



A.L.L.

The October 2010 Newsletter Of *The Association for Light and Life*

In This Issue:

ALL Web Site Design
Peace – Love - Unity
The World Will Not End in 2012
Interfaith at Ground Zero

ALL Council:

Presiding Officer Dolores Nice; Secretary/
Treasurer Rick Giles; Eugenia Bryan; Judy
Langston; Jael Regis; and Marty Greenhut.
Gerdean O'Dell was the Newsletter Editor.

ALL Beneficiaries:

Bob Devine for Common Ground, with Lily
Frasier, Mark Turnbull and Mark Austin;
Norman Ingram to get the UB into Peru and
Cuba; Judy Langston on behalf of Inter-faith
Fellowship; Ron Besser, on behalf of
TMArchives and Starbridge Trust; Marty
Greenhut on behalf of Harp of God;
Gerdean O'Dell for Canossian Retreats; and
many others.

ALL Gatherings:

Bogus Basin, UT, 2004
Canossian, NM, 2005
Canossian, NM, 2006
Santa Barbara, CA, 2007
Unity Village, MO, 2008
Taos, New Mexico, 2009
Dayspring, FL, 2010

ALL Web Site Design

ALL is pleased to have received permission
from Vern Grimsley to publish his beautiful
poem (reproduced here) on the face of our site *if*
the copyright symbol is implemented.



All humankind are one vast family

this world our home

We sleep beneath one roof

the starry sky

We warm ourselves before one

hearth

the blazing sun

Upon one floor of soil we stand

and breathe one air

and drink one water

and walk the night

beneath one luminescent moon

The children of one God we are

and brothers of one blood

and members in one worldwide

Family of God

Vern Grimsley ©

Here are some examples of what we are considering for a banner.



These are also under consideration, although there are matters of editing and copyright that will need to be dealt with. “Path to the Mountaintop” by visionary artist James Parker is featured here. His “Sunset in Blue” was also discussed and admired. Parker’s works can be viewed at <http://iasos.com/artists/jparker>



And this one, entitled “Out of the Darkness Comes Light and Life,” was also appreciated by the members. The visionary artist’s name is “Leila.”



Dear Light and Life Members,

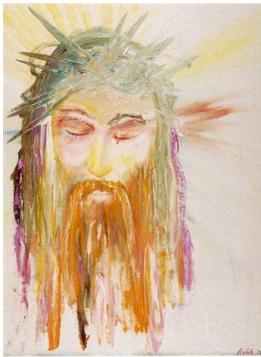
The interesting discussion about "a header for our website" has motivated me to bring to your attention four oil paintings by Vincent Ventola that were inspired by The Urantia Book. Copies of these are included in this email and as attachments. The originals of these four paintings are hanging in my home in Arcata, California. I am also sending in a separate post an accompanying brochure about Vinny who many of you may have known. He was active in the First Urantia Society of Los Angeles and the Teaching Mission; his wife Roxie Alessandro was the first transmitter for Rayson. Vinny was my "best friend" during his brief life among us, and I have the publication rights to his art. I will be delighted to offer these free of charge for use in any books or other content associated with The Urantia Book or the Correcting Time/Teaching Mission. For permission and for larger images of the paintings, contact me at spiritvibrations@pacbell.net. Peace and One Love, Bob Hunt



SHE GUIDES THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT



REUNION ON EDENTIA



IN HIS IMAGE

From the brochure (which includes a biography of Vinny and information about the Ventola Project, originally presented at IC08, that offers giclee prints on canvas or paper of four of his oil paintings. If you or any of your acquaintances would like to have a complete copy of this brochure, please send your mailing address to me at spiritvibrations@pacbell.net): “The final segment of the lives of Vincent and Roxy Ventola was the subject of a 1994 Lifetime TV movie entitled, “Then There Was One.” This film portrayed the events that led to the death of Vinny and their infant daughter, Miranda Rose, who had made their life complete. When Miranda was less than a year old, her health began to fail. After

medical examination and many tests, it was determined that this beloved child was infected with a new age disease; Miranda Rose was HIV positive. Upon further testing the doctors found out that both Vincent and Roxy were infected with the virus as well. As the tragedy played out in 1991, AIDS claimed Vinny first and, only one day later, Miranda. Only Roxy was left to tell the heart-rending story of her family. She became an AIDS activist, serving as President of the Board of Women at Risk, a support service for women with HIV/ AIDS, a co-founding member of Women Alive, an active member of ACT UP/LA, and a founding member of Friends for Life, a support service for heterosexuals with HIV/ AIDS. Toward the end of her own life, Roxy was a consultant and producer for the film that was released a few months before her own departure in November 1991.”



THE SEA OF GLASS



From Saskia Raevouri:

Just as a matter of interest, here is a picture of me (far right) with Vince Ventola and [Ed.-UB Field Representative] Julia Fenderson, taken at a FUSLA meeting in Santa Monica CA in 1982. (Julia had just been to visit readers in Tahiti and was wearing a native dress.) Vince and I were close UB friends around this time, and I attended his Santa Monica study group along with Roxy and her then-husband Bruce.

PEACE

The Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred . . . let me sow love.
Where there is injury . . . pardon.
Where there is doubt . . . faith.
Where there is despair . . . hope.
Where there is darkness . . . light.
Where there is sadness . . . joy.
O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled . . . as to console.
To be understood . . . as to understand.
To be loved . . . as to love.
For it is in giving . . . that we receive.
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned.
It is in dying . . . that we are born to eternal
life.

Baha'i Prayer for Peace

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in
adversity. Be fair in judgment, and guarded
in thy speech. Be a lamp unto those who
walk in darkness, and a home to the
stranger. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding
light unto the feet of the erring. Be a breath
of life to the body of humankind, a dew to
the soil of the human heart, and a fruit upon
the tree of humility.

Native African Prayer for Peace

Almighty God, the Great Thumb we cannot
evade to tie any knot; the Roaring Thunder
that splits mighty trees: the all-seeing Lord
up on high who sees even the footprints of
an antelope on a rock mass here on Earth.
You are the one who does not hesitate to
respond to our call. You are the cornerstone
of peace.

Buddhist Prayer for Peace

May all beings everywhere plagued with
sufferings of body and mind quickly be
freed from their illnesses.
May those frightened cease to be afraid, and
may those bound be free.
May the powerless find power, and may
people think of befriending one another.
May those who find themselves in trackless,
fearful wilderness--- the children, the aged,
the unprotected-- be guarded by beneficial
celestials, and may they swiftly attain
Buddhahood.

Jewish Prayer for Peace

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the
Lord, that we may walk the paths of the
Most High. And we shall beat our swords
into ploughshares, and our spears into
pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword
against nation- neither shall they learn war
any more. And none shall be afraid, for the
mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.

Hindu Prayer for Peace

Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the Real.
Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.
Oh God, lead us from death to immortality.
Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.
Oh Lord God almighty, may there be peace
in celestial regions.
May there be peace on Earth.
May the waters be appeasing.
May herbs be wholesome, and may trees and
plants bring peace to all.
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.
May thy Vedic Law propagate peace all
through the world.
May all things be a source of peace to us.
And may thy peace itself, bestow peace on
all and may that peace come to me also.

Muslim Prayer for Peace

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations, that we may know each other, not that we may despise each other. If the enemy inclines towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things. And the servants of God, Most gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say "PEACE."

Sikh Prayer for Peace

God adjudges us according to our deeds, not the coat that we wear: that Truth is above everything, but higher still is truthful living. Know that we attaineth God when we loveth, and only victory endures in consequences of which no one is defeated.

Shinto Prayer for Peace

Although the people living across the ocean surrounding us, I believe are all our brothers and sisters, why are there constant troubles in this world? Why do winds and waves rise in the oceans surrounding us? I only earnestly wish that the wind will soon puff away all the clouds which are hanging over the tops of mountains.

Native American Prayer for Peace

Oh Great Spirit of our Ancestors, I raise my pipe to you. To your messengers the four winds, and to Mother Earth who provides for your children. Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect, and to be kind to each other so that they may grow with peace of mind. Let us learn to share all good things that you provide for us on this Earth.

Zoroastrian Prayer for Peace

We pray to God to eradicate all the misery in the world:
that understanding triumph over ignorance,
that generosity triumph over indifference,
that trust triumph over contempt, and that truth triumph over falsehood.

Christian Prayer for Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be known as the Children of God. But I say to you that hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who abuse you. To those that strike you on the cheek, offer the other one also, and from those who take away your cloak, do not withhold your coat as well. Give to everyone who begs from you, and of those who take away your goods, do not ask for them again. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

Jainist Prayer for Peace

Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel preached by all Enlightened Ones.

The Lord has preached that equanimity is the Dharma. Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me.

Unto all have I amity, and unto none enmity. Know that violence is the root cause of all miseries in the world.

Violence, in fact, is the knot of bondage.

"Do not injure any living being."

This is the eternal, perennial, and unalterable way of spiritual life.

A weapon, howsoever powerful it may be, can always be superseded by a superior one; but no weapon can, however, be superior to non-violence and love.

Love

Selections from The Urantia Book

Compiled by Frank Jakobowsky

“This term, even though it does connote man’s highest concept of mortal relations of respect and devotion, is so frequently designative of so much of human relationship that is wholly ignoble and unfit to be known by any word which is also used to indicate the matchless affection of the living God for his universe creatures!”

“Love is the desire to do good to others.”

“The exquisite and transcendent experience of loving and being loved is not just a psychic illusion because it is so purely subjective.”

“Love is the highest motivation which man may utilize in his universe ascent. But love, divested of truth, beauty, and goodness, is only a sentiment, a philosophic distortion, a psychic illusion, a spiritual deception. Love must always be redefined on successive levels of morontia and spirit progression.”

“You cannot truly love your fellows by a mere act of will. Love is only born of thoroughgoing understanding of your neighbor’s motives and sentiments. It is not so important to love all men today as it is that each day or each week you achieve an understanding of one more of your fellows, and if this is the limit of your ability, then you are certainly socializing and truly spiritualizing your personality. Love is infectious, and when human devotion is intelligent and wise, love is more catching than hate. But only genuine and unselfish love is truly contagious.”

“When a wise man understands the inner impulses of his fellows, he will love them. And

when you love your brother, you have already forgiven him.”

“Your inability or unwillingness to forgive your fellows is a measure of your immaturity, your failure to attain adult sympathy, understanding, and love. You hold grudges and nurse vengefulness in direct proportion to your ignorance of the inner nature and true longings of your children and fellow beings.”

“Divine love does not merely forgive wrongs; it absorbs and actually transcends them. The forgiveness of love utterly transcends the forgiveness of mercy. Mercy sets the guilt of evil-doing to one side; but love destroys forever the sin and all weakness resulting there-from. Jesus brought a new method of living to Urantia. He taught us not to resist evil but to find through him a goodness which effectually destroys evil. The forgiveness of Jesus is not condonation; it is salvation from condemnation. Salvation does not slight wrongs; it makes them right. True love does not compromise nor condone hate; it destroys it. The love of Jesus is never satisfied with mere forgiveness. The Master’s love implies rehabilitation, eternal survival.”

“To become acquainted with one’s brothers and sisters, to know their problems and to learn to love them, is the supreme experience of living.”

“Do not become discouraged by the discovery that you are human. Human nature may tend toward evil, but it is not inherently sinful. Be not downcast by your failure wholly to forget some of your regrettable experiences. The mistakes which you fail to forget in time will be forgotten in eternity. Lighten your burdens of soul by speedily acquiring a long-distance view of your destiny, a universe expansion of your career.”

And from Mark and Kathy George-Moore:

“Love is dynamic. It can never be captured; it is alive, free, thrilling and always moving. Love can never be imprisoned within your heart. Love only becomes real when it passes through one personality to another. This is the great circuit of Love.

UNITY

The TUUFF-Team Post-Event Summary

--Harry Menton

"That which the enlightened and reflective human imagination of spiritual teaching and leading wholeheartedly and unselfishly wants to do and be, becomes measurably creative in accordance with the degree of mortal dedication to the divine doing of the Father's will. When man goes in partnership with God, great things may, and do, happen." *UB 132:7.9*

"With God, all things are possible" *Matthew 19:36*

For three days in early July, 2010, Urantia Book believers from around the world gathered in Montreal, Canada for The United Urantia Family Festival. This conclave was one of the first of its kind, in that it assembled individuals who functioned as representatives from nearly every known Urantia Book-related organization currently known to exist.

These individuals met for 2-3 hours/day during the conference with the expressed goal to uncover the shared wisdom of the communities in identifying what the Urantia revelation needs most from its organizations; to discover novel and viable means for meeting those needs; and to collectively concur upon which projects would be taken up as the best options. Participants were strongly encouraged to think outside of the confines of their respective organizational *modus operandi* and to attempt to address the requirements of the movement as a whole. It was a substantial undertaking.

And it had never been done before.

Disagreements and conflict were inevitable; the likelihood of those conflicts reinforcing the separatism which was believed to have existed seemed undeniable.

However, something different happened ... **the spirit of unity** prevailed, and all participants were strongly in favor of this process going forward, strongly in favor of participating in it fairly; strongly in favor of helping to bring forth a new paradigm in which the needs of the whole Urantia family are considered as primary, and that the arguments of past days are truly finished: The dead hand of the past should no longer hold sway over the current or future affairs of the Urantia movement.

As a group, we came to decide strongly upon two things:

1. We would return home to our own study groups and advisory boards and service projects with the belief that we would actively encourage support of others' projects; that we would actively discourage the disparaging commentary which has so often characterized inter-organizational communication, particularly in online communities.
2. We all believed, and affirmed--with no dissent--that this process of inter-organizational dialogue, characterized by equanimity, freedom of expression and respect is what is most needed at this time in our development.

As a moderator watching this process unfold, I must say that I continue to be dumbstruck that we all could have been so willing to put so much of the past behind us, and that we were all in agreement that we

need to be working together in this new dispensation of respect and understanding. It was a humbling and remarkable experience to witness ... I wish everyone involved in the Urantia movement could have been there to see it.

But in the most important respect, we all were there ... or soon will be! As these ideas and this new sentiment take root back in our local organizations, the divine virus of love will indeed begin to spread worldwide among our communities.

I simply can't wait to see what the future will bring ... it is so promising that I scarcely have words for it.

Harry Menton
Sept. 5, 2010
Boulder, CO.

The Garden Project

Launches A Site Selection Plan

Submitted by Meredith Tenney

Urantia Book readers gathered over the summer to study, commune together, and plan for the revelation. Many expressed an interest in the Garden Project for a variety of reasons. Some resonated with the concept of living in environmentally sustainable ways in spiritual community. Others wanted to rebuild the Garden because they feel called to work on Michael's behalf. The concept generating the greatest enthusiasm, however, was the idea of building a physical facility as a base for the Urantia movement. Individuals associated with a wide-spectrum of UB-affiliated organizations including Urantia University, InnerLife International Inc., Truthseekers,

the Fellowship, and the UAI have expressed an interest in acquiring a facility to house their outreach activities.

The Garden Council believes that a new Garden would provide the perfect setting for such activities. A single, multi-use physical facility, in beautiful natural surroundings amidst botanical gardens would give the Urantia movement a place to hold conferences economically, a site to train spiritual leaders, and a base for spiritual community and outreach activities. Although each organization could seek its own location and purchase its own facility, the Garden Council sees many advantages to working collaboratively including:

Increased capacity to develop comprehensive, multi-faceted outreach programs by working together.

Greater resources for building a dynamic educational and conference center.

The potential to work collaboratively to develop a center for the Arts.

An expansion of our base of financial support and fund-raising potential.

Additional asset of a residential community of believers creating a spiritually rich environment.

A synergistic effect which will augment all of our efforts to serve the revelation.

Consider the collaborative efforts that could occur in a Urantia center based at the Garden: Truthseekers might work with young people preparing them to do outreach on InnerLife's *Urantia Road Tours*, or to

study at Urantia University in the same classrooms at another time of year. University faculty might live in the Garden, while Urantia University students or youth attending Truthseekers events, could work in the organic vegetable and botanical gardens during their training to contribute to the center and help cover expenses. The nutritious foods grown in the gardens could economically feed students and conference attendees from a wide variety of UB-affiliated organizations. The facility could be used to generate income by hosting spiritual retreats and conferences for other spiritually oriented groups, and that in turn would create new opportunities to raise awareness about the Urantia Book. A residential community of spirit-led individuals could inspire others to new patterns of living, and the sheer number of people gathered in the same space and dedicated to living the revelation could augment the spiritual lives of everyone. The UB says:

133.5.6 Mathematics asserts that, if one person stands for a certain unit of intellectual and moral value, ten persons would stand for ten times this value. But in dealing with human personality it would be nearer the truth to say that such a personality association is a sum equal to the square of the number of personalities concerned in the equation rather than the simple arithmetical sum. A social group of human beings in coordinated working harmony stands for a force far greater than the simple sum of its parts.

Locating a Site

The Garden Project is launching a 9-month site selection process which will begin in October 2010. The process will solicit the input and suggestions of interested Urantia Book readers across the country

and encourage the participation of affiliated organizations. Individuals, groups, and organizations will be invited to submit proposed sites for a garden/potential Urantia center to the Garden Council in the late fall for inclusion in an internet-based survey.

The survey will include pictures and information about each property in a digital format and be widely distributed to Urantia Book readers around the country to ascertain their preferences and top choices. The Garden Council will compile the data in a report, visit the top sites selected, and invite Urantia affiliated-organizations that are interested in a multi-use facility to a meeting in May 2011. At the meeting, possibilities for fair and appropriate shared governance among all stakeholders in the Garden will be explored. While effective governance requires that various cooperating entities remain autonomous, land, building, and infrastructure can and should be shared. Participants will strive to agree on a Garden site which reflects the preferences of the community and meets the needs of multiple groups for a Urantia center. If no agreement can be reached, the Garden Council will retain the right to consider survey results and the perspectives of other organizations and make a final decision about where to locate the Garden.

Summer 2011

The site selected will be announced at IC'11 with an exciting video presentation. The presentation will feature the selected site and include a proposed land use plan and a pragmatic business plan for creating a financially viable and environmentally sustainable Garden and potential Urantia center. The presentation will simultaneously kick-off a dynamic fund

raising drive to purchase the property selected. Substantive planning over the next 9 months is necessary to draft fund raising plans, a preliminary land use plan, and a business plan, and the Garden Council seeks interested individuals to assist on task forces in these areas. Anyone interested in serving on a task force is asked to contact the Council at info@rebuildthegarden.com. Watch for the Fall Quarterly Garden newsletter or visit the Garden website at www.rebuildthegarden.com for further updates soon.

To receive a quarterly update on the progress of the Garden Project, send an email with 'subscribe' in the subject headline to info@rebuildthegarden.com

THE WORLD WILL NOT END IN 2012

By Carlos Barrios

Carlos Barrios was born into a Spanish family on El Altiplano, the highlands of . His home was in Huehue tenango, also the dwelling place of the Maya Mam tribe. With other Maya and other indigenous tradition keepers, the Mam carry part of the old ways on Turtle Island (North America).

They are keepers of time, authorities on remarkable calendars that are ancient, elegant and relevant. Mr. Barrios is a historian, an anthropologist and investigator. After studying with traditional elders for 25 years since the age of 19, he has also become a Mayan Ajq'ij, a ceremonial priest and spiritual guide, Eagle Clan.

Years ago, along with his brother, Gerardo, Carlos initiated an investigation into the different Mayan calendars. He studied with many teachers. He says his brother Gerardo

interviewed nearly 600 traditional Mayan elders to widen their scope of knowledge.

"Anthropologists visit the temple sites," Mr. Barrios says, "and read the inscriptions and make up stories about the Maya, but they do not read the signs correctly. It's just their imagination... Other people write about prophecy in the name of the Maya. They say that the world will end in December 2012. The Mayan elders are angry with this. The world will not end. It will be transformed. The indigenous have the calendars, and know how to accurately interpret it, not others.

The Mayan Calendars comprehension of time, seasons, and cycles has proven itself to be vast and sophisticated. The Maya understand 17 different calendars, some of them charting time accurately over a span of more than ten million years. The calendar that has steadily drawn global attention since 1987 is called the Tzolk'in or Cholq'ij.

Devised ages ago and based on the cycle of the Pleiades, it is still held as sacred. With the indigenous calendars, native people have kept track of important turning points in history.

For example, the day keepers who study the calendars identified an important day in the year One Reed, Ce Acatl, as it was called by the Mayans. That was the day when an important ancestor was prophesied to return, "coming like a butterfly." In the western calendar, the One Reed date correlates to Easter Sunday, April 21, 1519 the day that Hernando Cortez and his fleet of 11 Spanish galleons arrived from the East at what is today called Vera Cruz.

When the Spanish ships came toward shore, native people were waiting and watching to see how it would go. The billowing sails of

the ships did indeed remind the scouts of butterflies skimming the ocean surface. In this manner was a new era initiated, an era they had anticipated through their calendars. The Maya termed the new era the Nine Bolomtikus, or nine Hells of 52 years each. As the nine cycles unfolded, land and freedom were taken from the native people. Disease and disrespect dominated.

What began with the arrival of Cortez, lasted until August 16, 1987 - a date many people recall as Harmonic Convergence. Millions of people took advantage of that date to make ceremony in sacred sites, praying for a smooth transition to a new era, the World of the Fifth Sun."

From that 1987 date until now, Mr. Barrios says, "We have been in a time when the right arm of the materialistic world is disappearing, slowly but inexorably. We are at the cusp of the era when peace begins, and people live in harmony with Mother Earth. We are no longer in the World of the Fourth Sun, but we are not yet in the World of the Fifth Sun. This is the time in-between, the time of transition. As we pass through transition there is a colossal, global convergence of environmental destruction, social chaos, war, and ongoing Earth changes."

All this, Mr. Barrios says, was foreseen via the simple, spiral mathematics of the Mayan calendars. "It will change," Mr. Barrios observes. "Everything will change." He said Mayan day keepers view the Dec. 21, 2012 date as a rebirth, the start of the World of the Fifth Sun. "It will be the start of a new era resulting from and signified by the solar meridian crossing the galactic equator, and the earth aligning itself with the center of the galaxy. At sunrise on December 21, 2012 for the first time in 26,000 years, the Sun rises to conjunct the intersection of the

Milky Way and the plane of the ecliptic. This cosmic cross is considered to be an embodiment of the Sacred Tree, The Tree of Life, a tree remembered in all the world's spiritual traditions."

Some observers say this alignment with the heart of the galaxy in 2012 will open a channel for cosmic energy to flow through the earth, cleansing it and all that dwells upon it, raising all to a higher level of vibration.

This process has already begun, Mr. Barrios suggested. "Change is accelerating now, and it will continue to accelerate." If the people of the earth can get to this 2012 date in good shape, without having destroyed too much of the Earth, Mr. Barrios said, "We will rise to a new, higher level. But to get there we must transform enormously powerful forces that seek to block the way."

A Picture of the Road Ahead:

From his understanding of the Mayan tradition and the calendars, Mr. Barrios offered a picture of where we are at and what may lie on the road ahead. The date specified in the calendar Winter Solstice in the year 2012 does not mark the end of the world. Many outside people writing about the Mayan calendar sensationalize this date, but they do not know. The ones who know are the indigenous elders who are entrusted with keeping the tradition.

"Humanity will continue," he contends, "but in a different way. Material structures will change. From this we will have the opportunity to be more human. We are living in the most important era of the Mayan calendars and prophecies. All the prophecies of the world, all the traditions, are converging now. There is no time for games. The spiritual ideal of this era is

action. Many powerful souls have reincarnated in this era, with a lot of power. This is true on both sides, the light and the dark.

A Call for Fusion:

As he met with audiences in Santa Fe, Mr. Barrios told a story about the most recent Mayan New Year ceremonies. He said that one respected elder, who lives all year in a solitary mountain cave, journeyed to Chichicastenango to speak with the people at the ceremony. The elder delivered a simple, direct message. He called for human beings to come together in support of life and light. Right now each person and group is going his or her own way. The elder of the mountains said there is hope if the people of the light can come together and unite in some way.

Reflecting on this, Mr. Barrios explained: "We live in a world of polarity: day and night, man and woman, positive and negative. Light and darkness need each other. They are a balance. Just now the dark side is very strong, and very clear about what they want. They have their vision and their priorities clearly held, and also their hierarchy. They are working in many ways so that we will be unable to connect with the spiral Fifth World in 2012.

On the light side everyone thinks they are the most important, that their own understandings, or their group's understandings, are the key. There's a diversity of cultures and opinions, so there is competition, diffusion, and no single focus."

As Mr. Barrios sees it, "The dark side works to block fusion through denial and materialism. It also works to destroy those who are working with the light to get the Earth to a higher level. They like the energy

of the old, declining Fourth World, the materialism. They do not want it to change. They do not want fusion. They want to stay at this level, and are afraid of the next level. The dark power of the declining Fourth World cannot be destroyed or overpowered. It's too strong and clear for that, and that is the wrong strategy. The dark can only be transformed when confronted with simplicity and open-heartedness. This is what leads to fusion, a key concept for the World of the Fifth Sun."

Mr. Barrios said the emerging era of the Fifth Sun will call attention to a much-overlooked element. Whereas the four traditional elements of earth, air, fire and water have dominated various epochs in the past, there will be a fifth element to reckon with in the time of the Fifth Sun: ether. The dictionary defines ether as the rarefied element of the Heavens. Ether is a medium. It permeates all space and transmits waves of energy in a wide range of frequencies, from cell phones to human auras.

What is "ethereal" is related to the regions beyond earth: the Heavens. Ether, the element of the Fifth Sun, is celestial and lacking in material substance, but is no less real than wood, stone or flesh. "Within the context of ether there can be a fusion of the polarities," Mr. Barrios said. "No more darkness or light in the people, but an uplifted fusion.

But right now the realm of darkness is not interested in this. They are organized to block it. They seek to unbalance the Earth and its environment so we will be unready for the alignment in 2012. We need to work together for peace, and balance with the other side. We need to take care of the Earth that feeds and shelters us. We need to put our entire mind and heart into pursuing unity and fusion now, to confront the other side

and preserve life, to be ready for this Moment in History."

Mr. Barrios told his audiences in Santa Fe that we are at a critical moment of world history. "We are disturbed," he said. "We can't play anymore. Our planet can be renewed or ravaged. Now is the time to awaken and take action. Everyone is needed. You are not here for no reason. Everyone who is here now has an important purpose. This is a hard, but special time. We have the opportunity for growth, but we must be ready for this moment in history."

Mr. Barrios offered a number of suggestions to help people walk in balance through the years ahead. "The prophesied changes are going to happen," he said "but our attitude and actions determine how harsh or mild they are. We need to act, to make changes, and to elect people to represent us who understand and who will take political action to respect the earth. Meditation and spiritual practice are good, but also action. It's very important to be clear about who you are, and also about your relation to the Earth.

Develop yourself according to your own tradition and the call of your heart. But remember to respect differences, and strive for unity. Eat wisely. A lot of food is corrupt in either subtle or gross ways. Pay attention to what you are taking into your body. Learn to preserve food, and to conserve energy. Learn some good breathing techniques, so you have the mastery of your breath. Be clear. Follow a tradition with great roots. It is not important what tradition, your heart will tell you, but it must have great roots. We live in a world of energy. An important task at this time is to learn to sense or see the energy of everyone and everything: people, plants, animals.

This becomes increasingly important as we draw close to the World of the Fifth Sun, for it is associated with the element ether - the realm where energy lives and weaves. Go to the sacred places of the earth to pray for peace, and have respect for the Earth which gives us our food, clothing, and shelter. We need to reactivate the energy of these sacred places. That is our work.

One simple but effective prayer technique is to light a white or baby-blue colored candle. Think a moment in peace. Speak your intention to the flame and send the light of it on to the leaders who have the power to make war or peace. We Have Work To Do."

According to Mr. Barrios this is a crucially important moment for humanity, and for earth. Each person is important. If you have incarnated into this era, you have spiritual work to do balancing the planet. He said the elders have opened the doors so that other races can come to the Mayan world to receive the tradition. The Maya have long appreciated and respected that there are other colors, other races, and other spiritual systems.

"They know," he said, "that the destiny of the Mayan world is related to the destiny of the whole world. The greatest wisdom is in simplicity," "Love, respect, tolerance, sharing, gratitude, forgiveness. It's not complex or elaborate. The real knowledge is free. It's encoded in your DNA. All you need is within you. Great teachers have said that from the beginning. Find your heart, and you will find your way."

Carlos Barrios is author of *The Book of Destiny: Unlocking the Secrets of the Ancient Mayans and the Prophecy of 2012*

INTERFAITH

at Ground Zero

By Jan Phillips <http://www.janphillips.com>

I woke up last night to the sound of laughing and realized I'd fallen asleep with the TV on. It was 3 AM and I knew it was Jon Stewart but I had to fumble around for my glasses to see who his guest was. Unbelievable!

It was Jesus, in his robe and all. His nose was bigger than I thought, his skin a lot darker, but his eyes were more piercing than I'd ever imagined. It was like light came out instead of going into them.

John was making some joke about both of them being Jews and Jesus, after laughing harder than I thought he would, said quite seriously to Jon, "Yeah, that's one of the weirdest things, isn't it? How could they forget that?"

Jon was all over him with questions from the daily news. What was his take on the whole Mosque/Ground Zero fiasco? Jesus said he'd seen some newscasts on the story and couldn't believe the drama and fear it was bringing up. "They want to build a public building for prayer, education and community gathering. That's a good thing. A better thing perhaps, would be the construction of an interfaith building. There's room for everyone, and it's these distinctions between religions that's causing all the problems in the first place."

Jon looked incredulous. "An interfaith building?"

"Yes, a multi-tasking mosque, with a synagogue, chapel and meditation hall in it. A building where people of different faiths come together to make a better world together. That's the point of religion right? It's not about doctrine. It's a plan for action, an opportunity to be a bigger force for good. Religion is just the map. Faith is the real adventure."

"I don't know...." said Stewart, making one of

those funny mouth movements he does after hearing a strange idea.

Jesus pipes in, "What could be better in that spot than a building that represents, by its very structure, a coming together, a new vision that goes beyond religious borders? It's like taking a good idea and making it great. The real prophets of the day know this. Where are their voices? Why aren't you interviewing them?"

"Hmm, I thought I was," says Stewart, tapping his pencil on the desk.

"You know why you have border issues here? Because you believe the borders are real, like they MEAN something. Muslim against Christian, Mexican against American, Republican against Democrat-all those borders are made up. You put up walls to defend your ideas-and not even your OWN, but ideas passed down to you from someone else-and then you make other people look like demons. It's no wonder this country is in a state of collapse. You don't even get it how connected you are. You're like five fingers on a hand who think they're separate and make up reasons why not to get along."

Jon sat there with his mouth open.

"You're like children playing war games. You spend all your time, all your energy attacking the "other side" instead of realizing you need to bridge the two sides in order to get across to a higher level of thinking. Even news shows are at war. Look at how you make fun of FOX. What light does that add to the world? All the time you could be giving to real visionaries, all the ways you could be role-modeling good behavior, showing the audience how it really WORKS to bring great and opposing minds together, and you sit there poking fun at another station. That's really enlightened, isn't it?"

This was the first time I'd ever seen Jon Stewart speechless. He looked like an embarrassed 6th grader. No pencil tapping now. More like a puppy with his tail between his legs.

"What in the world are you people doing? The ones who call themselves "religious" are often the most immature, the most judgmental and intolerant. What is THAT about? That's exactly the opposite of what every religion teaches. And I mean EVERY religion."

Jesus said, as he looked away from Stewart and spoke right to the camera.

"All the religions say two basic things," he said, holding up his fingers in a peace sign. "First, there is no distance between you and this one you call God. God is the creative force behind all things. It's invisible, but you are the manifestation of it. I'm telling you, the Sistine Chapel should have been a mirror."

The audience laughs, but Stewart stares into those deep eyes of the Nazarene.

He goes on, "You are the eyes, the hands, the feet of that creative force. That energy is in you. It's called your breath." He holds up his index finger and taps on it a few times. "That's the first thing. Don't think there's some man out there pulling strings. Grow up. This civilization-if you can call it that-is YOUR creation. This earth, it is not a bunch of resources to be exploited. It is not to be owned. It is your mother, the womb that you sprang from. You are its consciousness, its neural cells. The whole earth is the organism that you belong to. You did not come down to earth; you came up from earth, as I did. Its well-being is in your hands. Can you be proud of what you're doing? Are you going to be the ones who kill it off, after all that talk about pro-life?"

Jesus was getting a little worked up, like that day he stormed through the temple turning over the merchants' tables. Jon cut to a commercial, "And we'll be right back to hear the 2nd basic thing from our guest tonight, ladies and gentlemen, the Jewish prophet Jesus of Nazareth. Stay tuned..."

They were laughing about something when they returned from the commercial, Jesus stretched out in his chair with his long lanky legs covered by his tunic, his sandaled feet hidden under the desk.

"OK," Jon says, "You were saying there were two things. Let me see if I got this right. There's no bearded guy up there on a cloud. That God we talk about and fight over is the creative force inside us and around us? It's invisible and we're like....(a long pause) its shadow?"

"Not exactly," says Jesus. We're like the physical form of the same energy. The ice cube version of water or steam. Same elements, different form. The sea and the iceberg. You're all icebergs in the Sea of God," he said, half-laughing at his own quaint metaphor. "But the problem is you don't realize that underneath it all, you're all connected. There's just one big iceberg with a lot of tips. The truth is, you're Creation continuing the co-creation of Itself."

"Oh my," says Stewart. "Let's leave that discussion to Bill Moyers, What about number two? What's the number two thing we're supposed to know?" Jesus holds up his two fingers again, tapping the tip of his middle finger. The camera zoomed in so closely on him I could see a scar on his forehead. "It's not so much what you need to know-that's part of the problem, all these peoples' belief systems. That's what gets you in trouble. No one has to believe in me to get to heaven. A...there is no heaven to get to and B, it's not what you believe but how you act that matters. If anyone learned anything from reading that Bible they should have picked up that one. There's 3000 references to helping the poor in there. But let me get back..."

"Yes," says Stewart. "The second thing..."

"The second thing is this: forget everything you ever learned in any holy book and just treat everyone like a brother and a sister. I mean that literally. If it were your brother coming across the border...your sister with cancer and no health care ... your child unable to get an education ... your mother with no food in her house. And even further, your brother who was gay or hated gays, your sister who was a corrupt politician, your brother who bombed an abortion clinic, your sister who got an abortion. What does it look like to love unconditionally?"

To bridge differences, to come together over what we can agree on? Can you get through one day without thinking you're better or less than another? That's the thing to strive for. That is living faithfully."

"But...but..." says Stewart. "What about the Tea Partyers, the terrorists? What about Fox News and hate crimes?"

"If you think they are so different from you, be the opposite of what you think they are and enact that powerfully in the world. Don't focus on who's wrong. Just be a greater force for good."

"Not focus on who's wrong? How could I do my show?"

"Exactly. Remember what Gandhi said? Be the change you want to see in the world?"

"Sure. I have that quote on my refrigerator."

"Well, it's time to take it further. You're evolving as a people. You've come through the Dark Ages, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the wrongly named Period of Enlightenment. You're now in the Information Age. You are growing your consciousness. In the physical world, you have Olympic marathon trainers who run 10 miles or more a day. They spend every waking hour in training, eating the right foods, researching the right clothing and equipment, working out, following a discipline. And in the metaphysical world, the spiritual world, you have people doing the same—they are your mystics and prophets—engaging in spiritual practice, accelerating their wisdom, expanding their consciousness, transcending judgment and radiating love into the world. You might be in that category.."

Stewart does one of his choking, ahem things, putting his hand over his mouth. "Out of the question," he says frankly. "I thrive on judgment."

"Good to know yourself. You're all evolving at different rates. In the fall, when you look at a maple tree, you see leaves that are green,

yellow, orange and red. They don't all change at the same time. And that's what makes life exciting. You all know different things. That's why you need each other. Like that guy Ken Wilbur said, "You're all right, only partly so." Stewart nods his head in agreement, tapping his pencil on the table again.

"But back to Gandhi. I agree with what he said, but I'll say it a different way, just to shake things up a bit, which I love to do. By the way, it'd make a great bumper sticker: Be the God you want to see in the world."

"Oh-oh, sounds blasphemous to me," says Stewart.

"You know as well as I do, every good idea starts out as a blasphemy."

"OK, great, we're out of time," says Stewart, as the camera swings over for a shot of the audience. They're all standing, some crying and laughing at the same time, the most incredible look of collective awe I've ever seen. And Jesus walks over like Jay Leno and starts shaking hands with them. What a night!"

Parting Shots

September was a tumultuous month for the Association for Light and Life. Long-time associate Jim Cleveland, founder of the website www.LightandLife.com, closed his file on www.LightandLife.us. In an unrelated move, Angus Bowen's resignation from the Council and withdrawal from the member's list was followed soon thereafter by the resignation of Councilor Marty Greenhut and Gerdean O'Dell resigned her position as newsletter Editor. Consequently, this will be her final issue of the ALL Newsletter. Webmaster Jena Pittmon's work on the ALL website will continue under the guidance of Bobby Devine and Russ Gustafson. Best wishes to everyone.

That's ALL, folks!