



**Dr. Nancy Anderson**

## Wisdom of Emerson For Today

"Namaste to You, My Fellow Evolutionaries!"

Issue 2013-4

**Page 1,2, 3,4**  
**Wisdom of Emerson**

**Page 5,6**  
**Dear Readers of Awakenings**  
**Outreach loads Food Containers**

**Page 7, 8**  
**Tales of Ron Skeen**

**Page 9, 10**  
**Fond memories of**  
**Rev. Karuna Paul**

**Page 11,12**  
**Rev. Connie Returns to**  
**Africa**

**Page 13,14,15, 16**  
**The Puzzle Pieces fit**  
**together**

**Page 17, 18**  
**International Focus—The**  
**Philippines**

If you can:

- accept everyone no matter what their appearance, race, religion, sexual preference, ethnic background, gender, level of income or lack of
- if you can look in the mirror and not be dismayed, sleep all night without medication, deal with your life without a drug of choice
- say thank you to a compliment or for a gift and not feel discomfort or pride give a compliment or gift and not feel superior
- if you can forgive without strings
- if you can keep your peace in the midst of most "what-evers,"
- if you can let others have their opinions or habits and not try to change them,
- if you can believe in your own truth and not feel a need for agreement,
- if you can live in today and not tomorrow or yesterday...
- and most of all if you wake up and are just glad it is a new day to live, to love, to be.....
- **then you are as enlightened....as a dog!**

**Let's not despair.**

**We too, like our dog (God spelled backwards) can live with unconditional love within, in the present moment and actually fulfill our nature as conscious life on this planet.**

Dogs have consciousness but are blessed without seeming to have to work with it to wake up enough to their reality to be happy. They, if not made acutely miserable, are creatures of today, open to love and be loved, with no limit.

All those conditions mentioned; I know some of them you can say "yes" to, some not. **However, all are effects of our cosmic view, our life view, the ideas, or understanding by which we live our lives.**

Is it important that we do become accepting of, and cooperative with, people vastly different in many ways from ourselves?

Is it important that we deal with issues today, in the context of day, not of long held and often erroneous ideas and ancient enmities and alliances?

Is it important that we truly forgive ourselves and others....and learn to love and live in the resent moment?

**Is it important we get over ourselves...our self importance and become truly humble? Being humble is not to think less of ourselves, but to think of ourselves less...and others more.**

Is it possible that we, as a race, have been like people knowing they can fly, knowing there is a way to break the bounds of gravity and go way

Editor:  
**Rev. Sharon Mitchell**  
[sharonmitchell@shaw.ca](mailto:sharonmitchell@shaw.ca)

Science of Mind<sup>â</sup>

(SOM<sup>â</sup>) is a registered U.S. trademark of SOMARK, INC. and all rights are

Awakenings

## Wisdom of Emerson For Today - Dr Nancy Anderson *cont'd*

beyond where we are...and not having any knowledge of the laws of aerodynamics? No matter what the machine we build looks like, or how many agreements we make about jointly working to have it fly...it does not do it. **It simply can not.**

**We cannot have a world that works, or is prosperous for everyone, a world of people at peace, a world of true cooperation that will unleash our creative potential for the value of each and all....not without knowing who we are, what we are...and working in harmony with the nature of our own being.**

One of the humans who has lived on this planet who had great insight in how to live so we really do function well ...as individuals...and then as people together...is Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Emerson shared his ideas with what I call both "class" and grace and elegance. He spoke profoundly but the ordinary man and woman of his day usually understood him. Deep calls to deep, truth to truth.

And he was maturing in an era of American history where there was such dissension that the petty self created squabbles of our dysfunctional congress are like an annoying infected insect bite compared to the life destroying cancer that slavery and the civil war, was.

Like many of us, he tried not to get too involved in what was the politics of his day until the issue was not politics but living so as to honor the very being we were and are.

However, Waldo, as known to friends and family, helped us realize that we were really one life, one mind, one being and that "what is true in the heart of one is true in the heart of all."

**So the insights he gave and the ideas that grew from them were not directed outwardly, to try to change others, but to help us live according to our own high being.** I am sure Waldo knew that if we do that, we have fulfilled our life assignment and by being a presence of good

(not a do-gooder) our influence is the influence of truth, of God if you like the word, within. **"Who you are speaks so loudly I can not hear what you say."**

I am going to share some of his insights and a few thoughts of my own about them. Please, take them and open to know for yourself **what they mean to you!** For me, studying Emerson for 53 years since I was 30, his insights accepted are a very big part of what I know spiritually and how I live, of my very character.

**"There is one mind common to all individuals. Everyone is an inlet of the same and all of the same." All, all that is in and of the creative intelligence that is this universe is in and as us.... Many qualities that are not attitudes, but actually are our essence to be revealed as we know we are this one. Peace, love, joy, order, harmony, beauty, assurance, life, intelligence.**

Emerson, in abstract terms, said we are "a selecting principle"...or the principle of life choosing all of the time. We may be the outlet to that which we are the inlet...but are we? From Self Reliance (my bible of my 30s) comes some ideas for us so we treasure our individual selves and roles and in so doing fulfill our primary function as inlets and outlets of the divine.

To me, Self Reliance as an essay was not a call to rugged individualism a la Ayn Rand of the 1960s.

It was a call to know our real self, to honor it, to rely on it, to be true to it...and then as William Shakespeare wrote, we are true to all people.

**"There comes a time in a man's education when he arrives at the conclusion that envy is ignorance and imitation is suicide...and no good can come to him but through the toil he gives to the plot of land he is given to till."**

We are called to "stand and deliver" the all-ness of what we are...and yet there is a courage required to do this, to be our

## Wisdom of Emerson For Today - Dr Nancy Anderson *cont'd*

potential. **Emerson wrote "God will not have His work made manifest by cowards. It needs a divine man to exhibit anything divine."**

Spirit does not need courage, it is the assurance of its own being...but we individually really do have to **"loose our life," our habitual life contained in personalism, emotionalism, sensualism, intellectualism, and materialism** and cease trying to confirm this very finite, survival driven and totally limited sense of self...and for a period until the light drawing us, the vision of ourselves as truly free, as assured, as expressing all the qualities of life that are good, a vision of ourselves as fulfilling our purpose for being here...until that vision grows very strong we can feel fear...and we do need to call on what we call courage ...

**....and perhaps more, to really trust ourselves. From Waldo again "trust yourself, every heart vibrates to that iron string. Great men have always done so."**

They have perceived that the eternal was stirring in their hearts, working through their hands, predominating in all their being" do you not think that Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, yes, J. F. Kennedy, Jesus and others of their spiritual stature were at times afraid – knowing they were going against what was the main consciousness of their times...being true non conformists. They were not only willing to lose their narrow, conditioned view of life, they were willing to let their lives on this planet go.

**Listen to Waldo: "Who so would be a man, must be a nonconformist. He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness. Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of our own mind." He also writes that "a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."**

Surely we change as we mature, have a greater knowing of life, of who we are, what is of value. We are going to be misunderstood. Was not Jesus and every great soul misunderstood? **Emerson said it, "to be great is to be misunderstood."**

**We are the people, this is the time** for us all to stop thinking of ourselves as "only human", wanting to do what we call good, but not really wanting to place our souls, our very lives on the line.

**I think our whole species, our world, is calling us to be great, to live greatly. Not necessarily to do things the world generally calls great, but to each moment of each day...to "want one thing." That one thing is to consciously be the presence of all that is good,** all that is God, or infinite love and intelligence and live as that presence. Then, where we walk darkness disappears...and if we are led to do anything it will be the activity of spirit as us with the full power of good inherent in it.

We play too small. We really can trust our self...and step out and quit playing "the game of not enough" people have played...for eons. **Emerson again..."The magnetism which all original action exerts is explained when we inquire the reason for self-trust. Who is the trustee? What is the aboriginal self upon which a universal reliance may be grounded?"**

I am going now to "the Over Soul" and let Emerson answer his own question. **"Man is a stream whose source is hidden. Always our being is descending into us from we know not whence." He calls that source, the Over Soul, the unity in which every man's particular being is contained and made one with all other."**

It is not an organ, not a faculty but a light.. that shines through us and upon all things. And makes us aware that **we are nothing, that the light is all.**

The soul circumscribes all things, it abolishes time and space. As Waldo says, "some thoughts always find us young and keep us so."

**Back to self-reliance....how can, when can, we let this great soul we are, have its expression,** give our lives the meaning and joy we deeply desire, and how and when can we be conscious members of the **"evolutionaries"...the ones who are**

## Wisdom of Emerson For Today - Dr Nancy Anderson *cont'd*

**being, through choice, and then lifting others into being the people who are creating the "new earth" of good for all?**

**By full attention into the now.** Waldo wrote, "man postpones or remembers, he does not live in the present, but with reverted eyes laments the past or stands on tiptoe to see the future. **He cannot be happy and strong until he, too lives with nature in the present, above time."**

Living in the present is being conscious of the content of our consciousness and our actions...in the present. Good to do.

**However, living now is to be present in this very instance allowing that which is beyond thought, beyond and can see the thinker, reveal itself as the true qualities of our being...light, love, peace, beauty, a intelligence, order, joy.**

**Today I am inviting you to join me in being like a favorite character of mine...he is Homey the clown.**

For a long time he'd been bamboozled by people telling him what he should do, who he should be, told that he had to hold on to whatever he had 'cause there might not be



more, that he had to manipulate people or even take from them...and that he did not have any real power of his own.

**One day Homey listened to a voice of intuition in him that was stronger than all that conditioning and he stood very still and said "Homey don't play that game no more." And when he said it, the game was over.**

Nancy don't play that game no more. Neither do you. We can rely on the self Emerson has shown us we are...and we can let the light of our true over soul shine every moment as our lives.

**We can meet the call to greatness that this era of this century in this period of evolution is calling us.**

What will the results be? Being awakened to a truly enlightened level guarantees no results at the world level. Almost for sure it won't be all ease and bliss

**But, as Henry David Thoreau wrote, we will "live with the license of a higher order of being"...this world and all of the universe will benefit!**

**"Namaste to You,  
My Fellow Evolutionaries!"**

## Dear Readers of Awakenings ...Dr Nancy Anderson



Dr. Nancy Anderson

Every month the Association for Global New Thought has an internet program called "New Thought on the News."

Leaders in the movement, usually two a program, discuss how to bring the perspective of New Thought, of spirituality, to the news of the day. The intent is to explore ways of consciousness to bring light where there seems so

much ignorance causing actions of darkness in the world.

<https://www.agnt.org/nt-news>

I appreciate the program and use it to affirm my own consciousness, my own ability or intrinsic power to make a difference in the race mind and also out in the world.

We of Global Services know that it is only as people wake up out of the illusion of separation which leads to fear and all sorts of negativity... conflict...greed....and self harm....will our world become the place of connection and cooperation and true well being that is definitely possible. In fact, this is our destiny!

We have great admiration for, and do support many people in the world who are leaders of, or are participating in centers where the "Spiritual Principles of Truth are being taught, practiced and eventually become a way of life." There is an evolutionary drive in the human race, a drive to become truly conscious, cooperating with the Laws of Life to bring forth all the Qualities of Being innate in us. We are here to be the PRESENCE and so a blessing to ourselves and others.

Although there seems to be emergency after emergency in countries of our world, the truth is that they may be, and in places are, turned into places of emergence of a greater understanding and willingness to seek answers to problems for the good of all.

**Dr. Carol Carnes** pointed out that world leaders actually reflect what is



Dr. Carol Carnes

happening in people.

In a few areas there are leaders who exemplify the consciousness of external power, of dominance and control and rule through fear.

Then there are those who are working from Internal Power and model our best selves, such as Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama. They both serve people with love and compassion.

Nelson Mandela who recently died, was a person whose consciousness went beyond forgiveness. In the moment of NOW, as he came out of the prison experience through which he matured so greatly, he claimed that NOW is a time to evolve, to be fully present working together for the good of the whole. Civil war was averted and a new South Africa was born. Mandela, **Dr. Carol** says, represents the wisdom within us.

I mention these people because from study groups and centers now in so many countries, from China to Jamaica, from South America to Russia and Ukraine, in Switzerland and Costa Rica...and many others, are very likely to come the spiritually awake leaders that will influence the people of their lands and the world. Also, each person who awakes in any community touches and transforms his and her community and also that person's consciousness is active in the Infinite Mind lifting all of us.

Part of the work of Global Services in 2013 has been to develop a web page within the CSL web site, one that will allow you to discover all our world centers, to gain information in 58 languages, to learn what classes are available, to know how to contribute to the Outreach food project or to furthering the work of global expansion. These are some features.

We have been able to support some individuals and groups in their work through grant money. Some are the new Shanghai, China work, the very wonderful Center in Ukraine, centers in Mexico and So. America, the fine European Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, and the amazing work in Costa Rica that is, in a hands on way, changing the lives of so many.

Most of all, through 2013 the leadership of **The Centers for Spiritual Living and Global Services** have worked together

## Dear Readers of Awakenings ...Dr Nancy Anderson

to discover how best to fulfill the commitment of CSL to be a world wide movement that will fulfill Ernest Holmes prophecy. Remember, Dr. Holmes said that this teaching, the metaphysical spiritual teaching would be the influential one of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Not just we, who are students of Religious Science/Science of Mind, but all who live with the faith OF God through understanding their true identity and respond to the evolutionary urge and become the transformation agents of this era of human history.

I am truly excited to my depth knowing that the work of the Centers for Spiritual Living and Global Services are really ONE and the foundation for the expansion of that work is coming into place and shall lead to the great benefit of people all over our world.

I am not mentioning all our Core Team and associates in this letter, but do want to say a very huge thanks to **Rev. Gregory Toole**, our liaison with



Rev. Gregory Toole

the Leadership of CSL for his truly tireless and enthusiastic work in the behalf of global expansion.

I am so honored to be the Chair of Global Services. This work is one of the greatest joys of my life. The people with whom I work have enormous dedication, integrity, faith, skills, talents and love. I so love, honor and respect each of them.

Your Treatments for the fulfillment of the Vision and Mission of The Centers for Spiritual Living and your participation in any way you are guided are so welcome...so wanted.

We would like to see you at the Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida February 16 to 22 and for you to attend, or assist at the Global Services workshop. Contact any of the Core Team at any time and discover ways you can help take our movement to the whole world!

In Love and Faith,  
Dr. Nancy Anderson

## Outreach Loads a Food Container for Tanzania



Floyd and Kathy Hammer

We began the week of December 23, by loading a container of food, medical supplies, and various items at our Outreach warehouse in Des Moines to ship to the African country of Tanzania.

Because our founders, Floyd and Kathy Hammer, began Outreach after a trip to Tanzania, the beautiful country has been the focus of Outreach's four promises of water, food, medicine and education.



## We're Loading Nearly 1.5 Million Meals for the Philippines!

The loading began of 1,425,600 nutritious meals for disaster relief in the Philippines from our Des Moines warehouse on Monday, Dec. 23. The first Five of nine forty-foot containers began loading in the frigid weather that day. Since the previous announcement in November of one million meals donated, an additional 425,600 meals have been provided.

The meals were packaged by volunteers across the U.S. and will be distributed in the Philippines by Somebody Cares International, Rotary International, and Comprehensive Disaster Response Services.

<http://www.outreachprogram.org/projects/food-program/>

# Tales of Ron Skeen RScP,... Travelling Practitioner!

Galina Skrypnik and I arrived in India on 14 Oct. We spent two days in Delhi, then rode an overnight bus to Naggar, in the Himalayas. The road was very bumpy, so we didn't sleep much.

We stayed at the Alliance Guest House hotel and enjoyed dinner on the hotel terrace.

On the 16th we visited the Nicolas Roerik museum, which was very interesting.

On the 17th we hired a car to take us to Bathinda, Punjab, where we visited our friend Sukhi, his family and **Dr Holmes Academy**.



Galina and Girls

The ride cost 7,000 Rupees, about \$115. Not bad for a trip for two that took 12 hours.

Many students and teachers at the school remembered Galina with great affection from when she was Interim Head Mistress in 2010.

Our timing was perfect, because on the 19th they had a big party for Sukhi's niece Dilpreet, her husband Arshdeep and their 22 day old son Kunwar.



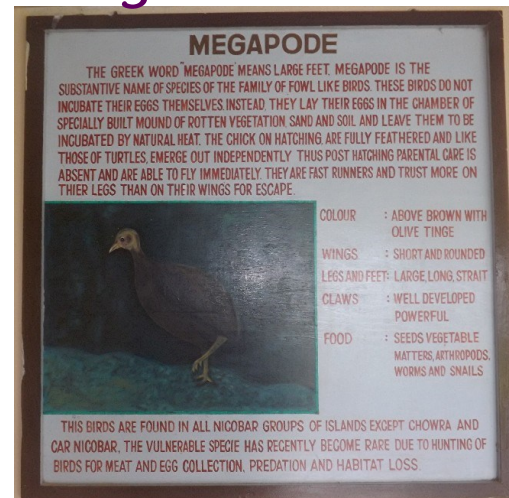
Arshdeep, Dilpreet, baby Kunwar

October 30 we flew from Delhi to the Andaman Islands. Andaman Islands have some unique features, such as sea-going

crocodiles, megapode birds and big orange colored coconuts.

For two days the local people celebrated the festival of Divali. I'm not sure what it was all about, but people there seemed to enjoy it. Lots of fireworks all day and evening.

The Happy Divali (or Dipawali, depending on the language) sand decoration was on the floor in the lobby of the Megapode Nest hotel, where we



Happy Divali!

stayed.

I found the Andaman Islands to be beautiful, but depressing. Maybe because the weather was hot and humid, or maybe because they were a penal colony when the British ruled India.

Galina also felt depressed.

The Cellular Jail was built by the British to house political prisoners. Construction was

# Tales of Ron Skeen RScP,...Travelling Practitioner!



Jailbird Ron

started in 1896 and completed in 1906.

The jail held 700 prisoners.

The British were very cruel to them. We could feel their misery just looking at the walls of the prison. I was glad when we left the Andaman Islands.

We flew back to Delhi on 5 November and hired a taxi to bring us

to Rishikesh on the 6th.

I've been eating oatmeal with fruit for breakfast and chipati and dal most other meals. Meat is not allowed in Rishikesh.

I haven't eaten any meat for a month and oddly enough don't miss it. I've lost some weight. Don't know how much, but I was wearing my belt in the first notch when I left CA and am wearing it in the third notch now.

Anna Tysenchuk, another interpreter from Ukraine, arrived here a couple of days ago. She and I will leave Rishikesh in a day or two

and go somewhere else.

Maybe to Kerala, at the southern tip of India.

Galina will stay in Rishikesh with her aunt Lydia, cousin Irina and a young man named Yevgenie. They are undergoing panchikarma treatment at a clinic here and don't speak English.



Coconut Ballerina



Naggar Terrace Dinner

Galina translates for them.

On 26 November we will all meet in Delhi and fly to Ukraine.

Love and Light to All,  
Ron Skeen



Megapode Nest Lawn



# Fond Memories of Rev Karuna Paul



Rev. Karuna Paul

Rev. Karuna Paul  
Born in Kadiam, India on  
13 February 1940  
Passed away  
24 December 2012,  
in Sydney, Australia  
Late of Darling Point

I only just recently heard about the transition of Rev. Karuna Paul, who created and lead the Center for Spiritual Living in Sydney, Australia. She made her transition on Christmas Eve of last year, 12/24/12.

This link will lead you to the funeral home's website where you can find some lovely pictures of Karuna: <http://www.heavenaddress.com/Rev-Karuna-Paul/429500/>

She originally studied with Dr. Tom Costa and he visited her once in Australia and told her that he would love to go and work with her there. She received her practitioner's license in 1996 and her minister's license in 1999.

Her journey to get her work affiliated with International Centers for Spiritual Living was difficult, largely because we had so much difficulty connecting with an international group, but she told me that she just began teaching and finally, in 2009, her Society Charter was approved by ICSSL's Board of Directors. I think her happiest moment in ICSSL was when so many of our people went to the Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne a couple of years ago and she was able to physically connect with them.

I will miss Karuna. As her sponsor, I enjoyed the periodic long distance phone call. I know that she did fine work in Australia. She leaves behind 2 practitioners -- Anthony Crivelli and Mary Manns, currently seeking affiliation with one of our US Centers as out-of-area practitioners (or whatever we call it in CSL). I am knowing that they are both uniquely qualified to continue Karuna's mission of bringing SOM to Australians.

Much love and Blessings,  
**Rev. Dr. Karen Kushner**  
Center for Spiritual Living  
Princeton



Rev. Dr. Karen Kushner

**Rev. Margo Ruark wrote:**

Oh my! Global Services did not hear any news of Rev. Karuna's transition. Last we heard, she had gone back to India due to an illness, but was fully intending to come back to work at her center in Sydney.

In addition to her Science of Mind center in Sydney, she had a following in India of her healing ministry with orphans near her home town. The children would call her "Mother" and flock around her. I remember a photo she sent us of her in her traditional Indian clothes and the village where she was ministering had held a special "Karuna-gras" in her honor. She was truly loved and appreciated!



Rev. Margo Ruark

Later, I believe it was 2005, she came to Asilomar and we sat in the main lodge and had a wonderful conversation about her work. My last memory of her was so full of life and of course her bright beaming smile. Thank you Rev. Karen for sharing the website with all the photos and thank you Rev. Linda for your generous offer to provide a home base for the practitioners. I'm sure we'll hear more about the status of the Sydney in the weeks and months ahead.

Blessings!  
Rev. Margo Ruark

From a previous communication:

Australia: Meeting Rev. Karuna Paul, Pastor of the Sydney Church of Religious Science and coming to know her was one of the great joys and highlights of our experience at Asilomar. Rev. George Honn appeared; was a really 'fast' demonstration for her desire for a co - pastor. Even as Rev. Nancy announced at the International and Seed Group workshop, that Rev. Paul wanted a co pastor...he gave her a note and said he'd be there. That was exciting!

Karuna started a school and orphanage for orphans in India, Ananda Karuna, near her home town of Andhra Pradesh. It is unknown to what extent her work will continue, although the family urged others to give to the orphanage in lieu of flowers in her honor. More information

# Fond Memories of Rev Karuna Paul cont'd

about Ananda Karuna may be available at [www.anandakaruna.org](http://www.anandakaruna.org).

Or by regular mail at Ananda Karuna School and Orphanage, 17-1-390/C, Laxmi Nagar, Saidabad Colony, Hyderabad - 500 059, Andhra Pradesh INDIA Telephone: 5540 7833  
Rev. Karuna Paul's practitioners Anthony Crivelli and Mary Manns remain in Sydney and continue the work. You can write to Anthony at [anthonycrivelli@hotmail.com](mailto:anthonycrivelli@hotmail.com).



**Dr. Nancy Anderson**

Dr. Nancy Anderson wrote, "Rev. Karuna was a person that we who knew her found quite unique and really appreciated that she was of more than one culture and country."

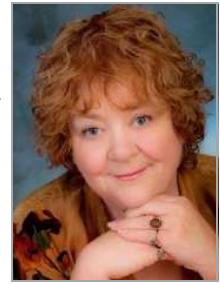
**Rev. Linda Finley** wrote:

Karuna was in my 400 intensive in 1998. She was and is a lovely individual. Sad to know she is not here with us on this plane. I would gladly offer Eugene, OR as a potential for holding the licenses for her two practitioners.

Thanks, Karen, for sharing this.

Blessings, Linda

*We have heard from Dr. John and Barbara Waterhouse, CSL Asheville, NC that "The practitioners in Sydney, Anthony Crivelli and Mary Manns, have contacted Dr. Barbara about our Center in Asheville holding their licenses, which we have arranged to do. I thought you'd want to know. So many blessings!"*



**Rev. Linda Finley**



**Rev. Karuna Paul and her community**

# Rev. Connie Returns to Africa

The long awaited return to continue teaching in Kenya has arrived!

After working with Canada Immigration for 18 months Patrick arrived in Canada on Christmas Day 2012. The look on his face was absolutely priceless when he walked outside the Calgary airport on the coldest day of the year into temperature of 28 below Celsius.



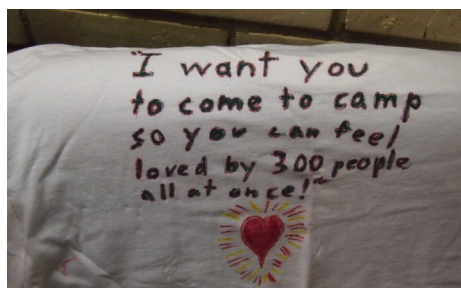
We spent the next several months getting him acclimated to the Canadian culture. He acquired his Alberta drivers licence and secured a position in shipping and receiving in a warehouse. It has been such a delight re-discovering Canada through his eyes, everything is so incredibly new and exciting for him. I think it was easier in many ways for me going to Africa than for him coming to Canada.

For instance, everything in Canada is so much more advanced and he has had to learn so much... from learning how to read a map to operating a computer. Many of the younger generation in Nairobi have learned how to use a computer but they are not mainstream by any means and most businesses do not have them.

In preparation for returning to Kenya we collected 1000 lbs of books and supplies that we shipped over for the project. The Sunday before we left the Centre for Spiritual Living Southeast Edmonton held a bon voyage fundraising event that was a huge success. Rev. Sharon Mitchell Associate Minister, JOY of Life Centre for Spiritual Living, created a Power Point presentation to showcase the Kenya SOM Centre.

Bob Kleypas, a dedicated volunteer who spent two months in Kenya when I was there in 2011, was in attendance and spoke to his experiences of volunteering in a developing country.

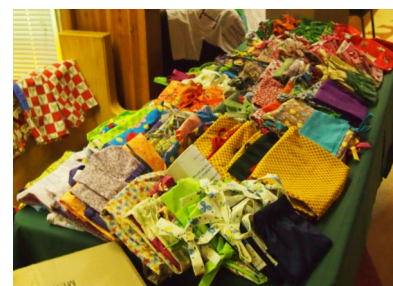
The teen group donated several t-shirts from a project they had done at their winter camp.



They asked to have the t-shirts distributed to the teens from the slum school, where I was

teaching SOM classes.

Dana Stewart and her team of quilters from the Centre for Spiritual Living, Edmonton Metro donated 84 pillowcase dresses and 68 pairs of shorts to be distributed in Kenya. These are beautiful!



## Rev. Connie Returns to Africa - cont'd

Over the past month I have been reconnecting with students that are very excited to be able to study the Science of Mind.

Last week there were 5 students in attendance



for the first Discovery Class and my goal is to have 10 students complete the first Foundations class to be offered January 2014.

The fellow and his wife (Geoffrey and Willikister) that run the school are both committed to class. They had a baby girl a year ago and I am so honored that they named her after me!



Geoffrey and Willikister with baby Connie, and Rev. Connie

One of the students in Discovery Class is a writer and has offered to translate some of the class material into Swahili after he has a better understanding of the material.



He has also offered to teach me Swahili so I am looking forward to that.

We visited the slum school where I was previously teaching SOM to students from grades 4 – 8 and will start class there again in January. In 2011, I had taught the class to sing Karen Drucker's 'You Are the Face of God' so I asked the students if anyone remembered the song and a young boy named Duncan got up and sang it complete with hand movements! I was so impressed, it has been over 2 years and he is only about 9 now! Here is a link to the video: <http://youtu.be/caoag36jfSI>

Donations to Kenya SOM can be made via:  
E-transfer (Canada) OR

Paypal OR

Snail Mail to:

Kenya SOM Centre, 6311 – 109A Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 3C6

If you would like to view the powerpoint presentation please contact Rev. Connie at [revconnie@gmail.com](mailto:revconnie@gmail.com).

If you would like to know more about the project go to Rev. Connie's blog. <http://stirredbyspirit.com/>

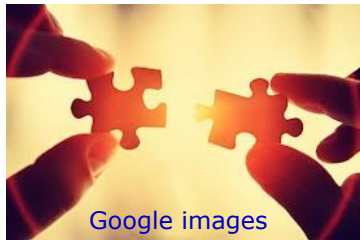
# The Puzzle Pieces Fit Together - Savanna Riker, RScP

Many of us walk through life seeking and longing for connection, to believe in something powerful about ourselves and about our lives. Many of us desire to be happy, prosperous, joy filled and abundant. We are astounded and inspired by nature's miraculous beauty and adaptation, and we feel the magic it possesses in all its character, structure, brilliance, harvesting and growth. We somehow wonder how we fit into this design, into this vast amazingness of this nature, the mountains, oceans, deserts, and plains. We want to know why we are here, who we are, and what our purpose is on this planet.



Savanna Riker RScP

We are all puzzle pieces, with our own story, identity, culture, language and diversity, yet we are part of the whole of the



Google images

puzzle. I had the incredible opportunity in one of my last ministerial classes recently, to creatively express and share my own vision and theology for ministry and how I wanted to express it in the world. What came through me was to use the passion I have for the world, its many cultures, religions, and peoples, coupled with my desire to be a bridge, teaching spiritual principle out in the world, thus creating a platform for dialogue and the dissemination of information of New Thought and the Science of Mind teaching across the globe.



Tolerance Photo by: Emad Karim

How can I/we do this? ..... A blog.

This blog I created was inspired to address all of life's most profound and beautiful questions from the diversity and rich tapestry of people everywhere, through the lens of spiritual truth and the Science of Mind teaching philosophy. [www.thepuzzlepiecesfittogether.blogspot.com](http://www.thepuzzlepiecesfittogether.blogspot.com) It is just the beginning and another means of using technology to reach and touch others. (Many ministers within Centers for Spiritual Living use blogs to talk about all sorts of relevant things;)



Savanna with Egyptian Children-Naqada Village, Egypt

Its greater purpose is to open up the conversation addressing questions about life, purpose, faith, intention, God, evil, prosperity, relationships and so much more. It is a way in which we are able to meet people where they are in addressing these issues from a Science of Mind perspective and simultaneously acknowledging their faith background, experience and belief of anyone posing the questions.

It addresses questions one might receive while teaching spiritual principle out in the world such as:



Google images

## The Puzzle Pieces Fit Together - Savanna Riker, RScP CONT'D

**How** does the Science of Mind philosophy support my scientific views and atheistic upbringing in the former Soviet Union, and how can I apply it to my life?

**How** can I use the Science of Mind teaching to support my Islamic faith and is it another religion? How will it help me in my life? What is this philosophy's view of evil and sin?

**What** are your views about Hebrew Scriptures and how do they relate to the SOM teaching? I am a Kabbalistic Hasidic Jew. As Kabbalistic Jews, the interpretation of the text is somewhat open to deeper meaning, however Judaism is textually oriented when looking even at shapes of letters in the Torah. It is still very important. I'm curious, how does the Science of Mind philosophy, which has its roots in Christianity, interpret the Christian Bible?

**What** is your idea of the holy trinity and how does it apply to my life as a Russian Orthodox Christian?

It is my belief that in order to touch millions of lives as we say we want to do within Centers for Spiritual Living, we must tap the abundance of resources with technology, the education and history of New Thought, as well as partnering with other individuals and groups of like mind doing service projects and collaboration with those already making a difference in the world.

Ideas starting streaming to me of what it would look like if we continued using social media and technology to start building relationships, partnerships, and bridges to understanding one another's differences and likenesses and how we can cooperate with each other through shared leadership and

vision.

In this way, we bless our differences yet we also work towards a common vision of love, peace, abundance and harmony on our planet and in our lives.



Young Indian girl  
Photo by: Humans of India

What does a world that works for everyone look like from the life of a person living in sub-Saharan Africa trying to escape the violence against women, while feeding their children and finding clean water to drink?

What does a world that works for everyone look like to the Syrian child caught in the crossfires of their country at war?

What does a world that works for everyone look like for the Philippine family putting their lives back together after having lost everything in this last hurricane?

What does a world that works for everyone mean to the young Egyptian fighting for freedom, social justice, and bread?

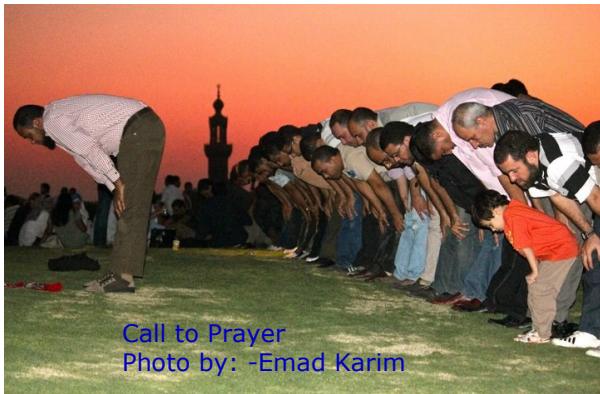
I recall my time living in Egypt last year during the ongoing Egyptian Revolution. I had my own questions flooding my mind like:



Savanna in a hijab at Ibn Tulun Mosque  
Photo by: Emad Karim

## The Puzzle Pieces Fit Together - Savanna Riker, RScP CONT'D

Where is God in all of this chaos, fires burning in the streets, people rioting and angry, in all this "condition" and pain of so many people?



Call to Prayer  
Photo by: -Emad Karim

How do I shine my light when there is so much darkness everywhere here?

How do I share spiritual principle in the Middle East without heavy spiritual jargon or without anyone believing I am replacing their strong faith in Islam? What does the Science of Mind teaching and a world that works for everyone look like here, and how do I take part in that change?

Other questions have continued to present themselves to me each and every time I travel to another country. I recall my first time ever visiting Ukraine, when the Orange Revolution had just occurred, there was a sense of newfound freedom and possibility, and yet Americans still required visas, and passport control was always an experience I dreaded. Remnants of the old and the heaviness were still present for me.

**Rev. Barbara Leger**, spiritual leader and director at TEMENOS Self-Realization Center in Cherkassy, Ukraine said to me, *"Savanna, we must be mindful of the jargon we use in this country and seek to understand from where Ukrainians are coming. We say that it helps them if they know what they believe. Words*



Rev. Barbara Leger

*like "God" and "church" are heavily loaded terms and do not work well here. We have to know what mindsets we are working with to start where people are and build from there."*

I had to learn very quickly how to relate and use terms that would meet and support seekers and participants where they are, learning the history and hardships of a country occupied forever by everyone other than Ukrainians themselves. It helped provide a framework from which to teach Science of Mind principles, the core of our teaching of oneness, God, and love, and what is most important.

It also allowed me to be quite creative in juggling the cultural nuances, traditions, expectations and judgments I had about their culture and where I fit into it.

To better understand this world of unique cultures and paths, I believe we must prepare ourselves to get along with others, learn to work alongside, and with, each other as we create a new world.

This blog and the use of it can support these kinds of questions and create a space for dialogue.

Partnership and collaboration with others, I believe, helps us see our growing edges.

It allows us the opportunity to leap out of our comfort zones into working together in shared leadership with a common vision for possibility, to love, prosper, evolve, and be in service.

**Rev Barbara Leger**, spiritual leader of TEMENOS Self-Realization Center in Cherkassy, Ukraine shares her thoughts about partnership:

*"We have arrived at a human experience where partnership is becoming more important in all aspects of our life to expand the individual capacity, productivity and well being of people and organizations, businesses*

# The Puzzle Pieces Fit Together - Savanna Riker, RScP CONT'D

and governments.

*We live in an interdependent flow of life and to try to 'go it alone' is to separate and suffer. This shift in the global reality is perhaps a great elegant design of Spirit to get us all willing to learn to give up excessive control and learn to trust Life and each other. This will change the whole game of life." Rev Barbara Leger*

I also think it allows us to see in ourselves the places we are attached to our 'spiritual philosophy' our way and the judgments we have about others and other cultures. It helps us build a world that works for all. It truly is its



Savanna and 4 Ukrainian women at SOM conference workshop

own spiritual path, yet a fulfilling one when we are able to see ourselves, do the inner work in trust and acceptance, and transcend any sense of separation it may bring about.

Being in service out in the world shows us everything about ourselves that is hidden, everything unlike the joy, happiness, harmony



African Drummer  
Photo by: Emad Karim

and peace we say we want and desire. It always calls us back to our own healing. I believe it does this for our awakening and for us to collectively grow together as a human family.

So as we see all the old structures, systems, and belief systems falling apart and away all over the world through the Arab Spring that swept throughout the Middle East and is now reaching Eastern Europe, the US, and Spain, as we move through the hardship of letting go from all the natural disasters affecting our planet, are we not called to shift our



perception, to look deeply into these questions ourselves and to start turning inward and moving our feet? Are we not called to greater possibility through technology, shared leadership and collaboration in partnership?

We get to explore and expand ourselves, through the study and application of timeless spiritual principles, life experiences, and ancient wisdom brought to us from all walks of faith, cultures and peoples. Take a moment to check it out and contribute your own questions, thoughts and observations.

Through dialogue, partnerships, team building, and effective solutions, we can truly work towards creating a world that works for everyone.



Google images



# INTERNATIONAL FOCUS - The Philippines

## *A Living Faith in the Blackest Storm*



Dr. Nancy Anderson



Rev. Margo Ruark

*"A living faith will last in the midst of the blackest storm." Mahatma Gandhi*

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful tropical storms on record to make landfall, battered the Philippines and caused catastrophic damage. In the wake of its 190 mph winds and up to 10 inches in torrential rains in 12 hours, some 5,200 people were killed, and the UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that 14 million people, or 15% of the republic's total population, were affected.

According to meteorologists, Tacloban, Leyte province, central Philippines was "ground zero" for Haiyan's devastation where no building appeared to have escaped the storm's damage.



Rev. Roy Fisher

Rev. Roy Fisher, has a focus ministry in the Philippines, called Caring for Children in the Philippines, Rev. Roy cares for more than a dozen foster children in the towns of Leyte and Angeles. He was in Tacloban City when the storm hit. He

was unharmed, but sent this prayer request to CSL's leadership, which was later posted on Creative Thought's Facebook page and elsewhere.

"I am asking for prayers from our entire community for my community here in the Philippines. The fear is nearly overwhelming as over 9 million people are without food, water, electricity, shelter, supplies, and medications. Over 10,000 people are dead\* in just Tacloban where I was the day of the

storm and many thousands more are feared dead in other coastal cities like my own (Bool) because rescue efforts have failed to reach them so far. The military has quelled the looting in major towns but they can't quell the fear.

I am currently outside of Manila and trying to find a way to get back to Leyte where a dozen of my foster children are, but all the roads are closed and I can't ferry there because another typhoon is hitting Leyte today and tomorrow. My children in Angeles are safe and for that I am grateful.

Please pray and ask for prayers for all in the Philippines and their families abroad who cannot reach them."



Ruel Ruiz

In Manila and Cebu, CSL has a Seed Group that has been meeting since 1980, Religious Science of Man Philippines, and Ruel Ruiz is the leader. Ruel sent us an email three days after the storm hit, telling of the disaster, and saying it did not impact Manila or Cebu as severely as it did Tacloban. All those in the Seed Group were safe.

We want to commend Ruel Ruiz and Ms. Ayee (Ana) Domingo, near Manila and Michael Batista in Cebu for their continuing work to be of service in their communities. This service took a very big and specific leap after the typhoon hit. Both Ruel and Michael put out the call to their connections in Religious Science of Man and in the spirit/mind/body community for aid which they would see reached some of the harder hit parts of their country. Besides financial and emergency physical help Ruel wrote:

"Only good and best shall come out of this situation. Change is absolutely constant. Without cleaning and rearranging our values



Ms. Ayee (Ana) Domingo

Without cleaning and rearranging our values

# INTERNATIONAL FOCUS - The Philippines

we sometimes miss the gist of what life is showing. Live life to the fullest, make every moment count. Happiness is a choice. We decide to allow it in our lives."

Ruel also wrote this: "When doing Spiritual Mind Treatment do not do it only out of desperation but also when there is overflowing good in your life. Science of Mind is not an easy way out and a magic wand that makes things according to your whim....it is a tool that ensures your strength is rooted in Truth."

The group invites sponsorship and donations to help create and sustain events of service to their mission.

Ruel writes, "We have an association with the Centers for Spiritual Living in the U.S.A.

We espouse universal principles. We believe we support ourselves as we support nature and man. As we do this, each of us is supported."

In 2012-2013, during each quarter of the year they worked in a supporting way with Marikina City, a suburb of Manila, "because most natural calamities affect this city the hardest," especially earthquakes and landslides, as it sits on one of the world's fastest sinking fault lines.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter they worked to do a cleanup of the Marikina River, in cooperation with various agencies including the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

*See Awakenings previous E-News 2013-2 for the story of the cleanup.*

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter tree-planting was done at the Marikina Watershed with the same Bureau plus students from Pasig Catholic College.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter event for families and communities was at Brgy-Tumana, Marikina City, the most flooded area of the Manila metro area.

Last year, the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter featured an empowerment event December 21 for senior citizens and youths. This event included bands, stars and dancers and empowerment messages.

This year's event "We Are One" produced by Ayee and Ruel in December 2013, together

with the Red Cross and others, brought together some of the Philippines most recognized Empowerment Speakers, who gathered together in Manila to hold a day of yoga, prayer, empowerment, life-enriching, and supportive workshops while sending the proceeds go to Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) survivors. More events to come!

**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:** Centers for Spiritual Living has recently created a DISASTER RELIEF FUND, which has been established to assist our member communities affected by disasters. President Dr. John Waterhouse says, "The fund is in its first year and we envision a time in the future when there is ample funds to cover emergencies such as natural disasters that impact one or more of our communities. To have the funds on hand will allow immediate response."

In the interim, CSL has created a special fund-raising initiative for Rev. Roy Fisher who needs \$6,000 for a new roof and generator to rebuild his ministry in the Philippines.

Visit <http://www.csl.org> and click on the PHILIPPINE DISASTER RELIEF-DONATE NOW button on the right. Let your friends know they can donate, too.

All donations are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt for your income tax records.

Any donations Centers for Spiritual Living receives above what is needed for Rev. Roy's ministry will go into the general Disaster Relief Fund.

Read more about Rev. Roy Fisher's Focus Ministry work with children in the Philippines at [www.csaministries.org](http://www.csaministries.org). or write him at [pescadablanca@hotmail.com](mailto:pescadablanca@hotmail.com)

Write to Ruel Ruiz at [razuli88@yahoo.com](mailto:razuli88@yahoo.com). Find Religious Science of Man Philippines on Facebook at [RSOMPhil](https://www.facebook.com/RSOMPhil).