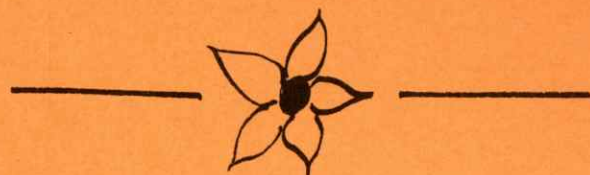


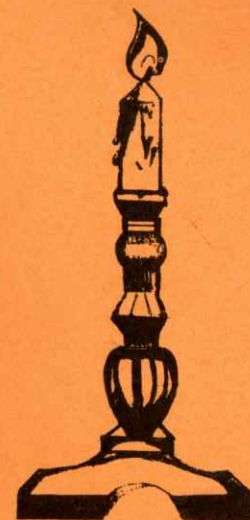
Produced for the Ronald J. Baker Memorial Fund with the assistance of the Guild of Spiritualist Healers of the Spiritualist's National Union which is gratefully acknowledged.

All proceeds of this Charitable Fund are distributed between Hospitals concerned with Kidney Dialysis and Education leading to a deeper understanding of Spiritual Truths.



THE APPROACH TO

TRUTH



From;

Ronald J. Baker M.S.N.U

TESTIMONY TO SPIRIT



Ronald John Baker 1936-1986

Minister of the Spiritualists National Union,
 Former General Secretary of the S.N.U.
 Advanced and 'B' Diplomas - S.N.U.
 Certified Speaker of the S.N.U.
 S.N.U. - Long Service Award
 Founder member - Friends of Stansted Hall,
 Foundation Member - Arthur Findlay College,
 Founder Member - Midland Society of Spiritualists, Birmingham,
 Former President of St. Helens S.N. Church - Lancashire,
 Principal - Aquarian School of Spiritual Philosophy,
 Hon-Patron - Institute of Psychic and Spiritual Technology U.K.,
 International Medium, Lecturer and Author.

INTRODUCTION

Ronald J. Baker is the sixth of seven children, born on 23rd May, 1936, in Birmingham. He was educated at a Roman Catholic primary and junior school, then at a Convent School, gaining a free scholarship to Commercial College. He was extremely 'sensitive' as a child and was subject to 'visions' which occurred quite spontaneously and involved involuntary projection into the Spirit world. His earliest memory of Psychic phenomena was that of seeing his sleeping physical body as a young boy and pondering how to get back inside it.

During religious instruction a priest was describing the torments of Hell with all the fire and brimstone trimmings, which Ron could not relate to his own experience of Astral Projection, and he was dismissed from the class for daring to question the priest's authority. At eleven years' old the conflict between spiritual experience and religious training became obvious and was to lead, after much soul-searching, to a complete break with Roman Catholicism. The teaching of fear and superstition could not be related to the beautiful visions he had experienced of the 'after-life' which seemed to indicate a bountiful and loving Creator. He had already arranged to visit a seminary with the intention of training as a missionary, but, due to the developing conflict, cancelled the appointment.

When nearly 13 years old, he was 'directed' by the Spirit world to call on Mrs. Millage, a Birmingham Spiritualist, and on his way to her house he recalls that he experienced a strange feeling of elation which, upon reflection, must have been that peculiar state of spiritual bliss which defies explanation.

Mrs. Millage opened the door and welcomed him into her home. Ron knew instinctively that his search was over and he listened attentively to her words. "You have been brought here by Spirit people who want to know whether you would be prepared to become a medium, but you must decide for yourself. . . ." He explained that he was a Catholic and didn't know what a medium was. She explained and suggested that perhaps he should forget Spiritualism and continue with his Catholicism. It was the Spiritualist conception of God which really attracted him — a God Who was loving and compassionate, yet mysterious and above human comprehension.

A decision was reached to attend a Spiritualist Circle for twelve months and then to give an answer to the Spirit friends. A year followed during which the psychic and spiritual phenomena already experienced seemed to disappear, but a deep conviction of Spiritualist Philosophy was attained, and he accepted his new religion. At the following Circle

he entered a state of total trance during which a 'Control' delivered a lecture. This was the commencement of mediumistic development which is still in process.

Through ignorance, the Parish Priest warned that he would 'finish up in a lunatic asylum' and would certainly 'spend eternity in hell'. However, the bonds of ignorance had been loosed and the priestly threats were of no consequence. The message of Spiritualism is one of beauty: there is no place for fear.

MRS. MILLAGE AND EARLY TRAINING

Without doubt Mrs. Millage moulded and shaped the early stages of Ron's development and handed on a torch which can never be extinguished. Through observation he learned how the spiritual laws operated and how to become receptive to Spirit influence. Mrs. Millage was the leader of the Saturday Circle at the Birmingham S.N.U. church, which then met in Corporation Street. To this day Ron marvels at the wonderful happenings in that Circle, whereby countless people were helped. It was quite usual for strangers to walk in and, in a state of bewilderment, say: "Who are you? And can you tell me why I have come in here?" Auntie Mill would answer: "Don't be frightened. God has brought you so that we can help you." Within minutes she would be explaining their troubles in great detail. — "Your wife is ill in hospital" "Your son has just died" "You have run away from home" etc., etc — the list is endless, but always there was help given. No situation existed that could not be eased in some way. She administered to the very 'shipwrecks of humanity' with no thought of reward other than the joy of service. (Ron had been 'sent' to her himself and helped, and thus was able to identify with "all God's children" as she called them).

Auntie Mill's simplicity of approach, together with the fact that to Ron's knowledge she has never refused an opportunity to serve the Spirit world, make her one of Spiritualism's great mediums. She has that rare ability to probe the spiritual depths of a person and to proffer helpful advice — not to be confused with the superficial offerings of psychics who, all too often, say what the person wants to hear rather than the truth which DOES 'set men free'. Ron will always be grateful for this early training and the knowledge of what spiritual mediumship really is.

At the Circle the sitters would join hands and Auntie Mill would direct them to send out thoughts to all people in need of help, saying:

"We are all links in the chain and can never be separated; we are one family." This "Human chain" will be referred to later on in order to show that, from simple actions, the laws of the Spirit are brought into operation.

Auntie Mill directed Ron one day to visit a local beauty spot in order to find a suitable place for an open-air meeting with a view to taking picnic lunches and spreading the message of Spiritualism to the general public. Ron went off on his mission and spent a couple of hours searching without success. He reported his failure and waited somewhat apprehensively. "Don't worry — there must be a reason. We shall have to go together and find out," said Auntie Mill. When they arrived the place was deserted, as they walked towards a café with a bold sign reading 'Closed'. "We have to go in here," said Auntie Mill. Whilst Ron was still explaining that it was closed, she opened the door and went inside. Ron quickly followed. A lady was busy with a vacuum cleaner and had not heard them enter. When she saw them she appeared shocked, switched off the machine and walked over. "You are the two people I saw in my dream last night," she said. "You are Spiritualists and are looking for somewhere to hold a public meeting and I am to give you permission to use the car park". Auntie Mill replied: "Thank you, dear, but how did you know? Are you a Spiritualist yourself?" "No" replied the woman, "Should I be?" How could one not be a Spiritualist after countless experiences such as this which have shown absolutely that Spirit friends are active behind the scenes and that the two worlds are one when wrapped in love's own mystery. The meeting was a great success.

Some years later Ron was busy working in his office in the middle of a noisy factory when he was interrupted by one of his 'voices' which said: "Go home". After a few seconds the message was repeated just as his boss walked in and said: "Is there anything wrong. You look a bit peculiar." After Ron had explained the voice, he said: "There must be something wrong. You'd better go straight away." When Ron arrived home, a woman from the Church was standing by the door and she said: "Thank goodness the Spirit friends have brought you. Mr. Millage has had a stroke and you are needed at the house." Ron is happy to say that he lived a number of years after this. When he passed Ron officiated at his funeral and he has reported back through 'direct voice' that all the symptoms of his stroke have now cleared up.

Similarly, Ron was once on his way to the cinema when a 'voice' said "Phone Mrs. Millage." He ran to a telephone box and received the answer: "Come straight away. Milly is unconscious." Ron arrived and bent down to see what was wrong just as Auntie Mill opened her eyes

and said: "Just before I passed out I asked the Spirit friends to let you know. I knew you would come." Once spiritual links have been made they are for ever and cannot be broken. Always remember that simple injunction — we are all links in a chain.

Some of the finest evidence has come from these spiritual experiences and not from the church platform. However, Ron will always cherish a message given in his early years from the platform. He had been visiting an elderly gentleman in hospital called 'Pop' Sparkes and had taken him a parcel containing a number of items including a corn-cob pipe which he had requested. In their discussions on Spiritualism he would say: "Young man, you will know me when I return because I shall just say 'It's all poppycock'." Two weeks after his passing, the medium, Mrs. Jessie Deeley, singled Ron out from amongst the congregation and said: "You are surrounded with hundreds of sparks and this has a special meaning for you. It has to do with a man you have visited, and now he is calling on you." She then named all the articles in the parcel, including the corn-cob pipe. "His message is quite simple. He just says to tell you it's all poppycock."

MISS MARY MORRIS

In Ron's late teens he was accepted as a pupil by Miss Mary Morris and entered her Teaching Circle at the Aston S.N.U. Church, Birmingham. (At that time there were many first-class teachers in and around Birmingham and Ron particularly remembers them for encouragement in his early work and records their names here in acknowledgment of his indebtedness to them: Miss S. Bowell, Mrs. Shakespeare, Mrs. L. Hands, Mrs. R. Breakwell, Mrs. J. Duncan and Mrs. Masfield).

Each week every member was given a subject and the following week had to hand in a thesis for marking by Miss Morris. The work often entailed many hours of research and provided the necessary discipline in the process of unfoldment. Every meeting commenced with a talk on Spiritualist philosophy, and Miss Morris was very precise in explaining each new point and how the knowledge should be applied in everyday life. This was followed by a short period of silent reflection in order to memorise the lesson, after which a further half-hour was devoted to the practice of mediumship.

In Ron's late teens Miss Morris started to arrange engagements for him at churches in the Midlands, and reports were made back to her upon the meetings for use in further training. Her advice to him was

never to ask churches for engagements but to wait until asked to serve; always to shun publicity and public praise and to remember at all times: "The applause of the populace is soon spent, but the applause of the 'unseen hosts' lasts for ever." Ron still feels that this is good advice for all who work as mediums and who desire to preserve the dignity of their calling.

In the late 1950's Miss Morris was promoted to the higher life and amongst her writing Ron discovered the following words:—

"If I should pass when the 'all clear' is sounded

I pray thee, speed me on with all good cheer.

I go the course a joyous heart abounding.

Do not impede my step by sigh or tear.

I would that all could know how gladly

I have run the course and set my sail.

I go new pastures to my soul replenish.

I touch the water deep that it doth crave.

And so, upon the boundless ocean,

My barque may take me wheresoe'er it will:

I rest content as in its arms it takes me

To the source I crave

From whence I sprang."

Soon after Miss Morris was promoted, she materialised at the Longton S.N.C. through the mediumship of Mr. G. Higginson. Lifting a finger towards Ron she asked: "Are you doing everything I taught you?"

A VISITATION

Genuine mediums will testify that the true pathway of mediumistic development is characterised by the two extremes of spiritual exultation and periods of intense depression. Ron was passing through a phase when everything appeared to go wrong, and the additional pressure of serving churches, development circle, etc., whilst holding down full-time employment caused a crisis to occur. He decided to relinquish his interest in Spiritualism and to concentrate his energies on a career in industrial management. Having reached this decision, he retired to bed but was immediately aware of a small sphere of light in the darkened room which attracted his attention. As he watched, the light intensified and the sphere grew larger until suddenly the spirit form of a bearded man manifested within the light. He appeared to be transparent as if carved from crystal, and of Eastern origin, surrounded now by myriads

of miniature rainbows, whilst the outer parts of his magnificent aura shone with thousands of multi-coloured flashes of light, resembling a star-crowded sky. Though the man's lips did not move, Ron heard telepathically the words "Who do you think you are?" There was no admonishment — only a deep sense of concern and love. Ron immediately understood the gravity of his error in trying to ignore his mediumship, and he saw a smile of acknowledgment on the face of his spirit visitor as the vision faded. Although he has experienced many more problems since this incident, he strongly affirms that he could never again consider leaving his beloved Spiritualism.

MOVING ON

In the early 1960's he was co-founder with Mrs. Millage of the Midland Society of Spiritualists in Birmingham, serving as Vice-President. For a short period he was Chairman of the Publicity Committee under the auspices of the West Midlands District Council of the S.N.U. Ltd., with Mr. and Mrs. L. Welsh and Mr. John Sharp forming an active committee. The Solihull Society of Spiritualists was formed as a result of a publicity meeting at the Civic Hall, Solihull, organised by this Committee, at which Lord Dowding was the guest speaker and Mr. G. Higginson the demonstrator. A rather novel publicity slogan on the 'hand-outs' for the meeting was 'DEATH DOES NOT KILL.'

The influence of Spirit made another dramatic impact following a meeting held at the Stourbridge S.N.C. near Birmingham. Miss C. Paxton was the speaker and Ron was demonstrator for the special Armistice Service. After the service Miss Paxton said to Ron: "I am instructed to tell you that you are to be ready to move house. The spirit communicator states that you are to continue with your spiritual work somewhere between Liverpool and Manchester." (Ron had already visited St. Helens S.N.C. but had no intention of leaving Birmingham). A few days after this he received a letter from a lady giving details of a 'sitting' she had had in London, when a spirit communicator asked for the following message to be sent to 'Ronald': "Tell him that Mary Morris confirms that he is to move North very soon." Within a few days another letter from another person arrived with the same message!

Ron immediately made arrangements to carry out his 'orders' and was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Smith until buying his own home in Lancashire. Mrs. Ada Hoskins of Bristol (Aunt Ada) conducted the farewell service at the Midland Society of Spiritualists in

Birmingham — a worker who will be remembered with great affection for her tremendous warmth and dedication.

The first night at Ray Smith's home will be long remembered by Ron who states: "We were sitting in the living room, quietly having a cup of tea, when suddenly in the room overhead (Ron's room) we heard violent bangs and knockings which sounded as if all the furniture was being thrown about but, upon investigation, everything was in order: the phenomenon was just a boisterous welcome."

ST. HELENS S.N.C.

Ron spent a number of happy years at this church which is noted for its Northern hospitality. One evening he was giving a lecture, followed by questions, to the church healers who sat in front of a four-legged table. He started to answer a question . . . "On this particular subject my knowledge is rather limited" . . . when suddenly three loud knocks came from the table. So loud were they that the meeting was immediately thrown into a fit of laughter. Ron's explanation is that the Spirit teacher was signifying agreement that his knowledge on that particular subject was limited! (Spontaneous raps and movements had occurred over a number of years, indicating potentiality for physical mediumship).

Eventually a physical mediumship development circle was formed and 'sittings' commenced. Almost two years passed by whilst the Spirit helpers were co-operating in the development of a new phase of trance mediumship which was eventually accomplished.

HEALTH

Due to the tremendous strain of mediumistic development, normal employment was discontinued and Ron devoted all his energies to Spiritualism. This was made possible by the support of certain members of St. Helens Church, but there was also much criticism from those ignorant of the development process, who could see no reason why a healthy young man should not work for a living. (A study of past mediums shows that, when the critical point of development had been reached, it was often necessary to withdraw from the additional strain of employment).

Looking back, Ron states that during development adjustments are made at the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual levels and that

only mediums can appreciate or understand the peculiar mental pressures which are involved. The 'black' mental periods which have been described as 'the dark night of the soul' test powers of endurance to the uttermost limits, and the support of friends is essential during this phase.

Ron started to receive from the spirit helpers a simple communication comprising the one word 'sugar'. Consequently he made a series of tests on his urine, but all these proved to be negative. After a few weeks symptoms suddenly developed which caused a serious breakdown in health, later to be confirmed as diabetes mellitus, requiring injections of insulin. (The traditional image of mediums from the Dark Ages as emaciated, depressed characters could be an indication of diabetic symptoms, and it would be interesting to compile statistics of the incidence of diabetes in mediums).

Due to this, further development was temporarily discontinued and Ron took up employment with the S.N.U. Ltd., though continuing his work as a lecturer and subjective medium. In providing this testimony he hopes that other Spiritualists will find the events described of interest and, in conclusion, he states with absolute conviction:

THERE IS NO DEATH

BUT ONE ETERNAL SCENE OF CHANGE

1975.

P.S. In 1974 the Glasgow medium, Mr. Albert Best, during a demonstration at the Arthur Findlay College gave Ron the following spirit message:

"Mary Morris (this was followed by her earthly address) claims that she was your teacher, and wants you to know that the time for action is coming."

Booklets in this series are:

1. Testimony to Spirit
2. Sexual Polarity and Mediumship
3. The Human Aura
4. Spiritual Diseases and Remedies
5. Prayer and Meditation
6. The Etheric Body
7. What the Devil...?
8. Rays of Light

Taped lectures by Ronald J. Baker are also available - details upon request from:-

The Ronald J. Baker Memorial Fund,
340 Kitts Green Road,
Lea Village,
Birmingham B33 0DN