



[Date]

Spiritualism: Historical Research into its Beginnings and a Review of Organization that Promulgate it

Rev. Beryl Hines

INDEPENDENT SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.

Spiritualism is the science, philosophy, and religion of a continuous life based upon the demonstrable fact of communication by means of mediumship with those in the spirit world.

Spiritualism has a genuine religious basis and connotations as well as psychic experiments. The first book of Samuel, Chapter 28, is important to Spiritualists. We'll use this single incident as a very convincing example. It seems that Saul, King of Israel at that time, was going to have to face the Philistines and was really afraid to do so. After deciphering his dreams, as many Spiritualists do, He consulted his psychics and used the Urim and Thummim, an ancient divination device. He then went to see the woman of Endor. She was asked to call up Samuel, Saul's departed counselor. To everyone's surprise, Samuel appeared and condemned Saul. This can be found in first Samuel chapter 28.

Another outstanding incident is related in Matthew Chapter 17. It tells of the Transfiguration. As you read this chapter and visualize what took place, as a Spiritualist, you are able to receive the full import of what happened when Jesus and the three Apostles witnessed the materialization of the spirits of Moses and Elias, who had been in spirit many years.

Archaeological, anthropological, and historical literature is full of references to professed instances involving the spirit world. Spiritualism is itself a relatively new phenomenon. The true ancestors of Spiritualism are not the anxious mediums, but the Puritan and Wesleyan Conservatives who used psychic phenomena to prove the existence of the unseen world beyond. In the late 1600s, Puritan theologians began to issue numerous accounts of the Spirit world. Spiritualism is the direct inheritor of Puritan Wesleyan concerns.

In 1681 Joseph Glanvil published his *Seducismus Triumphatus*, which means Full and Plain Evidence Concerning Witches and Apparitions. This was followed by similar books written by Increase Mather, Richard Baxter, and Cotton Mather. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, states the issue of the British Evangelicals, briefly, in an introduction to his lengthy discussion of the mediumship of Elizabeth Hobson.

“I take knowledge these are at the bottom of the outcry which has been raised, and with such insolence spread through the nation, in direct opposition not only to the Bible, but the suffrage of the wisest and best of men in all ages and nations. They well know (whether Christians know it or not) that the giving up witchcraft is, in effect giving up the Bible; and they know, on the other hand, that if but one account of their intercourse of men with separate spirits be admitted, their whole Castle in the air (Deism, Atheism, Materialism) falls to the ground. I know no reason, therefore, why we should suffer even this weapon to be wrested out of our hands. Indeed, there are numerous arguments besides, which abundantly confute their vain imaginations. But we need not be hooted out of one; neither reason nor religion require this. “

These men, not the many psychics of every age, are the immediate ancestors of Spiritualists. This is amply documented in the literature of Spiritualism as well as in the creedal statements, where continued reference is made to the central emphasis of Spiritualism: “The belief and personal survival of death, which can be demonstrated by mediumship.” This belief is an emphasis on the survival of death and mediumship distinguishes Spiritualism from other psychic groups.

Spiritualism is secondarily, the child of the psychic activity of the 18th century. There were, at this time in the late 1770s, two gentlemen, Franz Anton Mesmer and Emmanuel Swedenborg. Swedenborg lived in 1688 through 1772. He was a Swedish philosopher and religious writer. He taught that the Bible verses have a symbolic meaning, and that he deciphered the symbolism. Franz Anton Mesmer discovered and articulated a form of psychic healing that included both magnetic healing and hypnotism. He was denounced by

the French Academy in 1784 and died in disgrace. Fortunately, many of his students took his magnetic philosophy and hypnotism to England and the United States. As a result of this knowledge and the publication of the *Progress of Animal Magnetism* in New England by Charles Poyen in 1837, including his good lecturing, the issue of man's psychic nature was raised across the country in the early 1840s. In 1843, one of these roving mesmerists spurred interest in a young shoemaker apprentice, Andrew Jackson Davis. With this encounter, modern Spiritualism can be said to have begun.

Beginning in 1880 through 1920 seemed to be the era of some of the greatest mediums. During this time, numerous books were published bringing revelations from the Spirit World.

In 1872, the cause of Spiritualism was helped a great deal by William Stanton Moses, formerly a clergyman in the established Church of England. He became editor in Chief of the Spiritualist Paper 'Light.' And wrote two books, '*Spirit Identity*' and '*Spirit teachings*.'

Belief in Spiritualism has persisted, and during the beginning of the present century gained many converts, notably, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sir Oliver lodge. Among the chief Spiritualist publications are the '*Progressive Thinker*,' in the United States, the '*Banner of Life*,' '*Reason*,' and the '*National Spiritualist*.'

Spiritualism has no creeds or dogmas, but most Spiritualists do try to live up to a series of principles and apply them in their daily lives. As some of the Spiritualist churches do differ in these, it still is a matter of choice, and what the individual would like to practice. There will be a separate section to refer to, so that the various interpretations may be studied.

Psychical Research is the investigation into phenomena which appears to be contrary to the laws of conventional natural sciences, such as chemistry, physics and psychology.

This field of investigation takes its name from the *Society for Psychical Research*, founded in England in 1882. The society included many famous scientists and philosophers. One of the first achievements was the early investigation of hypnotism. This was later relinquished to medicine and psychology. The society included many investigations into seances produced by Spiritualists. Investigations by English and American researchers included Sir William Crookes who was interested in seances produced by Daniel Dunglas Home.

In the United States, several groups have been active in the field of psychical research and a few universities have departments of parapsychology for investigation of telepathy, clairvoyance, and other forms of extrasensory perception, or ESP. Duke University is one of the foremost places of investigation into these talents.

Spiritualism demonstrates that God is the father of all people. God is not a Christian, Jew, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Methodist, or a Spiritualist. Spiritualism provides mankind with a religion founded not on faith or fear, but on knowledge. It proves that man survives death by a natural law of the universe.

Andrew Jackson Davis was born in Blooming Grove, NY in 1828. After hearing the lectures on mesmerism, Davis became curious. After several failures, he had given up on being mesmerized. That is until William Levington invited him to one of his events where he was placed in a trance. Davis showed clairvoyant abilities and the following year he had a vision of Galen, the famous Greek physician, and soon after of Emmanuel Swedenborg. These visions changed his life, and he began a career as a healer and seer. Davis published a number of books over the next 30 years. These books were a big part of the formation of Spiritualism.

Davis, like Swedenborg, pictured six spheres of existence in the afterlife. At death, man gravitates to that sphere most akin to his state of being. From this sphere, he continues to progress toward God through the higher spheres. Thus, mankind is in a state of continual progression upward.

The event which most American Spiritualists look to more than Davis as the birth of their faith, occurred on March 31, 1848. The experience of the Fox Sisters of Hydesville, New York. The study of this segment is related in the Basic Course of the ISA. A course put out by the Independent Spiritualist Association of the United States of America.

The years between 1880 and 1920 were the era of the great mediums and a time when many books were written through the means of mediumship and their contacts with the spirit world. It included the *Oahspe*, which was written by John B. Newbrough, and the *Aquarium Gospel of Jesus* by Levi H. Dowling. Both are still in print and supply good knowledge for those interested in the study of Spiritualism. Among the mediums tested at this time showing outstanding results were Gladys Osborne Leonard, Alta Piper, and Mrs. Coombe-Tennant.

Spiritualism has developed several means of demonstration to carry on its teachings. There are the churches, camps, seances, and development classes. Knowledge is a key factor in the study of Spiritualism. Familiarity gained by actual experience, practical skill, the act of understanding, and clear perception of truth.

A true Spiritualist is always conscious of an urge from the other side of life, which stresses that real religion consists of the way one's daily life is led. Spiritualism enables you to realize that in all ages, prophets and seers have been inspired by revelations emanating from the spirit world.

Associations, Churches, and Societies.

Universal Brotherhood of Faithists. John Bello Newbrough, (1828 - 1891) was a Spiritualist medium. In the year 1882, he received by automatic writing on a typewriter, a

Spiritualism: Historical Research into its Beginnings and a Review of Organization that Promulgate it

revelation published under the title Oahspe. In 1883, a convention was held in New York City to work towards funding a communal group to care for orphans and foundlings as directed in Oahspe. A colony was founded in New Mexico but failed after a couple of years.

The Oahspe is a large volume written in the style of the King James version of the Bible. It contains the story of man's creation some 78,000 years ago, and his upward struggle. In 1974 there were several hundred Faithists in the United States. Their headquarters were in Tiger, Georgia. Other organized centers [may] include Los Angeles and Montrose, CO, the Elohist ministry in Duxbury, MA, and the Essenes of Kosmon. There are also groups in Canada and England. [Presently, there may not be any surviving groups.]

School of Natural Science. The School of Natural Science was established in Stockton, CA during 1883 by John E. Richardson, a practicing attorney. According to Richardson, in the summer of 1883, he encountered a stranger at the Grand Central Hotel in Stockton. The individual identified himself as Hoo-Kna-Ka. He was able to tell Richardson about his spiritual journey, from Baptist to Spiritualist. He talked Richardson into becoming an initiate of the *School of the Pastors* headquartered in India. In 1894, Richardson popularly known as TK, moved to Chicago and became associated with Mrs. Florence Huntley. The School of Natural Science teaches that the Universal Intelligence is revealed through his immutable laws, that nature is engaged in the evolvement of intelligences and nature impels us towards higher levels of consciousness. The soul is immortal and passes successively into physical and spiritual bodies. Man's free will works within the law of compensation or karma, and by living the laws of nature, people come to know instinctively that spiritual reality exists, and life continues after death. The school was headquartered in Los Gatos, CA. [This organization may be defunct.]

Word Foundation. Harold W. Perceval was a psychically attuned person from his early youth. In 1892, he joined the Theosophical Society. Membership in that group served as a springboard for his own development as a philosopher and metaphysician. In 1893 he had an experience which he described as being conscious of the presence of a consciousness.

Thinking occurs when one selects a subject and holds it in conscious light. As the light is focused, the subject becomes known. By this process, Perceval began to dictate messages to Benoni B. Gattell. Between 1904 and 1917, Perceval published 25 volumes of *The Word* and from 1912 to 1932, he dictated the material which became his most famous book, *Thinking and Destiny*. This book explains the triune or real self as the indivisible unit of a Trinity, a knower, a doer, and a thinker incarnate within a body. By gaining knowledge of the Triune Self, one becomes no longer dependent on bodily desires. The Word Foundation is headquartered in Forest Hills, NY.

National Spiritualist Association of Churches. This Association was formed in 1893 at Chicago. Among its leaders were Harrison D. Barrett and James M. Peebles. Both had been former Unitarian clergyman, and Cora L. Richman, who was an outstanding Medium and author. The association was formed both for fellowship and to deal with fraudulent mediumship. The Association was also important for its adoption of the statements on Spiritualism that many groups, more or less, adhere to. In 1899 a six article Declaration of Principles was adopted. Three other articles were later added. Due to the significance in setting the beliefs of modern Spiritualism, all nine articles are quoted in full.

1. We believe in infinite intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of infinite intelligence.
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith constitute true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead as a fact scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule. What's so ever you would that others should do unto you, do you also unto them.

7. We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys nature's physical and spiritual laws.
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any human soul here or hereafter.
9. We affirm that the precept of prophecy contained in the Bible is a divine attribute proven through mediumship.

Two questions have been major issues within Spiritualism. Is there reincarnation, and are Spiritualists Christians? These questions have been the source of division within the NSAC. They are headquartered in Milwaukee, WI, where the Morris Pratt Institute offers courses leading towards ordination across the country and includes a series of camps providing seasonal programs. In 1974 there were 160 churches. This organization was the first to develop work among its youth. The Lyceum was first given fame by Andrew Jackson Davis in 1863. Children's materials have been developed and many of their churches have an active Children's Lyceum or Sunday school program.

Progressive Spiritualist Church. The Progressive Spiritualist Church was formed in 1907 by the Reverend G. V. Cordingley. He had been one of the organizers of the Illinois State Spiritualist Association chartered by the National Spiritualists Association of Churches. Reverend Cordingly did not approve of the adoption of the Declaration of Principles, preferring the Confession of Faith based upon the authority of the Bible.

The members believe in communication with spirits, the resurrection of the soul, but not of the body. God is the absolute Divine Spirit, and Angels are departed spirits, who communicate through mediums. They also believe Jesus was a medium, spirits have desires, the Bible is the inspired word of God, and that heaven and hell are conditions, not locations. Four sacraments are practiced: Baptism, marriage, spiritual communion, and the funeral.

Church officers include a Supreme pastor, secretary, treasurer, and board of Trustees. Local churches elect their own officers but are subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Mother Church. The work of the church is largely benevolent, social, literary, scientific and psychical. There are 11,347 members in 21 churches [at the time of this writing].

Universal Church of the Master. The Universal Church of the Master was formed in 1908 in Los Angeles, CA and became incorporated in 1918. It remained largely a West Coast Association of ministers and churches. It did not seem to spread across the nation until the 1960s. Among the early leaders was Doctor B.J. Fitzgerald, whose book, a *New Text of Spiritual Philosophy and Religion* became the basic book for the UCM.

The church sees itself as both Christian and Universal in its religious philosophy. It uses a 10-point statement from its text. It affirms the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, the Laws of Nature and living in harmony with them, life after death, communication with the unseen world, the Golden Rule, individual responsibility, the continual possibility of improvement, prophecy, and the internal progression of the soul.

The UCM is headed by a governing board, including the president, other officers, and trustees. There is an annual meeting and an examining committee that approves all ordinations and certifications. The Board of Trustees grants charters. The polity is congregational. In the year of 1972, there were approximately 1300 ministers and 300 active churches. A quarterly UCM magazine was started in 1968.

National Spiritual Alliance of the USA. The National Spiritual Alliance of the USA was formed in 1913 by the Reverend G. Tabor Thompson of the National Spiritualists Association of Churches. He believed in reincarnation. The alliance is very similar to the NSAC. Baptism is practiced, and an annual convention is held at Lake Pleasant,

Spiritualism: Historical Research into its Beginnings and a Review of Organization that Promulgate it

Massachusetts. It holds to the general Spiritualist doctrines. The Alliance stresses paranormal, and impersonal manifestations with the spirit world.

College training is not required, but a minister must have passed a course of study arranged by the alliance. Mediums may baptize, but only ministers may officiate the ceremonies of ordination and marriage. The work of the Alliance is mainly in benevolent literary, educational, music and scientific activities. There are 3,230 members and 34 churches located in central Massachusetts and Connecticut [at the time of this writing]. Note: one account lists headquarters at Keene NH and another was listed in the Encyclopedia of American Religions.

National Colored Spiritualist Association of Churches. It was shortly after World War I, the growing black membership in the National Spiritualists Association of Churches separated from the parent body. In 1922 they formed the National Colored Spiritualists Association of Churches. Headquarters of the NCSAC are in Detroit, MI. Other churches are located in Chicago, Columbus OH, Miami, Charleston SC, New York City, Phoenix and Saint Petersburg. Doctrine and practice are quite close to those of the NSAC. The National Spiritualist Reporter is published monthly. This organization may no longer be functioning.

Independent Spiritualist Association of the USA. The Independent Spiritualist Association was formed in 1924 by Reverend Amanda Flower, who, with others, withdrew from the National Spiritualists Association of Churches because of the rule which forbade NSAC mediums from working in non-NSAC churches. She also wanted greater freedom of belief, particularly in the areas of reincarnation and other theosophical teachings. At one time, the Independent Spiritualist Association had more than 700 mediums, healers, and missionaries. Unfortunately, a large number were lost in 1941, when Reverends John Bunker and Clifford Bias left with their following. This is cited from the Encyclopedia of American Religions, volume two, under the psychic family.

History of the Reverend Amanda Flower.

In the following, we hope to illustrate the fine traits Reverend Amanda Cameron Flower possessed. She was born October 15, 1863 to Abraham and Margaret Cameron in Owen Sound ON, Canada. She had two sisters, Blanche and Frances, and a brother Judd. All three were listed as survivors at the time of her physical death.

Amanda was about 27 years old when she decided to come to the United States. She remained in Michigan until her demise at the age of 77 on November 20th, 1940. Being a very intelligent person, she believed very strongly in thinking for yourself and seeking the truth as you yourself can see and put to use. We all have a certain knowledge, but do we possess the wisdom to be able to use it? When she thought something through and tested it out, she did not hesitate to tell others her conclusions. She was a gentle lady, but definitely a firm one. It was on March 14, 1908 that Reverend Amanda Flower helped draw the Constitution and bylaws that led to the founding of the Spiritual Temple Society. This is called the Church of Truth in Grand Rapids. There is a copy of these papers in the historical archives of the State of Michigan in Lansing, MI.

A more detailed account of the personal life of Amanda are in the booklet published by Reverend Kathy Corey of Holly, MI. The pertinent facts regarding her as founder of the ISA are expressed here.

The image of the religion of Spiritualism was very important to Reverend Flower. She had a very good sense of humor, but there was never a doubt in anyone's mind that she took the religion of Spiritualism very seriously and demanded that her followers do the same. When someone needed correction or did something that would reflect poorly on Spiritualism or the ISA she would quietly, politely, and very firmly tell you about it. She said you are not a fool, if you have a spirit with you that's unintelligent. Get rid of it.

It was in 1924 she had a vision in the night on how to draw up a constitution and bylaws that she believed would correct what she felt was wrong. From this vision, she formed a new Association, an Independent Association where the people and churches would be independent, strengthened only by unity. This Association would provide the benefits and protection of churches working together yet allow them to remain independent. In later years, Reverend Flower always said that it was spirit that founded the ISA, she was only the instrument.

It was at the ISA convention held in Mishawaka IN, on June 13, 1931. That reference was made by the Reverend C. Bloomer about the fine work of the president, the Reverend Amanda Flower, and that he would like to nominate her to be president for life of the ISA. A motion was made, seconded by the Reverend Anna Carpenter, that the secretary be instructed to cast the unanimous vote of the entire assembly for Reverend Amanda Flower as president of the ISA for Life, and this was so declared.

It was the thought of Reverend Flower that a form of donation slips be printed to protect the mediums of the Association (the Defense Fund). And to this day they're being used. The 65th anniversary of the ISA will be celebrated in June of 1989. Hosts being the members and friends of the Mother Church of Grand Rapids, MI.

Printed Slips

'I donate \$ _____ to the Religion of Spiritualism.'

Or

'I donate \$ _____ to _____ Spiritualist Church.'

Reverend Amanda Flower made it a practice to make and take the time each year to visit the many churches of the ISA. As pastor of the Spiritualist Church of the Good Samaritan, Reverend Beryl Hinz, I had a funeral in Pontiac, MI at Voorheis-Sipel Funeral Home. The funeral director asked me, since I was a Spiritualist minister, if I had personally known Reverend Flower. He proceeded to tell me of her wonderful manner of comforting

those who were mourning. This was in November of 1980. What a tribute to bestow upon our Reverend Amanda. She had made a lasting impression upon him.

Passing into higher life. Our Reverend Amanda Flower had accomplished her mission in this life. The Association was honored to have the Reverend George Jewett from the years of 1940 to 1952 as its president. Then the Reverend Malcolm Riddell, who served as president from 1951 to 1956. And the Reverend Carol Ware who served as president from 1955 to 1958. All are deceased, but their time was well spent keeping the ISA in its proper place in the religion of Spiritualism.

Silver and gold. I have none, but what I have I give to you. Acts Chapter 3 verse 6.

The Reverend. Harry M. Hilborn is the present president of the ISA. He was the founder and president of the Evangelical Spiritual Church located at 5130 W 25th St Cicero, IL. He was ordained to the ministry in May of 1933 and was the youngest certified Medium in the Illinois State Spiritualist Association. It was not until 1931 that Reverend Hilborn joined the ISA at the convention held in Detroit, MI. In 1937 he was elected to serve on the official board as a trustee and this office he held for 17 years. At the 30th annual Convention in 1954, held at the Hotel Pontiac in Pontiac, MI. He was elected to serve as vice president. This office he held for two years and at the Tuller Hotel in Detroit, MI, he was elected to serve as the new Treasurer for another two years. In 1958 at the LaSalle Hotel in South Bend, IN at the 34th annual convention, he was put in as president of the ISA and has been our president ever since. This office he has held for 30 years, making it a total of 51 years of being on the official board of the ISA.

Independent Associated Spiritualists. The Independent Associated Spiritualists. Was incorporated in 1925. Its headquartered in New York but has churches Across the country. Notable among its members is the psychic surgeon, Tony Agapoa of Baggio, in the Philippines. This organization may no longer exist.

Church of the Four-Leaf Clover. The Church of the Four-Leaf Clover was founded in 1925, by the Reverend M.E. Class. The four-leaf clover is a symbol of humility. Its four leaves standing for eternal life, everlasting light, divine love, and truthfulness. The church emphasizes the Fatherhood of God, The Brotherhood of Man, the Ten Commandments, and the Sermon on the Mount. Members believe in reincarnation and karma. There are four churches, all are on Long Island. Headquarters is located in Jamaica, NY.

Superet Light Center. The Superet Light Center was founded in Los Angeles in 1925. It was founded by Doctor Josephine De Croix Trust, also known as Mother Trust. The belief is the manifestation of God's light through our light atom aura. All substances that possess magnetism, especially all life, have an aura, an invisible emanation. Mother Trust is an aura scientist who was able to see both the outer and inner aura or light of the soul. The light atom aura, capable of receiving God's light, is produced by developing one's aura. Through the use of the aura light, healing is affected, and people become successful in their daily lives.

Metropolitan Spiritual Churches of Christ, Incorporated. The Metropolitan Spiritual Churches of Christ were founded in 1925 by Bishop Frank Taylor and Elder Leviticus Lee Boswell. The word spiritual often differentiates black Spiritualist churches from their white counterparts. The church is Trinitarian and baptizes in the name of Jesus and in the name of the Father and the Son. It affirms the Apostles Creed but replaces the word Catholic with Universal. The church also draws from elements of Christian Science and Pentecostalism. The gospel is described as foursquare preaching, teaching, healing, and prophecy. Reincarnation is also taught. They were headquartered in Chicago, IL. In 1968, there were an estimated 125 churches and 10,000 members.

General Assembly of Spiritualists. In 1930, after the passing of a statement against reincarnation by the National Spiritualists Association of Churches, discussed previously, the membership in New York withdrew to become the General Assembly of Spiritualists of

New York. The New Yorkers accused the National Association of eliminating the rights of state associations. The Declaration of Principles was retained as printed previously, but the schism occurred before the final statement on Prophecy was adopted. Thus, it is missing from the Assembly's declaration. The General Assembly of Spiritualists believes in reincarnation. The churches are located in New York and in several surrounding states, including Canada.

International Spiritualist Alliance. The International Spiritualist Alliance is a Canadian based Spiritualist church headquartered in Vancouver, BC. It was founded to bring closer the Brotherhood and Unity of Spiritualists the world over. Churches are located across Canada and the British Isles and include two churches in California. One in San Bernardino and the Holy Grail Foundation in Santa Cruz. There is an annual convention. The current president (as of this writing) is the Reverend Beatrice Gaulton Bishop. The International Spiritualist News Review is published bimonthly in Vancouver.

The alliance has as part of its belief structure the principles of Spiritualism and seven affirmations on the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, the immortality of the soul, communion with the departed, personal responsibility, compensation for good and evil, and eternal progress of the soul. These are often attributed to Emma Hardinge-Britten. Members are Christian who except the belief in God the Creator, who is love, and in Jesus, the Lord who was incarnated for the Salvation of men. Jesus became perfected through suffering and thus became both Lord and Christ.

Church of Revelation. The Church of Revelation was formed in 1930 at Long Beach, CA by the Reverend Janet Stine Louis Wolford. In 1945, its headquarters was moved to Hanford, CA. The church teaches the Old Christian Initiate, a set of beliefs which the church calls the world religion and a nonsectarian philosophy. The Old Christian Initiate is based on science and shows how to find spirit, understanding the natural law, and have everlasting life without death. It teaches that people survive death in a conscious state, that they

communicate with mortals through mediumship, that as a man sows on Earth he will reap in the life to come, and that the future of life is constructive, social, and progressive.

After the Reverend Welford's death in 1957, she was succeeded by the Reverend Winifred Ruth Mikesell. In 1966, there were seven churches in Hanford, Sacramento, Burlingham, and Apple Valley, CA; Taco, Georgia; Phoenix, AZ; and Toledo, OH. There were 30 ministers and approximately 950 members. This organization may be defunct.

International General Assembly of Spiritualists. The International General Assembly of Spiritualists was incorporated in 1936 in Buffalo, NY by the Reverend Arthur Ford, Fred Constantine, and eight other Spiritualist ministers. Arthur Ford was the first president. The Reverend Fred Jordan, a retired Navy commander, was ordained by Ford in 1937 and served as president of the IGAS from 1938 to 1974. At this time, he was succeeded by the Reverend Jerry Higgins. In the year 1946, the IGAS adopted a set of declaration of principles, which is word for word, that of the NSAC. There were in 1973, in the United States 186 churches, and have affiliations in Africa, Korea, and Taiwan. This organization is believed to be inactive.

Spiritualist Episcopal Church. The Spiritualist Episcopal Church was formed in May of 1941. The founders were the Reverends Clifford Bias and John Bunker, formerly of the ISA, and Robert Chaney. All being very prominent mediums from Camp Chesterfield in Indiana. According to the Encyclopedia of American Religions, volume 11, these founders had expressed dissatisfaction in the Independent Spiritualist Association and the NSAC. They were not happy with the emphasis on phenomena within Spiritualism, they wanted stronger emphasis on philosophy, particularly that channeled from the spirit realm.

The Seven Precepts of the Spiritualist Episcopal Church:

Deity: The Lord is almighty God.

Worship: Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God.

Universe: There is a natural world and there is a spiritual world.

Divine law: Divine law is holy and just and good.

Immortality: The gift of God to all men is Eternal life.

Communion: Man in the natural world and man in the spiritual world can communicate one with the other.

Progression: All men shall turn to righteousness and dwell in the House of the Lord Forever.

The Episcopal, in the name of the churches, refers to the form of government used in certain forms of rituals. They meet yearly at a planned conference. At this time the officers of the church are elected, and all necessary business transacted. The Temple of the Mother Church is located in Eaton Rapids, MI.

Temple of Universal Law. The Temple of Universal Law was founded in 1936 by the Reverend Charlotte Bright. In 1965 a temple was erected in Chicago on the North side. Teachings were given through the Reverend Bright by the Masters of the Great White Brotherhood.

The temple believes in God, who expresses himself as a Trinity. God the Father is the Universal Law of Life, which creates, sustains, and progresses to eternal life. Christ is the perfect demonstration of divine mind. The Holy Spirit is the action of divine mind within. Worship can come in many forms. Truth is found in the Bible and in all spiritual traditions. Man is immortal. The essential duty of man is to look within and begin to awaken the Christ spirit. Only by learning and understanding universal law can we come into oneness with God. They celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month.

A quarterly temple messenger is published, a library is maintained, and numerous booklets have been published. Branch temples are located in Northbrook and Round Lake IL, and in Wisconsin, near Winter Watch. The temple is informally connected with Camp Chesterfield in Indiana and uses its speakers and mediums.

National Spiritual Aid Association Incorporated. This Association was formed in 1937 at Springfield, IL. It functions as a central office to certify and hold certification credentials for otherwise independent Spiritualist ministers. Beliefs are not specified beyond the insistence that Spiritualism is the true religion and that God sent Christ on Earth to teach. Headquarters are in Saint Petersburg, Florida. This is where the President, Charles E. Lyons resides. This organization may no longer exist.

Pyramid Church of Truth and Light. The Pyramid Church of Truth and Light was formed in 1941 by the Reverends John and Emma Kingham in Ventura, CA. They conducted services until 1962, when the leadership was granted to Doctor Steele Goodman. At this time there were no longer any churches. In 1973 there were two churches, the lead church in Sacramento, and a second one in Phoenix headed by Isaiah Jenkins, a popular medium. A third church was projected for Santa Ana. This organization may no longer be functioning.

Agasha Temple of Wisdom. The Reverend Richard Zehner formed the Agasha Temple of Wisdom in 1943 in Los Angeles. Zehner had begun to show psychic ability as a child. When living in Terra Haute, Indiana, he became famous as a subject of the book *Telephone Between Two Worlds*, by James Crenshaw. Zehner was a medium mouthpiece for a spirit entity named Agasha.

Activity at the temple includes communication with the departed, but it is primarily directed toward Master teachers, advanced individuals who communicate teachings from the other side. From Agasha and other master teachers, a distinct philosophy has been developed. Its keynote is individual responsibility and spiritual democracy within the plan of unchanging laws. The basic law is on compensation. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Man spends many lifetimes seeking to understand this law by which his lives are governed.

Evolution through self-realization is the process by which man returns to a condition similar to the Garden of Eden, from which he fell into the material world: 'the original sin.' According to Zehner, the purpose of life is to discover its purpose.

Inner Circle Kesthra E'da Foundation Incorporated. The Inner Circle Kesthra E'da Foundation was established in 1945 by Mark and Irene Probert of San Diego, CA. Mark had the gift of trance mediumship and spoke in foreign languages. It was with the help of Doctor Meade Layne, founder and director of the Borderland Science Research Society, that Mark was able to be helped in his development. One afternoon, five of his teachers appeared to him and told him they wish to bring their teachings to the world and to use him as a channel. Many of the teachings were published between 1954 and 1955 in *Mystic, the Magazine of the Supernatural*, and later collected in a book entitled *The Magic Bag*.

In all, there were eleven teachers that manifested through him. The three main ones were Professor Alfred Luntz, an Anglican clergyman, Ramon Natall, a contemporary of Galileo, and Yada di Shi'ite, who lived half a million years ago in the ancient civilization of Yu in the Himalayas. These teachers are members of an inner circle having been at one time in a previous reincarnation, together with Probert on Earth. Reincarnation is at the heart of the teachings of the inner circle. The basic entity in the universe is the individual. The plan of the universe lies within the individual as he solves his own riddle of the universe. God is said to be the impersonal soul with which one becomes aware of unification.

Headquarters of the Inner Circle are in San Diego, with another in Springfield, VA. Probert's death occurred in 1970. All of the tapes produced during his mediumship are still used to teach and relate to spirit through discussions. So much is given to this world. This organization may no longer function.

Spiritualism: Historical Research into its Beginnings and a Review of Organization that Promulgate it

National Spiritual Science Center. The National Spiritual Science Center, a recent splinter from the Spiritual Science Mother Church, is centered upon the First Spiritual Science Church of Washington DC. Founded in 1941 by the late Alice W. Tindall. It is currently headed by the Reverend Henry J. and Diane S. Nagorka. In 1968, The Reverend Tindall became editor of the *Psychic Observer*, a once popular Spiritualist periodical, which almost became defunct after its exposure of fake mediumship at Camp Chesterfield IN. Under her guidance, it regained much of its former prominence and in 1974 merged with *Chimes*, another Spiritualist magazine. The church also operates ESP Press incorporated, a publishing company, and the School of Spiritual Science which offers a four-year course of study leading to a diploma and certification as a minister or missionary.

Universal Harmony Foundation. The Universal Harmony Foundation was founded in 1942 by the Reverend Helene Gerling and her husband Jay Bertram Gerling, as the Universal Psychic Science Association. Both have been prominent mediums at Lilydale Spiritualist Camp near Rochester, NY. Headquarters were later moved to St. Petersburg, FL, where a seminary was opened, offering nine courses leading to ordination as minister healer, missionary, or Doctor of Divinity. Headquarters are now in Seminole, FL.

Teachings of the foundation are eclectic, drawn from the Universal Revelation and the tested teachings of all the world's prophets. Study is directed towards metaphysics, healing, comparative religion, Bible, yoga, and mysticism. The affirmation tenets affirm the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, the eternality of life, the growth as the purpose of life, and the Torah. The symbol of universal harmony is lighted at the beginning of all services. The font, a white sphere, is the healing symbol and is displayed during a healing ritual, which consists of six affirmations similar to ones used in Christian Science. *The Spiritual Science Digest* is the official periodical. The Reverend Gerling is the author of correspondence lessons offered through the seminary and also has put together a number of books.

Roosevelt Spiritual Memorial Benevolent Association. The Roosevelt Spiritual Memorial Benevolent Association was formed in 1949 by a group of independent Spiritualists. Its main purpose was to provide a home for otherwise independent mediums and churches, which it certifies and charters. Doctrinally, it is Spiritualist and believes in communication as taught in the Bible and promotes psychical research. It does provide for any seeking a study course in Spiritualism. President of the Association is the Reverend Nelly M. Pickens. This organization may no longer function.

Spiritual Science Mother Church. Mother, Julia O. Forest, a former Christian Science practitioner, became a Spiritualist, and with Doctor Carl H. Pierce, organized a new body modeled on the Christian Science Mother Church in Boston. The organization is headquartered in New York City. There are approximately 40 churches.

Three principles of demonstration are emphasized; Preaching or the giving out to each one through messages, or clairvoyance, what God has for him to do; communications from other realms; and healing through the channeling of healing power. Spiritual science is specifically Christian in its orientation holding that Jesus Christ is Lord and Master and dispenser of the Law of Love, the Trinity of God the Father and creator, the virgin born son and Holy Spirit is affirmed. Man is a free agent on Soul Unfoldment. Salvation comes as a cleansing process through intelligent prayer.

Holy Grail Foundation. The Holy Grail Foundation was founded in Fresno, CA in the early 1940s by the Reverend Leona Richards. In the early 1960s, the headquarters was moved to Santa Cruz, CA. Classes using the messages received from spirits, teach self-development by spiritual enlightenment. The goal is that each member will know the presence of God within, the Holy Grail, and his or her own personal Guardian Angel.

There are three centers of the foundation: Fresno, Santa Cruz, and Portland, OR. Heading the foundation are its officers president Leona Richards Vice President Robert

Isaacson, Secretary Jerry Isaacson and Treasurer Ruth Musial. This organization may be defunct.

Urantia Foundation. The Urantia Foundation was formed in 1950 in Chicago, IL. The Foundation is headquartered in Chicago and sustains a weekly program of lectures, discussion groups, study and the distribution of the massive Urantia, a work of 2097 pages of material received from psychic revelations from numerous celestial beings.

According to the Urantia book, Jesus was born August 21st, 7 BC. Jesus had an excellent education, became a skilled Carpenter, began a Mediterranean town in his 28th year, and began his public ministry in 54 AD. After six years, his ministry ended in the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Objectives of this foundation are to promote the true teachings of Jesus, primarily the appreciation of the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and to lead to the increase of comfort, happiness, and wellbeing of man. In California, the Uversa Reflective Center in Encino, is headed by A. D. Thorington. The foundation is governed by a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

University of Life Church. The University of Life Church was formed by the renowned psychic Richard Ireland of Phoenix, AZ. He had served many Spiritualist churches in the Midwest and East and then decided to live in Phoenix and began his own church. In the Encyclopedia of American Religions, it is stated that in the 1960s he entertained conducting ESP shows in which he read serial numbers of dollar bills while blindfolded at the church which he established in 1955. He is a full trance medium.

The center of the church is the congregation in Phoenix, which has 14,150 members. A healing shrine is being built in South Mountain in Phoenix. Lessons written by Ireland and his guides are sent out around the country.

Eclesia Catolica Cristiana. The *Eclesia Catolica Cristiana* is a Spanish Spiritualist organization with an eclectic body founded by Delfin Roman Cardona in 1956 as a Spiritualist center. The present name was adopted in 1969. Cortana was born in Puerto Rico and had been raised a Catholic. In his teens he encountered Spiritualism and developed both psychic healing and clairvoyant abilities. He came to New York in 1953, and after settling in the Bronx, he founded the church with the help of Nicholas Guray.

A combination of Spiritualist doctrine with Roman Catholic ritual, and polity led to both, masses and seances being held. A full hierarchy has been developed, which in 1974 included a *Catolica Cristiana* Pontiff, a Cardinal, a Bishop, two reverends and four subsidiary Reverends. Women were allowed to hold all offices, including Cardinal, a position now held by the Reverend Mother, Olga Roman.

The Spiritualism of Allan Kardec, which includes a belief in reincarnation, elements of yoga, metaphysics, theosophy, and parapsychology is strongly supported. In 1974 there were three churches. One each in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Bridgeport, CT. The focus is the practice of love, compassion, justice, and humility. This organization may no longer exist.

Universal Spiritualist Association. After the disruption of the Spiritualist Episcopal Church in 1956, those who sided against the Reverend Dorothy Flexor formed the Universal Spiritualist Association. Leaders in the formation were Robert Chaney, Clifford Bias, and Lillian D. Johnson. There were originally 26 churches nationwide.

The Universal Spiritualist Association is among the few associations still attempting the materialization of spirits in seances. The Universal Spiritualist Association is governed by a general board composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary and three trustees. An annual General Conference elects the officers. Churches are autonomous but chartered by the Association. Headquarters is at Camp Chesterfield where the *Universal Spiritualist* is published quarterly. The Reverend Clifford Bias remains president. This organization may

no longer be operating, however, Camp Chesterfield, chartered with the Indiana Association of Spiritualists, continues.

Church of Metaphysical Christianity. The Church of Metaphysical Christianity was founded in 1958 by the Reverends Dorothy Graff Flexor and Russell J. Flexor, two Spiritualist mediums. Their belief is a combination of religion, philosophy, and science. It seeks to study the laws of nature, both mental, physical, and spiritual. Obedience to these laws is said to constitute the highest form of worship. It also teaches and gives evidence of the continuity of life after death, encouraging each member to develop their own gifts of the spirit, so the communion between the two worlds will become a natural event.

They have basic spiritual laws, the law of life, the law of love, the creative force of life, the law of truth, or right thinking, the law of compensation, the law of freedom, the law of abundance, and the law of perfection. Healing is emphasized as a spiritual art.

The Metaphysical Messenger is published monthly. Headquarters are located in Sarasota, FL. A second congregation is located in Brandon, FL. In 1973 there were listed some 20 healers, many of whom kept two residences, one in Florida and one in the northern United States.

Church of Cosmic Science. The Church of Cosmic Science is a small Spiritualist body formed in 1959 at Rialto, CA by the Reverend William Dickinson, Reginald Lawrence, and Mrs. Josephine Dickinson of Jammoul, California. The Associated Cosmic Light Press issues the monthly *Cosmic Light*, which is widely circulated among the independent Spiritualist churches. The group also circulates *Awareness for Cosmic Truth* and lessons in psychic development. They are headquartered in Jammoul, California and grant ordinations, healers certificates, and church charters to otherwise autonomous ministers. In 1970, there were seven congregations, and 500 members. This organization may no longer be viable.

The Church of Ageless Wisdom. The Church of Ageless Wisdom was formed in 1954 by Bishop Beth R. Hand of Philadelphia, PA. The Reverend Hand is a student of the Kabbalah, a Jewish religious philosophical system, she had been a Methodist by birth. She also studied with Peramahansa Yoganada before founding the Church of Ageless Wisdom. The Avatar Jesus the Christ is considered the Way Shower for man to become one with the Father. The church is open to the whole field of the occult, being interested in astrology, palmistry, and hypnosis. Congregations are located across the United States. Among the affiliates is the Michigan Metaphysical Society of Detroit, headed by Saul Lewis. He publishes the *Balsamic Times*. The church is headed by a board.

Church of Tzaddi. The purpose of the Church of Tzaddi is to teach the sciences of ancient wisdom, ideals, principles, philosophy, psychology, psychiatry, spiritual truths; to promote the Brotherhood of Man, the Universal Law, Truth, and all educational subjects; to solemnize marriages, to officiate at funerals to perform rituals, and prophecy. An extensive course for the ministry includes material drawn from the Unity School of Christianity, the Bible, parapsychology, Hermeticism, and world religion. Their headquarters are in Orange, CA.

This church was started in 1959 by Amy Merritt Keyes. After a very successful healing for her own physical handicap, she called her group *The Open Door of Love*. Tzaddi is the 18th letter of the Hebrew alphabet and is identified with the Aquarian age.

Churches of Spiritual Revelation Association. The Churches of Spiritual Revelation Association is a small body of Spiritualist churches, which have a loosely organized structure and have an Episcopal polity. Most of these churches are in the Northeast with headquarters in Reading, PA, where the Bishop Edward M. Leighton resides. No date is available as to when they were organized. This organization may no longer be active.

Christian Spirit Center. The Christian Spirit Center is located in Elan College, NC. Its president is S.J. Haddad. The center is primarily devoted to the circulation of spirit messages received through Portuguese medium Francisco Candido Xavier and his guides Emanuel Albino Teixeira, Andre Luiz, and Meimei. The teachings assert the continuity of life after death, reincarnation, and karma. They teach also the return of the soul to heaven after its cleansing salvation as helped from above to make us aware of our obligations before the law, make us willing to accept, and fulfill them in a life of service. There is no data available as to the beginning of this organization. This organization may no longer exist.

Cosmic Church of Life and Spiritual Science. The Cosmic Church of Life and Spiritual Science is a small Spiritualist body headquartered in San Francisco. It is headed by Reverend M. Russo. They are capable of issuing ordination and healing certificates. This organization may be defunct.

Universal Church of Psychic Science. The Universal Church of Psychic Science is a small Spiritualist body headquartered in Philadelphia and headed by W.L Sailsbury, its president, and Ann Clarence Smith, its secretary. The group is limited to the states of New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The church issues ordinations and church charters. This organization may no longer be functioning.

Morse Fellowship. The Morse Fellowship was founded in 1959 by Mrs. Louise Morse of Silver Springs, Maryland, and was named for her deceased husband. In 1961, the headquarters was moved to Alamogordo, NM. Mrs. Morris began traveling, teaching, and published lessons, mostly of material which she had channeled. In 1967, she met and married James Spence, and in 1968 they moved to Richardson, TX, a suburb of Dallas.

The Portals of Light is the name given to the Ministry of Mrs. Morse. Her ministry is seen as a fulfillment of biblical prophecy concerning the last days when the spirit of truth

would be poured out onto all flesh. Mrs. Morse has been giving weekly trance sessions since the 1950s. By 1968, approximately 250 people were receiving lessons regularly. This organization may no longer exist.

American Grail Foundation. The American Grail Foundation is the structure used for the teachings of Oskar Ernst Bernhardt, who lived between 1875 to 1941, and originally lived in Bischofswerda, Germany. He moved to Bavaria where he began to write lectures under the pen name Abd-ru-shin. In 1928 he settled in Austria, where he wrote in the *Light of Truth*. It was in 1938 that he was expelled by the Nazis. The term Grail used in the foundation's name as a reference to the Holy Grail of Arthurian legend.

His philosophy, the physical bodies were fashioned for our true selves to function within while on Earth. The purpose of man is to learn to live in harmony with the divine laws that brought forth and now maintain creation. The Grail message is contained in three volumes of the *Light of Truth*, and in the other writings of Abd-Ru-shin. They are circulated by the foundation through its headquarters in Mount Morris and Lapeer, Michigan. The foundation also operates in most European countries and in Australia. The foundation may no longer be in service.

Light of the Universe. The Light of the Universe group was formed in the early 1960s. It was a psychic group in Tiffin, OH. Its investigations included ESP, health foods, and UFOs. Gradually, a more formal organization emerged and a teacher, known publicly as Mariona, became the leader. In 1965, a quarterly periodical was instituted, and a book published entitled *The Light of the Universe*. In December of 1969, another branch was formed in Cortland, OH. Correspondence lessons are available. Behind the LOTU group are a number of books which impressed both, members and teachers. These books include the *Aquarian Gospel* by Levi Dowling, *The Life and Teachings of the Masters of the Far East* by Baird Spalding and *Breathing Your Way to Youth* by Edwin John Dingle of Mental physics. Great emphasis is placed on the great Cosmic law of reincarnation.

Saint Paul's Church of Aquarian Science. In the 1960s, the Reverend Harold C. Durbin, formerly a pastor in the Spiritualist Episcopal Church, became independent and funded, and founded the Saint Paul's Church of Aquarian Science in St. Petersburg, FL. The name of the church is derived from the Zodiac sign of Aquarius. According to the church, man is now moving into the Aquarian age. The man with the water pot, Aquarius, is referred to by Jesus in Mark Chapter 14, verses 13 through 15.

Besides the original congregation in Saint Petersburg, a second congregation was established in Tampa, FL. In 1970, a third was projected for Sarasota. Healing classes are a regular feature of the program. More than 800 are on the list of regular mailings of sermons and religious literature. There were two ordained ministers, three associate ministers, 40 field trained missionaries, and 100 members in the Saint Petersburg Congregation in 1970. Recently headquarters have been moved to Weslaco, Texas.

The church teaches that God is a universal spirit with the attributes of power and intelligence; that God is a Trinity of Father Creator, Son Creator, and Holy Spirit of the process of creation. That man is a Trinity of body, soul or mind, and spirit. That Jesus the Master gave the highest teachings, and we grow as we practice these teachings. That man is a divine creation with all the divine attributes and access to God through Jesus, that all life is eternal and must grow and evolve, that the door of reformation is never closed. Reincarnation is also accepted. This organization may no longer be functioning.

Spiritual Churches of Science and Revelation. The Spiritual Churches of Science and Revelation were founded in the 1960s in the state of Michigan. It consists of churches located throughout the United States and Windsor, ON Canada. Its national headquarters are in Arlington, VA. It celebrated its 24th annual convention during October 14th, 15th and 16th of 1988 at the Holiday Inn in Arlington, VA. The president of the Association is the Reverend Reed Brown. This organization may be defunct.

Hallowed Grounds Fellowship of Spiritual Healing and Prayer. This fellowship was established in 1961 by the Reverend George Daisley. An outstanding British medium who settled in Santa Barbara, CA. The emphasis of Daisley's teachings is a form of Christian Spiritualism with particular interest in the nature of the next life. The Bible is interpreted in Spiritualist terminology, and after death, the soul continues on several planes of existence, each of a higher vibration. Those with a gift of discerning spirits can communicate. Using Santa Barbara as a base, Reverend Daisley tours the country teaching Spiritualism. This organization may no longer be functioning.

T. O. M. Religious Foundation. This foundation was founded in the 1960s by the Reverend Ruth Johnson of Velarde, New Mexico. The Reverend Johnson achieved her leadership through knowledge gained from study, experience, and previous lives. In 1970, the foundation was moved to Cannon City, Colorado. God is conceived as the divine one, or whole or spirit, who knows, loves, and cares for us. He manifests his love through spiritual guidance. Graduates may be ordained as ministers and receive a franchise from the foundation. This foundation may no longer exist.

The Universal Link. The Universal link group traces their history to April 11, 1961, to the visionary experience of Richard Grave of Worthing, England. According to Richard Grave, in renting a new house, he saw a bearded, Christlike figure who blocked his path. Pointing to a picture, the figure touched the glass, causing it to explode and pulverize driving fragments into the picture. The being then disappeared in a blaze of orange light. The picture, a representation of an Angel announcing the birth of Jesus soon gained renown as the weeping Angel of Worthing, as salty drops of moisture formed on its surface.

The messages were apocalyptic concentrating on the imminent second coming of the Christ. The message and events were carried in a psychic news article on May 4th, 1961.

Libby Pugh an artist of St. Anne's, England, heard of Grave through the articles. After the two met Grave realized the spiritual being that had visited him was the one portrayed in a sculpture by Miss Pugh, which she called simply Limitless Love. Miss Pugh is regarded as the person who really did get together the people to form the Universal Link. This organization may no longer be viable.

Sisters of the Amber. There were a number of groups that built upon a charismatic leader and channel that were brought together by their affinity of the ideas of the Universal Link. Early focus of the Sisters of Amber, in the United States was at three centers, Elkins Park, PA, Denver, and Los Angeles. Miss Parkinson was like Libby Pugh, a journalist and writer, and because of her interest in Metaphysics, became an early devotee to the link. The sisters are linked to each other by their dedication to loving service to each other, and by the Amber, each has been given by Ms. Parkinson. This organization may no longer be in service.

Father's House. Ralph F. Raymond is a channel who operated the Universal Link Heart Center in Los Angeles in the 1960s. In 1968 he was sent to England and Scotland to visit all the link centers and people, including those in the United States. The Father's House is independent of other link groups, but selections of their writings appear in each issue of the quarterly. It is unclear if this organization is still functioning.

Robins Return. Dorothy and Ray Davis founded Robbins Return from their home in Grand Rapids, MI. In the mid-1960s, they began to receive messages from Paramahansa Yoganada. At the time they did not know who Yoganada was. Then in 1965, Robin, Dorothy's son, by a previous marriage, was killed when his bomber was shot down over Vietnam. After his death, they began receiving messages from him as well as Yogananda and other Masters. Several hundred people received mailings from the Davis home in Grand Rapids, MI. It's unclear if this organization is still in existence.

Fellowship of Universal Guidance. This foundation was started in 1960 by Doctor Wayne A. Guthrie and Doctor Bella Karish. The insights of the Fellowship are given to the world through several series of lessons, beginning with the Wisdom Workshop series. These lessons may be taken by correspondence. As of 1974, Fellowship chapters were located in San Francisco and San Diego. Groups in the process of becoming chapters are functioning in Phoenix, Omaha, Morrisville, NC and Somerville and Saint John's Island in South Carolina. Headquarters are located in Los Angeles. *Unit Guidance* is the bimonthly periodical.

Foundation Church of the New Birth. The formation of the Foundation Church of the New Birth was through the efforts of James Edward Pagett, who became interested in Spiritualism after the death of his wife in 1914. In 1958, the 1st edition of what became the *True Gospel Revealed Anew by Jesus* appeared. In the Foundation church, God is believed to be one and the creator soul. The possibility of becoming a divine soul is always open to all humans. After death, the soul will find itself in a realm equal to its state on Earth, from which it can progress.

A group had been meeting continuously since Mr. Pagett began to channel material in 1915. It was in 1955 the Doctor Leslie R. Stone Foundation Church, incorporated in 1974. There were some 50 church members living communally in eight houses scattered between Harrisburg, PA and Washington DC. There are other groups across the United States. A college was developed in Nigeria. *The New Birth Christian Commentary Quarterly Journal* is the church's periodical.

Church of Essential Science. The Church of Essential Science was founded in Detroit in 1965 by the Reverend Kingdon L. Brown, a medium ordained originally by the National Spiritual Aid Association. Brown developed in a study group of the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship. In January of 1964, he received his first message from the Silent Brotherhood of Ascended Masters. Brown slowly became noted for his mediumistic ability.

Headquarters of the Church of Essential Science are in Scottsdale, AZ, where Brown is (was) currently pastor of the Desert Shadows Church. Other centers are located in Detroit, MI, Columbus, New Mexico, Little Rock, Arkansas, Fort Wayne, IN, Tierras, New Mexico, and Paulo Alto, CA. Foreign centers are in Curacao, Nigeria and Ontario. In 1974 there were 35 ministers. A periodical *The New Age Forum* was being published. This organization may be defunct.

Cosmic Awareness. In 1962, a voice describing itself as from 'Cosmic Awareness,' began to speak through the body of a former military Army Officer, William Ralph Duby. The words of wisdom that were related through this contact are itemized in the laws and precepts of cosmic awareness.

The Universal Law. Is that knowledge. That awareness

The law of love. Is that close affinity with all forces you associate with good.

The Law of mercy. This is to be merciful. If one obeys this law, there can be no error in the world.

The law of gratitude. Is that sense of satisfaction where energy which has been given receives a certain reward.

Judge not. Be humble. Deny self. Never do anything contrary to the law of love.

Duby died in 1967 and a major splintering occurred in the organization.

Cosmic Awareness Communications. Cosmic Awareness Communications was the largest of several splinters which continues the 1963 organization. About four months after Duby's death, a channel emerged, through which cosmic awareness continued to speak. In the late 1960s, new data were given. Cosmic Awareness Communications is headquartered in Seattle. It claims 75 centers, three of which are in Canada and 144 thousand members.

Divine Word Foundation Incorporated. The Divine Word Foundation was founded in 1962 by Doctor Hans Nordwin von Koerber, born in 1886, Since 1952, he is a Professor

Emeritus of Asiatic Studies at the University of Southern California. The purpose of the foundation is to disseminate the revelation of Jacob Lorber, who lived between 1800 and 1864.

An Austrian born musician, Lorber in his 40th year heard a voice in his heart, 'Jakob get up. Take your pencil and write.' Obeying, he began to function as the scribe to this voice, which he believed to be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Through Lorber the voice dictated 11 books and other shorter works. The Revelations with Lorber, The Works of Lorber were published by Christoph Frederick Landbeck of Butenheim Wurttemberg, Germany. Adolf Hitler suppressed the Lorber work, but it was quickly reestablished. In 1921 the Lorber revelations were discovered by Doctor von Koerber. He translated the revelations into English.

The membership of the Lorber Society is concentrated in German speaking Europe, but has spread to every continent in the United States. Approximately 300 individuals around the country studied the revelation in the books published by the Divine Word Foundation. Study groups are located in San Diego and Newark, CA, Denver, Co and Phoenix, AZ. There are 60 members at Warner Springs, CA where the headquarters are located. Fred S. Bunger, coauthored with von Koerber *of A New Light Shines Out of Darkness*, the basic text of the foundation, and serves as president. It is unclear if this organization still functions.

United Spiritualist Church. The United Spiritualist Church was founded in 1967 by the Reverend Floyd Humble, Edwin Potter, and Howard Mangan. The Reverend Humble had earlier served several independent Spiritualist churches. The United Spiritualist Church differs from most Spiritualist churches by its adoption of a centralized form of government. Power is invested in the presidency, which includes the President, first adviser, Secretary and 2nd adviser-treasurer. Under the presidency is the Board of Governors. There is also a board of publication, education, and church extension and missions. There is a general conference which elects the board to the Board of Governors.

The beliefs and practices of the church are of the consensus of Spiritualism. Members believe in mediumship, both mental and physical, and follow the practices of Jesus' preaching, healing, teaching, and prophecy. Under the Reverend Humble's leadership, a vigorous program of publication and education has developed. The church has published a series of Bible lessons on mediumship and the esoteric. In 1972 there were twelve congregations and 400 members.

New Age Teachings. New Age Teachings was established in 1967 in Brooklyn, Massachusetts, by Anita Afton, better known as Iliana, the name she used as a channel. Through her speak entities from the planet Jamal. They are members of the cosmic hierarchy.

Iliana had become influenced by Eastern Philosophy while attending a Unitarian church. At the request of the cosmic being who issued messages through her, Illiana began to publish what has become the N. A. T. Newsletter, now received monthly by hundreds of people. This organization may be defunct.

Servants of Awareness Incorporated, formed in 1967 by David E. Worcester and is headquartered in Seattle. An active group is located in Phoenix, AZ. This organization may no longer exist.

Anthropological Research Foundation was formed in 1967 by Pat and Jack Fletcher and is headquartered in San Diego. The foundation may no longer be operating.

Organization of Awareness is headquartered in Olympia WA and is headed by David DeMoulin. Another group with the same name is headquartered in Federal Way, WA. A third body is in Calgary, AB. It was founded by Nick Chwelos. This organization may be defunct.

International Organization of Awareness was founded in Honolulu by Edward Young. This organization may no longer be functioning.

Foundation for Science of Spiritual Law. The Foundation for Science of Spiritual Law was founded in 1968 at Tonapah, Arizona, by Doctor Alfred Homer and Reverend Gladys A. Homer. From Tonapah they toured the country as Spiritualist Mediums, teaching and speaking to small groups of followers. The winter is spent at Tonapah, the foundation headquarters are only a short distance from the Sun Spiritualist Camp. They publish a bimonthly foundation newsletter. The foundation may no longer exist.

Circle of Inner Truth. Marshall Lever was a Presbyterian seminarian who developed the ability of trance mediumship. As a medium, he began to receive messages from a guide Chung Fu, who was viewed as a spirit, last incarnated as a student of Lao Tzu in China. The circle of inner truth was begun in 1970 by Marshall and his wife Quinta.

Marshall and Quinta have no home as of 1974 and they spend their time among the several groups of the inner circle, which are located in Fallbrook, CA, London, England, Elyria, Ohio and San Francisco, where the monthly, *Our News and Views* is published. They have a mailing list of about 600 of which 400 are in the United States. This organization no longer meets.

Aquarium Fellowship Church. The Aquarium Fellowship Church was formed in 1969 by the Reverend Robert A. Ferguson. The Aquarium Fellowship Church uses the Bible, the writings of Andrew Jackson Davis, founder of Modern Spiritualism's philosophy, and Ferguson's writings.

The headquarters of the Aquarium Fellowship is in San Jose, CA. There were, in 1972, three churches in Los Angeles, San Jose, and Dayton, OH. Lessons in Spiritualism are

Spiritualism: Historical Research into its Beginnings and a Review of Organization that Promulgate it

offered through correspondence. Ferguson has recently written a book on psychic development. It is unclear if this fellowship still exists.

Universal Christ Church Incorporated. The Universal Christ Church was formed in 1970 by several Spiritualist churches in the Los Angeles area coming together for fellowship. The doctrine is Spiritualist, and reincarnation is accepted. There is an element of ritualism in their worship, and the clergy wear clerical vestments. The church publishes a periodical *UCC Spokesman*. In 1971 there were five churches, all in Los Angeles, plus a congregation of 250 members in Australia. The Reverend Anthony Bennick is the head of the new church body. This organization may no longer function.

Lotus Ashram. The Ashram was established in 1971 in Miami, FL by Noel and Colleen Street. Noel is a medium originally from New Zealand. His wife is a yoga teacher. Noel became a popular figure in the psychic community in the United States through his annual tour and his many books. He specializes in psychic healing, which he learned from the Maori natives, in New Zealand. *Lotus Leaves* is a bimonthly periodical.

The Christian Churches of Spiritual Truth. The Christian Churches of Spiritual Truth Incorporated was founded in Holiday FL by the Reverend Jewel Buckner and the Reverend Viola Buckner in 1977. It is an ecclesiastical governing body recognized as a nonprofit religious organization.

It has its own independent ministry and preparatory training system. It is a Spiritualist religion embracing metaphysical thought, which is the proving that God exists through the scientific procedure of following, and becoming a living testimony of the statements in the affirmation of beliefs listed below.

Affirmations:

We believe that the spirit of God resides not only within the being, but all around us.

We believe that the way to the father can be found through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the spiritual gifts given to man from God as described in First Corinthians chapter 12 verses 7 through 11.

We believe in the two Commandments of Jesus Christ as taught in the Gospel of Mark. Chapter 12 verse thirty:

And thou shall love thy Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this. Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

We believe in an infinite power called by man God, and in his laws both spiritual and natural.

We believe true religion consists in understanding and living these laws, and that these and that this understanding comes by the way of the power of prayer.

We believe in the immortality of the soul and in the eternal goodness within all men.

If any organization in Spiritualism has been omitted in this review, it was not intentional, but due to a lack of having necessary information.

Additional information offered.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year May 22nd, 1853, by Andrew Jackson Davis.

To resist the law of Eternal growth is to resist the plainest law of the universe.

The Law of Progress is imperious. For example. Place iron in the earth and disintegration commences. Place it above ground and oxidation is the certain phenomenon. Motion is the parent of development. For another example, the germs or seeds of vegetation first move with life. Then they grow upward. Then they outwardly unfold. So is the whole nature of man. Like the angular crystal, which may be classed

among the lowest forms of matter. Mankind at first is replete with sharp and severe points, then by advances toward the degree of refinement becoming rounded and smoothed off by experiences; and finally, the Law of Development being active at this crisis, he unfolds like an immortal flower destined to bloom amid innumerable gardens on high.

If we would learn of the dignity and power of humanity, we must study the individual. Although no one person can possibly be the perfect type of humanity yet, individual man is the organic impersonation of the human race.

Our minds which love truth more than any other thing, is clothed in the armor of heaven; and that mind which comprehends truth, is intimately allied to God. The love of truth is a phenomenon of the affections; a feeling of truth is the spontaneous miracle of intuition; an understanding is a normal manifestation of the reason principle. Why? We love the earth, we feel it, but Reason bids go forth, explore, measure, comprehend, and harmonize it. The most tyrannical slaveholder is Ignorance. The most glorious freeman is Wisdom. Knowledge leads us progressively to the mountains of truth, ignorance leads us into the veils of superstition, into the deepest pandemonium of doubt and gloom. Choose you this day, whom you will serve.

Will you be content to continue in your older beliefs that you have been brought up in, or will you let the scales drop off? Open your eyes and your mind and look, searching like the good. Paul, with the appreciative reflection, looked into the causes of things.

We need to conceive a new love for life and a new religion whereby to honor God, or as Spiritualist's name, 'Infinite Intelligence,' making it a fearless love and a creedless religion. The three L's: live, love and learn. Live life with such radiance that when death comes to us, it is only another venture.

Some explanations, according to Websters Dictionary of Expressions used in this study. Given an alphabetical order.

- Autonomous. Independent of all outside control, having the right or power to rule oneself; self-governing.
- Apocalyptic. The last book of the New Testament, otherwise called the Revelation of Saint John the Divine. Anything considered as a revelation, hey disclosure.
- Aquarian Age. Aquarius is a constellation South of Pegasus, pictured as a man pouring water. It is the 11th sign of the Zodiac.
- Cosmic. Of or relating to the cosmos. Hence vast grand.
- Cosmos. The universe, thought of as an ordered whole.
- Creed. A brief statement of the essential doctrines of a religious faith. Especially any of the three creeds used in various Christian churches, the Apostles Creed. The event at. The fantasy and Creed. The Nicene Creed.
A summary of one's principles or beliefs.
- Disseminate. Spread disperse, scatter, too, so broadcast.
- Dogma. An established opinion or principles of beliefs. A doctrine authoritatively proclaimed by a church as a principle of faith.
- Hermeticism. Hermes in the Greek religion was an Olympian God, son of Zeus and Maya. He was a Herald and Messenger of the gods. Giver of increase to herds, Guardian of boundaries and of roads and their Commerce. He was also God of Science, an invention of eloquence, and of color cunning.
- Hierarchy. A body of ecclesiastics. Divided into ranks, each of which is subordinate and authority or indignity to the one above it.
- independent. Not controlled by others. Self-governing free. Not relying on others. Not dependent for support, not easily influenced or biased. So becomes self-reliant self-respecting.

- Interdenominational. Inter Is a prefix meaning among between together between the parts, units, etc.
- Mysticism. The experiences of a Mystic or Mystics, the belief that direct knowledge of God and spiritual truth can be gained in contemplation through a power of the mind such as intuition or through divine illumination of the soul.
- Phenomenon. A fact or event that is rare or has unique significance. Any observable fact or event, especially one capable of scientific explanation.
- Philosophy. Literally the love of wisdom. The science which investigates the essential character of reality, its universal principles and laws, or the conditions under which it is known. Any systemized knowledge of the good, the true, and the beautiful.
- Polity. Form or constitution of the government of a state or any institution or organization similarly administered.
- Psyche. The human soul. Also, the mind, the mental life.
- Religion. The service and Adoration of God as expressed in forms of worship and a way of life. Any one of the systems of faith and worship. A conviction of the existence of a Supreme being resulting in reverence, love and gratitude.
- Schism. A division or separation, especially in a church also of seeking to produce a division in a church.
- Seer. One who sees or foretells events. A Prophet.
- Seeress. The same as above. Only a female prophetess.
- Seance. A setting a session. A meeting of Spiritualists to receive spirit communication.
- Science. Knowledge. Any branch of systemized knowledge considered as a field of study.

Bibliography

(1943). Webster's Student's Upper School Dictionary.

Barbanell, Maurice (date unknown). Psychic News.

Corey, Rev. K. (no date). Rev. Amanda Flower: October 15, 1863 – November 20, 1940.

Davis, Andrew Jackson (1886). The Present age and Inner Life. New York: Colby & Rich Banner Publishing House.

Davis, Andrew Jackson (1910). The Magic Staff: An Autobiography of Andrew Jackson Davis. Rochester, NY: The Austin Publishing Co.

Hope, Rev. Bessie of the Christian Churches of Spiritual Truth of Davisburg, Michigan.

King James Version of Holy Bible.

Melton, J. Gordon (1978). Encyclopedia of American Religions. Wilmington, NC: McGrath Publishing Co.

Verbeck, Rev. Marie of the Spiritual Episcopal Church of Mt. Morris, Michigan.