

SpiritistNews

Year 6, Issue 5, September/October 2008



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Our 10-Year Anniversary

It went by so fast! It looks like yesterday, when the first seeds of the Spiritist teachings were planted in Baltimore. It was around October 15, 1998 when the first meeting happened with only five attendees at Vanessa Anseloni's apartment building located at 5 North Charles Street, Downtown Baltimore, MD. For that occasion, Vanessa invited a special couple, Jorge Godinho e Antonia Helena to help in the organization of the meetings.

Time went by and the small group grew fast. Several people joined the group, some with real interest in learning, other just for curiosity. After 6 months, the group transferred its study sessions to a little but cousy room at the Student Union building of the University of Maryland. The meetings were initially conducted in Portuguese, they happened every Tuesday from 7:30-9pm. Jorge Godinho, current Brazilian Secretary of Defense and General of the Brazilian Air Force, proposed the Systematic Study on the Spiritist Doctrine organized by the Brasilina Spiritist Federation (FEB). The proposal was totally accepted once it would lay the foundation for the new group.

In 2001, Vanessa Anseloni was inspired to start the first Spiritist workshop series in English in



another location called Ruscombe Mansion. In that year, the Portuguese-speaking group called Paul of Tarsus Spiritist Group finally incorporated as the Spiritist Society of Baltimore (SSB).

To date, the SSB is a Spiritist Center with its own headquarters and it carries several activities from Children and Youth to Adult Spiritist Education. Thanks to the Spirits Benefactors, which never got tired of helping and guiding us, we accomplished this milestone: our 10th anniversary!

1st U.S. Peace and You Movement

The Peace and You Movement is a civil movement, apolitical and with no religious affiliation. Its objective is to prompt all segments of Society, citizens and collective organizations - civil, religious and government - to pay attention to the critical question of social peace and harmony. In this way, the Movement hopes to accelerate the building of progress in all forms supported by accepted universal notions of ethics, of good customs, of rights and solidarity, as a means of eliminating arbitrary exclusions and to promote social richness, life and balance by peaceful coexistence.

This is not a movement against anything in particular, but rather, a movement in favor of peace, goodness, order, and fraternity, to name a few.

The Peace and You Movement came to life in 1998 through Divaldo Pereira Franco's initiative. A renowned medium, with more than 200 psychographed books, Divaldo was the founder of the Pathway to Redemption Spiritist Center and the 'Mansão do Caminho' (Mansion of the Way). Orator and conferencist, Divaldo has participated in more than 13,000 events, in Brazil and in 60 countries worldwide.

The Movement takes place once a year, on December 19th, a date that is close to the Christmas celebrations. Its goal is to expose the public to the Movement's objectives and encourage the public to come out and participate. For this to happen, a marketing campaign using all means available (the press, TV, internet, expositions, interviews, meetings, etc.) helps disseminate information.

The first Peace and You in the world happened in 1998 in the presence of 5,000 people at the Praça do Campo Grande, Salvador, Bahia - Brazil. On the year after, 10, 000 people participated. Today, more than 25,000 people participate. More recently, the Peace and You movement has spread out to other cities in Brazil as well as in other countries (United States, Spain, Portugal, France).



Divaldo Franco

"This is not a movement against anything in particular, but rather, a movement in favor of peace, goodness, order, and fraternity, to name a few."

-Divaldo Franco

Charity understood by Jesus



What is the true meaning of the word charity as Jesus understood it?

“Benevolence towards everyone, indulgence towards the imperfections of others and forgiveness for offenses.”

Love and charity supplement the law of justice, because loving our neighbors is to do them all the good possible, all that we would wish to be done to ourselves. Such is the meaning of Jesus' words: “Love one another as brothers”.

Charity, according to Jesus, is not restricted to alms-giving, but embraces all our relations with our fellow humans, whether in situations below, equal or superior to our own. It orders us to be indulgent, because we need indulgence ourselves, and it forbids us to humiliate the unfortunate, contrary to what is commonly

practiced. If a wealthy person seeks us out, we regard him or her with an excess of consideration and attention, but if it is a poor person, it does not seem that we should even bother with him or her. However, the more pitiable the situation of the latter, the more we should refrain from increasing his or her disgrace through humiliation. Those who are truly charitable seek to elevate those in lower positions in their own estimation, thereby diminishing the distance between both.

Jesus also taught: “Love your enemies”. But isn't loving our enemies contrary to our natural tendencies, and doesn't enmity proceed from a lack of sympathy between spirits?

“Undoubtedly, it is not possible to show tender and passionate love towards one's enemies, and that is not what he wanted to say. Loving one's enemies means to forgive them and to return good for their evil. It is thus that we evolve; by vengeance, we only place ourselves beneath them.”

What is to be thought of alms-giving?

“Those who are reduced to beg for alms morally and physically degrade themselves into an existence that brutalizes them. In a society based on the law of God and justice, it should provide for the life of the *weak* without humiliating them. It should assure an existence for those who cannot work, without leaving them *at the mercy of chance* and goodwill.”

- The Spirits' Book Q/A 886-888.

A Peaceful Person

The violent end up exterminating each other or themselves.

A peaceful attitude resolves any belligerent situation, if love commands those involved.

In order to end a situation, every reaction needs to deal with the cause that set it off.

If this cause is violence, only its antidote, prudence, can get rid of it.

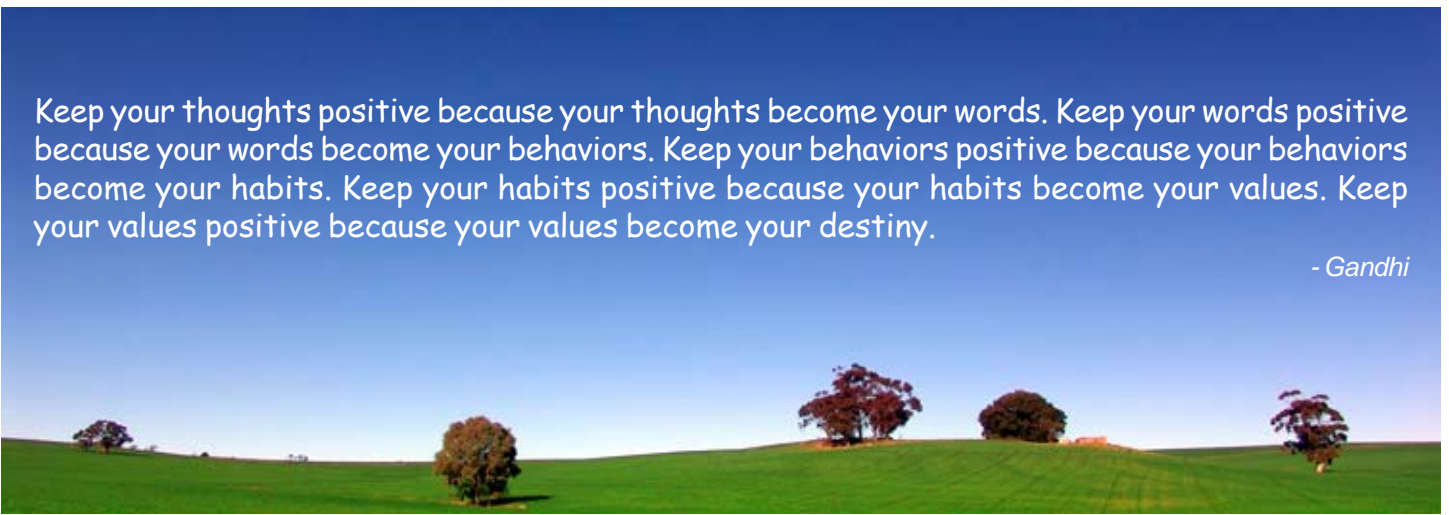
A peaceful person calms another; the two of them change the behavior of a group, which in turn can modify a community, and so on.

Do your part to end violence.

Happy Life by Joanna de Angelis/Divaldo Franco

Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behaviors. Keep your behaviors positive because your behaviors become your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.

- Gandhi



HAPPINESS



IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

Man­kind in gen­eral, from all walks of soci­ety, is con­stantly com­plain­ing ei­ther that he is not happy, or that hap­pi­ness was not made for him. This, dear brothers and sis­ters, proves bet­ter than any pos­si­ble form of rea­soning the truth of the max­im from the book of Ec­clesi­as­tics: ‘Hap­pi­ness is not of this world.’ In­deed, not riches, power or even the blossom of youth are es­sen­tial con­di­tions for hap­pi­ness. Fur­ther­more, not even by uniting these three el­e­ments, so de­sired by many, can hap­pi­ness be as­sured be­cause we are con­stantly hear­ing of peo­ple of all ages, even those from the most pri­vil­e­ged classes, bit­terly com­plain­ing of the situ­a­tion in which they find them­selves.

Be­fore this fact it is in­con­ceiv­able that the mi­li­tant and work­ing classes envy, with great an­xi­ety, the po­si­tions of those who are ap­par­ently fa­vored by for­tu­ne. In this world, de­spite what any­one can do, each must face his own part of work and mi­se­ry, his quota of suf­fer­ing and de­cep­tions, from which it is easy to reach the con­clu­sion that the Earth is a plan­et of tri­als and at­one­ment.

So then, those who preach that the Earth is Man’s only home, and that it is here dur­ing only one ex­is­tence he must reach the high­est level of hap­pi­ness pos­si­ble to his na­ture, are merely delud­ing them­selves and those who listen to them, see­ing that it has been demon­strated through multi-sec­u­lar ex­per­i­ences that only in ex­cep­tional cases can this globe offer the nec­essary con­di­tions for com­plete hap­pi­ness for any one in­di­vid­ual. In gen­eral terms, it is pos­si­ble to af­firm that hap­pi­ness is a Utopia, whose con­quest has been striven af­ter by suc­cessive gen­er­a­tions with­out their ever hav­ing been able to reach their ob­jec­tive. If the sen­sible man or woman is a rar­ity in the world, then the ab­so­lutely happy per­son has never been found.

Hap­pi­ness on Earth con­sists of some­thing so fleet­ing for those who are not guided by wis­dom, that but for a year, a month or a

week of com­plete sat­is­fac­tion the rest of their ex­is­tence is a series of bit­ter de­cep­tions. And note, dear chil­dren, that I refer to those who are con­sidered the lucky ones of the Earth, those who are the envy of the masses.

Con­se­quently, if the earth­ly dwell­ing-place is specif­ically for tri­als and at­one­ment, then we are forced to admit that some­where there are more fa­vor­able dwell­ing places where the Spirit, al­though still a pri­soner in a ma­te­rial body, may pos­sess the de­lights of hu­man life in all its full­ness. This is the rea­son why God has planted those beau­ti­ful su­pe­rior plan­ets in your vor­tex, to­wards which your ef­forts and ten­den­cies will one day cause you to gra­vi­tate, when you have be­come suf­fi­ciently pur­ified and per­fected.

How­ever, do not deduce from my words that the Earth is per­petually des­tined to re­main a pen­itentiary. No, cer­tainly not! From the progress that has al­ready been achieved we may read­ily in­fer fur­ther pro­gres­sion, and from the var­ious so­cial bet­ter­ments ob­tained, new and more fer­tile im­prove­ments. This is the im­mense task al­lotted to this new doc­trine which the Spir­its have re­vealed.

So then, dear chil­dren, may you be animated by a saintly emu­la­tion so that you may ener­getically change your ways. Every­one should de­dic­ate them­selves to the prop­a­gation of Spiritism, which has al­ready be­gun your own re­gen­er­a­tion. It is your duty to help your brothers and sis­ters to partic­ipate in the rays of this sacred light. Ac­cord­ingly set to work, dear chil­dren! Let us hope that within this so­lemn re­union all hearts may as­pire to this great ob­jec­tive, which is to pre­pare a world for fu­ture gen­er­a­tions where the word hap­pi­ness is no longer mean­ingless.

- FRANÇOIS-NICOLAS-MADELEINE,
Cardinal MORLOT (Paris, 1863).

In: The Gospel According Spiritism by Allan Kardec, Chap 5, item 20.

The Spiritist Magazine - Commemorative Edition (1858 - 2008)

One hundred and fifty years ago, the founder of the Spiritist Magazine (Revue Spirite) stated, “We cannot contest the usefulness of a special periodical that informs the public about the progress of this new science [Spiritism] and also protects this public against the excesses of credulity and skepticism. It is precisely this gap that we would like to fill with the publishing of this magazine, that intends to offer a communications media to all who are interested in these questions, connecting through a common thread those who understand the Doctrine of the Spirits under its true moral point of view: to do good and to exercise Christ-consciousness charity with all people.”

In this commemorative special issue, dear reader, we celebrate 150 years of the launching of the Spiritist Magazine as we dive into new concepts of wellness and health. You will find a precious collection of six foundational articles written by Allan Kardec; some of them from day one of the Revue Spirite. You will also be inspired by the uplifting and incredible insights on the binomial health-disease, forgiveness, tools to prevent and treat depression, and a revolutionary model of integrative doctor.

May this issue boost your wellness as it provides new resources to help you achieve conscious pursuit of living life to its fullest potential.

- Vanessa Anseloni (Editor-in-chief)



First U.S. Peace and You Movement com Divaldo Franco

Transform Your Health With Inner Peace

Last October 19, in the city of Baltimore, MD – USA, Divaldo Franco launched the First United States Peace and You Movement (www.peaceandyou.net), which was organized by the Spiritist Society of Baltimore (www.ssbaltimore.org) that was also celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The event entitled **Transform Your Health With Inner Peace** had among its guest speakers, the renowned scientist Dr. Gary Schwartz, the writer and broadcaster Zohara Meyerhoff Hieronimus, the reverend and spiritual leader Dr. Jeffrey Proctor and the co-founder of the Spiritist Society of Baltimore and advisor of the Brazilian Spiritist Federation, the General of the Brazilian Air Force Jorge Godinho Nery. The synchronicity of the speakers enchanted the public as each one bridged health, peace, and spirituality.

The historical event was closed by Divaldo Franco, Ambassador of Peace, in a moving award ceremony. Assisted by the interpreters Daniel Benjamin and Daniel Assis, Mr. Franco concluded saying, “When someone succeeds, society as a whole succeeds. And in Jesus words, ‘I give you my peace.’ What peace is this? It is a tranquil conscience, a good character, and noble actions. Only noble actions can translate good character. A noble character is consequence of a peaceful conscience. May peace be with you! Go in peace! And wherever you may be, sow peace. One day, in the enlightened dawn, when pain has retreated from Earth, your peace will be the song that now we sing world peace begins with you.”



(Left to right) Jorge Godinho Nery, Jeffrey Proctor, Vanessa Anseloni, Divaldo Franco, Zohara Meyerhoff Hieronimus and Gary Schwartz.



Medicine and Spiritual Healing in CT

The historical event entitled Medicine and Spiritual Healing (www.medicineandspirituality.org) happened on October 18 in the city of Norwalk, Connecticut – USA. The invited speakers were the renowned Brazilian Spiritist speaker, medium, and humanitarian Divaldo Franco and the best-selling author of Love, Medicine, and Miracles, Bernie Siegel, MD. The event was sponsored by the Hospital of Norwalk and organized by the physicians Dr. Cláudio Petrillo and Dr. Silvia Knoploch. Medicine and Spiritual Healing gathered a historical number of one thousand people, Americans in its majority.

Dr. Bernie Siegel opened the program by sharing insights from his compassionate medical practice with cancer patients. One of the highlights of his presentation was the analysis of his patient's drawings, as part of his revolutionary medical approach. Then, Divaldo Franco (assisted by the interpreter Daniel Benjamin) enchanted the public with his eloquent, charismatic, and profound lecture, which united vast knowledge of Sciences and Philosophies, while approaching the topic of Health and Spirituality.

After a question-and-answer session, the speakers commented on each other's talk. Divaldo Franco closed the event talking about Dr. Siegel's legacy, "Dr. Siegel is the great apostle of compassion in his medical practice." The humble and noble attitude of Mr. Franco deeply moved the public, which in turn gave him a standing ovation, one that lasted several minutes. After that, Mr. Franco offered Dr. Siegel a copy of the The Spirits' Book.



Second U.S. Spiritist Medical Congress in FL

The Second U.S. Spiritist Medical Congress took place in Fort Lauderdale, FL in October 3-5. The meeting was supported by the International Spiritist Medical Association (ISMA), the United States Spiritist Council (USSC), the U.S. Spiritist Medical Association, and sponsored by Lar Fabiano de Cristo and the Spiritist Federation of Florida.

Three hundred and fifty people attended the meeting with great enthusiasm. The theme Bridging Medicine and Spirituality was approached by speakers from Brazil, USA, Argentina, Colombia, Panama, India, and England. Among them were: Melvin Morse, MD; Marlene Nobre, MD; Sonia Doi, MD; Cesar Geremia, MD; Vanessa Anseloni, PsyD, PhD, Fabio Nasri, MD; Decio Iandoli Jr., MD; Fabio Villarraga, MD; Julio Peres, PhD; Amit Goswami, PhD; Christina Puchalski, MD; Uma Krishnamurthy; Sabino Antonio Luna, MD; Peter Fenwick, MD; and Maria da Graca Ender, MD. The DVDs of the lectures are already available.

The U.S. Spiritist Medical Association supported by the USSC and ISMA plans on launching the next congress in 2010. For more information, please go to <http://www.sma-us.org/>.



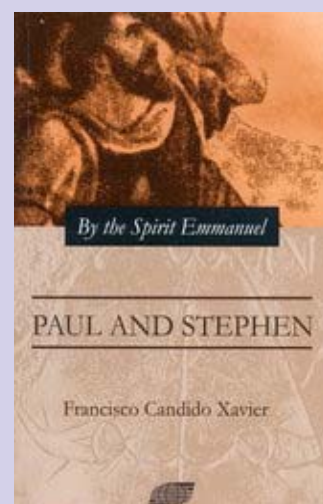
PAUL AND STEPHEN

by Emmanuel and F.C. Xavier

The spirit Emmanuel describes one of the most emblematic moments of early Christianity: the story of Paul of Tarsus, better known as Saint Paul. The richness of the narrative takes the reader to the Galilee of twenty centuries ago, revealing the spiritual events behind the expansion of Christianity.

Synopsis

How did an old man's trip to the market to buy fish and vegetables lead to a chain of cause and effect events that would change the religious face of the world forever? Who was Paul of Tarsus? A fanatical Pharisee and ruthless persecutor of Christians and the newborn Christian doctrine? Or a being predestined by divine choice, who converted upon receiving the gift of the apparition of Jesus in a glorious vision at the gates of Damascus? This book will show the reader the greatness of Paul of Tarsus, a courageous, daring and sincere man, who repented for radical posture that culminated in the stoning of Christianity's first martyr, Stephen, and who humbly undertook the accelerated revision of his ideas in answer to Jesus' call. Amid persecutions, infirmities, mockery, disillusionment, desertions by friends, stonings, beatings and imprisonments, he transformed his life into an example of labor through dozens of years of struggle by founding churches and rendering them assistance. At some point in our lives, we all receive Christ's call. What have we done? Paul And Stephen will enable the reader to understand how love erases a multitude of wrongs. (672 pages).



SSB Activities

Workshop: **E-Z Kit for Healthier Relationships** by Vanessa Anseloni

**Sunday, Nov 23, 2008
(10:30 am – 12 pm)**

Followed by passes service* and fundraising lunch



This workshop will bring a multidisciplinary view to empower you and your relationships as you learn hands-on spiritual tools to make your relationships healthier.

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

For more Info:
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UNPUZZLING TODAY'S CRISIS

by Raul Teixeira, PhD



Raul Teixeira, PhD is a Brazilian Spiritist medium who wrote 28 books through automatic writing mediumship. As an internationally acclaimed speaker, he has travelled to more than 40 countries delivering the inspirational message of Love and Compassion. Dr. Teixeira is also a physicist with a PhD in Education. He also holds a professor position at "Universidade Federal Fluminense" in Brazil. Raul Teixeira founded the Fraternity Spiritist Society and the Fraternal Retreat which gives free medical, dental, psychological, and educational care to hundreds of at-risk youth, children and their families in Brazil.

**Wednesday, Nov 12, 2008
7:30 – 9:30pm
FREE ADMISSION**

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...

October

**2 (Thur) - Roadmap for the
Spiritist Study and Practice -
Reincarnation**

**5 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist
Foundation: Plurality of
Inhabited Worlds**

**9 (Thur) - Roadmap for the
Spiritist Study and Practice -
Study of the Book NOSSO LAR**

**11 (Sat) - Talk on the Spiritist
Foundation: The cause of earthly
miseries**

**12 (Sun) - SSB PRACTITIONERS'
RETREAT**

**16 (Thur) - Roadmap for the
Spiritist Study and Practice -
Multitude of the Inhabited
Planets**

**19 (Sun) - 1ST PEACE AND YOU
MOVEMENT with Divaldo Franco
And the 10 YEAR SSB
CELEBRATION**

**23 (Thur) - Communication with
Spirits**

**26 (Sun) WORKSHOP:
The Therapeutics of
Mediumship from A to Z by
Vanessa Anseloni
& HALLOWEEN FUN LUNCH**

**30 (Thur) - Roadmap for the
Spiritist Study and Practice -
Obsession**

November

**2 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist
Foundation: Present Cause of
Sufferings - Fabina Moura**

**6 (Thur) - Roadmap for the
Spiritist Study and Practice -
Study of the Book: Message from
a Teen in Spirit World**

**9 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist
Foundation: Past cause of
Sufferings - Luis Almeida**

**12 (Wed) SPECIAL TALK:
UNPUZZLING TODAY'S CRISIS
by Raul Teixeira, PhD**

13 (Thur) - SSB Closed

**16 (Sun) - Talk on the Spiritist
Foundation: Human and Divine
Faith - Celia Batista**

**20 (Thur) - Spiritism 101 &
Spiritist Science**

**23 (Sun) - WORKSHOP: E-Z Kit
for Healthier Relationships by
Vanessa Anseloni**

**27 (Thur) - SSB closed -
Thanksgiving Holiday**

UPCOMING

2008 SUNDAY WORKSHOP SERIES

Free Admission

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Nov 23 - E-Z Kit for Healthier
Relationships**

**Dec 21 - Keeping an eye on
miracles**

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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