

News and Notices

SCIENCE - SPIRITUALITY

New Templeton Newspaper

The John Templeton Foundation has launched a highly informative monthly newspaper *Research News and Opportunities in Science and Theology*. It contains an attractive and readable variety of news, book reviews, conference reports and interviews. Subsidised delivery of 12 issues is a snip at only \$10 a year - send off your money to Research News and Opportunities in Science and Theology Inc., 415 Clarion Drive, Durham, NC 27705, USA. Fax: 919 383 6962 or email demandcpm@hotmail.com - editorial office is rnews@enc.edu and more information on Templeton web site at www.templeton.org

Science and Spirit Magazine

Following an internal crisis, the magazine has undergone a change of editor and ownership, with Jennifer Derryberry coming on board as the new editor. The new November-December issue looks at the interface between science, religion and ecology. The new format has more articles and less book coverage as well as a smaller calendar, but this may be a transitional phase. Their new guiding principles are that science can be enabling and liberating, that values provide a path to human integrity and that religious traditions should provide bridges between science and values. See www.science-spirit.org or write to PO Box 1145, Concord, NH 03302-1145, USA.

WORLD AFFAIRS

Right Livelihood Awards

Known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prizes' and presented annually in the Swedish Parliament, the Right Livelihood laureates for 2000 are the Ethiopian scientist Tewelde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Indonesian lawyer and human rights activist Munir, Turkish environmentalist Birsal Lemke and US plant geneticist Wes Jackson. You can read more about this on www.rightlivelihood.se and a 60-page report of the 20th Anniversary conference in Salzburg can be ordered free of charge from info@rightlivelihood.se or fax +46 8 702 0338.

Report on World Peace - Inner Peace Conference

This conference, organised by Council Member Dr. Bart van der Lugt and his wife Manec, was reported in our August 1999 issue. The organisers have now produced a remarkable document, written mainly by Member Dr. Shirley Firth. It gives a detailed account of the main and parallel sessions, including recommendations where made. Then there is a detailed list of supporting organisations with brief descriptions of their activities. Enquiries to Bart and Manec at the Davidhuis, Slotlaan 31, 3062PL Rotterdam, Netherlands. Email: davidhuis@hetnet.nl

Global Village News & Resources (GVNR)

GVNR is a monthly publication edited by Michael Lightweaver of the Planetary Awakening Network and is dedicated to providing timely news from the leading edge of human achievement. Click on <http://www.savesite.net/gvnr/main.html> to find out what they are all about and why you will find world news here that you won't find in the conventional press. GVNR is electronically published every month and contains a wealth of inspiring material with full stories available online. A section of special interest in the current issue (No. 5) lists web sites devoted to positive planetary transformation.

Here is a sample piece of news:

Curse The Darkness Or Light A Candle

UNITED NATIONS - There is an old adage that says that it's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. For those who are ready to take positive action on behalf of a better world, there is no lack of opportunity. One example is the Adopt-A-Minefield Campaign. Based on the popular "Adopt-A-Highway" cleanup program in the USA, the campaign seeks sponsors to adopt minefields around the world that the United Nations has identified as being in urgent need of clearance. Sponsors raise funds in their communities to clear their adopted minefields and return land to productive use. Sponsors may adopt entire minefields or contribute smaller amounts, which are pooled with other contributions. Organizers hope that in the process of raising funds and mine awareness in communities around the world, sponsors will establish long-lasting bonds with the mine-affected communities that will benefit directly from their efforts. For more information, go to <http://www.landmines.org/CAMPAIGN/Update/adoptorslist.cfm>

Equal Access

An inspiring project that was born at the State of the World Forum - a partnership to deliver critically needed information and education throughout the developing world using an existing digital satellite radio and multimedia broadcasting system that provides instant and ubiquitous coverage without the need for telephony. Email eqaccess@earthlink.net, Fax 1 415 771 7313, Web www.eqaccess.org

Green Tax Policy

An initiative that highlights the fact that taxation reflects the overall value system of society. Its goal is to create a system of public finance that maximises incentives for fair distribution of wealth, environmental protection, basic needs protection, provision of adequate government services and peaceful resolution of territorial conflicts. Its policies advocate taxing waste, not work, bads not goods and pay for what you take, not what you make; finally 'the polluter pays'. All this is worked out in considerable detail and can be found on www.greentax.net

MEDICINE/HEALTH

Global Dialogue Institute (GDI)

An impressive initiative from Professor Ashok Gangadean at Haverford University and Professor Leonard Swidler of Temple University, both of whom I met in New York in September. GDI aims to 'cultivate common ground for the common good' and advocates an approach based on 'deep dialogue'. It is devoted to the global pursuit of a greater ethical and spiritual awakening in all aspects of our cultural life, especially in education, religion and business. It hopes that clear critical thought can become a habit of mind or virtue. It aspires to a renovating the foundation of integral education, which includes mindfulness as well as moral and political education. For further information email Ashok on agangade@haverford.edu or web: www.astro.temple.edu/~dialogue

UK House of Lords Report on CAM

Member EDWARD, EARL BALDWIN OF BEWDLEY was a member of the House of Lords sub-committee examining the evidence for the efficacy of complementary and alternative therapies. The Times reported the findings in the usual tendentious manner with a front-page article referring to the Prince of Wales's support for research into 'New Age' medicine; this is followed inside by a headline claiming that the myths had been punctured and pitting 'fact against fable'. The report divides therapies into three groups according to professional

organisation, quality of scientific evidence and whether or not both diagnosis and treatment are offered. Group One includes acupuncture, chiropractic, homoeopathy, herbal medicine and osteopathy while Group Three 'for which scientific evidence is almost completely lacking' includes Ayurveda and Chinese medicine apart from acupuncture. In a letter to the paper, Edward Baldwin made it clear that they were not in fact assessing the therapies but had to make some provisional judgements when addressing such issues as regulation, training and availability on the NHS. He also pointed out that Group Three was divided into two sub-groups that separate long-established Indian and Chinese systems from, say, crystal therapy. Without this distinction one can only wonder at the arrogance of Western thinking that can dismiss thousands of years of history at a stroke! There is no doubt - as Prince Charles insists - that a great deal more research is needed and that CAM needs to escape from the Catch 22 situation of no research funding meaning that no evidence is available! As has already happened in the US, ring-fenced government funding is essential and £10 million over five years is a drop in the research ocean.

Holos Academy Graduate Programme in Energy Medicine

The Energy Medicine programme created by Dr. C. Norman Shealy and Caroline Myss, Ph.D. will be offered at M.S and Ph.D. level from next spring. The board is currently completing certification negotiations with a number of graduate institutions and will shortly be posted on www.Energy-Med.Net or you can email Norman Shealy on nshealy@shealyhealthnet.com

GENERAL

NDOWA - Near Death and Other Worlds Association

The prime purpose of this organisation is to provide support for those who have had experiences of other worlds. It is a forum for the discussion of personal experiences but not a source of counselling. NDOWA meets at 10.00 a.m. every third Sunday in the Brockway Room, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1. Address for information: Lower Birkett, Newton-in-Bolland, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 3ED or www.ndowa.com

ASSAP

The Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena was founded nearly 20 years ago. It produces a bi-annual journal and a more frequent newsletter to keep members up to date with their investigations and activities. Enquiries to PO Box 327, Bromley, BR1 1ZE or web: www.assap.org

Positive Children's Books

I have reviewed a few of these books before and thoroughly recommend their catalogue and web site, which bring together some of the best and most inspiring books available. Email: pdp@dircon.co.uk, phone 0116 273 3000 and web: www.wordsofdiscovery.com

Miracle Babies: The Hidden Tragedy

Member Jon Turner sent me a disturbing article that raises some real ethical dilemmas about the survival of premature babies. This results from modern technology but is something of a two-edged sword. Daniel Williams was born at only 23 weeks and is alive (now 10) thanks to heroic technological interventions. But, as the article points out, machines have their limits: 'they couldn't prevent haemorrhages from blooming in Daniel's fragile brain, causing permanent damage. His vision is so impaired that he can see only through a narrow band'. Then he has suffered from collapsed lungs, has liver disease and his

bowels and kidneys could not function without medication; plus heart surgery and cerebral palsy - Daniel cannot walk, talk or chew. It all adds up to a distressing scenario. The neonatal unit enjoys the prestige for creating 'miracle babies' but what about the long term consequences? For a copy of the article, email Jon on [whole-self@ quicknet.nl](mailto:whole-self@quicknet.nl)