

Inspiration

A guide for the mystical journey

Easter Retreat

The Season of
Transcendence

Continuous Unfoldment
Flower A. Newhouse

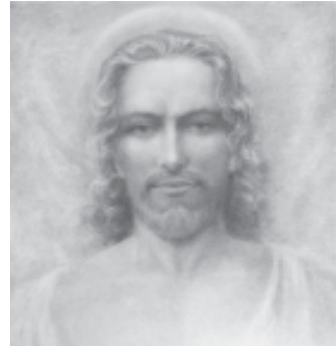
The Whole Armor of God



Sonship Consciousness

Transcendent Return

Winter/Spring 2006
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Dear Friends and Spiritual Family,

As the sun sets over the cross on Inspiration Point, fiery orange colors fill the sky and highlight clouds dancing on the horizon. A bright golden light glows momentarily where the sun once stood. Angels of the evening, bathed in the color of courage, seem to say, "Have strength, my children. A new day will come to brighten the very steps you take."

What a wonderful blessing to receive as Lent approaches. Equally as encouraging are the reverberations of Christmas that still linger in the atmosphere. The candlelighting service of the retreat weekend represented our individual lighting of the flame of Christ within us and a new chance for each of us to awaken to the frequencies of rebirth that come with Christmas. I received this message from our Lord Christ at the midnight hour:

I bring you the Light. Wield it to the world.



This blessing and the spiritual charging of Advent are still with us as we move into Lent and Easter. These spiritual awakenments that come from our Christmas experience help fortify and bless the challenges of Lent for each of us. Keep your gifts for Christ in the forefront of your mind as you move forward into this very holy season of Lent.

Easter is the season for conquering self; it is this path that ultimately leads us Godward. By following the Way of Christ, we draw in His transforming energies that eventually resurrect us from the very qualities we wish to overcome. No matter our race or religion, Lent is a time to observe that “all paths lead to God through Christ.” That will be our theme during this time. This was what Jesus meant when He said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (*John 14*)

Recognizing the uniqueness of each individual’s journey, let us go forth to raise our crosses for Christ on the mountain of God for the One who is Lord of all religions and people everywhere.

As an “8” year, 2006 promises much success to this end. Flower A. Newhouse taught us that eight is the number of successful endeavor when right effort is given. This, matched with the New Year’s message I received, of *bring yourself to center and allow God to work through you* assures us another adventurous chapter in our book of spiritual life.

How grateful I am for the wonderful fellowship each of you give this ministry. No matter where you are, we are united by our love for Christ and the courage we share in facing the journey He sets before us. I smile knowing that we walk together. I am also lifted by the wonderful souls on the inner who bless and support us — master souls who have perfected the very steps we take, yet care deeply for every thought and decision we still make.

One such Great One told Flower and the group at Questhaven, “Persevere, be thorough, and even though you may be slow, it is the quality of effort We demand, not the quantity of achievement at present.” How reassuring to know they are behind us as Christ is before us. A bright new year to each of you.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Blake Isaac

The Season of Transcendence

By Rev. Flower A. Newhouse

Reprinted from *Inspiration Magazine*, March 1937



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

The coming of Easter reminds us not only of enthralling spring but the dutiful season of Lent. Amidst the quickening joys we feel in the rebirth of nature, there are inner awakenments stirring our consciousness to a remembrance of the divine meaning of the season. The Drama of Easter pertains to us as pointedly as though we had been witnesses at the great crucifixion. Each year we are challenged, “You know that at some hour you will undergo the initiation of transcendence; why do you persist in delaying this fulfillment? Why should you prefer to be merely onlookers instead of participants in the ageless ritual? Your outer sacrifices are paltry gifts to proffer the Opener of the Gates. Would it not be better if *you* became the

transcendent gift offered at the altar of overcoming?”

Just as at Christmas we pledged ourselves to more vigorous devotion to the Lord Christ, those of us who wish to be participants now make this pact: to regard and practice the realization, “I and the Father are one.” As the roots and the tree are one, so too are we the projected spirit of the Eternal, one with our Supreme Source. Meditation upon this reality and use of the assistance it offers will release us from the nightmares, fears, and delusions of our little selves. The reservoir containing the anointed waters of renewal, healing, inspiration, and wisdom can certainly water the fields into which its stream is directed.

“And I, if I be lifted up,” will recognize the true heritage of the Indwelling Self. Its power is inimitable; we have but to yearn intensely for courage and self-mastery, and wings shall lift us to attainment. Our willingness to live the God-

conscious life endows us an enshrinement of all the energies requisite to transcendence.

May Easter bring you abundant inner rejoicings.

Continuous Unfoldment

By Rev. Flower A. Newhouse

Reprinted from Inspiration Magazine, April 1937

Have you ever taken the long-distance perspective, viewing life as a winding, endless path upon which you were a wayfarer? Your vision was a reality, for you do travel with a purpose toward a goal; yet your continuous advancement must be gradual. The unwritten code of the road reads, "The way of evolution necessitates unhurried strides. Progress is gained only by whole-hearted application. It is impeded by impatience, anxiety, and haste." So, dear traveler, yours is the duty of observing and utilizing the wonders confronting you today. Be neither desirous of lingering in this locale nor of forging feverishly toward the distances ahead.

Our journeys that were taken in the past are recorded within us, for we are the result of their instructions. The welcome we will receive in the climates and surroundings of the future is wholly dependent upon the quality of our efforts in the present. St. Paul counseled us, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for *whatsoever* a man soweth, *that* shall he also reap." In the grand march of eternity, it is only our life in the present that is really important. What we are doing with Today makes it a heaven or a prison to us.

The law of compensation, which pervades our living, is absolutely impartial in its exacting mercy. We are a genius or a laggard according to our former uses of opportunities. Our states of health, finance, and environment are largely the result of our proper or improper appreciation of these gifts in the past. Virtues, as well as erroneous habits, were begun in earlier lives. Even the clarity of our minds and the knowledge of our spirits can be traced to previous exercises and

aspirations. These realizations should give us profound respect for the law of unflinching justice. The longer we reflect upon its relations with us, the less we should think of it as a severe force, for there is sublimity in its integrity.

An excellent daily practice would be reflection upon such a statement as, "I am the originator of my present experiences and endowments. These 'effects' are received with patience, humility, and faith. Before me is the unbounded future of which I am builder and designer. Eternal Father, enable me to so live now that I can face tomorrow with rightful anticipation! Help me to retrieve the past, perfect the present, and merit the future!"

**Reserve Your Copy of the Collected Works,
Volume One - Christian Mysticism**

The eagerly-awaited first volume of *The Collected Works of Flower A. Newhouse* will be available in April, 2006. This distillation of over 40 years of the talks and writings of Flower is edited by Stephen and Phyllis Isaac. It is an invaluable resource for those interested in Christian Mysticism as taught by this uniquely gifted soul. Published as a handsome hardbound volume, this will make a superb addition to the library of anyone seeking truth and will be useful for research and in-depth study, as well as providing inspiration for daily meditations.

The material for this book has taken several years to compile and has been made possible through the work of many loving servers. Flower's talks have been transcribed, and then the essence of these lectures has been integrated with various written sources, the whole being edited and organized into chapters on subjects specifically pertaining to Christian Mysticism. These chapters include *The Mystery of God, The Lord Christ, The Holy Spirit, Spirit of Grace, Inner Perception, and Experiencing God through Silence, Meditation, Prayer, Healing, Nature, and the Arts.*

Reserve your copy now at the special pre-publication price of \$25.00. Two or more copies are \$22 each. Orders are being taken in the Christward Ministry office: 760-744-1500.

Sonship Consciousness

By Jean Michalewicz

For the past twenty-two years, I have read, studied, and listened to Flower's books, articles, and talks. Her understanding and use of the Bible to shed light on the meaning and purpose of our spiritual endeavors have always deeply impressed and helped me.

As Easter approaches, we are challenged by the period of Lent to draw closer to the Christ by working to transform some aspect of ourselves. As we engage the process of transformation, we are cleansed and uplifted. The energies of Eastertide bring great renewal as well.

In an article entitled, *Easter Means Renewal*, Flower said, "Easter accents that transition in being which everyone must eventually attain. When man individually achieves the Easter event in his own heart, he is changed from humanity consciousness to Sonship consciousness." She explained that "Jesus was no longer limited by human identifications. He lived in the Son's awareness of God's Fatherhood." He realized that no person could attain Godhood without first becoming a conscious Son of the Father. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*" Flower said that in this passage, Jesus was emphasizing the Awakened Son which was unfolded within himself. In *From Lent to Resurrection*, Flower discussed this same Bible verse, and encouraged us to study the Christ's teachings and to think about ways in which we can become more like him. What a wonderful explanation of that well-known Bible verse this is!

Flower used the words of John 3:7, "*You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again,'*" to tell us that our physical birth is brought on by forces outside ourselves, but our spiritual birth depends upon our own efforts and consecrations. According to Flower, the words of Matthew 25:34, "*Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world,*" indicate that persons who have been diligent and consistent in their spiritual training and practice will enter the Kingdom of Heaven consciousness, whose elevation of Light has awaited their discovery since humanity descended into the physical dimension.

Take time to read and study the book by Flower entitled, *The Drama of Incarnation*, which is about the spiritual significance of Holy Week, the week prior to Easter. Flower used many Bible verses to help us understand the events of the days between Palm Sunday and Easter. She explained that Christ's activities during that week bring to our attention many of the basic teachings related to our own drama of incarnation.

This year we can take the opportunity that every day of Lent gives us to enter more fully into the Kingdom of Heaven within and beyond ourselves. We can grow in stature, deepen our awareness of the Living Christ, and become more like Him. If, during Lent, we do our inner work with commitment, discipline, and devotion, Easter promises us a re-created life patterned after that of our Lord. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17.



THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

By Rev. Phyllis Isaac

Put on the whole armor of God, Paul urged his listeners in Ephesians, instructing the people to insulate themselves to meet life's daily dramas with inward preparation. He continued by saying:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.... Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:10-18).

This message that Paul received and converted into a vital invocation of preparedness is as important in our times as it was then, even though we might not use the same language. We want to be ready for whatever is ours to meet in the days ahead by renewing our alignment to our Lord Emmanuel and the power



of God. This year, more than ever, we are being asked to stand true, not take things for granted, and deepen our commitment to Christ.

Paul's use of the word *stand* means to be strong and consciously awake, so that we will be firm in our beliefs, not being sidetracked or lulled to sleep with indifference. Our spiritual knowledge will be our protection against our lower natures. Feet are symbolic of what we stand upon, our understanding and our motivation. What we stand for constitutes our character and it is the character we have developed that is dedicated, bringing through the Christ Light into our lives and into the world so that there will be a gospel or reign of peace.

With the shield of faith, we can defend ourselves against the fiery darts of the wicked or the evil within ourselves as well as the forces in the world. The helmet of salvation refers to the head, or the thinking crown, having an understanding the return of man to God and the purpose of life. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God, which is another defense in the campaign of every day. It is through prayer and inner alertness that we can commune with God and build our strength.

Men of old wore armor and used shields to defend themselves in battle. In the present day, we require an armor of spiritual life for protection to envelop us, moving us forward through excitement, danger, and stress, unafraid and unharmed. Like the chivalrous knights, we need helmet, breastplate, spear, and shield. Spiritual knowledge is the material from which our armor can be built. Arduous exercise and practice is needed to forge this into a protective form. It takes active use of our spiritual laws before we can expect to derive the benefit of their protection.

We are here in life to learn to climb the levels of consciousness into our true individual selfhood. The armor of spiritual consciousness can shield us from self-indulgence, worldly ambitions, and egocentricity, if we avail ourselves of its strength. As we gradually learn to live the life of spiritual maturity, putting on the whole armor of God, our way will be made clear with steadily unfolding God-powers and God-given capacities. Our true self—our soul—will be flooded by the Divine Light to inspire our need for continual effort, growth, and experience along the upward path back toward God.

EASTER AT QUESTHAVEN 2006

By Laurel Rivera

All paths lead to God through Christ is the theme that will guide our 2006 Lenten journey that begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Meditations will be held in the Church of the Holy Quest each Wednesday before Easter. Lent provides the spiritual energies and opportunities for self and planetary healing and renewal. It is a time to put aside the “little self,” focus our attention on the Lord Christ, and contemplate the “pattern” He established to show humanity how to bring forth the Kingdom of God on Earth.

The Easter Retreat weekend begins on Friday, April 14, with a holy communion service that reflects the beauty and ceremony of the inner worlds and provides “spiritual nutrients” to help us sustain our Lenten promises throughout the year. Holy Saturday is a day of peace and reflection, and we come together in the church for group meditation.

Sunrise service at daybreak on Inspiration Point is an unforgettable spiritual moment. As the silence gives way to golden morning light, the bells begin to ring, and the triumphant hymn, “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” fills the air. Rev. Blake Isaac will give the Easter Sunday service talk, *Raise Your Cross for Christ on the Mountain of God*, which concludes the Retreat.

As we journey through this holy season, let us take inspiration from Flower’s words in *Through Lent to Resurrection*:

*The Lord Jesus, as Christ, is the **pattern maker** of the new world relationship, the way of united brotherhood and progress among men. His Spirit will be more clearly and dynamically projected into a receptive humanity. His direction toward bringing forth the Kingdom of God on Earth will be universally accepted.*

Transcendent Return

by James Hulbert

Through many lifetimes
Of trial and error, that soulful state
Of consciousness inevitably comes
Where our choices and actions
Are guided by deep love and wisdom.

Cause and effect will finally bring us
To error-free, constructive accomplishment
Where individual intentions
Fit into the pattern
Of the greater good.

This will come when consciousness
Centered in the present moment
Is achieved—when all of the
Lessons of the past
Have been learned, when the archetype
Of the Eternal focuses its wondrous,
Creative possibilities in this moment.

Past, present, and future will come together
In this timeless, precious state.
But, rather than time standing still,
We will be lost in the momentum of Life—
Moving through the medium of consciousness
In our transcendent return to the Eternal.

Ministry Moments

By Rev. Blake Isaac

CHRISTMAS RETREAT: The theme of the retreat was *Lighting the Flame of the Christ Within*. How fitting that Friday night began with a dancer portraying the fire angel setting the atmosphere alight for Christ. A movement choir followed, lighting their own candles within for Christ. From the Windsong performance on Christmas Eve to the midnight service, we were truly blessed. Christmas Day was joyous. The bell choir and voice choir offerings were spiritually uplifting, as were the movements by our temple dancers. The Reverend Jonathan Wiltshire then shared how Christ can awaken us to living the cosmic life attuned to God.

COLLECTED WORKS: The first volume is being published this spring. Please see the enclosed article for more information.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: Blake and Danielle Isaac welcomed all to their new home on the grounds to celebrate the coming new frequencies of the Planetary Logos. Chapelito, Friendship House and the Church were also open to visitors who wished to meditate and to spiritually welcome the new year.

NEW LIGHTS BRIGHTEN OUR ENTRANCE: Thanks to the design by James Hulbert's design, and implementation by Gordon Bleth, Daryl Carlson, and Trent Coleman, new lights welcome visitors to the retreat's main gate.

NEW ADS BEING POSTED: Check out our upcoming ad on the local website; www.hometown-northcounty.com. We offer special thanks to Steven Blair for making this possible.

MONTHLY OPEN HOUSE: We have scheduled a monthly open house on the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. This will be in conjunction

with our Servers in Action days. We are reaching out to the local community and inviting them to come see what we are all about. If you are interested in being a welcomer, please contact the Reverend Blake Isaac.

CHAIRPERSON CIRCLE: We have recently started a group for individuals who want to grow in public speaking. At present, we are meeting monthly to work on leading group meditations as well as facilitating the order of Sunday services. Participants will be asked to chair on Sunday services on a regular basis. Everyone is welcome. Please see Laurel Rivera or Jean Michalewicz.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Stephen Isaac has been promoted to chairman emeritus; Robert McGurk, Lucy Wold, and Karin Graybeal have replaced Gwen Hulbert, Evelyn Alemanni, and Stephen Isaac on the board. Laurel Rivera and Trent Coleman have been appointed as advisors.

Holy Quest Class Schedule

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,* and is presented by Rev. Phyllis Isaac, Rev. Susan Cary, Rev. Elizabeth Wood, and Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire.

Holy Quest I: February 17-19, 2006. This series includes *Christian Mysticism, Our Sevenfold Bodies, Christian Discipleship,* and *Angels Who Guide Our Lives,* and is presented by Rev. Susan Cary, Rev. Phyllis Isaac, Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire, and Rev. Elizabeth Wood.

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. Call 760-744-1500 or visit our website: <http://www.questhaven.org>.

2006 Winter/Spring Program
Sunday Services begin at 10:45 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 5 *Understanding Different Paths to the Eternal* Rev. Susan Cary
Feb. 12 *Love—The Life-Giver Guiding Our Evolution* Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
Feb. 19 *Mysticism in the Land of Christians* Rev. Blake Isaac
Feb. 26 *Finding Balance Through the Seven Rays of Unfoldment* Rev. E. Wood

MARCH

- Mar. 5 *Mounting Jacob's Ladder—The Upward Climb* Rev. Phyllis Isaac
Mar. 12 *Becoming a Warrior Within—Facing the Dweller
on the Threshold* Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
Mar. 19 *Illumination—Climbing Out of the Darkness to
Find the Light* Rev. Blake Isaac
Mar. 26 *Entering Eternity in the Silence* Rev. Susan Cary

APRIL

- Apr. 2 *Seek Inner Help Through the Christ* Rev. Myrna Triggs
Apr. 9 *How Has Christ Changed Your Life?* Rev. Elizabeth Wood

EASTER RETREAT—April 14, 15, 16
Friday, 7:30 p.m. Communion Service
Saturday, A day of preparation for Easter
Sunday, 10:45 a.m. *Raise Your Cross for Christ
on the Mountain of God* Rev. Blake Isaac

- Apr. 23 *Born Again...and Again...and Again...Rebirth and the
Perennial Christian* Evelyn Alemanni
Apr. 30 *Creativity—Divine Spirit Born Within Us* Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

Ongoing Activities—All are Invited

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

Meditations are held 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 are held on alternating Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Chapelito and are led by Rev. Blake Isaac.

The Way Within Meditation Classes start on Wednesday, February 1, and continue on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Emphasis is on improving skills and group participation. Meets at noon in the Academy and is led by Rev. Phyllis Isaac.

Pranic Healing Clinics are held on the first Sunday of each month from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and are led by Mary Clark, Ph.D., in the Academy.

Servers in Action Days are held on the first 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

Lenten Classes: The theme for the Lenten series is *All Paths Lead to God Through Christ*. Classes begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of the Holy Quest. There will be six classes in preparation for Easter.

Holy Quest I: February 17-19 and June 9-11. This is the first in the series of three-day courses based on the teachings of Flower A. Newhouse that are designed to help us discover our spiritual purpose and draw closer to God. Call the office for a brochure, reservations or further information on this transforming opportunity.

Holy Quest III: March 17-19. Topics in this series include *Meditation, Inner Worlds, Masters,* and *Angels of Nature*.

Holy Quest IV: May 19-21. The theme for this series is *Our Call to God*. It is a culmination of what has been learned throughout the series and provides inspirational ways of living the life of discipleship.

Labyrinth Dedication will follow the church service on April 23.

Planning Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.