

## **WHAT IS SPIRITUALISM – NASM INC. INTERIM PAMPHLET JULY 2012**

Spiritualism is an officially is recognised as a Philosophy, a Religion, a Science and a Truth

The philosophy of Spiritualism is based on seven fundamental principles:-

- The Fatherhood of God.
- The Brotherhood of Man.
- The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels.
- The Continuous Existence of the Human Soul.
- Personal Responsibility.
- Compensation and Retribution Hereafter for all the Good and Evil Deeds done on Earth.
- Eternal Progress Open to every Human Soul.

Spiritualism is a religion that embodies the main ideas of all religions, that there is a life after death, immortality and the existence of a God. The difference between Spiritualism and other religions is the ability, through mediumship, to prove that man survives physical death. Mediums are able to communicate with those who have died, thus furnishing conclusive evidence of the continuous existence of the human soul.

Spiritualism is a universal religion, the main focus of which is embodied in our Fifth Principle, 'Personal Responsibility'. We are given free will and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, therefore we alone are responsible for all our thoughts and actions. In addition, we are our own judge here and now and we will receive compensation and retribution in accordance with our Sixth Principle.

We do not automatically become spiritual when we leave this world. We shall, in fact, retain our earthly characteristics. Opportunities are available throughout eternity to make spiritual progress, as both free will and personal responsibility are still relevant. Spiritualism is a progressive religion which can overcome materialistic influences.

*"Because you are a spirit you survive death, and because you are a spirit you are alive today. The spirit within you, which causes you to live, is the same spirit that animates every member of every nation, of every race and of every colour. Spiritually, the people of the world are one. Spiritualism reveals the spiritual oneness of all mankind. God has made us all members of one vast spiritual family." Maurice Barbanell.*

Mediums are ordinary people who have, through training, developed their natural ability to communicate with the spirit world. There are different types of mediumship because the people in the spirit world will use whatever means they can to communicate, helping us to understand the truth of an everlasting life.

Spiritualism encompasses healing for those in need, either by personal contact, "the laying on of hands", or through absent healing, where patients are treated via healing thoughts and prayers. Healers may alleviate suffering but cannot guarantee a cure. Spiritual healing also offers help to the terminally ill, their family and friends, and support in times of bereavement. Spiritual healing is not faith healing. Babies and pets cannot have faith, yet they can all benefit from spiritual healing.

A Spiritualist meeting includes music, meditation, prayers to Spirit, healing a short talk often upon Spiritualist philosophy. There will also be a demonstration of mediumship, during which the medium will communicate with those in the spirit world and relay the messages to those present. There may well be other events development groups, healing clinics, demonstrations of mediumship, workshops and social events.

## **HOW IS SPIRITUALISM A SCIENCE?**

"Spiritualism is based upon well proven, worldwide facts which can and have been scientifically classified. It promotes the search for truth in every department of being and is therefore the science of life." Science involves the observation of events that take place and investigations and experiments to find the causes and the effects of those events and provide the evidence that supports the reality. The conclusions reached in any scientific investigation must have reasoned answers with supporting evidence. Any conclusion reached may not be final, so we must always have an open mind and be prepared to modify our conclusions if further evidence is found later. This is true of all sciences.

Spiritualism is a combination of religion, philosophy and science which removes all boundaries around what can be considered. Such an approach encourages the seeking of evidence to support our thoughts and observations. When considering the

various aspects of Spiritualism, thoughts may occur to us along the lines of "Who or what is God?", "What are the soul and the spirit?" and "How does our spirit communicate with our physical body?" These are all scientific type questions that a person might consider.

An important aspect of scientific investigation is for the investigator to consider all possibilities and not allow preconceived ideas to interfere with the assessment of information that has been uncovered. This is even more important when investigating mediumship, in which telepathy is used between the spirit people and the medium. Telepathy is the transmission of thoughts between two or more minds without using the physical senses.

Science uses supporting evidence to gain facts and thus it can be seen that mediumship is an important part of the science of Spiritualism. Such evidence provides factual information to people who wish to investigate mediumship from a scientific point of view, thus demonstrating that Spiritualism has a scientific basis as well as being a recognised Religion with a Religious Philosophy based on the Seven Principles of Spiritualism.

Spiritualism accepts that mediumship cannot provide empirical proof that there is life after death. However, a body of evidence can be so convincing to an individual that it becomes personal proof that those whom we have once known have indeed survived death. This knowledge, based upon evidence and not just upon faith, can be a life changing event, abolishing fear of death and giving us all hope for the future. There is a wealth of scientific evidence supporting the truth of Spiritualism.

### **NATURAL LAW**

Everything that occurs is controlled by natural law. In terms of observing and considering anything that happens we can be sure of two things: there will be a 'cause' that creates an 'effect'. For example, we know that if we drop an object, then, owing to the gravitational pull of the Earth (the cause), the object will fall towards the ground (the effect), a natural law - the Law of Gravity.

Natural laws apply to everything, including the non-physical attributes of ourselves: our mind, thoughts and emotions can cause us to act and react in words or deeds and may, for example, have an effect on other people. It can be seen that a 'cause' results in an 'effect', and that effect can be the cause of another occurrence and another effect, and so on. This helps us to realise that natural laws control everything that happens and that spirit communication is not dependent on religion or philosophy, Mediumship is a science with controls (natural laws) that determine how the information is transferred and the process is repeatable, providing evidence of survival of a person's spirit beyond physical death.

### **PSYCHIC ABILITY**

The word 'psyche' is from the Greek language, meaning 'soul', hence 'psychic' is 'of the soul'. We, as physical beings, have a soul, so we all have psychic ability to some degree; however, it must be borne in mind that our abilities vary across many activities. A trained, experienced psychic can be of great help to people in their journey through this life.

A psychic can sense and interpret historical information about a person or an object but cannot communicate with people in the spirit world. Future projections can only relate to potential events because of the interaction of our right to free will and the Natural Laws of the Universe. Psychics may work through direct contact with your energy or by the use of other methods such as using Cards (e.g. Tarot or Angel) and Psychometry.

Both psychics and mediums may work with the intuitive senses such as the main three Clairvoyance (clear seeing,), Clairaudience (Clear Hearing), Clairsentience (Clear sensing or feeling) alternatively they may have developed several of these to a state of intuitively knowing.

The existence of a "Psychic Force" enabling this transfer of information to take place was hypothesised in the late 1800's especially through the work of Edward Cox and Sir William Crookes with DD Home.

This research concerned the physical manifestation of this force via Telekinesis, whereby DD Home could cause an accordion to play whilst in a cage, levitate and change the weight of a bucket of water by his exercise of this power. Indeed DD Home did not believe this to be the work of Spirit and the name Psychic Force was adopted. Spoon Bending is another example of the application of this non Spirit related power.

## **MEDIUMSHIP**

A medium is capable of psychic work and communicating with people in the spirit world because of specific development of their psychic faculties. The main aim of mediumship is to provide evidence of survival of the human personality beyond physical death. Mediums cannot call up a particular spirit person to communicate with us because, like ourselves, he can choose whether to communicate or not.

Mediumship is a transfer of information from the spirit of a deceased person via a medium to a recipient. A Medium has the ability to receive information from a communicating spirit and pass on that information. In many respects this will be personal to the recipient of the communication. So, if you are the recipient of a communication you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Was the identity of the person in the Spirit World established beyond reasonable doubt?
- Was there sufficient evidence of who was communicating?
- Did the person in the Spirit World convey knowledge of recent events?
- Was there a pertinent message?

The main purpose of mediumship is to provide evidence that can be proof of survival to the recipient, not to predict the future, not to give advice and certainly not to counsel. Mediumship is a means of enabling people in the Spirit World, probably our family and friends, to communicate with us, thus enabling us to gain an understanding that -

- the Spirit of every person survives physical death,
- the Spirit of a person retains their personality, character, mind, memories, emotions, etc., just as we knew them during their life on earth.
- An indication that they retain an interest in our life and well being.

Mediums cannot call up a particular person in the Spirit World; it is they who choose to communicate with us. A medium's primary purpose is to identify the spirit person who is communicating with them. It is expected that the communicator will provide a combination of personal information about themselves so that the recipient can identify them. The medium can only provide the information given by the communicating spirit, and examples of this type of information could be:-

- their name;
- their relationship to the recipient;
- a description of themselves during their life on Earth;

- where they lived;
- their profession or employment;
- the cause of their death
- hobbies or other activities,;
- character;
- shared memories, etc.

Sometimes the communicating spirit provides information that the recipient is not aware of or does not recall at the time of receiving it. Such information should be checked with relatives and friends later to seek confirmation. This previously unknown information should be considered to be very important evidence as it disproves the claim by some people that mediumship is just reading the mind of the recipient.

During a communication information is often given which relates to events that have taken place in the recipient's life since the communicating spirit's passing. This would be considered very valuable evidence of the continuous existence of the individual person in the Spirit World being consciously aware of these events, otherwise how could they know that information? Not all evidence of survival is given verbally as the medium may sometimes exhibit mannerisms of the deceased person without even realising it, which are recognised by the recipient. Similarly the medium may use words or phraseology regularly used by the communicating spirit person also easily recognised by the recipient.

A recipient should look for an appropriate combination of these facts that identify the communicator beyond reasonable doubt. This is important because it is this evidence that supports the Third and Fourth Principles of Spiritualism :

- The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels.
- The Continuous Existence of the Human Soul.

Through mediumship, the evidence of survival of the Human Spirit beyond physical death can provide comfort to the bereaved, and enable people in the Spirit World to express themselves to family and friends.

Not all mediums develop every form of mediumship: each medium's personal abilities and qualities vary, because every person is individual in his personal attributes. People in the spirit world work with suitable people to develop mediumship appropriate to that person.

Mental mediumship is the most usual form of communication today. It involves a medium receiving a communication from a spirit person and giving that information to a physical person, or enables the spirit to communicate (still via the medium) more directly with the person receiving the information.

Physical mediumship is the ability of the spirit people, via a medium, to cause occurrences that can be seen and heard by everyone present, whether they are mediumistic or not. Physical mediumship was much researched in the 19th century

by various people, including eminent scientists such as Sir Oliver Lodge (physicist), Sir William Fletcher Barrett (physicist) and Sir William Crookes (chemist and physicist). The experiments which they carried out with mediums convinced them and other people of the reality of spirit communication.

### **SPIRITUAL HEALING**

Spiritualists define spiritual healing as a form of healing by the use of forces and energies from the world of Spirit, channelled through the healer by the laying on of hands on or near the body, or prayer, or direction of thought from a distance. Spiritualist healers carry out healing in accordance with the philosophy and teachings of Spiritualism.

There is a tendency for people to think that spiritual healing is effective only owing to the faith or belief of the person requiring this form of healing. This is not true. A child or an animal does not know what faith or belief is, and yet they receive and can benefit from spiritual healing in the same way as anyone else. If a faith or a belief is required, then this could be termed faith healing, which may not necessarily have a spiritual context behind it. Spiritual healing requires no faith or belief whatsoever on the part of the person seeking healing, nor is it necessary for a person to have the same belief as that of the healer administering the healing. The only requirements that are helpful are that a person should have an open mind and a positive attitude towards their well-being and that they continue any medical treatment that has been prescribed for them by their GP.

This way they are receiving the best treatment from both worlds. The actual healing itself is one of a spiritual nature and this has an effect on all levels within a person: mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Spiritualist healers aim to administer healing to whoever is in need regardless of race, colour or creed. Trained Spiritualist healers work in accordance with the healing Code of Conduct issued by their training association. To work at the New Age Spiritualist Mission healers must have completed their training here.

Healers undergo practical and theoretical training, covering subjects as diverse as greeting the patient, understanding the source of the healing energy and how to administer it, and understanding the law in relation to healing. Spiritualist healing is a form of mediumship, where the healer attunes and allows beneficial energies to be transmitted to the patient. Communication mediums receive information from a spirit communicator, which is passed on to the recipient of the message; however, the healer often has no prior knowledge of the patient's state of health or why the patient has come for treatment, yet often the patient appears to receive help for the very condition that has caused him to seek help.

Four methods of healing can be used.

#### 1. CONTACT HEALING

Where the Spiritualist healer receives permission to place their hands on to the patient, while ensuring there is no cause for embarrassment.

#### 2. NEAR-TO-THE-BODY HEALING

Where the Spiritualist healer does not actually touch your body but administers healing by placing their hands within three inches of your body.

#### 3. DISTANT HEALING

Where healing is sent by power of thought to someone who is physically present but is not receiving contact healing.

#### 4. ABSENT HEALING

Where the patient is not physically present and healing thoughts are extended to them.