

SpiritistNews

Year 6, Issue 6, Nov/December 2008



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Published by



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The Purpose of Life

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Intuition of Future Punishments

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The Purpose of Incarnation

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Universal Law

(...) Humans by nature desire to be happy and they only seek progress to increase their happiness, without which progress would have no objective. What would be the value of progress for them if the goal was not to improve their conditions? (...)

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New Year's Letter

Emmanuel

New Year is also the renovation of our opportunity to learn, work, and serve.

As a paternal friend, time reincarnates in the body of the calendar. And it opens brighter horizons for the needed ascension.

Remember that the year starts over again as a new day asking you to fulfill old resolutions, the ones that you did not have courage to accomplish.

If you have enemies, work throughout the hours to open the path of reconciliation.

If you were offended, forgive, so love sheds light onto the pathway ahead of you.

If you rested too much, go back to the plow of your duties and sow goodness fearlessly in the forthcoming harvest.

If sadness calls you, forget it and look for the serene joy of a happy conscience in the fulfilled duty.

New Year! New Day!

Smile to those who have hurt you, and seek harmony with the ones who still do not understand you.

Remember that there is more ignorance than evil around your life.

Do not either curse or condemn.

Help enlightening the pathway of those around you who are in uneasy darkness.

Do not either get discouraged or sorrowful.

Cultivate hope in those who are suffering the coldness of disenchantment or indifference.

Do not forget that Jesus has never been in despair with us.

As an occult friend by our side, he patient and kindly repeats to us always:

"Love and serve always. Help others, helping yourself, because tomorrow I will be with you waiting for the sweet joy of your open heart."

In the book *Vida e Caminho through the Mediumship of Francisco Cândido Xavier*.



THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

This being understood, we find some order established in the prevailing chaos and are able to see daylight ahead. The aim of life is rendered more intelligible: we at least know what we are, and whether we go.

Henceforth material pleasure will cease to be our object, and an ardent endeavour towards self-improvement will take its place. The supreme aim is perfection: the road that leads to it is the road of self-improvement. The road is long, and progress is infinitely slow. The distant end appears to recede as one approaches it, but as each successive stage is grained, some reward is reaped for each difficulty overcome; a reward which takes the form of an enriched experience and an enlarged capacity.

Our destinies are all identical. There are no privileged nor cursed beings. All must trudge the same tremendous road: and all, despite a thousand obstacles, are called upon to share in the same ultimate destiny. We are free to be sure! Free to accelerate or to delay our progress; free to steep ourselves in vulgar enjoyment; free to squander away entire existences in vice and sloth; but sooner or later the sense of duty will awaken, then will pain quicken our apathy, and we shall find ourselves obliged to take up our burdens and move on.

Between one soul and another, there is but the difference of a degree – a difference that the future will find opportunity to erase. In making use of our free-will, we have not all traveled the same road, thence arises the intellectual and moral disparity amongst men. But we, all of us, children of the same Father, must perforce gather closer to Him in the succession of our lives; and so finally resolve ourselves into one family: the great family of spirits, with which the whole universe is peopled.

The world has no longer room for such conceptions as an eternal Paradise or an endless Hell. In the great workshop of space we find nothing but active beings pursuing their education and striving by their own endeavour to fit themselves for the universal harmony. By these deeds each prepare his own place, and the consequences of these deeds revert to him, binding and enthralling him. When his life has been the plaything of passion and sterile

of good results, the being is lowered and his good standing accordingly sinks. To wash these stains away he must seek reincarnation in worlds of trial, that suffering may purify him. This purification accomplished, his evolution will begin again. There are no eternal trials; but the trials must be in just proportion to the sins committed.

We have no other judge and no other executioner than our conscience; but when this conscience is liberated from the bonds of matter, it becomes imperious and persistent. In the moral as in the physical order there is nothing beyond cause and effect, these are ordained by a sovereign, immutable and unerring law. That which we may ignorantly deem an injustice of fate is but the reparation exacted for past transgressions. Human fate is the settlement of the debt contracted by ourselves unto the law.

Our actual life is therefore the direct and inevitable outcome of our anterior lives, just as our future life will be the resultant of our present actions. When the soul comes to animate a new body it brings with it, at each rebirth, the accumulation of its qualities and defects, all the good and evil harvests that we sown in the past. So, in the succession of our lives, we construct our moral edifice with our own hands, we build up our future, we prepare the environment in which we are to be reborn, the site that we are to occupy.

With the law of reincarnation, sovereign justice shines upon the worlds. Each being in possession of reason and conscience becomes the contriver of his fate. He forges or shatters at will the chains that rivet him to matter. The pitiful condition of some men is thus explicable, for each guilty life must be redeemed. The hour tolls when the proud soul must be born again in humble or servile condition, when the idle spirit must submit to painful labour. He, who has caused another to suffer, will in his turn likewise suffer.

But the soul is not bound for ever to this lowly planet; when it has acquired the necessary qualities it departs for more enlightened worlds. It traverses the fields of space bedewed with stars and suns. Amongst the multitudes that people infinity, a place for it will be found.

Still progressing in this new environment, the soul will endlessly add to its store of moral wealth and knowledge. After an incalculable number of deaths and rebirths, of falls and ascents, finally delivered from reincarnation, it will enter into the enjoyment of the heavenly life, where it will share in the direction of beings and worlds, contributing by its own deeds to the universal harmony and to the fulfillment of the divine plans.

Such is the mystery of Psyche, the human soul. Engraved upon it, the soul bears the law of its own destiny, to learn to decipher the precepts and to unravel the mystery of which constitutes the true science of life. Each spark gathered from the divine fire, each conquest over self, with its desires and egotism, fill it with ineffable joy, greater in proportion to the greatness of the difficulty overcome. Such is our promised heaven, and this heaven is not remote, for we have it within us. Happiness or remorse, power or degradation – these all, consequences of his deeds, has man ever with him, imbedded in his deepest self. These voices, harsh or melodious, that stir within him, are the faithful interpreters of the eternal laws; their volume grows greater as he rises higher on the road of self-improvement.

The soul is a world: a world in which light and shade are still intermingled; the more closely we study it the more we marvel. In its folds lie the germs of all power, waiting the fecundating hour to spring forth in sheaves of light. As the soul becomes purer, its perceptions increase. All that which delights us in its present condition, gifts of talent or flashes of genius, are insignificant indeed compared to what it will some day acquire, when it attains to the higher planes. Vast already are its hidden resources: its inner essence, subtle and varied, source of keen impressions, the exercise of which is ever hindered by the clumsy body, its envelope. Some transcendental souls alone, detached by anticipation from earthly things and purified by self-sacrifice, have been allowed a divine foretaste. But they have found no words wherewith to describe their rapture, and men in their blind ignorance of the soul's true nature and of the treasures it conceals, have scoffed at that which they name illusion and fantasy.

- *Léon Denis*

(In: Here and Hereafter, Part II, Chap 12, SAB 2003)

Intuition of Future Punishments

In all ages, man has intuitively believed that his future life will be happy or unhappy according to the good or the evil done by him in the earthly life; but the idea he forms to himself of that future state of existence is always in keeping with the development of his moral sense and with more or less enlightened views of right and wrong at which he has arrived. Thus his idea of the rewards and punishments of the future is always the reflex of his predominant tendencies. Warlike nations make the supreme felicity to consist in the honors done to valor; tribes who live by hunting, in an abundance of game; peoples addicted to sensuality, in voluptuous pleasures. While man remains under the domination of materiality, he can have only an imperfect comprehension of spirit life; he supposes that he will eat and drink, in the other world, as he does in this one, but better things. At a later period, we find in the beliefs of mankind concerning the future a mixture of spirituality and materiality; and accordingly, besides a *heaven* of contemplative beatitude, man then places a *hell* with its array of physical tortures.

Being unable to conceive of anything that he does not see, the man of the primitive period naturally formed his notion of the future based on the present; in order to comprehend the possibility of other modes of existence than those which he saw around him, he would have needed an intellectual development which he could only acquire in the course of ages. The picture that he imagined to himself of the chastisements of the future life was, therefore, only a reflex of the ills of human existence, but deepened and intensified. He brought together, into that picture, all the tortures, all the sufferings, all the afflictions that he saw upon the Earth; in hot climates, he imagined a hell of fire, and, in the cold ones, a hell of ice. The special sense which, at a later period, enables him to comprehend the spiritual world, not being yet developed, he could only conceive of physical penalties; and for this reason, with the exception of some slight differences of form, the “hell” of all religions is the same.

- Heaven and Hell by Allan Kardec, Chap. IV

“Examine how much time you devote each day to your spiritual life. The body needs care to live, but so does the soul.”

From the book *Happy Life* by Joanna de Angelis / Divaldo Franco

THE PURPOSE OF INCARNATION

What is the purpose of the incarnation of spirits?

“God imposes incarnation for the purpose of leading spirits to perfection: for some, it is an expiation; for others, a mission. However, in order to reach this perfection, *they must undergo all of the vicissitudes of corporeal existence* - therein lies their expiation. Incarnation also has a further objective, which is to place spirits in conditions where they can do their share in the work of creation. On each world, they clothe themselves with an instrument which is in harmony with the essential matter of that world in order to execute in that instrument the orders of God. In this way, while contributing to the general work, they progress at the same time.”

The action of corporeal beings is necessary to the evolution of the universe, but out of divine wisdom God has willed that in this same action they might have a means of progressing and drawing near to God. Thus, through an admirable law of divine providence, everything is connected and everything in nature is in solidarity.

Is incarnation necessary for the spirits who have followed the path of goodness from the beginning?

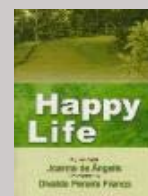
“All are created simple and ignorant, gaining instruction through the struggles and tribulations of corporeal life. Since God is just, God would not make some blissful without their having deserved it through hardship and work.”

— *But then what good does it do for spirits to follow the path of morality if it does not exempt them from the hardships of corporeal life?*

“They reach the goal more quickly. Besides, the hardships of life are often consequences of a spirit’s imperfections; the more purified it becomes, the fewer torments it will suffer. Those who are not envious, jealous, greedy or ambitious will not have to endure the torments that result from such defects.”

- The Spirits’ Book by Allan Kardec, q/a 132-133

To lead a balanced life
you need answers.



**Happy
Life**

Divaldo Franco/
Joanna de
Angelis

This book is for your day-to-day use. With beautiful inspirational messages, each page of this little book brings joy and comfort to all events of life.

UNIVERSAL LAW

The progress of humankind has as its principle the practical application of the law of justice, love, and charity, and this law is founded on the certainty of the future.

Take away that certainty and you take away its cornerstone. All others are derived from this law, because it entails all the conditions of human happiness. It alone can cure the afflictions of society, and we can judge this by comparing various eras and *peoples*, since their conditions improve as this law is better understood and better applied.

In addition, if a partial and incomplete application has produced such a real benefit, what will happen when all the social institutions take it as their basis? Could that be possible? Yes. Those who have advanced ten steps can advance twenty, and so on. We can evaluate the future based on the past.

We are already seeing that the hostilities among peoples are decreasing little by little; that the barriers that separate them fall with civilization; that they are joining hands from one end of the world to the other; that more justice presides over international laws; that wars are becoming rarer and no longer exclude humane sentiments; that uniformity is being established in relations; that race and caste distinctions are disappearing and humans of different beliefs are silencing sectarian prejudices so that they may unite in the worship of one and the same God. We are speaking of the peoples that are at the forefront of civilization. Under all aspects we are still far from perfection, and there is still much old residue to destroy before the last vestiges of barbarity disappear.

However, will those vestiges be able to withstand the irresistible power of progress and that living force which in itself is a law of nature? If the present generation is more advanced than the last, why should not the next be more advanced than ours? It will in fact be so through the force of things: first, because with each generation, a few champions of the old abuses are dying out every day, and thus society is increasingly being composed of new members who are free of the old prejudices; second, because in desiring progress, humans study the obstacles and employ their efforts to overcome them – evolution is incontestable and future progress cannot be put in doubt.

Humans by nature desire to be happy and they only seek progress to increase their happiness, without which progress would have no objective. What would be the value of progress for them if the goal was not to improve their conditions? However, after attaining the happiness that intellectual progress can offer them, they will perceive that such happiness is not complete. They will recognize that such bliss is impossible without the security and harmony in social relationships that can be found only in moral progress. Thus, by the force of circumstances, they themselves will drive progress, and Spiritism will offer them the most powerful means for reaching that goal.

The Spirits" Book by Allan Kardec, Conclusion, item IV.

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES

*Drench your mind in study,
as much as possible.*

*Study frees the mind from ignorance
and develops discernment.*

*Study and work are the wings that
further evolution.*

*Knowledge is the message of life.
Learning is not limited to the class-
room. Life itself is an open book that
teaches those willing to learn.*

Always live in peace.

*A clear conscience, without remorse
for past acts or fear of the future,
creates harmony.*

*Nothing from outside can disturb a
tranquil heart, which beats to the
rhythm of duty honestly done.*

*Peace is worth whatever you must do
to achieve it.*

Never lose hope.

*Whatever may happen, keep believing.
If everything is against you, and failure
threatens you with despair, even then
expect divine assistance.*

*Only what is best for us happens.
The law of God is the law of love.
And love can do everything and
does do everything.*

*When you think that help will not
arrive in time, if you continue hoping,
you will happily discover that
it reached you minutes before the disaster.
The person who despairs has already
lost part of the battle he was going to
fight, and goes forward at a disadvantage.*

Book *Happy Live* by Joanna de Angelis/Divaldo Franco



*Patience is a virtue which will help
you acquire the goods of the body, soul,
and society.*

*It teaches us how to wait when we
cannot immediately get what we want.*

Never be irritated.

*Patience will help you overcome
everything.*

Book *Happy Live* by Joanna de Angelis/Divaldo Franco

Who was Chico Xavier?

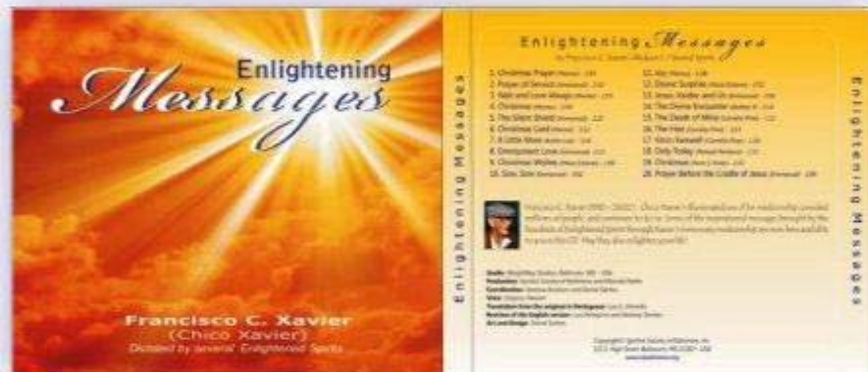


Francisco Candido Xavier (1910-2002), popularly called Chico Xavier, was born in Brazil, where he became one of its most respected and renowned humanitarians. Recognized by his magnificent charitable work, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980. He devoted his whole life to the Spiritist message, according to Allan Kardec's books, which gave him guidance and foundation to become the most prolific Spiritist writing medium, channeling more than 400 books from poetry to profound scientific and spiritual knowledge. He altruistically donated all the proceeds of the books to charitable organizations and never charged anyone for his mediumistic abilities. Chico Xavier's illuminated use of his mediumship consoled millions of people, and continues to do so. Some of the inspirational messages brought by the hundreds of Enlightened Spirits through Xavier's missionary mediumship are now here available to you in this CD. May they also enlighten your life!

ENLIGHTENING MESSAGES CD Tracks

1. Christmas Prayer (Meimei) 3:34
2. Prayer of Service (Emmanuel) 2:32
3. Wait and Love Always (Meimei) 2:53
4. Christmas (Meimei) 2:59
5. The Silent Shield (Emmanuel) 2:25
6. Christmas Card (Meimei) 3:12
7. A Little More (Andre Luiz) 3:14
8. Omnipotent Love (Emmanuel) 3:13
9. Christmas Wishes (Maria Dolores) 2:06
10. Sow, Sow (Emmanuel) 3:02
11. Joy (Meimei) 1:38
12. Divine Surprise (Maria Dolores) 2:52
13. Jesus, Kardec and Us (Emmanuel) 3:00
14. The Divine Encounter (Brother X) 6:14
15. The Death of Mina. (Cornélio Pires) 1:12
16. The Hoe (Cornélio Pires) 1:13
17. Vito's Farewell (Cornélio Pires) 1:10
18. Only Today (Manuel Monteiro) 1:32
19. Christmas (Irene S. Pinto) 1:53
20. Prayer Before the Cradle of Jesus (Emmanuel) 2:09

New Release Enlightening Messages to enlighten your holidays



Enlightening Messages

by Francisco C. Xavier/Several Spirits

This is the first CD on Francisco C. Xavier's prayers. Enlightening Messages contains the very inspiration that everyone needs in today's world.

Francisco C. Xavier illuminated use of his mediumship consoled millions of lives, and continues to do so. In this CD, you will find messages that Mr. Xavier channeled from the caring and loving Spirits Emmanuel, Meimei, Maria Dolores, Andre Luiz, and many others.

This CD is also perfect for the Holiday season!

SSB Activities

Workshop:

Keeping an Eye on Miracles

by Vanessa Anseloni

**Sunday, Dec 21, 2008
(10:30 am – 12 pm)**

Followed by passes service* and fundraising lunch



"There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle." – Albert Einstein

In this workshop, we will unfold the Spiritist view on miracles and how it can change our lives.

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

For more Info:
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Tel. 410-382-5328

SPIRITUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE!

Come and join us in especially spiritual moments in celebration to the transition of the year!

**Wednesday, Dec 31, 2008
10pm – 12:20am
FREE ADMISSION**



RE M I N D E R - 2009

Talks and Workshops will be on
SATURDAYS
From 6pm - 7:30pm



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)

SSB Calendar - A Look Ahead...

December

4 (Thur) - Roadmap for the Spiritist
Study and Practice

7 (Sun) - 3RD ART &
SPIRITUALITY

11 (Thur) - Roadmap for the
Spiritist Study and Practice

14 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist
Foundation: Seek and You will
Find

18 (Thur) - Roadmap for the
Spiritist Study and Practice

21 (Sun) - WORKSHOP:
Keeping an eye on miracles
by Vanessa Anseloni

25 (Thur) - Roadmap for the
Spiritist Study and Practice

Wednesday, Dec. 31

@ 10 pm - 12:20 am
New Year!

SPIRITUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE!

Come and join us in especially
spiritual moments in celebration
to the transition of the year!

January 2009

3 (SAT) - Closed

8 (Thur) - Advancements on
Passes for SSB Spiritist
Practitioners, 7:30pm -9pm

10 (SAT) - Talk (TBA) 6pm -
7:00pm

15 (Thur) - Advancements on
Passes for SSB Spiritist
Practitioners, 7:30pm -9pm

17 (SAT) - Special Talk:
Spirituality for Youth
by Nahur Fonseca, PhD and
Fernanda Ferreira, MA
6pm - 7:30pm

22 (Thur) - Fraternal Counseling
Training for SSB Spiritist
Practitioners - 7:30pm -9pm

24 (SAT) - Talk (TBA) 6pm -
7:00pm

29 (Thur) - Fraternal Counseling
Training for SSB Spiritist
Practitioners 7:30pm -9pm

31(SAT) - Workshop -
Hope: Pathway to Healing
by Vanessa Anseloni
6pm - 7:30pm
followed by fundraising Dinner

UPCOMING

2008 /09 SUNDAY WORKSHOP SERIES

Free Admission

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Dec 21 - Keeping an eye on
miracles

Jan 31 - Hope: pathway to
healing

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.

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e-mail: ssb@ssbaltimore.org