

# MOVING SPIRIT

January, 1998

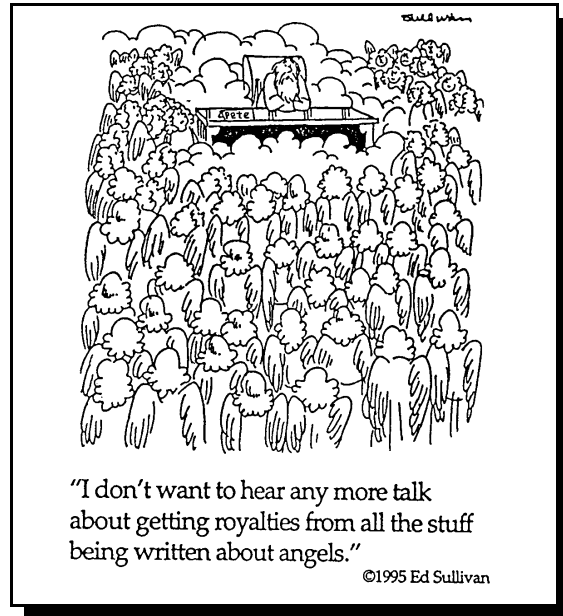
## Eskaton Village Community Church

### Pastor's Parcel

For decades, angels were condemned to mythology by the unbelieving. Now they are being taken more seriously than they have been for centuries. What caused them to be so fashionable lately?

I believe people today are sick and tired of hearing the modern myth that this material world is all there is. Even the marvels of modern technology have not been able to satisfy that inner human hunger for "Ultimate Reality." Religious longing is as old as humanity itself. It's a divinely built-in warning system to keep us on track morally and spiritually. The notion of spiritual existence beyond this life is universal among all cultures. God will not allow us to forget that this world is not our ultimate home. We are merely temporary sojourners here.

The popularity of angels may be used as a "means of grace" to help society remember its destiny. We weren't meant to "eat, drink, and be merry" with no thought of preparing for the afterlife. Angels will play several roles in the final pages of Earth's history, as recorded in the Book of Revelation. Are we perhaps nearing the last act in the drama? Is the closing scene behind the next curtain rising on world events? Angels may be



the early heralds of our Lord's return.

If so or if not, we must all prepare for eternity. God is still transforming willing sinners into growing saints by faith in Christ. This is why I keep prayerfully preaching at Eskaton to make His Gospel invitation known. ---Pastor David

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### Parish Proclamations

#### **The Prayer Chain**

The need for prayer is always great, and the prayer chain started in the last months at Eskaton has been a great blessing. If you have a special prayer request, call Louise Gedeon (or if she's unavailable, call the next one on the chain: see the names at the top of the

chain below). For now, try to limit calls to between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM. All requests are confidential, unless permission is given to share them beyond the chain. Pastor David will also be advised of the request, so that he can join in prayer.

1. Louise Gedeon (captain) . 481-5807
2. Grace Murphy . . . . . 974-2000
3. Midge Childs . . . . . 974-0747
4. Genevieve Goeltz . . . . . 482-9231
5. Mary Frances Feth . . . . . 487-5660

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## *People's Pulpit*

**Arise and Go Down  
to the Potter's House -- Jer.18:1**  
by Betty Meagher

O Lord my God,  
At Your Incarnation  
You closed Your shining glory  
In an earthly vessel  
Just like ours--  
The loveliest vessel ever known,  
For You were the potter and the clay  
(O divinest mystery: too great to  
comprehend!)  
You had tried before so many times  
To teach us how to live;  
But we refused to learn.  
So now you came as one of us  
To show us Your wondrous plan.  
How deeply You cared that each of us  
Should come to You, returning freely  
The gift You gave to each as birthright:  
Our own free will.  
But again we failed to receive You--  
First at Bethlehem,  
Then all through Your earthly life.  
Finally You invoked the ancient sign:  
Before all the people assembled,

You emptied the chosen vessel...  
The Living Water so freely offered  
--And so oft refused--  
Proved to be Your life's blood,  
Shed at Calvary--  
The You smashed Your vessel  
On the rock of Golgotha.....  
And the broken pieces fell--  
Like manna from heaven.  
The horrible sound of that smashing  
Shook the earth and skies that day;  
And it echoes down through the ages--  
Shocking us still.  
Apparently -- how can it be?--  
It really matters to You  
What we do with the life You have given  
us.

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O God, please take back this self-filled  
lump of clay--  
Mis-shapen, out-of-balance--  
Far short of Your design;  
Purge me of my impurities;  
Then center me on Your potter's wheel.  
Mold me with Your strong hands,  
Controlling my selfish urges;  
Shape me however You will.  
Then hollow me out, Lord, that I may be  
filled--  
Filled to the brim with whatever You  
choose,  
That I may share with others  
Your life in me.

*(Written after a retreat-weekend led by Sasha  
the Potter of Mendocino, California; his  
meditations were based on Jeremiah 18:1-7  
and 19:1-2, 10-11a)*

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## *Pithy Pieces*

### **WHY?**

On the street I saw a small girl cold and  
shivering in a thin dress, with little  
hope of a decent meal. I became angry

and said to God:  
"Why did You permit this? Why don't  
You do something about it?"  
For a while God said nothing. That  
night He replied, quite suddenly:  
"I certainly did something about it. I  
made you!"

--author unknown  
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Little drops of water,  
Little grains of sand,  
Make the mighty ocean  
And the pleasant land.  
Little deeds of kindness,  
Little words of love,  
Make the world around us  
Like the Heaven above.

-- author unknown  
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## Prayer's Priorities

**Oh Come, Dear Lord . . .**

Oh come, dear Lord, I need Thee;  
I need Thee so, today  
I need Thy love and guidance  
To brighten up my way.  
Oh come, dear Lord, I need Thee;  
My heart is full of care  
I need Thy strength and courage;  
Come, Jesus, hear my prayer.  
Oh come, dear Lord, I need Thee;  
I need Thee by my side  
Sometimes I feel so lonely;  
Come, Savior, and abide.  
Oh come, dear Lord, I need Thee;  
Let all Thy blessings rain--  
I need Thee, Lord and Master,  
To wash away my pain.  
Oh come, dear Lord, I need Thee;  
Fill me with life define;  
Come, take my will and cleanse me,

And make me ever Thine!  
-- Hope C. Oberhelman

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We have only to put our problems  
before Him with a humble and faithful  
heart and to believe with the simple  
faith of a little child, and we are  
promised His guidance and help. If our  
problems are big, then our prayers  
should be equally big! And the minute  
we believe that He has answered our  
prayers, they have been answered,  
perhaps not as we wanted or expected,  
but answered nevertheless. And they  
are right answers, too.

--Norman Vincent Peale

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## Praise's Portion

Praise Him in the morning  
Ere the sun shows forth its light,  
Praise Him in the noontime,  
When the day is at its height.  
Praise Him in the evening  
As the sun sets in the west,  
Praise Him through the night hours,  
And in His Presence rest.

--Louise Lee Winchip

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**God Is Near**

I will not fear  
Though all my dreams  
Come shattering down  
around my feet,  
For God is near.  
I will hold on  
To Him  
Who helps me  
Rise above life's stormy sea.

I'll trust His grace  
To keep me in my darkest hour.  
I will not fear,  
For God is near.  
I see a light  
A wondrous, bright and shining light  
That lights my way  
To see the path ahead.  
This light of love and grace  
Just seems to cover me.  
I know no fear, for God is near.  
--Shirley W. Langley  
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### **Beside the Waters**

Beside the quiet rippling streams  
My Lord is leading me,  
All nature bears His spoken word  
In everything I see.  
For lo, He comes to Comfort me  
And sits down at my side,  
He whispers in the breezes  
Blowing gently through my mind.  
The waters ripple gently on,  
So quiet and serene,  
And on its waves I see His truth  
Reflecting like a dream.  
And mounted up on eagle's wings,  
The Master makes me soar,  
Above the waters running still  
And all because He's Lord.  
Reflected on the ripples are  
The trees and skies above,  
Resplendent with the sun  
As warm as God's abiding love.  
A place where I find solitude  
Without a single care  
Beside the waters deep and still,  
My Father leads me there.  
--Thomas P. McHugh

*"... he leadeth me beside still waters.  
He restoreth my soul . . ."*  
---Ps.23:2-3  
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## ***Poetry's Place***

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### **Tomorrow**

From worldly strife your heart  
finds freedom,  
Gentle thoughts, your mind caressing,  
When you put your cares behind you,  
See tomorrow as a blessing.  
What a waste to want and wonder  
What tomorrow has in store,  
For it comes, just like a stranger  
Knocking at your cottage door.  
It is then, you must be ready,  
Say "Hello" then bid him stay,  
No more time to dust the cobwebs  
Or to sweep the crumbs away.  
Take your life, as it is destined  
Meet each challenge with a smile,  
Make it count, then greet tomorrow  
As a brand-new day, worthwhile.  
--Jeanne Emory Douglas  
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### **Reflections**

When the golden light of heaven sinks  
slowly in the west,  
When the cares of the day are ended  
and the world again is at rest;  
To the rim of a hill let me wander, and  
there let me stand alone  
In the amber glow of the sunset and  
forget the sorrow I've known.  
Great hymns of praise and thanksgiving to  
Thee O God, would I sing,  
For the glory of sunrise and sunset, for  
the beauty of flowers in Spring,

For the mountains, the hills and the valleys, the rivers that flow to the sea; And the tall stately trees of the forests, for these are reflections of Thee.

--Charles J. Lane

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*"When the cares of my heart are many, Thy consolations cheer my soul."*

--Ps. 94:19

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## Pearls of Prudence

But all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. --Julian of Norwich

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The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

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It is better to look where you're going than to see where you've been.

--Florence Griffith Jaynor

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He who throws dirt always loses ground.

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If you are not generous with a meager income, you will never be generous with abundance.

--Harold Nye

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Happiness is not a state we arrive at, but a manner of traveling.

--Margaret Lee Runbeck

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The ones who of their lot complain Displease the Lord and cause Him pain;

But thankful hearts are His delight, And they find favor in His sight.

-- Henry Bosch (*Our Daily Bread*)

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## Pleasurable Pastime

I once asked a Quaker friend to describe the essence of his faith. "No pomp," he replied, "under any circumstance." -- Edward Stevenson

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### **No Excuse Sunday**

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next week, we are planning a special no-excuse Sunday:

1. Cots will be placed in the vestibule for those who say, "Sunday is my only day for sleeping in."
2. Eyedrops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching TV too late on Saturday night.
3. We will have steel helmets for those who believe the roof will cave in if they show up for church.
4. Blankets will be furnished for those who complain the church is too cold. Fans will be on hand for those who say the church is too hot.
5. We will have hearing aids for she parishioners who say, "The pastor doesn't talk loud enough." There will be cotton for those who say, "The pastor talks too loud."
6. Scorecards will be available for those who wish to count the hypocrites.
7. We guarantee some relatives will be present for those who like to go visiting on Sunday.
8. There will be TV dinners

available for those who claim they can't go to church and cook dinner, too.

9. One section of the church will have some trees and grass for those who see God in nature, especially on the golf course.

10. The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies to create a familiar environment for those who have never seen the church without them.

--from Ann Lander's column

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## Precious Principles

### **Alone With God**

What do you do during the day?" a friend asked an elderly Scotch woman who lived alone. "Well," she said, "I get my hymnbook and sing. Then I get the Bible and let the Lord speak to me. When I get tired of reading and cannot sing anymore, I just sit still and let the

Lord love me!"

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The spectrum of love has nine ingredients:

*Patience*: "Love suffereth long."

*Kindness*: "And is kind."

*Generosity*: "Love envieth not."

*Humility*: "Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up."

*Courtesy*: "Doth not behave itself unseemly."

*Unselfishness*: "Seeketh not her own."

*Good Temper*: "Is not easily provoked."

*Guilelessness*: "Thinketh no evil."

*Sincerity*: "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth."

Patience; kindness; generosity; humility; courtesy; unselfishness; good temper; guilelessness; sincerity--these make up the supreme gift, the stature of the perfect man. You will observe that all are in relation to men, in relation to life, in relation to the known today and the near tomorrow, and not to the unknown eternity.

--Henry Drummond

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Every limitation I have is an invitation by God to do for me what I cannot do for myself.

-- Stephen G. Osterburn