

Soul Link, Inc.

*"...fostering an awareness of and response to the sacred in nature,
human nature and events of everyday life."*

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SOUL LINK
together on the spiritual path

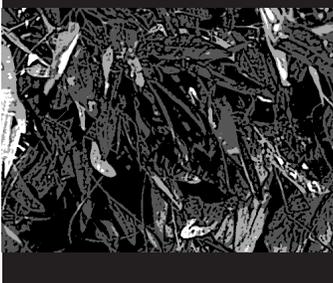
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SOUL LINK RETREAT (REVIVAL VII)

Seeking Truth: Religion for the Unorthodox

I'm spiritual but not religious" is a phrase no longer voiced by only the young and those who have left the church. These words are now commonly used to describe the spiritual lives of the middle-aged and beyond, as well as those who continue to seek sustenance for their souls within church settings. Whether young or old, church-connected or not, there is a spiritual restlessness among those who seek an authentic faith life but do not find conventional religious teachings meaningful.

This retreat will encourage quiet reflection and honest conversation on those aspects of religion (God, Jesus, prayer, morality, church, etc.) the conventional understanding of which no longer resonates with many who continue to consider themselves people of faith.

Date: April 13, 2013

Place: Broadmoor Community Church (315 Lake Ave.)

Time: 9:00 a.m. (registration), 9:30a.m.—2:00 p.m. (retreat)

Cost: \$30 early registration (by April 9), \$35 at the door. Lunch included.
Scholarships available.

Information: 648-3939

Seeking Truth (an essay by Tom Stella)

"This book is not specifically addressed to Christians who are firmly established in their faith and have nothing more to learn about its beliefs. It is written for the waverers, both inside and outside; that is to say for those who, instead of giving themselves wholly to the Church, either hesitate on its threshold or turn away in the hope of going beyond it."

The above quote is from the Preface of *The Divine Milieu* by Teilhard de Chardin who was a Jesuit priest and paleontologist. The "waverers" for whom he writes are those spiritual seekers who hunger for words that will nourish their souls, words they rarely hear from the pulpit.

My guess is that many of you who are reading these words, whether you are church-goers or not, might consider yourselves waverers or seekers. If so, you are part of a growing number whose sense of God, faith, religion, church, etc. has undergone a transformation. Like clothes worn in our

youth, the traditional teaching about these matters may no longer fit who we've become; we have outgrown them.

Growth, be it physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual, is a good thing, it is what happens when we are healthy. However, it is often the case that when we outgrow religious beliefs; that is, when we begin to doubt, question, and struggle with them, we can feel lost, alone, uncertain, and that we've strayed rather than grown. Since it is often the case that our wavering is not a sign of weakness but is, instead, an indication that we need to leave behind the security of familiar beliefs, I take comfort in these words of retired Episcopal bishop John Shelby Spong: "Most people look to religion for security not for Truth."

When we venture beyond the safe confines of conventional religious thinking – as Jesus did with the legalistic/moralistic/ritualistic Judaism of his day – it becomes possible to discover the Truth that Spong refers to and that Teilhard summed up when he wrote: "By means of all created things, without exception, the divine assails us, penetrates us, and molds us. We imagine it to be distant and inaccessible, whereas in fact we live steeped in its burning layers."

QUOTE CORNER

☞ Religion can be a defense against the experience of God. *Carl Jung*

☞ The first sign that one is on a spiritual path is disinterest in the afterlife. *Anthony DeMello*

☞ We're not God, but we're not not God either. *James Finley*

☞ God is the life of your life. *St. Augustine*

☞ There is a union of God's Spirit and our innermost self, so that we and God are in all truth one Spirit. *Thomas Merton*

BOOKS FOR THE JOURNEY

***Finding God Beyond Religion* by Tom Stella (SkyLight Paths Publishing)**

THIS BOOK is a guide for those who find it difficult to believe in and/or practice the religion of their youth. It reinterprets traditional religious teachings central to the Christian faith in a way that connects with those who have outgrown the beliefs and devotional practices that once made sense to them. It helps readers find new ways to understand and relate to traditional, narrowly defined truths that honors their full spiritual power and scope.

***Faith Beyond Mere Belief* by Sam Gould (CreateSpace)**

IN THIS BOOK the author presents a thought provoking approach to faith that is particularly appealing to those who are not inspired by either evangelical eagerness or orthodox doctrinal creeds. Gould presents concepts in an unpretentious style that avoids the obscure language that often puts such material beyond the interest of a non-academic audience. Personal examples enrich and clarify the text.

***Simple Faith* by Margaret Silf (Loyola Press)**

FOR MANY PEOPLE faith is based on creeds, doctrine, and head knowledge. It's about mastering the "facts" and making sure you give the "right" answer. In *Simple Faith*, Silf encourages us to rethink many of the teachings on faith that end up holding us back from experiencing the joy and freedom that a simple faith offers. Faith is not knowing about God, but coming to know God – this requires us to accept the mystery that is God.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

JAMES WHITE LECTURESHIP

Brian McLaren, author, teacher, and activist is the speaker for this year's James White Lectureship. This weekend event will begin with a presentation (Toward a New Christian Identity: What Conservatives and Progressives Can Learn from Each Other) at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening, April 26, at Armstrong Hall on the campus of Colorado College. On Saturday McLaren will lead two sessions at First Congregational Church located on the corner of Tejon and St Vrain. The morning session is titled "What's Happening with the Church" and the afternoon session is "Global Crises." He will speak at both services (8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) at the church on Sunday. For more information contact FCC at 635-3549.

SOUL LINK BOOK CLUB

For many people reading is a source of stimulation not only for the mind but for the soul as well. The written word can heighten our awareness of God's presence and motivate us to attend to matters of a spiritual nature. Soul Link invites you to join with others who wish to share insights gleaned from their reading. Meetings will be held on Mondays, March 25, April 22, May 20, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Agia Sophia Bookstore (2902 W. Colorado Ave). For the March meeting we will read *Faith Beyond Mere Belief*. The author will be present. Contact Vicki Rector (229-9868) for information.

CABO SERVICE PROJECT

Last winter a group of people from Soul Link went on a service project to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico where they had a powerful experience serving the poor of that city. Once again we will offer that opportunity through "Travel With A Purpose." Our own Steve Shapiro will organize this project which will involve serving people in hospitals, daycare centers, orphanages, and community kitchens. This year's group will leave on March 20 and return on March 26. Please contact Steve (495-3400) if you're interested. Learn more at www.thetravelconnection.info.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING

Broadmoor Laughing Club

Laughter strengthens the immune system, relieves stress and pain, and is just plain fun. Laughter sessions are not about telling jokes or being funny; rather, they are childlike, playful, and joyful. Mondays 9-10 a.m. For information contact Scott Lovaas (473-1807 ext. 112)

Yoga

The discipline of Yoga links breath with movement and is therapeutic for body, mind, and spirit. Wednesdays and Fridays 9-10 a.m. Cost \$12 per session or \$40 for four sessions. For information contact Alison Nicholas (963-5060).

RETREAT WITH DR. JAMES FINLEY

Former monk and Thomas Merton scholar, Jim Finley, will facilitate a retreat based on the life and teachings of 14th century mystic Meister Eckhart. The retreat will take place at the Millennium-Harvest Hotel in Boulder, CO from Sept. 20-22. For details contact Stephanie Raffelock (303-541-9019).

COMING EVENTS

BOOK GROUP

MARCH 25,
APRIL 22, MAY 20
6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

AGIA SOHPIA
BOOKSTORE
2902 W. Colo. Ave

BOARD MEETING

April 3
5:00 – 6:00pm
Soul Link Office

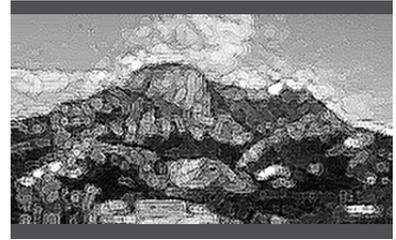


SAVE THE TREES
AND THE COST
OF PRINTING AND
MAILING THE
NEWSLETTER

To receive notice of the latest Soul Link newsletter via email, please contact us at soullink@soullinkonline.org or call the office at 648-3939 and leave your full name and email address.

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SEEKING TRUTH: RELIGION FOR UNORTHODOX BELIEVERS

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013

Mail In Registration Form

Clip and return with registration fee no later than April 9, 2013

Please complete information below and send it along with your payment of \$30 per person to:

Soul Link, Inc.
2514 W. Colorado Ave. Suite 205
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Name(s) of person(s) attending _____

Phone Number _____

Drop-ins are welcome the day of the retreat.
The registration fee "at the door" will be \$35 per person.
We hope you will invite a friend to join us for this time of reflection and conversation.