



Inspiration

A guide for the mystical journey

Holidays have
Vital Meanings

Flower A. Newhouse

Easter Retreat
2004

Winter 2004
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Friendship House
A New Look at an Old Friend

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Welcome...



Welcome to our inaugural issue, or you might say, the reincarnation, of Inspiration Magazine, which was originally published by The Christward Ministry many years ago. This magazine replaces “Life at Questhaven” which was published three times a year, and provides articles and news about Questhaven Retreat four times a year. In this new magazine, we hope that you sense a rekindled spirit of the essence of The Christward Ministry.

Each quarter will bring you up to date news on what is happening here as well as a message of our purpose. We also are including past articles by the founders of this ministry to keep us in touch with their rich insights.

Good communication and fellowship among our spiritual family are very important. Please join us by subscribing to this new edition. Share it with your friends. Keep it for a reference.

As a keynote for this edition, let us take these words from Master Gamaliel. These are the very first words Flower A. Newhouse received from the masters.

“You shall be my watchman on Earth and since you must testify to Truth, see to it that Truth channels you so that you can verify that to which you testify.”

Our Mission

by Blake Isaac

World conditions press us to find solutions to problems as old as time itself. We have a key role to play: to chart a course that awakens humanity to the resources of Christian Mysticism.

To carry out this mission, God’s Hierarchy chose Flower A. Newhouse to found The Christward Ministry. She and her husband, Lawrence, were guided to find the property which is now Questhaven Retreat. These two pioneers carved out a 640-acre nature preserve to provide a place of peace and beauty dedicated to the Lord Christ — a place to discover God more completely — a place for inspiration, worship, and wonder for its visitors.

Over the years we have grown and expanded, yet the course we were given hasn’t changed. This ministry is committed to the intent and essence for it was founded. This requires each of us to regularly attune ourselves to what the Hierarchy has in store for this work and our lives. It is important to state our mission and purposes clearly so we can move forward together as a spiritual family to reach them.

Our Mission:

The Christward Ministry is dedicated to spreading the Way of the Christ throughout the world and to teaching individuals the daily application of mystical and esoteric Christianity.

Our Purpose:

To carry on in spirit and intention the teachings and retreat established by the founders, Flower and Lawrence Newhouse, and to demonstrate their validity in life by drawing closer to God through belief and practice.

Our Understanding:

This ministry does not seek to establish a sect or creed — it has no memberships, but strives to reveal unity in the diversity of all faiths and paths to God. We believe that when the Christ Spirit can be made a vital part of our existence, its influence will unify, heal, and transform world conditions. This Ministry is actively engaged in sharing the universal teachings of the Lord Christ and endeavors to present a balanced combination of the metaphysical principles and esoteric dimensions of life which Christ has shared with the world.

Our Aims:

- To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.
- To worship Christ and live His Way of inclusive love and wholeness.
- To make us conscious of the Christhood toward which we travel, and to quicken our reverent and wise use of our God-given spiritual powers.
- To bring us into harmonious fellowship with the Angelic and Higher Kingdoms of being.
- To bring us to a realization of the great plan of life under which we grow.
- To make us conscious of our inner life and immortality.

We embrace the charge for which this work was established. May we forever hold to the divine truth that began this ministry and grow continually in Divine Light.

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760-744-1500 fax 760-744-2591 email: office@questhaven.org www.questhaven.org
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Ministry Moments

By Rev. Blake Isaac

ROAD CLOSURE: We are looking forward to the closure of Questhaven road south of the gate. While this means many of us will have to be rerouted through San Elijo Hills to get to the retreat, it will be immensely helpful to our security, safety, and privacy. We appreciate your understanding.

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE: See our feature article to discover what's new in our place of fellowship. It has received a great deal of much-needed attention.

NEW RESIDENCE: Blake and Danielle Isaac are looking forward to building their new residence on Questhaven Retreat. Special thanks to Drew Hubbell, designer of this building. Construction will continue throughout this year.

HOLY QUEST: The Holy Quest workshop series which we began this past year has been enthusiastically received. We will be continuing with this series, adding the third class in 2004. See the article in this issue for dates and information about these special courses.

COLLECTED WORKS: Compilation of the entire works of Flower A. Newhouse, is making steady progress. This publication will bring together all of Flower's talks and writings on various topics. Several booklets encompassing the beginning chapters are avail-

able in the office. If you are willing to transcribe tapes, this is a wonderful way to serve while enriching your spiritual journey. If you have time and interest to help in this project, please contact the office.

SOUND ROOM: We have just replenished many parts of our aging sound system in the church. This lays the groundwork for our digital future. You can now receive CDs of the current Sunday Services. Much of the funding for this project was donated in memory of Gary C. Reynolds.

CROSS ON THE CHURCH: The cross on the front of the church has been missing for some time, having been taken down when its tiles began to fall off. It is being refinished and will soon once again welcome all of us into the church.

ADOPT AN OLIVE TREE: The 1996 fire affected the trees in our historic olive grove. They are struggling to come back but need some love and attention. Just a little work on your part can make a huge difference. If you can adopt an olive tree with your care, please contact Trent Coleman through the ministry office.

GROWING LIBRARY AT THE ACADEMY: Special thanks to Hal Lingerman for contributing a large number of books to our growing library. The library committee has been busy cataloguing books and getting them ready for the shelves. Thanks to all who have given so generously to this important part of our work.

Easter Retreat 2004

By Laurel Rivera

Easter at Questhaven is a time for deep, inner reflection which offers many opportunities for lifting closer to God. The 40 days of Lent provide the impetus and inner support to help us overcome those traits of character that block our spiritual progress. As each day passes, special currents and radiations of light available only at this time of year enter earth's atmosphere, reaching a crescendo on Easter morning. Gratitude, hope and joy abound throughout the retreat - in our hearts as well as in nature.

Meditations are held each Wednesday of Lent to give structure to our inner preparations. This year the focus of the meditations will build around the Easter Sunday topic, "Resurrect in me, Lord Christ, a New Spirit for Thee." Good Friday's Communion Service reflects the beauty and ceremony of the inner worlds as we raise our attention to the gift and mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Holy Saturday is a day set aside for attuning and aligning our bodies. We can now serve the Christ as physical anchors of Easter's blessings into the world. The traditional climb to Inspiration Point for Sunrise Service is a holy pilgrimage. Symbolically, we ascend the hill from the "dark of night" and arrive into "the light of day." With Easter Sunday Service, Angelic presences fill the Church of the Holy Quest and carry our "hosannas" to the Lord Christ. May we prepare well for the redemptive blessings of Easter.

"Let the Eastertide currents flood into all your bodies with their redeeming energies."

The Center for Holistic Growth

Revs. Heinz and Susan Wattenhoffer

(Note: Heinz and Susan are Questhaven ministers who share Flower's teachings at their center in Switzerland.)

In 1983, 20 years ago, we were looking for a house with 4 to 6 rooms near Zurich for our workshops. The Hierarchy led us to a house with 30 rooms in the mountains. We looked for a small property; they led us to 20 acres with forests, meadows and three brooks. Why was everything so big? We did not yet know the deeper meaning. In 1986, after we had renovated the house with much love and care, our lives and our work changed. It started like this:

On our vacation at Fuerteventura in the fall of 1985, we both read the biography of Flower A. Newhouse. We were excited and touched deeply in our hearts, so we booked our 1986 summer vacation at Questhaven. At the gate an elderly lady, introducing herself as Joy, greeted us. At our cottage, *Casa Canta*, she said to us, "You will be totally changed."

A deep longing for something forgotten and lost stirred our hearts. The people here and the hilly Palestine-like area were most welcoming. As we sat in Questhaven's church on Sunday, a woman quietly seated herself next to us. She radiated something like a wonderful flower. "I am Flower," she said, "I have been waiting for you. I am glad that you are here now." We were astonished, and a rare happiness embraced us.

This was the start. As we arrived home, we saw our task and our center with new eyes. *To be continued...*

New Courses at Questhaven

By Rev. Susan Cary

The Christward Ministry announces new weekend courses at Questhaven Retreat.

Holy Quest I, Holy Quest II and Holy Quest III, will be presented in February, March and May 2004, respectively.

Each course features individual classes on the teachings of Flower A. Newhouse. These are interactive lessons with follow-up activities to further students' understanding and assimilation of the subject. Questhaven ministers teach all classes. The intent of the courses is to help participants experience God in greater depth, awaken in each God's purpose for life and inspire each to follow that purpose with the Lord Christ as the supreme example.

These weekend courses begin on Friday evening with a communal supper in Casa de Angeles. The first class follows in the Academy with a meditation concluding the evening. Saturday morning opens with a continental breakfast succeeded by the classes of the day. Breaks between classes allow time for lunch, quiet reflection and moments to spend alone with God in nature. Following the evening meal, the group assembles for a wrap-up of the weekend topped off by a timely video or slide presentation.

Breakfast and the Sunday morning church service bring the weekend to a close. Retreatants find themselves reluctant to leave this haven after immersing themselves in the holiness of these moments while deepening their bonds with the Eternal and their human companions.

Participants lodge in the individual rooms of lovely Casa de Angeles or in one of Questhaven's attractive cottages. Lodging and five meals are provided as part of the tuition of \$225. This charge includes study guides, follow-up activities for all classes, complimentary book, original meditation CD and a certificate of completion.

The schedule for the Holy Quest weekend courses and class topics for 2004 is as follows:

Holy Quest I

February 6, 7, 8

- Flower A. Newhouse: Mystic, Seer and Teacher
- Christian Mysticism
- Our Sevenfold Bodies: Their Description and Function
- Christian Discipleship
- Angels Who Guide Our Lives

Holy Quest II

March 5, 6, 7

- The Seven Aspects of God
- The Historical Jesus/The Living Christ
- The Seven Rays
- The Power of Thought

Holy Quest III

May 14, 15, 16

- Meditation and Prayer
- Inner Worlds and Inner Perception
- Masters and Initiation
- Angels of Nature

Courses are taken sequentially. Sign up now for a spiritually expanding, life-changing experience. Call the office for reservations or further information at 760-744-1500 or visit our website: <http://www.questhaven.org>.

Online Inspiration for the Mystical Journey By Richard Boulton

As we launch our new quarterly magazine, it is appropriate that we introduce our companion medium for sharing such inspiration — Questhaven's website.

Questhaven.org was launched seven years ago, in 1996, to introduce the *newly connected* world to Questhaven Retreat, The Christward Ministry, and Christian Mysticism.

A pioneering group of individuals created and organized its initial content, which emphasized the Retreat's activities, history, founders, principles and publications. Much of this original content is still present on the site.

Since its inception, the site has continued to mature in appearance, organization, content and features. During the past year, the site was redesigned to provide easier navigation to accommodate more content and functionality.

The front page now serves frequent visitors with up-to-date news, a calendar of events, daily meditation watchwords, and informative descriptions of upcoming talks. The front page presents general information about the Retreat, its activities, principles and publications, with easy access to more detailed information.

Recent additions to the site include sample book chapters along with hundreds of excerpts and quotations from the Ministry's published books and recorded lectures. The *Retreat Activities* and *Principles* pages now include recommended reading lists with sample excerpts for their associated topics. Biographies were added for our ministers and

other regular speakers. Dozens of sample world prayers and meditation watchwords by Flower A. Newhouse have been listed. Information has been presented about the Academy Training Program, Retreats, Classes, and Workshops.

Books, tapes, cards, and spiritual art can now be purchased securely online using a credit card. Even donations and love-offerings can be made online. One of the largest undertakings was publishing a complete list of taped recordings of lectures given by Flower A. Newhouse from 1950 to 1990, organized by date and topic. A complete list of chapters from each of the Ministry's book titles is also available.

Going forward, the Ministry's main objective for the website is to create a place on the web to provide those seeking or traveling the mystic path with the information, news, tools, and inspiration necessary for the journey, and to introduce the unique, esoteric emphasis of Christian Mysticism found at Questhaven.

In upcoming issues, we will highlight some of the topics offered on Questhaven's website to help inspire our journey along the upward path of Christian Mysticism.

May the mystic journey inspire you always.

Questhaven.org is supported entirely by volunteers. Bob Herz has provided web and email hosting since its inception, while Blake Isaac, and more recently, Richard Boulton have contributed site design and content. Evelyn Alemanni and Gwen Hulbert provide ongoing proofing and editing services, and Laurie Burke keeps the site fresh with up-to-date news. Much of the content for the web site is made available from the work done by those who are transcribing Flower A. Newhouse's lectures and by republishing her books. Please send your ideas and suggestions to webmaster@questhaven.org.

2004 Winter/Spring Program

Sunday Services begin at 10:45

JANUARY

January 4	Taking a Fresh Look at Reincarnation	Rev. Susan S. Cary
January 11	Train the Jedi Knight Within You	Rev. Blake Isaac
January 18	The Blessings of Winter	Rev. Elizabeth Wood
January 25	Archetypes—the Spiritual Architecture of Our Lives	Rev. Phyllis Isaac

FEBRUARY

February 1	Holy Spirit Dwell With Me	Ben Wisckol
February 8	Anima and Animas - Understanding the Guiding Factors Behind Our Relationships	Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
February 15	When the Hand of God is a Paw— What Animals Teach us about the Divine	Evelyn Alemanni
February 22	The Value of Sacred Symbols	Rev. Susan S. Cary
February 29	How the Creatures Enrich Our Lives	Rev. Elizabeth Wood

MARCH

March 7	The Sacredness of the Lenten Season	Rev. Myrna Triggs
March 14	Spiritual Friendship— Priceless Pearl in the Sea of Humanity	Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
March 21	Christ Centered Reflections on the Spring Equinox: Balancing the Inner with the Outer	Alexandra Alba
March 28	The Healing Power of Forgiveness	Rev. Bette Harper

APRIL

April 4	Christ Created the Pattern of Our Faith	Rev. Phyllis Isaac
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EASTER RETREAT—April 9, 10,11

Friday, 7:30 p.m.—	Communion Service	
Holy Saturday —	Activities Focused on Christ	
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.—	Resurrect in Me, Lord Christ, a New Spirit for Thee	Rev. Blake Isaac

April 18	Let There Be LIFE — The Awakening Power of Holy Enthusiasm	Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
April 25	Creating Peace Within Ourselves and the World Around Us	Rev. Susan Cary

Ongoing Activities

The Way Within meditation class will be continuing the first and third Wednesday of each month at noon in the Academy, led by Rev. Phyllis Isaac. We invite all those interested to join us.

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..

Pranic Healing Clinics: 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 Building.

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

Study Groups

Classes studying The Christward Ministry teachings:

Monday: (every) at 10:30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m Vista

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.

Please call the office for further information.

Special Announcements

January 21, 2004, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in Friendship House: a special evening with **Paramahansa Sri Nithyananda Swamigal**, visiting from Bangalore, India. This healer is building a center in his homeland with the mission of awakening, through meditation and balanced living, the divinity which lies latent in man. The Swami had his enlightenment in the Himalayas and likened the energy at Questhaven to what he had felt there.

The Holy Quest Series - please see related article and reserve your class.

The Holy Quest I—February 6-8

The Holy Quest II— March 5-7

The Holy Quest III— May 14-16

Lenten Classes begin on Ash Wednesday, February 25, at 7:30 in the Church of the Holy Quest and continue each Wednesday night, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. The theme is *Christ's Gifts of Transformation*.

Holidays Have Vital Meanings

Rev. Flower A. Newhouse

OUR EARTH'S holidays are like a rosary, "each bead a prayer, each festival a communion." Spiritual forces are released through these occasions that ordinarily do not reach the shore of humanity's outer consciousness. On these special days, the world's aura is permeated by cleansing currents. They align us to new specific keynotes. The note sounded is now *service*, now *understanding*, now *devotion!*

Knowledge of Truth enables us to avail and attune ourselves to definite opportunities. Our recognition of some of the inner aspects attendant upon spiritual events enables us to more joyously and reverently celebrate them.

Some of the festivals that bless Christians repeatedly are:

The Sabbath

Once a week we devote a day to rest from material occupations. The purpose of this day is to attune us to a realization of the nearness of God. Where Sunday is celebrated as a holy day it aligns people to spiritual levels that are higher than they usually reach.

Ordinarily our weekdays are grounded by practical affairs. This tends to place our thinking in the lower astral levels. On Sundays we have an opportunity to raise our consciousness several degrees, sometimes as much as a full octave in alignment realization. The Sabbath's soft *white* currents are relaxing, healing and uplifting. They serve to give us contact with reservoirs of power attainable only through appreciation, prayer, and devotion.

New Year's Day

Though few honor New Year's Day in a spiritual manner, it possesses strong accelerative forces. Cyclic tides sweep into and through the planet that sensitive persons realize as incentives toward ever-expansive self-improvement. Resolutions made on this day contain the added vision and will of man's Solar Self. New Year's tides, when seen from inner dimensional perspectives, are pale green in hue.

Birthdays

On New Year holidays, resolutions are formulated and begun. On birthdays we rededicate ourselves to their fulfillment as well as to the strengthening of our life's ultimate objectives. The keynote for birthdays is *rededication*. Its powers are light orange radiations. Although a birthday is an individual

holiday, it belongs in the calendar of the year as a spiritual festival. Enlightened persons either declare this day free from material routine, or devote the early sunrise hours and the evening to re-dedicative meditation.

Those who are able to make a holy day of their natal anniversary spend an hour or more in prayer or meditation in a church, a garden, or a study. A part of their day is given to creative attunements while walking in the country or up a winding trail in the tall mountains. In environments of this kind it is easier to sense the wavelengths of the inner Solar Self's impulses.

Easter

Golden forces emanate from the Advent of Easter. They signify the energies of mastership and are empowered by all who sincerely strive toward self-conquest.

Just as the vital hour of Christ's Nativity is the midnight period of Christmas Eve, so for Easter it is the sunrise moments through which the power floods for the enlightening of the world.

Maturity of self-development and spiritual fulfillment is necessary to deeply appreciate the Easter drama.

Contrasts furnish us with better understanding of the special uses to which holy days are devoted: Christmas reflects the glory of the Christ and the hosts who serve His Mission. Easter permeates with a liberating force that is generated by those who have attained mastery and the stages beyond it, both in the human and angelic kingdoms. The energies carried through the golden currents of Eastertide are of such a high origin and content that numerous persons are insensitive to their activity.

Holy Days deserve intelligent and consecrated preparation. Our outer and inner living can be purified and made ready for a conscious reception of those high octave waves of spiritual renewal.



Rev. Flower A. Newhouse, founder of Questhaven Retreat, in 1979.

Friendship House - A New Look for an Old Friend

By Daryl Carlson

The Spirit within each of us asks that we focus our abundance upon the manifestation of Friendship House; That we build in Christ's name. That we build for the teachings to come. To build now.....Friendship House.....as a vital, vibrating center that will bring people of Spiritual Purpose together.

Thirty-six years ago these words began the fund raising for the beautiful building known as Friendship House. Ground was broken by Flower A. Newhouse at a dedication ceremony on Sunday, September 1, 1968. Designed by James Hulbert, this much needed social and meeting hall soon became a reality.

With decor and furnishings lovingly selected by Flower to express the inner energies she envisioned, it has been a greatly used center of activities. Not only does the Questhaven Family appreciate it, but other spiritual groups also find it meets their needs for retreats and gatherings.

Even with loving care, the passing years showed in many ways and plans were made to refurbish the decor and the building. First on the needs list was providing a handicapped accessible restroom. This was done by converting the men's room to a unisex handicapped restroom as

well as widening the doorway to the ladies room. Next came replacing the wornout flooring. After much searching for suitable covering, a light sand-colored Italian ceramic tile was selected.

The ceiling became a moonlight mist, the west wall a very light whisper pink which complements the ceiling and subtly picks up the tones of the tile and brick.

Couches and chairs were next. Three coordinating fabrics were chosen to recover the furniture. End tables and coffee tables were renewed along with the kitchen and restroom cabinets.

Drapery fabric in a soft sage green added an inspiring touch to the new look. Still needed are lamp shades and a centerpiece rug.

A major task was acid washing all the interior brickwork

to remove efflorescence which had developed over time. Now the original soft pink color shines once again. Complete painting of the exterior added a bright and welcoming touch.

What a rewarding project this has been. The new life and energy it has brought to Friendship House is a joy to all. Friendship House has blessed us for many years and will continue to be ever more valuable as the Ministry continues to serve the Christ.

Although much of the funding was given, not all expenses were covered. If you are led to help with these costs, your gifts will be received with gratitude.

Meet Dr. Stephen Isaac - Ministry Director

By Rev. Susan Cary



Dr. Stephen Isaac's life has been devoted to our Lord and the path of discipleship taught as expressed by Flower A. Newhouse, founder of Questhaven Retreat. Stephen first met Flower through his mother's

interest in angels. Alerted by a newspaper ad announcing a lecture by Flower, Faith Isaac invited her family to join her in attending. Stephen, age 10, came along. The impression of that meeting with Flower was so powerful that Stephen still recalls it:

"Suddenly Flower entered the room dressed in white. She looked at the audience, her face radiant and smiling. I was sure I was looking into the eyes of an Angel. I remember nothing of what she said that night but something changed in my life, and things were never to be the same. When I returned home I said to one of my family, "I saw an Angel."

Up to this point, Stephen had daydreamed his way through school. Following that momentous meeting with Flower, he did a complete turnaround that brought him to top rank in his class by the time he graduated from high school.

As a teenager, Stephen developed a passion for archaeology that led him to explore Mayan ruins in Yucatan. In one venture there he explored a ruin, descending by ladder into a shaft. Lowering himself into this dark abyss, he became aware that

he had company: the walls were thick with tarantulas. Would this be the end of him?

With lightning speed he clambered safely to the surface only to later learn that those spiders were hibernating and not a threat.

After graduation from high school, Stephen was drafted into the army. Before departing for the service, he spent two weeks with Flower and Lawrence Newhouse at Questhaven. During those unforgettable days he witnessed the life of Flower's unbroken consciousness of God and the Inner Worlds. Her ever-continuing tranquility, her outshining love, her gladness and caring were reflected in whatever she did: housework, caring for pets, greeting guests, answering letters, preparing for a lecture, giving counsel to one in need or companionship her husband. She clearly lived her convictions.

As her pupil, Stephen fashioned his life from her example. After the war he followed her guidance to study psychology, earning his doctorate. His professional life has been a lively succession of study, teaching, counseling, writing and administration. The book he authored on statistics is used in colleges. For him, these experiences have been a helpful asset to his true calling: to be a devoted server in this Work of the Lord Christ, as minister and director of Questhaven Retreat. Fifty years of marriage to his beloved Phyllis has extended this service for both are totally given to the Way of the Lord Emmanuel.

During his many years of dedication to Questhaven, Stephen has written a biography of Flower, *Songs from the House of Pilgrimage*, and edited several other books drawn from her insights.

You can contact Stephen at director@questhaven.org.

Continuing in the Way of Love

By Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire



Scholars have been working toward an understanding of the Gnostic gospels, including the gospel of St. Thomas, since they were discovered in Egypt in 1945. Their work is not only revealing a new image

of Jesus, but new insights into the influence of his followers in the early years after His death. Writers of that time, like the Christian convert Tertullian, were impressed with the generosity of these Christians. He pointed out that there was no buying or selling “in what belonged to God.” This was in contrast to other religions which required contributions of money or sacrifices. With the first Christians, giving was voluntary, and sometimes it was their lives they surrendered for love of Christ. It was noted too, that the followers of Jesus called everyone their brothers and sisters, and that they cared for the sick without fear of death. Tertullian wrote, “What marks us in the eyes of our enemies is our practice of loving-kindness. ‘Only look,’ they say, ‘look how they love one another.’” It has been suggested that the power of this new morality changed the social structure in the Roman Empire.

What did our Lord do to instill such devotion? He taught that God is a perfect loving parent, not an angry judge. But the transforming power of this teaching came through His

expression of the Father’s love. An encounter with the Christ Presence is the greatest event we may know. To experience His love is to know true peace, understanding, and a caring that validates our reason for being. Isn’t it astonishing that by His own promise we may trust that our Lord is immediately available to us, standing just on the other side of the door of our consciousness, waiting for our invitation to come inside.

Those who were touched by Jesus went beyond themselves, gave the world something of the permanent nature of Divine Reality, and transformed an empire. This is the power of the Father’s love when it flows from soul to soul. We too can be increasingly filled with this power and become active participants in Christ’s plan to bring about a new social order. We need only take the time each day to invite our Lord in and receive His message anew, “*Just as the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you. Continue ye in my Love.*”

Children’s Corner - God Similes

God is like a chess piece because he keeps me in check. *Sean Burke (age 14)*

God is like a crystal because He makes my life sparkle. *Summer Isaac (age 7)*

God is like a flashlight because He guides my way. *Nathaniel Reynolds (age 10)*

God is like a shield because He protects us. *Bryce Isaac (age 9)*

View from the Wildfire

By Anne Hubbell

We had flown to New York City for a visit with our son, Lauren, and to celebrate James and Lauren’s October birthdays. On the flight home, long, jagged fire lines became ominously visible on the San Diego skyline. On Monday morning, James and his helper filled his van with art work and his valuables, but I was touched by the panic of the situation and couldn’t find the family photos and forgot some dear treasures. We had no room in the van for the harp, so we put it in what we hoped was a safe place.

We left at dusk, but James returned so he could clear brush around the buildings at daylight. I returned in the morning and we got the call for mandatory evacuation. The smoke cloud looked like a demon fire monster. My imagination said, “I hope a wall of Angels will push that horror back into itself and smother it.”

After days of uncertainty, our helper, John, called to say our house, the living spaces and big studio were gone. For some reason, we did not burst into tears. We had been blessed with forty-some years of living in that beautiful oak woodland, in a home that was just where we wanted to be. That was a lot to be grateful for. Living in those spaces was forever etched in our psyches and the house is quite present in my consciousness as I walk around the charred manzanita bushes and blackened earth.

On Saturday, we were permitted to return. Three sons, two wives and we arrived together to discover the burned-out places—big studio, kitchen-living room, office—a foot deep in ashes. Pages of books lay about. No harp, but a piece of music called “Fire Dance” lay on the kitchen floor. How did that happen??? We began noticing not only what was gone but what had survived...cheap Mexican marketplace pottery, stainless steel flatware, wrought-iron frying pans and the like. We had survived together.

The following weekend, many of our Questhaven family came to help clean up the burned buildings, hauling ash and debris.

Both James and I had wanted to simplify our lives.

It’s so hard to do with the things you have chosen so carefully to be part of an overall expression of what each of us hopes to be, beautiful in color, function and “just-rightness”. So we got much more simplification than we wanted. As so much generosity is poured upon us by gifts of clothing and desires to help refurbish, we constantly

have to retreat and ponder, “Will this be gathering too-muchness again, or will it be the simplicity we seek...that simplicity which gives a big open space in which to find another part of our lives for which we’ve never had time? That seems the right place to be.

For more details and photos, see www.hubbellandhubbell.com.

In October, 2003, wildfires throughout San Diego County destroyed thousands of residences, including the home and studio of longtime Questhaven friends, James and Anne Hubbell, who met and married at Questhaven.



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