



Spirit in Action

A Divine Science Federation International Publication

November – December 2020

DSFI

1480 SW Ninth Ave * Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 * USA

DivineScienceFederation.org

***We stand firm in God, the One, Omnipresence,
and gladly accept every conclusion that flows
from this ultimate Truth.***

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THANK YOU, COMMUNITY OF INFINITE SPIRIT

As you will read on page 5, Community of Infinite Spirit (San Jose, CA – Rev. Christine Emmerling, DD, Senior Minister) has sold their property and are moving into a new and bold future. CIS tithed on their property sale to DSFI. The generous gift is a tremendous blessing to the Federation. We thank Community of Infinite Spirit and we bless them as they move forward into their next experience of ministry.

Your contributions to DSFI are appreciated

Your goodwill offerings can be sent to
DSFI
1480 SW Ninth Ave
Fort Lauderdale FL 33315 (USA)



Happy Holidays
Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins,
DSFI President

November and December bring us opportunities for reflection, gratitude, and celebration. Religions all over the world call us to contemplate the Sacred and our union with It.

All Saints Day (Nov 1) calls to mind spiritual heroes while All Souls Day (Nov 2) invites us to lovingly remember and bless all our loved ones and ancestors who have transitioned from this life experience to the next. On Nov 12 the birth of Baha'u'llah is celebrated (Baha'i), and this time of year includes the Hindu festival of Light, Diwali. In the U.S. we have Thanksgiving (a secular holiday and yet, the act of gratitude is always holy). The end of November features the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh) and this year Nov 29 begins the Season of Advent (a time of preparation to rediscover the Christ in and among us).

In December we have the feast day of St. Nicholas (Dec 6) ... St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, sailors, prostitutes, reformed thieves, and brewers!

Let us not forget Buddhism's Bodhi Day (Dec 8, the commemoration of Sidhartha's awakening), Hanukkah (Jewish, a time to trust and celebrate divine Provision), Yule (pagan celebration of the birth of Light), Christmas (Christian and secular), the death of the prophet Zarathushtra (Zoroastrian), the beginning of Kwanzaa, and the Watch Night tradition (closing one year and beginning another with prayer).

This list isn't even exhaustive! The spiritual traditions of the world offer us so many opportunities to remember that we are one with Divine Life, that we are conduits through which Divine Love is meant to flow, and that our Source of hope, peace, and joy is limitless.

May this holiday season remind each of us of our sacred value, our divine inheritance, and our unity with all that is.

Happy Holidays and many blessings!

Durrell



A Prayer for DSFI
by President Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins

(May be adapted for any New Thought ministry)

In the divine Omnipresence we dwell, and from this Holy Presence we draw strength, comfort, courage, wisdom, hope, and peace. We are always part of God and in Truth, God is us! So, fear has no place, no power, no reality for us. We reject fear for the lie that it is, and instead embrace and demonstrate calm assurance, profound faith, and blessed peace. Our endeavors are bound to succeed. Our message of Truth is being heard and is bringing healing to people's lives. We are experiencing and sharing prosperity. We are guided by Wisdom and we are showing the world the power and the peace that comes from conscious union with God. We bless the whole world during this holiday season. We bless the Divine Science Federation and are blessed by its mission and message as well as by its global, growing community. We give thanks for every Divine Science center, ministry, and school. The Light of Divine Science shines brightly. And so it is.

The board of the Divine Science Federation International:

Rev. Durrell Watkins, MA, MDiv, DMin - President (Senior Minister, Sunshine Cathedral & Dean, The Samaritan Institute, Fort Lauderdale, FL)

Rev. Belinda Bell, JD - Vice-President (attorney, member of Church of the Holy Spirit, Largo, MD)

Rev. Shaun Furlong, MCS - Treasurer (Founding Director, Blackbirds Rising, Pueblo, CO)

Rev. Mary Emma Dryden - Secretary (Senior Minister, Quimby Memorial Church, Secaucus, NJ)

Rev. Margarita Rodriguez, MRS - Chaplain (Staff Minister, Sunshine Cathedral, Fort Lauderdale, FL)

Rev. Mark Stuefloten - Member-at-Large (Asst. Minister, Community of Infinite Spirit, San Jose, CA)

Rev. Yves Juste - Member-at-Large (United Divine Science Seminary, Largo, MD)

We Continue On
Rev. Christine Emmerling, D.D.



On March 13, a week before our fund raiser, the Soulful Living Arts Fair, the COVID-19 Shelter-in-Order came. Before this day Community of Infinite Spirit was bustling with all kinds of activities which helped to support our work. We had some 600-700 people coming through these doors on a weekly basis. Suddenly there was a deafening stillness.

My daughter and I live on the premises, and began to hold the space by having a worship service. We thought we would be opening our doors in a month - that didn't happen. Shortly thereafter, we began having our weekly meditation from our living quarters by teleconference, and then our Sunday Worship service. During the summer my Assistant Ministers, Revs. Mark & Teresa Stuefloten moved to a small nearby town. We had a few technical glitches to work out. As well as our music licensing for playing online. We post our audio Podcasts on our website, www.CommunityofInfiniteSpirit.org, along with our written talks, prayers, and meditations. On Facebook we have links to our website Podcasts.

On July 13, the same day we were to be open to have our allowed 12 people indoors, they closed us down again. At that moment I knew it was going to be a long haul. Unable to have our doors open meant we couldn't support our beautiful facilities. On August 16 the membership voted to sell the church property. On the same day the sign went up we had a buyer.

Although, we no longer have a building, our church continues as an online ministry. Once I get settled in a new home we will be moving forward with more offerings. Before we were speaking in our Sanctuary to a small group of people, and now our message can reach so many more people around the world. My mission is to keep the Divine Science teachings spreading out into the world.



November 5, 2020

The Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins
President
Divine Science Federation
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins,

On behalf of the entire Universal Foundation for Better Living family, I congratulate you on your recent election as President of the Divine Science Federation. We are here for you and we support you as you assume your God Appointed and Anointed Role and Responsibilities. Walk with God, my friend, because God is ever with you.

As I write this message, the uncertainty of the U.S. Presidential Election Results is the topic of conversation for many. However, in the midst of life's uncertainties, we, the family of New Thought know and teach the certainty of God as Universal Spiritual Principle. God's light of eternal Truth beams even now dispelling darkness and ignorance too. All that is unlike God, in whatever form, fades for lack of substance to sustain it.

Just as the Star in the East led the Magi to the stable where the Christ Child lay; and just as the same Star lit the dark sky with greetings & songs from angelic messengers to shepherds, so, too, does that light guide us all at this moment in history. Isn't it wonderful to know that the light of Truth never dims but burns eternal throughout the ages.

This great New Thought teaching reminds us that from royalty to shepherds in a field, the light of Truth does not discriminate. It comes to all. Our task is to respond to it and allow it to use us for Its purpose. Is this not what the Magi and Shepherds did?

As New Thinkers, our task is great in this hour. The good news is that we have been prepared for this moment. Emma Curtis Hopkins' spiritual off-springs, Fannie B. James, Melinda Cramer, Nona Brooks, and Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, have taught us well and left us a legacy that matters during these times. We are ready for all that unfolds in the days, months and years ahead. The Spirit of Truth and Light have already overcome this world. Let us remember this.

Let's shout from the rooftops of our consciousness that God's light of love, truth, mercy, justice, integrity, power, equality, compassion, hope and so much more is eternally shining. Like the Magi and the Shepherds we, too, follow our inner light that illumines our way to that which is holy within us and others, too.

Happy Holy Days!

Sheila R. McKeithen
President
Universal Foundation for Better Living

*Divine Science Federation International
Congratulates & Blesses
The Reverend Sheila McKeithen,
the Global Leader of the Universal Foundation
for Better Living!*



25 years ago, Rev. Sheila was ordained by the Rev. Dr. Johnnie Coleman and assigned by her spiritual mother and minister, Rev. Dr. Mary Tumpkin, to Jamaica for a 6 month assignment. 25 years later, Rev. Sheila is still in Jamaica. During the month of November the ministry in Jamaica, Universal Centre of Truth and Rev. Sheila McKeithen, MS, JD, are both celebrating their 25th Anniversary Milestone.

November and December New Thought Luminaries
(taken from Sunshine Cathedral's calendar of spiritual heroes)

Spiritual Heroes

Agnes Sanford (1897 – 1982) - the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries and the wife of an Episcopal priest. She became a world renown healer, and taught that the bible contained the energy of faith which could work miracles. She believed that healing was possible if we would “pray down” our doubts and expect something good to happen. Sanford acknowledged that effective prayer principles were universal, not limited to any one religion and she firmly believed that “experience comes before theology.” Visualizing success, affirming our Good, giving thanks for our Good, imagining healing energy flowing through us, and quoting affirmative bible verses were among the prayer techniques she offered. She believed the return of Christ had happened at Pentecost, and that Christ continues to return every time we extend love, kindness, or forgiveness in our world.

Ralph Waldo Trine (1866 – 1958) – philosopher and New Thought author lived to the age of 92. Earned a Master of Arts degree from Knox College. Taught at Emerson College and influenced E. W. Kenyon, the father of the “Word of Faith” movement. Trine was influenced by Emerson and Emmet Fox, and his principles were echoed by Napoleon Hill. Trine taught, “To get up each morning with the resolve to be happy...is to condition circumstances instead of being conditioned by them.”

Napoleon Hill (1883 - 1970) - Self-help guru and personal development expert, Hill was inspired by Dale Carnegie and Charles Haanel. Hill was an advisor to Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Hill believed fear and selfishness contribute to failure. He was one of the thinkers who inspired Norman Vincent Peale. Hill believed, “Every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed of an equal or greater benefit.” His most famous saying may be, “Whatever your mind can conceive and believe, [it] can achieve, regardless of how many times you have failed in the past.”

Daisy Baum (1856 – 1923) – an early teacher of and writer of Divine Science. She personally overcame an anxiety disorder through the principles of New Thought healing. The following is from a prayer from her book, *Individual Responsibility*: “[God], I acknowledge thy loving good-

ness everywhere, even within myself. Thou art the Life that animates me. Thou art the Power that sustains me. Thou art the Wisdom that heals me. Thou art the Love that surrounds me. I rest in, and trust thy unfailing Intelligence to guide me in all my ways...”

Helen Zagat (1893 – 1975) – Helen Zagat is the author of the classic text, *Faith & Works*. A graduate of Barnard College and a former modern dancer, she became a Divine Science minister and was the pastor of the Church of Divine Unity in NYC. Her ministry spanned more than 30 years. She wrote, “In our awareness of God as Omnipresence, we feel that Spirit cares for each one of us. We are never alone.” She stressed 5 attributes of God: Life, Wisdom, Love, Power, & Substance.

C. Alan Anderson (1930 – 2012) – held a PhD in Philosophy from Boston University. His doctoral dissertation was titled, *Horatio W. Dresser and the Philosophy of New Thought*. He developed what is believed to be the first New Thought website. He wrote *God in a Nutshell*, *The Problem is God: The Selection & Care of Your Personal God*, and with his wife (Dr. Deb Whitehouse), *New Thought: An American Spirituality*.

Charles Haanel (1866 – 1949) – author of *The Master Key System*, a book that laid out principles that Napoleon Hill credited with helping him succeed in his work. Haanel taught: “There is a world within — a world of thought and feeling and power; of light and life and beauty; and, although invisible, its forces are mighty.” Haanel is quoted in the popular self-help book, *The Secret*.

James Allen (1864 – 1912) – best known for his book *As A Man Thinketh*, which has been mass produced since its original publication in 1903. His work is still lauded by motivational speakers and inspirational writers. Allen counseled: “[One’s] mind may be likened to a garden, which may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild.”

Mary Baker Eddy (1821 – 1910): Author of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and Founder of the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston. Also, the leading figure in the Christian Science movement. Mrs. Eddy said, “To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, today is big with blessings.”

F. Bernadette Turner (1903 – 1995) – Turner wanted to be an Episcopal priest when she was young, but was not allowed because of her gender. She still wanted to serve and help people, so she earned multiple degrees in Education, Sociology, Social Work, and finally a PhD in Psychology. She discovered Divine Science and trained to become a Divine Science minister. She pastored Divine Science churches in Chicago and Roanoke. In retirement, she continued to minister as a chaplain to the retirement home where she lived. Then, at the age of 86, she was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church and the following year (1990) at the age 87, she was ordained an Episcopal priest (her lifelong dream finally fulfilled). She continued serving as chaplain to her community where she encouraged seniors to renew their energy by taking rest, exercise, good nutrition, and meditation.

Fannie Brooks James (1854 – 1914) – Nona Brooks’ sister. Author of *Truth and Health*. A former Presbyterian, she struggled with health and financial issues in her younger years. Her lot improved once she was introduced to New Thought metaphysics. She was an early teacher, writer, and leader in the Divine Science movement. Emphasizing the Divine Science focus on Omnipresence, she wrote, “If God is OMNIPRESENCE, there is nothing anywhere but God.”

Joseph Murphy (1898 – 1981) – an Irish Catholic priest, pharmacist, and psychologist who became a Religious Science minister and then a Divine Science minister. In his life he met Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein. He was a friend of Ernest Holmes and also of Emmet Fox. He loved the teachings of Nona Brooks. He pastored a large New Thought church in Los Angeles and wrote the self-help classic, *The Power of Your Subconscious Mind*. Murphy taught, “Your subconscious never sleeps. It is always on the job. It controls all your vital functions. Forgive yourself and everyone else before you go to sleep, and healing will take place much more rapidly.”

Joseph Perry Green (1898 – 1981) – founder of the College of Divine Metaphysics (still offering correspondence courses today).

Claude M. Bristol (1891 - 1951) - WW1 veteran and journalist who investigated and practiced what he called “mind stuff” (the power of belief, determination, and visualization). Comedienne Phyllis Diller credited his book *The Magic of Believing* with changing her life and jumpstarting her career. She often gave copies of the book to young performers seeking

her advice. Bristol advised, “You have to think big to be big” and “We usually get what we anticipate.”

Warren Felt Evans (1817 – 1889) – attended Middlebury and Dartmouth colleges. He became a Methodist minister and then left Methodism to join the Swedenborgian church (Church of the New Jerusalem). After visiting Phineas P. Quimby (the “father” of New Thought) for treatment for an ailment, Evans himself became a “mind cure” practitioner. He was the first to write about the healing methods used and taught by Phineas Quimby. WFE declared, “All outward power that we exercise over the things about us is but a shadow in comparison with the inward power that resides in imagination and will.”

Johnnie Colemon (1920 – 2014) – Johnnie Colemon experienced a dramatic healing when she discovered New Thought, but soon after encountered racism when she began studying for the ministry. Nevertheless, she completed her ministerial studies and was ordained. Later, she founded her own church (Christ Universal Temple), an association of churches and ministries (Universal Foundation for Better Living), and a ministry school. The theology of CUT & UFBL is “Fillmorean” (the philosophy of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore). Colemon taught the affirmation, “I am the thinker that thinks the thought that makes the thing.”

Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993) – Champion of positive thinking and author of *The Power of Positive Thinking* and founder of Guideposts Magazine, he was also the minister of New York’s prestigious Marble Collegiate Church. Peale famously taught, “Change your thoughts and you change your world.” He praised enthusiasm: “There is real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment.” And he encouraged optimism: “Stand up to your obstacles and do something about them. You will find they haven’t half the strength you think they have.”

Divine Science Statement of Being

God is all, both invisible and visible.

*One Presence,
One Mind,
One Power is all.*

*This One that is all is perfect life,
perfect love, and perfect substance.*

**[We are] the individualized expression of God and [are]
ever one with this perfect life, perfect love, and perfect
substance.*

*Man is...and is...

