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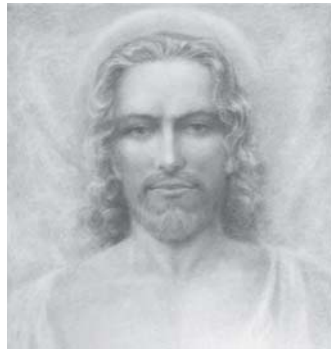
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Dear Friends and Spiritual Family,

What a glorious summer we had here at Questhaven, capped by the silent Masters' Retreat on August 12. Impressions continue to come in from those who were part of this experience. The main impetus of this day was to draw closer to the Great Hierarchy of Perfected Souls who are sending us so much help from the inner if we but listen to them.

One participant wrote "...not in some 'ancient' esoteric way out of the 'past,' They are alive—here, now, amongst us. They meet us 'half way' as we strive to lift our frequency to meet them, to open up to Their impressions and inspirations in an 'accelerated program' of Becoming. And we support each other as a spiritual family in this process."

Ongoing Activities—All are Invited
Please call the office for further information—760-744-1500

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

Wisdom Teachings class held in Chapelito on alternating Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Led by Rev. Blake Isaac.

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

Servers in Action: First Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. until noon.

Study Groups: Classes Studying The Christward Ministry Teachings:
Monday: (2nd and 4th) at 7:30 p.m. Oceanside
Wednesday: (1st and 3rd) at 1:30 p.m. Questhaven Academy building

Special Announcements

Advent Class: The holy season of Christmas will begin with an Advent Class on **Wednesday, November 15**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of the Holy Quest. The theme is *Christ's Impact Upon Our Lives*, led by Jean Michalewicz.

Planning Meeting on Saturday, November 4: Come join us to discuss ways that this ministry can carry forth the vision and plans of the Great Ones for this work. Please meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Academy building.

A Consciousness Training Retreat on Atoms and the Atomic Treatment

November 17-19, 2006: The Great Ones blessed us with information on specific ways to raise our consciousness and come into alignment with our soul's plan. The Atomic Treatment is just such a practice. At this interactive weekend retreat, we will take an in-depth look at our atoms; discuss/discover ways to implement this practice into our everyday lives; learn more about the "stuff" we're made of—those millions of elemental lives that constitute our soul's body; discuss how to bless and uplift our atoms to the influence of Light, and how to direct them, with love and hope, to become literal "suns of Light." Reservations can be made through the office for accommodations.

Holy Quest I: January 19-21, 2007. This first series includes *Christian Mysticism, Our Sevenfold Bodies, Christian Discipleship, Angels Who Guide Our Lives*, presented by ministers of Questhaven. Call the office for reservations or further information on this spiritually expanding experience.

2006/2007 Fall/Winter Program

Sunday Services begin at 10:45 a.m.

NOVEMBER

November 5	<i>The Spiral Path of Reincarnation</i>	Rev. Phyllis Isaac
November 12	<i>Our Silent Helper—The Holy Spirit</i>	Rev. Susan S. Cary
November 19	<i>Invoking All Seven Aspects of God</i>	Rev. Blake Isaac
November 26	<i>The Blessings and Challenges of Spiritual Stewardship</i>	Rev. Elizabeth Wood

DECEMBER

December 3	<i>The Mystical Key—Understanding Christ as the Gateway</i>	Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
December 10	<i>May Christ's Light Shine Through Our Lives</i>	Rev. Phyllis Isaac
December 17	<i>Lord Emmanuel—God Realized in Man</i>	Rev. Susan S. Cary

CHRISTMAS RETREAT, December 22, 23, 24

Friday, 7:30 p.m.	<i>Candlelighting Service</i>	
Saturday	<i>A Reverent Day in Preparation for Christ</i>	
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.	<i>When Christ Enters You</i>	Rev. Blake Isaac

December 31	<i>Setting the Course for 2007—With Reflection, Hope and Joyous Expectancy</i>	Laurel Rivera
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JANUARY

January 7	<i>Life's Highest Potential—Transformation</i>	Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
January 14	<i>How Do You Envision Your Life?</i>	Rev. Elizabeth Wood
January 21	<i>A Nine Year: Through Challenges to Initiation</i>	Rev. Blake Isaac
January 28	<i>Fighting the Good Fight: Christ, the Goal and Christ, the Prize</i>	Rev. Paul Michalewicz

One of the great lessons we all learned this day was the importance of silence and stillness. By quieting ourselves, all our spinning atoms and restless consciousness had a moment to listen and come to know God more deeply. It was as if our whole being was reaching, in those moments, to know Divinity more completely. And certainly we were stretching in consciousness at those times, reaching from our physical beings to the very Monad of God within us.

Flower said stillness is our way to God. What a wonderful keynote to have as Christmas approaches that we might reach new heights of spiritual attunement through quiet contemplation as Christ himself draws near.

I had the opportunity to portray the Master John this past Michaelmas in the retreat presentation. I can't tell you enough how wonderful it was to have the opportunity to tune in to this Great One and recite His words. There was one sentence that particularly stayed with me.

He said, "I have come to bring enlightenment and awakenment to those who are prepared to love Christ deeply." It was the word *prepared* that gave me pause.

Are we prepared to go where love takes us? Are we prepared to give what love requires of us?

It begins with our open heart of love. It grows as we reach to answer the yearning of our soul to know who this King of Glory truly is. When Christ enters us with His spirit fully, we shall know an awakenment and transcendence that will be more enduring than anything we have ever experienced. While it might just seem fleeting in the start, it will grow into hours and days, and it will bless us while we awaken to His reality. He is our Redeemer, Counselor, and Wayshower—this one, who is Lord of angels and of men—our Lord Emmanuel.

Flower said, "We know that He is standing before us in glory, in the baptism of solar and of spiritual fire, and that we shall take from Him what is to be given us. We shall proportion it to our days and make them higher, finer, deeper, more knowledgeable, greater than they have ever been, and recognizing then what a true Christmas can mean to us. We say, indeed, blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord."

We are blessed in His name. May your Christmas be wondrously charged in His Light.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Blake Isaac

Experiences on the Human Path

By Rev. Flower A. Newhouse

From a lecture given by Flower A. Newhouse on New Year's Eve, 1961



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

As we enter this New Year, we find ourselves living in a troubled world, tested by the trials of war and natural disaster. If we look inward we are conscious of the fact that the battlefield is not only here in the world but also in ourselves. Whatever we find in the world that stirs us, and makes us defensive and afraid, or combative or unhappy, is a revelation of the fact that in our own inner battlefield we have not conquered that aspect, that particular territory, and this must be the work with which we deal.

God gave to us this work of completing ourselves—that means refining, ennobling, transforming, enriching, and Christing our natures. A great bridge extends between us in our incomplete stage, and that which we are becoming. It's like a rainbow bridge. In the outer, where we start, we are conscious of limitations and weaknesses, the unfinished creation. As we follow the divine rainbow bridge which the Christ gave us, we discover that each divine promise

our Lord reminded us of, when kept, when sustained, when fulfilled, raises us just a little.

The equipment we work with every day is the material with which we come to our own divine natures. We must be raised from the human to the divine. That is our purpose; to know God complete, and to know God within—His presence within, and to do something about this mortal existence with which we are involved, that will reveal we possess the tools and understand the work to be done, and have the stamina, the persistence, the resolve, to be about our Father's business in the pattern of our Lord.

In going about our daily human duties, so often we see in ourselves these deep roots that chain us to the personality self. We are aware all the time when these strong instincts, these strong earthbound motivations, when we are being tested by them, that there is One in us who has never been sullied, One who has never been unfaithful, One who is sure. This One, which is of course, God's Presence within us, has the glorious superphysical qualities and potentials our Lord exemplified.

Ministry Moments

By Rev. Blake Isaac

MASTERS' RETREAT (August 12): We gathered at 9:00 p.m. in Chapelito, the place where Flower met these blessed Perfected Souls. Flower spoke to us from a taped lecture where she described what took place on the anniversary day of August 15, 1950. Two excerpts were shared of the Masters' words taken from transcripts at the time. We all practiced silence to draw closer and more attentive to these Holy Ones.

MICHAELMAS: We celebrated the Angelic Realm and its Legions of Light on September 29th through October 1st. The Retreat began right on Michaelmas this year. Friday night was a presentation of dance, narration and music to portray "An Angel Among Us," a loving tribute to the life of the founder of this Ministry. On Saturday we had a guided meditation, class and discussion of the Angels followed by a potluck dinner and a DVD portraying the Angels. The Sunday talk by Reverend Jonathan Wiltshire completed the inspiring weekend.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION: As we continue to celebrate the newest addition to our publications, "*The Collected Works of Flower A. Newhouse*," we've turned to the Internet to expand our outreach. Currently a dozen of the ministry's publications can be found on Amazon.com. Anyone wishing to help with this venture may go online and write a review for any of these titles. All publications are available, preferably directly from the office.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: Summer Isaac held a carnival after church in August and raised \$62 for the building fund. Other donations have come in as well. Our total has now reached \$13,934.06. A special "thank you" to all of you who contributed.

CASA CONTENTA: This ministry building has recently been renewed as a guest cottage and meeting place for groups and individuals to gather. It gives us a charming two-bedroom place to offer to guests.

SPIRITUAL TRIP UPDATE: Doree Evanoff has put the finishing touches on our spiritual sojourn to Glacier National Park next summer. Blake and Danielle Isaac will lead this trip of fellowship and spiritual renewal to experience God in this beautiful nature wonderland. Space is limited. Please contact Doree (951-679-5447 within California; 1-877-717-5447 for out-of-state calls) for information.

PLANNING MEETING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4: Come join us to discuss ways that The Christward Ministry can carry forth the vision and plans of the Great Ones for this work. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Academy Building.

He replied, "Such tragedies cannot take away the joy of my heart. This is a great challenge for me to prove to my Lord that I can start my service again."

Isn't this an inspiring example of the power of joy to influence life? Those who have this connection live cheerfully, no matter what confronts them. Years later Torkom's father said to him regarding that difficult time in their life, "We saved energy, health and money by not falling into depression, anger, hatred or irritation and by maintaining our joy, patience and serenity. If we had lost those three diamonds, the future would have been lost to us."

The child, Torkom, grew to become a wisdom teacher and concludes from his father's example, "Joy is a state of being—it's a consciousness not conditioned by thoughts, feelings, or activities in our environment. We don't feel joy because there are the right conditions around us, but rather, it flows from the very center, the very core of our being." To the ancients the myth of Dionysus represented the presence of Divine joy. But an evolutionary change in our relationship with God occurred with the incarnation of our Lord Christ. Jesus embodied the archetypal energies represented in myth and He opened the way for each of us to know His joy. "These things, I have spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and, that your joy might be full." (John 15:11)

Through Christ we may know the ecstasy of touching the fountain of Life, and make of our life a thing of value. In the words of Flower A. Newhouse, "The joy which you will learn to carry in your heart perpetually shall be as a brilliant flame, igniting cheer in the souls of others. They will feel an answering spark lighting within their bosom. Joyous love is long in cultivation. When once it is gained it remains in one, a sacred and a holy shrine."

A GOING TO THE SUN TOUR

Questhaven is planning a 2007 spiritual sojourn to GLACIER NATIONAL PARK in Montana. We will travel among mountain peaks, glaciers, waterfalls and lakes for 8 days (7 nights).

Our group will be leaving on or about July 17, 2007. The cost will be approximately \$1500 per person, based on hotel double occupancy and flights from San Diego.

If you are interested in joining our group, please let the office know so we can send you a flyer with more details. Bookings will need to be made early, due to limited hotel space in the park at that peak season of year.

When the incompleteness of our world and its battlefield of giving in to the lower dark antichrist nature is finally turned around and brought to face before the world, as in a mirror, every man and woman will see this is their own individual problem: this is their work. This is what each must do to right himself and see that there are principles greater than just physical existence. There are principles worth giving oneself to utterly. Those who have found this type of self-giving are the fortunate ones. They are fortunate because they are doing something for that which is beyond themselves. This personal giving is not only a gift to others, of our time and our patience, our forgiveness, and our trust and our vision that someday they will be other than they are now, but it is also a giving to the great stream of humanity. I am confident that God makes us channels of grace for many other individuals, and that the more we can serve as channels of grace, the more blessed and deepened and fired from deep within we are, in the way God intended us to be.



MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS

*The mountain stands
Immense
Regal
Still*

*Sky-reaching upthrust peaks
Sheer granite cliffs
Snowy ledges
Cascading rivulets*

*Powerfully radiating
Austerity
Beauty
Silence*

*May these traits infill us
As we aspire
To heights of spirit.*

— Gwen Hulbert

Meet Tom Woodford

by Rev. Susan S. Cary

Tom Woodford stands head and shoulders above us all. At six feet, five inches, this gentle giant characteristically wears a genial smile framed by a Santa Claus beard. He chooses and uses words that are direct, sincere and brief, never seeming hurried or abrupt. As director of Questhaven's handbell choir and *Windsong*, the medieval/renaissance music group, he has a full plate of creative endeavors, yet maintains a calm equilibrium.

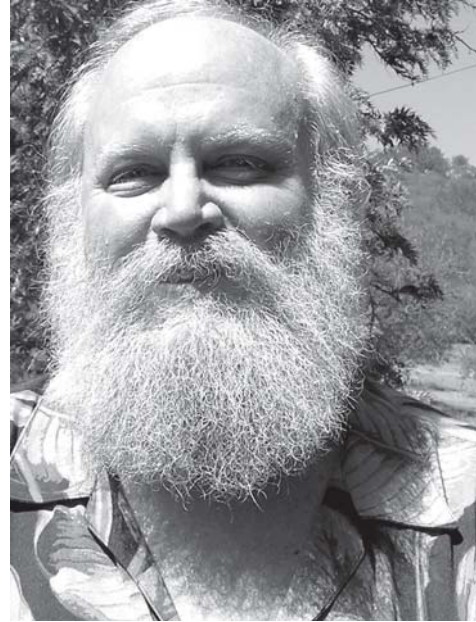


photo by Blake Isaac

Recalling his growing-up years in Pasadena, Tom viewed his mother as devoutly Christian while his father “went along.” Tom sensed God and Christ as real. These early convictions prompted his joining the Boy's Christian League. Following high school, he lost some of this spiritual momentum when pondering life's big questions.

Where do we come from? Why are we here?

Putting aside the search for answers during his early twenties, he served a three-year Air Force stint in Alaska. By his mid-twenties the big questions resurfaced. Feeling his life wasn't going anywhere, he again searched for meaning and purpose, praying for help.

His life did change. Within a year he moved to Oceanside, studying Rosicrucian teachings that “spoke to his head.” Marriage to Diana brought him to Questhaven and Flower, whose messages “spoke to his heart.” He gathered his courage and wrote to her for answers to life's puzzles.

Why did he feel as if he didn't belong on earth? Why was he uncomfortable around people?

discovered how he came to know the value of joy. It was a gift from his father. His father was an optimistic, energetic and enthusiastic worker who met each day filled with gladness although his life was one of great loss and pain. During WWII the Armenians suffered genocide, in which Torkom's father lost 87 of his relatives in the village where they lived. His own family was spared only because he was a pharmacist and there was no other pharmacist in the area.

After the war, Mr. Saradarian took his family to the big city in hopes they would be safer there, and he opened a pharmacy. Very quickly he developed a good reputation because of his honesty, prompt service, and joyous attitude. One day two policemen walked in, asked for the key, and said they were locking up his business. Typical of the elder Sardarian, he invited them in for tea and cake and asked them politely why this was happening. The policemen explained that an officer had died as a result of an Armenian pharmacist, so they were closing all Armenian pharmacies until the matter had been cleared—that should take about 15 days. Torkom observed that his father was calm during that whole episode, as if he were saying, “I will not be crushed by this.” Mr. Saradarian took Torkom home and his sensitive mother immediately asked, “What's the matter?”

His father replied, “Nothing serious, the government has just given us a 15-day vacation.” “Well what are we going to do?” she asked.

He replied, “We will be patient and all will go as it should. Let's go out for dinner.” They enjoyed a good meal filled with cheer, and that's what Torkom remembered of that terrible day—his father's cheerfulness and his ability to live in the moment.

Six months later the police returned with the key to the pharmacy. What did his father do? He invited them in, he thanked them, tipped them a few dollars and then he and Torkom went to the pharmacy. On the way Mr. Saradarian said to his son, “For me, all life seems like a play. It's not real. This is why sometimes loss or gain does not make a difference for the actors. Isn't that right?” Arriving at the pharmacy they found it was cleaned out. Even the safe was emptied of all their jewels and money.

His father said, “Let's go and eat a good lunch.” That is exactly what they did. At the restaurant his fellow Armenians heard of his plight and told him how much they supported him. And, there was a great deal of laughter from his father.

Torkom asked, “Daddy, why do you laugh at this?”

Divine Joy—The Fountain of Life Within

By Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

The eminent Swiss psychologist, Carl Jung, tells us that mythical gods each represent an archetypal energy that exists within us. He explains, “There is a multiplicity of gods corresponding to the multiplicity of man.” The characteristics of these gods speak to us, providing lessons for our own development. Robert Johnson is a Jungian psychologist and prolific writer. One of his works explores the psychology of ecstasy, using the mythic god Dionysus to explain this aspect of Divine Joy. Dionysus is a very complex individual, half man and half god, who is the giver of joy and ecstasy. This is not physical ecstasy, but as the root word indicates, the experience of standing outside of oneself—in other words, to be so filled with the feeling of power that your body cannot contain it and your mind cannot comprehend it.

According to Johnson, it was only when myth came into the Roman culture that it began to be perverted and suddenly Dionysus became the god of wine, drunkenness and fraternity parties. But the true representation of Dionysus is the ceaseless flow of spiritual joy, the life force that unites us with the cosmic life. Our Lord Christ brought us the ultimate testimony that joy is a life-giving presence active within us.

If we have a good job, good relationships, a good standard of living, or even a fair amount of self-confidence then we may know a certain amount of happiness. But happiness is an altogether different quality than joy, and may vanish within the hour. Spiritual joy is a state of being we all desire, even if unconsciously. In prosperous societies where we have the wealth to indulge ourselves it seems we end up pursuing material things in search of this blissful state. But of course, this is not the experience of being one with the Source of Joy. The joy we seek to understand is the experience of the presence of God. It’s a palpable experience of our own immortality that builds a bridge of certainty over which we progress into a higher spiritual life.

The quality of our life corresponds to the amount of spiritual joy we hold in consciousness. When joy is absent we lack energy, we have sickness, and we know poverty, feel fear, frustration, depression, or envy. Of course we all experience these negatives because we are as yet imperfect, but by inviting divine joy into our consciousness more regularly we begin to experience a new and fuller life.

When I met my wife, Miara, she introduced me to the work of a teacher that she had known as a child, an Armenian by the name of Torkom Saradarian. In one of his many books I

She responded that his homeland was the nature kingdom and that he had lived few lives on earth, thus felt alien here. She suggested he study science to ground him. Now he enjoys cosmology, the science of Carl Sagan—“knowing how things work.” Additionally, working in property management and its interaction with people has helped him grow and become more grounded.

While answers to spiritual questions required digging, music seemed to come to him naturally. Strumming a guitar as a young person, he mused: *I wish I knew what I was doing.*

When he came to Questhaven, music drew him like a magnet. He went to a music store, purchased a plastic recorder and began a path leading him toward ensemble performance. Studying the recorder at Palomar College awakened in him a strong pull toward medieval and renaissance music. By the 1990s he was part of a semiprofessional wind band, *The Waites of Saint Mark*, giving him additional experience in the genre. With this background, he co-founded *Windsong*, a group of eight Questhaven people who perform medieval/renaissance music with recorders, psaltery, drums, guitar, dulcimer, harp, cittern, bells and song. Adding authenticity to *Windsong* programs, performers dress in period costumes created by Linda Wright, a group member. The intimate setting of their performances and delicate rendering of these musical forms with their unique harmonies take the audience back to an earlier time and make for an uplifting experience.

Windsong motivated Tom to handcraft many of the musical instruments used by performers—Native American flutes, hammer and mountain dulcimer, psaltery, drums, harp, fiddle and cittern. He also designed and created the handsome wood lectern that stands at the head of the Questhaven labyrinth.

Tom has always sensed music as a tool by which Spirit is helping him find balance and maturity in the social world of fellow human beings. He likes to think of a musical group as a single entity made up of individuals who each contribute unique expressions to a common love and purpose.

We look forward to the performance of *Windsong* during the Christmas festivities at Questhaven. An upcoming *Windsong* program at the California Center for Arts, Escondido,

which will include a period dance by Miara Wiltshire, should draw many to that event. We wish them every success and hope to be a part of their audience.

In his personal life Tom has found that being the father of two intelligent, gifted souls has been his most humbling experience. For him, these two are God's creations with lifetimes of experience who chose him as father because they saw something in him that would help them on their paths—a very big responsibility.

In summing up his life, Tom concludes, ... *it is very clear to me that there is an awesome, loving Intelligence gently shaping my being.*

THE HUSH OF MORNING

Quietly the soft morning mists rise
Leaving their blanket of dew over all
Even as nature stirs
Under the life-giving rays of the sun.
In the quietness of the morning
Beauty is everywhere.
Flowers and plants lift bowed heads
To the Giver of Life.
Trees reach upward in their daily worship.
Everywhere all creatures
Large and small
Awaken to the radiance of another day.
How beautiful are the valley meadows
Carpets of green
And blossoms of wild flowers —
A lovely mosaic.
Trees in quiet solemnity
Casting helpful shade.
All expressing the wondrous Divine Life
Found in the hearts of each.

— Sydney J. Taylor

Christmas Retreat 2006

Every Christmas is distinct in its unfoldment; each one marks a milestone in our soul's journey! As the 2006 Christmas Retreat begins on Friday, December 22nd at 7:30 p.m., the church will fill with glorious Christmas music from the voice and bell choirs. Sacred dancers will uplift and inspire us with their devotional tribute to the Lord Christ. Then as the holy ritual of candle lighting begins and we prepare our birthday gifts to the Lord Emmanuel, we become aware that Christ truly is the Light of the World. Tier upon tier of Angelic Hosts ignite flames of aspiration in our auras as we process to the altar to light our candles and make our vows.

*Bathe now your soul in Holy Light until Christ's quickening power
immerses you in Christ's pure love and hallows you this hour.* — Anonymous

On Saturday, December 23rd, we invite you to walk the trails and the labyrinth, and meditate in the Church of the Holy Quest. Sense the stream of Christ power that began in the causal world on November 1st and descends through the mental, astral and etheric worlds before entering the physical plane on Christmas Eve.

When Christ Enters You is the title of the talk to be given by the Reverend Blake Isaac on Sunday, December 24th. Later that night as the midnight hour approaches, we will gather in the church once again to each experience in our own way the magnificent procession around the earth. Great Lords, Logi, Masters, Initiates and human beings in their higher bodies will join throngs of Angels and Archangels in heralding the Christed One. From this great gathering a spiritual wave is created that permeates and uplifts the entire world.

The Collected Works, Volume One—Christian Mysticism

The first volume of *The Collected Works of Flower A. Newhouse* is now available. This distillation of over 40 years of Flower's talks and writings was edited by Stephen and Phyllis Isaac. It is an invaluable resource for those interested in Christian Mysticism. This hardbound volume will make a superb addition to the library of anyone seeking truth and can be useful for research and in-depth study, as well as providing inspiration for daily meditations.

Chapters include *The Mystery of God, The Lord Christ, The Holy Spirit, Spirit of Grace, Inner Perception, Experiencing God through Silence, Meditation, Prayer, Healing, Nature, and Beauty and the Arts.*

Books are available at the Christward Ministry office: 760-744-1500.