

# The Eternal Way

August – September 2004

## The Real Work of Ministry

Our nation is once again, and thankfully so, experiencing the democratic process of a national election. There is nothing more externally invigorating for the cause of our freedom in this country than the entire election process for the Presidency! Candidates for political office are seeking support from all sectors of society. Magazine and newspaper articles describe how candidates speak at various church functions and rallies in hope of garnering church member support!

But it is just this point that I would like to take issue with. On occasion I have been asked about how my ministry stands on a particular issue. Or I may be asked as a minister to participate in a rally for or against some issue of national importance. However, I always decline. Here's why.

*The real work of ministry is not to be partial or to use ministry funds or resources for partisan positions. Real ministry work is to see God equally in everyone and to minister to everyone regardless of their position on any issue. The real work of ministry is to draw out of people their divine best. The real work of ministry is to remind men and women that, since they are expressions of God, they innately will do what is right if they stay in touch with the Source of their being and then actualize what they have gotten in touch with!*

Therefore, I am called to minister to everyone no matter their race, cultural background, ethnic background, gender, religion, orientation, belief system, or stand on any issue. Ministry cannot and should not be used to promote any campaign issue or candidate for election. Why? Aside from the fact that it is illegal for non-profit organizations and ministries who want to maintain recognition of their tax exempt status to promote any candidate or partisan position, it violates the very nature of ministry to ask it to choose one human being's position over another. When we are truly loving to one another, no one has the right to choose for another. If a person acts in a way that is different from our own view,

it is the work of ministry to teach and demonstrate love for people we disagree with.

Politics invariably needs to be about derision and division and therefore promotes differences in order to establish a platform. "We are right...you are wrong" is the canon of political change. Church, on the other hand, is ideally meant to focus on faith of the unseen in order to promote unity and harmony in this visible world. Church is ideally meant to help people "ascend" or awaken in their own consciousness and then have the transcendental view of life that embraces everyone and everything and excludes no one and nothing. Then a person can maintain equanimity, or samadhi, regardless of external conditions.

During this time of intense and heated discussion of "the issues" (whatever they may be), ministers and congregation members called by God to demonstrate the activity of ministry in their lives must:

### 1) Remember That There is One God of Us All

One God is expressing as all of us. It is up to us to spiritually awaken to the fact that One Field of Being is emanating as all there is. Regardless of the names we call this One God, it is still One God. Preferences on our part are for relative convenience. The One Ocean of God has inspired all the names of God throughout history and answers to them all when returned in the singular focus of love and devotion by It's individual waves, you and me! The sooner we acknowledge this and work from this level, the better off we will be as one humanity on this planet.

### 2) Remind People They are Spiritual Beings First

Our innermost common ground is spirit. Ultimately, we are something more than a skin color, a gender, a Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Jew, or Muslim. We are more than a Democrat, Republican, or an Independent. We are souls, individualized spiritual

beings, one with the Infinite. We are innately united with the One God of us all and therefore each other. Truly awakening to this allows us to get along although we may vehemently disagree on matters external to us.

### 3) Teach and Demonstrate the Law of Love

Love is the fulfillment of earthly law. If we say we love God with all our being, then we must by lawful conclusion love all of God's people. Love is inclusive and excludes no one. This law is the ultimate test of relationship. To love one unconditionally regardless of whether they return love or see life our way or not is the opportunity and responsibility of ministry.

### 4) Pray and Meditate on Everyone's Behalf

Our responsibility is to pray wholeness for others when they are feeling broken and divided within themselves. Our responsibility is to *mediate* on another's behalf by *meditating* on oneness in God and then holding them in that Oneness. This is the ultimate blessing or darshan for and to them.

### 5) Lead by Example and Leaders Will Emerge

If we want the best leaders, then we must be the best human beings we can be. They are the voice of us collectively. When we live the life that God wants us to live in harmony with nature and with each other, our leaders will be a reflection of the highest ideals that we ourselves have realized. Vote (realize) God permanently in the office of your heart and see the leader in you and others come forth.

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## Seeing Problems in a Different Light

by Rudy Davenport

Who doesn't have problems? Car problems, money problems, relationship problems, health problems -- we all have them. No matter how hard we try to anticipate and avoid all troublesome, uncomfortable, and challenging situations, they arise anyway. It is just a part of living in this world. Problems, by the way, can be known by suffering. They always have suffering connected with them in some way. The other night I was driving home when I noticed my temperature gauge was in the hot range. The next thing I knew, the "check engine" light was on and steam was coming from under the hood. I had a problem. By reflecting on this problem, I hope to shed new light on dealing with problems in general.

My first reaction was "O God." It is natural to think of God when a perceived problem arises. Especially for those of us who aspire to love God with our entire being, problematic situations should automatically turn us toward God.

And this leads to the first point in changing the way we see problems: **1) Consciously facing our problems actually generates the energy and action necessary to realize the truth of our union with the Divine.** Seen in this light, problems are a kind of "blessing in disguise." They actually help us to realize God. The Buddha's enlightenment sprung from his resolve to face the problems of birth, disease, old age, and death. So the first step is to let go of the idea that we shouldn't ever have any problems to face. They are an inevitable and necessary part of life and of spirituality. In the midst of problems, we remain centered in God. Letting go of fear, dread, helplessness, and worry helps us to act in any situation with more wisdom.

My next thought was that I needed to pull off the road and check under the hood. Of course, I don't have a clue as to what exactly is under the hood, but it seemed like the best thing to do. And that is all we can do in situations -- just the best we can. I noticed at that moment that I was passing by a new Thai restaurant that

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*Eternal Way Journal* is published six times a year by  
*Eternal Way* and is supported by member and readership donation.  
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Rocco benRoy is the minister-director of the Eternal Way.  
His training and ordination are in the spiritually enlivening and  
holistic tradition of the ancients as taught by his Kriya Yoga  
mentor, Roy Eugene Davis.

The Eternal Way Center provides personal counseling and  
group seminars for spiritual realization, emotional and mental  
clarity, and physical vitality. The center is dedicated to assisting and  
empowering each responsive soul, a living temple of God, to  
cultivate their innate potential and to express their unique purpose  
and destiny as divinely intended.

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I had been meaning to investigate. So I decided to pull over there and go in to ask for some water. **Point 2): Problems can be seen as opportunities.** When we face our problems instead of avoiding them or running away from them, doors are sometimes opened that we otherwise would not be aware of. So I went in, had a nice chat with the people there, checked out the menu, and got some water. That helped me to get home for the night.

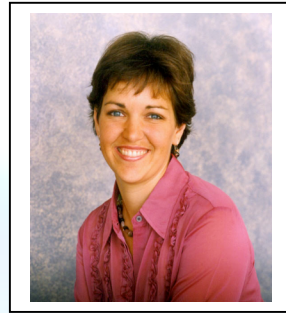
The next morning I checked out the problem in daylight, when the radiator was cool. I noticed what looked like a hole in my radiator. **Point 3): We need to determine when a situation has a solution, or when we simply have to endure it as best we can.** So I determined to take the car to a mechanic and let them evaluate it. This is important: If a problem has a solution, why worry and fear? Better to invest your energy toward the solution. An example of a problem that has to be endured is the heat of Austin, Texas, in the summer. It is not going to go away. So we have to deal with it the best we can. It often calls for great wisdom to differentiate between these two categories of problems.

The mechanic immediately told me I would have to get a new radiator, as the newer plastic ones could not be repaired. "O God," I said again. I wondered how much that would cost. When he figured out the cost, it came to \$276.00. Well, it just so happened that I had done some keyboard playing jobs over the weekend, and I had checks from those jobs in my pocket that totaled \$280.00. **Point 4): With a heart filled with faith, trust, and gratitude, we should always affirm that we are surrounded by the Divine at every moment, in every situation.** We are in God always, and God is in us always, no matter how any situation might appear. We can never at any moment be separated from the Divine.

The Divine is our destiny. No catastrophe, disaster, or disappointment threatens our ultimate being. I pray I have learned these lessons well when I face the ultimate problems that are sure to come into my life.

**Rudy Davenport** has a B.A. in Music and a Master of Divinity Degree. With an extensive background in the devotional traditions of East and West, he provides Pastoral Counseling and teaches the use of Music for Therapy and Meditation at the Eternal Way.

Look for the Eternal Way's "Your Body, Your Temple" T.V. Program on Austin Community Access, Channel 11, Thursdays, 9:30pm



## Being Love

by Shara Amelia

I went recently to see one who many consider to be a living saint, Ammachi, and she spoke on marriage by saying that what we often think of as an additive relationship ( $1/2 + 1/2 = 1$ ) can readily devolve into a multiplicative relationship where  $1/2 \times 1/2 = 1/4$ . The result is distinctly less than its parts instead of more. This is because of the multiplication of desires, choices, options, foci that distract those in marriage from staying in an additive stance toward one another. We are actually called to compensate for one another's (hopefully well-chosen!) shortcomings, not to criticize and diminish one another once we do choose.

When we say I LOVE YOU, Amma said, there is a chasm between the ego of the "I" and the ego of the "YOU". They stretch separately across this chasm or resign themselves to the parching distance. However, when we decide I AM LOVE we put our selves in the attracting current and together pull on our respective oars back to the Source. It can feel upstream and terribly out of sync; how useful at these times to have decided to pull in the same direction generally! Deciding to become exemplars of love and patience moment by moment is the only navigational tool to bring two people forward together, to bring two halves to a whole and not to smithereens. As the poet Wallace Stevens put it, "It is not a choice *between* but *of*."

"Having made a decision, stick with it; don't look back. Changing our decision sets up a bad habit. It reinforces decision-making as an expression of bewilderment and ignorance, instead of wisdom and freedom."

--Jamgön Mipham Rinpoche

**Shara Amelia** has a B.A. in English Literature, an M.A. in Linguistics, an M.S. in Oriental Medicine, and is a staff member at the Eternal Way.

## Good News!

Wonderful things continue to unfold due to your loving support. Thank you and God Bless!

### In Loving Memory

**Joann Barnes**, mother of **Dorothy Young** (Treasurer of the Eternal Way), passed from this world on July 10<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11pm. Her funeral was in Waco, Texas, on Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup>. Our Wednesday night service and meditation at the Eternal Way on that same day was in memoriam for Joann. Blessings and condolences for Dorothy, her Father Albert, and family members.

### Join Us! Become an Eternal Way Spiritual Partner

Want to be part of something vital to human unfoldment? Become part of the Eternal Way ministry by donating your vital substance to a larger endeavor. All ministry services (counseling, workshops, seminars, and sacerdotal ceremonies) at the Eternal Way function on a donation basis and we freely serve everyone without regard to their ability to donate. Our mission is to reach as many receptive people as possible with a spiritually-based message that God lives through each one of us and is emanating in all creation. Would you join us? Become a *Spiritual Partner* by devoting \$25, \$75, \$150 or more to the ministry work each month. If you are donating, know you are a vital conduit of God's power manifesting in this world. **Please use the enclosed donation envelope to send your generous support contribution.**

When you donate, know that God, through you, is doing wonderful and magnificent things to uplift

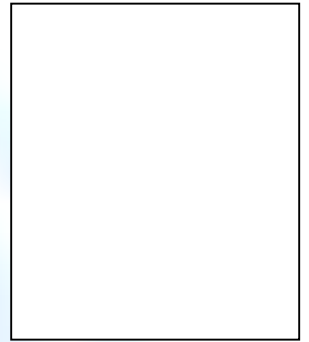
humanity. Know that God is the giver and receiver of every situation and live a life of fulfillment now!

**E.A.T. Outreach News**  
**The EAT Outreach**  
**can use volunteer help**  
**picking up bread at one of**  
**our donating bakeries on Bee**  
**Caves Road off of South Mopac**  
**Blvd. If you would be willing to**  
**help, call us at 512-445-1080.**

An average of **12 agencies a week** have been helped during the past two months. **Radha Parikh**, one of our volunteers for over a year, is moving with her husband back to India where they are both accepting a teaching position. She just finished her doctorate in America, and is returning to her home country. We thank her deeply for her dear support to those in need. Thanks go to our dedicated core of volunteers: **John Stern, Morris Greggs, Julian Bruno, ShaunAumar Bruno, Paul Thrailkill, Teresa and Keith Hood.**

### Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday Cleanup at the Eternal Way Auxiliary Retreat: House of Dharma Satya

Come participate on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, as we clean up the Prayer Path of Faith in Bastrop between 10am and 3pm. Come enjoy friends, fellowship, and a potluck lunch. Call for directions!



## August – Sept. 2004 Wednesday Eve. Service

Weekly Themes Below. All services at 7pm

**August** 4 – Know of Your Union  
11 – Discover Love  
18 – What are You Looking For?  
w/potluck 6pm 25 – How to Satisfy Your Hunger for God

**September** 1 – Experiencing Wholeness  
8 – One Spirit, Many Forms  
15 – Going Beyond Labels  
22 – What are You Waiting For?  
w/potluck 6pm 29 – Being Full of God

## Rocco benRoy's Speaking Engagements

6/30/04 Promiseland Ministry – Austin, Texas

7/14/04 Promiseland Ministry – Austin, Texas

Every Tuesday at **Austin Recovery Center** for individuals in drug and alcohol recovery. **9AM**

Contact us if you would like directions or additional information.

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**Kriya Yoga SatSang** w/Potluck– Every Saturday at 11 am at the Eternal Way for initiates and sincere seekers in the constructive living tradition of the ancients. Asanas, meditation, and techniques!