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Preface

If you plan to read the following document, I think it is only fair that you have some information regarding my lifestyle, my philosophy of life and the belief system through which my insights are filtered.

I'm mostly left-brain. My only hobby is trying to solve the "cosmic jigsaw puzzle." I'm curious. Saint Augustine is credited with saying that, "There is ingrained in our souls an insatiable desire to behold the truth." That's not the same as trying to prove I'm right, that I've already found the truth; that I have it locked up in my belief system. (Eckhart Tolle in *A New Earth* says that the need to prove that you're right is a part of your conditioning, your ego, and not the essence of who you are.) Looking for the truth involves attending a lot of conferences of organizations that research the unusual. I am attracted to new ideas. Much of my recreational budget goes for books and DVD's. Actually, I'm writing this mostly to organize my own thoughts and impressions. If any of my thoughts resonate with you, you already "knew" it and I have only helped you remember. If it doesn't resonate with you, just ignore it. I hope that my thinking "out loud" stimulates your thinking. My hunch is that something *very* significant is happening right now and I'd really like to make sense out of it. My insights may be right or wrong. Jesus encouraged me in Luke 12: 54-57 to decide for myself when he asked his followers, "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"

It is not my intention to offend anyone with my ideas. Please, don't give my words the power to hurt or disturb you. Marcus Aurelius (121-180 AD) said quite clearly that, "*If you are disturbed by an external thing, it is not that thing that disturbs you, but your judgment about it. And it is in your power to change that judgment, now.*" To me this means that being offended is one of your choices; it's optional. I don't recommend it.

Introduction

When I helped Joanie Thurston tell her story, we wanted to present all of the information and describe her emotions as accurately as possible without speculating about what it all meant. I think we did that in *Possible Fatal* in 2004. One year later the theme for the conference of the International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) was, "Message and Meaning: Using the Near-Death Experience as a Tool for Living." It seemed especially appropriate for us to work on the question of "What does it all mean?" So we applied to be on the program, were accepted and went to work on the presentation.

THE MESSAGE AND THE MEANING ONE YEAR LATER

The "life review" portion of Joanie's NDE consisted of watching eleven vignettes of events in which she narrowly escaped death.. After each of the first ten scenes, a voice or voices said, "We were there." After the eleventh event, the car crash that killed her, a deep male voice that sounded like a totally frustrated God declared, "**And you still don't get it!**" We needed to

identify the message and meaning that she still didn't "get." This is a summary of what she "got" as we wrestled with the question during that year following publication of the book.

1. I am not alone. I have guardian angels or helpers or guides to guide me.
2. Synchronicity works. Ask for what you want or need and you just might get it.
3. Only my body dies. I am a spiritual being. I am aware outside my body; I'll still be aware when I die.
4. Unconditional Love exists. I know. I felt it, and I can never forget it. I was safe. It felt like Home.
5. "It is not what you have done, it is the person you have become . . ." "I understand this to mean that I need not be proud of my accomplishments or ashamed of my shortcomings.

THERE COULD BE MORE

But there was a nagging uncertainty. Did she "get" all of "it"? PMH Atwater was sure there was more. The trauma surgeon, Dr. B, in the Preface to *Possible Fatal* stated, "I detect work still to be done, but that is the story of us all, in this world, and those to come." Very possibly there could be more.

There Is More

A SOUL RETRIEVAL DURING AN NDE?

When writing *Possible Fatal* the first pattern of a phenomenon that I recognized within the NDE was "soul fragmentation." Sandra Ingerman in her book, *SOUL RETRIEVAL: Mending the Fragmented Self* (1991), states, "The basic premise is that whenever we experience trauma, a part of our vital essence separates from us in order to survive the experience by escaping the full impact of the pain." (*SOUL RETRIEVAL*, page. 11) This certainly is what Joanie describes in her Introduction: "My earliest memory goes back to age three. It was a terrifying experience involving sexual, physical and psychological abuse. Afterward I felt empty and unsafe, an unworthy misfit covered with shame." (page 11)

Joanie had never heard of soul fragmentation or soul retrieval and was uncomfortable with the topic. Besides, we had agreed that the book would be a description of events and her feelings encountered during and after her NDE. My interpretations didn't belong in the book. (I'm doing *my* interpretations in this article.)

The soul retrieval, typically performed by a shaman, was completed by what Joanie calls her guardian angel. It happened just before he sent her back to her body. (pages. 34-35). Little Joanie's body faded from view, turned into sparkles of energy (as in Kirlian photography), then formed a vortex (as in quantum physics or Victor Schauberger's implosion) then struck the adult Joanie in the chest with some kinetic energy. This all seemed to me to be the work of a shaman performed by a guardian angel during an NDE. I was beginning to realize that there was more in this book than the simple story of a visit to the other side. There was a *lot* more.

MISSING TIME: REMEMBERING AN ABDUCTION?

Re-reading the book a year or two later I became curious about Joanie's 45 minute ride home from Zuma Beach with a total stranger. (page.29.) While writing the book I asked her what kind of a car he was driving. She had no memory of the make or model, just an older, tan, two-door sedan. I failed to ask about the ride home. Later, when I quizzed her about the ride, she had absolutely no memory of the trip; she got in the car, then the next thing she remembered was walking up to her house worrying about what her mother would do to her. (It was about 1:00 AM and she was supposed to be staying with a friend.) Missing time is a characteristic of abduction. It seemed that during her NDE she was shown an abduction scene that she had experienced 38 years earlier. After that insight we read several books about ET's and abductions, including Kenneth Ring's *The Omega Project* (1992). Ring identifies the psychological aftereffects that are common to both NDE'ers and abductees. It appears that Joanie is one of those people who have experienced both an ET abduction and the NDE. Although she has no memory of the lost 45 minutes, a past-life regression might uncover some interesting material. Ring's book led us to explore several books about ET's and the abduction phenomenon. This activity uncovered many childhood memories.

MORE SIGNS OF CHILDHOOD ABDUCTIONS

Joanie remembered having a fear of searchlights. On one occasion, probably an opening night. searchlights in Hollywood were sweeping the sky. Later her father took her downtown to show her up close that there was nothing to fear. It didn't work; she was still afraid of them. When I suggested that she feared searchlights in the sky pointing *downward* as described in some abduction reports. Joanie blurted, "or sideways." Then she recalled that her father had nailed her bedroom window shut. He also sat outside that window every night for a week armed with a camera. (He had been in intelligence work with General Claire Chennault and his Flying Tigers, the American Volunteer Group (AVG) who were fighting the Japanese in August 1941. He may have been aware of extraterrestrial activities.)

Her mother told Joanie about a very frightening night when her mother heard noises or voices in Joanie's bedroom. A bluish green light was visible under the door. The authorities were called in; there was a frenzy of activity. People in uniforms and men in suits (MIB?) searched the house and yard with flashlights. They found nothing. Her mother said that Joanie slept through it all. In fact, they couldn't awaken her.

On many occasions when little Joanie failed to appear in time to leave for school, her mother or the housekeeper would go looking for her. She was always found fast asleep, maybe in her closet, under her bed, in the back yard, front yard, or even in the bathtub. The family had never seen any evidence that she was a sleepwalker. There were no such reports from sleepovers with friends, no evidence from summer camp (eight weeks every year for eleven years, age 5-16), and no reports of sleepwalking the six years when Joanie attended a residential high school. This is all the more puzzling when you realize that Joanie was compulsive about locking herself in her bedroom. In one home she had double French doors in her bedroom. She locked them and also wedged the back of a chair under the door handles. Is it possible that ET's had been interested in her since birth? Did the "We were there" group consist of ET's or guardian angels? Is there a difference? Was the guy who drove her home an ET or a guardian angel? If the missing time between Zuma Beach and arriving on the sidewalk in front of her house was actually an abduction, then the driver of the car must have been an ET. There were other characteristics

about him; he was very tall and Joanie felt absolutely safe with him, a total stranger. She had felt that same sense of safety at other times.

FROM FEELING FEAR TO FEELING SAFE IN THE PRESENCE OF A TALL, BLOND MALE

When she agreed to spend the night with her friend Joanie had no idea what kind of a night it would be. The friend had plans for a party on the beach (page. 29). Joanie was expecting a grunion hunt for the evening. When the drinking began, the kids paired off and the sleeping bags came out, she knew she was in over her head. She was very frightened. It was pitch-dark as she hurried along the edge of the beach looking for a place to climb up the embankment to the Pacific Coast Highway in hopes of finding a telephone to call home. Then this tall guy with blond hair and a crew cut stepped out from behind some boulders and asked if she was okay. “No, and I want to go home.” He asked where she lived. He said he had a car parked up on the highway and would drive her home. Joanie went from a panic to total trust of this stranger. He must have had good vibes! When I asked how she could tell in the dark that he was about 30 years old, blond hair and a crew cut, she suggested that he must have “glowed.”

There was another guy who glowed. He appeared at her bedside when she was left alone in the Intensive Care Unit (page.41). He seemed to be about eight feet tall with long blond hair. (If this was the same guy, his hair had grown long in the 38 years since he drove her home from Zuma Beach.) He *really* glowed. She felt safe. His silent message was, “*Joanie, you have been in an accident; stay calm and you will be all right.*” She relaxed and just “knew” that she would survive. During her days in the ICU Joanie made many trips to the Operating Room (OR). She never panicked because this tall guy walked beside her gurney on every trip. He was just as real in the hospital as he had been at Zuma Beach. He was so real that she tried to learn his name from other medical personnel so she could thank him. They had no knowledge of this mysterious employee (page 42). Was he a guardian angel, an ET, or both? There is a pattern here, and it is also a puzzle.

Joanie’s guardian angel who was with her in the garden always appeared in silhouette, until he sent her back to her body after reuniting the little Joanie with the adult Joanie. At that point he allowed himself to be seen. He, too, was a tall blond. Could all of these guys have been “Nordic type ET’s”?

WHO DID THE DRIVING?

There were three incidents involving driving: 1) the ride home from Zuma Beach, 2) hitting the light pole, and 3) getting Joanie home during an epileptic seizure. Could the guardian angel/ET who drove Joanie home from Zuma Beach be the same one who drove her car into the light pole and killed her on that early morning of May 13, 1997 (page 15)? Joanie had stopped at the stop sign to let a police car go by. She put her head back to rest her eyes. Witnesses saw her asleep as her car proceeded north on Grand Avenue. How could a car turn right, merge with traffic, go five blocks at about 45 miles per hour staying in the narrow right lane, then jump the curb and hit the light pole so precisely with the right front wheel? Some intelligent being had to be behind the wheel. Later, in December 2003, Joanie attended a rock concert at a local night-club where her son was making his debut as a singer. She drove, knowing that if she got too tired she might have to leave early. The strobe lights were going all evening. She had to leave. She remembered only the first part of her trip home. She arrived home safely but in the morning she woke up on the

floor, not remembering the last part of the trip. Her body felt as if she had been run over by a truck. The inside of her mouth was chewed up. She was tangled with wires from the charging unit of her cell phone, along with the directions for charging it. Strobe lights. Epilepsy. Grand mal seizure? Who drove her home? Was it an ET, a guardian angel, or a member of the “We were there” group? Or, are they one and the same?

What’s Going On With Joanie?

UNDERSTANDING THE “GIGGLE POINT,” AND CONCEPTS THAT “BOGGLE” THE MIND

We all have a giggle point, that place where an idea or a concept is so “far out” that it sounds ridiculous and makes no sense. We call it “non-sense.” The idea is outside our Reality Box, the place in our minds where we keep those concepts that we believe to be true. There is nothing in our memory bank to which the idea can relate. A normal response is, “That’s a crazy idea” or, “That’s impossible!” Historical examples of what was once inside our consensus Reality Box include, 1) the earth is flat, 2) the sun goes around the earth, 3) iron will sink so ships must be made of wood, 4) rocks can’t possibly fall from the sky, or 5) anything heavier than air could never fly. But just because an idea *sounds* crazy at the time doesn’t mean that it *is* crazy. It would be more accurate to say, “I have a disability. There is no information in my memory bank that would support this idea. For that reason I am unable to believe it or even take it seriously.” To be able to say with certainty that something is impossible, a person would need to admit to knowing everything in this Universe and all other Universes. That seems just a little bit arrogant!

POSSIBLE PLANNING SESSION BETWEEN LIVES

Allow me to speculate about how all of this might work. Joanie’s Higher Self (SOUL) calls her soul group together. She’s ready to reincarnate once more. They review her past lifetimes and discuss what she still needs to learn. Through practice in previous lives, Joanie has developed integrity, compassion for others, social skills as well as healing and listening abilities. These qualities have become so natural that they are a part of her character and her Higher Self. She won’t tolerate meanness and wants to keep that aspect of her self. The group agrees. It is unanimous that to enhance her spirituality, she needs to 1) be less addicted to achieving, 2) learn to live in the “now,” 3) quit feeling guilty for anything “bad” that happens within a 30 mile radius, 4) practice controlling her expectations regarding how others will act, which lead to devastating disappointments, 5) stop trying to be perfect and realize that her essence is already perfect, and, especially, 6) learn to love and forgive herself for any perceived shortcomings.

Now each member of this loving soul group contemplates what it is *they* need to learn and then design a plan in which both they and Joanie can accomplish their purposes. Everything is win-win. They volunteer to play specific roles with whatever personality is required in order to accomplish a particular learning. If you plan to learn to forgive, it’s necessary that someone play the part of the abuser so that the abusee can practice forgiving. The members with the greatest love for Joanie volunteer for the nastiest assignments. They each program their individual unconscious minds to recognize each other when they meet. Some members of the group will remain on the other side and serve as guides or guardian angels. They all understand that accidents or individual choices might necessitate changes in their agreements. Amendments are possible.

Joanie knows that she is extremely independent and very focused on achieving, but she also wants this to be her last reincarnation on earth. Therefore she authorizes her soul group to do whatever is necessary to get her on a path of spiritual growth and keep her there. She authorizes and *insists* that they “do whatever is necessary” to keep her on that path during this lifetime.

THEY WON'T LET JOANIE DIE

The overall pattern that I detect, and this holds true from her birth to the present time, is that her soul group *will not* let Joanie die until she “gets it.” When she was born her doctor said, “We have to do an emergency cesarean. I don’t think your baby is going to live. I want to prepare you for the worst. If the baby does live, it will be blind and prone to catastrophic illnesses.” (P.26) The “We were there” group apparently had a part in pulling her through. I know not how they saved her when she was run over and her tricycle was totaled. (Pp.26-7) Maybe it was a momentary abduction, a dematerialization or just good luck. In any event, she was not allowed to die. Surviving a hit between the eyes with a baseball, falling out of a very tall tree with minor scratches, and influencing a rattlesnake to come out of the hole tail-first don’t seem particularly miraculous but the “We were there” group said they participated in those events. They were there when a wave formed way out in deep water, where waves don’t normally form. Joanie was thrown onto the beach and saved from drowning (P. 28). They were there for the horse accident when she was unconscious for 45 minutes. (This is another instance of missing time, a characteristic of abduction.)

Although it was not included in the vignettes of Joanie’s close encounters with death, it is clear to me that someone intervened when she put the gun to her head and pulled the trigger to the point of resistance (P. 92). She received the thought; “I can’t leave my kids like this, seeing their mom for the last time with her brains blown out.” The cats and dogs sensed something unseen. The two pet doves cooed. “Slowly, a blanket of peace and serenity settled over my head and shoulders.” That appears to be the same safe, secure feeling she felt with the stranger at Zuma Beach, when being visited by her guardian angel in ICU, and when the mysterious stranger accompanied her to the OR every time she made that trip. The vibrations were all similar to the unconditional love she felt on the other side. This intervention saved her life. They would not allow Joanie to die even when she tried to kill herself.

ATTEMPTS TO GET JOANIE ON A SPIRITUAL PATH

In her book, *Matthew, Tell Me About Heaven: A Firsthand Description of the Afterlife* (2002), Suzanne Ward asks her son about the NDE and its purpose. Matthew explains that the NDE may be an experience that was included in the pre-birth planning process as a learning experience. But, when it is not provided for in the pre-birth plan, “then it’s seen by spirit helpers as a necessary stimulus to get the soul level behavior back on the lifetime track chosen in the agreement.” (Page 185)

I have detected three attempts to get Joanie on a more spiritual path. The first was when she had an ovarian cyst. (P. 31). She and her roommate were both scheduled for surgery the next morning. Her roommate’s husband visited them. Before he left they all held hands and prayed for successful surgeries. After he left the two women talked about spiritual matters long after visiting hours. The next morning Joanie was prepped for the operation. Then it was discovered that the tumor was gone. In the vignette, she heard the doctor say, “I have been a doctor for many

years and have only read about what happened to you. I have never seen a spontaneous healing.” This miracle and the evidence of the effectiveness of prayer went right over Joanie’s head. Her response was, “Damn! I was looking forward to two days of rest. Now I have to go home.” If that was an attempt to entice Joanie on a spiritual bath, it failed. They kept trying.

When Joanie was on the other side she was taken to say goodbye to her long-time friends as they slept (P.24). She was a bit confused when she visited Martha, a person she had met only once. “Goodbye Martha, thank you for your life.” Her meeting with Martha was synchronistic. Joanie had visited California to interview for her “dream job.” That weekend the paths of six women, five of them from out of town just “happened” to drop in on Shirley (Joanie’s sister-in-law) on the same weekend. They were interested in “Science Of Mind” and two, including Martha, were ministers in that movement. Martha and Joanie talked all night of spiritual matters. It was a meaningful encounter for Joanie and seemed to be an invitation to explore a spiritual path, but Joanie’s need to achieve prevailed.

The third attempt to introduce Joanie to spiritual activities also had a synchronistic beginning. Joanie’s counselor, Mary, had a friend who had a daughter who taught classes in meditation, healing, and energy work. During the healing classes Joanie became very popular. Everyone wanted to be her partner. She had the ability to make a career in some type of healing or spiritual work. Unfortunately the class was too much of a financial strain and she dropped out.

Ardis and I met Joanie in late 1997 when her daughter brought Joanie to a meeting of the Oregon Chapter of IANDS, the International Association for Near-Death Studies. We took her to the IANDS Conferences in Seattle (2001) and in Evanston (2004). When she’s physically able, Joanie still attends the “Gathering,” an open forum for open-minded people who enjoy having a safe place to discuss paranormal and spiritual topics. Every month Ardis and I host this group, which includes, NDE’rs, hospice volunteers and others who have had some weird experiences.

BLOCKING OTHER AVENUES

After her grandfather predicted that her marriage wouldn’t last six months Joanie spent the next twenty years trying to prove that she could be the perfect mother and achieve the perfect marriage. Then she spent ten more years with John, until her money ran out. Then she went to work as an over-achieving workaholic. She got raises and bonuses until John got her fired (Pp. 89-91). Joanie had spent six years educating her self and making that company successful. But now she would not be able to spend the rest of her life working there. That avenue was blocked. (Had John volunteered in the pre-birth planning to do that in order to force her onto a spiritual path?)

The “dream job” in California, back with all of her old friends, seemed to be a wonderful answer. She would be selling videos for children teaching them how to take care of their pets. It was perfect for the “animal lady.” But by the time Joanie moved to California, the manager had decided to give that job to his wife. Joanie would be telemarketing videotapes for training law enforcement personnel. The videos were very realistic situations of rape, murder, sodomy, domestic violence, hostage situations, etc. She studied them, watched them at work; took them home to study them. She immersed her self in this spiritually toxic material. By Friday of the third week she had received a nice bonus for exceeding expected sales. She was on her way to a

successful career in telemarketing! But it wasn't allowed to happen. She remembers nothing after Friday evening. . She thought it was Sunday morning when she answered the phone (P.95). A male voice asked why she wasn't at work, that it was 8:30 Monday morning. (Another lost time incident.) She didn't know who he was, who she was, or where she was. Because of her bazaar behavior he called Joanie's emergency contact, Shirley, who took her to the psych ward where she spent the next 72 hours being evaluated. Joanie did not return to work. The path of the over-achieving workaholic was blocked again. The soul group was following instructions to "do whatever is necessary"

Back in Portland, after returning to work in some pet stores, she found another ideal job "crunching numbers." Within weeks that job became a nightmare. First it was the swing shift, then overtime, then weekends (P. 98). She had no life of her own. That career ended in the crash on the early morning of May 13, 1997. What Joanie didn't know was that waiting for her in the mailbox was a letter from John. He realized that he had made a terrible mistake and wanted very much to get back together with her. Being as forgiving as she was, it is very likely that she would have partnered again with him. There would be no spiritual growth for Joanie in that arrangement. John was so controlling that he would not even allow Joanie to place over their bed a cross which had belonged to her mother. Joanie didn't learn about the letter for six months. Friends, family and medical personnel all knew about it, but not Joanie. Susan, her friend from high school, spilled the beans in a phone call. It was also Susan who realized that the result of the accident (and maybe the purpose) was that Joanie should not see the letter and not be tempted to rejoin John. That would have precluded any spiritual growth on her part.

The pain from the injuries received in the crash kept her from going back to work for more than a couple of hours a day. Joanie's doctor told her that she would never be the same person she was before the accident. Then, in February 2005 she felt fairly strong and started wondering about getting a job and maybe a new car. She felt so strong that she was sure she could replace that one slat that had come off the vertical blinds. Joanie stood on a rickety stepstool to get high enough to do the job. Before she could complete the project she felt a push on the back of her knees. It was the same sensation she had felt many times before when her friend and neighbor in Brentwood and classmate at Orme High School, would sneak up behind her and bend his knees thus causing hers to buckle. (About a year after graduation he had asked Joanie to marry him. She married Mike instead. Her friend enlisted and went to Viet Nam where he was killed shortly after arriving there in 1968.) With her dead friend's help, Joanie's knees bent, she fell off the stool and broke her right arm just below the shoulder. She was not strong enough to have the arm pinned so it had to heal as it hung in a sling.

Going back to work was not an option. She was blocked again from going back to her "over-achieving" life. Joanie's friend was probably a member of her soul group. He volunteered to be the "buddy" when he wanted to be her lover, to die early so he could serve as a spirit guide. His early death gave Joanie a chance to understand that putting herself on a guilt trip is self-inflicted cruelty. Joanie felt responsible for his death. She thought that her rejection of his marriage offer had caused him to enlist and get himself killed. At a class reunion 35 years after his death she was greatly relieved to learn that there were other factors involved, that she was *not* responsible for her friend's death. There is no virtue, only cruelty, in a self-inflicted guilt-trip.

If Joanie's soul group's plans for this lifetime are as I have suggested, they have done an excellent job. She has not been allowed to die, they have blocked all of her attempts to return to a life of over-achieving, and she is continuing to learn and grow. I don't know if the pain is still necessary, but I suspect that it is. I say that because on those rare occasions when she feels energetic and at a manageable pain level, she is still likely to go full speed ahead with household chores. She pays a high price physically, but accomplishing something is still very satisfying for her psychologically. Those old habits are like steel cables, and just as hard to break.

JOANIE'S LIFE TODAY

Arthritis now causes pain in addition to that caused by scar tissue. The effectiveness of both the lungs and the heart are hampered by scar tissue. All of the heart valves are leaking and some are regurgitating, so her energy is very limited. She knows there is no "fix" for these problems. Still, the reading, discussing, learning and changing continues. We try to understand the meaning of Joanie's NDE and why the wide-spread NDE phenomenon is occurring at this time. Is it a part of a larger picture? If so, what is included in that picture?

Joanie has shown a sustained interest in exploring books in the spiritual realm since *Possible Fatal* was published in 2004. While waiting and hoping that she will be sufficiently pain-free to start scheduling public appearances to promote the book, we have been having regular seminars--just the two of us. She is bright and curious, and has never had the opportunity to ask questions. I read aloud and we stop frequently to discuss items that pertain to her experiences. We rely on synchronicity to select books. If the title sounds interesting we browse the table of contents. Sometimes we devour the whole book. My library is fairly extensive, so we have many possibilities--NDE's, ET's, Past Lives, Reincarnation, Life between lives, Conversations With God Series, Matthew Books, Don Miguel Ruiz's Four Agreements, Lynne McTaggart's *The Field*, Robert Schwartz's *Courageous Souls*, Eckhart Tolle's *A New Earth*, books by PMH Atwater, Victor Zammit, Zecharia Sitchin, Drunvalo Melchizedek, etc. Her favorite magazine is NEXUS which is published in Australia. If a topic is especially interesting, our reading distracts her attention from the pain for about two hours, then fatigue sets in. One article in the March-April 2008 issue of NEXUS kept us engrossed for eight hours spread over four days. (More about that later.) Our exploration of matters spiritual continues to the benefit of both of us.

Patterns Revealed By The NDE And Christian Dogma

BIBLICAL CONFUSION REGARDING REINCARNATION

Reincarnation is relevant in attempting to understand Joanie's story. Christianity today is not clear regarding reincarnation. One part of the *Bible* would have you believe that a past life is impossible. "And just as it is appointed for men to die once, after that comes the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." (*Hebrews 9:27-28*). This part of the *Bible* is congruent with the action of the Fifth General Council of the Church in 553 AD. The Council declared that the pre-existence of the soul is anathema. According to Elizabeth Claire Prophet, in her book, *Reincarnation: The Missing Link in Christianity* (1997), this "curse" formed the foundation for the rejection of reincarnation. Obviously, it must have been a part of the teachings of the early Christians or it could not have been rejected.

In another part of the *Bible* it appears that people in the time of Jesus understood that reincarnation was common. “As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth, and his disciples asked him, “*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he be born blind?*” (John 9:1-2) Obviously, the man must have had a previous lifetime in which to sin. Jesus’ answer is also very interesting. “*It is not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him.*” (John 9:3) Jesus’ explanation sounds very much like pre-birth planning as Robert Schwartz describes in his book, *COURAGEOUS SOULS: Do We Plan Our Life Challenges Before Birth?* (2007).

Prophet also states that in Jesus’ time people expected Elijah to return as the forerunner of the Messiah, and refers to Matt. 16:14, Mark 6:15 and Luke 9:8 (pages 96-97). Jesus asked his disciples, “*Who do men say that the Son of man is?*” And they said, “*Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.*” (Matt. 16:23-24) Jesus then explained that Elijah had already returned as John the Baptist, who had been beheaded.

Jesus was discussing the true descendants of Abraham when “The Jew then said to him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’” (John 8: 57-58) This portion of the *Bible* not only supports the concept of reincarnation, but opens the possibility that Jesus is really an old-timer. In fact, Glenn Sanderfur researched the Edgar Cayce Library and wrote a book, *Lives of the Master: The Rest of the Jesus Story* (1988), which suggests many incarnations of Jesus including Adam, Enoch, Hermes, Melchizedek, Joseph, Joshua, and Zend the father of Zoroaster. Obviously there is confusion between what Jesus believed and our current Bible.

NEAR- DEATH EXPERIENCES THAT CONFIRM BIBLICAL DESCRIPTIONS

When they visit the other side, NDE’ers are often met by a “Being of Light,” or they are engulfed in the Light. They understand that the Light is Unconditional Love. Some are met by dead relatives and friends. Many believe they are met by Jesus. They realize that there is no death. Almost unanimously they lose their fear of death.

Most NDE’ers feel safe, secure and at peace, even if they have just experienced a horrible, painful death. This certainly resembles the “*peace of God, which passes all understanding*” that is referred to in Philippians 4:7. Typically, the NDE’er is unable to adequately describe this feeling. It is also such a powerful experience that they are unable to forget it.

They describe the place in which they find themselves as Home, where they belong, and where they came from. For years following the NDE, they feel a longing, a yearning, and a sickness for home, Homesickness. What is this home? What is on the other side of the veil? It sounds like heaven, a place that was prepared for people. “*In my house are many rooms; If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you.*” (John: 14-2.)

It is common for NDE’ers, while on the other side, to have the feeling that everything in this crazy world makes sense. They seem to understand the purpose of all the things that are happening, as if in a reality where all knowledge exists and is available to them. St. Paul seems to have anticipated such a reality when he wrote in I Corinthians 13:12. “*For now we see in a glass darkly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then shall I understand fully, even as I also have been fully understood.*” Most NDE’ers never think to ask questions. There is no need

for questions because they already understand everything. One exception is PMH Atwater, who was trained as child by her father, a policeman, to be a keen observer of everything in her environment, apparently that characteristic continued to operate while PMH was on the other side.

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES THAT CONFLICT WITH THE *BIBLE*

The Hebrews chapter of the *Bible* contains concepts that aren't congruent with the near-death-experience or teachings of Jesus as presented in the *Bible*. "*And just as it is appointed for men to die once, after that comes the judgment, . . .*" (*Hebrews 9:27*). That is certainly in conflict with the story of Pam Reynolds, who was very, very dead during her NDE. Many experiencers have had multiple NDE's. For example, Dannon Brinkley has had three or four and PMH Atwater had three in 1977. This is in conflict with the declaration that "*it is appointed for men to die once.*" The next statement, "*after that comes the judgment.*" This prediction that when a person dies, he/she will be judged is repeated over and over in the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, used by most of the established churches, and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. "The third day he rose (again) from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He will come to judge the quick (living) and the dead." The NDE does not include being judged. Often the life was reviewed but the only judgment was self-judgment or evaluation after experiencing the life review.

It is inconceivable to me that Jesus could teach us to be non-judgmental during his time on earth then contradict his own teaching later. I can't believe that Jesus would be such a hypocrite. The inconsistencies between their religious teachings and their experience of the NDE lead the experiencer to realize, as Joanie did, that their essence is spiritual, they are spiritual beings. They understand that there is a big difference between being religious and being spiritual.

When, where, how and why did these inconsistencies develop? What happened to the teachings to 1) love God, your neighbor and yourself, 2) love your enemies, 3) judge not, 4) forgive others, 5) the father and I are one, 6) you and I are brothers, 7) what I can do, you can do, and 8) decide for yourself what is right. This is how it might have happened. Allow me to speculate.

How Emperor Constantine Sidetracked The Teachings of Jesus

TRYING TO THINK LIKE EMPEROR CONSTANTINE

In 325 AD the Roman Emperor Constantine had just combined the eastern and western empires, basically doubling the size of his job. Traditionally the Romans would conquer a territory, allow the local temple or synagogue to continue controlling the people, appoint a tax-collector, station a small group of soldiers in the community to insure that there would be no uprisings, then send the taxes back to Rome.

There was one group of believers, followers of Jesus, who had given the Romans a problem for a long time. No matter how many followers of Jesus the Romans fed to the lions, they were difficult to control. Why not make their teacher (Jesus) into a God and thus create a religion. It has worked very well to allow the religions to control the people. Then all the Romans have to do is control the religion. That would be a piece of cake if the Emperor (me, Constantine) made

Christianity the official religion of the Empire. There should be no problem elevating Jesus to a God. Some of the Christians were already flirting with the Roman practice of making dead Emperors into “Gods” by declaring them the middle man of the Trinity. Constantine had a plan. He called together a Council. That’s the end of my speculation.

THE COUNCIL AT NICEA

I’ll leave the explanation of the details of the Council for Victor Zammit, a retired Australian Supreme Court Justice and author of *A Lawyer Presents the Case for the Afterlife* writes in his weekly Commentary for May 9, 2008: (<http://www.victozammit.com/weekthree/>)

“**The Nicean Council** attended by some 2,048 mostly uninformed Christian priests. It ran from May until September 325 AD. It was here that the first motion ‘that Jesus was God’ was lost – a win for the Unitarians. But the Trinitarians lobbied Emperor Constantine and begged him to make Jesus God, the way Constantine made his own father a ‘god’ (all Roman Emperors became gods after their death). They argued that Jesus could not be less in value than the existing Pagan God of the Romans, Mithra (Mithra himself was the second person of the Roman Trinity). On the promise that the Christians would forgive the violent sins committed by Constantine, he decided to ban all Unitarians and put the vote again. This time the motion passed that Jesus was ‘God’. That is how Jesus became known through the world these last 1800 years or so, as the second person of the trinity. Jesus never claimed in any texts that he was the ‘Second Person of the Trinity’. My research shows that there is no real dispute about these incidents. If you have objective authority to the contrary feel free to contact me anytime.”

The Nicene Creed, the Apostles’ Creed and the Catholic Catechism have been pounded into the consciousnesses of millions of people for hundreds of years. I muttered the words of the Apostles’ Creed in various churches for about 55 years, never questioning the validity of the words. After not reciting the Creed for about twenty years, I visited a church (Lutheran) and found myself going along with the routine. Some of it was true, some of it false, and a lot of it irrelevant. I had a definite “gut” reaction of nausea. (It bothered me so much that during the next month I wrote my own version!).

AN UPDATE IS OVERDUE.

It is time for a checkup. It has been more than 1700 years since Emperor Constantine created what we call Christianity. (It only took the Catholic Church 359 years, 1633-1992, to correct the record regarding Galileo.) It’s time for the churches, or the people, to investigate the differences in the religious Creeds and the evidence brought back by an estimated 15 million Americans NDE’ers. A good place to start would be PMH Atwater’s new publication, *The Big Book of Near-Death Experiences: The Ultimate Guide to What Happens When We Die* (2007). The NDE phenomenon is only one of the many developments involving the other side, spiritual matters, extraterrestrials, healing, communications, and similar matters.

CONFUSION AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Emperor Constantine’s influence through the Catechism, the Nicene Creed and Apostles’ Creed did absolutely nothing to prepare people for death. If they had any hint at all, it was that they would descend into hell, and that they could expect to be judged. According to the NDE’ers, the dying experience is completely the opposite. Experiencing Unconditional Love and the peace

that is beyond description is certainly not hell! And the only judgment is their own evaluation after a life review, if they have one. This confusion between the death experience and their expectations based on Constantine's "brainwashing" causes many problems.

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY MISINFORMATION

Dead friends and relatives visit many people, when death is gradual and expected. Twice before she died my mother introduced her spirit friends from the Claflin Sunday School Class. She was almost 96 and had out-lived them all. We explained that we knew they were there but that we couldn't see them. Just minutes before my sister quit breathing she mentioned "the blue light" and I'm certain it had nothing to do with a K-Mart Special. Mom and Ruth knew what to expect.

Others, expecting "nothingness" or a trip to hell, die and don't even realize that they are dead. This is particularly true if the death is sudden and violent. They are met by friends or "beings of light" but are so focused on this physical reality that they pay no attention to their spirit greeters. They are lost. They wander around, sometimes attaching themselves to living persons. I call them hitchhikers. Their thoughts, emotions and addictions are still with them and confuse their unsuspecting host. I spent a few years counseling these hitchhikers through a psychic medium, convincing them that they were dead and that they were a problem for the host and that it was time for them to go to the Light. Gary Leon Hill tells that story in his book, *People Who Don't Know They're Dead* (2005). Not all of the lost, earth-bound souls become hitchhikers. Many just wander around until they are rescued. And who would be better qualified to rescue lost spirits than an NDE'er?

JOANIE'S MOONLIGHT JOB

Sometimes Joanie works at night. The first assignment she can remember was in 1999 when she found a young boy wandering around the school cafeteria in a state of confusion. She comforted him and escorted him to the Light. Shortly after that experience she learned of the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Years later I did an Internet search and located pictures of the thirteen victims. She recognized the boy. Sometimes she remembers a face; sometimes she remembers the scene, the terrain, or the weather. Sometimes she remembers nothing, but she feels as if she worked all night.

THE CASE OF BABY GRACE

About the middle of October 2007 Joanie told me about her most vivid rescue mission. She took a frightened, confused little girl by the hand, calmed and comforted her, then escorted her to a doorway of brilliant, blue-white light where she would be met by people in the spirit world who love her. On October 30 a fisherman found the remains of a little girl in a plastic tote box on the shore near Galveston, Texas. In a few days an artist painted a picture of what Baby Grace would have looked like. Joanie recognized the little girl but said that the mouth and smile weren't quite right. When the mystery was finally solved, a photo of the child appeared on the Internet. Joanie was positive, "That's her!"

WHY ME?

When Joanie asks, "Why me?" I answer, "Why not you? You're certainly qualified. You have been to the Light. You're comfortable on the other side; you understand death; you know what is

needed; you appear to be solid, friendly and approachable. For a person who is dead and confused, you're exactly the person who is needed because you've been there and done that."

IS THIS THE MISSION OF THE NDE'ERS?

It used to be common to say that, "Nobody knows what happens at death; nobody has come back to tell us." Well, 15 million Americans *have* come back and what they tell us is nothing like Emperor Constantine's propaganda. Knowing what really happens at death is very important. Feodor Dostoevski, Russian novelist, thought it was the *most* important question that could be asked. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations explained why it is important. "If we go to the root of the matter, it is our concept of death that decides our answers to all the questions which life poses." Our concept of death has been distorted by misinformation for 1700 years. It's time to make some corrections. The evidence is available.

Is it the mission of the NDE'ers to correct the misinformation about dying that Emperor Constantine initiated and has been stamped into the psyches of millions of people for centuries? Initially the NDE mission was to inform the public and medical personnel that people do have near-death experiences, that they are traumatic, but, they are *not* a sign of insanity. The fear of being "crazy" kept NDE'ers silent for a very long time. Not any more! There are enough books in print to prove that point. So, what is the next step? Yes, I think the next step is to correct the dogma. I also believe that the NDE is a part of something larger, much larger. We are about to learn who we really are and where we came from. There is a spiritual theme that runs through much of what's going on in the world. It is a Super Highway and it has a lot of onramps of which the NDE is an important one.

What's Going On In The World?

EXPANDED AWARENESS AND CONSCIOUSNESS

Between January 31 and February 9, 1971 Navy Captain Edgar Mitchell made a trip to the moon; as an Apollo 14 astronaut he was the sixth man to walk on the moon. Viewing the beautiful planet Earth as he was returning home, Mitchell had a mystical experience, an epiphany (Or was it a message from his Higher Self?). He decided we didn't need more technology; we needed to study consciousness. He left the navy and founded the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) in 1973.

The drug culture of the 1960's was an educational experience, at least for the participants. They realized through their expanded awareness that they can exist outside of their bodies. They are more than their bodies. This opens the possibility that we are of a spiritual nature.

Bob Monroe's Out of Body Experiences (OBE) led us to believe that other realities exist, and we can go there without the use of drugs. When out of the body we can travel just by desiring to be in another location. The Monroe Institute trained people to rescue souls who were trapped by a catastrophe, such as an earthquake. Bruce Moen an engineer from Denver and a Monroe Institute graduate was drawn to the Oklahoma City bombing where he rescued souls from the rubble and passed them off to light beings to be escorted to the Light. Harold Sherman and Ingo Swann traveled to one of the planets and reported their findings. Later the NASA space probe data confirmed their findings. Ingo Swann worked with Hal Puthoff and Russell Targ at SRI setting

up the Remote Viewing protocol for the US government. Several of the remote viewers also trained at the Monroe Institute.

Biofeedback was popularized in this country by Elmer Green at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, KS in the 1970's and 1980's. I attended short training sessions there in 1974 and 1977. They found that with proper feedback of information, the mind could control such "involuntary" functions as heart rate, blood pressure, brain waves, muscle firings, and skin temperature. This ability would indicate that conscious awareness was not just an epiphenomenon of the brain, an erroneous assumption of the medical community. If the brain, a part of the body, created the mind, how could the product control its creator? (This makes the explanation in the *Bible* more believable. In the beginning was the word and the word was made flesh.) After retiring from the Menninger Foundation Elmer Green founded ISSSEEM, the International Society for the Study of Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine (1989). They study "systems and energies that interact with the human psyche and physiology, either enhancing or perturbing health." They research such topics as love, healing and prayer.

CONSCIOUS AWARENESS BETWEEN PLANTS, CELLS AND WATER

In 1966 Cleve Backster, polygraph expert, discovered that a plant in his office could read his mind, indicating that some kind of communication is possible between species. Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird wrote about his work in *The Secret Life of Plants* (1973), as did Robert B. Stone in *The Secret Life Of Your Cells* (1989). Cleve Backster wrote his own book in 2003, *Primary Perception: BioCommunication with Plants, Living Foods, and Human Cells*. Masaru Emoto's research found that both positive and negative thoughts have an effect on the structure of water. Microscopic pictures of frozen water crystals appear as beautiful snowflakes when sent love, appreciation and gratitude. The pictures of water after being sent hateful messages have an ugly appearance. It makes one wonder what our negative thinking does to our bodies because they are about 70% water!

A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF THE AFTERLIFE

In 1975 Raymond Moody published *Life After Life*, and coined the term, Near-Death Experience or NDE. That book stirred up so many reports of NDE's that he published *Reflections on Life After Death* in 1977. An organization, IANDS, the International Association for Near-Death Studies, was founded in 1978 to scientifically study the NDE phenomenon. There are now thousands of books describing the afterlife by persons who have been clinically dead

ELECTRONIC REPORTS FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Our understanding of the afterlife was enlarged greatly when in 1995 Mark Macy and Pat Kubis published *Conversations Beyond the Light with departed friends and colleagues by electronic means..* Mark presented the book at the IONS Conference that year. The dead have been trying to help us for years through psychics and mediums. They want us to know that there is no death, that we are spirits, that life and learning goes on, that we only judge ourselves, that there is no hell. Now they have gone high tech. Marconi and Edison tried to communicate with the other side. Friedrich Jurgenson recorded spirit voices in 1956 starting the Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP). Scott Rogo and Raymond Bayless published *Phone Calls from the Dead* in 1975. Later in the 70's people were getting messages on FM radios. Then came answering machines, computer discs, black and white TV sets and, finally, colored TV. The World ITC

Association deals with what is being called Instrumental Transcommunication (ITC). Timestream is the name of a group on the other side that continues to work to improve electronic communications in an effort to help people on Earth understand who they really are. At least one member of the group, the director, is not from planet Earth.

Signs Of A New Spirituality

INSPIRED LITERATURE

ACIM, *A Course In Miracles* came about in a strange and wondrous way. It is described on the web site <http://www.acim.org>. Helen Schucman and Bill Thetford were both PhD psychologists at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. They both wanted to improve the department but their personalities clashed constantly. In the spring of 1965 Bill confronted Helen. He'd had a belly full of the anger, competitiveness and competition that was poisoning their relationship. He declared, "there must be another way" of living—in harmony rather than discord—and that he was determined to find it. Surprisingly, she agreed enthusiastically and joined him in the project. Then strange things began happening to Helen. Dreams, psychic episodes, images of Jesus, and even voices intruded into her consciousness. That was quite unsettling, especially for a psychologist who considered herself an atheist! By October 21, 1965 the familiar voice, which she recognized as Jesus, said, "**This is a course in Miracles, please take notes.**" She did, after Bill reaffirmed that she was not mad. Then he typed as she read her notes. Seven years later the project was complete. The material was foreign to Helen; it made her uncomfortable. She wanted to prove it wrong, but it did not occur to her to quit. She finally recognized the project as her life's work. Bill said the project changed his life completely. He said that the Course helps us learn how to forgive ourselves and others; it teaches us that we are not separated from God and never have been. It helps us "change our minds about who we are and what God is."

David R. Hawkins, MD, PhD

Power vs Force: The Hidden Determinants of Human Behavior

Truth vs Falsehood: How to Tell the Difference

Discovery of the Presence of God: Devotional Nonduality

Neale Donald Walsch's *Conversations With God* Series of eight books

Conversations With God: An Uncommon Dialogue, books 1, 2, and 3.

Friendship With God.

Communion With God.

The New Revelations.

Tomorrow's God.

Home With God In A Life That Never Ends

Messengers by Julia Ingram and G. W. Hardin. The story of how the angels, with the help of several psychics, got the attention of a real estate developer from Lake Oswego and convinced him to explore his past life as St. Paul the apostle. (Julia Ingram's 26 hours of past-life regression reveal biblical discrepancies.)

Books by Suzanne Ward as channeled from her son Matthew, who died in 1980 at age 17.

Matthew, Tell Me About Heaven: A Firsthand Description of the Afterlife
Revelations For A New Era: Keys to Restoring Paradise On Earth
Illuminations For A New Era: Understanding These Turbulent Times
Voices Of The Universe: Your Voice Affects the Universe, Let It Be With Love

The Ringing Cedars of Russia book series by Vladimir Megre
Anastasia, The Ringing Cedars of Russia, The Space of Love, Co-Creation, Who Are WE?, The Book of Kin.

There are more signs of a spiritual awakening. Oprah's worldwide interactive seminar with Eckhart Tolle trying to differentiate between our egos (conditioning) and our spiritual essence. Soul Series Interviews by Oprah Winfrey including the interview with Jill Bolte Taylor and her book, *My Stroke of Insight* (2006). The Global Consciousness Project, Lynne McTaggart's Intentional Experiment, Shelley Yates' Fire the Grid Project, the talented children (Indigo, Crystal, Rainbow), Institute of HeartMath, Zero Point Energy, quantum physics, holography, the Star Trek series, and many others.

There is a spiritual theme that runs through all of these events, books, organizations and projects. Something is happening, and it is accelerating rapidly. I think we are being guided by some superior intelligence(s) to finally discover our true nature. I see all of the above as "on-ramps" leading to a Spiritual Super Highway. Change is in the wind; the target date may be the year 2012. We have a lot of help out there in our journey to discover who we are. There are also powerful forces trying desperately to keep us in the dark.

Who Is Keeping Us In The Dark?

THE UFO CONNECTION

Dr. Steven Greer's Disclosure Project is a nonprofit research project working to fully disclose the facts about UFOs, extraterrestrial intelligence, and classified advanced energy and propulsion systems. Dr. Greer has more than 400 government, military, and intelligence community witnesses testifying to their direct, personal, first hand experience with UFOs, ETs, ET technology, and the cover-up that keeps this information secret. One of Dr. Greer's witnesses was a blond lady from a company (Fairchild) where she worked with Werner Von Braun. He told her that first the "enemy" would be communism, then terrorism, then the aliens. He emphasized with great urgency that we should not believe that the aliens are hostile.

IS IT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO ARE KEEPING US IN THE DARK?

Not exactly. Our elected officials are also being kept in the dark. For example, in 1968 when Sen. Barry Goldwater asked Gen. Curtis LeMay about UFO's and a room at Wright-Patterson AFB where it was rumored that alien bodies were being stored, he got severely reprimanded by LeMay. When Jimmy Carter was elected president he called in the Director of the CIA, George H. W. Bush to learn about UFO's. He was told that he did not have a need to know that information. President Bill Clinton also had trouble getting information and called in Dr. Steven Greer to learn what he could. This means that if you still believe that the president of the United States is the most powerful person on earth, you need to readjust that thinking. (See

<http://www.presidentialufo.com> for information on UFO's and the presidents from FDR to Bill Clinton.)

WHAT IS IT THAT WE ARE NOT BEING ALLOWED TO KNOW?

It must be very important information if the elected president of the US cannot be trusted with it. Why is it so important? Who decided? Who appointed the keepers of the secret and by what authority? And how have the people who know the secret been kept quiet for 60 years? (My guess is that nothing short of an agreement to be assassinated if the "knower of the secret" shows signs of revealing it, and an agreement to be the assassin when necessary. Even if a "knower" is willing to die to reveal the secret, he/she could be silenced by threatening the lives of loved ones.)

We can only guess the secret by fitting as many pieces together as possible. Religion is involved. Spiritual awakening is involved, as are UFO's, aliens, nuclear weapons, and the survival of planet Earth. Many of those pieces got fitted together when Joanie and I read "The Secret War On ET Contactees" that was published in *NEXUS New Times* for March/April 2008. (<http://www.nexusmagazine.com>) The article was written by Michael E. Salla, PhD (<http://www.exopolitics.org>). Salla reveals how "they" put the lid on the information. "Since the early 1950's, a series of counterintelligence programs run by the CIA, NSA, FBI and other US agencies have been used to monitor, debunk, discredit and neutralize alien contactees and supporters on the pretext of their threat to national security." This article grabbed Joanie's attention like nothing else that we had read. We spent two hours a day for four days discussing it, and the memories she recalled.

Joanie's Puzzling UFO/ Alien background

The first time I saw Joanie's apartment, I noticed a huge poster of a flying saucer with the message, "I BELIEVE" At that time she mentioned that as an adult she and some friends had seen a UFO and had been interviewed by some scientists from Stanford University concerning it. But the memories really flooded back when we read Salla's article in NEXUS.

As a child, Joanie knew that her mother and grandmother (Meme) both believed that the human race was a project of the aliens. Joanie recalled her service with the Los Angeles Ground Observer Corps (GOC). Meme seemed to be the chief volunteer because if some other volunteers couldn't meet their schedule, Meme filled in. She often took Joanie in the middle of the night to the GOC lookout on the hilltop overlooking Los Angeles. Joanie became an expert in aircraft identification, especially the USSR bombers. She showed me her medals depicting her service with the GOC. She remembered that if a UFO was seen, Meme would be the one to interview the lookout who had spotted the UFO. Meme sometimes made "secret" trips back east. Meme even took her to the secret Filter Center which Joanie remembered as being under a bank in downtown LA. That's where she met Gen. Curtis LeMay, commander of the Strategic Air Command. (At the same time I was flying B-47's for Gen LeMay in the Strategic Air Command {SAC} with the 9th Bomb Wing in Mt. Home, Idaho.)

JOANIE MEETS GEORGE ADAMSKI

When she was in the 7th grade Joanie's friend Jill invited her to go with Jill and her father to visit Mount Palomar. There she was interviewed by George Adamski. In his article in NEXUS, Michael Salla mentions George Adamski as one of several individuals, such as George Van Tassel and Eduard "Billy" Meier, who, in the early 1950's, had been reporting direct physical contact with "human looking" representatives of extraterrestrial (ET) civilizations. (You can learn more about Billy Meier from George Green at his web site <http://www.nohoax.com>) Adamski became the most widely known of this group due to his best-selling books, the first of which was, *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. Adamski autographed Joanie's copy but it was lost long ago.

Adamski saw his first space ship on October 9, 1946. He has many photographs taken through his telescopes over the years. Experts have found some of them to be authentic and not hoaxes. *Fate Magazine* for July 1951 carries an article by Adamski titled "I Photographed Space Ships" (pages 64-73).

On 20 November 1952 in Desert Center, California Adamski met Orthon, the occupant of an ET scoutcraft from Venus. Orthon warned of the danger that uncontrolled nuclear reactions could destroy humanity and the world. (Many abductees report that ET's have this same concern for planet Earth.) In one of his speeches Adamski revealed that the society Orthon described most closely resembled communism and that "this country is a corrupt form of government and capitalists are enslaving the poor." (NEXUS p.54) In the McCarthy era those were fighting words and brought Adamski much attention by government agencies. (He died of a "heart attack" in Washington, DC on April 23, 1965.)

JOANIE AND GEOGE ADAMSKI EXPERIENCE SIMILAR FEELINGS WHEN MEETING STRANGE BEINGS
George Adamski experienced a feeling very similar to Joanie's experiences when she suddenly went from fear to feeling safe at Zuma Beach, at her bedside in the ICU, and on each of her trips to the Operating Room. Adamski's experience happened in 1952 with Orthon and is quoted from *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. I found this quote on the Internet at <http://www.gafintl-adamski.com/htm/Landing.htm> .

"As I approached him a strange feeling came upon me and I became cautious. At the same time I looked round to reassure myself that we were both in full sight of my companions. Outwardly there was no reason for this feeling, for the man looked like any other man, and I could see that he was somewhat smaller than I and considerably younger."

" Suddenly, as though a veil was removed from my mind, the feeling of caution left me so completely that I was no longer aware of my friends...By this time we were quite close. He took four steps toward me, bringing us within arm's length of each other."

Now for the first time I fully realized that I was in the presence of a man from space – A HUMAN BEING FROM ANOTHER WORLD! The beauty of his form surpassed anything I had ever seen. And the pleasantness of his face freed me of all thought of my personal self. I felt like a little child in the presence of one with great wisdom and much love, and I became very humble within myself...for from him was radiating a feeling of infinite understanding and kindness, with supreme humility.

" He made me understand that their coming was friendly. Also, as he gestured, that they were concerned with the radiation going out from earth. I asked if this concern was due to the

explosions of our bombs with their resultant vast radio-active clouds? He understood this readily and nodded his head in the affirmative.”

Adamski’s description of his meeting with Orthon is very much like George R. Ritchie’s description of meeting Jesus during his NDE in 1943. (*Return from Tomorrow*, 1978, page 49.) Is it possible that a Being similar to George Adamski’s spacebrother (Orthon) could be mistaken for a god (with a little “g”)? According to the research of Zecharia Sitchin, just such an event may have actually happened but was misinterpreted in Genesis.

ZACHARIA SITCHIN’S STORY

I heard Zecharia Sitchin speak at the 1996 conference of the International Association for New Science (IANS) in Fort Collins, CO. (*Of Heaven and Earth*, edited by Zecharia Sitchin, 1996). His story starts in Palestine.

“I was a schoolboy, privileged to study the Bible in its original language, Hebrew. We reached the story of the Great Flood in the book of Genesis, where it is stated that it was at that time that the NEFILIM were upon the earth, who went on to marry the daughters of Man. The teacher explained that the story speaks of giants who were then upon the Earth. I raised my hand and pointed out that the word literally meant those who have descended down (in the context) from the heavens to Earth. For that, instead of being complimented, I was reprimanded. ‘You don’t question the Bible!’ the teacher roared. . . .

“I can still feel the hurting. It caused me to become persistent in looking for the answer to the enigma of the Nefilim. To whom was the Bible referring? And why does the next verse in Genesis refer to them as sons (plural) of the gods (plural)—an aberration in a Bible devoted to monotheism.”

Sitchin traced the mythologies of many ancient cultures and found that they seemed to tell the same story except that they called the pantheons by different names. He found the common source. The tales were first recorded on clay tablets by the ancient Sumerians. So, a corrected translation of Genesis would lead us to believe that *homo sapiens*, the human race, is a project of space-traveling genetic engineers. Of course we couldn’t understand that until we understood space travel, genetic engineering and DNA. Maybe Meme and Joanie’s mother were right, we are the project of the aliens from space. This new understanding of Genesis could explain the reference to “jealous” gods. Could space-traveling genetic engineers be jealous of each other’s projects? Have we had other visitors since the Nefilim?

Ancient and Recent Visitors to Planet Earth

Once you can get your mind wrapped around the ideas that space travel is possible and that ancient civilizations have existed for hundreds of thousands of years, the question naturally arises concerning how many visitors have made trips to Planet Earth.

EDGAR CAYCE’S READINGS AT THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH AND ENLIGHTENMENT

In 1988 Glenn Sanderfur suggested in his book, *LIVES OF THE MASTER: The Rest of the Jesus Story*, that Jesus had many lives. Included in this list are Adam, the first created man; Enoch, the antediluvian patriarch; Hermes, architect of the Great Pyramid; Melchizedek, a priest and king of

Salem (ancient Jerusalem); Joseph, who worked with the pharaoh in Egypt, Joshua, who led the Israelites into the Promised Land; Zoroaster, father of Zoroaster; and Jesus.

SOME IDEAS FROM SETH

Seth was a “personality” from another world who spoke through the body of Jane Roberts while her husband recorded the messages. In *Seth Speaks* (1972) he reveals that the Buddha was an earlier incarnation of Jesus. That may explain why the wisdom of Buddha is very much like the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the *New Testament*. In fact, Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Zen Buddhist monk stated that a happy Christian is a good Buddhist.

Seth also revealed that the mission of Jesus in spreading the word that we are spiritual Beings was such a huge task that three personalities were required. John the Baptist was to announce the coming of Jesus. Jesus conducted his free seminars on how to relate to our neighbors, God, our selves, and even to our enemies. (Love them.) Saul of Tarsus, St. Paul the apostle did the follow-up. Seth also predicted that Saul of Tarsus would reincarnate in our time.

INFORMATION FROM THE REINCARNATION OF SAUL OF TARSUS

(From *The Messenger: A True Story of Angelic Presence and the Return to the Age of Miracles* (1996) by Julia Ingram and G. W. Hardin.)

Nick Bunick of Lake Oswego, Oregon is a successful businessman who experienced many angelic encounters and synchronicities. For years several psychics had told him that he had lived in biblical times. One of those psychics was Laurie McQuary, also of Lake Oswego. Laurie finally confronted Nick with the information that he had not only lived in biblical times, but that he was the reincarnation of Saul of Tarsus and that he ought to do something about it. She suggested a series of hypnotic regressions with a Portland regression therapist, Julia Ingram. They agreed to thirteen two-hour sessions. These 26 hours were recorded and became the “Manuscript” section of the book. The *Bible* would have you believe that Saul did not know Jesus personally, that he met Jesus in spirit on the road to Damascus several years after the crucifixion. The reincarnated Saul tells a different story.

When he was 21 years old, Saul heard that Jeshua (Jesus) would be coming to that area. Saul had heard that Jeshua was a very unusual person and had a sincere interest in meeting him. There were seven people, two with Saul and three with Jeshua. They talked about happiness. Jeshua explained that happiness begins within, that it has nothing to do with material things. (Page 153) They became good friends. Saul quietly attended many of Jeshua’s free seminars on how to relate to God, neighbors, your self and your enemies. (Love them!) It was a revolutionary idea. Afterwards they would spend time together discussing Jeshua’s mission and how to accomplish it. He appreciated the feedback from Saul, a well-educated Pharisee and a Roman citizen. (His father had purchased Roman citizenship for his young son.)

They decided to do healings in order to draw more people to hear the message of Jeshua. It worked very well. The gatherings got larger and larger. The Sanhedrin council was feeling concerned and threatened. Saul knew about this because he had Pharisee friends who were on the council. He was worried about Jeshua’s safety.

They knew each other very well for the ten years preceding the crucifixion. (Saul chose not to be there for the death of his friend, so he could not confirm that Jesus had died on the cross.) Saul understood the mission of Jeshua, but didn't have much respect for the group of his followers.

Saul didn't see his friend in the weeks following the crucifixion. It was several years later on a business trip to Damascus that he encountered Jeshua in spirit form. He paid a caravan so that he could travel with them, not only for the transportation, but also the food and the safety. It was sunset before they arrived at the gate to Damascus, so they camped by the side of the road. (The gates were closed at sunset.) That night he was "holding a lot of sadness and anger" within himself regarding what Jeshua's followers had done.

"I woke up and felt as if I was compelled --- I walked away from the others, who were all asleep. And I felt this incredible presence ... and (Saul begins to weep) ... I looked up and Jeshua was there ... He had this brilliant light around him. As I looked into the light --- it was so brilliant ... I couldn't look into it. I felt blinded ... I fell to my knees. He talked to me. He told me I should help his followers, that I should join them and help them because he wanted my support. I told him that I was sorry that I had not helped them. He said he understood, but he wanted me to accept their shortcomings and to do the best I could in helping them. That it was more important that I help them even if they had made mistakes. And I told him that I would ---that I loved him. And he told me that he would always be with me, that I should turn over my commercial activities to others, I should become a part of what his followers were trying to do and take a position of responsibility with them. We said good-bye to each other, and then he left." (Page 270)

It took several days for Saul's sight to return to normal. He also remembered that they had talked many times about Saul's responsibility to help his followers after Jeshua was gone. That may be why Saul apologized for not helping Jeshua's followers. Saul admitted that he didn't like them, that he would not recommend them to his friends. But he said that he did not persecute them, as it says in the *Bible*. He explained that he had no desire to persecute them, and that he had no power or authority to do so.

Saul did fulfill his promise to Jeshua that he would turn over his commercial endeavors to others and support the followers of Jesus. However, Seth points out (*Seth Speaks*, pages 373-375) that the man known historically as Saul or Paul, a person of great energy and organizing ability, unwittingly made some dangerous errors. Saul was supposed to establish a framework of ideas for individuals. Instead he established a framework of regulations for groups, an organization that would "smother" the teachings of Jeshua.. Emperor Constantine in 325 AD grabbed the organization and made it an instrument of control that has survived to this day through the major religions, both catholic and protestant.

Although the "smothering" of the teachings of Jeshua, as presented by the trio of John the Baptist, Jeshua and St. Paul, continues to this day, I think that a larger group had a pre-birth plan to re-vitalize those teachings more than 200 years ago.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

I can imagine that the Founding Fathers of this nation, meeting as a "soul group" prior to reincarnating, had had a belly-full of both the church and the kings claiming the "divine right" to

control the people, to make rules to be obeyed, to judge, then reward or punish people, even to the point of killing them for refusing to believe what they were told to believe.

They must have believed it when Jesus said that the Father and I are one, that you and I are brothers. That must make us all a part of the Father. That means we are all made of “God-stuff.” We are created in the image of the Creator. We are all One. That makes us *all* divine, not just the kings and religious leaders. That gives each of us the divine right to be governed only with our consent.

So this large group of souls, observing from the other side, decided to reincarnate and try to do something about this smothering of the teachings of our brother, Jesus. And that’s what they did. What a magnificent experiment, to actually form a government based on the declared spiritual nature of humanity! It was all spelled out in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Amendments. *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*” Then they remembered in the First Amendment to guard against some religion taking control of the government so they added that, *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”* I can imagine that they were remembering what the Emperor Constantine and the Catholic Church had done in 325 AD. Today, as the Constitution continues to be shredded, it appears that the magnificent experiment in self-government based on the spirituality of humanity is about to fail.

Conclusion

As I have reflected on the meaning of the NDE and tried to assemble the cosmic jigsaw puzzle, I have been convinced that something of great significance is happening and that it will probably be clear to us by the year 2012. No, I don’t think the world is coming to an end, but I do believe that the world as we know it is coming to an end. There is a massive spiritual awakening, an increasing awareness of our spiritual essence, an awakening to the message of Jesus that has been embedded in us since the beginning of the human race. The NDE is a part of that awakening. Religion and spirituality are not synonymous. Those who have died and returned confirm some of the *Bible* but contradict other parts. It’s time for an update; it’s time to question the *Bible*. What is true will be confirmed. What is in error will be revealed. The real message will be “un-smothered.”

Now we are realizing that we are spiritual Beings, “brothers” of Jesus who was one with the Father, making us all One. It appears that Jesus was one of many messengers who tried to get that concept into our heads and hearts. This has been going on much longer than we thought—hundreds of thousands of years. We are not alone in the universe and never have been. Ancient civilizations exist. We on Earth may actually be projects of one or more of those civilizations, the product of space-traveling genetic engineers. Of course we couldn’t even image such a thing until we learned about space travel, DNA and genetic engineering.

The whole current drama revolves around CONTROL. Who is going to control the people on planet Earth—and for the benefit of whom? The “powers that be” want to keep that power. They won’t be able to control us if we all know that we are spiritual Beings who already have eternal life. Even the terrorists can’t terrorize us with the fear of death. If they can’t frighten us, they can’t control us. Therefore, *we must not be allowed to hear from our space-brothers the message that we are spiritual Beings.*

One way to keep us from getting the Jesus-message again from our space-brothers is to classify all information about UFO’s and insist that there is no physical evidence of UFO’s. Of course they exist. So do extraterrestrial Beings, but it is their *message* that threatens the holders of power just as it threatened the Sanhedrin Council in Jesus’ time

Yes, the inhabitants of planet Earth are receiving a massive wake-up call. And, the millions of NDE’ers , through their personal experiences, are pioneers in this awakening. Being ignorant of the fact that we are spiritual Beings, we inadvertently co-created the chaotic conditions on Earth. We are not victims. We don’t need some external Savior. It’s up to us to co-create the solutions. We can do that. The guidelines already exist in the Constitution of the United States, because it is based on the assumption that we *are* spiritual Beings with the unalienable right to be *governed only with our consent.*

What an exciting time to be alive! How will it all turn out? We should know soon.

Wally Johnston July 2008