



A CHILD WILL LEAD THEM

by Jim Gordon,
President of ILM

Recently, I was flying from Austin to Chicago. Seated next to me was a young girl. Her name was Linda. She was flying by herself to Chicago to spend the holidays with her grandparents. Her parents were going to be coming up to Chicago later.

As we sat talking I found out that she was 12 years old and in the sixth grade. We talked a little further when she asked me a question that I was surprised by. "When you are having a problem in your life and don't know what to do, what do you do?" The question stopped me for a moment. I had not been prepared to be asked such a direct question — and yet wouldn't it be great if we could be so open and innocent in our conversations as adults. Mostly on trips like this I find people talk about the weather, careers and sports. Here was a question with meaning and depth. Here was a question where two people could share themselves with each other in a meaningful conversation.

I sat back for a moment and began to think of what to say. She said, "Is that how you handle a problem: you sit back and wait for it to go away?" "No," I said. "I was looking at what I do when a problem arises." I then began to share with her what I do when a problem arises in my life. I explained that first I do my best not to look at situations as problems. When I name something "a problem" it becomes just that, a problem. So I try to look at situations that arise in my life as opportunities, or as moments of learning. Then as I was talking I realized that she wanted to share something with me and that is what provoked her question in the first place. So I asked her to share with me what she does when she has a problem. She smiled at me and said, "I take hold of this bracelet that my best friend gave me and ask, 'What would Jesus do?'" Then I listen to see what the voice inside tells me."

I looked at the bracelet on her wrist. It was a rainbow of colors on a nylon strap buckled on her wrist. She held it up for me to see. She then pointed out that there were letters on the bracelet. "Look," she said.

"See here: W W J D. That means, 'What Would Jesus Do?'" I thought for a minute and then explained that is what I do inside myself, just in a little different way. I often ask, "What would the Spiritual Master Within do in this situation?" She asked me if the Master is Jesus and I replied that the Christ in each of us is the Master Within that we each can turn to for greater understanding.

She smiled and said, "Then you have listened to the small voice inside that always tells you the truth?" I said that I have heard that voice and we all can hear it if we learn to listen. She shared with me that she has always heard this voice inside but her parents don't understand what she is talking about.

I then began to look inside myself at how I do handle life's situations when they arise. I began to see how I do go inside and turn the situation over to that part of me that is greater than the situation. I ask for assistance, understanding and guidance. Then I listen to see what might come forward as awareness that will assist me in the moment. Sometimes I might hear a voice, that "still small voice" of spirit. Other times I might be drawn to look more closely at what the situation is and how I truly see it, usually by writing down a list of the pros and cons as I see them. I thus begin to get a more neutral view of the situation, and also begin to see more clearly what my next steps can be. I find the one thing that does not work for me is to avoid, or do nothing. Moving the energy, wakening myself to a greater understanding of the situation, and listening to the wise counsel of the Inner Master are some of the tools that bring me to a resolution.

I then heard Linda say, "How do you know about the voice inside you and my parents and teachers don't? Did you learn it from your parents, your teachers, or who?" I shared with her that I became aware of the voice during my times in prayer when I was a child and that others around me questioned my belief in this voice, just as is happening to her. I shared that the voice of the Inner Master was something we each can learn to hear in our own way but we must be willing to listen and trust and have faith as to where the words are coming from.

(CHILD continues on page 6)

INNER LIGHT MINISTRIES

CLASSES & PROGRAMS: MARCH - JUNE 1998

Presented by JIM GORDON: For additional information, call Laura Kesten-Beaver at 512-894-0992.

WEEKLY CLASSES: Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 pm, Franklin Sq. Bldg., Ste. #100, 3724 Jefferson, Austin, TX. Each class includes spiritual teaching, practical exercises, group discussion, and meditation. Jim helps participants to become more deeply in touch with the Spirit within.

“THE HUMAN JOURNEY #1” WORKSHOP: with Jim Gordon, Laura Kesten and Steven McAfee, in Austin, TX, Fri-Sun, April 3-5, 1998. See ad below.

“THE HUMAN JOURNEY #3” RETREAT: with Jim Gordon, Steven McAfee, and Laura Kesten, at Potawatomi Inn in Pokagon State Park, near Angola, IN; Fri-Sun, May 1-3, 1998. This retreat is one of a three-part set of programs, called “The Human Journey #1-2-3” (they need not be taken in numerical sequence). For more information see ad on page 7.

INNER LIGHT MINISTRIES *presents*

THE HUMAN JOURNEY # 1: IN SEARCH OF SELF

with ILM Ministers Jim Gordon, Steven McAfee, and Laura Kesten

When: April 3-5, 1998

Friday, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Sunday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: ILM Conference Center
Franklin Square Building
3724 Jefferson St., Suite #100
Austin, TX

Cost: \$35 donation

As children of God, each of us is on a unique personal journey of experience, adventure, and self-discovery. When we come into an inner realization of our spiritual identity, we can more creatively, more successfully, and more joyously pursue our individual callings.

This ILM weekend retreat will be practically oriented, with an emphasis on experiential techniques for coming into a greater knowing of ourselves as spiritual beings, and of our lives as rich and varied opportunities to explore and express our divine heritage.

If you are planning to participate in this workshop please fill out the Registration Form on page 7 as soon as possible. Thank you.



A WORN SPOT ON THE RUG

by Steven McAfee,
ILM Midwest Coordinator

There's a worn spot on the carpet of our stairs at home. It's about halfway up and right in the middle of the step. It's impossible to cover up, and it's impossible not to notice. But since we haven't been able to replace it yet, there it is, day after day. It usually annoys me. But today it struck me why it is so worn: because it has gotten so much use from the endless flow of family and friends up and down those stairs. And suddenly, that spot seemed kind of warm and friendly to me, as it reminded me of all the moments of love we have shared together here.

As I was reflecting on this, my Bible came to mind (it's old and tattered, too), and I remembered a quote that I wanted to look up for my ILM class. Now, mind you, I have a brand new Bible which I just recently purchased. It's full of wonderful footnotes, charts, and maps, and it looks clean, shiny, and pristine. But I grabbed my old Bible instead, the one I've used for years. I'm familiar with it. I can find things in it. I remember all the comfort and wisdom and insights I've gleaned from the hours I've poured over it in study and contemplation. The pages are filled with wrinkles; the margins are jammed with my notes; and the leather binding, which is hanging on by a thread, is scarcely worthy of being called a "binding" any more. Occasionally I have to re-insert whole sections of text back into it (and you wondered what happened to those so-called "lost books" of the Bible!) — which is why I bought the new Bible in the first place. Well, to get on with the story, I realized the old one is worn out because it has given so much of itself. It has been opened often, read deeply, and known intimately, and has given birth to countless inspirations within me. And isn't that, in the end, what a Bible is for? It has served faithfully for years, and it has become dear to me because of it. I imagine that, some day after I am gone, if someone offers one of my children a choice of one of the many Bibles I own, they will not ask for the brand new one, or for the most scholarly one, they will ask for this old one, the one I used, the one they can tell I loved.

So, as mundane as it may seem, my carpet and my old Bible have taught me a spiritual lesson today. You see, lately, I have been noticing myself getting older. When I look into a mirror, the body I see there doesn't look like I imagine my body looks. I remember a young, thin college lad. I *see* a middle-aged man, with a little too much "middle," and with a few too many wrinkles around his face to look young anymore. I remember myself being, and still think of myself as, "the young one of the family." But the truth is, now I am a grandpa. I feel like a kid inside, while I watch my hair turning gray. Curious, isn't it?

Sometimes these changes trouble me. They annoy me, like the spot on my carpet I told you about, the one I can't replace and can't hide either. I can't avoid seeing that my body is changing, and I know that it is aging, even though I don't feel inside myself like I am. Up to now, that has bothered me. I have found myself wishing that I were younger, that I physically felt younger, that I weren't seeing any of these signs of wear yet. But today, thanks to my carpet and my Bible, I feel better about myself. I realize how all these changes in my body are really reflections of unspoken love and intimacy. Every wrinkle, every gray hair, every change in shape, and even every scar — all are reminders of a lifetime of love and devotion, of years of faithful service. My

My rug, my Bible, and my body display to me that my life is real, that love has seen fit to use them in its service.

body has become more precious, not less precious, to me because of these things. I would rather not have it look like a new, pristine Bible sitting unopened somewhere up on a shelf, or like a brand new carpet lying untouched in an empty home. My rug, my Bible, and my body display to me that my life is real, that love has seen fit to use them in its service. They are signs that show me where I have given my heart, and they remind me that I want my heart to be one that is opened often, read deeply, and known intimately, a heart in which powerful inspirations are born. And after all, in the end, isn't that what a life is for? ★

INNER LIGHT MINISTRIES

CLASSES & PROGRAMS: MARCH - JUNE 1998

Presented by STEVEN R. MCAFEE: For additional information, call Steven at 219-485-2167
(UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW ARE OFFERED ON A DONATION BASIS.)

TUESDAY CLASSES: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Unity Church, 3232 Crescent Ave., Ft. Wayne, IN. Classes include spiritual teaching, meditation, and group sharing.

FRIDAY MEDITATIONS: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, 6228 Lombard Place, Ft. Wayne, IN (except on ILM retreat weekends). Our focus is on sharing the Love of God together in silent devotion. There is no teaching and no fellowship afterward.

SUNDAY MYSTICAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES: 9:00 am - 10:00 am, 6228 Lombard Place, Ft. Wayne, IN, every Sunday (except on ILM retreat weekends). In these sessions, we explore the mystical experiences and teachings contained in the Bible and how to apply them in our lives. Each week we announce the text that we will be covering on the following week. Please call for current information.

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Steven conducts worship services as a guest minister approximately once a month for various churches and spiritual groups in the Ft. Wayne area. Please call for additional programs.

March 22: Worship service at the Brigade of Light, 10:45 am, YWCA Villa, Ft. Wayne, IN.

April 12: Easter worship service, at the Brigade of Light, 10:45 am, YWCA Villa, Ft. Wayne, IN.

COMMUNITY NIGHTS: Ft. Wayne, IN. Time and location varies. Once every 4-6 weeks, the ILM community here joins together for play and fellowship. Activities may include an inspirational movie and discussion; a community potluck, sharing and singing night; a family picnic in the park; or volunteering in a local service project. Please call for current information.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS: Over Easter weekend, we will be having three special events in Ft. Wayne, any of which you are welcome to attend. On Good Friday, we will have a commemorative meditation service from 7:00-8:00 pm. On Saturday, from 10:00 am-5:00 pm, we will have a seminar on the mysteries of Easter, ending with a Passover meal and communion. On Sunday, from 9:00-10:00 am, we will have a Bible study class focused on the mystical experience of Easter.

WORKSHOPS:

THE MYSTICAL CHRIST:

This workshop will focus on the mystical work of Christ throughout history and within ourselves today. Through spiritual study, group discussion, singing, prayer, and meditation, we will have the opportunity to awaken to the Spirit of Christ within us and deepen our personal relationship with God. Come join us and share in the joy of loving together.

Sun March 29 10:00 am- 4:00 pm Seasons - A Center for Renewal
at the Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, MI

This seminar will also be offered in Urbana, Ohio in late May or in early June. The exact location and date were not able to be finalized by our press date. Details will be announced in advance, or you are welcome to call Steven McAfee.

HARMONY OF BODY-MIND-SPIRIT:

This workshop will focus on the intimate connections between our body, mind, and spirit. We will share information and techniques on how to care for ourselves on each of these levels and how to bring them into greater harmony with one another. Mike Wunderlin, owner of the Natural Health Center in Kalamazoo, will be our special co-presenter with Steven McAfee.

Sat June 20 Vicksburg Community Center Vicksburg, MI



ONE ROCK AT A TIME

by *Laura Kesten-Beaver,*
ILM Minister

In 1994 my husband and I moved to Texas, bought a piece of land on a hill 30 miles west of Austin, designed our house, and hired a builder. At the completion of our house, against our express wishes, the builder burned all the leftover unusable building materials on our land. For weeks we raked and filled bags of semi-burned trash, but thereafter nothing grew in a large circular area. My husband called it the “Toxic Waste Dump.”

After more than a year had gone by and still nothing had grown, we debated on what to do with this area. And we felt the burden of what man had done to this land. As it so happens, at about that time I began facilitating ILM’s PeaceMaker workshops. The final process of this 2 1/2 day workshop is to plant a tree as a symbol for peace. Iroquois tradition holds that the tree’s four roots of truth will spread through the world in the four cardinal directions, carrying news of peace.

In a dream one night, I saw the PeaceMaker trees making a circle around this burned and lifeless area.....and *thriving*. Inspired by the dream, I planted eight PeaceMaker trees around the circumference of the dump area — one tree for each workshop I’d done. All of them *are* thriving.

Next came the question: What do I do with the inner area of the circle? As before, an answer came forward. A good friend of mine hosted a PeaceMaker reunion at his house in Michigan. We were upstairs doing some drumming when I looked out his window and saw this incredible circle made out of stones. The circle was composed of four quadrants, with each quadrant filled with a different colored stone. My friend told me that it was a Native American Medicine Wheel in the four cardinal directions. Inspired, the next day I rushed out and bought a book on the Medicine Wheel. I read that the circle itself symbolized “the web of life or the integration and unity of all living things in one balanced whole.” In the wheel, “each position (or quadrant) offers an opportunity for change, growth, new experiences, new relationships, new ideas, and new ways of viewing life.” I immediately knew that at the heart of the “toxic waste dump” I would build a Native American Medicine Wheel.

Soon my husband and I were visiting a rock quarry

and ordering stone — 11 tons worth. Three dump trucks drove up the following day and delivered four different colors of small rocks, plus large river rocks to be used for the divisions between the quadrants as well as for the circumference of the circle.

Later that evening, after seeing my mounds of rock, a friend said to me, “That is some project. It’s going to take you forever. Moving rock is no easy chore.” We laughed — but inside myself I felt the burden of eleven tons of rock.

The next day, I began my “forever” project and with every large river rock I picked up from the pile and then carefully placed on the circumference of the circle, I kept hearing my friend’s words — “....forever....no easy chore.” And all the time I kept going back to my rock pile, choosing my next rock, heaving it into my arms, walking to the place of my last rock and placing the new rock, checking to make sure the fit was good, and then going back to my pile again. Over and over again — I kept moving until all 82 border rocks were in place. And inside myself I felt light...centered...whole.

And then it dawned on me what creating this medicine wheel was “about” for me. It was about the burden of my personal life-issues and the “toxic waste” of stagnation — the holding onto these issues — making it impossible for growth, renewal, and peace to come forward. And, it was also about how growth and renewal are made possible when I begin to move through my issues similar to creating the Medicine Wheel, one rock at a time until the circle is finally complete.

There have been times in my life when I have felt that I have been delivered a burden of 11 tons, issues that I often could only see as mounds and feel the weight thereof without being able to create an internal Medicine Wheel of movement toward solutions. Consequently, such weighted issues have become toxic in my mind, heart, and body — and where there is toxicity, growth, renewal, and peace cannot occur. Conversely, when we are “working” an issue, we are planting our own trees around our toxic issues. These trees renew us and provide us with a strong support system. And then we can begin to create our own internal Medicine Wheel by picking up one heavy rock at a time and placing it in the circle, until, just as our once-toxic land is becoming transformed into something natural and beautiful, our lives too become as the Medicine Wheel, “integrated into one balanced whole.”★

INNER LIGHT MINISTRIES

CLASSES & PROGRAMS: MARCH - JULY 1998

Presented by LAURA KESTEN-BEAVER: For additional information, call Laura at 512-894-0992.

A CIRCLE OF WOMEN: *Monthly gathering.* Fridays 7:00-10:00 pm, Franklin Sq. Bldg., Ste. #100, 3724 Jefferson, Austin, TX. Free of charge. This evening is specially dedicated in the celebration of ancient woman spirit, where women join together to experience the support of an uplifting, nurturing, and self-empowering circle. The dates are:

March 20, April 17 and May 17.

FAMILIES: (In place of our regularly scheduled "Circle of Maidens," we will be offering "Families," open to all interested families.) "Families" is a playful and heartfelt workshop designed to support your family unit, honoring old family traditions as well as creating new ones. We play games, have quiet family times, create a symbolic family wreath, share our appreciations of one another and share in a wonderful Native American process of communication. Open to all types of family units. Children must be 5+.

Sat March 21 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Austin, TX \$35 (includes lunch)

PEACEMAKER: This workshop offers an opportunity to journey through the rich Iroquois story of the PeaceMaker, reliving its teachings and participating in transformational processes, thus bringing us closer to the heart of our own PeaceMaker within.

Fri-Sun April 24-26 Austin, TX \$50

THE WRITER WITHIN #1: Through specific writing processes, this workshop offers a self-exploratory journey through the realm of our minds and hearts, teaching us more of who we are, and of how we think and feel about the collage of our lives - from the lint in the dryer to the desire to live in the Spirit of God.

Sun June 14 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Ft. Wayne, IN \$15

THE WRITER WITHIN #2: The Writer Within has been so popular that we designed a second one! We offer you all new writing processes to continue you on your journey. Writing and sharing in small groups is a very magical experience. Come and join us.

Sun June 28 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Richland, MI \$15

BOSOM BUDDIES: Come with your bosom buddy and experience this workshop in retreat together. All processes are done with your buddy and are designed to create joy, laughter, and a delightful connection between your kindred spirits.

Fri-Sat July 17-18 Kalamazoo, MI \$25 (+ 1/2 room cost)

THE UNFOLDING CREATIVE SPIRIT: An uplifting, experiential workshop designed to awaken and embrace the inner and outer creative self, by offering a variety of experiences - painting, drawing, and clay-work, as a means to enhance the process of liberating our creativity. (No experience necessary!)

Sat July 25 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Urbana, OH \$35

CHILD continues from page 1

Linda then said, "People would rather follow their feelings and their mind rather than listen and follow the voice of God inside. If they can't see their feelings and they can't see their thoughts and yet they trust in them, when will they listen to the voice of God in them and learn to trust His voice." All I could say to her was,

"And a child shall lead them.' It says that in the Bible, and talking to you is reminding me, that it is the innocence and trust of the child in each of us that helps us to see and hear the voice of God, the voice of the Inner Master." She then said, "Yes, I learned that in Sunday school: 'Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall in no way enter it.'" ★

THE HUMAN JOURNEY # 3

An ILM Weekend Retreat

With ILM Ministers Jim Gordon, Steven McAfee, and Laura Kesten

May 1-2-3, 1998

at the Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park, Indiana

The Human Journey #3 retreat is one of a three-part set of programs called "The Human Journey #1-2-3" (they need not be taken in numerical sequence). In this retreat, we will share teachings, experiential activities, group discussions, and guided meditations to explore the mysteries of the spiritual path and its ultimate destination, the loving heart of God.

This retreat will be held in the relaxing atmosphere of Potawatomi Inn, in Pokagon State Park. The park is located in northern Indiana, near Angola, just about an hour's drive from both the Kalamazoo and the Ft. Wayne areas.

To maximize personal interaction and individual attention, enrollment will be limited to 40 participants. Double occupancy room accommodations will be provided (single occupancy and wheelchair accessible rooms may be available upon special request). The registration fee of \$150 per person includes all workshop supplies, two nights lodging, three meals on Saturday, and one meal on Sunday. The retreat runs from 7:30 pm Friday through 1:00 pm Sunday. Participants may check in anytime on Friday after 4:00 pm.

REGISTRATIONS (BELOW) MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1ST in order to guarantee room reservations.

In the event that we receive more registrations than we can accommodate, names will be placed on a waiting list in the order received. Refunds cannot be made for cancellations received after April 15th.

For further information call Steven at 219-485-2167.

ILM Registration Form

The Human Journey # 1: In Search
Of Self Weekend Workshop
Austin, Texas

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to *Inner Light Ministries*.

Send check and registration form to ILM,
P.O. Box 1086, Dripping Springs, TX 78620.
For further information call Laura Kesten
at (512) 894-0992.

**Please fill out the
registration form
below and mail as soon as possible.**

The Human Journey # 3
Retreat
Pokagon State Park, Indiana

Amount enclosed: _____

(Must be received by April 1st to guarantee room reservation.)
Please make checks payable to *Inner Light Ministries*.
Please send your check and registration form to: Steven
McAfee, 6228 Lombard Pl, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Please check: Double occupancy

Single occupancy (limited)

Wheelchair accessible

I would like to room with (please specify):

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone:() _____ Work Phone:() _____

INNER LIGHT MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

ABOUT ILM

INNER LIGHT MINISTRIES (ILM) is a nonprofit outreach organization founded in the fundamental principles of ancient esoteric Christianity. It is dedicated to the development and balancing of the fourfold nature of the individual. Towards this goal, it provides education and services concerned with the integration of the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical aspects of the self, and also provides publications and materials that aid in this process.

Among its fundamental tenets is that we really are “temples of the Holy Spirit.” As we seek and express this presence within, we find the peace, love, power, and wisdom we all so earnestly desire. The many services of ILM are geared towards this path of individual unfoldment – such as meditation, study, and prayer on an individual and group basis.

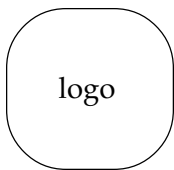
Service to humanity and the planet is ILM’s second major emphasis, and ILM encourages individual service, in any of a wide variety of possible forms, as a vital aspect of our daily experience. Please write or phone for more information.

AN EXCERPT

One important way to develop a greater conscious relationship with God is to give some time to Him each day. Talk with Him. Walk with Him. Play with Him. Listen to Him. Open yourself to Him, and allow yourself to know the love and the blessings He offers to us in every moment.

from **The Knowing of God**
– Jim Gordon

ILM Executive Office: Jim Gordon, 203 Buckeye Trail, Austin, TX 78746; Business Office: Tom Beaver, P.O. Box 1086, Dripping Springs, TX 78620; Midwest Office: Steven McAfee, 6228 Lombard Place, Fort Wayne, IN 46815



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