

SpiritistNews

Volume 3, Issue 6, Nov/December 2005

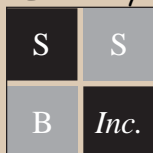
CASES
on the
AFTERLIFE
and
REINCARNATION

Sunday
December 4th

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Edited by



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What is the News?

In this last issue of the year, *SpiritistNews* brings you a special interview with Professor and medium Raul Teixeira; a special article on the exhibition "The Perfect Medium" held in NY; news on the Webcasting Spiritism and true stories by Chico Xavier. Well, as you see this is a very special issue. **Enjoy it!**

Interview with Prof. Raul Teixeira



On September 19th, the renowned medium speaker Prof. Raul Teixeira, gave a special interview to the Spiritist Society of Baltimore. On the previous day, Prof. Teixeira gave an inspirational conference about the Spiritist view on catastrophes. You can watch this conference at the SSB website (*section Webcasting Spiritism*).

(See page 3)

The Perfect Medium

Jussara Korngold took a tour in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to see some of the greatest photographs of the exhibition "The Perfect Medium." Herein she reports her impressions on this amazing experience. This special exhibit is open until December 31, 2005. Check it out!



(See page 6)



Webcasting Spiritism

Webcasting Spiritism is the most recent way to learn and spread Spiritism throughout the world. Do not miss this opportunity! This is an initiative of the

Spiritist Society of Baltimore, USA, in collaboration with *Plenus.net*, Brazil.

(see page 2)

True Stories by Chico Xavier



Chico Xavier's life is filled with amazing stories and cases related to the teachings of Spiritism. Some of them are picturesque, while others express his simple and wise

way of living. We selected some of them to share with you.

(see page 5)

PRESENT CAUSES OF SUFFERING - (see page 7)

OUR PLANET AND SELF TRANSFORMATION

"... Earth is no longer a valley of sorrows, or a place of exile as described in the spiritual Christian traditions of the past. According to Spiritism, Earth is a school with students in many different learning stages. Those students find themselves at different levels of consciousness, ranging from a sleep-like basic level, all the way to those who have already developed a cosmic consciousness, a transcendental view of the self, society, and God.

... According to the doctrine of reincarnation, we are reborn in a physical body in order to rectify our mistakes, correct our imperfections, acquire new experiences, and free ourselves from primordial animal tendencies, to build on the anthropological and socio-psychological heritage of our evolutionary process. Before the psyche becomes fully human, it goes through several phases in the evolutionary process. This is why the Bible talks about God having created us in His image and likeness. We are the heirs of the divine psyche, of all the gifts God could provide us ..."

by **Divaldo Franco** (Seminar "I Love myself, I am addiction-free: Spiritual Tools to Fight Addiction" given on March 12, 2005 in Baltimore, MD - USA)



Letter to the Editor

About Webcasting Spiritism

Dear readers of the SSB Newsletter, I am a Brazilian Spiritist and a couple of months ago I discovered this important vehicle of communication and charity. As the Spirit benefactor Emmanuel stated, *"the greatest charity we can do is to disseminate Spiritism."* So, watching Webcasting Spiritism, I have had the great opportunity to know what is going on in the U.S. Spiritist movement.

There are two main reasons why I watch Webcasting Spiritism every Saturday:

-The first one is that my family and I are spiritists since we were born and nowadays we are members of a spiritist center named *"Caridade de Jesus"* (Jesus' Charity). So we believe that it is very important for us to exchange information and experiences with other spiritists around the world.

-The second one is that as I work in an American company branch in my city and English is a very important tool of communication for me.

So I think I found the perfect way to combine my interest in Spiritism with my study of the English language in a pleasurable way. I also would like to highlight that I have witnessed the great spiritist knowledge that SSB has presented. They have also employed their best effort and technology available to show us the lectures, interviews, testimonials, etc. I also enjoy the opportunity of asking questions to the speaker through the chat room. The latter is also another way to make new friends and to clarify many doubts that I still have on Spiritism. I pray that God allows us the opportunity to participate and watch the Webcasting Spiritism for many years to come.

I pray to the Spiritual Benefactors and to God in His infinite Goodness, that more and more friends shall be able to join us in the network of Webcasting Spiritism. Thus, when watching it, we can gather our thoughts together in prayer, and that shall help us face the challenging times we all live on Earth nowadays. This is certainly one of the best and most successful uses of the internet resources.

Peace in Jesus to everyone and congratulations SSB team. Thank you very much.

by **Daniel Rocha dos Santos (Dan)**

(São Francisco do Sul-SC, Brazil)

Divaldo Franco's opinion about Guns



Guns are instruments of cowardice.

Whoever has guns, intends to use them. When one is armed, naturally one intends to execute a crime. The individual's gun is his/her's moral and ethical values. Many individuals, if there were not armed, they would not die when confronting criminals who are ready to kill. It is lamentable that we need to protect our assets under guns. Thus, it shows us how much we are not equipped with ethical values! Facing a calamitous situation, Gandhi said, *"It is better to be a victim than an executioner."* Jesus gave us the example. To keep a gun is to be ready to destroy a life. When we do not own a gun and the criminal knows that we do not have one, there is no reason to destroy our lives, because there is no object of fear. And normally, the criminal shoots first because he/she is afraid that we'll shoot him/her. It is cowardice that fires the first shot. When we can negotiate, when we have an attitude of patience, resignation, humility, we overcome the catastrophic situation. To keep a gun is to be ready to kill or to be killed.

(You can see the video by going to SSB website - webcasting Spiritism)

* **Divaldo Franco** is a worldwide renowned speaker. He has given more than 10 thousand lectures and spoken in 52 countries in the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Mr. Franco is Doctor Honoris Causa in Humanity and also in Parapsychology by American and Canadian Universities. Through his extraordinary mediumship, Mr. Franco has published almost 200 books and 70 of them have already been translated to 15 languages.

Webcasting Spiritism



Webcasting Spiritism is the first and most recent online tool in the dissemination of Spiritism, created especially for the English-speaking world. This is a Spiritist Society of Baltimore's (SSB, USA) initiative, as it promotes all of its services and meetings in the English language. The SSB had an especial incentive from North-Americans to start this project. We especially acknowledge the support and collaboration of Luis

Hu and Plenus.net (Brazil).

We first thought about Webcasting Spiritism as we attended the inspirational *IV International Spiritist Meeting in Paris, France in 2004*. Subsequently, this idea materialized right after we acquired more elements during the instrumental *I International Encounter for Spiritist Multipliers* which happened in July 2005 at the headquarters of the Brazilian Spiritist Federation, organized by the International Spiritist Council.

On September 3, 2005, we began its transmission within and outside of North-American boundaries. This program is webcast for two and half hours on Saturdays at 7:30 PM (US Eastern time) through the sites www.ssbaltimore.org (English) and www.plenus.net (Portugues). Webcasting Spiritism presents workshops, talks, interviews, Spiritist activities for children, and introductory teachings of Spiritism (Spiritism 101) to the general public.

On our first trimester of intense but successful work, we have already transmitted 15 workshops, 8 lessons of Spiritism 101 and other activities that were coordinated by the SSB in collaboration with the Spiritist centers in NY (SGNY), CT (AKSC), Boston (AKSS-MA) and a spiritualist group in Chicago. More recently, we presented Raul Teixeira's talk with simultaneous translation, as well as important interviews with Raul Teixeira and Cesar Perri de Carvalho, a representative of the International Spiritist Council, who was visiting the USA on October 15-16 in an event sponsored by the United States Spiritist Council. Some of our recorded programs are available on demand in our website.

Our perspectives for the Webcasting Spiritism are to have new collaborators and to involve other Spiritist centers in the USA and worldwide, who are willing to work in the Spiritist dissemination in the English language. Therefore, we leave here an open invitation to all. If you are interested, please contact us at ssb@ssbaltimore.org. May Jesus bless this new effort in the dissemination of Goodness and Peace. ■

- The Editors

... If you cooperate with the order of the Divine Laws, they will cooperate with you, and peace will prevail, and your life will be a blessing.

- Joanna de Angelis /Divaldo Franco



COME to this NETWORK!

If you have Orkut, don't forget to join the **SPIRITISM USA** community and be informed about Spiritist events in the USA. This community has SSB as a moderator. Our purpose is to spread Spiritism to the English-Speaking public. Please join and tell your friends about it too!

SPECIAL INTERVIEW with RAUL TEIXEIRA

1 - How long have you been a Spiritist?



My journey in Spiritism has started exactly 39 years ago. I have been in the Spiritist work since my adolescence, when I started giving lectures, coordinating Spiritist activities for Children and Youth, as well as other types of Spiritist works.

When I was 17 years old, I began educating my mediumistic faculty, once I registered the presence of spirits in my house, in my life, since my childhood. My whole life I have felt the need of educating this perception and working it to the highest goodness.

2 – How have you been dealing with your mediumship?

Since I began working as a medium, at 17, the Good Spirits, who have always guided my way for so many years, have been calling my attention to the purpose of mediumship, according to the Spiritist view.

To Spiritism, it is not important to channel spirits, since even drunk people do that. Also, people under the effects of different drugs do that, since those chemicals, substances which have a huge neurological tropism act in our nervous system, can open the channels of perception. The same happened to the Indian tribes in the past, among the primitive peoples. They used specific substances to connect them to their “gods.” That was a psychical reality that still exists nowadays.

Thus, channeling spirits is not the highest point in our Spiritist Doctrine. The fundamental point of mediumship, according to Spiritism, is the possibility of improving and becoming useful to ourselves and to others around us.

That established, mediumship has taken us to a work of discipline, of self-discipline. And that discipline is not limited to the moments of our meetings, to the moments of their manifestations. It is the discipline that accompanies us all day long. Discipline in speaking, discipline in eating, discipline in our social lives. So, we live with people, from our family to everybody else, in such a way that later we don't have anything to regret.

In our professional relationship, we shall do our best to whomever pays our salary. So, there will be no complaint or regret, regarding our good will. It is the consciousness that we are not in this world by chance, that we are in this world to fulfill God's proposal.

Throughout my life, I have been developing my possibilities in the guidelines of the Spiritist Doctrine. I have learned with the Good Spirits how to work with tranquility, respecting time, respecting the Spirits. Working with discipline in a way that I have more and more possibilities of establishing a closer contact, an inner contact with the Spiritual Benefactors, our Guardian Angels, who see us as bridges, in order to bring consolation and guidance to our world. In that way, we keep on walking this mediumistic journey without showing off, without noise, without interest in coming up or being someone we are not, but always, every single day, trying to develop our work with simplicity, with inner satisfaction, and lots of happiness.



3 – You founded the “Remanso Fraterno” or The Fraternal Retreat. When did it begin? Did you receive any spiritual instruction to put that together?

The Fraternal Retreat belongs to the planning of the Spirit-World. It has been a long time since the Spirits told us that there was a special project that we should develop at the right moment to attend the needs of people. They explained us that if we educate a



child, we will not have to punish either young people or adults in our society.

The Spiritual Benefactors believe that family is the basic foundation to shape the character of individuals. And, thus, if family receives our moral support and the material help that the child needs, he/she will be able to fulfill his/her work with proficiency and tranquility. Then, the incarnation of the individuals will fulfill its goal.

In that way, as the Spirits told us about that upcoming project, we purchased in our city a piece of land with 12.41 acres to build the quarters of our social work in 1986.

The Fraternal Retreat established its roots exactly in 1978, when we started to work in a poor community in our city, called “favelas” in Brazil. There, we supported sick children, children and adults who needed to be alphabethized, as well as people with other needs.

After a long time, we transferred that work to the current new area, purchased in the country side of our city. Throughout the years, the Fraternal Retreat, a project of the Spiritual Benefactors, has helped an endless number of children, adolescents and their families. We help them overcome their difficulties.

We have a day care and also an elementary school. We also provide odontological, medical and psychological care, and professional follow-up.

There, we have the opportunity to study the teachings of Jesus Christ, according to Spiritism. Thus, people can give real value to their lives, their current reincarnation, as well as their families, their jobs and everything else that is a fundamental element of their activities in the world. Thus, the Fraternal Retreat has been fulfilling its objectives. Thank God!



4 – Then, in this case, what would you say about the practice of mediumship?

Through the mediumistic faculty, we find the guidance of those who are indeed responsible for the social work we carry out, the Spirits. Through mediumship, they teach us how to take care of that work and the people who are under our responsibility.

On the other hand, mediumship is a good tool to show us our reality, where we came from. The primitive natural world, the Spirit World, is our main home, our first home. Mediumship also tells us that those who are there are waiting for us. They expect that we fulfill our projects here on Earth, our work in this world and then, we go back home, exactly the same way the student who studies a long time at school, in college and, later, goes back home for a very deserved vacation. There, one thinks over and over about the work done, evaluating what one has done. And then, one applies to come back once again, for a new year of studies, which means - in this context -, a new reincarnation, to improve whatever one has left behind or left incomplete.

In that way, mediumship has helped us to filter the Spirits' thought, guiding us into that work. All the material that the Spirits bring us through books, speeches, different texts, spoken texts, written texts and so on, has helped us to get the necessary financial resources to maintain this very important work. All the proceeds from the books and CDs go to the Fraternal Retreat. Through this, we are able to provide free uniforms, school materials, food, and medication for children. Everything that is at our reach we make it available to the community at the Fraternal Retreat.

Therefore, in our reality, in our lives, mediumship gives assistance as many blessings as God allows us to make use of on Earth.

- Continue next page

5 – Raul, when did you begin travelling to give talks around the world? How do you see the Spiritist Movement in the world nowadays?

Since I was very young I started travelling to attend the invitations of the Spiritist Movement. I first travelled out of my city, out of my State, when I was 19 years old. Since then, I have travelled from north to south of Brazil. Later on, I started travelling abroad. And nowadays, we have the honor of having visited 38 countries throughout the world, in South America, North America, Europe and Africa, including Israel in the Middle East. Year after year, in all of our trips, we have found a movement that grows very slowly, but at very steady steps and shapes the growth of our Spiritist Movement everywhere.

Every day, we have observed that more and more interested people want to study Spiritism, and its moral phenomenology. I observe the gift of Spiritism changing lives, educating people as they understand its very deep and beautiful philosophy. Spiritism helps us understand that we are not living here by chance; we are not in this world to play. We are here, indeed, to learn a little bit of God's project that intends to make us grow, perfect, improve ourselves, so that, one day, we will become angels, in the spiritual meaning of the word, as we will all have this integral meeting with our Celestial Father. This interchange that now we establish with the superior powers of life is step-by-step taking us to this meeting with God.

Then, abroad, in all continents, we have found a non-stop developing Spiritist Movement that is growing with valuable people heading it. These people are taking care, with a great deal of love, of this splendid seed that the Spiritist Doctrine puts in our hands, which is the seed of the opportunity of serving, working, and loving our fellow beings.

"...let us never forget that the principles of Spiritism must be brought to those who are anxious to receive them, respecting cultural issues, psychological positions of the individuals..."

6 - So now we would like to ask for your final comments.

I would like to greet my brothers and sisters who are working in the Spiritist Doctrine in the United States and abroad and may find the difficulties inherent to this task.

This effort is absolutely not easy and it cannot be easy, since we are talking about understanding the culture of the country where we are living. We need to understand the dynamics of the thought of the people in this country; and from this point, try to adapt the Spiritist thought to the new realities without ever losing sight of what Spiritism means. We shall never change any single principle of the Spiritist Doctrine. However, let us never forget that the principles of the Spiritism must be brought to those who are anxious to receive them, respecting cultural issues, psychological positions of the individuals so that they can slowly understand the Spiritist Doctrine and, at the same time, by understanding it, they begin loving and living it.

I also understand that this is a very hard work, a very difficult work, a very demanding one. I would like to greet here all those who are working on the Spiritist Thought and disseminating it in other countries, among different cultures. I greet all who, either here in the United States or abroad, have the courage, the disposition, the good will to talk about the thought of Jesus Christ and Spiritism, reaching out to the good-willed souls, those who are tired of so much storm, so much moral fatigue, those who are willing, anxious to find peace and balance in the lessons of Jesus Christ, under the interpretation of the Spiritist Doctrine.

I leave my very fraternal embrace, wishing peace, progress and enthusiasm, so that we can teach the spiritist message with an immeasurable happiness in our lives.

Peace to everybody. Thank you very much. ■

-Thank you very much Raul, Thank you all!

Coordination by Vanessa Anseloni and Daniel Santos; Transcription from Portuguese by Cristiane Lopez; Translation by Marcelo Abinajm

Cases on the Afterlife and Reincarnation

This is an educational fundraiser regarding mediumship and cases on the afterlife and reincarnation told by the spirit doctor Andre Luiz in the books *Nosso Lar - a spiritual Home*, *And Life Goes On...*, and *The Messengers*.



Chico Xavier, the role model medium

Guest Speaker: **Jussara Korngold**, B.S., M.B.A.
President-founder of the Spiritist Group of New York. Spiritist lecturer, Jussara is also the writer of *Spiritual and Magnetic Healing and Endearing Gems* from Francisco Xavier.



The Spirit Doctor Andre Luiz and the Afterlife

Vanessa Anseloni, Psy.D., Ph.D.
Neuroscientist and Assistant professor, president-founder of the Spiritist Society of Baltimore, Vanessa is a fifth-generation Spiritist, medium and lecturer in the U.S.



Cases on Reincarnation

Luis Eduardo Almeida, M.D., Ph.D.
Neuroscientist, director-founder of the Spiritist Society of Baltimore, Luis is one of the coordinators of the Spiritist study group at SSB.

LEARN & GALA LUNCH

**Sunday December 4th, 2005
10:30am to 2:00pm**

**University of Maryland Golf Course
College Park, MD 20742**

Tickets are: \$25 for adults; \$40 for two tickets; \$15 for children under 12

(All proceeds go to the SSB projects)

**Gala lunch will be provided
R.S.V.P. required by NOV. 30
(Advanced tickets only)**

**call (410) 382-5328
or ssb@ssbaltimore.org**

This event is sponsored and hosted by the
SPIRITIST SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE, Inc.



True Stories by Chico Xavier

Chico Xavier's life is filled with stories and cases related to the teachings of Spiritism. Some of them were picturesque, while others demonstrate his simple and wise way of living.

Who is Chico Xavier?

Francisco Cândido Xavier (April 2, 1910 - June 20, 2002), popularly known as "Chico Xavier" (Chico is the nickname of Francisco, just as "Frank" is to "Francis"), was the most popular and prolific Medium in 20th century. Over his life he wrote over 400 books, using a process known as psychography, where his hand was said to be guided by Spirits that wanted to leave a written message, or sometimes entire books.

Some of his books are considered to be fundamental for the comprehension of the practical aspects of Spiritism.

Chico Xavier was a respected figure, whose honesty and good character were undeniable, even by his opponents from other religions. He kept a simple life, donating all the income from the books he wrote and the contributions he received for charity.

He often stressed the point that none of the abilities attributed to him was really his, but that he was only a channel for the work of the Spirits; that he was not able to produce any miracle, such as healing people, and he could not contact someone that was dead, unless that person was willing to be contacted.

Chico Xavier's popularity remained unchanged in Brazil. Despite his health problems (general weakness as a consequence of old age), he kept working up to his death, in June 30, 2002, the same day of the National Brazilian soccer team won the 2002 World Cup.

He had declared in a TV interview years before, that he wished to die in a happy day for the country, so that his death would not be remembered with sorrow. His wish was fulfilled.

Source: encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com

Charity and life changes

In 1928, a blind beggar got injured by falling from an overpass, 13.2 feet height, and he was taken by some people to *Luiz Gonzaga's* center to be helped. Chico did what he could for the poor man, helping him during the night (the time that he had for this). Despite the medium's assistance, the injured man needed some help during the day. Therefore, Chico published a note in *Pedro Leopoldo's* weekly newspaper asking for help, notwithstanding any religious background. Six days later, two prostitutes showed up saying that they had read the ad and would like to help him. And so they did. They helped the sick man during the day and left when Chico got back from work. Every day, before they left, they prayed together with Chico. The blind man got better a month later. At their farewell prayer, the four of them cried as they realized how much their lives had changed throughout that period. The blind man got better and the two ladies were going to move to another city. One of the women found a job in a dry cleaner and the other decided to become a nurse.

Funny Spirits

A funny case was told by Chico himself about a Spiritist student who used to open "*The Gospel according to Spiritism*" whenever he needed advice. This is a common practice among Spiritists. One day, when he was at his farm, a very strong storm came across, frightening everybody. A lightning struck close to him and some people, killing a cat. The man called his relatives to join him in a prayer of gratitude for the Spirits' protection. He randomly opened "*The Gospel According to Spiritism*." The message he read was entitled "*If he had been a good man, he would have died...*" This brought laughter to everyone in the house. People say the Spirits themselves made the joke.

Right on-time payment

When José, Chico's brother, died, Chico was left in charge of the family. As such, he needed to pay an electricity bill in the amount of "11 dollars." At that time, in Brazil, it was considered a lot of money. Chico did not have the resources as his salary was not enough. While thinking about the way to pay it, Emmanuel, Chico's Spirit-guide, told him not to worry about that and wait. Few hours later, someone knocked at Chico's door. When Chico opened it, there was a man who told him that he knew about his brother's death. He also mentioned that he was there to pay off a debt for a sheath made by Jose to him along time ago. The man gave him an envelope and left. When Chico opened the envelope, he found exactly the amount he needed to pay off his electricity bill.

*Translated by Paulo Ricardo Fonseca Costa
(from the magazine "Espiritismo & Ciência, Ano 1, vol.2)*

*...Extend your hand to those who are in need of support.
Your day for receiving cooperation will arrive.*

*...Be kind to those dependent upon you.
Do not forget that Christ Himself was compelled to obey.*

- Chico Xavier / Andre Luiz

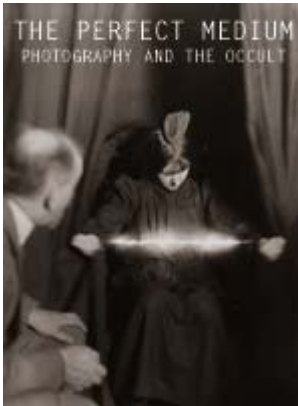
Charity is Love in Action !

Our Prayer

by Chico Xavier

*Lord, teach us to pray without forgetting to work
To give without distinction,
To serve without end,
To suffer without hurting anyone,
To progress without losing simplicity,
To sow goodness without expectations,
To forgive unconditionally,
To move forward without numbering the obstacles,
To look at life without malice,
To listen without corrupting its contents,
To speak without hurting others' feelings,
To understand people without asking to be understood,
To respect everyone without demanding others' attention,
To give the best of us, beyond our duties, without expecting rewards.
Lord, strengthen our patience with the others' limitations,
As much as we need others' patience with our own limitations.
Help us so we do not do to others what we do not want for us,
Above all, help us to recognize that our happiness will
invariably be greatest when we fulfill your will now, today
and always.*

Submitted by Roberta Torres (Annapolis, MD)



The Perfect Medium: Photography and the Occult

A selection of stunning, surprising photographs from the turn of the last century that reflect an attempt to reconcile the spiritual and physical worlds.

As I climbed the stairs inside the Metropolitan Museum of Art (in New York City), I could not quite believe that I was there to see an exhibition of photographs of the occult. Walking through the corridor on the second floor, my heart raced with excitement, and then, to my left, I saw the word "Spirits."

I went to see the exhibition on the day of the opening; a Tuesday morning, only a few hours after it actually opened. There were more people there than I first anticipated, and apart from some mockers that were having fun (especially when looking at the photographs on one particular wall, which they called the wall of hoaxes), everyone else seemed, surprisingly, very interested in the exhibition.

The exhibition features about 120 photographs from collections from all over the world, and arrived in New York after a showing in Paris. Most of the images date from about the 1860's until World War II; a period when people were greatly interested in spiritualism and the paranormal. Using photography to document any images or incidents became a popular way of trying to get proof.

The show is divided into three sections. The first features images of "ghosts" or "spirits," while the second section has photographs of mediums and their séances. The third section displays pictures of what people thought were the vital life forces emanating from human beings.

The description you find next to the photographs, as well as the large remarks made by the museum hanging on the walls, talks about fluids, ectoplasm, magnetic passes, psychographs, animistic nature, and vital fluid among others - actually employing all these terms.

The show also contains images from critics of spiritualism, such as the illusionist Henri Robin. One photograph shows him in the grasp of a ghostly skeleton, an image he openly admitted creating through a double exposure of the film plate. However,



Levitation of a table at the home of Sven Türk, a professional photographer, in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany (1940-45). Picture was taken in dark room

even the images presented on the "wall of hoaxes" makes one wonder why there were so many photographers dedicating themselves to producing them. One can only imagine that there was a great interest in them, and the occult, at that time.

It is quite an emotional experience for the believer to see each of the photographs exposed there. They have on display the classic photographs (the originals) of the Spirit Katie King from the famous physicist Sir William Crookes - the first to take photographs of materializations during his experiments with the medium Florence Cook - as well as some photographs of the famous medium of physical manifestations, Eusapia Paladino. In one of these, the description implies that she was using her hands to levitate the table. In fact, one cannot know for sure if that was the case in that particular photograph because Ms. Paladino herself used to say that, whenever possible, she would fake some of the manifestations because they were very tiring for her. This, however, does not imply that she was not capable of producing them.

There are photographs taken by Camille Flammarion (1842-1925), a renowned astronomer and internationally recognized popularizer of science, during a series of eight séances which he conducted in his apartment in Paris in November of 1898. Some of the participants in these séances were: Charles Richet, Albert de Rochas, Victorien Sardou, Gustave le Bon, and Gabriel Delanne.

Some photographs in the exhibition were taken in the presence of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, while others showed the spirit of Sir Arthur materialized after his death. Conan Doyle appeared in many pictures taken by William Hope (whom he had defended against the accusation of fraud), some of which were taken in the presence of his widow and son, Denis.

One must realize that in modern times this is the first time we have an exhibition of this magnitude on the subject, first in Paris and now in one of the most important museums of the world, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

I am sure that during the three months that the photographs will be presented to the public (it will run through Dec. 31), many will leave the room wondering about the existence and survival of spirits, and perhaps, even wishing that this may be true. They will leave the exhibition wondering if one day they will be able to join their loved ones who have departed and find out about the mystery of life. ■



Séance with Eusapia Palladino at the home of Camille Flammarion, Rue Cassini, Nov.25/1898



Portrait of Amélie Boudet, wife of Allan Kardec, with the latter's Spirit (1873-75).

Text written and submitted by Jussara Korngold
President of the SGNY

PRESENT CAUSES OF SUFFERING

There are two kinds of suffering on earth; or, if you prefer, our trials have their origin in two different sources. The first kind has its cause in present - day life; the second arises from causes outside the present life.

In considering the troubles of earthly life, it is evident that a great number of them are the consequence of a person's own attitudes and actions. Many of us flounder because of our faults -victimized by our thoughtlessness, arrogance, and ambition. Many of us destroy ourselves through lack of discipline and perseverance, and through bad conduct and an inability to control our own desires. Likewise, many marriages turn sour simply because they are built not by the heart, but by the partners' calculating self-interest and vanity. So many disagreements and disastrous hostilities could be avoided with the help of a little restraint and more tolerance. In the same way, how many illnesses and diseases result from overindulgence and abuses of all sorts?

Families, particularly, pay a price for these failures. Parents find they are disappointed in their children because they didn't intervene early enough to overcome their children's harmful impulses. In spoiling or neglecting their children, these parents let the seeds of pride, selfishness, and foolish conceit take root in them, so that their hearts became dry and shriveled. Later on, when the parents start reaping what they have sown, they're surprised and hurt at the indifference and lack of gratitude their children show them.

We ask each of you who has experienced heartaches because of disappointments and losses to study your own consciences closely, going back, step by step, to the origins of each problem that is causing you pain. More likely than not, most will be able to say: If I had done, or not done, such and such a thing, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Who is, in such cases, responsible for the sufferings if not the person who suffers? In most cases, men and women are the architects of their own troubles. Yet rather than admit this fact, they usually find it easier and less humiliating to their egos to blame their troubles on fate, God, bad luck, or even on an unlucky star. However, this "unlucky star" is actually no more than their own carelessness.

THE PERFECT EXAMPLE

Allan Kardec asked to the Superior Spirits the following question: *What is the most perfect example that God has offered to us as a guide and model?*

And the Enlightening Spirits answered: "**Jesus.**" And then Kardec makes his comments by saying that *Jesus is the God-given model of moral perfection toward which we should all strive. Animated by the Divine Spirit, Jesus was the purest being who has ever appeared on Earth; and the doctrine He taught is, accordingly, the purest expression of the Divine*



law. Others who have professed to instruct humanity in the law of God have, by contrast, sometimes led it into error. The reason is not hard to discover. The latter have been swayed by ideas and feelings of a too earthly nature and have confused laws that regulate the life of the soul with those that govern the life of the body. Many pretended revealers, moreover, have announced as Divine laws what were only human ones, which they devised to serve their own interests and to assure their domination over others.

The Spirits' Book by Allan Kardec, q 625.

I SPIRITIST RETREAT



Last October 1-2, the Spiritist Society of Baltimore organized its ***I Spiritist Retreat*** at the Harmony Farm Retreat Center. This was a distinctive way to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Allan Kardec, the Codifier of Spiritism as we planned the launching of a series of retreats to facilitate the American encounter with Spiritism in 2006.

During that weekend, the SSB coordinated fulfilling indoor and outdoor activities on the teachings and practice of Spiritism. From walking meditation on God to a play on Reincarnation, we all had a wonderful opportunity to get inspired by Spiritism along with enjoying the enchanting and restful nature at Harmony Farm.

We acknowledge all those who helped and joined us in this beautiful and inspirational gathering. Special thanks to Judith and Kevin Campbell, our dear benefactors, who gave us the opportunity to make this happen at their spiritual and gorgeous farm.

We welcome you to join us in our next year Spiritist retreat!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2005 WORKSHOP SERIES

September 17 – Mediumship in you
October 29 – Wars and the spirit-world
November 19 – The family I chose
December 10 – Christ consciousness

Free Admission !!!

Activities for CHILDREN (above 4 years old) are provided, while parents are at Workshop

Time:

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Place:

SPIRITWORKS Resource Center
1300 York Rd - Building C, 3th Floor
Lutherville, MD 21093



WEBCASTING
SPIRITISM

Now available !!!

WATCH IT

**every Saturday
from 7:30PM**

at:

www.ssbaltimore.org

SPECIAL EVENT

CASES ON THE AFTERLIFE AND REINCANATION

see
page 4

Featuring:

Chico Xavier, the role model medium
by Jussara Korngold

The Spirit Doctor Andre Luiz and the Afterlife
by Vanessa Anseloni

Cases on Reincarnation
by Luis Eduardo Almeida

December 4th (Sunday)

10:30am– 2:00pm

Location:

University of Maryland Golf Course
College Park, MD 20742

**Tickets are: \$25 for adults; \$40 for two
tickets; \$15 for children under 12**

(All proceeds go to the SSB projects)

Gala lunch will be provided
R.S.V.P. required by NOV. 30
(Advanced tickets only)

R.S.V.P. required: (410) 382-5328

For more information,
please visit our website at <http://www.ssbaltimore.org>
or contact us at (410) 382-5328 or at ssb@ssbaltimore.org

Sponsored by

THE SPIRITIST SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE, Inc.

JOIN OUR ACTIVITIES

STUDY GROUP ON SPIRITISM

These meetings take place every **Thursday** from 8:00 to 9:30PM for the study on Spiritism. They are open to the general public.

FRATERNAL COUNSELING & SPIRITUAL TREATMENT

These services are offered every **Monday** from 7:00-7:45PM.

Meditation with Kardec

*Every Saturday 7-8 PM,
except on the day of our
monthly workshops*

Mediumship Educational Meetings

(by invitation only)

These meetings take place every **Monday** from 8:00 PM to 9:30PM for the study and practice of mediumship according to Spiritism.

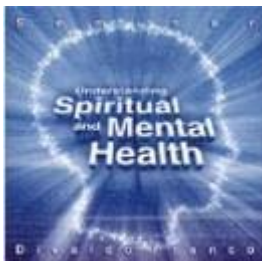
Please, contact us for more info.

Phone: 410 - 382-5328 or
410-837-0991

e-mail: ssb@ssbaltimore.org

Activities are free of charge !!!

BOOKS AND CDs by Divaldo Franco (in collaboration with SSB)

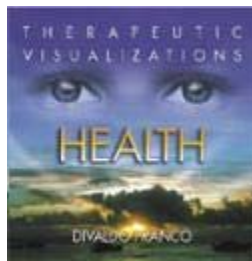


This double CD set contains Divaldo Franco's seminar "**Understanding Spiritual and Mental Health**" which took place on March 12, 2004, in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, USA. This is the first audio CD of a Spiritist seminar in the English Speaking language. The seminar covered a psychiatric analysis on the endogenous and exogenous causes of mental and spiritual disturbances (depression, anxiety, phobias, schizophrenia); a review on its pharmacological therapeutics, and an analysis of spiritual intervention and other effective psychotherapies. It beautifully describes the Spiritist view of the psychological and spiritual disturbances, as much as it gives us a clear idea of its approach to eradicate its causes and effects.



This profound and brilliant seminar, **Understanding Spiritual and Mental Health**, also generated a **bilingual book** (English and Portuguese, '**Compreendendo a Saúde Espiritual e Mental**') that will be launched in this event.

If you prefer the book format, this is also a great opportunity.



Therapeutic Visualizations - Health - CD is a unique material brought by the spectacular mediumship of Divaldo Franco. His spirit-mentor, Joanna de Ângelis, gives us this spiritual tool to find pathways to balance and health. "*Meditation becomes an effective way to discipline the will. It facilitates patience which helps you to conquer every day the lower tendencies that disturb you. Meditation is an imperious necessity that imposes itself before any realization. In the meditative state, you calm down your emotions and clarify your discernment, harmonizing your feelings.*" (Excerpts extracted from the book Moments of Meditation, by Joanna de Ângelis, psychographed by Divaldo P. Franco)



"**Self-Discovery, an Inner Search**, can certainly be considered a masterpiece on the Spiritist Psychology. Its spirit-author, Joanna de Ângelis, through the admirable hands of Divaldo P. Franco, brings the reader what could be considered a doctorate thesis in the topics of human psyche, its disturbances and deepest causes, as well as effective therapeutics for Humanity's greatest problems. It also summarizes a variety of theories in the field of Psychology and Psychiatry combining them with the Spiritist View of the human being and life. Moreover, Joanna de Ângelis undoubtedly develops Allan Kardec's works."

To obtain this material, please contact us by e-mail at ssb@ssbaltimore.org or call (410) 382-5328.