

The Eternal Way

June – July 2004

Have You Seen A Miracle Lately?

Feature stories about people's lives fascinate me. I have been collecting stories from magazines and newspapers for over 30 years featuring the lives of people whose courage and optimism in the face of challenge and adversity have inspired me greatly. I draw from these stories regularly for my own life and for counseling when someone asks me how to handle life's difficulties or how to overcome the pain of disappointment. Here are a few....

This first story was headlined "Determined Artist." It shows the face of a young man in juxtaposition to a wooden stick sculpture of a swan. The face is of Richard Morrison who has experienced the crippling disease of muscular dystrophy. He is 23 years of age at the time of this newspaper clipping and he lives in Washington state. Although his arms are not much use to him, he modeled this three-dimensional shape of a swan and he did so using toothpicks. The astounding way in which Richard did this was to use his *teeth* to pick up each toothpick. He then would dip the ends of the toothpick in glue and set it into place. *Imagine modeling a swan with your teeth!* Few of us would probably even try with our hands, let alone our teeth! Each time I look at his face, I see more than a man with a neuromuscular challenge. I see the miracle of spirit shining brightly for all to see. From this brief description, I hope you can too!

This next story is about an 18-year-old in his senior year of high school, Carl Joseph. The school is Madison High in Madison, Florida, a town of about 3000 people. Carl is the oldest child of ten children. His mother is raising the kids alone without a Daddy present. The unique feature about Carl is not that he plays football, basketball, and track. Lots of young men and women across America do that. No, the uniqueness that Carl brings to those sports is that he does them with only *one leg*. That's right, one leg! Carl was born with only one

leg formed, but he's never used it as an excuse to not try and excel in all his endeavors.

In football he plays nose guard, and on defense he has blocked punts and deflected passes in his relentless pursuit of the opposing kicker and quarterback. In basketball he is not on the starting lineup but he is a remarkable backup. Joseph can even *dunk a basketball hoppin' on that one leg*. In practice, when sprints are done, he does them with his crutches, but he never uses his one leg as an excuse for not doing what everyone else is required to do! In track, he is a high jumper! Joseph is quoted as saying, "I've learned that whatever you want to reach, you can – if you try." In May at the end of his senior year, his school had a "Carl Joseph Appreciation Day" and the whole county was invited. It was a way for those closest to him to recognize the invaluable inspiration he had provided them during those years together. He inspires because he had gotten in touch with spirit within. Thank you for your example.

Shirley Price is our next feature personality and she is right here from the state of Texas. She was born with irregularly sized arms. Instead she only has stubs with small digits as fingers. However, she "refuses to label herself as handicapped," as the title of this news article reads. She considers herself someone with very small arms.

When she was the proper age and ready to drive, she approached a mechanic and had him weld a smaller custom steering wheel with a rotating cup for her short arm to reach on top of the larger standard steering wheel. Once done, she approached the Department of Public Safety and somehow convinced them to give her a driving test. I am sure to everyone's amazement, she passed! And she could even parallel park perfectly.

The picture of Shirley shows her at her desk at the Johnson Space Center in Texas where she holds the position of coordinator at its Equal Opportunity Office.

She is holding a phone up to her ear with her short arm and fingers and holding a notepad with one set of toes while holding a pencil with the other set. Shirley can type 50 words per minute with her feet and can put in and take out her eye contacts all with her toes.

What is common to all these dynamic souls? Each of them figured out that the right attitude and abnormal body parts is better than the wrong attitude and perfect body parts. They got in touch with the perfect spiritual nature within themselves and excelled anyway despite challenged physical bodies. Each of them saw something miraculous in themselves and in life even in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances.

How about you? Have you seen a miracle lately? What are you seeing right now? You are not a mistake but one of God's "On Purposes." Stop what you are doing and go look in a mirror. Pause and marvel how God is uniquely expressing as you right NOW! Affirm "I AM A MIRACLE." Now go tell the first person you see, even if they are a stranger, "YOU ARE A MIRACLE." Feel and watch the positive *change* reaction of events that will unfold today for you as a result of this. It will be a sattvic tsunami, guaranteed!

God so loved this world that God expressed as the miracle of you to do something miraculous. Realize with faith and love that challenges are the pumice stone and polishing cloth to bring out your brilliance. This brilliance is the light of God coming through you for all to see. Say yes to God with faith and love and enjoy the miracle of life itself. *Miracles are actualized expressions of innate wholeness called into manifestation by faith and love!*



Have Hope

by Rudy Davenport

The litany of troubles we face in today's world seems endless. We face problems as individuals and as families. We face challenges collectively as country and as humanity. Throughout history, despite untold suffering, humankind has sought light and hope in the midst of darkness and despair. The great Spiritual Masters and Teachers all have said, with one voice, "Have hope in God."

Perhaps as long as 5,000 years ago, Krsna said in the midst of His troubled times, "Whenever righteousness diminishes, and unrighteousness increases, then I manifest Myself. For the protection of goodness and the destruction of evil, I am born in every age." Can we not find hope in this promise of God to manifest the Divine goodness in every age, including our own?

Also in distant past ages, the Buddha felt such compassion for the suffering around him that he gave up everything and sought the truth within himself. He became enlightened, and even today his teachings offer hope to all who seek wisdom, truth, and compassion. Zoroaster gave hope to his people in the symbol of an eternal flame representing the Divine, and the way to live righteously as "Good thoughts, good words, and good deeds."

Two thousand years ago, Jesus faced a world filled with cruelty. His message was to love your enemies, to love God with all your being, and to love your neighbor as yourself. He counseled us to not worry, but to trust in God. He promised us that we were in Him, and He was in us, and all was in God. Over a thousand years later, St. Francis expressed this same love of God as "Make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love."

In fourteenth century India, filled with strife, religious hatred, and poverty, the great saint Chaitanya taught a path to God that was utterly simple and beautiful: sharing food that had been offered to God, and dancing and singing in praise of God. No matter

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Front page article by Rocco benRoy unless otherwise noted.
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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Come join in. We welcome you, for we serve God in you.

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how poor or downtrodden, every person could seek the Divine. Chaitanya taught that every name used for God is holy.

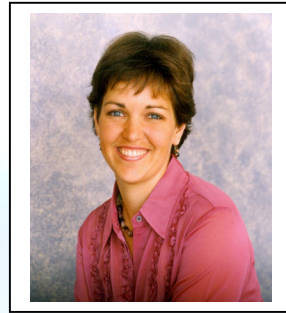
Spain of the sixteenth century, and indeed all of Europe, was plagued with religious wars and unrest. It was the time of persecution of the Jewish people, of the Inquisition, and of the Protestant Reformation. Untold numbers of native New World peoples were dying because of the diseases and conquests of Europe. But St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross responded to their times by teaching that the real conquest was an inner one, for the Divine dwelled in the center of every human being.

In the twentieth century, with a technology that seemed to develop faster than human beings could understand it, Meher Baba said during the unfathomable suffering of World War II, “As in all great critical periods of human history, humanity is now going through the agonizing travail of spiritual rebirth. Great forces of destruction are afoot and seem to be dominant at the moment, but constructive and creative forces that will redeem humanity are also being released through several different channels. Although the working of these forces of light are chiefly silent, they are eventually bound to bring about those transformations that will make the further spiritual advancement of humanity safe and steady. It is all a part of the divine plan, which is to give the hungry and weary world a fresh dispensation of the eternal and only Truth. I say, have hope.”

But this historical listing of the actions and teachings of spiritual persons is incomplete. Each of us, in our own way, must now add our names to the list. How do we express hope and love in the twenty-first century? Each one of us must bring the light of hope and love into the world in the most beautiful way we understand. Peace.

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, 9:30 pm.



Reflections on the Mission Statement

by Shara Amelia

The first enjoinder is to *acknowledge the presence of God always and everywhere and to realize that each moment of ordinary life is an auspicious opportunity to experience God.*

Recently at a gathering a woman was deeply lamenting her lack of familial support and expressing gratitude toward those with whom she now confided. She knew she was worthy of her family's love and friendship but just could not get her cup filled. Her self-esteem wavered. She then said “*grateful* is not a good enough word” for what I feel toward this group, for giving me the ear I could not otherwise find. After a silence, another woman assured her that “*grateful*” was indeed a good enough word and that she too was good enough to have given it voice, to love and be loved. She offered a connecting reply and put a basic stitch in the fabric of family that had been shorn from the first woman through long neglect. The comment was appreciated--so very ordinary, so very auspicious.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux described in *Story of a Soul* (45) her search for how glory is distributed—is it evenly doled out in God's World? Her sister made her get out a big tall glass and a tiny thimble, put them side by side, and fill each vessel up to the top with water. She then was asked which was fuller and had to admit that they were equally full because neither could hold one drop more. We live in a world of hyperbole--big splashy triumphs, devastating defeats. Everything is given the illusion of being so very critical. Yet it is those ordinary moments that are like the tiny thimble—full of God in their little way. What is important is whether or not we use them to say something positive and connecting in the precise moment it needs saying, to sew a basic stitch or two in the oldest glory of all—the fabric of the One God.

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!

Heartfelt gratitude to you all for the incredible support of this ministry work. Wonderful things continue to unfold due to your loving support.

Special Thanks

A special thanks to **Fina Mae Ross** who is our Steward of Advertising for allowing furniture from her parents' estate (**Jack and Ann Ross**) to be used at the Eternal Way retreat. Her kindness has made the Great Room of the retreat truly usable! **Come see the transformed retreat on Saturday, June 26th, from 2pm until dark for a Summer Potluck Gathering. Call for directions.**

Weddings

Congratulations to **Otis Stevens and Claire Langford** who were united in **Holy Matrimony** on Saturday, May 8th, 2004, at 2pm. Rocco benRoy officiated. Also, we would like to congratulate in advance **Justin Jones and Salissa Dawn** who will be united in marriage on Saturday, June 12th, 2004, at 5:30pm.

If the Eternal Way can assist you and your engaged partner with pre-marital counseling, ceremony planning, or wedding music, contact us today at 512-445-1080. A memorable event is awaiting you!

An Invitation To Be An Eternal Way Spiritual Partner

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

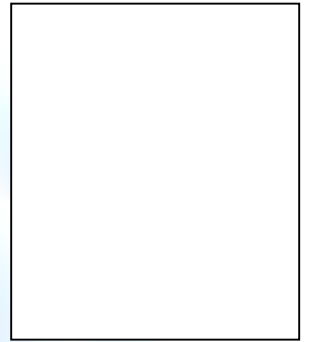
spiritually-based message that God lives through each one of us and is emanating in all creation. Would you join us? Become a *Spiritual Partner* by devoting \$25, \$75, \$150 or more to the ministry work each month. If you are donating, know you are a vital conduit of God's power manifesting in this 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.

E.A.T. Outreach News

The E.A.T. Outreach is our all-volunteer department that secures grain products from local bakeries and redistributes them to agencies in need. One agency that we serve known as the **Church Food Pantry** feeds some 450 - 500 families weekly and they deeply appreciate our help. This is just one of the **13 agencies a week on average** that we have helped during the past two months. **Come join a joyful crew of volunteers by calling 512-445-1080.** Thanks go out to our dedicated core of volunteers: **John Stern, Radha, Morris Grieg, Julian Bruno, ShaunAumar, Fina, Sarah, Paul Thrailkill, and Shawn.**



June – July 2004 Wednesday Programs

	<u>June / July</u>		
Finding God in Every Moment	2	7	7pm
The Kriya Yoga Way of Living	9	14	7pm
Finding God in Every Moment	16	21	7pm
Cultivating Optimism in a Pessimistic World	23		7pm
Community Spiritual Gathering w/ potluck at 6pm	30	28	7pm

Rocco benRoy's Speaking Engagements

6/2/04 Promiseland Ministry – Austin, Texas

6/17-19/04 I-ACT Convention – St. Petersburg, Florida

Every month at the Eternal Way's **Community Spiritual Gathering**

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

Contact us if you would like directions or additional information.