

DOC NEW LIFE NEWS

Volume 57, Issue 1

SPRING 2015

Special points of interest:

- Change!
- National Retreat 2015
- Resolving Conflict
- Events!
- Psalms & Prayers

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Message from the President

Welcome, 2015, and best wishes for a blessed and happy new year to all of you. As the President of the Disciplined Order of Christ, I am pleased to share with you in this issue of *New Life News* some changes that your board of directors has made for the organization. You have noticed that in 2014 we did not have any issues of the *New Life News* as we were in a period of transition. We made a decision to discontinue the part time paid staff position of administrative secretary and opted to run the organization on a volunteer basis only. This will enable us to operate on a smaller and more reasonable budget, yet, hopefully, continue to provide for our members and friends the same services.

- Our informative website www.dochr.org remains the same and active.

- We plan to continue the *New Life News* with spring and fall issues, assuming that you submit articles, poems, book reviews, and retreat summaries for publication.
- Each of our three regions will continue to offer inspiring retreats, with a special note of appreciation to the Western Region to host the National Board and all others that can attend to Oceanside, CA this coming August. Read more in this issue.
- The Facebook page is active and there for you to share with your Facebook friends, so please do so.

Please join me in thanking a member of the Southeastern Region Board of Directors, Pete Nehnevajsa, for taking the responsibility of publishing the *New Life News*. I think you will be pleased with Pete's

creative changes in this issue. Should you have articles to submit, please forward them to nln@dochr.org. In order to be more financially responsible, we hope to become more electronic than paper. You will find in this issue ways to receive NLN and other updates from the Order electronically so that we can begin the migration from paper for many of you who have let us know you prefer that.

Again, I thank you for being a member or friend of the Disciplined Order of Christ. Please consider joining me in California in August for our national retreat!

John Bankson

National Retreat 2015 - Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside CA

The Theme for the National Retreat will be:

***"Pray for the Peace
of the
New Jerusalem"***

Live, video and narrative presentations by:

- Lynne Hybels
- Dr. Paula D'Arcy
- Gordon Dalbey
- Servant Evangelists and

Singer-songwriter Kimball and Pam Coburn

To find out more about this spirit-led event, just [turn the page!!](#)

Pray for the Peace of the New Jerusalem by John Lurvey

WHAT IS THE NEW JERUSALEM STATE OF MIND?

Postcard # 1 From the Journey to the New Jerusalem - by John Lurvey

"Get Out of the Boat and Ride the Waves To the New Jerusalem"

WHERE WE FIND OURSELVES

Global social, scientific and technological changes have eroded trust in the faith communities of the world. Fewer people take seriously the absolute claims and moral commands by established authorities, especially religious authority. These changes have exposed the conflicting claims of absolute truth by religious traditions.

The response of some to this moral and religious confusion is to ignore the boundaries of right and wrong and plunge into pleasure-giving preferences and pursuits. Some look to scientific and economic certainties to guide them. The Uncertainty Principle at the root of physics exposes the limits of science. Quasi-religious groups like 12 step programs give meaning to some by repackaging elements of traditional Christianity. Others feel anxious and disoriented by moral vertigo and blindly embrace every element within an ancient tradition to maintain moral order, no matter how cruel, inappropriate or untrue. The latter is seen, in the extreme, by groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram who respond by using sacred violence to impose their view of ancient absolutes and privileges upon the "unrighteous" many.

It seems fewer people take seriously the mystery and hope of that ultimately unknowable God revealed by the prophets and Jesus. What should our response be?

ON THE JOURNEY TO THE NEW JERUSALEM

Long ago, Jesus offered another faithful response. He assumed life's mystery and uncertainty, but trusted, hoped and loved because he knew "the peace that passes understanding that

guards our hearts and minds." (Philippians 4:7). We begin this journey for the peace of the New Jerusalem state of mind with this miracle/parable.

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead . . . he went up into a mountain to pray. . . . the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves . . . far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to the disciples, walking on the lake. . . . When the disciples saw him . . . they were terrified . . . Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged . . . Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you. . . ."

And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water. . . . But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. . . . he began to sink. . . . Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?"

-Matthew 14: 22-32 CEB selections

Did Matthew 14 reveal Jesus "surfing" over the waves of water? Over the spirits of doubt and fear? Kittel and Friedrich's authoritative *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* defines spirit as like wind, breath, a sign, principle or force that is life-giving. Spirit means movement – it "stirs, enthuses, fills and inspires."

"Waves or particles?" Physicists cannot determine which is the most basic "stuff" that forms our universe. We are composed of particles of matter. Spirits appear more like waves than particles. Spirits can influence the material world just like the wind or breath. Our bodies and minds are subject to the movement of spirits. We cannot possess spirits, they possess us. The spirits of this world, as indicated above, are strong and real. This situation drives many to feel confused, chaotic, reactionary or polarized. It brings many into bloody conflicts inflamed by religious faith.

Pray for the Peace of the New Jerusalem (cont'd)

The Revelation of John shows another way. It does not mention a road, a train, a boat or a plane that takes us to the New Jerusalem. Riding the waves with the Spirit brings you to the always open Pearl Gates. A real surfer will tell you that you need to develop a stable core and learn to find balance as you surf. Waves can give you an ecstatic lift or waves can throw you into a crash out that leaves you broken or dead.

PREPARATION FOR THE NEW JERUSALEM

We, Jesus disciples, must learn his Living Word to surf among the spiritual waves that "stir, enthuse, fill and inspire" people. We surf in the New Jerusalem state of mind when we learn the life-giving disciplines that form our stable core and keep balancing us as we ride, flow and turn through today's conflicting spirits.

Meditation on John's vision of the New Jerusalem teaches us to hear afresh the Living Word of God's Jesus. We discover the life-giving principles that enable disciplined peace-makers to responsibly balance and to surf thrilling, but treacherous waves, with the Spirit. Like Peter, we must get out of the boat of our religious comfort zone, to follow the call of our surfing Rabbi, Messiah Jesus, who rides with us among the windy waves and spirits.

Pray for the Peace of the New Jerusalem (cont'd)

Find out even more at the:

National Disciplined Order of Christ Retreat

August 27-30, 2015

at Prince of Peace Abbey

Oceanside California

Instructors include:

- Video presentation by Mega-church founder and peacemaker, **Lynne Hybels**
- Special Written Narrative from Visionary psychologist, **Dr. Paula D'Arcy**
- Evangelical, Sacramental, Pentecostal, Social Justice Minister, **Rev. Gordon Dalbey**
- Servant Evangelist and Singer-Songwriter, **Rev. Kimball Coburn**

DOC 2015 Events

- **May 1-3: North Central Region Spring Retreat** at Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, Maria Stein, OH. The Retreat Leader is Rev. Dr. Valerie W. Stultz. The theme for the retreat is "Drawing Closer to God through Prayer," an exploration of a variety of forms of Ignatian prayer.
- **July 15-19: Southeast Region DOC Annual Retreat** at Caraway Conference Center, Sophia NC. Speakers for the retreat include Rev. Dr. Bob Tuttle, Rev. Dr. Bob Moore, and Michael & Betsey Mulloy. This year's theme is "*Growing In Faith*"
- **August 27-30: National DOC Retreat** at Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside, CA. The theme for the retreat is "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem"

If you have an event to publish, please submit it to nln@dochr.org.

Religion Vs. Reality: Facing the Home Front in Spiritual Warfare

by Gordon Dalbey, Civitas Press

A Book Review by John Lurvey

A long-time colleague, Gordon Dalbey graduated from Harvard Divinity School, after a stint in the Peace Corps and found himself in a leafy, middle class suburban United Church of Christ near Los Angeles. Then a series of life changes brought him face-to-face with the Holy Spirit. Retaining his passion for social justice, Gordon plunged into territory not covered in the Harvard curriculum. He sensed the "father wound" that afflicted both men and women. Their fathers did not affirm them and help them learn real life (In Christ) out in the world. His book *Healing the Masculine Soul* spun him into the higher echelons of evangelical para-church ministries back in the 1980's and 90s. Gordon urged men (and women) to allow the Heavenly Father's heart of love manifest in Jesus and the Holy Spirit to affirm and orient them through a personal relationship

Gordon wrote other books in men's ministry, but found many doors of ministry close, because his message to men exposed the dark side of shame-based religion being taught in prominent evangelical churches. In this most recent book, *Religion vs. Reality*, Dalbey fires 22 shots that challenge religion with reality. He levels charges against both political correctness on the left and religious correctness on the right. Dalbey's alternative is the transforming power of love in the Father's heart revealed by Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In these collected essays and sermons, Jesus way fits neither extreme of correctness/righteousness-political or religious.

Gordon exposes his own struggles that many inspirational writers hide or limit to the "before" stage of their walk with God. He takes fresh positions on abortion (he almost was aborted), undeserved grace or why good things happen to bad (sinful) people, America's post 9/11 obsession with fear and violence, sports idolatry, Halloween, Hollywood's X-rated spirituality, people (like himself sometimes) who don't know how to enjoy God's blessings, homosexuality, and an unexpected approach to the question, "Is Jesus the only way?"

Throughout the book, Dalbey nails shame as the inward driver that leads men toward and away from God, the Father. Unspirited men burdened by shame feel driven to validate themselves by their accumulated wealth, car, clothes, electronic gear, and their idolized sports teams or company. Religious men strive to perform and measure up to a successful religiously correct image espoused in mega-churches from coast-to-coast.

Meanwhile, Satan distracts the shame-driven men from losing their shame as Sons of God the Father's gracious, undeserved love and forgiveness. Humbled, but no longer ashamed men grow in their desire to be real-life self-giving servant leaders of their families and communities of faith. Freed from the compulsion to out-perform other men-either in pursuit of wealth and power or an unreal image of political/religious correctness, men can learn to put on the armor of God and become the spirit warriors that they yearn to be, but cannot honestly attain on their own.

Instead, reality tested Christian men engage in the risky journey through the "strange and savage" real life led by the compass of a direct relationship with the real Father God's Heart of love and forgiveness that Jesus knew and the Holy Spirit makes real.

Dalbey illustrated the dark side of religion's resistance to real faith by hiding in false certainties and unrealistic expectations by a true story set in South America. A plane taking a group of Christian athletes (rugby players) went down in the frigid Andes mountains. The athletes' Christian leader and team captain projected a sense of absolute certainty in his faith and told them to expect God's rescue. When days passed and they learned by jerry-rigged radio that the search for them was called off, the religiously certain leader crumbled in into tearful depression in the face of reality. The actual hero that saved 17 of the 45 original grounded passengers, saw that his leader was full of "too much certainty (that) could kill us." Unlike the over-confident faith of the now broken leader, the actual hero recognized the "strange and savage rules" of reality that faith in God must engage. The hero's faith risked the uncertain journey into an unknown world that saved the survivors who told the story. Those with static faith, literally froze-to-death paralyzed by their own need for faith-as-certainty.

Gordon's (and Christ's) message of God' unconditional love and grace will sustain men as they journey through the "strange and savage" real world. Men need to know they are loved and find protection bonded together with God, their Father, in spite of their failures. *Healing the masculine soul* requires more than pep rallies boosting observance of religious rules Dalbey's Gospel-based message, though unpopular with the religiously and politically correct, offers fresh faith to real men (and women,)

If this book intrigues you or the men in your life you may order Gordon Dalbey's books on Amazon or visit him on his Facebook page.

Resolving Conflict by Sybil Austin Skakle

A neighbor blames her frustration and unhappiness on her family situation. She feels she cannot have a meaningful conversation with her aged mother, who has recently come to live with them. Her expectation seems to be to have her mother understand her viewpoint so they can come to a meeting of minds, while both feel unappreciated and misunderstood.

In another situation, a wife bewails the fact that her husband cannot express his feelings. Starved for deep sharing and affection, she claims to have stayed married by having her own life, separate in all ways except the sharing of physical space. She has not, however, resolved her conflict. She continues to speak of it with bitterness and frustration.

Others in conflicts with a job, with a child, or with a friend have their happiness threatened. They complain about the details of their discontent and sink deeper and deeper into defeat.

Threats to success are: discouragement, apathy and, lets face it, ego. Everyone has a right to their feelings. God gave it to each of us. However, when we insist on feeling negative about a situation we must suffer the consequences. Frustration drains us of energy and fills us with guilt.

We can change our conflicts into victories. The choice is ours. We are not victims of our circumstances unless we choose to be. We have only to exercise the right options.

Our attitudes determine what we do. Let's examine the situations which affect us adversely: examine our attitude toward the situation or the circumstance that annoys us.

Answer the questions and complete the sentence. See how well you score. Everyone passes the test.

1. Am I rebelling against a situation or a person? I could be happy if...
2. Who am I blaming? Or what? I would be happy if...
3. Why am I reacting to this situation in this way?
4. Why am I discouraged? Have I already given up?
5. How can I change the situation by something I do?

The only person in the world you or I can change is ourselves. Popeye's theme: "I am what I am, and that's

all I am" on our lips may be self-acceptance. Or it may be defiance. It may be due to our refusal to accept someone who thinks and acts contrary to our own expectations. It may stem from trying to change a situation without regard to how the other persons in it feel about your changes. Our defeat leaves us feeling angry and helpless.

If we squarely face the issues and ourselves, we may decide to break the deadlock. The other alternative is to remain, as we are, angry and unhappy. We do hold the reins of our own emotions and can steer them in any direction we choose.

We can change our own reaction to the situation and/or to the other person involved, because the other person and the situation is not the key. The key is our own reaction. There are people - psychiatrists and clergy - who can help us understand and work through to success. Even God is thwarted if we refuse to do our part. We can defuse the conflict by changing our own position. Praying for God's guidance will insure us that we proceed in love and peace.

Conflict may be an opportunity to grow, a workshop for practicing our strengths, a chance to truly understand others, and ourselves, as never before. It is a chance to love others as God loves us.

The end





**Outdoor Chapel Cross
at Caraway
Conference Center
(Sophia NC)**

Quick Points from Paula D'Arcy's talks

- ◆ **Slow down**
- ◆ **Listen more**
- ◆ **Remove distractions**
- ◆ **Be Intentional**
- ◆ **Be Present Now**
- ◆ **Surrender Control**
- ◆ **Show Up For Life**
- ◆ **Find Quiet Time**
- ◆ **Let Go - Don't Hold
on Too Tightly**

**To find out more
about Paula, visit**

redbirdfoundation.com



DOC SE Regional Summer Retreat 2014

The Southeastern Region of the Disciplined Order of Christ gathered on Wednesday July 9, 2014, with 51 adults and 17 children in attendance. As in years past, the Board met at 3:30pm; registration began at 4:00pm; and dinner found us greeting old friends and several new ones, who came to hear our speaker, Paula D'Arcy.

Gwen Jones-Lurvey and her husband John, members of the national board, remained in North Carolina to bless our meeting and take an active part, as did Karen Small. Gwen Jones-Lurvey led an afternoon interest group on forgiveness and John provided leadership for the Friday morning watch, July 11. He challenged us to the task of praying for the peace of Jerusalem. Karen Small provided us the opportunity to hear of her Nicaragua Mission on Saturday afternoon, July 12.

Michael Mulloy introduced Constance Douglas, our song and worship leader during our first session on Wednesday evening and Susan Bankson introduced Paula D'Arcy, who spoke twice daily in the other days of our retreat to develop her theme: *"The Path Before Us"*

Small groups were prayerfully formed and met each day to discuss what we had learned and share our reactions and our experiences.

Each morning at 7:00am we gathered for Morning Watch. On Thursday, Pete Nehnevajsa led the discussion; Friday, John Lurvey filled that slot; and Saturday, George Mayfield shepherded our thinking.

Thursday afternoon, July 10, Scott Brelin provided *Bible Jeopardy* for interested persons.

That evening at the conclusion of Paula D'Arcy's presentation, Rev. Dr. Robert Moore gave a short discussion to prepare for Benedictine Silence, which was to begin as we ended our evening and continue until Morning Watch for those interested in participating.

Friday, July 11, Dr. Josh Ramey gave the Presentation of the Order talk and relayed his experience with Disciplined Order of Christ, to acquaint those uninformed among us of its rewards. George Mayfield presented Bibles to our two youngest retreatants this year.

That afternoon, July 11, Shelia Todd led all the interested attendees in the discussion of the C.S. Lewis' book: *That Hideous Strength*. In the evening, after Paula D'Arcy's teaching and the installation of officers, the youth who had worked with Latasha Little gave us a bit of entertainment before the ice cream social ended our busy day.

We renewed our vows on Saturday morning, July 12 and received new members. The young people went swimming that afternoon at the center's pool. At the conclusion of D'Arcy's talk on Saturday evening, we participated in Holy Communion and a healing service.

Sunday morning we gathered and our president, Andy Freeman, led us in the sharing of our joys before we had breakfast, said our goodbyes, and departed for our homes in several different states and regions. On our path, following Love wherever He leads us.

~Sybil Skakle

Psalm by Sybil Skakle

*O Lord, we have traveled long together.
You kept me safe as a child
As I climbed trees, swam, and wandered.
You directed me as a youth,
Sometimes restrained me.
You went before the adult me
And in times of grief and confusion
You rescued and comforted me.*

*With You, God, life is manageable.
As my life draws to a close,
You beckon me with open arms.
Thank You! Alleluia!*

What's New at DOCHR.ORG?

Rev. Dr. Bob Moore has been ever vigilant in providing thoughtful articles on the DOC website. He provides insights, stories and a forum for discussion on various topics.

To date, he has published the following series on Books of the Bible:

- ◆ Studies on the Epistles of Peter
- ◆ The Book of 1 Samuel
- ◆ The Book of 2 Samuel
- ◆ The Book of Acts
- ◆ The Book of Daniel
- ◆ The Book of Isaiah
- ◆ The Book of Joshua
- ◆ The Book of Judges

- ◆ The Gospel of Luke
- ◆ The Letters of John

He has also provided articles on:

- ◆ Christian Theology
- ◆ DOC: Back to Basics
- ◆ Empowered Discipleship

His current study series is on “**Corinthian Correspondence**” which can be found at <http://dochr.org/category/articles/corinthian-correspondence/> or you can subscribe to the DOC Website updates by entering your email address on the home page (if you are a Facebook™ user you can follow DOC there).



New Life News Article Submission Guidelines

If you have a book review, article, poem, psalm, prayer, event, retreat summary or other items that would be of interest to DOC members, please submit them to the New Life News email address (nln@dochr.org). They will be reviewed by the National Board members and included as soon as possible in the New Life News newsletter.

Guidelines for submission:

- ◆ **Full name** of author
- ◆ **Title and date** of the submission
- ◆ Any **copyright/print permissions** (yours to print/edit the article; others for any referenced material)
- ◆ Please keep articles to less than **500 words** .

**For
Aspiring
New
Life
News
Authors**

Member News

In Memory

Richard “Dick” DeVoe Matthews passed away on August 17, 2014. His obituary can be viewed at: <http://medinagazette.northcoastnow.com/2014/08/20/richard-dick-devoe-matthews-2/>

In Celebration

For new members and “old” members alike may you have been blessed in 2014 by new friends, relationships, and conversations. May 2015 provide you with many opportunities to share the glory sightings you have seen being a part of DOC

Support DOC

Through your membership and financial giving we can reach out to so many people. Please consider offering a donation this year to National DOC as well as your local DOC region.

New Life News (NLN) is published twice yearly: Spring and Fall. To continue mailing this newsletter, ***we need your help***. Please confirm your desire to continue receiving NLN by filling out the following information and sending it to: **Discipled Order of Christ, Attn: New Life News, PO Box 3681, Florence, SC 29502** (or email your information to info@dochr.org). Thank you!

I want to continue receiving **paper** copies of NLN I prefer **email** copies of NLN **Please remove me from the list**

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God You Are...

Strong Defender
Counselor, Friend.

Truth, The Way.

Thank you, Lord,
for grain and bread,
for water and wine
for praises that well
up in my heart.

You are the Vine.

I am the branch

I am the drinker

You are the wine



You are the bell
I'm the clapper
I pray. You answer
I wait. You act.
I falter. You lead.
You are the
Beginning
And the end.
You are the door,
Welcoming me home.

~Sybil Austin Skakle

We're on the Web!
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