



Divine Love Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 2

March 2015

FROM THE EDITORS

Many thanks to those who responded to the first edition of the newsletter. We really appreciate your support and warm comments.

I haven't had time to sit down and write you a proper letter, but I do want to stop for a moment before bed to tell you and Eva what a wonderful conception I sense in the FCDT newsletter, really drawing the Divine Love Community together in so many ways. I like it very much, it's lovely!

The newsletter is such a great idea and one of those things that makes one say, why didn't we think of that before?!

Excellent initiative this!!! Well done.

Congratulations on this initiative. We wish you every success and hopefully we will be able to support your efforts by making some contributions you may wish to include in further editions.

Bless you for this marvelous contribution to the Divine Love community! I read it through with joy, and will return to re-read and savor it. I haven't yet had the time to follow the links you provided; they represent wonderful resources for community building and I am eager to explore them! THANK YOU so very much!!!

Thanks guys for a great start to your newsletter project and thank you for including our future ventures in your copy. I would be glad to contribute something for future editions.

We look forward to reader contributions as well as your news and comments, and hope that the Newsletter can be a small way to strengthen the Divine Love Community.

The Editors

Contributions can be emailed to the editors at editors@fcdt.org
(Michael Nedbal and Eva Peck)

DIVINE LOVE COMMUNITY PORTAL UPDATE

The Divine Love Community portal, <http://www.fcdt.org/community/> (username: *members*, password: *DivineLove*), now has 5 churches/prayer groups, 19 ministers, and 61 Divine Love souls registered on the Divine Love Network map. If your name isn't on the map, it is likely that we do not have your address. Please send us your address and a picture so that we can add you (editors@fcdt.org). We hope that the map will be a useful fellowship tool in finding brothers and sisters in Christ who live near your place of residence.

PLANNED 2015 RETREATS

March 27 - 29 – USA – Queens, New York City

A Divine Love Prayer Retreat, designed to give you a break from the “busy-ness” of your life is being offered in Queens, New York City, March 27 – 29. Focus will be on experiencing the prayer practice of receiving Divine Love in an environment which will elevate our consciousness to a place of recognition and reception of this blessing. All that is required is for the participants to be open to the experience. We honor the spiritual heritage of all humanity. Opportunities to share personal spiritual journeys, presentations about angelic influence and the nature of the soul, as well as healing and meditation practices will be integral to this retreat. Ample opportunity will be given for social interaction and discussion. Full participation is not mandatory and drop-ins are welcome. No latecomers will be admitted during prayer and meditation times. More information, including how to register, is at <http://goo.gl/IUxx2z> or click Contact us at www.divine-love-sanctuary.ca.

August 19-23 – Canada – Gibsons, B.C., Canada

A 5-day Divine Love Retreat, from Aug 19-23 will be held in Gibsons, B.C., Canada at the [Gibsons Garden Hotel](#). Located in a scenic village on the west coast of Canada, this retreat will provide two prayer sessions daily, opportunities to share our faith, healing gifts and facilitated discussions on a variety of topics by experienced Divine Love followers from around the world! Just a 40-minute ferry ride from Vancouver, B.C., the breathtaking views, beautiful gardens, abundant wildlife, waterfront walks, artisan galleries, opportunities for kayaking, hiking, aboriginal drumming and more all promise a spiritual vacation in a heavenly oasis that will soothe your soul and inspire! For more information, please click Contact us at www.divine-love-sanctuary.ca.



August 24-28 – USA – Oceanside, California

The FCDT retreat is scheduled for August 24-28th (Monday through Friday) at the Penthouse at [WorldMark Oceanside](#). There will be morning and afternoon prayer sessions, music and song, and day trips, including one to the Self Realization Meditation Center. For further information, contact Joan at wardenjc@hotmail.com.



Australia

No retreat will be held in Australia in 2015.

PAST EVENTS

Valentine's Day Retreat in Southern California

On Saturday, February 14 Dennis and Suzy Tormey hosted a prayer circle and potluck dinner at their home in Menifee. The participants enjoyed stimulating fellowship and were blessed by several angelic messages. They were awed by the spiritual power generated by the earnest group of sincere seekers longing together for the Divine Love. As the spirit guides and teachers keep emphasizing, there is great power in praying simultaneously from far off places around the world. (More details are at <http://goo.gl/wZnj50>).

Retreat at Homosassa Springs, Florida

On the weekend of February 20-22, a Divine Love Retreat was co-hosted by Al and Jeanne Fike and Ruth Duvall at Ruth's son's beautiful condominium in Homosassa Springs. The participants from various parts of Florida received wonderful messages from Celestial guides; felt profound love for new and old friends on the Divine Path; and experienced a sense of wonder and feeling that this retreat was somehow a part of God's Greater Plan. Other activities included delicious meals, sharing stories, singing, chi gong, and kayaking. (More details are at <http://goo.gl/mN9QwH>).

MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

- On January 17, Joan Warden participated in a book signing and panel discussion for her book [Divine Love for the Soul: God's Gift of Love](#) at the Second Annual Celebration of Local Authors event held at the Old Town Newhall Library in Santa Clarita, CA. The sequel to the book is nearing completion.
- Geoff Cutler republished three out of five volumes of *Life Beyond the Veil* by Rev George Vale Owen. These until recently out-of-print books deal with life in the spirit world. For more information and how to download a free PDF copy or buy a Kindle version of each volume, see <http://goo.gl/0ch97M>, <http://goo.gl/3D4vMz> and <http://goo.gl/4rq98G>.
- On February 12, Al and Jeanne Fike left for their trip to Namibia, Africa in support of Helge's goal of building an orphanage (<http://www.gofundme.com/building-an-orphanage>). Their itinerary has included a stop in New York for the purpose of addressing a youth conference with about 500 attendees at St. John's University called *Dream Out Loud* with the theme HASHTAG: IT STARTS NOW! The Fikes presented a "Love in Action" breakout session. (More details at <http://goo.gl/nW77Yu>).
- Tim Foley has been sponsoring a Sonoma Meditation Circle. For information, contact Tim at rev.timfoley@yahoo.com.
- Congratulations to Jesper Sørensen who has passed the FCDT ministerial ordination course.
- We are pleased to announce that Char Jung has been accepted into the FCDT ministerial ordination course program.
- Werner Voets and Helge Mercker are spearheading an ambitious new project to produce an audio book of Volume 1 of *True Gospel Revealed Anew by Jesus*, as well as of the Padgett messages in chronological order (found at <http://new-birth.net/download.htm>). The first phase is the collection of short voice / equipment samples. Please contact Helge (helgemercker@yahoo.com) for information on how to submit a sample. The second phase will include preparation of material for each reader with a Reading Protocol to ensure uniformity in style and quality (<http://goo.gl/pvjsNA>).
- Congratulations to Helge and the supporters of the Childrens Sanctuary Namibia who have learned that their application to receive land for building a Residential Child Care Facility (Home of Safety and Children Home) has been approved.

FCNB ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ELIZABETH MORANA

For those who wish to distribute volumes of *True Gospel Revealed Anew by Jesus*, the Foundation Church of the New Birth is happy to send out, free of charge, boxes of volumes 1, 2, or 4. Each box contains 28 softcover copies of either volume 1, 2, or 4. A box weighs about 42 pounds. The US post office offers "media rate" for books sent within the United States. Postage for international mailings is very costly, with the fee dependent on destination. While we send these free of charge, the FCNB happily accepts donations to contribute to the cost of postage. The FCNB trustees wish to get these books into the hands of interested readers, free of cost to you or to the recipient. And they thank you heartily for being willing to share these with your family, friends, and/or acquaintances!

Please contact Elizabeth at newbirth@divinelove.org.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Power of Words

By Eva Peck

Once upon a time, there was a minister who made a very worthwhile contribution to the Divine Love Community through his website. Being a newcomer to the Community, I don't know much about him, except that I came across his website work by, I believe, "guided coincidence" and benefitted from it. While most "once upon a time" stories have a happy ending, sadly this one does not.

In my trying to contact this minister to express my appreciation, as I like to do when I am particularly impressed by a website, his former friend informed me that: "It seems he doesn't want anything to do with anybody anymore. Seems some harsh things have been said to him in the past and unfortunately that made him give up on everything." How sad.

I have heard stories like this before in various contexts. Wonderfully dedicated people who have proverbially "worked their tails off" for a cause or an institution, but instead of appreciation, they have received criticism and even harsh words, got discouraged and just left. It is sad every time – not just for the individual's sake, who loses the support of others; but also for the sake of the group that the person was a part of, because they too suffer loss.

We are a community of Divine Love followers – though, alas, still human and subject to our egos, pride, and other worldly inclinations. In our times of not being close to God, being tired, lacking mindfulness, or acting without wisdom and discretion, we communicate in ways that can be offensive or hurtful to others. Instead of conveying the Father's Love and edification to those around us as we ideally should, our words can be ill-chosen, transmitting disapproval, judgment, and negativity.

To help us all better represent our Heavenly Father and communicate more love than judgment to our brothers and sisters in the Community (and for that matter, anyone else we interact with) I would like to share a number of principles. These apply to both face-to-face and written communication.

Realize the power of words Firstly, it's a fact that words can have a tremendous power – both positive and negative. They can encourage, inspire, empower, and make us feel like soaring with the eagles. A study was done with a classroom of failing children who began to be told they were smart and clever, and before too long, that's what they were becoming!

In contrast, ill-considered and thoughtless words can demotivate, devastate, and kill all desire to try and succeed. They can drive a person away from family and/or community that he or she desperately needs for support. Sometimes, offences can come through one or a handful of people in a group, but that's enough for someone to "throw in the towel" and leave. Shockingly, words can even kill literally in that a person can be driven to suicide as a result of being made feel totally worthless.

In the New Testament, in metaphorical words attributed to Jesus' brother, James, we are told: "The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." (James 3:5-6, 9-10).

As a community, we are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Each one of us can spur others onto greater heights, or unintentionally become the spark that may cause another person to stumble and even to leave. So to build up and avoid burning down our lovely community in the fire of unkind communication, let's consider the following four principles:

Focus on the positive One of my favourite scriptures in the New Testament is Philippians 4:8, attributed to the apostle Paul: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."

Based on the above principle, look for the positive in others. If you must correct or criticize something in a person, preface it with praise and affirmation. Then speak the negative truth in love, gentleness and humility – strive to be kind in bringing out the person's shortcoming. Address the problem without attacking or diminishing the person. Don't communicate when you are angry – cool down first, pray about the situation, and then select a suitable time to discuss the issue.

Be aware of cultural and language differences Being an international community, we all come from different walks of life and cultural backgrounds. Because of this diversity among our members, we see many things differently. It is therefore important to be aware of and respect individual and cross-cultural differences. What may be fine in one culture may be offensive, questionable or embarrassing in another.

One example of this is the expression of affection. The community is very affectionate with many using words or symbols for love and hugs – and that is beautiful. With, I am guessing now, most of the members being American, this is also a part of the American culture – but not necessarily of other cultures. For example, the British and Europeans, and even Asians tend to be more reserved and can misunderstand terms of endearment. Therefore it is good to use discretion, especially in personal communication.

Our posts on the forum may be read by people from all around the world. Therefore choose a neutral, but loving form of communicating that will be least likely to offend. It is always better to err on the side of graciousness.

Disagree agreeably If you must disagree with someone (there is nothing wrong with holding a different opinion), do it politely and respectfully. Sometimes our disagreements are just a matter of semantics – we are really not disagreeing, only think that we are. Groups of Christians have sometimes been locked in bitter struggles over words, only to realize decades and countless verbal battles later that they really didn't differ that much after all. Remember that different words mean different things to different people, and that meanings are not in the words but in people. We may be talking with someone and use the same word, but talk about different things! Or, we may be talking about more or less the same thing, but have a different name for it, as alluded to in the previous point. Words are only symbols, not the real thing, therefore their limitations have to be recognized. If in doubt what a person means, ask for clarification.

Don't let bad feelings fester As mentioned, we should all try to communicate in such a way, as to avoid offending our brothers and sisters in the Divine Love Community. However, from time to time, despite best efforts, offences and hurts will occur – more often than not caused unintentionally. That is a part and parcel of being in a human community.

If you are upset or offended by what someone said/wrote, don't hold it in and feel miserable. Avoid allowing the wound to fester, blowing the issue in your mind out of proportion, and letting it develop into bitterness. A metaphor in Buddhism is that our wrong thoughts about what may have happened (such as someone saying the wrong thing) is like shooting ourselves with a second arrow and thus increasing our pain and suffering caused by the original issue.

Instead of holding and nursing grudges, try to talk to the responsible person – at a time when you can both communicate in a calm and rational manner. Don't attack the other party, but rather share, using first person (the pronoun *I*), how their comment made you feel. Several outcomes are possible. There is a good chance the other person didn't intend to be mean or offensive, and when told how they came across, will promptly apologise and your relationship will become stronger and closer. That's of course the ideal.

At times, the other party may justify themselves and/or blame you. If the issue is important, the scripture advice is to involve another person or two in the dispute (see Matthew 18:15-16). If the issue is minor, the best might be just to accept it, realizing that you have done your best in trying to resolve it. A good advice to follow, advocated by, I believe, author Wayne Dyer, is to always choose being kind over at all costs being right.

The most important thing, however, even if the other party didn't admit fault or apologize, is to forgive and move on – and perhaps wisely minimize contact with the offending party. Someone aptly compared unforgiveness to drinking rat poison and expecting the other person to die. Ultimately we are responsible for our lives. We can't blame our feeling miserable on what someone said or did. We can only control ourselves, not others. Forgiveness liberates us and allows us to go on to being healed. Without it, in our minds, we are in a sense allowing the other party (who have probably long since moved on and forgotten about the issue) to hold us hostage. As a result, the original hurt will continue and only get worse.

The story at the beginning of this article didn't have a happy ending for specific reasons that I am not familiar with. However, the above principles, if applied, can help all of us write happier stories as we communicate with each other as brothers and sisters in the Divine Love Community. I would like to conclude with another favourite passage as a reminder to myself and all of us of what we stand for. It is the beautiful "love chapter" in 1 Corinthians 13:4-13, where Paul is quoted as saying:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But ... where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ... Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

May we all continue sharing and communicating in love and kindness, so that no one feels discouraged, hurt, or at worst driven away from our loving community.

The importance of man cultivating the soul perceptions. Spiritual things cannot be perceived by the material mind.

I AM HERE. *Jesus.*

I have heard your discussion and am much pleased that you and your friend are progressing so rapidly in the knowledge of truth, and very soon you both will be surprised at the extent of knowledge of spiritual things and truths that will come to you.

No man, who on earth is given to only what you may call the material things, will be able, when he becomes a spirit, to understand the spiritual laws, until he has gotten rid of the material mind, and the reasoning that comes from the powers which have been exercised only in the investigation of material things.

You cannot perceive spiritual things with the material mind, neither can a man by reason of those powers of the mind which know only material things, be able to perceive the truths of the spirit. Hence the necessity for man cultivating the soul perceptions, which are greater and more comprehending than all the faculties of the material mind.

Mind, as usually understood by man, is undoubtedly a wonderful instrument in investigating and learning the laws of nature and the relation of cause and effect in the physical world, but such powers when applied to the things of the spirit, will not help much, but rather retard the progress of the soul's development of its faculties.

The reasoning power given to man is the highest quality of the material mind and, when properly exercised, affords a very safe and satisfactory method of arriving at the truth. But such power when exercised in reference to things which are strangers to it, or with which such powers having no acquaintance, or have never been concerned in the investigation of the phenomena of their existence, cannot be depended upon to bring conclusions that will assure men of truth.

Laws are eternal and never change and are made by the great Father to be applied to all the conditions and to all the relationships of the material world and of the spiritual world. But the laws that apply to the operations of the material world are not fitted to apply to the operations of the spiritual world; and the man who understands the former and their application to material things is not able to apply the laws applicable to the spiritual world to spiritual things. A knowledge of the laws pertaining to the natural will not supply a knowledge of the laws pertaining to the spiritual.

And hence the great scientist who, when on earth, was able to discover and show the operation of the laws controlling material things, when he comes to the spiritual world and attempts to apply this knowledge to the things of the spirit, will be wholly unable to do so, and will be as a babe in his ability to understand and draw deductions from the spiritual laws. So you see the necessity for man's becoming acquainted with these spiritual laws, if he expects to progress in things to which they apply.

The material laws may be learned by the operation of the senses that belong to and constitute the material mind, but the spiritual laws can only be learned by the exercise and application of the faculties of the soul. The soul is to the spiritual things of God what the mind is to the material things of God. And the great mistake that men make and have made, is to attempt to learn these spiritual things with the powers of the material mind.

I write thus because I see that you and your friend desire to learn the nature and operations and workings of the spiritual things, and hence I want to impress upon you the necessity for exercising the soul perceptions which will come to you as your soul develops. These perceptions are just as real as are the five senses of the natural mind, though most men do not even know of their existence; and when once you have succeeded in understanding that they do exist and that you may be able to use them just as you use the faculties of the material mind, you will be able to progress in the development of these faculties or perceptions with as much success and certainty as does the great scientist or philosopher in the studies of the things to which he applies the faculties of his material mind. I hope that I have made plain what I intend to convey.

I will not write more tonight, but say let your faith increase and pray more to the Father, and you will see open up to you a wonderful vista of knowledge of the truths of the spirit.

Your friend and brother,
Jesus