmes

In the first place, what do we mean by life? We mean that which we see, feel, hear, touch or taste, and the reason for it. We must have come into contact all we know of life. We have already found what life is or we could not have had any of these experiences. "In the beginning was God" or life. Out of this life which is, everything which is is made. So life must flow through all things. There is no such thing as dead matter. Moreover, life is one, and it cannot be changed except into itself. All forms are forms of this unity and must come and go through some inner activity. This inner activity of life or nature

must be some form of self-consciousness or self- knowing. In our human understanding we would call this inner knowing, or consciousness "thought." The Spirit or Life, or God, must make things out of Himself, through self-recognition, or self-knowing or, as we would call it thinking. Since God is all, there is nothing to hinder Him from doing what He wishes, and the question, "How do things come into being?" is answered: God makes them out of Himself. God thinks, or knows, and that thing which He thinks or knows appears from Himself, and is made out of Himself. There is no other possible explanation for what we see. Unless people are willing to begin here, they will never understand how it is that things are not material but spiritual.



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PET BLESSING 2008



Dr. Sharron.....

Thanks so much for all the preparation and love that went into the Pet Blessings today... the beautiful Certificates...the beautiful printed stories...very touched by it all (as were so many)

Again...you continue to give...a wonderful donation today and it is well received we are sure... And that which we give with our heart is returned 10 fold... and we do not count... we just show gratitude... and thank God for our abundance. My authentic friend... I bless the day I met you.



Your Favorite Martin

P.S. My friends will be thrilled with the package I am mailing for Cholle who they dearly loved and just lost last week.



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You can make a difference too! It's a great way to share the gift of your spirit. There's a lot of talent here and plenty of volunteering opportunities to match your individual interests. Won't you consider volunteering? Just remember, "The same opening you give through, is the same opening you receive through" For more information about how YOU can make a difference call:

Martin Anthony – (760) 445-3511 ~ Donna Britton – (760) 668-9133
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WE SHALL GO HIGHER YET!