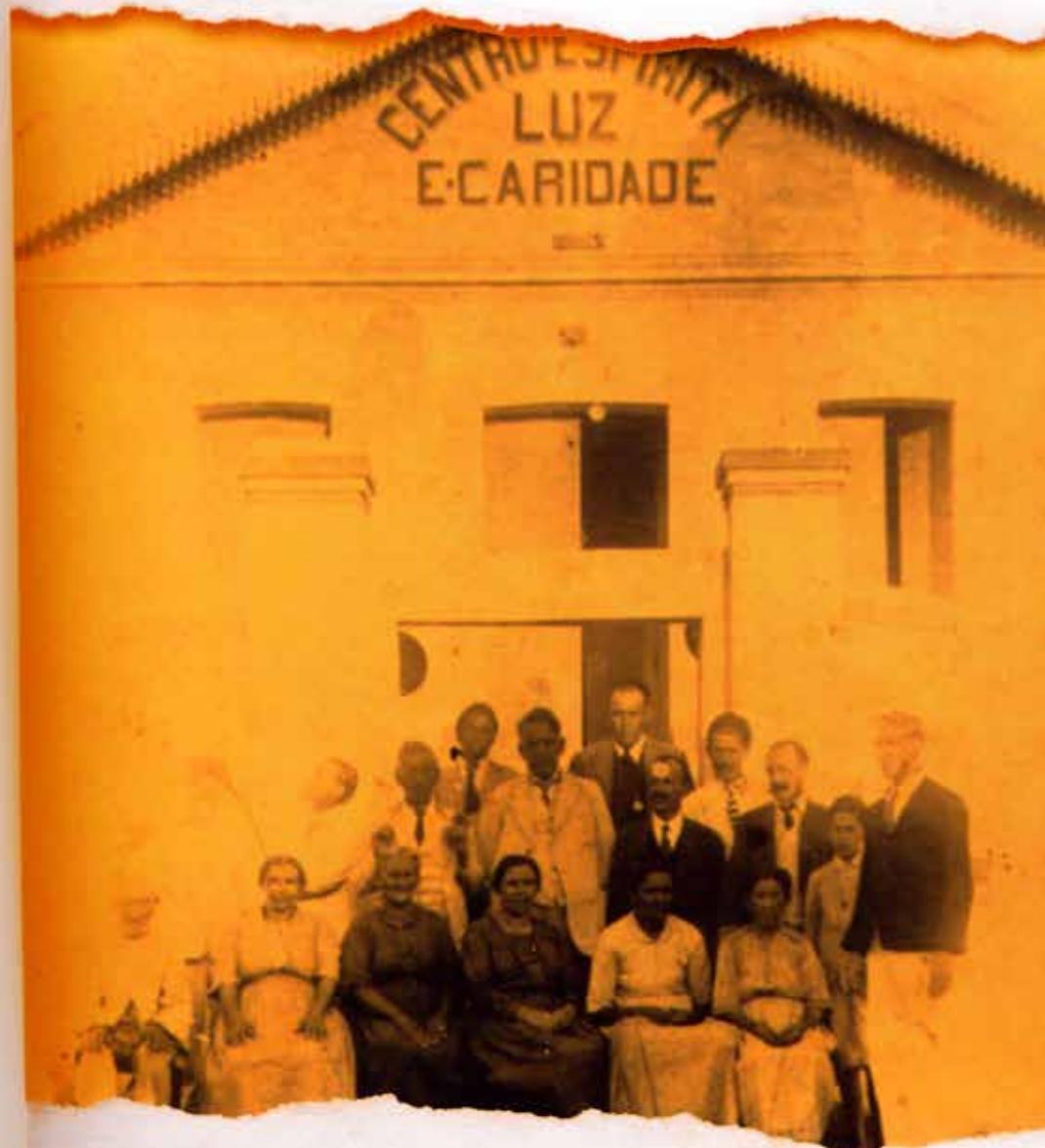


THE **Spiritist** MAGAZINE

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100 YEARS OF “CENTRO ESPÍRITA LUZ e CARIDADE”

by Irvenia Prada



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Learn to Control Your Thoughts

by Brian Foster

Lessons Learned From a Centennial Spiritist Center

by Vanessa Anseloni

Before the Pioneers

by Emmanuel

Spiritist Conduct Regarding Books

Andre Luiz (Spirit) / Chico Xavier (Medium)

Devote a few minutes each day to reading edifying works, leaving aside the books of an inferior nature. Prefer, above all, those books which can nourish your soul and which address fundamental themes of the Spiritist Doctrine.

When light is absent, darkness is present. Digest the fundamental works of Spiritism prior to engaging in practice, specifically with regard to mediumship.

Meditating upon theory assures safe action. During your available time, research the works gathered in the library of the temple or center to which you belong.

Reading books renews ideas.

Appreciate with compassion the works that combat Spiritism, understanding their meaning while silencing premeditated or passionate defenses. Gather from these works cautions and warnings intended to improve the work for which you are responsible.

The good utilizes evil to make itself greater. Offer Spiritist works to friends, including those books which are becoming moldy without being put to use in the home. Choose the kind and type of literature that can offer your friends instruction and consolation.

Noble books are paths to ascension.

Discipline yourself while reading with respect to your schedule and the annotations you make. This will allow you to better take advantage of your studies and to better learn without tiring yourself from repetition.

Those who learn more study better. Without excluding authors or themes, thoroughly analyze the works you read so that you will not stagnate your own inner self within toxic and false precepts of intellectualism, such as within literary absurdities that revolve around unhealthy or senseless conversations. Good and bad thoughts can emerge from the same letters and words.

Disseminate, by all lawful means, the books that clarify the Spiritist postulates, honoring the sanctifying works aimed at admitting Humanity to the pathway of redemption with Jesus.

A Spiritist library is a refuge of light.

"Test everything. Hold fast what is good" – Paul (1st Thessalonians, 5:21).

Source: From the book *Conduta Espírita* by Andre Luiz (Spirit) psychographed by Waldo Vieira, chapter 41, published by FEB. The English version of the book is already with the publisher awaiting its publication.



Partaking in the Dissemination of Spiritism

"It is always regrettable to doubt the divine essence of our task¹," explained Emmanuel, regarding those who are affiliated to a Spiritist center.

Many Spiritists attend Spiritist centers without ever engaging in its services. However, we ask "what should a Spiritist do with its knowledge and help received?" Food for thought...

In our understanding, it is vital to multiply the "talents" received. Talents mean concessions from Above, including the services attended at a Spiritist center. Certainly, there is time for a flower to bloom, for a fruit to be ripe. However, each and every meeting should be an inspiration to give more of ourselves to the general good.

In the case of Spiritist practitioners, there shall be no room for doubt, just service and service, as Emmanuel well advises.

In a world convulsing for changes, we need Spiritist centers and Spiritist practitioners. We need more deeply committed Spiritist centers and deeply committed Spiritist practitioners. Thus, we will gradually assist and be assisted in these times of transition.

The value of a seed cannot be taken for granted. The value of a Spiritist center can't either. The value of a Spiritist practitioner, committed and responsible, is priceless. Chico Xavier changed the history of the Spiritism. And each and every day, the personal decision

of being an engaged Spiritist practitioner changes generations to come.

Thus, we celebrate in this issue of the magazine the power of personal decisions that affect humanity for generations. From Kardec in his publishing of The Spirits' Book one hundred and sixty years ago to each and every family that founded Spiritist centers around the world, especially those that maintain its doors open for 100 years. We congratulate the centennial Spiritist centers such as the Centro Espírita Luz e Caridade in the town of Itobi, in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, which is turning 100 years. Thanks to their efforts, we are Spiritists today!

Dear reader, the several articles in this magazine come to bring you more instruction and empowerment to partake in the dissemination of the Spiritist movement. Multiply your talents and help generations to come.

Many Blessings,

Vanessa Anseloni, PsyD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief

¹ From the book *Educandário de Luz* by Several Spirit-Authors through Francisco C. Xavier, 1984, IDEAL.

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The Spiritist Magazine N. 39
October - December, 2017



SPIRIT MESSAGE

"Let us organize the Spiritist temple, raise the Spiritist temple, support the Spiritist temple and prestige the Spiritist temple¹." – Albino Teixeira

¹ From the book Educandário de Luz by Several Spirit-Authors through Francisco C. Xavier, 1984, IDEAL.

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Learn to Control Your Thoughts:

*We are measured on how well
we maintain our composure*

> Brian Foster





After you ascend up to one of the celestial cities, like Nosso Lar, it's not good enough to control what you say, such as refraining from sarcasm or juicy gossip, you have to learn to manage your thoughts. After all, one of the central tenets of Spiritism is you are what you think, actions don't come from the physical or verbal act, but originate with your mental activity.

Andre Luiz demonstrates this precept in the book, *The Messengers*, where after he and his colleague Vincent attended a lecture and decided to talk to the other attendees. Vincent told Andre that their instructor considered any enriching conversation to constitute useful work. Andre replied;

"And what if I decide to revert to the type of shallow conversations or gossip so often heard on Earth?"

Vincent smiled, "It would be your loss. Bear in mind that here words and thoughts become characteristic features of your individuality, and if you engage in degrading conversations and thoughts, our instructors know immediately. Your presence would become unpleasant, and your face would be surrounded by a dark haze."

This was a startling revelation for me. Here in Nosso Lar, we literally became our thoughts. We cannot deceive those who are more spiritually

advanced. [*The Messengers*, 2006, p. 38]

This is just the first step, for as you ascend higher in the spirit realm, you will be trained to use your mind to create what you have willed. In other words, you shall have the ability to materialize objects out of the ether around you. I explain further in my article, *Training of the Will*, where you shall discover your ultimate power is beyond almost any fantasy novel you have read.

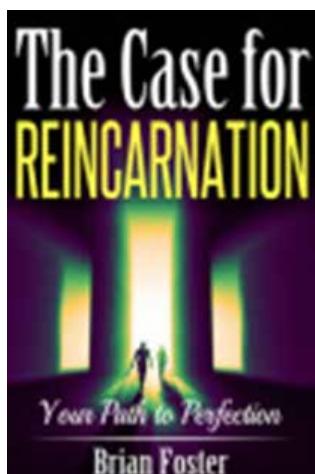
We travel through multiple lives for a reason, and that is to perfect ourselves in many circumstances and conditions. It's not enough to be relaxed and in control most of the time, it must

be a constant, otherwise we shall not be allowed to manipulate such power. If you wish to learn more about how reincarnation is a process to remove all of our faults, please read my book, *The Case for Reincarnation – Your Path to Perfect*.

Whoever said Spiritism is easy? Controlling our thoughts is a challenge. It took me many years just to learn to keep my mouth shut! This is why we must focus on learning and helping others, it helps to cut out the background noise of our baser notions.

Author:

Brian Foster has a BSCS degree and a MBA. He has worked in R&D for medical device corporations and in IT for large financial institutions. Brian Foster has a blog at <http://www.nwspiritism.com>.





TOM, THE BLIND MUSICIAN

> Allan Kardec

W^e read in the Spiritual Magazine, London:

"The celebrity Tom the Blind, who had just made his appearance in London, had already spread out here a few years ago in a newspaper article.

All year round it had described Tom's remarkable faculties and the sensation produced in America. It is impressive the way in which the faculties developed in this blind African slave who was ignorant and totally illiterate. One day, as a boy, he was surprised by the sounds of music in the house of his master. He then ran without ceremony to take place at the piano, reproducing note by note what had just been touched, laughing and squirming with joy at seeing the new world of pleasures that he had just discovered. All this was so often repeated, which I find it futile to mention it again. But a significant and interesting fact interesting thing was told to me by a friend, who was the first to witness and appreciate Tom's faculty. One day a Handel was touched. Tom immediately repeated it correctly and, when he finished, he rubbed his hands with an expression of indefinable joy, exclaiming: 'I see him. He is an old man with a big wig. He played first and I played second.' It is undeniable that Tom he had seen Handel and had heard him play.

"Tom performed several times in public, and the way in which he performs the most difficult parts would almost make him doubt his illness. He repeats it without

failure at the piano everything that others play, whether old classical sonatas or modern melodies. Well, we would like to see who could thus learn the variations of Thalberg with the eyes closed as Tom did.

"This surprising fact of a blind, ignorant, devoid of any instruction, showing a talent that others are unable to acquire, even with all the advantages of the study, will probably be explained by a large number of people according to the ordinary way of looking at these things, saying: he is a genius and it is his genes. But only Spiritism can give the key to this phenomenon in an understandable and rational way."

The reflections we made about the girl from Toulon naturally apply to Tom, the blind. Tom must have been a great musician, to whom it was enough to listen to be on track. What makes the phenomenon more extraordinary is that Tom is a slave (...)

Much has been said and written against slavery and the prejudice against black people. The law of the plurality of existences and of reincarnation comes to this to add the irrefutable sanction of a law of Nature, which consecrates the brotherhood of all humans. Tom, the slave, born and acclaimed in America, is a protest against the prejudices still prevailing in that country.

Source: Revista Espírita by Allan Kardec, February 1867, published by FEB.

ESSENTIAL

SPIRITISM

Casimiro Cunha

... Satisfying, however, our essential objective, we take advantage of the minutes we have to talk to you about the canvas of our activities.

Spiritism is a light
Glorious, divine and strong
That enlightens all life
And illuminates beyond death.

It is a generous source
Of compassionate understanding
Pouring everywhere
The Comfort of Living Water.

It is the temple of Charity
In which Virtue officiates,
And where the blessing of kindness
Is a flower of eternal joy.

It is a green fruitful tree
In the paths of hope
All open in flower and fruit
Of Truth and Bonanza.

It is blessed clarity
Of good that annihilates evil
The sublime call
Of Spiritual Life.

If you seek Spiritism
Follow its light
Spiritism is a school
And the Beloved Master is Jesus.

Source: Book "Parnaso de Além-Túmulo" by Several Spirits through Chico Xavier, published by FEB.



GOSPEL

PETER'S DENIAL

> Humberto de Campos (Spirit) / Chico Xavier (Medium)

The Messiah's act of washing the feet of his apostles left Simon with a sense of incomprehension. The old fisherman did not agree with such an act of extreme submission. And, when it was his turn, he resolutely protested:

"Master, you will never wash my feet; my companions are being ungrateful and hard in this instance, letting you practice this act as if you were a common slave."

After these words, Simon gazed at the assembly with a look of disapproval and disdain, while Jesus answered him:

"Simon, you should not want to be better than your apostolate brothers in any of life's circumstances. In truth, I ensure you that, without my help, you will not share the supreme joys of redemption with my spirit."

The old fisherman of Capernaum calmed down, silencing the voice of his nearly child-like generosity.

Finishing the lesson and returning to his place at the table, the Master appeared to meditate somberly. Soon after, sensing their lack of understanding, the Master looked upon them with sad piety. He stated the following so as to make them understand that his spiritual vision surpassed the events that were to unfold soon:

"Close is the hour of my final testimony! I know that all of you will be dispersed at that supreme moment. That is natural, however, considering that you are not prepared but to learn. But, before I go, I want to leave you with a new commandment: that of loving one another as I have loved you. You will not be known as my disciples due to your superiority in this world, not by demonstrating spiritual powers, nor by the clothes that you wear in this life, but by the revelation of the love I have for you, by the humility that should adorn your souls, by maintaining a good disposition in self-sacrifice."

Noting that, once more, Jesus had made farewell recommendations, Peter displayed his restless temper and asked impulsively, "After all, Master, where are you going?"

The Master looked at him serenely, intending to show Peter that he was interested in Peter's curiosity, and replied, "You are not yet prepared to follow me. The covenant is one of sacrifice and of extreme selflessness, and only later will you come to possess such indispensable fortitude."

However, wishing to prove the value of his dedication to his companions with words, Simon added emphatically, wishing to impose himself in the trust of the Messiah:

"Can I not follow you? Perhaps, Master, you doubt my courage? Then, am I not a man? I would give my very life for you."

The Christ smiled and pondered:

"Peter, your restlessness is worthy of new teachings. Experience will teach you to arrive at better conclusions, because, in truth, I affirm to you that this night, the rooster will not crow without you having denied me three times."

"Are you judging me, then, to be such a poor and callous spirit?" asked the fisherman, feeling offended.

"No, Peter," replied the Master with sweetness. "I do not think of you as ungrateful or indifferent to my teachings. However, you will learn, today, that the man of this world is more fragile than perverse."

*

Peter did not want to accept the Messiah's statements. As soon as Jesus was taken to prison, Peter, wanting to demonstrate his boldness and willingness to defend the Gospel of the Kingdom, attacked one of the servants of the high priests of Jerusalem with a sword, compelling the Master to make the most severe observations. According to Jesus' affirmatives, the school of apostles would disperse in that moment of supreme resolutions. The humility with which Christ handed himself over disappointed some of them, who could not understand the transcendence of that sublimated and distant Kingdom of God.

Observing that the detention of the Master by the emissaries of the Temple was a fait accompli, Peter and John followed at a distance the group that was departing and leading the Messiah. In vain, they looked for their companions who, afraid of persecution, had dispersed.

Both, however, wished to help Jesus in whatever way possible. Maybe they could find a way to save him. It was essential to make sure that they knew about everything that would happen and ask their humble relations in Jerusalem for help in favor of the beloved Master. They understood the extent of the danger and the threats that weighed over their heads. From moment to moment, they were surprised by men in the crowd who, in pronouncements along the way, accused Jesus of being a sorcerer and a heretic.

Night fell over the city.

The two apostles watched as the expedition of servants and soldiers arrived at the residence of Caiaphas, where the Christ was placed in a damp cell, whose bars faced an extensive courtyard.

The prisoner was locked in, amid jeers and insults.

The small group was then mixed with the larger crowd that was in a festive mood due to the Easter celebrations. The large courtyard was occupied by a deluge of joyful people.

Peter and John understood that the Temple authorities wanted to give a public character to the movement to persecute the Messiah, thereby avenging the victory of his triumphant entry in Jerusalem as symbol of new hope for the discouraged and the oppressed hearts.

After a quick agreement, the son of Zebedee returned to Bethany in order to make Jesus' mother aware of the events, while Peter mingled with the gathering in order to observe how he could be helpful to the Messiah.

The Pharisees had already set the tone for the sad events of the following day. In all circles, they talked of Christ as a traitor or a common revolutionary. Some of the most agitated critics denounced him as a thief. His teachings were ridiculed, his examples were mocked, and there was no shortage of those who said loudly that the Nazarene Prophet had arrived at the city leading a band of robbers.

The old fisherman of Capernaum sensed the hostility that he would have to fight in order to rescue the Messiah. He experienced a cold anguish in his heart. His resolution seemed to be defeated. His anxious soul allowed him to be overcome by doubts and afflictions. He started to think about his relatives, of their everyday needs, and of Jerusalem's conventions that he could not confront without severe consequences. With his mind swarming from expectations and thoughts of self-defense, Peter entered the extensive courtyard where the crowd was gathered.

Soon enough, one of the servants of the house approached him and exclaimed, surprised, "Aren't you one of the companions of this man?" She asked him pointing to the cell where Jesus was incarcerated.

The fisherman reflected for a moment and, recognizing that such a moment was decisive, he answered masking his own emotions, "You are mistaken. I am not."

The apostle pondered about that first negative answer and started to consider taking another similar step, which would be, in his eyes, the most reasonable course of action because he had to employ all within his power in favor of Jesus.

Faking unconcern, Andrew's brother walked toward a small crowd and, looking to escape the intense coldness of the night, stopped by a small fire to warm himself. Again, another person in the crowd recognized him and asked, using the following terms, "So, have you come to rescue your Master?"

"What Master?" asked the fisherman from Capernaum, his emotions ranging from caution and fear. "I was never a disciple of this man."





Given that explanation, the whole group felt at ease to comment about the prisoner's situation. Those were long hours for Simon Peter, whose heart dueled with his own conscience in those painful moments in which he was called to testimony. It was late at night when some servers came and distributed pitchers of wine. One of them, staring at the apostle with certain surprise, exclaimed suddenly, "It is him! ... He is the disciple who attacked us using a sword in the garden grove!"

Pale, Simon stood up and protested, "You are mistaken, my friend! You can see that this would not be possible!"

As soon as he pronounced his final denial, the neighborhood roosters crowded in shrill voices, announcing the approach of dawn.

Peter recalled the words of the Master and was overcome by an infinite anguish. He stood up, tottering, and instinctively looking to the cell in which the Master was being held, he saw the serene face of Jesus contemplating him through the cold, thick bars.

*

A prey of unspeakable remorse, the apostle left, ashamed of himself. After a few steps, he reached the city walls where he began to weep bitterly. He—who had always been a stern, resolute man who had consistently condemned the transgressors of the truth and of the good—he who could not forgive the most unfortunate women—there he was, dejected as a child, in the face of his own wrongdoing. He began to understand the reason for certain painful experiences endured by his brothers and sisters in humanity. There began to flourish in his spirit a source of new appreciation for the unfortunate in this life. He wished, anxiously, to kneel down in front of the Messiah and beg his forgiveness for his painful fall.

Through the veil of his tears that obscured his eyes, Simon Peter experienced a consoling vision. He imagined that the Master had come to see him, in spirit, in the solitude of the night, that same serene smile on his lips as he had every day. Before that comforting and divine emotion, Peter knelt and murmured, "Lord, forgive me!"

But, at that moment, he saw nothing further amid the confusion of his anguished thoughts. Bright white moonlight bedecked the desolate alleys. That's when the old fisherman reflected more soberly, remembering Jesus's warnings when he had said: "Peter, the man of the world is more fragile than he is perverse."

Source: Book "Boa Nova" (Good News) by Humberto de Campos (Spirit) through the psychography of Chico Xavier, chapter 19, published by FEB.

Do Your Part

> Dias da Cruz (Spirit) / Andrei Moreira (Medium)



A close-up photograph of a person's hands typing on a black computer keyboard. The hands are positioned on the left side of the keyboard, with fingers pressing the keys. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window or a bright light source.

Distance yourself from the need to be special. No one is placed within the world as a distinguished agent of service, cooperation, and support without an inner context of needs and personal potential, which supply life with a useful expression.

Learn to look at life with gratitude, and praise each of your steps, your hands, and your efforts that allow you to progress and work, which is a necessity of life.

Food which sustains your body proceeds from the efforts involved in sowing, planting, and gathering, then preparing and transporting until the food reaches you as a source of just and saintly nourishment.

The clothing that adorns you, protecting your body from weather and elements, was produced and made ready through the multiple efforts of those who manufactured the material and those who fabricated the product.

Houses which shelter and protect you are not only handy spaces, which are provided for you to restore yourself, but are also the result of planning and work from the many who prepared and built them into adequate shelters for human life.

If you are served food, have clothes, and a house, remember that therein lies the efforts of many lives who are part of our society, contributing and producing that which today allows you to have what is necessary for your own work.

Therefore, praise the dedication of those who offer you their fruits and give their humble and anonymous contributions as a link in the universal chain of life. Their contributions allow you to make good use of available resources, so that you may do what is expected of you, thereby providing an opportunity to those who come along tomorrow with the necessary resources to continue this infinite cycle of growth and progress.

Source: Book Pills of Trust by Dias da Cruz psychographed by Andrei Moreira, chapter 22, published by AME Editora, Brazil.

When you buy the book Pills of Trust at www.ssvirginia.org, you are helping sponsor the outreach efforts of Fraternity Without Borders (www.fraternitywithoutborders.org).

CURRENT



BEFORE THE PIONEERS

> Emmanuel (Spirit) / Chico Xavier (Medium)

Remember the sacrifices of the pioneers of progress who preceded you on the human journey, so that you advance on Earth without the blindness of ingratitude.

Do not forget those who wept and suffered, plowing the soil in which you ingested the first blessing of bread and do not forget how many were mutilated at work so that comfort and hygiene would support your body.

Do not relegate to indifference those who have been deprecated to have the legal order, guaranteeing you security, and those who died in the jails, often slandered and betrayed, so that freedom blesses your existence.

Consecrate in your memory an altar of reference to those who have given you the treasures of education, so that learning on earth will lead you to the Higher Spirituality.

You are the beneficiary of the field in which you were welcomed by the kindness and hope of those who saw you born.

You inherited from them the experience that suffering has bestowed on you, also demanding sweat and goodwill in the world, so that life in the world becomes better.

Do not lose yourself in the labyrinths of unprofitable inquiry, asking whether cruelty is greater today than yesterday's in the human pathway way.

Give to the earth the best of you in the form of unselfish and constant service so that good prevails, initiating in your own soul the redemptive work of love that covers everything, and, returning tomorrow to the great school of human experience, you will find it more noble and beautiful converted, with the portion of your effort, in the antechamber to the Life in the Heavens.

Source: From the book *Nascer e Renascer* by Emmanuel through Chico Xavier, lesson 21, page 99, published by GEEM.

PRAAYER AT A MEDIUMISTIC MEETING

> Euripedes Barsanulfo (Spirit)



The noble Euripedes stood up and delivered a heartfelt prayer:

"Incomparable benefactor, Jesus!

"Thou, who chose love as the solution to all grave human problems, shower us with this sublime treasure so we can attend well to the duties that concern us at the moment.

"As soon as death by the Golgotha took you over, and your body was buried, you came down in spirit to the Abyss to seek Judas who became mad, letting himself be dragged by the hideous forces of Darkness. And you freed him to restart new illuminating experiences..."

"Incable of acting with Your superior will and powerful energy, you helped us rescue Your crazed disciple from the afflictive area. Now he is in need of specific help so that the heavy scales of ignorance and madness are also released.

"Because he connected with darkness, he lost contact with Your marvelous light staying in this lengthy situation of horror.

"Help us to release him from those who engendered his slavery and yet, despite the long period of impiety with those who abused him, they stubbornly lead him back to the hideous sites where he has been until recently.

"Permeate us with Your wisdom and guide us in the difficult maze in which the access is within our reach so that we do not lose ourselves in its deceitful routes.

"Shower us with tenderness and safely lead us in the work that we will perform in Your honor."

Source: From the book *Tormentos da Obsessão* by Manoel Philomeno de Miranda (Spirit) / Divaldo Franco (Medium), chapter 12, LEAL publisher. The book is already translated into English since 2012. We await its publication by its publisher.

Let us Inquire Ourselves

> Maria Dolores (Spirit) / Chico Xavier (Medium)





What will we be in the house of our faith, in the company of those who share with us the same ideal and the same hope?

A smile that sustains or a sob that discourages?
A laborious bee or a rodent worm?
A ray of light or a cloud of worries?
A bunch of flowers or a bough of thorns?
A stream of blessings or a well of stagnant water?
A friend who understands and forgives or an inquisitor who condemns and destroys?
A devoted aide or an inoperative spectator?
A companion who encourages the praiseworthy particularity of the service or a contumacious censor who only notices imperfections and defects?
An inveterate pessimist or a brother of joy?
A sincere and unselfish co-worker or a spiritual patient, caught in the bed of human prejudices, who must be transported on other shoulders, in the face of an insoluble problem?
Let us inquire ourselves as to our attitude in the community to which we affiliate, and pray to the Lord that the vessel of our soul may reflect the Divine Light.

1 From the book *Educandário de Luz* by Several Spirit-Authors through Francisco C. Xavier, 1984, IDEAL.

WISDOM

In The Spiritist Team

> Emmanuel (Spirit) /Chico Xavier (Medium)

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. (Matthew, 18:19)

Accept ourselves in the condition of workers called by Jesus to serve and to serve.

Understand ourselves as one family in the intimacy of the home, forgetting our own selves for the benefit of the work.

Believe, really believe, that we can do nothing good in the face of Lord, without humility and patience, tolerance and understanding with each other.

Focus the mind and the heart in the field of the general good.

Fulfill our duty while providing discreet and disinterested support to one another in the fulfillment of their responsibilities.

Engage in the general effort of the group in favor of the implementation of the programmed action, which was designed for each one's own benefit, without waiting for requests or demanding fraternal collaboration.

Let us all of us, who find ourselves in the Harvest of Jesus, observe to whom we wish to please and to whom we really ought to help as much as we can. May we not do it simply because there are beloved ties or blessed souls of our affective treasure. Above all, let us work for ourselves and to ourselves, making use of the new concessions that the Lord has made to us out of mercy, so that we improve our spiritual path in the undertakings of rescue and elevation.

Walk forward, forgiving one another in mutual understanding regarding our own weaknesses. May it be absent of sensitivities and complaints that only result in complications and loss of time.

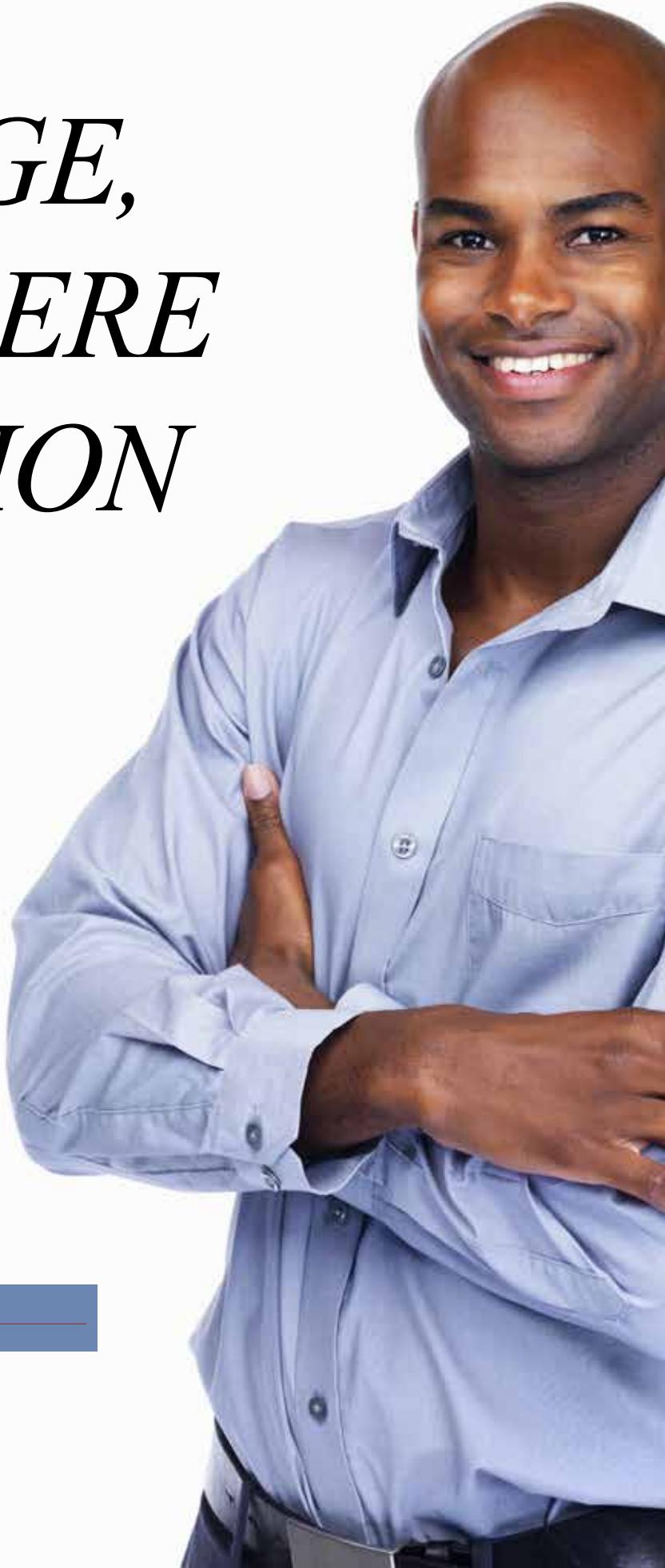
Act and serve without neglecting the seemingly small tasks such as to collaborate in the cleaning, to communicate a message, to listen attentively the brothers and sisters who are in greater need than ourselves or aid a child.

In the team of Spiritist action, each one of us is an important piece in the mechanisms of the good.

Let us never forget that the greatest genius cannot perform alone. That is the very reason why Jesus brought us to the edification of the Kingdom of God, valuing the principle of interdependence and the law of cooperation.

Source: From the book Educandário de Luz by Several Spirit-Authors through Francisco C. Xavier, 1984, IDEAL.

CHANGE, A SINCERE DECISION



> Claudio Sinotti, Psy.D.



Throughout our lives we develop certain behavioral structures, which are influenced by several factors: our upbringing, culture and family, the values and abilities we have developed throughout the existences, among others. Nevertheless, at some stage in our journey, some structures should be modified, as they are no longer adequate for our development.

This transformation, however, faces internal and external resistances. Internal because we are used to certain ways of conducting ourselves and therefore change will bring insecurity and instability, especially to those of fragile and dependent personalities. External, as there are certain expectations from people and our surroundings about us, and the attempt of transformation usually generates unfamiliarity; "you are different"; "you are no longer the same"; "I did not expect that from you" ... are a few expressions that indicate these expectations.

Due to all these factors, change must arise from a sincere decision.

Decision, since we are free to choose our paths, and maturity requires responsibility for the choices we make, especially as we will be the ones to deal with the consequences of our actions. Sincerity because if this decision of change does not part from a profound need of the soul, we would be attending to the whims of the ego or external demands, without which we do not advance in the development of our own values.

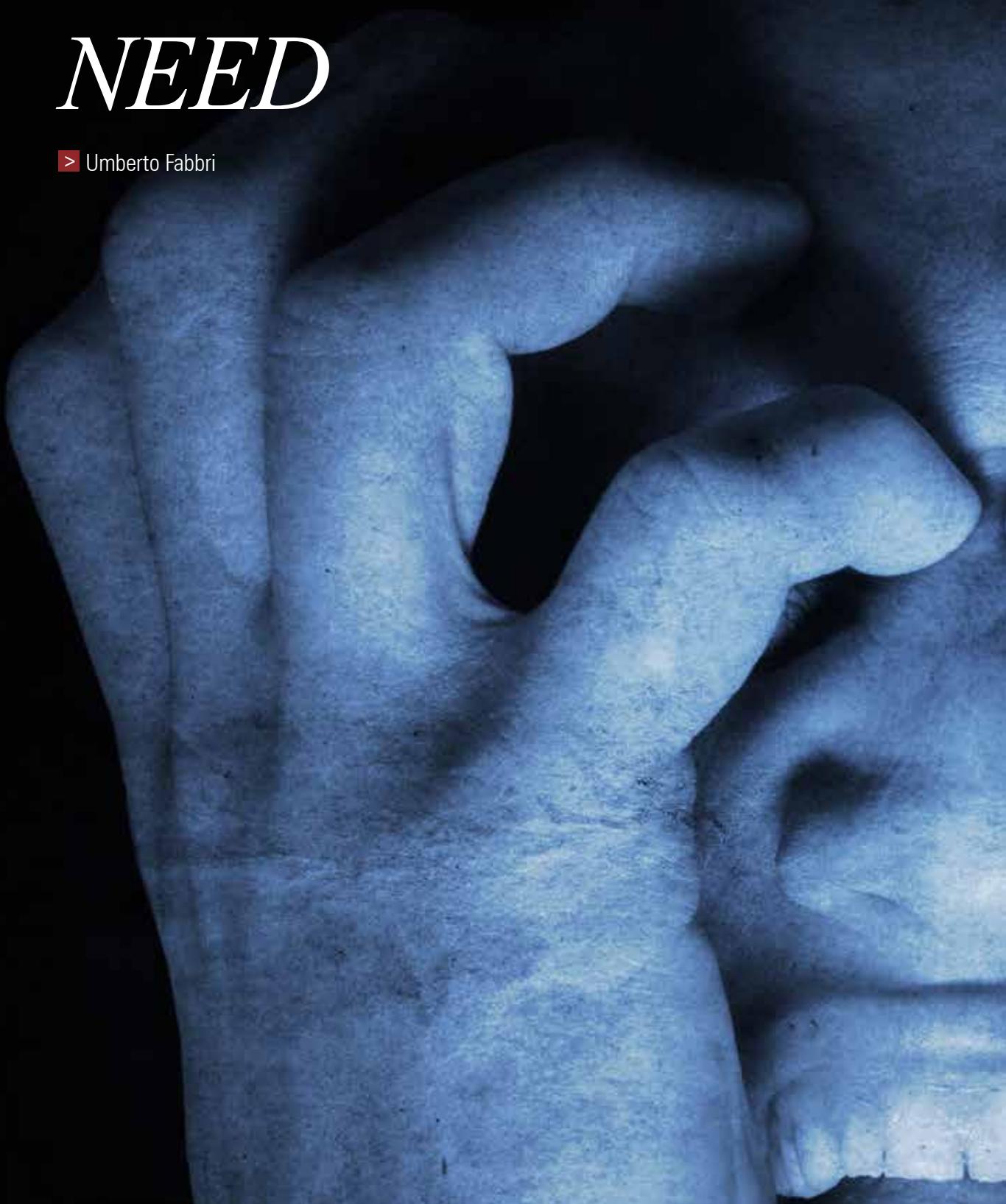
It is told by the traditions of old Rome that the artisans used artifices to cover broken pieces of art that suffered some damage because wax would mask their defects. But this artifice was unsustainable, since, when the temperature arose, the wax melted revealing all its defects. Aware of this fact, those more experienced would request the pieces "sine cera" (without wax), giving origin to the word "sincera" (sincere). Similarly, there is no value in placing a mask of a certain behavior or attitude that we still have not harbored in our inner world, since at some moment the mask will drop, leaving our limitations on display. The change must be "sine cera", it must arise from an intimate decision because only in this way will it be sustained."

Claudio Sinoti is a clinical psychologist in Brazil. As Spiritist, he and his wife Iris have been leading the psychological studies of the works by Joanna de Angelis through the books psychographed by Divaldo Franco. The current article was first published in The Journal of Psychological Studies, issue 51.

A SPIRIT IN NEED

CHICO XAVIER

> Umberto Fabbri





Sometimes I commented, with friends at the Gospel at home, on my impression that we were experiencing moments in another dimension while we were in Chico's presence. The world by his side made possible experiences that constantly confirmed the existence of the spiritual realm and of spirituality and its interactions with us.

The mediumistic episodes were so many and so routine. They were treated by Chico with extreme naturalness that enchanted us.

In one of our bimonthly visits, we found that, to our surprise, the medium had part of his face scratched and bruised. Without our asking him about it, he read our thoughts, and narrated this tale, starting simply:

"Don't be worried. I'm fine, in spite of the bruises and a few scratches. There was a man in our house who wanted to talk about his son who had discarnated a few days before. I noticed that he was accompanied by the discarnate son. The son appeared extremely needy, which was caused by his emotional maladjustment before his death. He was not aware of his own spiritual state. I could see that his case was very serious

and I recommended that we help him at the Prayer Spiritual Group, later that same night."

Chico then described his observations.

"Poor boy, he was frightened by the presence of his spiritual friends who were there to help him. Because of his imbalance, he felt threatened by his friends. In desperation, he tried to see and lost control, throwing himself to the ground."

We were amazed at the story that Chico was telling us, not only because of the condition of the discarnate boy, but also because of his mediumistic capacity, primarily his ectoplasm that made such unusual events possible on the physical plane.

The young man was cared for and healed by his spiritual friends, and was carried to a special place for treatment on the spiritual plane.

This was one more unforgettable lesson for all those present. Later on, we discussed how much we would still have to study to understand mediumship and all of its nuance.

Source: Book Chico Xavier: Stories from a Friend from Another Land by Umberto Fabbri.

GUIDANCE





Living Temple

► Agar

It is a joy to find the stronghold of the operative workers of Spiritism. What to say about a community of consecrated bees to perennial rest in the hive? Of trees that bloom green without fruit? Of open springs, yet without water that translates active relief to the thirsty? Do not suppose that we, the discarnated, are resting in destructive calmness. Our effort is enormous, the work is incessant.

In all directions of our struggle, we also have the spiritual centers of service. Our groups, however, are not restricted to the incense of worship, but are extended to efficient and safe tasks, in which, as in a musical ensemble, each companion is an instrument suited to the harmony of the whole and each heart is a blessed tool for that the will of Jesus be manifested.

Therefore, we here have a demonstration of the temples of living faith in the future world. Every believer is a living collaborator in the work of the Divine Master. This one uses the word for collective edification, another uses fraternal hands in healing aid, while others use beneficial and salutary forces for the transmission of spiritual values from higher planes.

Hence, let us work my friends, aware that Christian Spiritism is a renewed process with Jesus, a school to teach, a house of ceaseless production of good and a living seed of blessings and lights, in which all of us individually can contribute our part in building the Kingdom of God on earth. The future beckons us to go forward, propelling us to the OnHigh.

Faith without works freezes the thought and determines the temporary anesthesia of the spirit.

Service is the soul of our organizations that go to the regenerate world, with a view to eternal life.

Jesus is the Lord of Truth and of Good He is the Prince of Peace and the Savior of Humankind. However, he is also the Divine Workman with shovel in His hands, cleaning the threshing floor of the world.

And, in our insignificance, if we do not yet know to bind ourselves to the Supreme Advisor of the Planet through the Truth that we have not yet fully conquered, of the Good that we still do not know how to practice with the desired perfection and of Peace that we still do not know how to preserve within us, let us then seek Him ourselves through working in the good, because service is the way open to all creatures, from the worm to the angel, towards God.

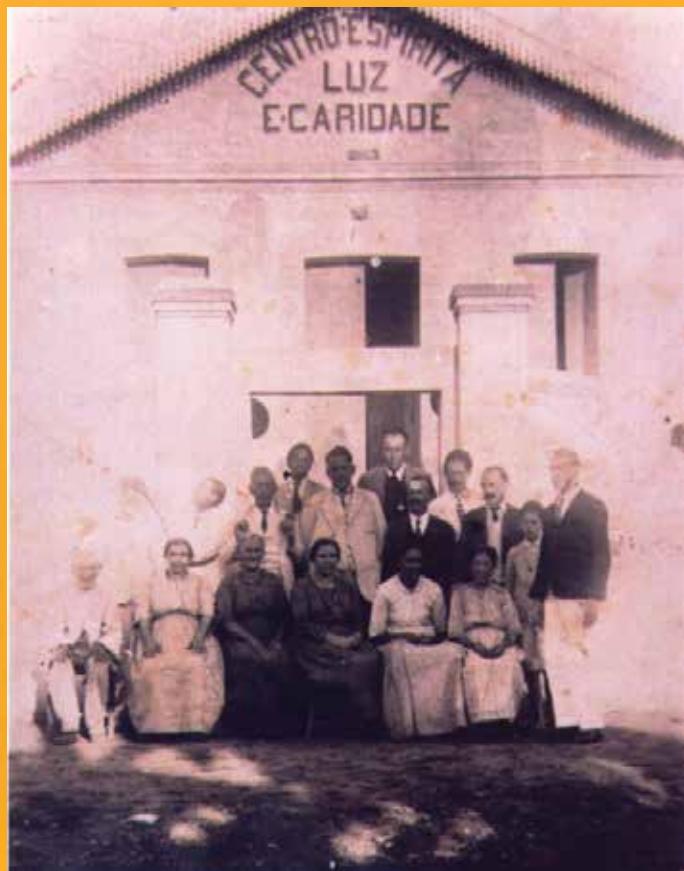
Source: Book Chico Xavier: Stories from a Friend from Another Land by Umberto Fabbri.

100 YEARS

OF

“CENTRO ESPÍRITA
LUZ e CHARIDADE”
in Itobi - SP, Brazil

> Irvenia Luiza de Santis Prada



The story I know - having lived my childhood and youth "inside" the Spiritist center - begins with the figure of an Italian immigrant, Caetano de Santis, whom I am proud to say is my paternal grandfather. He was born in the region of Amalfi, southern Italy, on May 25, 1859 and arrived in Brazil in 1880, therefore, at 21 years of age. He began his life as a merchant in the countryside of the State of São Paulo, selling the most varied things on farms, mounted on "donkey's back", as it was used to describe difficult commute. Slavery was still watched, and my aunts used to tell me that when my grandfather came to a farm and found some slave stuck in the trunk, he was punished (what barbarity!). Before he tried to sell

his merchandise, he talked to the slave owner of the poor creature, which he did patiently until he persuaded him to free up from punishment.

Little by little, my grandfather became a prosperous businessman, having a huge store in Itobi - SP, and even several rental houses in another city - Vargem Grande do Sul, near Itobi. Every two months a gentleman came to pay the rent, and one day he arrived at the store, and he missed the presence of my grandmother Philomena, who was admittedly very nice in dealing with the customers. My grandfather then said that she had the famous "headache" she felt every week. He asked the gentleman, who was Spiritist to take my grandmother's name to pray for her. And she got better. My grandfather then became interested in "how things worked" at the Spiritist center. The gentleman started bringing the basic books of Kardec to my grandfather, which triggered a total turnaround in the life of my grandfather and, consequently, of the whole family. Thank God!

What my grandmother had was mediumship without a task! She had consulted with the most renowned physicians of São Paulo, who, however, failed to relieve her of her complaining headaches. She ended up harmonizing in mediumship work, followed by one of her daughters, my late Aunt Carmela.

Some years later, my grandmother, pregnant with her youngest daughter - Luzia (who died in December 2016 at age 105), accidentally suffers poisoning. Standing between life and death, my grandfather, a Catholic, promises to go to Italy to get an image of the saint, the size of my grandmother, in case she and the child were saved, which eventually happened. Then he made an altar in the house, where he installed the saint.

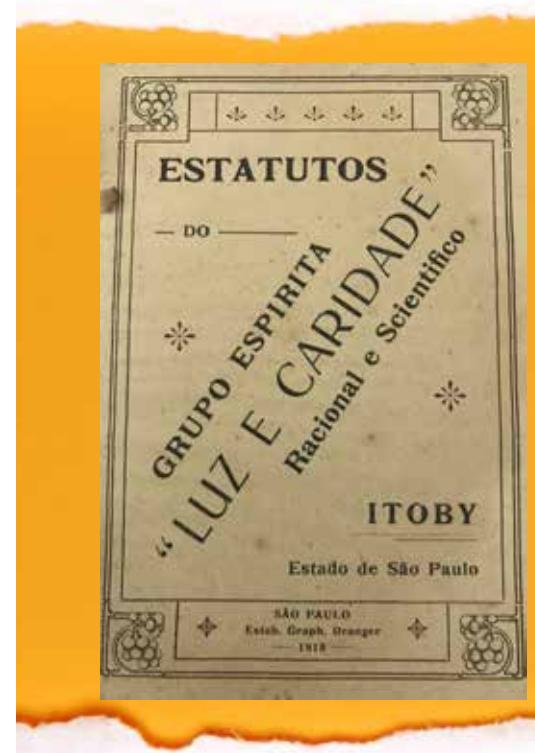
By knowing Spiritism and becoming convinced of its principles, my grandfather donated the saint to the Church and started doing outreach activities by distributing goods to all those in need. Then they said in the city that he was no longer so rich because he had "despised" the saint!

With some friends, including the Pioltine family, he founded the "Spiritist Group Light and Charity - Rational and Scientific", on October 20, 1917, which was legally registered less than a year later, with its bylaws already set on August 12, 1918, to sheet 6 of Book 1, Provisional under number 11, in the District of Casa Branca - SP.

I would like to make some comments regarding their bylaws. First of all, I was positively impressed with the title of the entity, the terms "rational and scientific" clearly indicates that its idealizers already had a perfect idea of the true structure of the Spiritist Doctrine. Secondly, the content of the bylaws is admirable. For example, in its Article II we read: "Starting from the principles of solidarity ..., the Spiritist Group Light and Charity will seek to diffuse light, either by word, or by writing and in other means, striving, on everything, in studies by means of examples, and having as main element of teaching, the Christian morality." From the words I have highlighted, there is an expressive reflection in the elaboration of the bylaws regarding the intrinsic characteristics and objectives of the Spiritist Doctrine. That is why the pioneers of this honorable enterprise deserve our admiration and respect!

Thus, it was formed the first Board of Directors of the Spiritist Group Light and Charity - Rational and Scientific:

- President - Caetano de Santis
- Vice President - Marino Pioltine
- First Secretary - João Ferreira do Carmo
- Second Secretary - José Del Mastro
- Attorney - Attilio Pioltine



Librarian - André de Santis
Treasurer - Angelina de Santis

Who were they?

- Caetano de Santis - my paternal grandfather; when the Spiritist Center was created, he was 58 years old.
- Marino Pioltini - member of the Pioltine family, with descendants who still live in Itobi and care for the Spiritist Center; uncle of the current president of the center, Mrs. Amália Pioltine Zilli. In 1917 he was 28 years old.
- João Ferreira do Carmo - was considered a medium of great possibilities, with an important role in the spiritist center.
- José Del Mastro - responsible for the Itobi Mail at the time.
- Attilio Pioltine - father of the people of the Pioltine family who are currently responsible for the Spiritist Center - Mrs. Amália Pioltine Zilli and Mrs. Maria José Pioltine Vieira. In 1917 he was only 20 years old.
- André de Santis - my uncle, son of Caetano de Santis and Philomena Borelli de Santis. In 1917 he was 18 years old.
- Angelina de Santis - my aunt, daughter of Caetano de Santis and Philomena Borelli de Santis. In 1917 he was 16 years old.



Virgilio and Amalia Pioltine

Worthy of note in this story is Mr. Vergílio Pioltine, the grandfather of the current president of the Spiritist Center, Mrs. Amália Pioltine Zilli, who was a bricklayer and also a well-known plastic artist. Not only did he actively participate in the material construction of the Spiritist Center as he molded, probably in cement, the figure of a dog that for a long time has kept the place.

In addition to the founding the Spiritist Center, with the companions mentioned and who composed the first board of directors, my grandfather also built the Padre Vitor Shelter with them. It was inaugurated on May 15, 1929, receiving help from families of obsessed people who were healed in the Spiritist Light Group and Charity. In the modest rooms of this shelter lived people who were still obsessed and in treatment. I remember in my early childhood the fear that I felt when I passed by, although I did not know exactly what it was, I imagined that there was "something" there.

This shelter became famous in the region and I also remember that my father, Mr. Renato de Santis told exciting stories of cases that were taken care of in the center and in the shelter. In one of the papers left by my father, he refers to a book in which, he said, "the most real and moving stories that have taken us beyond the borders of our state, the image of our little Itobi,

the "Abrigo Padre Vitor" and our temple of prayer, the "Spiritist Center of Light and Charity". Needless to say, I'm making every effort to find this book ...

The "de Santis" of my generation ended up leaving Itobi, and some members of the Pioltine family, also founders of the Spiritist Center and the Shelter, along with friends of the city, continued and continue to this day the work of the pioneers.

All of us, from the family of Santis and also from the Pioltine family, who follow the footsteps of the Blessed Spiritist Doctrine, are eternally grateful to the valiant pioneers of the construction of the Spiritist Center, Light and Charity, and to perform their meritorious tasks!

Note of the Editor: The Editor-in-chief of the Spiritist Magazine, Vanessa Anseloni, is the great-great-granddaughter of Virgílio Pioltine (the builder of the centennial center). His sons, Marino and Attilio, composed the first board of directors. Currently, the grandmother of Dr. Anseloni is the president of the center. Amália Pioltine Zilli is on her second term, since she had previously been its president for more than 20 years. She was the founder of the traditional Bazaar for the Mother, since 1979, helping at-risk pregnant mothers in the city.



From a Centennial Spiritist Center

> Vanessa Anseloni, PsyD, PhD

Spiritism completes another cycle on the Earth: 160 years of the publishing of its first and foundational book, *The Spirits' Book* by Allan Kardec.

The first Spiritist center of the planet was founded in 1868 in Paris, France by Kardec.

From there on, several centers were founded. And a few are in the category of centennial Spiritist centers, amongst them the Centro Espírita Luz e Caridade, in the city of Itobi, State of São Paulo, Brazil, which turns 100 years in October 2017. The center was founded by Brazilians and Italian immigrants, including our great-great-grandfather and his sons (Pioltine Family), as well as the grandfather of Irvenia Prada (DeSantis family) (see article by Irvenia Prada in this issue).

By the occasion, several people ask us how we feel being fifth generation of Spiritists, founders of the center mentioned above. We often reply by saying that lessons are learned and to be learned. Some of them we outline herein.

There is no Spiritual Aristocracy - Humankind is often prone to feelings of personalism. And when a center turns 100 years, we are at risk of feeling some form of "spiritual aristocracy", which in reality does not match the principles of Spiritism. Reading chapter 30 of the book *Good News* by Humberto de Campos, psychographed by Francisco C. Xavier, we learn that Mother Mary went through the challenges of those who felt closer to the martyred Messiah in her city

of Nazareth. But John, the Evangelist, came to her rescue, as per the recommendation of the Master, and brought her to Ephesus. Thus, we learn the principle of universal heritage, since every work of the Good is fundamentally a legacy for humanity.

Celebrating the Centennial with work – When preparing celebrations, many get distracted with events and commemorations. But we have come to know of a different reality. In December 2007, while visiting Divaldo Franco at the Mansion of the Way, we received a message from Joanna de Angelis advising us: "my daughter, we celebrate the completion of a cycle of Spiritist works with more works." Talking to Divaldo Franco about the message we received then, we concluded that we would launch the Peace and You Movement in the USA in 2008. In the same manner, we received similar instructions regarding the celebration of the Centennial of the Spiritist Center Luz e Caridade. Thus the reason why we launched through Kardec Radio the book drive to form a significant library for the center. The book drive has already received hundreds of books from friends around the world.

We owe it to a Multigenerational Effort – A Spiritist center does not stand by the simple effort of a person or two, but of a group effort. In several messages of the book *Educandário de Luz*, Emmanuel reports teamwork being a major pillar to achieve the sustenance of a Spiritist Center. Those who pioneered it are and will always be remembered by the unique challenge that they faced, however the maintenance and growth of the center by the subsequent generations also bring about in our hearts the light of gratitude, for

they kept the flame of love burning.

Reverence and Respect for the Spiritist Temple – Being raised a Spiritist by a family that left a spiritual inheritance, one of the main lessons learned is the reverence and the respect for the Spiritist Temple. Personally, we will never forget all the activities we participated (from mediumistic meetings to outreach efforts) in the Spiritist center that our grandparents were coordinating in Itobi. Their emotional body language exuded the elements that today keep inspiring us to continue spreading the Good News in the USA and around the world.

Community Engagement – As any tree, the roots need to be deep in order to sustain the trunk and allow enough nourishment for the tree top. Outreach efforts are one of the ways in which a center remains revitalized and meaningful in a community. The Spiritist center Luz e Caridade has always helped at-risk families. It also opened in its headquarters, the Nursing home Padre Vitor for the elderly.

Mediumistic Services shall never stop – Since ancient times, mediumship has been treated as a gift of a few, until Kardec brought it to the general public as a gift of humanity, one that shall be used for inner growth and the general good. In the Spiritist center Luz e Caridade, mediumship became centerstage helping

in disobsession cases from all around Brazil. In spite of any challenges, they have never stopped its works. As Kardec says, there is no Spiritism without Spirits.

Humility, key for renewal – In one hundred years of Spiritist works at a center, we can easily think of the many struggles and obstacles overcome by its members and directors. Talking to our granduncle, Romeu Pioltine, we got to know of instances in which spiritual treatments became remarkably successful in the center, bringing forth its outcome to the national reputation. However, there were times in which the treatment efforts towards the imbalanced attendees did not prevent the escalation of the obsessions on them. That is when the Spiritist center's team effort shall stay humble and continue its works knowing that the healing comes from God. We are simply instruments.

After 100 years of history and stories, of tales, and of dreams, a question remains: why was this center able to achieve this milestone? The answer would be as natural as possible. No matter how much the multigenerational effort, if there is no allowance and support from Above, no center stands for itself. Certainly, the plans are of God and we honor them. So we kneel down in reverence to God for such achievement of the works of the Christ on Earth. Hail Christ!

100 Years of the *Centro Espírita Luz e Caridade*

Join this new campaign of Spiritist Books!

Kardec Radio is inviting you to donate Spiritist books in Portuguese (new or old) to help build the library of the *Centro Espírita Luz e Caridade* (Itobi/Sao Paulo, Brazil) as part of its 100th Anniversary.

Address for Donations of Books:

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The little Kitties



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DID YOU KNOW THAT CHICO ADOPTED...

AND TOOK CARE OF MANY LITTLE ANIMALS THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE?

WOW! FOR REAL? TELL ME MORE!



THEY BROUGHT MUCH JOY TO CHICO'S HOME WITH THE GAMES THEY PLAYED.

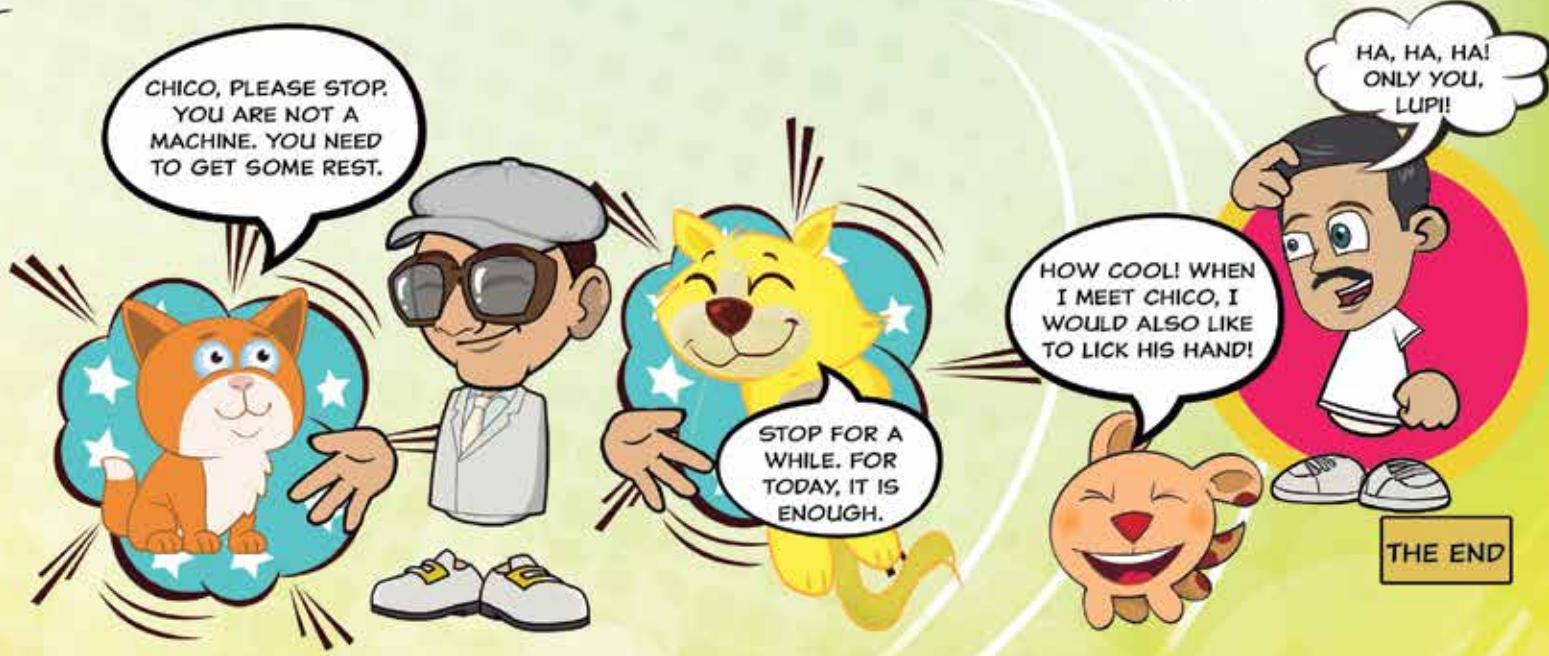
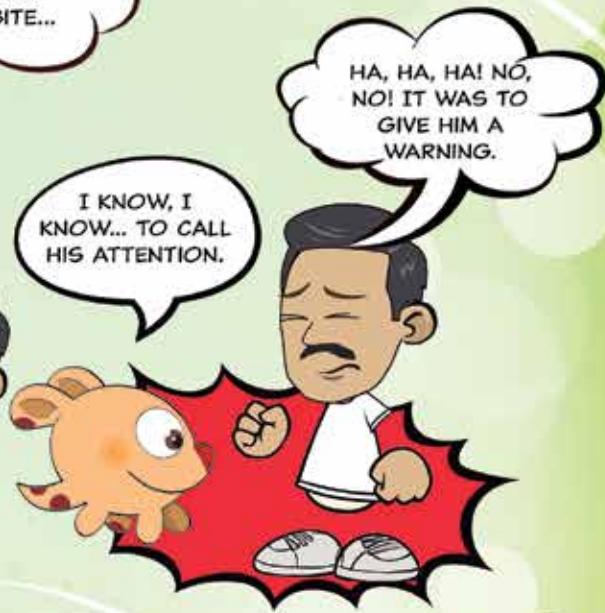
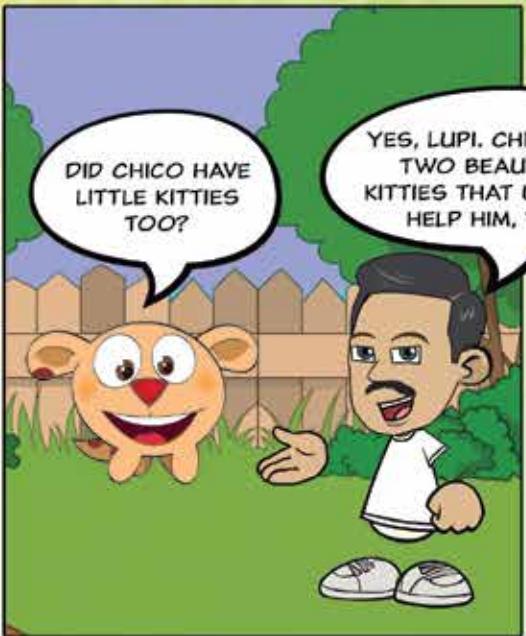
THEY ALWAYS USED TO CALL ON CHICO. YOU KNOW WHY?



WAIT, ANDRE. I KNOW! TO PLAY SOCCER.

THE LITTLE DOGS CALLED UPON CHICO, IN A WAY THAT ONLY HE UNDERSTOOD, FOR THEM TO PRAY TOGETHER.





IESS Turns 10 Years Visiting Lily Dale, NY



This Summer, the Inner Enlightenment Spiritist Society coordinated a special educational retreat in Lily Dale, NY. Visiting the premises of the Spiritualist movement in the United States, they were given new information about their Spirit-mentor, Andrew

Jackson Davis, through the deep studies of one of Lily Dale's director, Tom Cratsley. The experience was deeply inspirational and memorable. More information at www.innerenlightenment.com.

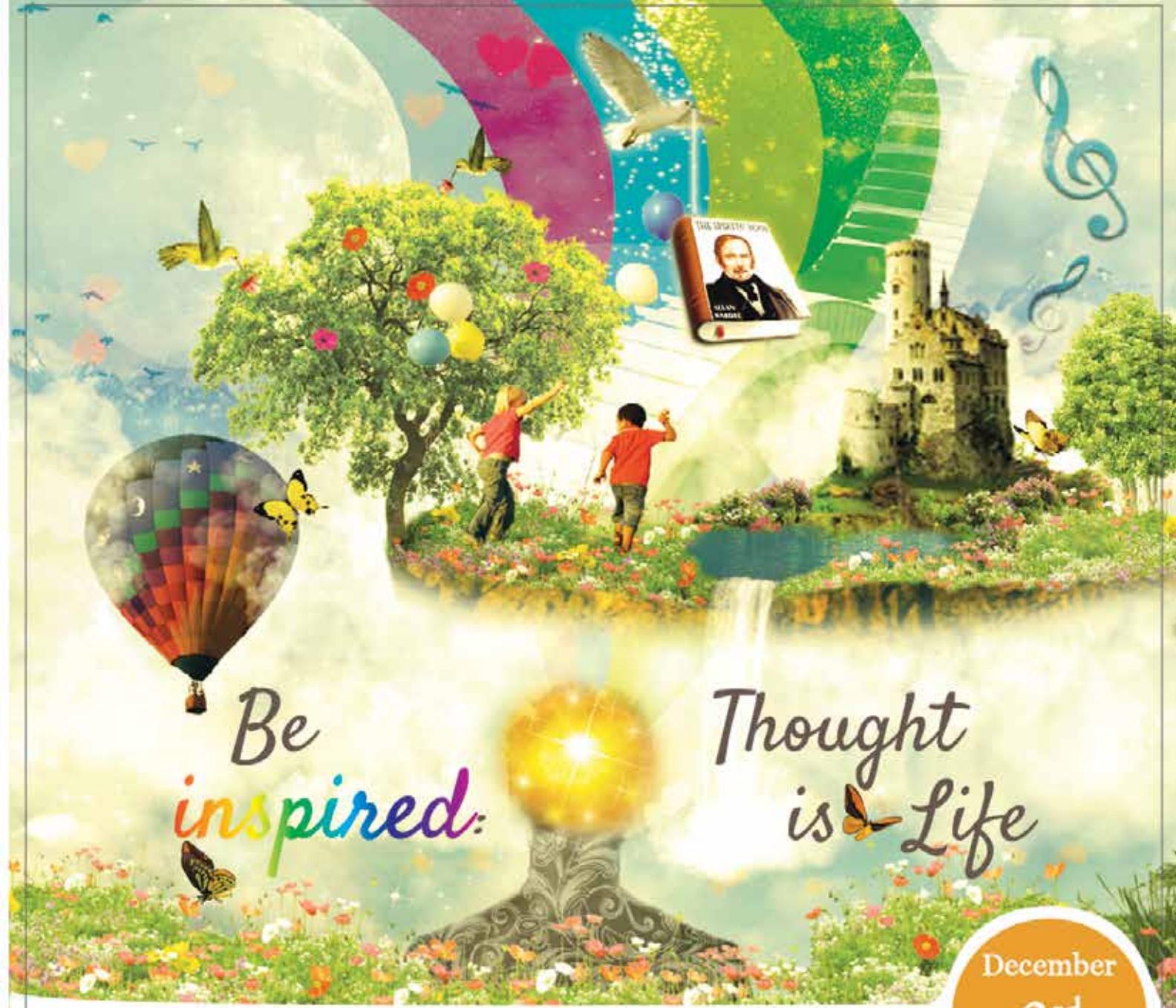
Spiritism Kids is in English Now

In a beautiful collaboration, Luis Hu Rivas, the Department of Children and Youth of the Florida Spiritist Federation and the U.S. Spiritist Federation, launched the first issue of the magazine for children and youth, Spiritism Kids. Get your copy today at www.spiritist.us.

New Release: Into the unseen by Leon Denis

The United States Spiritist Federation is launching the English version of the book Into The Unseen by Leon Denis. Get your copy today at www.spiritist.us.





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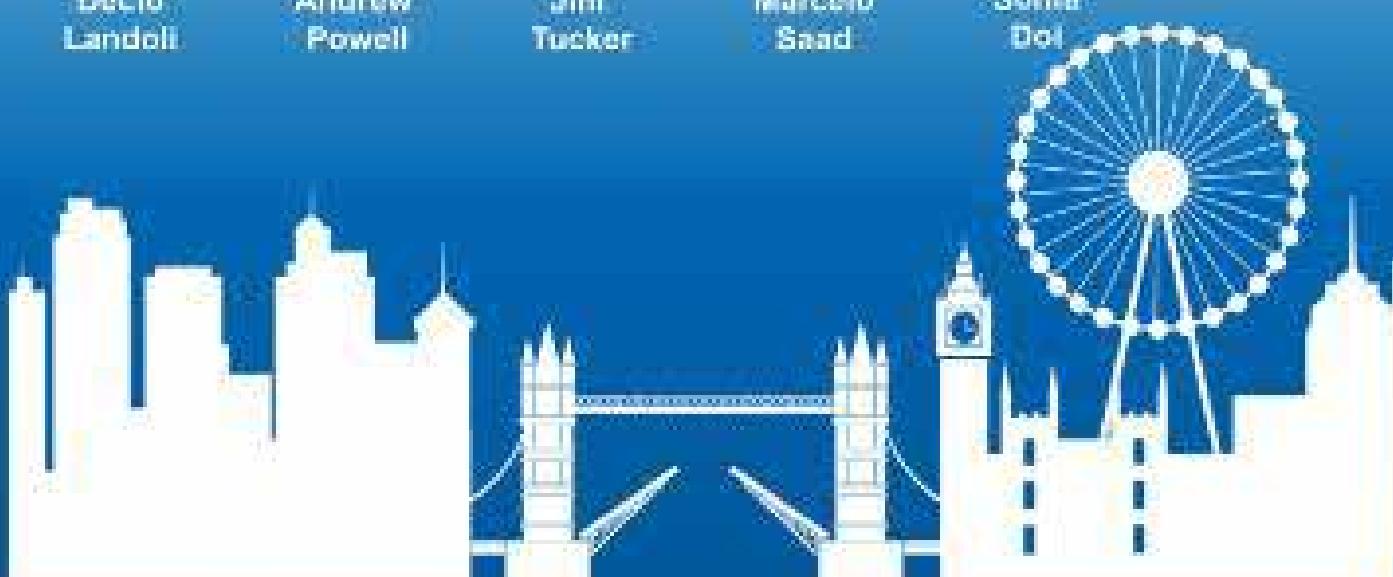
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