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bodhi

SPIRITUAL CENTER



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Pets of the Month



Max & Raleigh

While one keeps watch the other one rests. Raleigh and Max are a true example of acceptance. A stranger, never do they meet. Instinctively, they seem to know how to be in any situation. Simply Love.



Suzanne
Carbon

From the Editor...

This month we are focusing on the book works of Ernest Holmes. Two things I really love about Ernie (*Ernest seems SO formal*) are his brilliance and his practicality.

Holmes' Science of Mind teaching, recognized today as one of the leading viewpoints in modern metaphysics, is a spiritual philosophy that has brought people around the world a working cosmology - a sense of their relationship to God and their place in the Universe - and a positive, supportive approach to daily living.

When I first read SOM, the philosophy really resonated with me but I was skeptical for a myriad of reasons. (*Apparently skepticism is part of the DNA for Type 6's but I digress*) What "clinched" the deal for me was Ernie's challenge - he threw down the gauntlet early on - he wrote and I paraphrase **"Don't take my word for it - test these teachings out for yourself."** Not one to step away from a challenge, I did just that. To my surprise and utter delight, I found the teachings worked and I became and have remained a loyal devotee. (*Loyalty is the other strand of Type 6 DNA intertwining around skepticism*)

I also appreciate that Ernie was a rebel. He was born in 1887 on a

small Maine farm, the youngest of nine sons. (*As the baby of nine, you **KNOW** he had to be a scrapper with a good sense of humor!*) As a teenager, he attended Bethel preparatory school, but he spent most of his time out-of-doors, asking himself "**What is God? Who am I? Why am I here?**" He mentally tangled with all the local preachers and doubted the answers he got in church. (*Sounds a little Type Six to me...*)

At the age of 15 he left school and formal education and set out on his lifelong course of independent thinking. (*Pretty audacious in any century! I know when I was a 15 year old "know-it-all" my mother used to tell me to go ahead get my own place and pay my own bills while I still knew everything...I obviously lacked the courage or convictions of Ernie at that age, but I made up for it in dramatic exits - I'd stomp down the hall, slam my door, crank up my radio, throw myself on my bed and stew about the injustice of it all...*)

Science of Mind may be his opus, but Ernie's written a great number of books worth checking out - "*This Thing Called You*", "*Creative Mind and Success*" "*Living the Science of Mind*", "*How to Change your Life*" are just a few that I own and read over and over.

I leave you with a few of my favorite Ernest Holmes quotes that speak volumes to me --

"God gives some more than others because some accept more than others."

"Not failure, but low aim, is a crime."

"Never limit your view of life by any past experience"

A Message from Mark Anthony

I get the idea of Oneness ... until someone else comes along to screw it up!

This month at Bodhi we're talking about where the rubber meets the road - where the Principles of One Power, All Good, All God move from nice theory into our everyday lives. What a bumpy move that can be, specifically in those areas where we buckle at the knees, lose faith and stand convinced there must be two powers. We find ourselves wishing there really was a place where bad people go for eternity.



Mark Anthony Lord
Founder & Spiritual
Director

When people first enter Bodhi and hear the Principles we teach and feel the inclusive love that is here for them they often say, "I'm home! I've always thought and felt this way. How great to know there are other people like me." It's a wonderful feeling, it's euphoric, it's the infatuation stage where everything is more beautiful and you feel amazing about yourself and the world. Then, after a while, the infatuation starts to wane, we start to see things differently and a voice inside of us starts nit picking at what is wrong, what isn't working. Suddenly we see typos in the program, the Sunday message is not

They are ever
a good reminder.

Love You!
**Jim O'Connell &
Anthony Bellon**

Monthly Affirmation

By God's Pencil:
Marsha Craig



I allow the mystical power of forgiveness to enter into my being and have its way with me. Any belief in separation is healed and the truth of my wholeness is revealed now. I see with the eyes of Love, I hear with the ears of Love, all I know and experience is Love.
And so it is!

Check us out online via
our Website, Facebook
and Twitter!



doing it for us - "yeah, yeah, yeah ... tell me something new!" We can't stop looking at our watch wondering why this feels like it's taking so long.

"Everywhere I go ... there I am."

The Principles of Oneness, Infinite Love, Peace and Grace are real. I **know** this with my entire being. They aren't just ideals that only a few get to live in and reap the rewards from ... they are within you, me - everyone and everywhere. So, why can't we see them and live in them all the time? Because everywhere you go ... there you are. The entire world is a reflection of your thoughts, beliefs and fears. The entire world is working for you, not against you, but what happens to most of us, when the Principle of Oneness causes us to look within, is we hit a wall that says, "I'm not going to change!" The self (small s) says, "I want the world to change and my life to be easier, but don't try and change me!" The small self fights back, points fingers and gets quickly and easily seduced into the belief that there is something wrong "out there" and if it were fixed, different, better, easier, nicer, MY WAY ... then, all would be well.

How do we stop the insanity? Usually, for most of us, one step at a time - slowly, sometimes quickly, we will change, if we work for it. People like you and me, who say we are really here for God, really here to live a spiritual life, at some point have to do the full swing surrender dance. We have to say, "my way is not working. I continue to see two powers, things wrong and people that are (fill in the blank). I must change, and I am willing." At that precious moment, when we really mean it and feel it, the windows of heaven open and pour a blessing upon us. Help swoops in, solutions appear and we begin "seeing" as God sees ... from a deeper place of love and acceptance for ourselves and others.

My favorite quote de jour is "**nothing ever happens in God's world by mistake.**" Say that 1000 times a day and see how it causes you to change from the inside out. Affirm this when people don't seem to be doing what you think they should be, when they won't take your advice, or when that which appeared to be so perfect yesterday suddenly appears broken, dysfunctional.

What would happen to you if you really believed that nothing ever happens in God's world by mistake? How would that idea change you? I believe eventually, if you really let it in, situations that used to baffle you, bother you or make you angry will transform before your eyes. You will know grace, and you will know peace, patience, generosity, freedom ... an All-Good, pervasive Reality that is greater than any illusion of separation that used to cause stress and strife.

Yes, we have to do the work. We have to change. But I know and you know ... that's what we're here for. How fun we get to do it together!

Much Love,
Mark Anthony

Music Musings

by Kim Reverse, RScP

Artist: Incognito
Album: *Beneath The Surface*



This answers the age old question: "If you were stranded on a deserted island, what album would you take with you? For me, it's *Beneath The Surface* by Incognito. This record is smooth and hip, it's up and it's down. Bluey is the leader of Incognito, an international band that's hard to categorize - It's listed as Jazz, Dance or Electronica. Any group that eludes genre is doing something unique! Maysa Leak is the featured female on most tunes and my **favorite** vocalist!

[Click Here](#) to listen to Incognito on YouTube.

Spiritual Practice: Forgiveness

*"You can't solve a problem with the same mind that created it."
~ Albert Einstein*



*Darrell Jones
Minister in Training*

A dear friend of mine recently commented that we seem to do a lot of forgiveness work at Bodhi. I thought about it for a moment and reviewed all the classes I have gone through here, workshops I have attended and books I have read, and replied "Yes, we **do** practice a lot of forgiveness." Practice is the operative word in the last sentence. Forgiveness may seem like something we do a lot of here at Bodhi, but it truly is a practice, a way of life as opposed to a one time act.

One of my favorite quotes is the one listed above by Albert Einstein. It could be easy to discredit this pearl of a sentence and say well, that is all fine and good when it comes to solving a scientific problem, but regardless of what I may think in my mind, my problems are just too big! How grateful I am when I hear a statement like "my problem is just too big, I don't see how it can be resolved." A statement such as this invites inquiry.

The question I would ask myself or someone else making this claim is this: Can you see how that statement or belief immediately closes off the possibility of a solution or resolution to the problem or area of challenge in your life? It is nearly impossible to have hands open ready to receive possibility when they are wrapped tightly around the heavy weights of "no way", "doubt" and "worry".

Those weights of doubt and worry most likely stem from some level of fear. Fear ultimately comes from one place and one place only...the past. Even if we fear the possibility of something in the future, we usually fear that future outcome based upon something that has already happened in our life.

It totally makes sense on one level to look back on our lives for understanding - after all, the future hasn't happened yet, and the present is literally right in front of our face, usually so close we can't make sense of it yet, so sure it makes sense to look back on what has happened for information and guidance right? Wrong...well I don't like to call anything wrong, but I will say it is a very limiting place to live. In my life, one of the most **freeing** practices that allows me to let go of the past and any power I may give to it is **forgiveness**.

I usually know when I need to forgive myself or someone else when I feel tightness in my body, my chest, back, neck or jaw. Literally in those moments, my body is being held hostage by unforgiveness, but not only the muscles in my body, but the very functioning of my life. Not only am I trying to physically move through my day in tightness, I am trying to think, work, love, decide and be through that tightness. Again to go back to our dear brother Einstein it is very difficult to function in life, let alone "solve" any problems with a tight mind. Practicing forgiveness, daily allows me to renew my mind, to cut myself free from the entanglement of the past where, guilt, shame, anger and confusion fester.

In Paul Ferrini's book "*The 12 Steps of Forgiveness*" he begins with 4 axioms of forgiveness, the first one being "Forgiveness starts in our own hearts. Only when we have forgiven ourselves can we give forgiveness to, or receive it from others." So let us start today, right here, right now!

I will go first..."I forgive myself for hitting the snooze this morning 3 times instead of getting up right away." That may sound simple, but it is now noon and I have said to myself so many times, "if only I had gotten up at 6 a.m. I could have done this or I would have done that."

Can you feel how that small thought, constantly running through my head during my day can make life a little difficult, distracted and not in the present? As I forgive myself, or better yet, just become willing to forgive myself, a little bit of wiggle room is created for self love and compassion to be.

As I continue to forgive myself, my mind shifts literally. It shifts from a mind trapped in the past that "created" the problem to a mind that is present ready to truly see what is in front of it and all its glory. Let us not simply forgive, but truly practice forgiveness for ourselves and others, for as we do a field of possibility can open right before our very eyes.

Forgiveness is a key tool to be in the world and not of it, to exist on this lovely planet but not be consumed by it, to be free of anything and everything, but the wholeness of life that is constantly looking to express in, through and as our lives. So yeah, I'd say we practice forgiveness a lot here at Bodhi, and it is pretty awesome!

Love, Light & Laughter!
Darrell

Book Review - The Science of Mind by Ernest Holmes

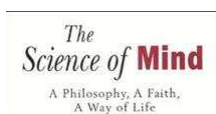
by Kevin Pritchett RScP

My favorite Ernest Holmes book...hands down, no question...is "*The Science of Mind*." At the outset here let me be perfectly candid with you....I didn't start out loving this book as much as I do now. The language and prose can at times be dense and I also believe I internalized a lot of snickering I heard from others about how "tough" a read this was.



However, over time, I worked through the book's sometimes dense prose and I came to see how beautiful and powerful Holmes' central tenet was...that we as embodiment of Spirit create our own reality!!

Seriously, when was the last time you picked up a book that offered to explain the "Nature of the Universe" to you???!!!



I personally believe the tone Holmes takes in "*The Science of Mind*" is so serious, is because Holmes

himself IS so very serious about sharing his view of what makes life work...how to achieve EVERYTHING you want in life and how to live a life that's full, rich and rewarding. The stakes for each of us could not be higher.

As you can imagine, the scope of a book that attempts to systematically explain the nature of the Universe is quite broad and at times goes deep...way, way deep. Curiously enough though, the deeper Holmes goes, the more it becomes apparent (at least to me) that despite the broad scope of the book, the core of its spiritual teaching reduces of a handful of fundamental principles. Here's an example from chapter on Faith:

"Spiritual Substance is all around us, waiting to be formed."

"When we use our creative imagination in strong faith, it will create for us, out of the One Substance, whatever we have formed in thought." In this way man becomes a Co-Creator with God."

"Pure faith is a spiritual conviction; it is the acquiescence of the mind, the embodiment of an idea, the acceptance of a concept. If we believe that the Spirit, incarnated in us, can demonstrate, shall we be disturbed at what appears to contradict this? We shall often need to know that the Truth which we announce is superior to the condition we are to change. In other words, if we are speaking from the standpoint of the Spirit, then there can be no opposition to it!"

I literally get goosebumps reading passages like this. I have never read a book so focused on helping me to understand that despite outward appearances to the contrary.... I am the creator of my life. To me this is very, very good news.

So if you haven't had occasion to experience this wonderful book, drop by the Bodhi bookstore and pick up a copy. Flip right to the chapter on Faith, sit down in a quiet place with your favorite cup of tea and drink this wonderful work in.

I PROMISE you...you'll be glad you did.

Kevin Pritchett is a licensed practitioner, Sangha leader of "Pritchett's Mountain" Sangha and has been a member of the Bodhi community almost from its very beginning.

Featured Ministry - Outreach Ministry

Be the change you want to see in the world!!



Save the date for the 17th Annual Chicago Cares Serve-a-thon happening on Saturday, June 12, 2010!

Bodhi is forming a team to participate together in Chicago's largest annual day of service - the 17th Annual Chicago Cares Serve-a-thon.

Help create positive and inspiring learning environments for Chicago's Public School children by painting bright murals, organizing libraries, brightening classrooms and hallways, creating line games on playgrounds to encourage play and activity, and beautifying school grounds with landscaping and planter benches.

These beautification efforts help make children and community members proud of their schools and give volunteers the satisfaction of knowing immediately they helped make the world a better place.

When: **Saturday, June 12th - 8am - 5:30 PM** (including post-event celebration with live music and free food!)

Where: The Bodhi Outreach Ministry will meet at the Serve-a-thon Plaza located at Soldier Field (south of the field on the Stadium Green). After check-in, we will board provided school buses and travel together to our project site.

To sign up: Sign up at the OM table on Sunday right after service or go to the [Chicago Care website](#) and join Team Bodhi!

Cost: \$30 Registration donation goes toward supporting Chicago Cares programs creating change in education, hunger, health and wellness, senior services and the environment.

If you have questions email us at: outreach@bodhispiritualcenter.org.

[Watch Chicago Cares Serve a Thon in Action!](#)

Media Ministry Needs a Few Good Men and Women!



Help share Bodhi to the world!

The Media Ministry is looking for more people to help anchor an endless stream of ideas to let Chicago and the world know about the love that is expanding here at Bodhi.

Whether you have media background or not, if the idea of sharing Oneness to the world through Media interests you please

consider joining this group. We have fun and get things done. Check us out!

For more details, email Scott Schrader at media@bodhispiritualcenter.org

Thanks,
Tom Hilgardner
Community Developer & Sunday Producer

Have questions about a particular ministry or interested in volunteering for a team? Contact these

community leaders to find out more --

Animal Ministry: Donna Ruby, Karen Gerbig - animalministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Bookstore: Nancy Weyler - bookstore@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Connection Cafe: Art Franke connectioncafe@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Education Ministry: education@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Healing Ministry: Kate Miller - healingministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org
HUG: Shakti Bracilano - hugteam@bodhispiritualcenter.org
LGBT Ministry: Dennis Shanahan, Richard Friend - lgbtministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Newsletter: Suzanne G. Carbon - editor@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Office Team Lead: Marsha Craig - office@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Practitioner Core: Joan Coletto, Gina Alicea, Sue O'Halloran - praccore@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Production Crew: Tom Hilgardner - productionteam@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Prosperity Consciousness Ministry: Mollie Dowling, Lettie Sullivan - pcm@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Sangha Central: Cheri Coons - sanghacentral@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Hearts and Hands: Editha Paras heartshandhands@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Welcome Team: Keith Butler - welcome@bodhispiritualcenter.org
Uth Ministry Director: Maureen Muldoon, **Assistant:** Megan Rische: uthministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org

For information on Upcoming Events/Classes check us out online at

www.bodhispiritualcenter.org

To submit questions, pet pictures, manifestation stories, member interview suggestions, or to share your gifts with the newsletter, drop us a line at editor@bodhispiritualcenter.org. The team at the Bodhi Buzz looks forward to hearing from you!

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