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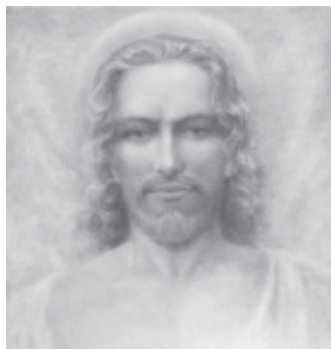
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Dear Friends and Spiritual Family,

The warmth of the sun has bathed the retreat grounds the past few months in glorious ways. Woodpeckers and roadrunners abound. Even the quail are beginning to be seen more readily. The Divine Son has blessed us as well. New volunteers have given their precious time to help in the office. Mowing and brush-clearing helpers have dedicatedly given their service. We are sustained by the selfless volunteers that give their time to help us.

This past Michaelmas we had a wonderful presentation of the Angels of the Christ Presence. Dancers moved to narration and music, giving us impressions how these selfless servers work on the inner planes. We were all moved with a greater sense of how the Christ Cause is strengthened in this world by these glorious hosts. The whole

Ongoing Activities—All are Invited

Please call the office for further information—760-744-1500.

Meditations on Wednesday evenings in Chapelito at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in this time of reverent attunement that is led by Jean Michalewicz.

Wisdom Classes alternating Tuesdays starting November 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Chapelito. Led by Rev. Blake Isaac.

Pranic Healing Clinic: The first Sunday of each month from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Led by Mary Clark, Ph.D., in the Academy.

Servers in Action: Second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.

Study Groups—Classes Studying The Christward Ministry Teachings

Monday: (2nd and 4th) at 7:30 p.m. Oceanside

Tuesday: (2nd and 4th) at 7:30 p.m. San Marcos

Thursday: (1st and 3rd) at 1:30 p.m. Questhaven—Academy Building

Special Announcements

Advent Class: The holy season of Christmas will begin with an Advent Class, *Christ and the Tree of Life*, on Wednesday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of the Holy Quest. This will be led by Rev. Hal Lingerman.

New Year's Eve: December 31, 2005. *Light Walk*, a gathering to welcome 2006, will be held at Questhaven on New Year's Eve. Call the office for details.

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2005/2006 Fall/Winter Program

Sunday Services begin at 10:45 a.m.

NOVEMBER

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|---------|---|-------------------------|
| Nov. 6 | <i>Our Daily Witness to Christ</i> | Rev. Susan S. Cary |
| Nov. 13 | <i>Spiritually Free Yourself—Release the Past</i> | Rev. Blake Isaac |
| Nov. 20 | <i>Talking with God</i> | Rev. Elizabeth Wood |
| Nov. 27 | <i>Rising to Center—Preparation for Rebirth</i> | Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire |

DECEMBER

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|---------|---|--------------------|
| Dec. 4 | <i>Seekers of the Light—Conceivers, Doers, and Transformers</i> | Rev. Phyllis Isaac |
| Dec. 11 | <i>Christ is Love</i> | Rev. Blake Isaac |
| Dec. 18 | <i>The Eternal Christ</i> | Rev. Susan S. Cary |

CHRISTMAS RETREAT, December 24, 25, 26

Friday, 7:30 p.m. *Candlelighting Service*

Saturday, Christmas Eve *Day of Anticipation and Midnight Watch*

Sunday, 10:45 *Living the Cosmic Life—Seeing Christ in All Things*

Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

JANUARY

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|---------|--|-------------------------|
| Jan. 1 | <i>New Thoughts for a New Year</i> | Evelyn Alemanni |
| Jan. 8 | <i>The Great Ones, This Ministry, and You</i> | Rev. Blake Isaac |
| Jan. 15 | <i>Faith-The Bridge to Progress</i> | Rev. Elizabeth Wood |
| Jan. 22 | <i>Living the Cosmic Life—Finding the Healing Power of Joy</i> | Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire |
| Jan. 29 | <i>Face Your Imperfections and Experience Release</i> | Rev. Myrna Triggs |

weekend gave us pause to open our inner eyes to become ever more aware that we spiritually walk in the midst of angels.

We too, as part of God's creation, need to accept our spiritual responsibility in this same endeavor. What better time than now, as Christmas approaches and the whole atmosphere is heightened by the power of Christ, to tune in and ground His frequencies in this plane!

There are those in the inner worlds who are watching us. They are looking for our responsiveness to their ever-flowing stream of Divine wisdom that pours down upon us. How we receive it and apply it is essential to this world. Christ consciousness is expanded by our adding to the good in this sphere. We achieve this through spiritual growth in consciousness and character.

It should be our daily effort to tune in to our Lord Christ's need for us—that we rise in our awareness and living so that His Light has a worthy channel to move through and affect change. We all have the God-given power to bring peace into our lives and into the world. May it truly begin this Christmas.

The Master Gamaliel speaks to us as father master of this ministry. His message calls to each of us as readily today as it did some fifty years ago to Flower A. Newhouse.

"Keep yourselves worthy of the high opportunity and trust we place in you. Be alerted to the constant ways by which you may serve the Hierarchy and its aims for mankind's progress."

I cannot think of a greater gift to our Lord Christ this Christmas than answering this call by the Master Gamaliel. With great trust from on high comes great responsibility deep within us. May we be worthy of the certainty of the Hierarchy.

In Christ's name, we do welcome this holy opportunity and rejoice in the coming presence of our Lord. On the wings of this season, we are lifted and blessed. May each of you have a joyous Christmas and glorious New Year to come.

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Blake Isaac

Attaining Our Christhood

By Rev. Flower A. Newhouse

Reprinted from *Inspirational Letter*, Vol. 3, No. 10, October 1937



Rev. Flower A. Newhouse,
founder of
Questhaven Retreat,
(photo from 1979).

Another sacred period approaches us, the season dedicated to a remembrance of the Christ Spirit. The announcement of each spiritual festival should find us more keenly aware of the great forces and thoughts that enshroud the Earth. Every year, Christmas should *mean* more to us and should *do* more to us.

Once in a long while, we give a gift or receive one that stands impressed with the very soul of the giver. More than time, love and finances secured that present. A living spirit was breathed upon the holy gift that spoke conclusively of whole-hearted and lasting affection. We believe that a time comes to every worshiper of the Christ when the gift he offers the Christed One is himself. To those who are preparing themselves to render their supreme gift, these thoughts are directed.

The teachings of the Christed Galilean concern a way of living, which leads us more directly to attainment than any of the devious paths pointing in that direction. It is a course that rises the moment we enter it. The longer we climb, the steeper and narrower the trail becomes. Despite difficulties of the ascent, we are awestricken by the wisdom and powers of the trail makers who preceded us. After particularly precipitous ascensions, vantage points are gained that are worthy of all the arduous efforts of our climbing.

Then the path skirts the side of the mountain and we walk lingeringly, feasting our eyes upon the panoramic beauties of heaven and earth. God's handiworks are more breathtaking when seen in higher perspectives. We cross cool streams that refresh and restore us. Occasionally, the trail is cut into the crest of the rugged mountains. We marvel at the feat such patient engineering produced. With every new wonder the path discloses, we are filled with more profound respect and praise.

HURRICANE KATRINA FUNDRAISING: The Christward Ministry joined efforts with the Salvation Army to raise money for victims in the hurricane-damaged area of the Gulf States. Our congregation raised \$5010. The ministry matched \$5,000 and sent a total of \$10,010 to the Salvation Army. Many thanks to all who contributed.

PLANNING MEETING: On Saturday, October 8th, a planning session was held for the year ahead. Interest in a new spiritual trip was discussed and eagerly set in motion. We talked about other plans for Questhaven and our services. Thank you to all who attended.

Holy Quest Class Schedule

The Holy Quest I: November 11-13. This series includes *Christian Mysticism, Our Sevenfold Bodies, Christian Discipleship, Angels Who Guide Our Lives*, presented by Rev. Susan Cary, Rev. Phyllis Isaac, Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire, and Rev. Elizabeth Wood.

Holy Quest II: January 20-22, 2006. This series includes: *Seven Aspects of God, Historical Jesus and the Living Christ, The Seven Rays, and The Power of Thought*, presented by Rev. Phyllis Isaac, Rev. Susan Cary, Rev. Elizabeth Wood, and Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire.

Planning Ahead: The Holy Quest I: February 17-19, 2006

We have had an enthusiastic response to the Holy Quest series and we hope you will share in this opportunity. Call the office for a brochure, reservations or further information on this spiritually expanding and transforming experience. 760-744-1500 or visit our website: <http://www.questhaven.org>.

Ministry Moments

By Rev. Blake Isaac

MICHAELMAS RETREAT: Thank you to all who helped create such a marvelous weekend celebrating the angels. Lucy Wold wrote wonderful words on the Angels of Christ for Friday night. Dorothe Bleth found music and choreographed a beautiful dance to them. Anne Hubbell gave a meaningful meditation class on Saturday. Jean Michalewicz and Glada McIntyre led an inspiring Angel class on Saturday, which was followed by a potluck supper and DVD presentation of last year's *Angels of Nature* Retreat. Special thanks to Paul Michalewicz and Tom Woodford for leading the singing and bell choirs respectively. Their lifting music filled the retreat services.

COLLECTED WORKS: The first volume of the collected works of Flower A. Newhouse has been compiled and is ready for publication. The topic of this volume is Christian Mysticism, and includes chapters on God, the Lord Christ, prayer, healing, and nature. This material has come from transcriptions of Flower's talks and from her writings, gathering her insights on each subject under one heading.

FIRE SAFETY PREPARATIONS: With the wet winter of last year, we experienced a lot of growth in the natural vegetation on the grounds. The fire department met with us to develop a plan for making this retreat as safe as possible from the threat of fire. From Trent Coleman's mowing to Gordon Bleth's tractor work, much has been accomplished. Also, special thanks to Sean and Chase Burke for their work in trimming and clearing over this past summer.

NEW TRAIL: The recently closed road south of our entrance has created a lovely new trail for the ministry and community. Many of our neighbors now frequent this quiet pathway. There have been numerous comments on how peaceful and serene this meandering trail is to its visitors. Please take time to share in this adventure yourselves.

NEW SECURITY COMPANY: Millenia Security is our new guard service for the ministry. A guard is not on the grounds until 8:00 p.m. Please phone the office to make arrangements if you need access to the grounds before a guard arrives and after the office is closed.

"Walking in the way of the Lord" causes us to change in inner ways. The path of the Christ is the way to our own Christhood. This course extends from our own hearts into the Presence of the Christ. The pilgrimage we make to Him symbolizes the changes we must make in our consciousness until we are like the Lord we revere.

The journeys we take daily are exercises in self-development that serve to shorten the distance between the master and his disciple. The mountain we climb is *the great unfolding* to which we must each bear witness. The steep inclines are those periods wherein we strive to replace our selfish, limited human opinions with Christ attitudes and actions.

The Christ life itself contains all the discipline, guidance, happiness and strength required by our task. Coming into the way of the Christed Lord does not mean sanctimonious conduct, renunciation and hardship. It means living within the Spirit of Christ Love.

Thanksgiving Celebration

November's cool and beautiful days lead us to the sanctuary of Thanksgiving. How can we make this celebrated day mean more to us than it has in the past? Such days are signals to greater living. We must try to find ways of commemorating this event more fittingly.

In earlier seasons we may have accented the happiness of family reunions or savory dinners. This year Thanksgiving can have greater value to us if we observe it according to the term it implies. The very name of the occasion should incite us to a desire for communion with God. Too seldom do we take sufficient time to thank Him for our recognized gifts, we are so busy asking for new favors. Let us change from our attitude of impatiently longing for the unrealized while we accept far too matter-of-factly God's daily graciousness. Whenever or wherever possible on this Thanksgiving Day let us endeavor to:

1. Express gratitude in thought, deed and word all day until our consciousness is permeated with its power.
2. Eliminate the tendencies to faultfinding, petulance, depression, ingratitude, and self-centeredness.
3. Take time for thoughtful communication with the Divine Benefactor.
4. Remind others in various loving and tactful ways that this is a day of spiritual appreciation, of cheer and God-remembrance.

5. Read elevating or instructive literature, or listen to good music with deeper than usual consideration.
6. So live that we as well as others are benefited by sustained, sincere, and spiritual effort.

During that moment when we alone, or unitedly, praise our ever-present Maker, we should especially remember to give thanks for:

1. Awareness of God.
2. Knowledge of Truth.
3. Freedom to pursue spiritual development.
4. Inspiring, great, and unselfish men and women.
5. Self-expression.
6. Evidences of growth and improvement.
7. Blessings of health and daily accomplishments.
8. Citizenship in a country of opportunity.
9. Someone to love (even a stranger).
10. Joys and kindnesses of friendship.
11. Procession of eventful days.
12. Enjoyment of beauty, talent and music.
13. Shelter, work, and food.

Thanksgiving for our tasks, small or great, attracts improved employment. A mind and nature that has been purified of selfish interests and habits finds so much food in the world (whether it is related to him or not) that his countenance, influence, and activities are joy-giving. When we live in the consciousness of God's Presence, our happiness and gratitude are unending, for good can only enter the heart that is open to receive it.

Christ in Glory Shines

Rev. Hal Lingerman

All friends in Christ, receive your Lord:
Emmanuel will fill your heart;
Lift high your vision: see Him as He is.
The shining Lord with Angels sings
And loves all faiths and kingdoms free:
"Lifted up, I draw to me, inclusively,
All of God's humanity."

Look far to see God's mysteries—
The Company of Heaven's Light,
Saints and Masters, Lords so bright,
Completed Souls who passed through Earth—
Now see them radiant, strong in sight,
And Christ, Who flames our dreams to give them birth.

His head and hair are glist'ning now.
Like threads of white wool, bright as snow;
Behold His flaming eyes of fire:
His piercing, panoramic love.

And see Christ's feet like burnished bronze:
Clear mirrors bright, like torching wings,
His sound like roars of thund'rous seas,
And still small voice, a healing breeze.

In hands he holds the seven stars;
He speaks with sharpened sword for peace,
His countenance is blazing far,
A brightly burning orb released.

Behold the Christ: with rev'rence fall
In awesome wonder at His feet;
Now feel His touch and hear His call:
"Release your fears; I hold the keys."

"Shine your light—be my joy and peace;
Awaken now; I set you free."

This powerful event deserves all the preparation we can possibly make. It gives us an opportunity to experience all the special blessings of this season and to draw closer to the Christ. But it is not just an event for us to observe and enjoy. All knowledge brings responsibility, and as we approach this holy time knowing what will take place, we have a responsibility to perform. We are expected to do our part. As we mature spiritually, our responsibilities increase.

That may sound like a strange thought—what can we ordinary human beings possibly contribute to the spiritual activities taking place? How can we help to spread the Christ Cause in our own lives? For one thing, inwardly we can keep Christ at the center of our consciousness and help create a link to bring through His Spirit. Outwardly we can do many things throughout the day to add to this Christ Spirit, such as any kind of self-forgetting kindness to others, a smile or kind word to clerks in stores who work very hard during the holidays. We can phone someone who might be lonely; drop a cheerful note to a shut-in; give a helping hand to someone who may be overburdened; do something special for the creatures; and pray more frequently for the needs of the world, especially for all persons who are suffering from wars or tragedies of any kind. Every act of loving kindness is adding to the Christ Spirit and increasing Its power, bringing It more closely into this dimension.

By attuning ourselves and focusing our thoughts and devotions to the Christ and to the Hierarchy that serves Him, we can become grounding wires to bring the radiations of the Christ Spirit not only into the activities of our lives, but into the earth itself—to its very fiery core. The Higher Ones have instructed us to be “Wielders of the Light” and these are some of the ways we can accomplish that.

Each year of our lives we experience these high spiritual times; they are opportunities for us to be more open to the inner realities, to be more sensitized to what is taking place all around us, and also to become more aware of our responsibility in spreading the Light.

May the veils that separate us from the inner worlds be parted this Advent Season so that we can each share in both giving and receiving the blessings of Christmas, bringing the Christ more closely into our lives.

Meet Annibelle and Daryl Carlson

by Rev. Susan Cary

Annibelle and Daryl are native Californians who began life in Modesto. As they were alphabetically arranged in their tenth grade geometry class, Daryl Carlson sat beside Annibelle Burke. Hitting it off from the start, they talked with each other so much that the teacher changed their seats. They “went steady” through their sophomore and junior years, parting for six months over religious differences, then got back together as “steadies” for the last half of their senior year.



Following graduation they went separate ways for further education.

Anne responded to her calling to be a nurse, entering school in Santa Barbara. Daryl began his studies at the community college in Modesto. Though they didn’t see one another often they corresponded daily by mail. Anne confesses she has saved these letters through the years.

Annibelle’s mother had a friend who introduced them to Flower’s book on Angels, *Natives of Eternity*. Though she had sampled both Methodist and Presbyterian Church services, Anne didn’t sense God’s Presence there, but rather found it in nature. Flower’s book, which includes the work of Nature Angels, struck a chord with her. That same friend predicted that this young woman would be close to Flower all her life. How prophetic!

During her senior year in nursing school, Anne and Daryl became engaged, marrying in the fall of that year. Desiring to have a spiritually based union, Annibelle gave Daryl the same book of Flower’s that she had first read a few years before — *Natives of Eternity*.

Though he was challenged by it, Daryl gradually came to understand the teachings and ultimately became a dedicated leader and server in this Ministry.

After a year of marriage, Daryl was drafted into the Army. Assigned to duty in Texas, he looked forward to Anne’s joining him there. En route to Texas, they stopped at Questhaven. Their good fortune was to meet not only with Flower but also with Esther Sullivan, Gordon Bleth, Lawrence Newhouse, and Faith Isaac.

Following their year together in Texas, Daryl and Anne returned to California where his business took him in succession to Los Angeles, Oakland, San Pedro, San Jose, and subsequently to Mission Viejo. Those were the busy years of the sixties and seventies — having children, experiencing calamities, moving, as well as commuting to Questhaven for Sunday or Wednesday services when possible.

During their San Pedro sojourn, Anne’s mother joined the family. Whenever possible they drove from San Pedro to Questhaven for Wednesday evening services. Burtine Morse and Bette Harper sometimes joined them.

Daryl’s transfer to the Bay area from 1972 to 1977 interrupted their frequent visits to Questhaven. After Daryl’s assignment to southern California, the family could once again come to their spiritual home on a regular basis.

In 1986, a business transfer for Daryl paved the way for the family to move to a spacious home in Escondido. This provided room for their own family as well as for Daryl’s father.

When Daryl took an early retirement in 1992, Stephen Isaac approached him for assistance in the office. He additionally requested Daryl to help Gordon with the increasing demands of groundskeeping and the construction of new buildings.

After the early years with her children, Anne returned to her nursing career. Her most recent assignment was in Maternal Child Health and Nursery at Tri City Hospital from which she retired just five years ago.

These two recently returned from a family holiday in Tahiti to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. We honor this faithful couple in their enduring marriage, successful child rearing, careers and more in their generous and loving service to Christ’s ministry here at Questhaven.

Anne has sung in the choir, helped construct the new labyrinth, been an office volunteer, pranic healer, and a willing worker wherever there is a need. Daryl has provided invaluable help in the care and repair of grounds and buildings. He serves faithfully as Sunday usher, chairperson, has acted as liaison to the contractor for construction of Casa de Angeles, the Academy, Casa Contenta, and assisted with the details and gate construction for the recent road closing.

Both these generous souls have given much time and caring effort to visiting the shut-ins, acting as family to those who need it and in general serving our Lord’s work as loving disciples. Well done, good and faithful servers!



The Joys and Responsibilities of Advent

by Rev. Elizabeth Wood

Advent is one of the most powerful times of the year. As we again approach this Holy Season our thoughts turn more frequently towards the Christ; for that reason He is more able to reach us with His Presence. This is a time when we will want to be more sensitized to what is taking place around us—the waves of color, the music—and to be more aware of the special beams of power being directed towards the earth from the inner planes. The worlds are blended during this time; we humans take on more spiritual qualities and our inner bodies are more responsive to what we sense around us.

Throughout the days of Advent the powerful radiations from the Christ Spirit draw ever closer to the physical plane. We are told that from November 1 onward, a stream of power enters the planet and flows from the Causal world where it formed part of the reservoir of the Christ Spirit. Great hosts of Angels direct this Christ force to every life throughout the various planes and dimensions of the inner and outer worlds. This energy gradually enters the mental world, then the astral, and then the etheric until it reaches the upper regions of the physical world by Christmas Eve. At midnight, this power reaches its zenith as the Christ Himself touches every living thing with His blessing.

