

Universal Life Friends Letter ^{15,}

#2, MAY 1982

OUR PAGES ARE YOUR LETTERS

U.L. Friends, 753 44th Av.
San Francisco, CA 94121

The "Universal Life Friends" are a small and informal correspondence group within the Universal Life Church. We meet mostly ~~by~~ by sharing our letters with each other in a publication called the "Universal Life Friends Letter", coming out every month or two.

We are essentially a non-sectarian group but we take as our motto an old Quaker saying: "There is that of God in every one". We understand this to be a fundamental truth, found not just in Christianity, but in one way or another in all religions. We also believe this to be a truth harmonizing perfectly with the fundamental belief of the Universal Life Church: "As an organization we have no traditional doctrine. We only believe in 'that which is right'. Each individual has the privilege and responsibility to determine 'what is right' as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. We do not stand between you and your God". The UL Friends as a group have no further doctrine, although as individuals we may take it on from there, each in our own way. This puts a big emphasis on individualism, but we would equally emphasize that we be friends, and share more with each other.

For our "subscription fee" we ask that you write us a letter now and then, sharing your religious concerns and insights with us. We will then publish it in our "UL Friends Letter". We will try to publish everything we receive, although that might not always be possible.

In general letters should be of a religious nature, but we understand this in a very broad sense, so a poem, a drawing, or even a cartoon might be quite appropriate. Some might write in the spirit of Quaker silent worship, and define that in a very traditional sense. That would be great, but we have no intention of being so restrictive. Most of us are far too inhibited about such already. Zen letters, Sufi letters, Hare Krishna letters - all are welcome.

It is our hope and belief that our letters will somehow help us open our hearts to each other, and be every bit as meaningful and fruitful as the spoken word. Hopefully too more than a few deep friendships might also develop in this way.

Newcomers might begin with a more general letter of introduction to the group. Letters should be either typed or clearly legible, and of a reasonable length.

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LETTERS RECEIVED

Utah State Prison
Box 250, #15488
Draper, Utah 84020

Dear Friends:

I'm not well versed in the multitude of religions around the world, but then again I've read a great deal about many things in prisons here and there, and never was much good at following others, even on my motorcycle. But somehow I don't see this adventure as a threat, so I cannot but think that foremost the circle of friends remain friends and be reassessed as a new beginning instead of a challenge by those who more than likely think in terms of doubt in all matters. The pessimist tends to be lost no matter which direction he goes, so I personally laugh at the need I feel to say "Hit the road Judas". I don't make the same mistake twice.", then look around myself in prison again and realize that it is surely a lie, and a joke.- so laugh with me, and the great philosopher Charlie Brown is a mess, or why am I here again.

Whatever if we can't laugh at the serious side of ourselves sometimes hey what a boring existence living would be. Maybe it is time we put aside tuxedo rhetoric and semantics and say "Hey friend, how's your heart, can I help?". All I have to give you is love, is that too much?". Is it so frightening a gesture that we reject it out of some inner fear of being ripped off once again? And how far will people go before they eventually become stone itself.

Has that particular word become cloaked in some mystical shroud that makes in each of us all the petty suspicion and doubt and negative direction before we even get off the ground. And why else did we write to the circle of friends to begin with?

Was it a curious and definite need of the heart or a self-experiencing mind game with a selfish copyright on emotions. —

You out there, do you have time enough to reach within one last time and see that perhaps we all who may be searching for love are gathered here and now to make the Circle breathe life, with and in one another. To me at least that's the real challenge! Perhaps I am wrong, but somewhere deep within my heart I feel that if one is honest this day forward, and makes his needs known on an emotional level that the simplicity of need itself will come full circle and isn't that what it is all about in it's first initiation- how can we grow if the roots are shallow? This isn't to me a self-satisfying journey of self-pity or attention-seeking, but in it's simplest form of reality, without suspicions about some sleazy ripping our hearts out rib-cage and all.

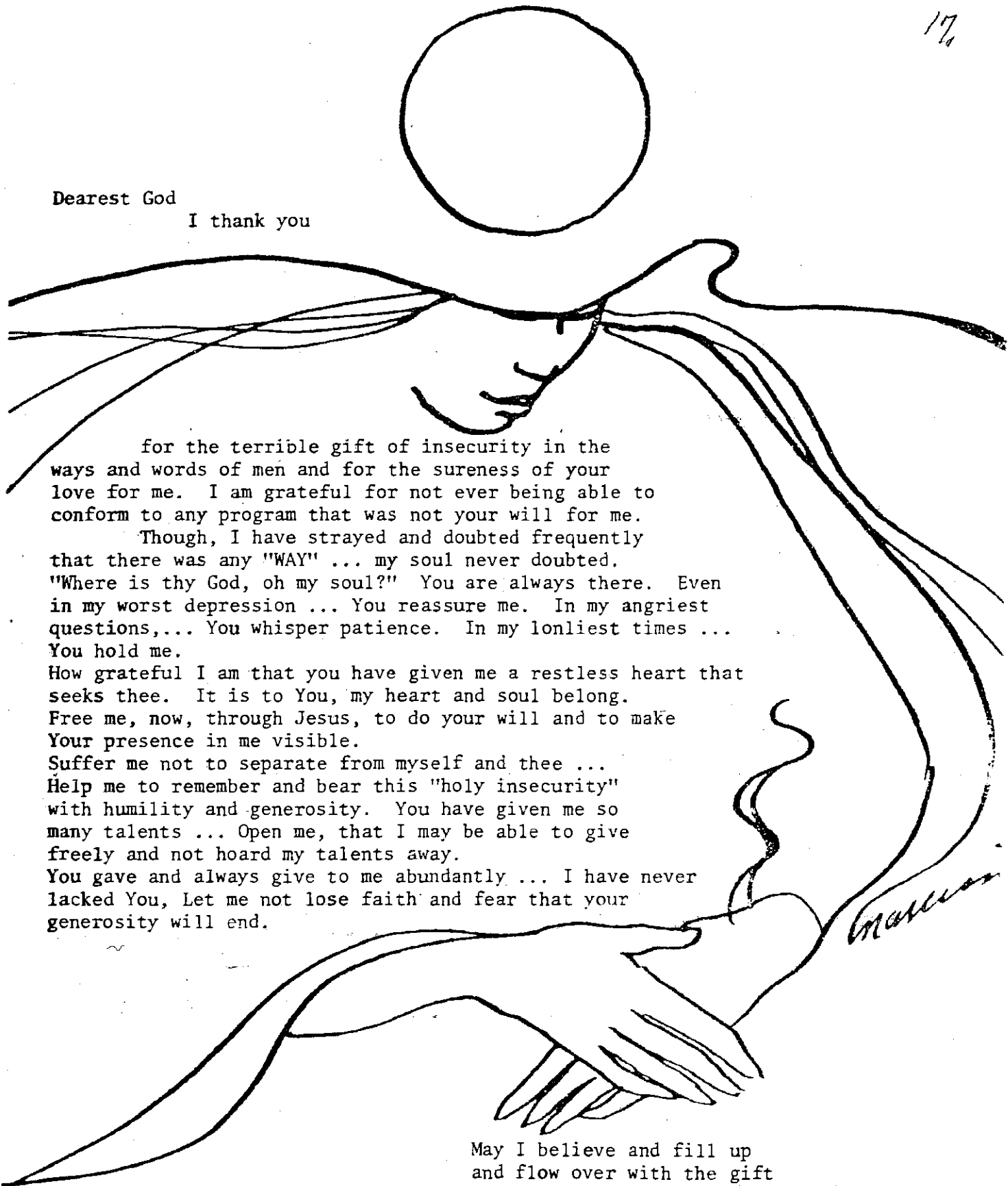
How else can any of us restore any kind of faith in mankind unless we begin somewhere whether we're Catholic or Cadillac, Christian or Chevrolet?

Can you hear this —? I close with love and not the selfish kind but the love of new born flowers —

Don Gardener

Dearest God

I thank you



for the terrible gift of insecurity in the ways and words of men and for the sureness of your love for me. I am grateful for not ever being able to conform to any program that was not your will for me.

Though, I have strayed and doubted frequently that there was any "WAY" ... my soul never doubted. "Where is thy God, oh my soul?" You are always there. Even in my worst depression ... You reassure me. In my angriest questions, ... You whisper patience. In my lonliest times ... You hold me.

How grateful I am that you have given me a restless heart that seeks thee. It is to You, my heart and soul belong. Free me, now, through Jesus, to do your will and to make Your presence in me visible.

Suffer me not to separate from myself and thee ... Help me to remember and bear this "holy insecurity" with humility and generosity. You have given me so many talents ... Open me, that I may be able to give freely and not hoard my talents away.

You gave and always give to me abundantly ... I have never lacked You, Let me not lose faith and fear that your generosity will end.

Marcus

May I believe and fill up
and flow over with the gift
of you.

112 Hunter Street
Woodbury, NJ 08096

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Rodney A. Reynolds
P.O.Box 57468 2-W-26
Tamal, California 94974
March 29, 1982

UL Friends, Clerk
753 -44th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94121

Dear Clerk and Friends,

I really enjoyed reading the UL Friends Letter. Though our group is small, I feel that it is positive and will grow in accordance with the strength generated from our positive interchanges.

I agree with the Clerk, in that the letter ought to be open to any person of whatever particular faith who has something to contribute to the letter. I feel that this allows for positive exchange, where most people are closed-minded to the beliefs of others no matter how close their beliefs are with those of another. As I look at the world today, people seem to be crowding the paths of destruction and the path toward God is virtually empty. The letter can have the effect of bringing our diversities, together, like the ONE God that we all worship!

It has been said that there are many prisoners who write to the Letter, and that makes sense to me (being a prisoner myself), mainly because as I sit in this cell "Crossing the River Jordan" or sitting face to face with my SELF with no distractions outside of the ones that I create---the opportunity for exploring the depths of SELF are unlimited. In the Bible the disciple Paul was forever in prison, among others who contributed to the great work that the Bible is. I'm not saying that one ought to come to prison, I'm saying that many already there have a wonderful opportunity to bring clarity and peace to their lives.

My message at this time is to the Christian readers of the Friends Letter. It has been my experience to meet a considerable number of religious people who are simply enthralled by the SENSE of the word in the Bible. There is more that goes beyond the sense of the word and into the spirit. The Bible was written in "symbol" and "allegory", which one needs to keep in mind when reading the Bible. What it is implying is that there is a considerable amount of work in deciphering passages. Some Christian friends of mine told me that I should try committing certain verses to memory. I do not agree! I try to understand the verse and always use my Bible as a reference and a means to continue reading my Bible. If I memorize the verse I have no need to go back to the Book unless to learn to memorize other verses. I keep my Bible open!!!!

I would like to give an interpretation of one of my favorite passages. By doing so, I am in no way saying that I am correct or someone else is incorrect. I'm saying that experience is relative as well as interpretation of that experience.

My favorite passage is the 23rd. Psalms for those of you who are into reading. My understanding goes as follows:

I am under the care of one God, who will provide for me. In his care, I have found PEACE and TRANQUILITY. I have been given a new life of Right Thinking and Right Living through His guidance.

Even though Life compells me to be surrounded by those whose consciousness is submerged in sense gratification---I have nothing to fear. In my DISCIPLINE, I find comfort.

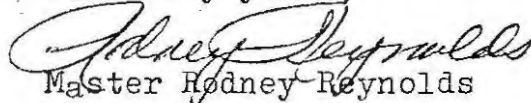
The Lord God has made a way for me, amongst those who envy and despise me. I am Blessed!! I Prosper!!

After being treated so well under the care of God (Luke 17:21) I could not conceive of doing anything outside of following the commandments and discipline within them for the rest of my days.

I was reciting this passage for almost ten years before I actually came to a point where I feel that I understand it. Like many around me, I wanted religion RIGHT NOW!! I did not want to have to work for anything! I did not want to pay my dues. Well, Friends, prison life has given me the chance to both pay my dues and have religion. All the things that I had been trying to escape while I was on the outside. I have read the Bible for years and would appreciate any feedback on the interpretation that I have rendered above.

I'll continue to share my understanding of various passages with the readers, to impart whatever bits of wisdom I can and to see just how much in line our thoughts are. Peace be with all of you and have a nice day.

Sincerely yours,


Master Rodney Reynolds

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Dear U.L. Friends:

I am the "Tom C.C." referred to in the March UL Friends Letter and this is to advise all that my letter was first written to the "clerk" and only a part of it was included, since anything less than ten pages is a note to me!

The invitation to send me a photo for a psychic "reading" was to the "clerk" A.C.D. only, but if you have already, I'll still answer. I'm not refusing to "Read" anyone but I warn you I get intimate and refuse to dabble in Destiny or Fortune Telling.

As might have been obvious I'm blunt and a street kid, raised on beer and war, with no home town and no conventional rules. I studied religions till "Kinsey" observed there were 163,000 of them so I decided to ask God directly, used age regression to recall being dead, and then asked the memory picture people if they were still dead. They were and I had more opinions of God than I could ever have dreamed up. But none of them had met God in person so I looked "up" and "down" and "out" and "in" but only found opinion.

I went, saw, learned, and saw the "inner mirror" my "center", and a gold streeted "Heaven" but found all to no great advantage nor a realistic "place" of God! All that was consistent was "sentient" overwhelming, often sexie, "Love"; so now I only advise one thing. If you don't believe me, or the smart people (I'm not one of them), then go ask for yourself.

Note please that in my last letter there is a misquoted paragraph that makes no sense to me at all. It says "and continue dead groups and ancestors daily." I think I was referring to my constant contact with the very real people we earthlings consider "daad"- and as we have earthly families we also have soul families I call Ancestors. I'll explain more about what I mean by all of this a little later on.

Being a compulsive blabber-mouth, I'm going to make comments now, about the letters we wrote. I mean to be positive but--- you decide!

John H.- Fascinating life, generous (adoptions), and I'd be "theologically impure" too since I know that women are ten to one over us men in the world of the dead. Half of them are "gay" too. Go ask em!

Ann F.M.- Who's Siddha Yoga? If I had to speak a foreign language I'd drop out too! Now Carl Jung I know. Women have feminine intuition, their feelings follow them and keep "teetering on the brink of action". Action is tiring and boring, besides I know the people who send "Feelings"! They are a well meaning "neat" "cool" group.!

Narcissa- My kind of girl but --- artists paint! Only the faint-hearted teach, and the system of local governments will give you ulcers and grey hair. You ought to meet some of these "sentient" sexie dead people You'd swear off the idiocy of "original sin" with glee!

Michael H.- What's "Huenots"? (see News & Notes). I mean what language? I love a sense of humor. Mine got left out. Anyone who denies dogma has got to be pretty together. You wanna see egos you ought to see some of the dead I've met. Seven Jesuses, four Buddhas, two Gods and assorted devils of all kinds. What a bore!

Robert C.F.- Your right there is no God yet there is! The sensation of spirit or soul "love" from the dead is too good for there ever to be something better. Call it what you will! Your political views are so true no one will believe you. You're free, so defenseless. Nice to have company.

To all, note Ananda is a July cancer, John H. is a July cancer, and so am I. Coincidences are made, not accidental.

I'm not implying disinterest in the people I didnt mention. I simply didn't intuitively "feel" anything. Don't forget, "Life is a tale told by an idiot! Full of sound and fury and signifying nothing!"

Love yourself, you're the only God you've got!

Tommy

Dear Blissful Clark:

Yes,(in answer to your questions), I am the Yellow mouse who the ULC rag published several times. I thought that nobody cared out there and ceased writing for them. But I am more directed towards the "new" religion anyway - whatever that is.

I am writing quickly because I have to leave town to go back East to sit with the aged parents for a while. Emergency.

You caught me with a "Huguenot" typo (in the March issue). Damn. Oh well. My researches indicate that there never was a positive understood meaning. The "gate" idea and "follower of (as in '-ite')" were two tries. But the sources felt that it was an ancient (at that time) French usage meaning "Oath companion". Of course the fact that they were the losers wipes out later attempts at definitions. In fact it was probably Cardinal Richelieu who called them that, or who encouraged that label, because it is like calling them (today) communists. The fact that it doesn't mean a perjorative has never stopped men from using perfectly innocent terms as perjoratives. An "oath companion" to the authorities meant a "fellow traveller" and kept them away from honoring the "reformers" or recognizing the efficacy of the "presbyters". Anyway, it makes sense to me because the zenith of the Reformation (Dutch, German, French) was loyalty to each other (friends) through an oath of fealty (which is the true definition of "worship") to the "Lord" (of feudal meaning) but without dogma or ideology. This idea is the root of the antipathy to the dominant establishment. So that establishment used that term as the target for their destruction - and it worked.

Curiously, Bishop Hensley's line (to do that which is right) is exactly what Jesus said. Even though it is totally non-dogmatic, it makes sufficiency as ideology.

My "schtuck" is being a word critic. I have nearly no "beliefs" (whatever that process is) to pitch to others. My expertise with the language (linguistics and semantics), psychology (unconscious word choices), philosophy and religion (but always on a pragmatic level) allows me, as Counselor, to point out what my opponent really is saying. No that was not a slip. As a lawyer, I have been conditioned into the adversary system. But I am tired of it and have opted out. Therefore I welcome the company with others who wish to just live and be respected and respectful for that simplicity. The rest is all ego anyway.

The "new" religion will remain a morass of non-dogmatics until it too begins to rot - becomes corrupt. Is it possible for people to come together in chaos??? (Chaos: that which God provides). Or are men insistent on creating order and then imposing it on others.

I am not a Friend but I am a friend as the Sufis say: "This is not a Religion but it is a religion."

At least I try to be a friend in this competitive adversary world. I do not wish to adhere to Fox but to sit in joint meditation and move mountains. It is said that the Quakers have controlled the city of Philadelphia for hundreds of years from the joint prayers of their meetings.

Note: above "morass": WRONG. It is rather the mess of dough lying sticky and goopy in the bowl while the leaven is doing its work and the WHOLE thing is GROWING. "Morass" is a perjorative term which indicates NOTOKness. The correct metaphor is Jesus's "leaven".and not a dying swamp.

If someone wishes aid in thinking meaningful thoughts, I am available as servant - and also coyote.

Yellow Mouse

A.C. Dalenberg
 753 44th Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94121

Dear Friends:

The Buddha once said "Noble Friendship is the entire Holy Life". There are of course many other ways to sum up his teaching, but this one represents an ideal particularly close to my own heart. I must admit however that it would be very difficult for me to then explain why I am not a better friend myself.

That same ideal is I think found in a somewhat different form among the followers of Maitreya Buddha- the future Buddha who will hopefully be coming soon. What his teaching will actually be no one really knows, but his name "Maitreya" means "Friendliness". I think of him then as the "Buddha whose essence is Friendliness", and with him will come an "Era of Friendliness". His many faithful followers pray that that Era may come soon.

I don't know very much about faithfully praying and such, and what I do know has come to me only in my later years. As a child I had some religious experience, as most if not all children do, but I never felt very pious, and never took prayer very seriously. Even upon becoming a Zen priest, I would only go through the motions, and the significance of prayer continued to elude me..

Its meaning for me came as a kind of sudden discovery, rather than as a gradual development. I was one day reading about Maitreya and how the faithful had over the centuries carved on rocks in the mountains of Tibet, China, and Mongolia the inscription "Oh Come Maitreya Come!". It suddenly struck me that it was a prayer, and I realized it was not only theirs, but also my very own, and that at the bottom of my heart I have been repeating it over and over again for years, but without quite realizing it- "Oh Come Friendliness Come!". It even made me feel quite pious, maybe for the first time, it being an emotion not very popular among self-reliant Zen types.

I began to think then that maybe too I had a few other prayers half or almost totally hidden, and Lo and Behold indeed I do. I suspect it has taken me so long to discover them because of a very large overdose of ego and self-pride.

I also have come to understand the meaning of the Maitreya prayer in a more universal sense, not limited to just mankind. It should also mean friendship with all life everywhere. I don't quite know how to explain it, but I think too that it should mean to be a friend of the Great Earth, and of the Great Open Sky.

Trying to be a friend, but with a long way to go,

Ananda Claude

INTRODUCTION

Titus E. Aaron N-46905
P.O. Box 3535-09
Norco, California 91760
(Cal. Rehabilitation Center)

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February 3, 1982

Clerk-ULC Friends
753 44th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121

Brother,

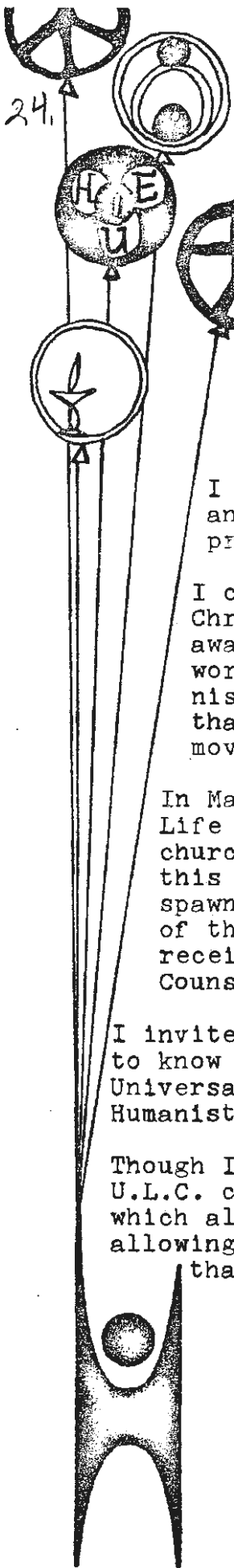
I am reading your add in Universal Life and decided I'd send you some of my beliefs and ask you to send them to other members of ULC Friends.

I welcome all constructive criticism both pro and com.

I believe that our purpose in this life is to find our true inter-selves and persue happiness. To deny ourselves the things which make us happy is a sin in itself. We all have different goals and different things which make us happy as individuals. It is wrong to judge another man as long as he is not infringing on your rights as an individual. I believe the Bible as well as all other religious writings are a valid account of the beliefs and actions of the people that wrote these writings. I believe that we must find our own happiness and remain happy and true to ourselves, no matter what it is that makes us happy. I personally believe in free sex. I don't feel that any other person has the right to judge rather this is right or wrong providing I do not infringe on his rights and that I am indeed doing what makes me happy as an individual. I believe that we must get out from under the blanket of controlled thinking which society has drilled into our heads from childhood. We must reach out as individuals and seek our own happiness rather than be controlled by societies norms. Societies norms can lead to only one thing, unhappiness. I prefer to be a happy individual and be in touch with myself, and mother nature. I personally feel that Mother Nature is the one I must give thanks to, when I look around she is most of the beauty I see and this makes me happy. The road that leads to self-happiness is a road that demands much self-controll, wisdom and understanding of ones self. I believe that love is the freeing force of all bad things and that if we love one another we will not be subjected to things which hinder our happiness. Happiness is the ultimate goal.



Titus E. Aaron



"In this universe, in this world,
humanism is the focus of all humanity
on the compassion, intelligence and
sense of community in each of us."

Lawrence Reyka

Certified Humanist Counselor

March 28, 1982

Clerk
Universal Life Friends
753-44th Avenue
San Francisco,
CA 94121

Dear Friends,

As you can tell from the letterpaper, I am a Humanist Counselor. That is the designation the Humanist movement (American Humanist Assoc.) gives its ministers.

I started out as a Roman Catholic. I did the alter boy thing and was assumed by many in my family to be bound for the priesthood.

I can't pinpoint precisely when I ceased to believe in the Christian religion, but I feel quite sure of when I became aware of my unbelief. It was after a role playing weekend workshop in 1970. At that point I became a "born again Humanist". It was to be about five years later that I discovered that there was, in fact, a national/international Humanist movement.

In March of 1971, I became an ordained minister in the Universal Life Church. I shortly later started a local Universal Life church/fellowship at Ohio State University. Over the years this evolved into the Humanist Church, Inc., which in turn spawned the Humanist Fellowship of Columbus, Ohio, a chapter of the American Humanist Association. In November of 1976, I received my initial certification (ordination) as a Humanist Counselor (minister).

I invite direct correspondence from any U.L.C. person who wants to know about Humanism. I can envision a Humanist Fellowship of Universal Life people. Three of the four Board members of the Humanist Church, Inc., are (semi-retired) Universal Life ministers.

Though I have some disagreements with some things being done by U.L.C. currently, I am grateful for the existence of a church which allowed me to be free of externally prescribed dogma while allowing me to function in the ministerial/helper/enabler role that was, I feel, meant for me.

Sincerely,

Larry Reyka
Humanist Counselor/Advocate

***** • Box 3208 • Columbus, Ohio 43210 • *****

The following letter is from Linda, and is addressed to "insider" prisoners, but it is also relevant to the "outsider" variety which includes most of us. She has been working hard for, among other things, "PRIS-UNAN", and is helping to get a marvelous new kind of Moratorium going, called a "National Crime Moratorium". She would welcome correspondence along these lines. The letter following hers is one she received from a prisoner, and suggested that we might include it. (Clerk)

Dear Brothers in the One Life...

I trust you will enjoy the enclosed "UL Friends Letter". Wouldn't it be a miracle indeed if a few brothers of like-mind-- BEHIND THE WALLS pooled resources to do a like newsletter of goodwill to SHARE INSIDE & OUTSIDE!

If even three brothers inside put some thought and energy into such a project, and mail to your present circle of pen friends...do you think it might inspire a few others...INSIDE AND OUTSIDE to do the same???

(I DO! wink!)

It's just one more example of "de-centralized networking" and when enough brothers at your place have been sharing in a like-service opportunity, it will become apparent when it is "TIME" to approach your counsellors for support to pool the collective resources to further educate and share the light, love and the will-to-good with the inside/outside community... A clue: Ask the Chaplain to beam some prayers while you write.

Who knows...this might be the makings of obtaining approvals for an inside "PRIS-UNAN" group...remember...that's an abbreviation for... "PRISONERS UNANIMOUS--Embracing ALL planetary prisoners"!!!

I just recieved a letter with the following quote:

A cheerful heart is a good medicine. (Proverbs 17:22)

so! Let your Light shine!

THE GREAT INVOCATION

From the point of Light
within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into
the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love
within the Heart of God
Let Love stream forth into
the hearts of men.
May Christ return to Earth.

From the center where the
Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little
wills of men--
The purpose which the
Masters know and serve.

From the center which we
call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and
Light work out.
And may it seal the door
where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and
Power restore the Plan
on Earth.

Many religions believe in a World Teacher, knowing him under such names as the Lord Maitreya, the Imam Mahdi and the Bodhisattva, and these terms are used in some of the translations of the Great Invocation.

Men and women of goodwill throughout the world are using this Invocation in their own language. Will you join them in using the Invocation every day -- with thought and dedication?

By using the Invocation and encouraging others to use it, no particular group or organisation is sponsored. It belongs to all humanity.

Additional copies from:

WORLD GOODWILL: 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 566-7,
New York, New York 10017

Love and Light, Linda

P.O. Box 1515, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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April 25th, 1982

Dear fellow members and readers of Pris-unan:

Isn't it fun having something to say and being able to say it?! I know that it is for me but, we are small in numbers and this makes for some very taxing work on our part to keep the old ball rolling. Send in your comments and suggestions about Life, Prisons and how to better them if not how to get rid of the need for them. Goodwill to your fellow man and/or anythang you wish to speak on... note: Political veivs are subject to our sensorship.

Something to think about.....

I have a sister that has an eleven year old son (give or take a few years), we know each other but not very well. My being in and out of jail all of his life and some, it ocured to me one day to ask my sister weather or not her son knew of my whereabouts. She told me she thought it better that he didn't know do to the fact that he is still of a very impressionable age. I said to myself O.K. cool but what the heck is impressionable? So, I put myself in the shoes of an eleven year old and thought about a very profound expirence I had with my Father when I was that age or a bit younger.....

My two sisters and I were brought up by our grand parents. Because of them we had a fairly good childhood, you see we had a variety store, what this meant was that we were never hungry, we didn't have the best of cloths but I'd rather a full stomach than fine cloths anyday. Anyway, my Father who at one time was the number one contender for the welter-weight Boxing championship was now down on his luck. I loved this man, he was my all time idol, though he never did a thing for his children. His Mother and Father did it all for him. He always did live in the neighborhood near us. But this time coming home from a bit or something he was staying with us. I remember this particular day as winter time.. cold, cold, cold and it was long past dinner, we had closed the store for the night, my grandparents had gone to bed and still my father had not come home. One o'clock in the morning I hear the door bell, ring, r...i...n...g. I know that it's Daddy so I rush to get it (the door) before my grandfather wakes up. My grandfathers thing is: if you got a key use it, if not, stay the hell where you been! And on top of that my father is sloppy drunk....so you know I'm really rushing to get to the door cause all hell is gonna break loose if you know who wakes up! Daddy!!! Wheres your shoes and who's coat is that you got?!! "Well son it's like this: I was out drinking and I decided to go to the Movies. Inside the movies I fell asleep and somebody took my shoes and overcoat.....now you see how cold it is out there...I wasn't about to walk home with no shoes and coat, so I took somebody else's coat but couldn't luck up on no shoes!"

My subsequent life of crime is by no means my father's fault, the point here is to be mindful that someone is always watching you and it just may be your own or someone elses eleven year old thats doing the watching!!!

Peace, a concerned Brother.

★
Linda I hope you like and care to print.

*** Note: I CARE/I DARE... Gentlemen: RSVP PO Box 1517
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
USA*PE*MW

INTRODUCTION

THE PANTHEISTIC CHURCH OF CONNECTEDNESS

A New World Religion

Our Aim – To Dramatically Change the Course of Mankind.

National Headquarters – “Salutisland”

Yorktown, Texas 78164, USA

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Dear World Citizen:

The purpose of the existence of the Pantheistic Church of Connectedness is to work toward eliminating to whatever extent may be possible the destructive elements and forces that threaten our very existence, and to create as it were a new civilization and a new world order . . . These evils are legion and are supported by what is called the “intelligencia.” This includes high government officials, ministers of churches, public school systems, physicians, industrialists, publishers and many organizations who think that they are working towards making the world a better place to live, but are totally ignorant of the Higher Laws of Life . . . These higher laws must be incorporated into the consciousness of the races of man and be lived by, before any real progress can be made toward the betterment of world conditions . . .

The Pantheistic Church of Connectedness seeks to achieve this goal in great measure by various media. Our success will depend largely upon the cooperation and integrity of the people. Our appeal is particularly directed to men and women of vision who see the futility and utter hopelessness of our present systems and habits of life, and are willing and able to join in our crusade to change these evils.

We, here at headquarters, are fully aware of the magnitude of such an endeavour, but we believe there is power in unity and that “right” will eventually prevail over “wrong.” Be it understood that we are not in the “business” of saving souls, but rather of saving planet Earth and all its inhabitants from total destruction . . . We have no axe to grind with those who think they can save souls but it is our contention that no soul can ever be lost and therefore cannot be saved and that all souls will eventually find their way into the bosom of the Divine Parent . . .

The Pantheistic Church of Connectedness is the brain child of an able and dedicated theologian with many letters after his name, who for more than half a century has engaged himself in the study and investigation of the major religions of the world . . . A deep thinker and possessed with the gift of clarity of perception, it was not difficult for him to discover the inconsistencies of their dogmas and practices and subsequently their failure to usher in the heavenly kingdom that their forerunners fore-saw and so strongly desired. Seeing the turmoil and hostility that presently encompasses the Globe and witnessing the moral fiber of the masses of humanity sinking to its lowest level in recorded history, he seized upon the concept of radically changing our governmental bodies and our living habits. . .

Thus was born the magnanimous institute that would be called The Pantheistic Church of Correctedness. Space here does not permit a full and comprehensive description of all that it embodies . . . However, a book is in process of being written that will serve as a bible for this new religion . . . It could well be called the guide book to a more prolific life for all humanity. A book that will give the reader a deeper understanding of The Purpose of Life, and how he may “Enter into the Stream.”

As stated elsewhere we have nothing to sell, but pamphlets and other printed matter is costly . . . Within the next few months we will be mailing out thousands of letters like this one and pamphlets like the one enclosed here. Time is fleeting and the enemy is powerful. We must lose no time. We need your cooperation and your support.

For those who wish to give their services, ie, Lecturers, Area Representatives, Leaders, Organizers, etc.; send your inquiries to the Honorable President, Dr. R. C. Richards, “Salutisland,” Yorktown, Texas 78164, U. S. A.

For those who wish to become ministers or missionaries, write to the president . . . We are invested with the power and authority to ordain . . . No theological training is required, but a small fee is charged to cover the cost of processing the ordination certificate . . . You will be pledged to respect and abide by our creed and code of ethics . . .

For other information write to the president . . .

Sincerely,



Roland C. Richards, D. Th., D. D.
President

(Also see under
“News & Notes. ACD)

28 Dear Friends:

Because I had to write a bit about myself, I dreamed I opened a kitchen drawer and could not find what I wanted. Now, kitchen drawers hold many useful things, but they are messy. Straightening drawers is not my idea of fun.

I was born in '33, worked for ten years bringing up a child, then started another family. I have many interests and am happiest drawing. I run about five miles a few times a week.

Among other things, I am interested in finding a way young people (and others) of religious inclination, or members of small movements might meet. A man named Cady at Findhorn is starting such a list, or so I heard, and must write him....

When I was in San Diego, and L.A., youth-hosteling, we met interesting people. I'm ready to Youth Hostel the world. My family claims they don't need me, and I can go, but they are not telling the truth. The lack of sun and friendliness that seems typical of us coasters (not San Diego) is a sad thing.

I visited a Theosophist bookstore, although mainly we all read the newspaper here. Even the fourteen year-old mumbles about the paper every day.

Best to all,

Ellen G.

INTRODUCTION

Leon Johnson, Box 2210-#C-37890
Susanville, CA 96130
(Calif. Correctional Center)

UL Friends:

Warm greetings to all. I am a recently ordained member of the U.L.C. and came across your classified in reading through the paper. I am an admirer of both Zen and Alan Watts- his "Way of Zen" really stimulated my interest in Zen Buddhism some time ago, and I am now eager to pursue that interest, if possible.

In fact, it seems that my need for spiritual growth has become stagnant, principally because I simply can not relate to traditional Christian dogma, and have not actively sought out my interest in Zen and other Eastern religious philosophies. This is the purpose of my communication and I am eager to learn all I can about Zen, as well as actively assume the Zen Path.

When time permits please tell me more about your group and its activities. From your brief statement, I like the idea of sharing Zen experiences, and growing towards others in friendship. Surely that is doing what is right, and the laws of just compensation will reward such an honorable reaching out to touch others.

If your group has any Zen literature they may care to share with me, I would be indebted to them for helping my first steps along the path.

We are truly one,

Yours truly,

Leon

NEWS & NOTES

1. Dr. Richards (see p.13) writes that they would like to establish a Community for research in Holistic Living at Salutisland. They offer the following facilities for "free" to a limited number of dedicated people: Housing, trailer (mobile home), space, land for organic gardening, and all utilities available at a minimum cost. Residents should be non-flesh eaters, non-smokers, and have a total commitment to non-violence. Pets are welcome. Salutisland is a farming community 12 miles from Yorktown Texas. Write for more information.
Also congratulations to Dr. Richards on the following:

Dr. R. C. Richards has been recognized for his dedicated service to humanity and has been nominated for the September Days Club Senior Hall of Fame for 1981, according to Tom C. Lawler, director of The September Days Club, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Richards, for the past several years, is devoting his time to the humane care of animals in the Nopal community.

Director Lawler noted: "We recognize your nomination by sending you the enclosed certificate which we hope you will frame and keep."

"It is a real honor to be among the several hundred nominees from throughout the United States and Canada. It signifies that the individual, club or association that nominated you

felt that you were deserving of this high honor."

"The 'Davy', symbolic of selections to the Senior Hall of Fame, was awarded in May to Mr. Kenneth Sheetz of Rawlings, Maryland, and Mrs. Kathryn Higgins of Stockton, California. They were chosen from all the nominees by Mr. Will Rogers, Jr., Col. James Irwin, astronaut, and by Marilyn Van Derbur, a former Miss America. You,

too, are a winner by virtue of the fact that you were nominated to receive this highest award for persons 55 and older.

"Again, we congratulate you and express our appreciation to those who placed your name in nomination. We hope you will be nominated again, as new winners are chosen each year," Mr. Lawler concluded.

2. Rev. John Holman writes that he is getting together with a group at St. Anne's to study ways for peace. They meet once a week in member's homes, view a film from the AFSC, and discuss it and other materials, in an attempt to make ourselves more aware of how we as individuals can make contributions to the peace process. It is an Episcopal group but the materials are all Friends and the spirit is full of love, as some of the better Friends Meetings are.
3. The first issue of our UL Friends Letter was mailed to about 30 people, and this issue will probably go to a dozen or so more. That number however includes those who were asking for more information, and may not be heard from again. We have extra copies available, so if any of you would like to send one to someone, please let us know.
4. We now have a kind of "subscription fee". From now on all "regular members" must contribute a letter for our pages now and then.
5. The Clerk continues to volunteer to type your letters if that is your wish, and you are unable to do so yourself. However it is difficult to know whether to include spelling errors etc. or not. Since it is probably better to err on the side of spontaneity and naturalness than on a formalistic perfectionism, a compromise is proposed. In typing your letters the Clerk will sometimes include 1 or 2 of your errors, and in that spirit he guarantees to make one or two spelling errors himself in each issue. There is some wise old saying about a "masterpiece" that would be quite appropriate here, but we can't quite remember how it goes.
6. In an attempt to protect your privacy, we will not print your full name and address unless you give us instructions to the contrary. Also you can always write someone in care of us, for us to forward.
7. We are saving some space in our next issue in case any of you would like to recommend a book to us all. Please include Title, Author, and maybe a comment short enough so that it will all fit on 1 or 2 lines.