
Weekly Bulletin #275

New Beginnings

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Notes from Neale...

My Dear Friends,

As we move deeper into this first month of the New Year I am excited to tell you about two items of interest here at the ReCreation Foundation. And at the end of this letter, I'll do so. But first, let me say why I've always considered this a very special time of year.

This is the Time of New Beginnings. For me, January signifies the wonder and the excitement and the liberation of "starting over." The Old Year is behind me and the New Year has just begun; the blackboard has been erased. *I've got a clean slate.*

There's something metaphysical about all that; there's a message in the folds of that experience that comes directly from God. The message is: no matter how badly things may have gone, no matter how bad I may have been, that was 'Then' and this is 'Now.'

A New Day has dawned. A New Moment has arrived. It is the Golden Moment of Now, wherein which all things are possible, all things are forgiven, and all things are made new.

Our three-part cycle

They say that February is the Month of Love. If so, then for me January is the Month of Hope. Hope is the first step on the road to Mastery. There are three in all. They are: *Hoping, Believing, Knowing.*

Hoping begins the cycle and so does January. The cycle completes itself in December with the ultimate conclusion: the discovery within each of us of the Eternal Flame of Chanukah - the light of God that can never and will never be extinguished, because it is Who We Are -

and the birthing of the Christ within every human soul that naturally follows.

This cycle that moves us from Hoping to Believing to Knowing can complete itself in one year, in one lifetime, or in one moment. It is really all the same to God, who knows nothing of Time, because God is Timeless - as is Life, except within our imagination.

And so we are born and we die and we are born again, all in the self-same instant, the Holy Instant, the glorious and ever present Moment of Now, which we stretch out across the breadth of our perception in order that we might expand the Now and thus expand Ourselves, thus to know more of both.

This is the incredible, indescribable miracle of Life, and we have come to mutual agreement in fairly large numbers that January shall be called the endlessly recurring new beginning of this ever present, forever ongoing Process.

So I invite you to embrace this moment as a Time of Hope.

If 2007 has been a bad year...

If you have lost yourself in the drama of it all and have forgotten Who You Are; if you have come through the last cycle and missed its ultimate conclusion; if you have made a turn into a corner where it is dark; take heed: The Time of the Light has arrived.

The Eternal Flame has been placed within you. It is you. The Christed One has been born again. It is you. And the New Year offers you another chance, another beginning, another start on the journey to self-realization.

I like to use January as a Time of Forgiveness, too. For me it is a Time of Cleansing, when I try as hard as I can to forgive myself my trespasses, even as I forgive those who trespass against me.

I am not always successful with that first part. I can forgive others, and believe that I sincerely do. I am not so good at forgiving myself. It seems self-indulgent somehow; it feels self-serving. In order to forgive myself I have to let go of my thought that it is not okay to serve myself.

It *is* self-serving to forgive myself. There's no question about that. The question is not whether it's self-serving, but whether it is *okay* to be so self-serving.

God says that the answer is yes. You must serve yourself to know yourself. Indeed, you cannot know anything without serving it. Service is the experience of Knowing, in action. This is how we come to know God.

It is also how we come to know Life.

And it is how we come, at last, to know the Self.

Through the process of serving God, we come to know that we are serving the Self. Through the process of serving the Self, we come to know that we are serving God. And through the wondrous process of serving others, we come to know that we are serving both.

Life is an upward spiral

The circle completes itself, and we see that the circle has always been and will always be. There is nothing *but* the Circle, there is nothing *but* the Cycle, and it is only a matter of where we are now on that never-ending revolution of the soul.

We are revolving, and as we experience each revolution we see more clearly that it is a *spiritual* revolution, producing a Spiritual Evolution. We are doing much more than simply "going around in circles." For the soul, revolution is evolution.

The Cycle is Eternal, but that does not mean it is getting nowhere. Ever upward the Cycle goes, and one day we see that the circle is not a circle at all, but a spiral.

Looked at one way, from a place of perception that sees with no depth, but only on the surface of things, it looks for all the world like a circle. Only when we see into the depth of things, only as our perception becomes deeper, do we see that the circle is a spiral.

It is like a *Slinky*.

Remember the *Slinky*? What a wonderful childhood toy! Pushed together, crammed together, and looked at one way, it appears to be a circle. Only when it is expanded does it reveal itself to be a spiral.

And so January, the start of a new Cycle, is a time to expand our consciousness, to grow our awareness, to move from *Hoping to Believing to Knowing*. I hope and believe and know that 2008 is going to be a wonderful year for you. A year of self-discovery and self-creation. And most of all, a year of self-realization.

Let wonder and joy abound!

Now, those two items of interest

I am sooo excited about our Foundation's new monthly electronic magazine, *Celebrations*. Have you seen it yet? The January issue-focused on Renewal-is chock full of wonderful articles, insightful commentaries, and the popular *Question and Answers on Conversations with God* column, in which I respond to inquires about the material from CwG readers.

If you would like to take a look at our premier issue for free, click on the link below...

<http://viewer.zmags.com/showmag.php?mid=prrwg#/page0/>

I know that after one peek you'll want to subscribe immediately!

I'm also really inspired to tell you about our one and only East Coast Spiritual Growth Retreat this year April 9th-13th in beautiful Tampa, Florida...easy to reach from everywhere.

The retreat is titled *Celebrate Yourself*, and it is about *just that!* In it you will learn:

- How to heal past hurt and create a joyful future!
- The way to overcome fear and guilt, replacing them with love and excitement!
- When to say you've had enough with being small, and where to start in living life as a celebration!
- Seventeen steps to being "happier than God"!

Each participant will receive a free signed copy of my new book, *Happier Than God*, to be released on February 26th.

If you live anywhere from the middle of the United States to the east, this is a perfect time to reconnect with the wonderful energy of CwG, bringing it into your life in a more powerful way than ever before.

I hope to see you there! And I'll see you *here* next week!

In love and light,
Neale.

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**Messages From Marion...**  
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My Dearest Friends -

As always this is a crazy time of year at the Foundation. The Holiday Retreat takes up the whole last week of December, and then the LEP Life Change and Life Mission trainings that go late into January. It's actually the best time of year for us as well, because it's what all of us at the Foundation love, and we do what we do with great enthusiasm, no matter how long the days or crazy the challenges that inevitably show up.

As for my life, things have been quite interesting in a grand sort of way. A few days before Christmas I found myself a bit down and lonely, so I decided to give the online dating thing another try. If I'm really honest here, it's an easy, simple way for me to boost my ego. Ok, I know that's kind of shallow, but I can sign up on a site and within 24 hours my email box is full of contact from men that think I'm beautiful and are interested in getting to know me. It's quite grand actually. Not very spiritual, whatever that is, but I notice it's a quick fix to feeling alone.

Christmas gets that way for me, as I'm a single mom, with young children, my family lives far away and I can't go home to Texas for Christmas because of all we do at the Foundation that literally starts the day after Christmas. I have friends here, but they all have families of their own and are upholding their own Christmas traditions. It's a family time, and while I love my children and we have a blast together on Christmas, there's also a part of the adult in me that yearns for partnership and communion with another. This just gets really magnified on special family holidays.

So online dating seemed to be a quick and easy a fix to alter how I was feeling. It worked too, but this time I decided to be more proactive in the process. See, before I've always just dabbled -- written a lot of emails, not given my phone number out, and rarely gone on

a date, but this time I decided to go for it, and I did.

I talked on the phone with a few contacts, and this built my confidence. Then one caught my eye. He was smart and articulate and seemed to be a very gentle soul. So the day after Christmas we had dinner. It was great, and fun, and I really liked this guy. Over the last couple of weeks, we've dated, spent some romantic time together, he's given me jewelry and flowers. Everything a girl could want, you'd think - hell he even read CwG Book 1 when I gave it to him and was working with the ideas.

Yet this is what I found in this two-week sojourn: CwG-Book 1, Chapter 8 -- all about relationships -- is right. Neediness is a relationship death knell. In two short weeks this man made me the center of his world. He was planning our "future" and laying his entire world at my feet. While maybe some women think this is a great thing - I guess for me... well, my life is full and busy. I want a man who has a life and where we meet is in the middle of both our lives.

There's so much pressure in being the focus of someone else's life, when someone else places you at cause for their experience of any moment, and when how you "show up" determines how they're going to feel. Ugh. It's just more than anyone can deal with, or at least I can't. To me it feels smothering and unhealthy.

I guess "my picker" (the thing I use to pick potential partners) is still broken, as I seem to still be attracting others that aren't healed and are looking for someone to fix them. This has been a theme in my life - which is fine - but at least today I'm recognizing it quicker and getting out faster, as opposed to staying in way longer than I should and everyone getting hurt much deeper.

I feel a bit sad today for my friend and his experience of me, but when I asked myself, "what would love do now?" the highest answer was, gently and with love, sever the relationship now, as opposed to later. Offer this dear man his gifts back and move on, trying to leave as little a scar on his life as possible, staying in my truth as gently as I could manage. Release with grace and love and compassion, knowing that to do anything else would be to prolong the inevitable.

So...onward. I have decided that I do want a partner, and the only way I'm going to find what I want is to get out there and test the waters. I see so much more clearly today that every encounter, every relationship, whether romantic or otherwise, is just an opportunity to know ourselves deeper and more fully as we are reflected back to ourselves through the eyes of another.

Just so all of you know, my article will go back to being published in the Weekly Bulletin, but I'll do a monthly summary of my articles and a teaching/learning piece on what the life experiences that I've shared with all of you have allowed me to remember, and how they've deepened my understanding of the *Conversations with God* material.

Love and light to all of you,
Marion Black, Executive Director
marion@cwg.org

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**Best of the Blogs...**  
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Each week we present in this space the best from past entries on the worldwide CwG Blog. The blog can be accessed daily on the home page at www.beliefnet.com.

Category: [The News and The New Spirituality](#)
[Using Life's Travails to Benefit Others](#)

I want you to remember this name:
Charles Chatman.

I'll tell you why in a minute.

In all of my workshops and retreats (they are produced throughout the year in various locations, and all are based firmly in the messages of *Conversations with God*, seeking to show how to apply those messages to every day life), I am constantly telling people who are dealing with deep injuries, disappointments, and sadnesses from their past that the fastest way to heal them is to *use* them as jump-off points in the healing of others.

For instance, to a lady who had been sexually abused as a child I offered that she might begin presenting a class for women who have moved through the same experience. The experience, I suggested, could be redemptive for her -- and wonderfully healing for those others who have not yet closed their own wounds and moved forward with their life. In this way, I suggested, she could turn a negative experience into a true gift, both to others as well as herself.

To a man who had lost his wife to cancer only one year after his marriage to the "woman of my dreams" I offered that he might begin giving talks or presenting classes on grief resolution and the bereavement process, perhaps focused particularly on widowers. Providing such a program just for men could go far, I told him, in healing his own grief.

Always in my retreats, when I encounter people who have suffered much and can't make any sense out of it, I offer an invitation to turn what they have endured into an opportunity and a learning and a message of hope for others. In this way tragic events in some way *can* make sense, and tragedy can turn into healing.

All of which brings us back to Charles Chatman.

About 27 years ago Mr. Chatman was sent to prison for a crime he didn't commit. A black man, he was accused of raping a white woman who lived nearby. She had picked him out of a lineup in Dallas County, Texas. This is a county, you might want to know, with an unmatched number of wrongly convicted inmates -- and he became one of them.

Over the years he appeared before parole board hoping for an early release -- but each time, at his appearance, board members would try to get him to admit that he had done the crime. They asked him repeatedly about details, about his remorse. He showed none and he could tell them of none because, he insisted quietly, he never did anything wrong and knows nothing about the crime.

It should be mentioned here that Charles Chatman had a perfect alibi. He was at work at the time of the assault, and his employer so testified. Unfortunately for Mr. Chatman, he was working for his sister at the time, and her testimony was dismissed by the jury...a Texas jury in a Texas county not known for going slow in convicting a black man for raping a white woman.

("It is time we stop kidding ourselves in believing that what happened in Dallas is somehow unique," Jeff Blackburn, the founder of the Innocence Project of Texas, was quoted in a copyrighted report on this story from the Associated Press. "What happened in Dallas is common. This is Texas.")

Now, thanks to DNA evidence analyzed for the first time with new scientific methods, it has been made clear that Mr. Chatman was telling the truth all along. He had nothing to do with the woman's rape. The other day, they let him out of jail. And now, what is Charles Chatman going to do?

The AP report says "Chatman said he wants to work with the Innocence Project of Texas to support other people exonerated or wrongly convicted." The AP report quotes Chatman as saying...

"I believe that there are hundreds, and I know of two or three personally that very well could be sitting in this seat if they had the support and they had the backing that I have. My No. 1 interest is trying to help people who have been in the situation I am in."

Wow. That's all I have to say to that.

Wow.

That's straight out of *Conversations with God*...whether Mr. Chatman knows it or not. Actually, it's straight out of *any* religious or spiritual tradition. And it's wonderfully inspiring and uplifting to hear this kind and gentle man move past his own bitterness to a place where he chooses to use his terrible experience as a gift to others.

Wow.

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**The Calendar**  
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A look at events at which Neale Donald Walsch will appear to share the message of *Conversations with God* in the weeks ahead. You can learn more about the work of the ReCreation Foundation at these events...

NOTE: Not all events are sponsored by the ReCreation Foundation.

February 1, 2008
Portland, Oregon
The School of the New Spirituality
Contact: (503) 618-7752
<http://www.regonline.com/snstakesflight>

Laurie@SchooloftheNewSpirituality.com

February 23rd, 2008

Las Vegas, Nevada

Happier than God Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/retreatlasvegas.cfm>

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/contact.cfm>

March 8th, 2008

Tampa Bay, Florida

Happier than God Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/retreattampabay.cfm>

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/contact.cfm>

March 11th, 2008

Baltimore, Maryland

Happier than God Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/retreatbaltimore.cfm>

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/contact.cfm>

March 15th, 2008

Atlanta, Ga

Happier than God Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/retreatatlanta.cfm>

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/contact.cfm>

April 9-13, 2008

Tampa, Florida

Celebrate Yourself Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.cwg.org/main.php?p=Retreats&sub=RSchedule>

May 3-4, 2008

Infinity Foundation

God and Me: A Journey to Holy Ground

Chicago, IL

Contact: 847-831-8828

www.infinityfoundation.org

May 9-14, 2008

Hollyhock Retreat Center
Cortes Island, BC
5-day Intensive Workshop
Contact: registration@hollyhock.ca
www.hollyhock.ca
1-800-933-6339

May 16-18, 2008

Mexico City, Mexico
Workshop
Contact: mariluf@expo-ser.com

May 24-25, 2008

Humanity's Team Oneness Summit
Buenos Aires, Argentina
htargentina@gmail.com
www.humanitysteam.com.ar
+54 11 4783-3881

May 31 - June 2, 2008

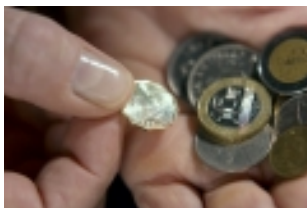
Celebrate Your Life Event
Chicago, Illinois
www.celebrateyourlife.com

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Every little bit helps!

If you would like to connect with us with your comments, questions, or sharing, please [visit us online](#).

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If you would like to send a comment or a question to Neale here at the Weekly Bulletin, you may do so by addressing an email to: weeklybulletinresponse@CwG.org

Please note that because of the volume of mail that we receive, it is possible your letter will not get printed here. However, we do our best to see that all letters get a response, if not directly from Neale, then from a CwG Foundation staff person, or LEP participant.