SpiritistNews

Year 6, Issue 4, July/August 2008



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Published by



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CHARACTER OF THE SPIRITIST TEACHINGS

Can one consider Spiritism as a revelation? If it be such, what is its character? Upon what is its authenticity founded? By whom, and in what manner has it been given? Is the doctrine of Spiritism a revelation in the liturgical sense of the word? That is to say, is it in all points the product of occult teaching from on high? Is it absolute or capable of mystifications? In conveying to men perfect truth, would not revelation have the effect of hindering them from employing their faculties, since it would save them the work of research? What can be the authority of the teachings of the spirit if they are not infallible, and superior to those of humanity? What is the utility of the morality that they preach if this is other than that of the Christ whom men acknowledge? What are the new truths that they bring to us? Has man need of a revelation and can he find himself and in his conscience all that is necessary to lead him aright? These are the questions which are important for us to focus.

Let us define at first the sense of the word. "Revelation," to reveal, derived from the word "veil," from the Latin velum, signifies literally to take away the veil, and, figuratively, to uncover, to make the acquaintance of a secret or unknown fact. In its most general sense it is employed with reference to every unknown thing which is brought to light, to every new idea which is given to man.

Indeed, all the sciences which have revealed the mysteries of nature are revelations; and one can well say that there is for us a constant revelation. Astronomy has revealed to us the astral universe of which we were ignorant; geology, the formation of the Earth; chemistry, the law of affinities; physiology, the functions of the organism, etc. Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Laplace, and Lavoisier are revealers.

The essential character of all revelation must be truth. To reveal a secret is to make known a fact. If the thing is false, it is not a fact, and consequently not a revelation. All so-called revelation contradicted by facts is not revelation even if attributed to God. He not being able to tell an untruth or to deceive, we know it cannot emanate from him. It is necessary to consider it as merely a human conception.

What is the attitude of the professor to his pupils if it is not that of a revealer? He teaches them that which they do not know, that which they would have neither the time nor the possibility to discover for themselves, because science is the collective work of centuries, and of a multitude of men who have each contributed the results of their observations, by which those who come after them profit. Teaching is, then, in reality the revelation of certain scientific or moral, physical or metaphysical truths given by men who know them, to others who know them not, and who, without their aid would have remained ignorant of them.

But the professor teaches that which he has learned; he is a revealer of the second order. The man of genius teaches that which he has found for himself; he is the primitive revealer; he carries the light which from one place to another, makes itself known. Where would be humanity without the revelations from men of genius who appear from time to time?

To be continued on page 3

Definition of Revelation:

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... All the sciences which have revealed the mysteries of nature are **revelations**; and one can well say that there is for us a constant revelation.

Astronomy has revealed to us the astral universe of which we were ignorant; **Geology**, the formation of the Earth;

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Physiology, the functions of the organism, etc.

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CAN ONE CONSIDER SPIRITISM AS A REVELATION?





Read more on page 3

LOSING LOVED ONES. PREMATURE DEATHS



When death cuts down someone in your family, carrying off the youngest before the oldest without discrimination, you are accustomed to say that God is not just: because He sacrifices he who is strong and has all his future before him, leaving those who have lived many years and are full of deceptions: because He takes those who are useful and leaves behind those who are no longer able to work: because He breaks the heart of a mother by depriving her of the innocent creature who was her only joy.

Humans, it is on this point that you must lift yourselves above commonplace thoughts about life in order to be able to understand that goodness is frequently where you judge there to be evil, and the wisdom of providence where you think you perceive the blind fatality of destiny. Why do you evaluate divine justice by you own ideas? Do you suppose that the Lord of the Worlds applies justice through mere caprice, in order to inflict cruel punishment? Nothing happens that has not an intelligent meaning and no matter what happens there

is always a reason for it. If you scrutinize better all the pain that redounds to you then you would surely find divine reason, regenerating reason, wherein you would see the worthlessness of your interests which, as a consequence, would become so secondary as to be cast into last place.

Believe me, in the case of an incarnation of twenty years, death is preferable to any of the shameful dissipations which bring untold distress to respectable families, break the hearts of mothers and cause parents' hair to whiten before their time. Premature death is frequently a great blessing which God concedes to those who depart, so preserving them from the miseries of life or the seductions which possibly occasioned the loss of life. The person who dies in the flower of youth is not a victim of fate. God judges that it is not suitable for that person to remain longer on Earth.

What a terrible tragedy, you say, to see the thread of life that was so full of hope, cut! To what hope are you referring? That of the Earth? Where he who had gone could have perhaps shone or made his way and become rich? Always there is this restricted vision which prevents one from rising above that which is material. Who can tell what might have been the actual fate of that life which you thought so full of hope? How do you know that it would not have been saturated with bitterness? Do you then disdain the hopes offered by the future life, to the point of preferring this fleeting existence here on Earth? Do you suppose that a high position amongst men is worth more than an elevated place amongst the blessed Spirits?

Instead of complaining, rejoice when it pleases God to withdraw one of your children from this vale of miseries. Would it not be selfish to wish that they continue suffering at your side? Ah! This is the pain conceived by those lacking in faith, who see death as an eternal separation! But those of you who are Spiritists know that the soul lives better when it is separated from its material form. Mothers, know that your beloved children are near you, yes, very near. Their fluidic bodies embrace you, their thoughts protect you and the remembrances that you keep delight them with happiness; but your unreasonable pain afflicts them, because it reveals a lack of faith, so constituting a revolt against the Will of God.

Those of you who understand the meaning of spiritual life, listen to the beatings of your heart when calling to these loved ones. If you ask God to bless them, you will feel great consolation, the kind which will dry your tears; you will feel magnificent aspirations which will show you the future which our Supreme Lord has promised.

- SAMSON, ex-member of the Spiritist Society of Paris, (1863).

In: The Gospel According to Spiritism by Allan Kardec, chap 5, item 21

Continued from page 1

But what are men of genius? Why are they men of genius? Whence do they come? What becomes of them? Let us observe that the greater part of them is born with transcendent faculties, and innate knowledge that a little work suffices to develop. They belong really to humanity since they are born, live and die like mortals. Where, then, have they obtained this knowledge which comes so mysteriously to them? Will one say with the materialist that chance has given to them cerebral matter in greater quantity and better quality? In this case they would have no more merit than one vegetable greater and more savory than another.

Will one say that God awarded spiritists with a more favored soul or mind than those of common men? – A supposition also entirely illogical, since it accuses God of partiality. The only rational solution of this problem is in the pre-existence of soul, and in a plurality of existences. The man of genius is a spirit which has lived a longer time, who has consequently acquired more and progressed more, than those who are less advanced. In becoming incarnate he brings to Earth what he knows; and, as he is much wiser than others without the necessity of learning, he is that which one calls a man of genius. But that which he knows is the fruit of an anterior work, and not the result of divine preference. Before entering anew into Earth-life, he has an advanced spirit. He is reincarnated; it may be for the purpose of benefiting others, or possibly for the opportunity of acquiring more knowledge himself.

Men progress incontestably by themselves by means of their intelligence; but, left to their own forces, progress is very slow, if they are not aided by more advanced minds, as the scholar is by his professors. All nations have among them men of genius who appeared at diverse epochs to impel and draw men from their inertia. (...)

In: Genesis by Allan Kardec, chap 1.

Peace in You

Peace is very important.

Governments impose it by fomenting wars, exerting pressure, and subjecting people to bondage.

Therefore, peace is negotiated in private offices and then maintained under arms, through fear.

Such peace comes from without, and is disturbing because it is unreal. It is legal, though not always moral.

It is similar to swamp waters: clear and placid on the surface, but murky and poisonous at the bottom.

Such is the peace of the world: fleeting, and deceptive.

Real peace comes from within a cheerful heart and an understanding mind which acts, and trusts.

It is achieved within an atmosphere of love and devotion, because the harmony which kindles the dynamics of a flourishing life derives from a conscience illumined by Divine Laws.

Such peace is permanent and is never disturbed.

It constrains not, imposes not.

Each person must strive to achieve it. It is an outcome of one's well-directed actions, and it fosters noble ideals.

To discuss peace or crusade for it is not enough.

But if you focus your mind on peace, think about peace, and act pacifically, you will externalize peace from your inner self, and then it will surround you and reach whoever comes near you.

So, may peace on Earth be your uttermost goal, and through constant prayer may it work outwards as an answer from God.

When you pray for peace, a tender feeling pervades you, and Love – which radiates from God – averts any conflict that might disturb you.

Peace within you will further peace in the world.

- Joanna de Angelis

Inspirational message by Divaldo Pereira Franco from the book **Child of God.**

"Life and death are one thread, the same line viewed from different sides."

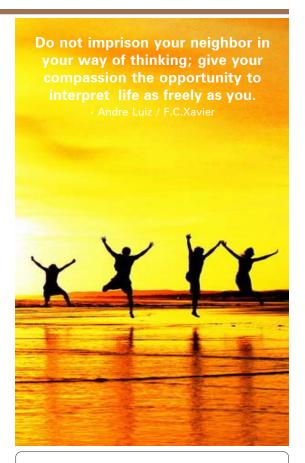
- Lao Tzu

THE SPIRITIST PRACTICE

- All Spiritist practice is gratuitous, following the orientation of the moral principle found in the Gospel: "Give for free what you receive for free."
- Spiritism is practiced with simplicity, without any external forms of worship, within the principle that God should be worshipped in spirit and in truth.
- Spiritism has no clergy, nor does it adopt or use at any of its meetings or during its practices the following: altars, images, candles, processions, sacraments, concession of indulgences, religious vestiments, alcoholic or hallucinogenic beverages, incense, tobacco, talismans, amulets, horoscopes, cartomancy, pyramids, crystals, or any other objects, rituals or external forms of worship.
- Spiritism does not impose its principles. It invites those interested in knowing it to submit its teachings to the test of reason before accepting them.
- Mediumship, which allows the Spirits to communicate with Human Beings, is a faculty which many individuals bring with them at birth, independently of the religion or belief that they may come to adopt.
- Spiritist mediumship practice is solely that which is practiced based on the principles of the Spiritist Thought and within Jesus' examples.
- Spiritism respects all religions and doctrines; values all efforts towards the practice of goodness; works towards peace and fellowship between all nations and all peoples, regardless of race, colour, nationality, creed, cultural or social standing. It also recognizes that "the truly good person is one who complies with the laws of justice, love, and charity in their highest degree of purity."

- The Gospel According to Spiritism by Allan Kardec - chapter 17 - item 3





- What does the happiness of good spirits consist of?

"In knowing all things; in feeling no hatred, jealousy, envy, ambition or any of the passions that make people unhappy. The love that unites them is a source of supreme happiness. They do not experience the needs, sufferings or anxieties of material life. They are happy with the good they do. Moreover, the happiness of spirits is always in proportion to their progress. Actually, only the pure spirits enjoy supreme happiness; however, this does not mean that the others are unhappy. Between the evil ones and the perfected ones, there is infinity of gradations, in which enjoyments are proportioned to their moral state. Those who are already sufficiently advanced understand the happiness of those who have reached that state before them and they aspire to it, but it is for them a reason for emulation and not jealousy. They know that it depends on them themselves to reach it and they labor to that end, but with the calmness of a pure conscience. They are happy in no longer having to suffer what is endured by evil spirits."

- The Spirits' Book by Allan Kardec, Q/A 967

The Spiritist Society of Baltimore, Inc.

The Universe and God

Transcending the problems of life and destiny we are brought face to face with the greater conception of God.

If we ponder nature's law, if we follow up that ideal beauty which is the inspiration of all art, we shall universally find, everywhere and always, above and beyond all else, the conception of a Superior Being: necessary and perfect, eternal source of righteousness, beauty and truth, in whom law, justice and supreme reason are met.

The world, physical and moral, is ordained by laws, and these laws, formulated after a predetermined plan, denote a profound understanding of that which they govern. They do not proceed from a blind cause, for chance and chaos could not produce order and harmony; they do not emanate from man: so ephemeral a being, limited as to time and space, could hardly be credited with creating permanent and universal laws. Logically to explain them, one must ascend to the generating cause of all things. One could scarcely conceive of intellect unless associated with some being; but this being is not linked with the chain of beings; rather is it the Progenitor of all, the very well spring of life.

Personality must not here be understood in the sense of some definite being in a definite shape, but rather as implying all the faculties that go to make a conscious whole. Personality, in the highest acceptation of the word, is conscience: it is in this sense that God may be conceived of as a person, or rather as the absolute personality, and not as a being possessing form and limitations. God is infinite and cannot be individualized – that is to say, separated from His creation.

As to the idea of relinquishing all study relating to the First Cause, as useless and unknowable, to quote the Positivists, we wonder if it be really possible for an earnest mind to rest content in total ignorance of

the laws that regulate its existence. The search after God imposes itself as allimportant. It is nothing more nor less than the study of the mighty Spirit of the Life Principle that quickens the universe, and is reflected in each of us. When the supreme principle is in the balance, all else becomes secondary. The notion of God is inseparable from that of law, and especially from that moral law, without which no society can prosper. The belief in a transcendent justice fortifies the conscience and sustains the being in its hour of trial. It is the consolation and reliance of those who despair: the supreme refuge of the afflicted and the oppressed. Its soft beams, like those of the dawning day, bring a ray of hope to the downcast spirit.

The existence of God can certainly not be demonstrated by direct and tangible proofs; for God does not enter into the domain of the senses. The Divinity has withdrawn behind a mysterious veil: possibly to compel us to seek it – the highest and most fruitful task that can be given to the mind – and likewise perhaps that our efforts may make us deserving. But there is within us a power, a certain instinct which unfailingly directs us to it, asserting its reality with a more positive authority than would appertain to any demonstration or analysis whatsoever.

Forever and everywhere – and this is the actuating idea in all religions – the soul of man has experienced the necessity of looking beyond those fluctuating and perishable things that make up the material life and which are unable to afford him any complete satisfaction: it looks beyond, to that which, in the universe, alone is fixed, permanent and immutable, perfect and absolute, with which all intellectual and moral power are identified. This he finds in God, without whom there can be no certainty, no confidence or security, and deprived of whom we are at the mercy of

every lurking suggestion of desire or suspicion.

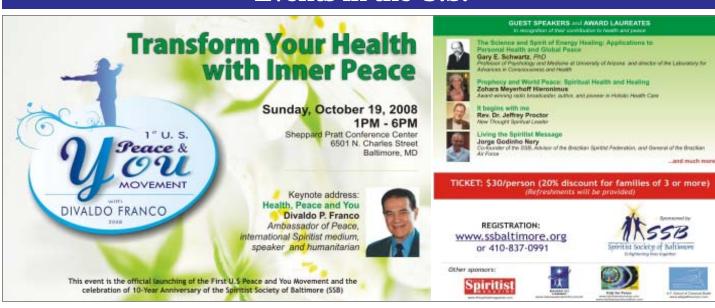
It may be objected that religion has sometimes woefully misconceived God. But what matter the varied guises in which men have portrayed their Creator? To us, they are so many fabled deities pictured by the feeble intellect of mankind in its infancy, it shapes grotesque, poetic, or alarming, according to the fancies that framed them. Human thought, grown somewhat more mature, has discarded these antiquated conceptions, has forgotten these phantoms and the evils that were perpetrated in their name, to elevate itself, impelled by an overpowering need, towards Eternal reason, towards God. God! Soul of the world, Universal Centre of light and love, in whom we live as the bird lives in the air or the fish in the sea, through whom we are united to all that is, has been and ever will be!

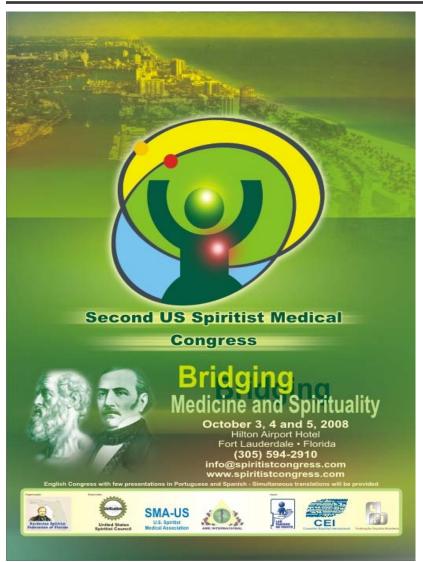
All religious conceptions of God were based upon a so-called supernatural revelation. Today we still admit of a revelation of the higher laws, only this revelation is now both rational and progressive: it has been conveyed to us by the logic of events and by the contemplation of the universe. It is contained in two volumes which ever lie open before us: the book of nature, in which the divine works appear in majestic characters, and the book of conscience, wherein the precepts of morality are engraved. The instructions imparted by the spirits, which have been gleaned and gathered from every quarter of the world by simple and logical processes, all tend to confirm these assertions. It is in virtue of this two time teaching that the human mind is enabled to communicate with divine reason in the realm of universal nature; by the aid of which it may dimly surmise somewhat of the beauty and harmony that lie therein.

by Léon Denis

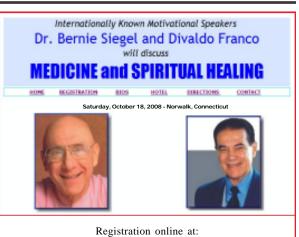
(In the book: Here and Hereafter, published by SAB, 2003)

Events in the U.S.





REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AT http://www.spiritistfederation.us/2008_SMC_001/With_fl/html/0822.html



PAST EVENTS

www.medicineandspirituality.org



5th Family Spiritist Retreat

The 5th Family Spiritist Retreat happened last July 13th, at the Old Mine Park in Trumbull, CT. More than more than 200

people participated in the retreat.

The Family Spiritist Retreat is a one-day event organized by many Spiritist Centers throughtout the North Eastern region of The United States. It happens during the summer vacations and consists of many educational and integralizing activities for the whole family. (www.familyspiritistretreat.org)

Auta de Souza Fraternal Meeting

On August 23-24, the Spiritist Group of Marlboro (*Grupo Espirita Trabalhadores da Ultima Hora*) promoted the 1182nd Auta de Souza fraternal meeting

Ultima Hora) promoted the 1182nd Auta de Souza fraternal meeting in Marlboro - MA. The event had five Spiritist Speakers from Brazil and three from the US. The event was a success!



Spiritist Program for Youth and Children

Who: Children and Teens (4-15 y)

When: Saturdays, 5-6:30 PM(September 6-27, 2008)

Where: SSB Headquarter 22 W Padonia RoadBdg B, Suites 317-321

Timonium, MD 21093

This innovative program (SPYC) has the main goal to boost spirituality in our new generations. Through seasonal programs, our Spiritist Educators, will teach children and youth new and practical insights on the power of prayer, vizualizations, self-control, relationship with guardian angels, family values, and the importance of unfolding their inner altruistic nature.

Our Spiritist Educators have been working with children and youth for many years. They have kindly volunteered to dedicate their time and effort sharing new tools that will help us build a new generation of deeply altruistic and spiritual individuals.

Join us in this most important initiative! Register your children online (www.ssbaltimore.org/spyc) or in the SSB!

First Spiritist Forum of Baltimore

Your Spiritual Body, Your Life!

The First Spiritist Forum of Baltimore is a unique opportunity to:

- deepend our understanding about our spiritual body (perispirit);
- empower our community by raising awareness on one of their most important body;
- improve our quality of life as we have increased awareness on our spiritual body;
- instruct our practitioners about our vital instrument of spiritual service;
- celebrate out 10th anniversay countdown with the SSB team of speakers;
- provide a special educational event for our community.

Sunday, September 14, 2008 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Fundraising lunch included (\$10)

PROGRAM

10:30 -10:40 am - Welcome greetings and prayer

10:40 - 10:55 am - Origin and Nature Alba Morales

10:55 - 11:10 am - Properties of the Perispirit Alba Morales

11:10 - 11:30 am - Perception and Sensations Leonardo Vieira

11:30 - 11:50 am - Nourishment & Vital Centers Fabiana Moura

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 - 1:20 pm - Evolution of the perispirit Luis E. Almeida

1:20 - 1:40 pm - Perispirit: Key for Mediumship Celia Batista

1:40 - 2:00 pm - Reincarnation & Perispiritual Memory Carolina Strosnider

2:00 - 2:30 pm - Health, Diseases and Our Perispirit Vanessa Anseloni

An initiative of the Spiritist Society of Baltimore



LOCATION Spiritist Society of Baltimore 22 W Padonia Road Bdg B, Suites 317 Timonium, MD 21093

10th Anniversary Countdown Special Talk

workshop: Smile, your greatest therapy

by Vanessa Anseloni

Sunday, September 28, 2008 (10:30 am – 12 pm)

Followed by passes service* and fundraising lunch

"Peace begins with a smile." - Mother Teresa



What are the spirit-mind-body connection in a smile? Is it possible that practicing smiling more often we may enlighten ours and others' lives as well? This workshop will bring the neurobiological and psychological underpinnings of smiling, while bridging it up with Spiritist teachings regarding Spirit connections and solutions for a fulfilling life for all.

22 W. Padonia Rd -Padonia Plaza Bdg B, Suite 317 Timonium, MD 21093 For more Info: ssb@ssbaltimore.org www.ssbaltimore.org Tel. 410-382-5328

MARRIAGE & REINCARNATION

by Richard Simonetti

Is there karma in marriage? Are there twin souls? What about divorce? Are we supposed to come back in a future life to reconcile with our divorced partner? Mr. Simonetti offers a profound and good-humored insight of marriage and reincarnation in the light of the Spiritist Thought.



Thursday, September 4, 2008 7: 30pm-9: 30pm FREE ADMISSION

Richard Simonetti is one of the best-selling Spiritist writers in Brazil and worldwide. He has many published titles selling out repeated editions. He has brought Spiritistm to the general public in a clear and straightforward language filled with picturesque facts and anedecdotes.

Support our Clothing Donation Drive

Homeless people and low income families need all types of gently used clothing, particularly warm clothes and coats for cold weather, formal clothes (to attend job interviews), and shoes (which frequently wear out). It's helpful if donated clothing is clean, reasonably wrinkle-free, and on hangers.



ACTIVITIES ARE FREE OF CHARGE

FRATERNAL COUNSELING & SPIRITUAL TREATMENT

These services are offered every **Monday** from 6:15pm to 7:45pm.

Mediumship Educational Meetings

(by invitation only)
These meetings take place every
Monday from 8:00pm to
9:30pm for the study and
practice of mediumship
according to Spiritism.

ROADMAP FOR THE SPIRITIST STUDY AND PRACTICE

This meeting is offered for those who are interested in learning Spiritism and also to become Spiritist practitioner.

Thursdays from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

Stay away from inferior conditions; acquire higher understanding.

- Emmanuel/Chico Xavier (Our Daily Bread, Ch.6, p.26)

2008 SSB Calendar - A Look Ahead...

August

3 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist Foundation: Heaven, Hell and Purgatory

by Leonardo Vieira

7 (Thur) - <u>Talk on Kardec's</u> <u>Genesis: Miracles According to</u> <u>Spiritism</u>

by Vanessa Anseloni

10 (Sun) - Family Picnic

14 (Thur) - <u>Talk on Kardec's</u> <u>Genesis: Fluids</u> by Celia Batista

17 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist Foundation: Penal Code of the Life to Come by Luis Almeida

21 (Thur) - Movie Discussion: "2012 The Odyssey"

24 (Sun) -Talk on the Spiritist Foundation: Angels and Demons According to Spiritism by Celia Batista

28 (Thur) - Talk on Kardec's Genesis: Prophecies in the Light of Spiritism by Vanessa Anseloni

31 (Sun) - WORKSHOP: The teen inside of us by Vanessa Anseloni

September

(6-27) EVERY SATURDAY Spiritist Program for Youth and Children (SPYC)

Open House 4:00-5:00pm Class 5:00-6:30pm Reigistration required

4 (Thur) - Special Talk: Marriage and Reincarnation by Richard Simonetti

7 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist Foundation: Crossing Over by Luis E. Almeida

11- Roadmap Program-Spiritism101 & Spiritist Science REGISTRATION REQUIRED

14 (Sun) - First Spiritist Forum of Baltimore Your Spiritual Body. Your Life!

by SSB Team of Speakers

18- Road Map Program-Spiritist 101 & Spiritist Science (7:30pm-9:00pm) REGISTRATION REQUIRED

21 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist Foundation: Universal control of the Spirit teachings

25- Road Map Program-Spiritist 101 & Spiritist Science REGISTRATION REQUIRED

28 (Sun) - <u>WORKSHOP:</u> <u>Smile, your greatest therapy</u> by Vanessa Anseloni

UPCOMING

2008 SUNDAY WORKSHOP SERIES

Free Admission

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Oct 26 - The Therapeutics of Mediumship from A to Z

Nov 16 - E-Z Kit for Healthier Relationships

Spiritist activities for **CHILDREN**above 4 years old are provided, while
parents attend workshop

Followed by lunch \$10/person

Healthy, organic meals freshly prepared!

OUR SERVICES LOCATION

22 W. Padonia Rd - *Padonia Plaza* Bdg B, Suite 317 Timonium, MD 21093

Please, contact us for more info.

Phone: 410-382-5328 or 410-837-0991 e-mail: ssb@ssbaltimore.org