

SpiritistNews

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"To be born, to die,
to be reborn again,
and constantly
progress, that is the
Law."
- Allan Kardec

In this issue:

Unforgettable Evening.....	1
Americans' Testimonials.....	2
Loss by Death.....	3
Meditation with Kardec.....	3
The Profile.....	4
Books by Dr. Moody.....	4
The Spiritual Journey.....	5
Near Death Experience.....	6
Latest News.....	7
New books & CDs.....	7
Activities & Events.....	8
2006 SSB Calendar.....	8

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An Unforgettable Evening

A new era in the world dissemination of Spiritism



Dr. R. Moody Jr., Vanessa Anseloni and Divaldo Franco

"Tonight a new era in the world dissemination of Spiritism begins," said the renowned Spiritist medium and speaker Divaldo P. Franco after the historic event organized by the Spiritist Society of Baltimore, Inc.

In the evening of March 16, 2006, the acclaimed researcher, psychiatrist and philosopher Dr. Raymond Moody Jr. shared the stage with Divaldo P. Franco in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The theme of the event was **From Grief to Hope** in which Dr. Raymond Moody talked about his book "Reunions: Visionary Encounters with Departed Loved Ones" while Divaldo Franco spoke about "The Spiritist Therapy for Those Who Stayed."

The Spiritist Society of Baltimore (SSB) organized and sponsored this event with the goal of bringing the consoling promise of Spiritism to the American public who has undergone challenging times on losing loved ones either through natural calamities or the ones created by Human Beings, the wars. To reach this goal, the SSB established for the first time a bridge between Spiritism and Academia on American soil.

Dr. Raymond Moody began his lecture highlighting the importance of critical thinking when thinking about the great questions of life. Based on the History of Ancient Greece and mainly the Oracle of the Dead, Dr. Moody said that he reproduced a technique to contact the dead found in Greek mythology by building up a room of mirrors in his institute. In his studies with the technique of the mirrors, he proposes a new methodology to investigate the phenomenon of communication with the dead. Dr. Moody said that he was taken by surprise when he verified that the majority of individuals in his studies reported that they had some type of real experience in communicating with their departed loved ones. Dr. Moody also told about his personal experience with his deceased paternal grandmother.

He observed that his experiments also had extraordinary and diverse results. He said, "In half or so of my work, people say they had a three-dimensional image in full color of the person that they set out to see. But there are plenty of things that I did not expect. The other people report that they feel that their consciousness goes through the mirror and they come out onto the other side into a sort of panoramic, three-dimensional realm where they meet the spirits. Some people tell you that the apparition forms in the mirror then steps forward and comes out of the mirror. Thirty percent of the people tell us that they hear the audible voice of the deceased with auditory quality to it. The others who did not go through these experiences report that they had a heart to heart or mind to mind communion with the person that they saw. Another strange fact related to this, a quarter of those individuals see some other individual known to them who died rather than, or in addition to, the person that they set out to see."

Despite his 30 years of research on life after death, Dr. Moody stated that he does not think that his research is a definite scientific proof of the existence of life after death. The climax of his talk was reached when he confirmed the need for new scientific methodology to investigate these profound questions of life. He concluded his lecture in a very optimistic way as he stated that he believes that "in the XXI century, we will witness genuine scientific advances towards proving the essential questions of Humanity, among them the continuity of life after death."

After that, the bright medium and speaker Divaldo Pereira Franco, assisted by the excellent interpreter, Daniel Benjamin (member of the Board of Directors of the Allan Kardec Educational Society), gave a speech on Humankind's ideas on life after life since Ancient times, the Prehistoric Rock Art drawings. After brief historical remarks on the Human universal belief that life continues after death, Divaldo Franco brought the Spiritist Therapy for those who suffer from the loss of their loved ones by death:

1- Tell your loved ones that you love them while you are together with them. It will not be too much to say that your loved one is important for you. (...)

2- Think of your death, not your neighbor's death. Because your neighbor is thinking of yours. (...)

3- Solve your relationship problems before death comes. (...)

4- When someone dies, do not lament. Be grateful for the time you lived with that person. Remember the happy moments you spent together. They will receive your mental message and will get closer to you. Make inner silence and you will be able to hear them in an intracranial voice. Gradually, you will be able to hear them directly. (...)

5- Pray for them. Pray to God for them. And be certain that when your time comes, they will be there to receive you. (...)

The Spiritist Therapy for the pain of separation is of hope, said Mr. Franco who proceeded with great joviality, charisma and universal language, telling about cases of people who were skeptical and after communicating with their loved ones, through mediumship, had gotten the consolation and the certainty that life continues after physical death. One of the culminating points of his lecture was when he narrated a true case of a young man who was shot by his friend and died, while they were playing 'Russian roulette.' Through the mediumistic writing of the beloved Francisco Cândido Xavier (one of the greatest Brazilian Mediums) the 'dead' wrote a letter as a witness affirming that the defendant was not guilty of his death. Such testimonial was accepted by the Judge of the House Court and set the defendant free.

Approximately 70% of the audience was composed of Americans. The public was enchanted with the wise approach that Divaldo Franco used as well as by his eloquent and consoling Spiritist message. Dr. Raymond Moody Jr. also had his prestige confirmed, and at the end he expressed his admiration for the works that the Spiritist Society of Baltimore has been leading.

The unforgettable night was crowned with success also by the launching of new releases: two books (*I love myself, I am addiction free*; and *Happy Life*) and three CDs (*Living and Loving; I love myself, I am addiction free*; and *Therapeutic Visualization: Inner Journey*), all published in English. These materials were produced in collaboration between the Spiritist Society of Baltimore and Divaldo Franco/*Mansão do Caminho* (Mansion of the Way), see page 7.

Certainly, this event of great expression was a historical mark for the beginning of a new era in the world dissemination of Spiritism, in which the dialogue between the Spiritist Science and Material Science was expanded. ■



- The Editors

AMERICANS' TESTIMONIALS ON THE EVENT "From Grief to Hope"



Dr. Moody, Jr. and Divaldo Franco

The event "From Grief to Hope" was an informative and thought provoking event. Both speakers, Dr. Raymond Moody, Jr. and Divaldo Franco, were highly knowledgeable in their fields and presented their work with passion and professionalism. It was fascinating to see the contrast between the ways the spirit world is viewed

in two different arenas. The distinction seems to lie in the understanding of our interactions with spirits. Dr. Moody's work is clearly cutting edge in American scientific research on the subject of life after death. His work supports the belief in spirits and our ability to connect with them however the framework requires a specific environment and facilitation. Divaldo Franco presented the Spiritist perspective that we are always in contact with spirits as we are spirits incarnated in physical form and we are not separate from the spirit world. He presented his personal experience as a medium of many years. These differing perspectives on how we view our connection with the spirit world epitomizes the general disparity that exists between everyday spiritual life in Brazil and in the U.S. Clearly, with events such as this and the dissemination of Spiritism as well as other spiritual practices in the U.S., we are beginning to see a deepening understanding of the spiritual world in American society.

As an American, English speaking Spiritist, who attends many events with simultaneous translation, I must add that I was very pleased with the translation for this event. It was very helpful to have the translation done in tandem as it enabled the listener to clearly hear and absorb the message presented by Divaldo Franco. And as always, it is a joy and a blessing to be reminded that our primary purpose here on earth is to live a loving life and to do the most we can with our time here. I am so very thankful to have participated in this groundbreaking event. Many thanks to the Spiritist Society of Baltimore for their hard work and dedication.

- by Beth Terrence



Divaldo Franco is an inspiring human being and a great and gifted speaker about matters relating to our connections to the Spirit

World. He was able to hold our complete attention to his beautiful and flowing words in spite of the fact that he spoke in his native tongue. This was absolutely no impediment to our almost simultaneous understanding of his speech due to the charming and gifted talents of an expert translator, Mr. Daniel Benjamin. I was impressed with the ease and power of Divaldo's work as a gifted spiritual teacher and one of the world's most talented and prolific mediums, having channeled over 200 works from his spirit co-partners. Divaldo told several stories about his upbringing and his lively account of being the last of 13 children born unexpectedly as a late arrival to a nearly menopausal mother was almost unbelievable. It left me thanking the Lord for his fortunate birth and for the guidance and love which shaped his life and his enormous talents. At the close of the session, many of the attendees were able to purchase copies of Divaldo's original and translated works, which he generously inscribed with his name as he blessed each person in line with a personal greeting and a warm smile.

-by Dianna Winsor, an SSB Friend



I really enjoyed the presentation by Divaldo Franco at the event 'From Grief to Hope' on March 16, 2006. What made this talk especially beneficial to me was the translation by Daniel Benjamin. In the past, in order to

understand Divaldo's message, I used headphones for the translation. The English translation was in my ears at the same time as Divaldo was speaking Portuguese. I found it difficult to hear both speakers in two languages at the same time. But this time Divaldo and the translator took turns. Divaldo would speak in Portuguese and pause; the translator would translate and pause. This new way of delivering translation to the English speaking people in the audience alleviated any confusion that would have resulted from overly concentrating on a translation and trying to ignore the original speaker. Divaldo's message was clear. The humor was understood more easily. Also, the dynamics between Divaldo and Daniel added to the presentation. I would recommend that consecutive, rather than simultaneous translation for future conferences and seminars be used. Having the translator and Divaldo side by side during the presentation helps bring Divaldo's message to life.

- by Laura Egger



The event was the best seminar sponsored by the SSB so far. Dr. Raymond Moody Jr. and Divaldo Franco both provided their own special insight into dealing with grief. For this event, the translation of Divaldo was especially successful. The use of consecutive translation provided a superior experience than previous seminars using simultaneous translation. The consecutive method allow us to hear Divaldo and his intonation, and then to hear the translation. Excellent seminar. Thank you.

- by Steve & Selenia Shepard



Just to say Tom and I completely enjoyed the Seminar last Thursday! It was so refreshing and uplifting - thank you for putting this evening together! What a gift to meet Divaldo Franco. He signed my book and shook my hand - something I'll never forget.

I also wanted to ask if there was anything I can do to help with SSB. I don't know what you need or how I can help, but please let me know what's there for me. I truly love it there and the fellowship - my soul needs to be more active with Spiritism. Please let me know what I can do. With love,

- by Becky Stafford

This was my first time in a Spiritist event. The combination of approaches given by both speakers brought a new light to my life. I am also thankful to the amazing work that SSB has been doing. May God bless you all!

- by Christy Jones



TESTIMONIALS (cont.)

Thursday's seminar, "From Grief to Hope" featuring Divaldo Franco and Raymond Moody, Jr. was an important milestone in the dissemination of Spiritism in the United States. Dr. Moody, a renowned American author on the subject of near death experiences stated in his lecture "presently, science cannot prove or explain the existence of an after life. However, since this is such an important question, we must perhaps adapt science or even find a new methodology to address this question." During his lecture, Dr. Moody spoke about the ancient Greeks and their "Oracle of the Dead." He even described a modern day "oracle" he had constructed in an upstairs room in his home with a mirror and black curtain. After interviewing thousands of people with near death experiences and a dozen graduate students who saw deceased loved ones in his homemade "oracle," one gets the idea that Moody believes in the survival of the spirit after death. However, his lecture ends there because neither he nor science can explain it.

The theme of this event was supposed to be one of consoling those who lost loved ones with the assurance that their loved ones still live on in Spirit. It was truly amazing to see Mr. Franco, such a wonderful speaker, address the audience with no notes or computer while literally writing a book on the survival of the soul. Although Mr. Franco lacks the same formal higher education of Dr. Moody, it was easy to see why universities from all over the world have bestowed Mr. Franco with honorary degrees. During his lecture, Divaldo did not miss one word of his beautiful Portuguese, pausing only for his interpreter, Daniel Benjamin who gave a wonderful on the spot translation into English. His presentation was that of a charismatic statesman of love, always maintaining a warm and loving eye contact with his audience. Mr. Franco's incredible knowledge of world religions, cultures and philosophies was transmitted to his audience with his resounding message of love, while continually addressing Moody's question of proving the survival of the soul. Mr. Franco's explanation of the Spiritist doctrine was subtly presented as the solution for a new science that can prove the question of life after death. However, founded in the late 1800s Spiritism is not new at all. How can it be possible that the answers to our most important questions have been available for over 150 years? Perhaps we can all work together to learn and teach others, this beautiful doctrine, Spiritism which explains many of our most important questions.

- by Greg Stewart

**"Science without Religion is lame,
Religion without Science is blind."
- Albert Einstein**

LOSS BY DEATH

Profound and dilacerating is the affliction that occurs when one loses a loved one by means of the biological phenomenon of death. However, among other reasons, this pain results from psychological, philosophical and religious atavisms that did not prepare the individual to its natural occurrence. Death is a part of the organic process through which Life expresses itself.

The concept of death itself is fragile and unsustainable, because nothing is annihilated and the dead do not have their existence interrupted. They are temporarily transferred to another vibrational level, but not annihilated. They keep on living. They communicate with those that remain incarnated on Earth. They establish new lines of exchange. They wait for their loved ones, and receive them by the time they disincarnate.

Besides, the thought of losing someone is completely dislodged in this concept. People cannot continue on 'losing' themselves, in the sense of things that leave their 'owners' and disappear. No one belongs to no one. Besides, one only loses what one has.

Thus, the severe pain that accompanies the death of loved ones contains high loads of unbalanced emotions that blast outwardly and reveal self-punitive and non-affective features.

Sometimes, the person who died was not taken care of as one deserved, while on Earth, alive. Then, upon death, those who realized their mistake, self-afflict themselves and develop revolt, despair and depression. In other occasions, projections of retained conflicts come to the surface generating a great deal of imbalances.

However, in the majority of cases, natural feelings of nostalgia, absence, and tenderness hurt those who stayed. Those feelings martyr them.



It is fair that the individual suffers from the detachment pain by crying the loved one's absence. It is natural that one asks oneself in silence about the new situation of one's loved one. However, despair does not either justify itself nor fills in the emptiness that remains.

There are valuable resources for the liberation of the resulting sorrows of a loved one's death such as: (1) pouring out the pain by means of happy recollections and occasional tears; (2) tenderly reviving outstanding episodes; (3) sharing the loved

one's heritage with the ones in need, in one's memory; (4) involving the loved one in prayers; (5) continuing the inner growth.

There are many illogical questions that almost always are made in those kind of situations such as "Why him/her?" or "Why me?"

Well, everyone's organic body is mortal and the number of deaths is considerable. Sooner or later it will reach this or that individual, or someone of one's social group. By the law of probabilities, this time will come for everyone individually or collectively. It is inevitable.

The pain of physical separation lasts for a long period of time. At first, it is traumatic and becomes more consuming throughout the days. However, it should be dealt with hope of the reencounter and communication with the loved one. Thanks to the preserved affection, that pain is softened and only keeps the signs of gratitude once the presence of the loved one was cherished.

Therefore, when one avoids depression and its effects when a loved one dies, it is the proof of love to the one who left and should not feel guilty for one's departure, without prior consultation or consent. That loved one was driven by Life to return to one's origins to where everyone will go back one day. ■

From the book *Self-Discovery: An Inner Search*
by Divaldo Franco and Joanna de Ângelis (spirit); pag. 144-146.

OUR NEW SERVICE: MEDITATIONS WITH KARDEC

Do you feel like you need a special place and time to practice your inner journey? Well, you now have it. Every Saturday, the Spiritist Society of Baltimore offers you the service and support you have been looking for.

Meditations with Kardec is a well being service based on the deep and uplifting messages of Allan Kardec's works, especially in the messages from his fascinating book, *The Gospel Explained* by Spiritism. A group of trained coordinators leads reading of inspirational messages followed by introspection time on the teachings. At the end, you will also receive spiritually *magnetized water* and *passes* to wrap up a good amount of inner reflection.

Open to the general public. You are also welcome to this service! ☺ (see our service location page 8).



THE PROFILE*

John Matthews, distinct Gospel preacher, in the night he turned 50 years old, after praying with great tenderness along with some friends, went to bed for a well deserved rest. He dreamed of reaching the entrance doors of Spirit Life, and dazzled with the lightness he felt. He tried to raise himself up, in order to better enjoy the loftiness of Heaven, when a worker of the Celestial Passage approached to remind him thoughtfully, "*John, to avoid any unpleasant surprises before you enter, it is advisable we take a look at your profile.*"

And the traveler received an exquisite document, in which frightened he read the following:

- John Matthews
- Reincarnated on Earth in 1904
- From a wealthy family
- Loving parents and friends
- Precious intelligence
- Clear brain
- Honorable Educational background
- Good books
- Rested youth
- Great health
- Envable notion of comfort
- Calm dreams
- Excellent appetite
- Dependable home
- Constant spiritual protection
- Never suffered severe accidents
- At 20 years of age, got a job in bussines
- At 25, got married, enslaving his wife
- Roman Catholic until 26
- Attended 672 masses without paying them great attention
- At 27, he engaged himself in the Spiritist belief
- Attended about 2,195 Spiritist meetings under the name of Jesus.
- Carried out 1,602 lectures and doctrinal studies and meetings
- Wrote letters and moving pages
- Remarkable narrator
- Always cautious about controversy
- 4 kids
- Food abundance at home
- Does not find time to help his kids to reach out for Christ
- Traveled 106 times for pleasure and vacation
- Great intolerance towards his neighbors
- Not open to any sort of habit changes to serve others.
- Never realizes if an offense has been made from his personal behavior, however he demonstrates extreme sensitivity before someone else's conduct.
- Maintains relationships only with friends of the same social level
- Gets disgusted with social life complications, although incessantly he highlights the imperative of fraternity between human beings.
- Knows how to defend himself with great diligence towards any adversities besides the natural resources, which yielded him respectable position and impressive domestic comfort, under the constant guidance of Jesus, throughout several messengers. He maintains great Real Estate value in properties totaling about \$600,000 and savings of about \$300,000.

For Jesus, who looked for him in the position of beggars, needy and sick ones he gave during all his life the equivalent of 90 cents.

To cooperate on the dissemination of Christ's word, he has offered \$12.00 for social assistance works.

TOTAL DEBT: _____

When he was about to read the item regarding his own debts, strongly impressed, John woke up. It was an early morning.

At night, with such a great disposition, he gathered with friends relating the experience of the previous night.

This fact had changed his life, he said. His dream changed his way of thinking. He would devote himself henceforth to a more active work in the Spiritist Movement. He intended to renew himself innerly and would now walk his talk. Because of that, he was willing to collaborate substantially, building up a shelter home destined to help and teach homeless children. That was something he wanted to do for quite some time. That unforgettable night experience was certainly a precious notice. And, smiling, he said good night to his brothers in arms, asking them for a new meeting the following day. He expected to lay down the foundation of the proposed work. However, in the upcoming night, when his friends knocked at his door, they found him, laying in bed, victim of a heart attack.

John Matthews was dead.

by Brother X

*Page received through the medium Francisco C. Xaviers.

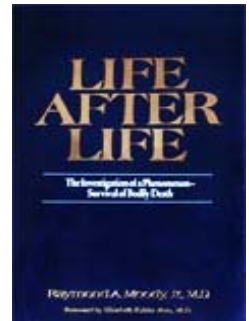
Translated and submitted by Flávio Zanetti (member of the AKSS-MA)

Books by Dr. Moody, Jr.

Life After Life (Hardcover)

Raymond A. Moody

Description: In *Life After Life*, Raymond Moody investigates more than one hundred case studies of people who experienced "clinical death" and were subsequently revived. First published in 1975, this classic exploration of life after death started a revolution in popular attitudes about the afterlife and established Dr. Moody as the world's leading authority in the field of near-death experiences. *Life After Life* forever changed the way we understand both death — and life — selling millions of copies to a world hungry for a greater understanding of this mysterious phenomenon.

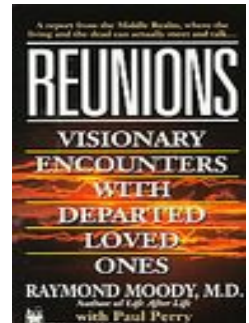


Reunions: Visionary Encounters With Departed Loved Ones

(Paperback)

Raymond A. Moody, Paul Perry

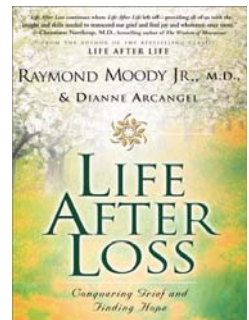
Description: Dr. Moody continues his pioneering studies on death and the afterlife in this fascinating book, making a cogent and persuasive argument for the ability to contact the deceased. Moody describes his experiments with the ancient technique of mirror gazing to induce visions of the dead. Many of the 300 subjects with whom he has experimented had surprisingly real encounters with deceased friends and loved ones while using this technique. Moody seeks to elevate the use of mirror gazing to a respectable level and demonstrates its potential as a therapeutic tool to heal grief and promote self-discovery. He challenges the mind-set of traditional psychologists and doctors and shows the need for open-mindedness in studying the realms of consciousness.



Life After Loss (Paperback)

Raymond A. Moody, Diane Arcangel

Description: A perfect companion to Moody's best-selling *Life After Life*, this poignant resource allows the reader to utilize the process of grief, loss, or bereavement in a positive manner and offers pointers on how to offer or receive sympathy. Here, Moody and coauthor Arcangel write from personal insight and experience, incorporating stories of others' dealing with grief or loss that make this seem like a work of caring. Moody's earlier investigation of near-death experiences lends depth to his observations and helps make the steps offered to diminish the pain of grief, mourning, and bereavement practical and hopeful. Arcangel, as former director of the Kbler-Ross Center in Houston and a grief workshop facilitator, lends sensitivity to the treatment and discussion. A long section of supportive resources, including books, magazines, articles, newsletters, journals, associations, organizations, bereavement centers, crisis hotlines, support-group leads, and web sites is priceless in locating resources and encouraging follow-up.



For information on others books and DVD by Dr. Raymond Moody, Jr. please go to his web site: www.lifeafterlife.com

"Unshakable faith is only that which
can meet reason face to face
in every Human epoch."

- Allan Kardec

MAKING THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

"We always progress. We never regress..."



Realize it or not, we are all making the spiritual journey. That journey, according to Spiritism, began when our soul was created and will reach its climax when we rid ourselves of the very last trace of any trait that is not totally perfect. The intermediate steps, like the current lifetime we are enjoying

here on earth, are part of this journey in that they provide an opportunity for advancement and growth. According to Spiritism and many other spiritual beliefs, we advance by overcoming our faults and learning new things. The most common method for such advancement is to be found in our behavior during multiple lifetimes. But suppose we want a faster route, a method to bypass the slow but steady path of being born, living and dying?

There are many possible tools for use in the effort to quicken our evolution: good works, devotion, meditation, nonattachment to worldly things and pleasures, surrender to a higher power – the list can be quite long. For us, the important thing is that we ask the question in earnest, that our Guardian Angels may reveal the path for us. The path for one may not be the path for another; the particular ingredients of the recipe for quickening may well be the same for all, but the way they are mixed is probably different according to each person's individual karmic circumstances. But let's look at some of the steps to further refine the search for faster evolution

Self Examination

In *The Spirits' Book*, St. Augustine related a method he used to examine his day. He looked for transgressions he may have committed, good he did not do, negative thoughts he may have had, unkind words he said and so on. Then, as a check on himself, he asked "If someone else were looking at how he was that day, how would they have felt toward him and what faults may they have found"? Though not perfect, this two step self examination is of great help in identifying those things less than perfect in us.

Of course, self examination may be carried on a deeper level, too, and performed in depth from time to time. It is very helpful to maintain a journal, that you may not only chart your progress but help uproot some pattern that can only be found through consistent writing.

What to do with your findings?

The answer to this question is linked with one's ability to spot a "fault" or some imperfection of character. We used to suffer tremendously from jealousy of others' abilities. Of course, this stemmed from a deep unappreciation of our own abilities! Unfortunately, the fix did not happen quickly. Herein is the first cautionary message. Once embarked on a spiritual path (defined not as just evolving but really consciously intent on self improvement, it will be absolutely necessary to exercise patience and still more patience. The Divine works in its time, and many of the processes for your advancement occur without your knowledge or direction. In a really big way, this angelic help is a huge boost, for it raises us in areas we are not even aware of and makes our path that much easier.

Read the lives of people you admire (saints and others who have done much good)

In works about good and great people, one may find some inspiration and even consolation that even these wonderful people had to struggle. Spiritual advancement is not a silver spoon in the mouth – it is often born of pain and is christened with struggle. The real blessing is to be found in the end result – purification CAN be accomplished. In fact, it is widely believed that this earth is the perfect place for purification, for it comes with effort and struggle. It is in this effort and struggle that we may advance more rapidly than if we just had an easy time of it. This may sound strange, but the struggle toward perfection is all the more meaningful if one has made an investment of effort.



A general instruction

Once the process of self improvement has begun through introspection and modeling, it is of course necessary to perform such acts as prayer and meditation, for these bring you into closer contact with God and your Superior spirits. These acts will also help you to sensitize yourself to the messages of your Guardian Angel. With such a close connection to the being most intimate to you, your way will be made easier, as we have pointed out earlier.

"...Spiritual advancement is not a silver spoon in the mouth – it is often born of pain and is christened with struggle. The real blessing is to be found in the end result – purification CAN be accomplished."

From here, though, the path is quite individualized. Some people with strong wills may need to adopt surrender, some with addictions may need to find ways to control them, some with anger may need to find an antidote...and so on. The important thing to remember as one progresses is that there really IS a plan; it is only up to you to find it and to work it. And that plan is to be found in rooting out your faults and character blemishes – and of course replacing them with the Godly qualities of charity, faith, hope, trust, generosity and such.

Signs of advancement

An early sign of advancement may be the full or partial destruction of your life as you knew it, only to be replaced by a firmer foundation. Farther along, though, the best sign we know that we are advancing is the increase in peace and inner harmony we enjoy. Indeed, it is said in *The Spirits' Book* that higher existences are happier ones and vice versa – truly happy, not just the fleeting enjoyment of an earthly pleasure.

Summation

Will doing all of the things we mentioned above quicken your evolution? We can't say for sure, but it certainly can go a long way toward such an outcome. It follows that if the end state is perfection, ridding yourself of faults and character defects now will mean that there is just that much less to shed in the future.

*- Jim Pursley
(SSB member)*

"The body is a vehicle that we use for learning or healing ourselves, for self-redemption, or for accomplishing a specific task."

*From the book **And Life Goes On...** by Andre Luiz/Francisco C.Xavier*

"When you fall down, pick yourself up and start over again. You are an ever-unfolding soul temporarily enrolled in the school of life."

*From the Book **Child of God** by Joanna de Ângelis & Divaldo Franco*

Near Death Experience

"...What is the predominant feeling most people experience at the moment of death? Is it doubt, fear, or hope? - Doubt for hardened skeptics, fear for the guilty, and hope for the good. " (The Spirits' Book q.961 by Allan Kardec)

A replay of significant events from your life may pass before your eyes — the process only takes a few seconds, but time seems to slow down for you during this process. Next, you may have an out-of-body experience and see emergency workers or medical personnel working on your body. Then you may see a brilliant, warm, white light and find yourself moving through a dark tunnel toward that light. You may even be greeted by friends and family members who have passed on before you. But in a second, the whole transcendental event can end, and you wake up in a strange place, such as a hospital bed. Your near-death experience is over — your physical body survived.

There are, in fact, literally thousands of documented cases of people who have had a near-death experience. Well-established medical doctors, psychologists, theologians, cardiologists, and social scientists of various kinds have done extensive research and detailed study on the phenomenon. Researchers such as Cobb, Crookall, Savage, Hyslop, Richet and many others, have accumulated data from subjects over the last hundred years. More recently, books by doctors Moody, Kubler-Ross, Sabom, Lundahl, Gabbard, Twenlow, and others have been added to an extensive and varied library of professional journal articles and previous research papers.

If there were any questions about the pervasiveness of near-death experience, George Gallup, Jr., of Gallup Poll fame, has laid them to rest. In his book, *Adventures in Immortality*, Mr. Gallup reports that five percent of the U. S. adult population has had a near-death experience. This percentage equals about 8,000,000 people who have had such an experience. If nothing else, Gallup's statistics speak well for the medical emergency technology's ability to resuscitate clinically dead or near-dead patients.

But the pervasiveness of the phenomena has not always been convincing in itself. In 1975, when Dr. Raymond A. Moody,

Jr., Ph.D. published his best-selling book, *Life After Life*, his descriptions and conclusions were often viewed with considerable skepticism or simply dismissed out of hand by members of the medical and scientific community.

In this book, Dr. Moody describes accounts of many different people who have had near-death experiences. He was the first to coin the term "near-death experience."

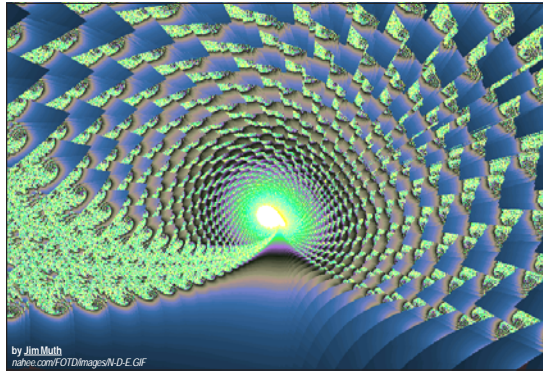
For many, a near-death experience, or NDE, is a life-altering event. This incredibly personal and profound experience proves to the person who went through it that there is in fact life after death.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of near-death experiences is the consistency of their descriptions. The consistency occurs in spite of the fact the persons involved uniformly characterize their NDE as inexpressible or ineffable. The difficulty people have in describing their near-death experience appears to be due to the fact that our language is symbolic—words are only

names for our experiences. Inasmuch as NDEs fall outside our common experience, adjectives and superlatives may be inadequate to describe the events that occur during an NDE.

Clearly, near-death experiences provide a strong argument for life after death. Deathbed experiences add additional fuel to the fire. Together, both forms of "data collection" agree with each other and provide us with a better understanding of what might be occurring on the other side.

Near-death experiences are giving society answers to such questions. In general, near-death experiences reveal that the quality of our lives after death isn't determined by HOW we die, but by how we LIVE. ■



From the book *Those Left Behind – Understanding Suicide from a Spiritist View*,
by Jussara Korngold (In Press)



Latest News!

LAUNCHING OF NEW BOOKS and CDs

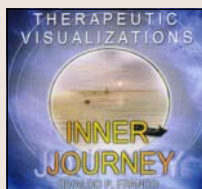
SSB in collaboration with the 'Mansion of the way' brings to you new Spiritist books and CDs

Therapeutic Visualizations – Inner Journey

“Live in a way that you leave enlightening footprints in your pathway as if they were stars pointing out the pathway to happiness.” - Joanna de Ângelis.

Deep therapeutic visualizations. Three tracks:

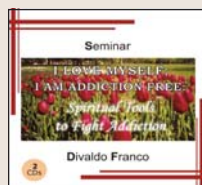
- 1 – Decision to be happy
- 2 – Visualization of Liberation
- 3 – Visualization for Inner Balance



“I love myself, I am addiction-free”: SPIRITUAL TOOLS TO FIGHT ADDICTION

Bilingual book (English - Portuguese) and CD (English)
Seminar given by the renowned medium Divaldo Franco in Baltimore, MD - USA, 2005

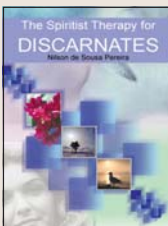
The seminar covered true stories about drug-addiction; family issues in drug-addiction; and genetic, psychosocial, socioeconomic and spiritual issues that induce addiction. Divaldo Franco explored academic and spiritual therapies from a Spiritist perspective. He placed special emphasis on the role of education as a critical factor for the health of the whole person.



The Spiritist Therapy for Discarnates

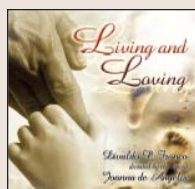
Nilson Pereira

This fascinating book is the most objective guideline to the therapeutic approach for discarnates according to Spiritism. It is strongly recommended to all who are interested in (1) understanding the dynamics of spirit-intervention; (2) working towards a better humankind by using the Spiritist therapy; and (3) being a Spirit counselor/psychotherapist.



Living and Loving (CD)

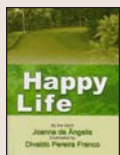
Through the hands of Divaldo Franco, Joanna de Ângelis brings us inspirational messages that will uplift your heart and enlighten your soul. Beautiful voices of Dave Enway and Amy Biank.



Happy Life

Divaldo Franco/Joanna de Ângelis

This book is for your day-to-day use. Each page brings joy and comfort to all events of life.



These books/CDs will be available soon in our online bookstore:
www.ssbaltimore.org

“Do not anticipate trouble, or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight.”

-Benjamin Franklin

DIVALDO FRANCO IN THE GREATER CHICAGO AREA:

Indigo and Crystal Children: A Spiritist View

Last February 18, the great medium and speaker Divaldo Franco was in Oswego, IL to give a talk on Indigo and Crystal Children. The event was sponsored by The Angel Center and Intuition Unlimited thanks to the efforts of Amy Biank (its host) and Vanessa Anseloni. Divaldo Franco brought deep understanding and new knowledge on Indigo and Crystal Children, according to the Spiritist View. The contents of the talk will soon become a book.



10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ALLAN KARDEC SPIRITIST SOCIETY OF DANBURY, CT.

Divaldo Franco delivered a special lecture at the celebration of this Spiritist Center's 10-year achievement. Approximately three hundred people attended this special occasion.

Congratulations, dear Spiritist friends of the AKSS of Danbury!

Also the AKSS of Danbury has its new website in English and Portuguese versions. Please go and check it out at: www.akssdanbury.com.



DIVALDO FRANCO SPEAKING TOUR IN THE USA

February

- 10 – Orlando, FL - Mental and Spiritual Health
- 11 – Miami, FL - Catastrophes According to Spiritism
- 12 - Pompano Beach, FL - Family Life
- 13 - New York, NY - The Evolution of Thought
- 14 – Newark, NJ - Reincarnation and Life
- 15 - New Jersey, NJ - The Conscious Being
- 16 – Danbury, CT - The Conscious Being
- 17, 18 - Chicago, IL - Indigo and Crystal Children: The Spiritist Perspective

March

- 10 - Santa Monica, CA - Indigo and Crystal Children: The Spiritist Perspective
- 11 - San Diego, CA - To Be or Not To Be: Existential Problems
- 12 - Santa Monica, CA - Between Worlds: Spiritual Influences in our Lives
- 13 - San Francisco, CA - Reincarnation and Spiritual Commitments
- 14 – Washington, DC - Existential Conflicts
- 15, 16 – Baltimore, MD - From Grief to Hope - The Spiritist Therapy for Those Who Stayed.
- 17, 18 – Boston, MA - Existential Conflicts

July

21-22 – Lily Dale, NY – **Psychic and Mediumistic Phenomena** (At the 1st Spiritist Weekend in Lily Dale, NY) More info go to www.lilydaleassembly.org



New web site!

The Spiritist Group of Davis, California, announces its new web address. Please check it out at www.spiritism-davis.org

Submission of material to SpiritistNews

Submit your articles, poems, letters to editors, events on the Spiritist English speaking movement in the US and worldwide at
ssb@ssbaltimore.org

Educational Fundraiser

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ALL MOTHERS

Celebrate with us!

- Cases on the spiritual power of motherhood
- Visualization to bring harmony to mother-child relationship

Presentation followed by DINNER!

Saturday, May 13, 2006

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

SpiritWorks Resource Center

1300 York Rd

Building C – 3rd floor

Lutherville, MD 21093

Get your ticket today

PRICE: \$ 15.00 (adult)

\$ 7.00 (8 - 14 years old). 0 - 7yo Free

*Tickets by e-mail, phone,
or at the door*

*"Before the Divine Providence we are all one family, all
interconnected, and it is our duty to help each other."
by Andre Luiz/Francisco Xavier*

Course:

TRAINING ON PASSES*

Saturday, April 22, 2006

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

SpiritWorks Resource Center

1300 York Rd

Building C – 3rd floor

Lutherville, MD 21093

Free Admission

(Registration required)

*Passes is a Spiritist therapy in which a medium and/or spirit source gives spiritual energies or vital fluids to a patient. (...)

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2006 WORKSHOP SERIES

Apr 29 - Healing through Reincarnation
May 20 - Parenthood for Modern Times
Jun 24 - Forgive and be healthier... but how
July 29 - Am I a medium? How? Why?

Free Admission !!!

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

Time:

7:30 PM - 9:15 PM

OUR SERVICE LOCATION

SpiritWorks Resource Center

1300 York Rd - Building C, 3th Floor

Lutherville, MD 21093



WATCH IT

**every Saturday
from 7:30PM**

at:

www.ssbaltimore.org

2006 Calendar (special events)

JANUARY

14- Training for Spiritist Speakers
(Course)
28- Indigo and Crystal Children:
A Spiritist View
(Special Workshop)

MARCH

4 - Spiritism 101 (Course)
9- Training Program (God and Us)
11- SSB General Assembly
16- SPECIAL SEMINAR with Divaldo
Franco and Raymond Moody Jr. MD, PhD
25- Sex and Destiny (Special Workshop)

MAY

11- Training Program
(Sleep and Dreams)
13 - Educational Fundraiser
20- Parenthood for Modern Times
(Special Workshop)

JULY

13 Training Program (Reincarnation)
15- Art in Action: mediumistic
painting with
Maria Gertrudes
29-Am I a medium? How? Why?
(Special Workshop)

SEPTEMBER

14- Training Program
(Spiritual Intervention in the
Incarnate World)
23-24 - II-Spiritist Retreat
30-A Medical/Psychologic-Spiritist View of
Depression (Special Workshop)

NOVEMBER

14- Training Program
(Hopes and Solaces)

18- Aging Well
(Workshop)

FEBRUARY

25- Adolescence and Spirituality
(Special Workshop)

APRIL

13-Movie Discussion: What the Bleep
do we know (Special Activity)
22- Training on "Passes" (course)
29- Healing Through Reincarnation
(Special Workshop)

JUNE

08- Book Discussion: The
Messengers (Special Activity)
24- Forgive and be healthier...
but how?
(Special Workshop)

AUGUST

10- Movie Discussion: Just like Heaven
19- Fun with family -Picnic (Fundraiser)
26- Evolution in Two Worlds: Material
evolution driven by Spiritual Conscience
(Special Workshop)

OCTOBER

12- Book Discussion: Emmanuel's
book (Special Activity)
14- Art & Spirituality Event
28- Do Spirits influence our lives?
(Workshop)

DECEMBER

2- Who is my model?
(Workshop)
9- Winter Event - Educational

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 !!!