



theosophical centre

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Issue 3

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All TS branches in New Zealand are linked to the main website at www.theosophy.org.nz

A word from the Editor...

Here is a piece from a Christian source (Bruno Bernhart, OSB Cam) that points to an awareness of Universal Wisdom.

The attraction that we experience in eastern spiritual traditions today is the magnetism of wisdom: a knowing which is life, inner experience and union. This wisdom was the 'golden string' which drew Bede Griffiths to India, and it is what Bede has communicated to us in his talks and writings.

This Spiritual wisdom is not foreign to Christianity, though it has long been unfamiliar in the western world. Within the New Testament there is a depth and fullness which has largely disappeared in the many succeeding centuries, but which is always there to be discovered.

Bede Griffiths, in dedicating his life to the 'marriage of East and West', was working toward the rebirth of Christian wisdom in the light of the Vedanta: of nonduality or advaita and of the discovery of the inner self, or atman. Contemporaries such as Abhishiktananda and Raimon Panikkar have worked along the same frontier of unitive experience, or the 'perennial philosophy'.

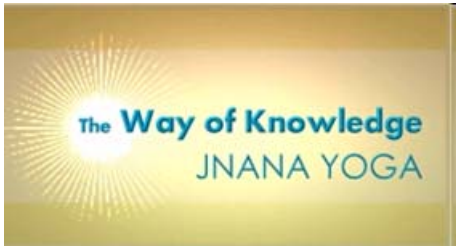
Today Christianity finds itself confronted not only by the wisdom of the East ...Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism ...but by other wisdoms as well. Jungian and transpersonal psychology, modern art and poetry, tribal shamanism, hermeneutics, ecology and feminism, literary theory and the history of thought. On every side, the sharp edges of western consciousness are rounded and silvered by an invisible river of psyche and spirit.

Bede Griffiths is highlighted in our Video Evening on Friday, 2nd April at 7.30 pm. (To read more, go to www.bede.griffiths.com/wisdom/wisdom.)

TOS Organises Backyard Cleanup

Bring along your forks, spades and gloves to HPB Lodge for a couple of hours on Saturday 27th March at 10:30 am to get stuck in and help nature along a bit. Tea and biscuits and a chance to chat with fellow slaves afterwards.

What's Coming Up



The path to knowledge

The path to knowing the ultimate reality is no dream, sages and mystics have pursued it from the distant past to the present day.

The Jnana Yogi does not concentrate on holy forms but seeks to experience the truth after hearing from others that there is a more permanent reality in this world. His logic confirms to him that this must be true, but now he wants to experience it.

There is a great difference between hearing, believing and knowing by experience.

If you want to find the path and experience the ultimate reality, join Hugh Dixon on Thursday, March 18th at 7:30 pm when Hugh will be talking about the way of the Jnana-Yogi.

Our quote today...

A mind that is dependent can never be free. You need to be free, because a mind that is free has the essence of humility. Such a mind, which is free and has humility can learn.

Learning is an extraordinary thing. To learn, not to accumulate knowledge. Accumulating knowledge is quite a different thing. What we call knowledge is comparatively easy, because that is a movement from the unknown to the known.

But to learn is a movement from the known to the unknown - you learn only like that, do you not?

~ Jiddu Krishnamurti.

Spiritually-Centred Living and Meditation

The Awareness Discovery Group is a place where you can share the practice and understanding of meditation, self-transcendence, relaxation and healing amidst the demands of everyday life. The group also discusses issues in expressing spirituality in daily living.

All are welcome. Meetings are in the HPB library at 10 am. on all of the Sundays in March. (Meetings are every other month, therefore there will be no meetings in April.)

Please note ...

...the new contact details for the HPB President. Murray Stentiford's new 'phone number is 09-529 1743.

TOS News and International Update

Since its inception, the TOS group in Auckland has swung into action with several projects, the recent successful book stall at the Orewa conference being just one.

There are two further events that have been arranged by the TOS in Auckland, the 'Backyard Cleanup' (see the front page) and, for both members and friends of the TOS, a rare opportunity to hear from Diana Dunningham Chapotin, based in Paris, on what is happening in various parts of the world. This informal gathering (on Saturday 20th March at 2 pm) is your chance to get an update on areas of interest or concern. There will be a cuppa and discussion afterwards.

Any queries? Call us on 09-528 7373.

What's Coming Up

Member's Meeting

Murray Stentiford will be speaking at the Members' Meeting at 7:30 pm on the 25th of March. His subject? 'What's Going on in the National Psyche of NZ Today?'

Media debate usually offers little on the spiritual dimensions in our country. This evening with Murray begins with some key insights of Theosophy on the psychic and spiritual life of nations and will end with a discussion about member's views on the subject.

Come along and air your views!

The Art of Dying

Far from being feared (as is the case in many western societies) death in Tibet is regarded as a profound passage which can be prepared for and participated in.

At 1 pm on Thursday, 1 April, there will be a lunch and discussion meeting on the subject. The meeting will be led by Arthur Goodall.

Library & Bookshop



Mon - Fri.
11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Sat. 10 am - 12 noon

Also open before study classes and public talks.

Healing Groups

There are two healing groups each week.

~ Call Renee (09-528 7373) for further information about the group that meets at 6: 30 pm. on Mondays before study classes.

~ Call Murray (09-529 1743) about the group that meets on Sundays at 11:30 am. after the Awareness Discovery Group meeting.

The Possibility of Change

For those interested in self-enquiry and J Krishnamurti teachings, there will be a gathering/retreat at the Pirongia Lodge, South Waikato from 9 - 13 April 2004 (Easter holidays). The cost is \$30 to \$35 per night, including vegetarian food. A \$30 deposit is required when booking.

Contact Neeraj Duggal on 07-856 7675 or email neeraj@waikato.ac.nz for further details.

HQ News

The new education co-ordinator, Sandy Ravelli, is working hard to set up the 2004 round of talks by a group of travelling speakers for the different Theosophical branches and study groups.

Sandy is also co-ordinator for the Theosophical Education Working Group described in the new National Governance Plan.

Besides her organisational abilities, Sandy has displayed some very useful practical skills. She water-blasted the brick paving at the front of the HPB building and dealt with a flood in the toilets! (For which we are all grateful.)

HPB Historical Documents

Do you have any old, or not so old, HPB documents? They may be letters, invoices, tapes or whatever. We would very much appreciate them, or the chance to copy them. Please call Yolanda on 09-275 2240.

Websites of note ...

Carol Bowman has written a fascinating book, 'Return from Heaven', about children who are reborn into the same family. It's well worth a look at the website, www.childpastlives.org.return/.

For your diary

4-Mar-04	1:00 pm	Thur	Lunchtime Meeting	Murray Stentiford	Therapeutic Touch
5-Mar-04	7:30 pm	Fri	Video Evening	Murray Stentiford	John Cooper on Meditation, 1991 Convention
7-Mar-04	10:00 am	Sun	Awareness Disc Group	Murray Stentiford	Introduction and basics
7-Mar-04	9:30 am	Sun	Round Table	Group Members	Ceremonial
12-Mar-04	7:30 pm	Fri	Science Group	Murray Stentiford	The way ahead for 2004
14-Mar-04	10:00 am	Sun	Awareness Disc Group	Murray Stentiford	Relaxation, posture and breath
18-Mar-04	7:30 pm	Thur	Public	Hugh Dixon	The Way of Knowledge - Jnana Yoga
20-Mar-04	2:00 pm	Sat	TOS Event	Diana Dunningham Chapotin	TOS International update
21-Mar-04	10:00 am	Sun	Awareness Disc Group	Murray Stentiford	Theosophical background to meditation
25-Mar-04	7:30 pm	Thur	Members	Murray Stentiford	What's Going on in the Psychic Life of NZ Today?
27-Mar-04	10:30 pm	Sat	TOS Event	All are welcome!	Beautify the HPB garden and grounds
28-Mar-04	10:00 am	Sun	Awareness Disc Group	Murray Stentiford	Dealing with Inner and Outer Distractions
1-Apr-04	1:00 pm	Thur	Lunchtime Meeting	Arthur Goodall	The Art of Dying (the talk starts at 2 pm.)
2-Apr-04	7:30 pm	Fri	Video Evening	Valerie White	Discovering the Feminine - Bede Griffiths
4-Apr-04	9:30 am	Sun	Round Table	Group Members	Ceremonial
6-Apr-04	7:30 pm	Tues	Science Group	Science Group Members	Afterlife Research Has New Life