

As Go  
God's People,  
So Goes the World

By A Friend of Medjugorje

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by

**A Friend of Medjugorje**

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author of this book is also the author of the books Words From Heaven<sup>®</sup>, How to Change Your Husband<sup>™</sup>, I See Far<sup>™</sup>, Look What Happened While You Were Sleeping<sup>™</sup>, and other publications such as the *Words of the Harvesters* and the *Caritas of Birmingham Newsletter*. He has written more on Medjugorje than anyone in the world, producing life-changing writings and spiritual direction to countless numbers across the world, of all nationalities. He wishes to be known only as “A Friend of Medjugorje.” The author is not one looking in from the outside regarding Medjugorje, but one who is close to the events - many times, right in the middle of the events about which he has written; a first-hand witness.

Originally writing to only a few individuals in 1987, readership has grown to over 250,000 in the United States, with additional readers in over one hundred thirty foreign countries, who follow the spiritual insights and direction given through these writings.

The author, when asked why he signs only as “A Friend of Medjugorje,” stated:

*“I have never had an ambition or desire to write. I do so only because God has shown me, through prayer, that He desires this of me. So from the beginning, when I was writing to only a few people, I prayed to God and promised I would not sign anything; that the writings would have to carry themselves and not be built on a personality. I prayed*

*that if it was God's desire for these writings to be inspired and known, then He could do it by His Will and grace and that my will be abandoned to it.*

*“The Father has made these writings known and continues to spread them to the ends of the earth. These were Our Lord's last words before ascending: **“Be a witness to the ends of the earth.”** These writings give testimony to that desire of Our Lord to be a witness with one's life. It is not important to be known. It is important to do God's Will.”*

For those who require “ownership” of these writings by the author in seeing his name printed on this work in order to give it more credibility, we state that we cannot reconcile the fact that these writings are producing hundreds of thousands of conversions, if not millions through grace, and are requested worldwide from every corner of the earth. The author, therefore, will not take credit for a work that, by proof of the impact these writings have to lead hearts to conversion, have been Spirit-inspired with numbers increasing yearly, sweeping as a wave across the ocean. Indeed in this case, crossing every ocean of the earth. Our Lady gave this author a direct message for him through the visionary, Marija, of Medjugorje, in which Our Lady said to him to witness not with words but through humility. It is for this reason that he wishes to remain simply “A Friend of Medjugorje.”

— Caritas of Birmingham

# *Medjugorje*

## **The Story in Brief**

THE VILLAGE SEES THE LIGHT is the title of a story which “Reader’s Digest” published in February 1986. It was the first major news on a mass public scale that told of the Virgin Mary visiting the tiny village of Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina. At that time this village was populated by 400 families.

It was June 24, 1981, the Feast of John the Baptist, the proclaimer of the coming Messiah. In the evening, around 5:00 p.m., the Virgin Mary appeared to two young people, Mirjana Dragicevic\* and Ivanka Ivankovic\*. A little later, around 6:40 p.m. the same day, four more young people, Milka Pavlovic\*, the little sister of Marija, Ivan Ivankovic, Vicka Ivankovic\*, and Ivan Dragicevic saw the Virgin Mary. June 25, 1981, was the first day the six visionaries, Ivanka Ivankovic\*, Mirjana Dragicevic\*, Vicka Ivankovic\*, Marija Pavlovic\*, Ivan Dragicevic and Jakov Colo saw Our Lady, or the “Gospa,” on the hill. These six have become known as and remain “the visionaries.” These visionaries are not related to one another. Three of the six visionaries no longer see Our Lady on a daily basis. As of July 2009, the Virgin is still appearing everyday to the remaining three visionaries; that’s well over 12,820 apparitions. The supernatural event has survived all efforts of the Communists to put a stop to it,

\* Names at the time of the apparitions, they are now married with last names changed.

many scientific studies, and even the condemnation by the local bishop; yet, the apparitions have survived, giving strong evidence that this is from God because nothing and no one has been able to stop it. For over twenty-eight years, the apparitions have proved themselves over and over and now credibility is so favorable around the world that the burden of proof that this is authentic has shifted from those who believe to the burden of proof that it is not happening by those opposed to it. Those against the apparitions are being crushed by the fruits of Medjugorje — millions and millions of conversions which are so powerful that they are changing and will continue to change the whole face of the earth.

See **mej.com** for more information.

## AS GO GOD'S PEOPLE, SO GOES THE WORLD

*As always, we ask you to enter into reading the following through prayer. This writing contains many messages of Our Lady which She has told us one must understand through prayer. Our Lady has asked us to read Sacred Scripture. Sacred Scripture and Our Lady's messages are heavily quoted in the following. We suggest reading this in front of the Blessed Sacrament, or after Holy Mass, or whatever you are inspired to do. Pray to the Holy Spirit that He may enlighten you.*

**O**ur Lady said January 25, 1999:

**“...Put Holy Scripture in a visible place in your families, read it, reflect on it, and learn ‘how’ God loves His people...”**

Indeed, Sacred Scripture reveals that we (His people) are loved by God so deeply that when we stray from Him, He draws us back in a way that Israel's history reveals so many times. The people of Israel were His people. This booklet will focus almost entirely on Scripture and Our Lady's messages combined. Our Lady calls for the reading and reflection of Holy Scripture in the preceding message, and we present it to you, not just to read but for serious, very serious reflection. Again, we recommend you to pray to the Holy Spirit before reading and to read this writing several times.

What is an idol? Many think in terms of fashioned images made of some sort of god. Most today think little of it, passing it off as nothing, or even finding it amusing, if someone is idol worshipping. Yet Christians, many Christians, are performing idolatry. How do we identify if we are? We must all realize that the statement, “Oh, not me!” may not be able to be stated with purity.

God commanded, through Moses, that **“Thou shall not have strange gods before Me.”** We must examine ourselves to see if we have allowed idols to enter into our lives. We must be honest with ourselves to make sure, upon being warned, that we are not perplexed or defensive at the thought that we may have a false god in our life.

**“Things”** have taken a dominant place in the way of life of most Christians. Writer, Shaunti Feldhahn writes:

*We Christians lean on so many things other than God every day. If we are going to obediently understand what God is saying to us through this time in history, we must first examine our hearts and confess where we have built our lives around these idols.<sup>1</sup>*

Feldhahn goes on to state:

*Now, money, conveniences, and security aren't bad things. But our craven fear that they may*

*be at risk points out that they aren't just "conveniences;" we actually trust in them. In fact, we worship them. If we are honest in the quiet of our hearts, we must admit that we depend on these things in a way that we don't truly depend – practically, logistically – on God.<sup>2</sup>*

We may be shocked at ourselves when we place God beside our money, our conveniences, our security, asking the question, "Which do I depend upon most?" It is an easy answer, even easy to accept without troubling our consciences, if we rationalize it away with thoughts that we have to have money, a house, clothes, etc., but under close scrutiny, we see that we have put "things" in front of God. We say and think we need money. God gives it, after all, as well as conveniences and security. How then could we think we've placed God's blessings in front of Him? Be honest in the quiet of your heart. Is your dependence your idol? Rev. Tim Keller states:

*We can best identify our idols by the pain we feel when they are taken away. The more you lean on something, the harder you fall when it is unexpectedly taken out from under you.<sup>3</sup>*

What in your life, if suddenly taken away, would make you realize it is a false God? Even God's blessings can become our idol. Israel has constantly gone through the cycle of **sin, suffering, salvation**. Salvation brings about bountiful blessings both

spiritually and materially. Man then forgets God and is absorbed in his blessings. In the first phase of conversion, which is the path of salvation, this may not be so, but man, when he is blessed, continually grows slack in his prayer and, eventually, loves the blessing more than the One who gave it. It is the saint who maintains a very strong prayer life, who can maintain the proper order of loving God first, above and beyond the blessings. The following song, by Christian singer Margaret Becker, captures this truth.

### **For The Love Of You**

*Been searching deep inside me  
To find some hidden clues  
About my motivation  
For loving You  
I know there is the obvious  
Your blessings and Your peace  
But what if all Your benefits  
Were to suddenly decrease?  
Way beyond the things I know I will  
receive  
I want my motivations for loving  
You to be just*

*For the love, for the love of You  
Not for what it brings  
For the love, for the love of You  
Let me do all things  
Not for what You'll do  
But just for the love of You*

*Now I love all the joy You bring  
And the thought of eternal life  
I love the way You gentle me*

*Every time I cry  
I know there is no other way  
No better way to live  
But which one do I love the most  
You or what You give?  
Way beyond the things I know  
You've promised me  
I want my motivation for loving You  
to be just*

*For the love, for the love of You  
Not for what it brings  
For the love, for the love of You  
Let me do all things  
Not for what You'll do  
But just for the love of You  
If I can live my life like that  
Reasons for love I will never lack  
Sure there will be blessings  
Sure there will be pain  
But loving for You, I've got nothing  
to lose  
And everything to gain when it's*

*For the love, for the love of You  
Not for what it brings  
For the love, for the love of You  
Let me do all things*

*Not for what You'll do  
But just for the love of You*

Margaret Becker

Western culture has had the choicest of blessings, even beyond measure, too much progress to our own detriment. Our Lady said in October, 1981:

**“...the West has made civilization progress, but without God, as if they were their own creators.”**

The blessing stays such only when we remember it as such. When we forget, ultimately, it will be to our own detriment, even as a curse upon us by our will, not God's. We, especially the West, doubly so America, have not rooted our nation's good fortune and abundance to He Who gave it. Cars, homes, conveniences, foods, people, (and the list goes on and on) have become false gods. They have crept up in the very fabric of Christian life.

Dr. Michael Youssef, who has a ministry, states:

*The good economy and the blossoming stock market,\* I felt, are God's final loving warnings to us as a nation. However, instead of turning to Him in thanksgiving, our nation has placed its trust in the blessings rather than the One Who gives the blessings.<sup>4</sup>*

\* This was originally written in 1999, when growth in the stock market was making fortunes larger.

There must be change now in identifying in our lives where false gods have demanded, knowingly or unknowingly, our attention. In the book The Millennium Bug, it is stated:

*If people are worshipping a false god, perhaps the best way to get people's attention is to bring the false god down. If banks crash,\* cars don't work, and food supply is interrupted, it would lead to desperation on the parts of millions of people. It is possible that in that desperation they would look to God and it would fuel revival.<sup>5</sup>*

Speaking of today's attitude, which makes things of ages past, that were as wrong as now, OK because we are "enlightened," Shaunti Feldhahn says:

*Acts and attitudes are no less reprehensible in God's sight today than when, through His servant Moses, He declared them sin. Just because a "more enlightened" America deems God intolerant and sin relative does not make them so; neither does our arrogance excuse us from divine accountability. Sin is sin just as truth is truth, and God never empowered us to modify the definition of sin or truth to accommodate our wayward appetites.<sup>6</sup>*

\* Written before the World Trade Center crash, this statement is coming into reality. Fifteen percent of the whole world's commerce went through the World Trade Center. The catastrophe placed ten million people below the poverty level in many nations. Many now are praying more and experiencing personal revival.

And so following Our Lady's words to reflect on Scripture, what does the Bible say when we put our trust in things, to such a degree, that fifty years ago anyone would say that so much of what we have made today is pure idol worship?

Isaiah 2:7–9, 11–12, 15–18

***Israel has vast treasures of silver and gold and many horses and chariots. The land is filled with idols. The people bow down and worship these things they have made. So now everyone will be humbled and brought low. The Lord cannot simply ignore their sins!...The day is coming when your pride will be brought low and the Lord alone will be exalted. In that day the Lord Almighty... will break down every high tower and wall.\* He will destroy the great trading shops and all the small boats in the harbor. The arrogance of all people will be brought low. Their pride will lie in the dust. The Lord alone will be exalted! Idols will be utterly abolished and destroyed.***

Note, Scripture is not referring to just little figures made in the images of gods that are to be destroyed, but trading shops, boats in the harbor. Today, it is our consuming in shops, our cars, the chariots of today, in the garage that so many wor-

\* Again, written before the World Trade Center — lying in the dust. It clearly reflects the “great trading shops and high towers” being broken down.

ship. You may say “*I am neither attached to shops nor cars!*” Today’s society is so full of idols that it is really difficult not to have idols creep right into your households. Television is a prime example – many other entertainments and pleasures followed. Some may say, “*TV does not rule me nor do I worship it.*” Does its contents? Do you have to see the news? Is not God’s news, through Scripture, far more informative and important? Which do you give more time to? Be honest. Do you see what’s happening with the world, and what will happen, by the news or by what Scripture is revealing by these very pages? Measure your heart and take a personal index of what is within; of TV, news, pleasures versus time given to reading Scripture. Our Lady never asked us to watch TV, etc., but She has asked many times to read “**daily**” Holy Scripture. Whichever is first has your first devotion. If TV is your first devotion, is it not then in front of God and an idol for you?

We, here, identified television as a idol years ago within our community, even though we didn’t watch it much. Scripture states:

Ezekiel 20:7

***Throw away, each of you, the detestable things that have held your eyes; do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt.***

We realized through prayer, Scripture, and Our Lady's messages, we did not need TV nor its contents.\* Ridding ourselves of it, we gained freedom – freedom to serve God, more time to pray, more time for holy work, walking, spending time with family, and on and on. Our lives came to life. It was not to steal our attention or devotion as an idol. We realized this passage of ancient Scripture, of that which held our eyes, had life in present times, and we have idols, even more detestable, holding our eyes than Egypt ever had.

How serious were we in turning away from TV? As these pages were written, we received a call from a television program, “Unsolved Mysteries.” They wanted to purchase footage we owned for a fee, which would result in several thousands of dollars. We desperately are in need of money for our mission, especially in this time, but we can never consort with that which is an idol to so many people, its money, or the TV itself after having knowledge of it. The early Christians refused meat, not because they were vegetarians, but because it was first offered up to false gods and charged tax for them. Television's good shows are funded by, not only illicit, but abominable commercials. We will depend on God's providence, through His people, to support the spreading of Our Lady's messages rather than a “short circuit” gain.

\* I See Far is a must read to understand what is written here in regard to the television. You may order by calling 205-672-2000 ext. 315, 24 hours a day or write to Caritas of Birmingham, 100 Our Lady Queen of Peace Drive, Sterrett, Alabama 35147 USA.

Still, you may be defensive and think if you were truly Christian,\* you would not worship idols. The Israelites were fresh out of Egypt and began worshiping the golden calf. There are many golden calves in the Christian life today, so do we have a true assessment that there is absolutely no idols in our lives? Scripture shows there were not just pagan idol worshippers, but there were worshippers of the one true God, who became idol worshippers and their resulting fate for doing so. In Zephaniah 1:3–4,6,17–18, 2:1–3,7, it states:

***“I will reduce the wicked to heaps of rubble...”  
says the Lord. “I will...destroy every last trace  
of their Baal worship...and those who used to  
worship me but now no longer do...Because you  
have sinned against the Lord, I will make you as  
helpless as a blind man searching for a path...  
Your silver and gold will be of no use to you on  
that day of the Lord’s anger...Therefore gather  
together and pray, you shameless nation. Gather  
while there is still time, before judgement begins  
and your opportunity is blown away like chaff.  
Act now...and beg the Lord to save you – all  
you who are humble, all you who uphold justice.  
Walk humbly and do what is right. Perhaps even***

\* Christianity has become filled with those who are true Christians, living their lives true before God, and Christianity filled with paganism. One may think this is sharp and judgmental. If that is the case, then the judgement of this statement is in judgement of Our Lady Herself who said in 1984 –1985: “...There are many Christians who live like pagans...”

*yet the Lord will protect you from his anger on that day of destruction...The few survivors of the tribe of Judah...will lie down to rest...For the Lord their God will visit his people in kindness and restore their prosperity again.”*

It is amazing how God’s justice is so filled with Fatherhood that His admonishments come with giving us hope. **“God will visit His people with kindness and restore their prosperity.”** “That is,” purified of idols. It is God’s purpose. He is jealous over our attention, and if we turn it away, we will be corrected. This is how, through history, **God has loved His people**, which is what the first message of Our Lady that was used to begin this writing says...(repeating Our Lady’s words) **“Read it (Holy Scripture), reflect on it, and learn how God loves His people.”** Our Lady desires us to learn this. It is one of Her purposes, to prompt us to read Holy Scripture and reflect in order to change our lives. **We make a critical mistake to think God is coming to first correct the reprobates.** It is us, His children, who stand in line first to be corrected. Much more mercy will be given to the reprobates, for many of them are not aware. Jesus Himself says in Luke 12:47–48 a parable which gives this clear teaching.

*“The servant will be severely punished, for though he knew his duty, he refused to do it. But people who are not aware that they are doing wrong will be punished only lightly. Much*

*is required from those to whom much is given,  
and much more is required from those to whom  
much more is given.”*

It is important to understand a parent is most demanding of his own children. God is no different of His own people as His children. They are His first reflection of light and His love and obedience. The Christian life is supposed to be as potent as salt, which keeps preserved that which is prone to decay, as with meat preserved by salt. In this case, society (the meat) has gone by way of reprobates because the salt (Christians) has gone flat. Who is to blame – those perverse sinners (meat) or the Christians (salt)? Henry Blackaby said:

*Most of the judgements of God in the Bible – and the most severe – are against God’s people. **Be-  
cause as go God’s people, so goes the world.**  
Right now, I have consistently said the condition of America is a reflection of the condition of the people of God. ***It’s not Hollywood; it’s not Wash-  
ington.*** “You’re the salt.” What happens when the salt loses its saltiness? There’s nothing to preserve. So you don’t fault that which is decaying, you fault the salt. And if things are getting darker, ***the darkness is acting like its nature.*** But it’s getting darker because ***the light is not acting like its nature; the light is no longer dispensing light.***<sup>7</sup>*

Our Lady said on October 25, 1996:

**“...Through you, I wish to renew the world.  
Comprehend, little children, that you are today  
the salt of the earth and the light of the world.  
Little children, I invite you and I love you and in  
a special way implore: Convert!...”**

Our daily individual conversion is absolutely necessary to preserve the world. It is known that **a revolution is caused by five percent of the people**, the other ninety-five percent will follow. Our Lady implores us to convert in order to start a revolution of a new rebirth of Christianity. As go God’s people, so goes the world. Jesus started with only a small cell of people, the world followed. Our Lady’s basis for calling upon us to be witnesses is based in the principle that everyone else will follow. Christianity changed Rome and influenced the whole world. Many, in fact, the great majority of the virtuous ways in the world, are rooted in Christianity, although there is no acknowledgement of it today.

In the preceding message, Our Lady is talking to those who are listening or have a desire to listen. Who are those people but us, Her children? The reprobates could not care less. It is we whom She implores to change and convert. Thus, and only thus, will the reprobates see our witness as pure and seek conversion. Instead the reprobates are imitated, followed, and tolerated by Christians through their music, fashions, pleasures, TV, and a host of such a number as not to be

able to be counted. We Christians have allowed many abominable influences and degraded lifestyles to shape and to mold our lives. Many Christians complain of television and its contents, saying Hollywood must change. The solution is curable and very simple, just throw it out. But rather than that, Christians want Hollywood to change, rather than themselves. This “Give me the cake and eat it too” attitude has allowed the evil influence to slither in quietly and so deceitfully throughout all society, including the Christian home.

Society in growth is called culture. Society in decline is civilization. Culture is “built;” led by an elite group, however big or small that group may be. But the group, which builds culture, must lead to continue growing as a culture. It leads, not by force and repression, but rather through giving witness to a way of life that others follow by example. When culture, in this case Christian culture, no longer is growing, it is because those who led its growth began to follow those who it formally led, “that is” those who lived base lives, those whose culture’s history is actually regression from Christian virtues. Once this happens, then all of society will begin to crumble, destroying the original culture as well as themselves. Those virtues and those ways which originally built Christian culture, if we go back to it, will change the reprobates or nonbelievers, and they (Christians) will lift up all people to become more virtuous, more civilized. To change those Christian ways which have progressed man and follow those who are

not Christian is to all of man's own detriment, both Christians and reprobates or nonbelievers. All of man suffers regression when he follows that which is lower on the virtue scale than that which elevates both them and us. We are to be purified and then to lead; it is Our Lady's plan. God wanted the Jews to separate from the ways of the Egyptians. Many a people, throughout history, fell when their culture accepted ways brought in by the ungodly. This is proved throughout history. Solomon took up the ways of his wives, who were formerly slaves, worshipping idols. Rather than Solomon changing them, they changed him. He quit leading, and they were never lifted. They began to lead, and he fell. This is the record that goes round and round since Adam. Adam led, and Eve was kept safe. Adam began to follow, and Eve fell, along with him, along with all future men. Israel's history shows repeated regression through those who were allowed to be among them. God wished for Israel to lead, to influence, to set the patterns, the spiritual path, but the opposite happened. When they failed, they became just as the people who were infidels.

We are in this pattern today, through the influence of **music, television, cultural heritages which contradict Christianity**, and there are many more. When man begins to look at where he has been and who he is, it is the thermometer, the first sign of decline. The constant looking back into the past, at the good old days, are real signs of disease because man senses in his spirit that the present and future have very little promise. It is not to

say reflecting on a rich past is bad. Our Lady Herself, on the 18th Anniversary (June 1999), reflected on the beginning days of the apparitions, but the longing for the past speaks that one does not long for the future. The future for the true Christian is filled with promise and hope. Ever expanding culture brings a satisfying contentment, where man is not always looking back, but is joyed at the prospect of tomorrow. This is the building of culture, and it gives evidence of itself. No one has to tell you, it makes itself known. As culture grows, man does what he does in a natural way. He does not do it with great and lofty thought or showy spectacles, striving for effects. His work, his duty, his feast days are real. Feast days are real celebrations because it is time for celebration. His accomplishments aren't celebrated, rather the result of his accomplishments are, and by all. When it is not centered on what man has done, it is then centered on what God has done for man. Today, parades, fall festivals, city festivities, etc. are devoid of life, carried out with pomp or motivated without sentiment as to its purpose – a performance where the heart is missing, as in an empty husk without corn, a hull without seed, a shell without a nut, to give the appearance of joyous celebration as a husk does to corn, a hull to a seed, or shell to a nut. These things are done and participated in without understanding why they are done, and they give appearance of growth of life, when in actuality something is gravely wrong and very sick. Mardi Gras in New Orleans and other places around the world, marking the beginning of Lent, is a prime example. Man

celebrates something that is no longer of God, but now of man, and it has become obscene, nay, beyond obscene.

In short, **society is dying**. Technology has prolonged its death and our “**state of continuance**,” that we are in now, can go on for a long time. Nations do not die overnight. One must face reality, society’s healthy expanding culture has died and society is dying. The disease that killed it now manifests itself physically as sores and pus on an infected, diseased body. The Columbine High School killings in Colorado, in which 13 people were killed and 24 were wounded and other school slaughters that followed, among a thousand other symptoms, shows that the disease affecting society has now advanced into its latter and final stages. As cancer kills organs one by one, eventually killing the patient, culture has died and society is dying. We are in our winter. Sadly, spring and summer are over. We have gone through the “**fall**,” and it is winter, a long drawn out winter.

The future, for the present, is going to be very very cold, lonely, isolated, and abandoned – devoid of life, yet continued only by man’s pomp, his empty celebration of himself, and the life-supports of technology and laws to keep order. Laws, which beget more laws, heaped one upon another, thousands upon thousands across the world, and yet God gave only ten; ten, which if obeyed, would bring life, culture, and growth. The first commandment, “**Do not have strange gods before me**,” has been profanely broken by God’s people.

And what of the great god “technology,” which gives this empty “shell” of society the false appearance that it is moving forward as civilization actually progresses downward? The exalted view that many scientists, educators, and many others have of technological advances are not advances at all. Advances were made decades ago, fifty to seventy-five years ago and beyond. The theory of relativity by Albert Einstein, Louis Pasteur and his discoveries, and those of others were major advances and breakthroughs. Technology is not the thermometer of a healthy society, rather technology is simply a derivative of early breakthroughs and, for the most part, a working out of details of theories, the practical sorting out, put forth by those scientists decades ago. There are now no breakthroughs per se, rather technology is a cumulative building upon the working out of one or simultaneous details upon another. The greats are of another era – the Ted Turners’ and Bill Gates’ use only their wealth to spread nothing that in the end is really bettering society, rather they are adding to its decline. Science, for the most part, can be thought of in that judgement, for it has not been done for God, rather it has been motivated by self interest and the glories of man. These above statements will confound the worldly, but for the one who prays to receive wisdom, he will receive enlightenment as illuminating and clear as the stars of the night, in regard to what was just read. Our Lady indicates clearly this age is about to end by stating She will bring us to a new time. You cannot go to a

“New Time” without the present time ending. Our Lady said on January 25, 1993:

**“I am with you, and I guide you into a new time.”**

The present age and all the new doors that were opened or unlocked are not always bad. It is what man does with them that is bad. There is plenty of evidence to prove this point. These “findings,” not “discoveries,” can end up good or bad for man by what he does with them. “Findings,” acknowledging the Creator first, gives glory to God, acknowledging that He put it there. “Discoveries” give glory to man as if he did it because it was as if it didn’t exist until man found it. When Christopher Columbus first saw America, he consecrated it to God through prayer, by praying with his crew the *Salve Regina*. When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, he consecrated it to man saying, “*One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.*” Sadly, by ignoring God’s hand in this, it was a leap, a giant leap off a cliff, as man’s technology, devoid of God’s guidance, has led to cloning and abominable acts of science, where as Christopher Columbus’ leap onto a new finding was a leap forward because God was wanted and guided it and, aside of faults, the land was Christianized. Again and sadly so, technology was never brought under Christian ethics and ways. This happened, not because of the failure of nonbelievers, but through ours as Christians, allowing them to lead rather than our witness to stand firm.

Technology can make cultures grow in a glass plate or in a test tube, but it does little to nothing in making society's culture grow. So it is Our Lady who comes to grow a new culture, a culture to lead, not with leaders and politicians whose lifestyles follow or tolerate the reprobates, rather the reprobates follow Her children. They are those who are the salt, the light; an elite core of people who form and make up the group known as Her devoted children, who then will form the lost children by the witness of their lives.

It is amazing to see that Jesus gave all He had, His personal belonging, the only thing that He could pass on at the foot of the Cross at His death, and that was His Mother. He gave Her to John, and so John cared for Her. John could not help but pick up Her ways, even the way Our Lady said things. And so we have a message from Our Lady, through John in the Scripture, from two thousand years ago, that he himself delivers in the exact way She speaks to us today.

1 John 5:21

***Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.***

John, Her child, addressing us as “dear children,” speaks clearly of the intimate family in which we belong. To those children who are to lead, Our Lady says what She will do with us. Our Lady states with precise clarity:

October 25, 1996

**“...Through you, I wish to renew the world...”**

“**Through you**” is “we” who are listening. Though we are a minority, perhaps even less than five percent, it is all that is needed to cause a complete change in the world — a revolution that is through the heart. Everyone else, who desires good, will follow, just as those of Rome did, starting 2000 years ago, which changed the whole world.

We are going to be given, by God, the reins of rebirth to convert the world, to create a new culture, by our witness and God’s grace, to rule over the impious. We are to rule, not by the earthly kingdom of the ballot box, but by the authority of God Himself! This is why all impurity must be cleansed from us, why God will be severe with us. We are called to a mission, to advance across the world. It is purely spiritual, a renewal of man, a new dawn for him. It is coming. The day draws nearer and nearer. God is going straight to His people to try by fire first, for it is they who will enlighten the world. This will happen only when nothing defiled is in our hearts, only when our hearts are as pure as the filaments of the stars. Blackaby says:

*God goes straight for His people: His judgement always begins with the people of God. When the people of God return to Him, **the world sees the nature of God in His people.** In Scripture, the*

*covenant is with His people, not with the world.  
God declares, "If you walk in My ways, then I will  
bless you. But if you turn away, I will curse you."<sup>8</sup>*

Then there are those Christians who are always blaming every negative on satan as spiritual warfare, never allowing themselves to recognize that it is God pronouncing judgement. Blackaby adds:

*But if you see everything negative as spiritual warfare, then God doesn't have a chance at discipline... I've always had a far greater fear of God than I ever did of the enemy, because I don't remember any time in Scripture where the enemy ever destroyed God's people; but I can tell you many places where God did. So the greatest fear I have is that God's people will misread the activity of God.<sup>9</sup>*

It is important to be in prayer to read correctly the actions of God and to understand Our Lady's words of August 25, 1993:

**"...Only by prayer can you understand and accept my messages and practice them in your life. Read Sacred Scripture, live it, and pray to understand the signs of the time. This is a special time..."**

There is no spitefulness in God, nor an unjust wrathfulness in God. We determine our fate by our love and obedience

or continued lack of, which draws Him near or drives Him away. Apart from God, we lose His protection over the way we grow, and we become abnormal. We then are destined for destruction by our own hands. He desires none of this for us, rather only good and that we grow in His way. His discipline, therefore, is not mean or harsh, but rather love.

April 10, 1986

**“Dear children, I desire to call you to grow in love. A flower is not able to grow normally without water. So also you, dear children, are not able to grow without God’s blessing. From day to day you need to seek His blessing so you will grow normally and perform all your actions in union with God...”**

Therefore, it is a mistake to view God as a wrathful, vengeful God. God is far from that. He wants us to seek His blessing daily, and He wishes to bestow it upon us. However, when we turn our hearts toward things, we replace Him and His blessing, and corruption follows. It is idolatry. After that stage, correction, through discipline, is the only path to change hearts that have grown insensitive or numb to God’s commandments. Proverbs speaks loud and clear of God’s way.

Proverbs 3:11–12

***My child, don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you, and don't be discouraged when He corrects you. For the Lord corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.***

We must realize satan can't do anything but that which God allows. Remember, satan sought permission to try Job. It was God who permitted him to do so. If we just ignore every negative event and attribute it to the devil, we then write off God's formation of us. So what must we do to be ready for what is to come? Holy Scripture is clear:

Isaiah 1:16–20

***“Wash yourselves and be clean! Let me no longer see your evil deeds. Give up your wicked ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphan. Fight for the rights of widows.\* Come now, let us argue this out,” says the Lord. “No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even***

\* Today it is easy to misunderstand this statement. “Widows” do not include divorcees. God hates divorce. This sin of divorce inherits its own chastisement upon both partners. For a more precise explanation and understanding, order How To Change Your Husband by calling 205-672-2000 ext. 315, 24 hours a day, or write to Caritas of Birmingham, 100 Our Lady Queen of Peace Drive, Sterrett, Alabama 35147 USA

*if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool. If you will only obey me and let me help you, then you will have plenty to eat. But if you keep turning away and refusing to listen, you will be destroyed by your enemies. I, the Lord, have spoken!”*

...and Our Lady—what does She tell us? She, in a profound way, echoes Scripture.

January 28, 1987

**“My dear children! I come to you in order to lead you to purity of soul and then to God. How have you listened to me? At the beginning without believing and with fear and defiance toward these young people whom I have chosen (visionaries), then afterwards, most of you listened to me in your heart and began to carry out my maternal requests. But that did not last for long. Whenever I come to you my Son comes with me, but so does satan. You permitted, without noticing, his influences on you and he drives you on. Sometimes you understand that something you have done is not agreeable to God, but quickly you no longer pay attention to it.**

**“Do not let that happen, my children. Wipe from my face the tears that I cry in seeing what you do. Wake up to yourselves. Take time to meet with God in the church. Come to visit in your Father’s house. Take the time to meet among yourselves for family prayer and implore the grace of God. Remember your deceased. Give them joy with the celebration of the Holy Mass. Do not look with scorn on those who beg you for a piece of bread. Do not turn them away from your full tables. Help them and God will also help you. Perhaps it is in this way that God will hear you, and the blessing that He wants to give you in thanks will be realized.**

**“You have forgotten all this my children. satan has influenced you also in this. Do not let that happen! Pray with me! Do not deceive yourselves into thinking, ‘I am good, but my brother next door is no good.’ You would be wrong. I, your Mother, love you and it is for that reason that I am warning you about this. Concerning the secrets, my children, these are not known by the people. But when they will learn of them, it will be too late. Return to prayer! There is nothing more important! I would dearly wish that the Lord would permit me to enlighten**

**you a little more on these secrets, but the grace which is offered to you is already great enough.**

**“Think how much you have offended Him. What are you offering to Him of yourself? When was the last time you renounced something for the Lord? I no longer wish to reprimand you in this way, but I want to invite you once more to prayer, fasting, and penance. If you wish to obtain a grace from God by fasting, then let no one know that you are fasting. If you wish to receive a grace from God by a gift to the poor, let no one know except you and the Lord that you have given this gift. Listen to me, my children! Meditate on my message in prayer.”**

Will God surprise us with what is to come? No, God, in His mercy, always gives advanced warning of judgement or His justice so as to encourage us to confession and repentance. Our Lady’s coming is just that. Our Lady did not speak about chastisements and secrets only in the beginning of the apparitions, rather She has continued mentioning the secrets to the six visionaries, infrequently throughout the 28\* years of apparitions. She comes even now, amidst the fact that we know

\* This was originally written in 1999. We only updated the year in our reprinting. Often many of these writings are foreseen, even prophetic, by realizing when it was originally written - which the update could make you think it was written in hindsight rather than foresight.

enough about the secrets that there will be chastisements, and tells us it is God's love in the present time which leads us on this path of salvation.

January 25, 1999

**“...His love shows itself also in present times because He sends me to call you upon the path of salvation...”**

Why call us now, in the present time, onto the path of salvation, except that we are on the eve of a new time of salvation, but through the throes of a purification of which chastisement will cause. **Our Lady speaks clearly, very clearly, that these are Her last apparitions on earth. She has said so. Vicka, the visionary, has made this message about the last apparitions clear. The call is now, immediate, and urgent. Not through panic, fear, or law, rather through peace, love, and for Him Who gave the law.** We must change our lives immediately. Our Lord is revealing these things to him who prays. It is a promise of the Holy Scripture.

Amos 3:7

***Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.***

We have had an overflowing cup of God's future plans being revealed through Our Lady's messages of Medjugorje. For us,

in community, we can see the new life Our Lady is bringing us toward. Adam was told by God to **cultivate and to care for the Garden of Eden**, to plant seeds of every seed-bearing plant. After he sinned, God still held him to the ground and said, “**By the sweat of your brow, you shall eat.**” Farming is the only occupation ordained directly by God. Any place known as the country, as it advances toward birthing a city, takes man further and further from the grip of the land. By doing so, he relies more and more upon man to sustain him. God can become more remote. Cities eventually give way to degradation. We, in community, ourselves see this when traveling to spread Our Lady’s messages. The most fervent places where God is alive in His people are areas more remote, in the country or small villages and towns far removed from the world’s cities. France is one example. Brittany is a farming region of France. They, in fact, are looked down upon by many of the French city dwellers, and yet, those of Brittany are the most fervent, most desiring to be godly, where as most large French cities have betrayed their God to the point that the ninety-five percent Catholic population of France now has sixty-five percent\* in the cities who profess to be atheists or nonbelievers!

When Our Lady speaks of renewal, She many times ties it to the land, to creation. Our Lady said on January 27, 1986:

\* This figure has gone up since the original writing of this article in 1999. The figure as of 2003 is seventy-five percent. “*Seventy-five percent of the French, today, are either atheist, agnostic, or believe there possibly could be a God, but say they do not know what God is or who it could be.*” Booklet: “A Miracle From the Field for Our Nation.” BK1037.

**“Every second of prayer is like a drop of dew in the morning which refreshes fully each flower, each blade of grass and the earth. In the same way prayer refreshes man. When man is tired, he gets rest. When he is troubled, he finds peace again. Man renews himself and can, once again, listen to the words of God.**

**“How the scenery is beautiful when we look at nature in the morning in all its freshness! But more beautiful, much more, is it when we look at a man who brings to others peace, love, and happiness. Children, if you could know what prayer brings to man! Especially personal prayer. Man can thus become a really fresh flower for God. You see how drops of dew stay long on flowers until the first rays of sun come.”**

Man needs “Re”freshment. He understands it to the point that when he gets a few days vacation, he flees from the city into nature, water, mountains, beach, etc. **By no means are we saying every man who lives in the city is bad; no, rather we are saying cities are bad for man.** The burden of the city draws man down. Traffic, the allurements, its pace, its excessive business, its emphasis on entertainment, and many other things all add up to the ingredients of the world holding onto man and pulling him away from a close relationship with God. Our Lady calls us to

live a life more simple. When we surround ourselves closer to God's creation, we are refreshed, as opposed to being dragged down with the city's burdens, its enticements and what the city demands. Our Lady calls us to open up to God.

May 25, 1989

**“Dear children, I am calling you to openness to God. You see, little children, how nature is opening herself and is giving life and fruits. In the same way I am calling you to a life with God and a complete surrender to Him. Little children, I am with you and unceasingly I desire to lead you into the joy of life...”**

People, away from the errors of the city, experience more joy, the joy of life.

Adam was connected to the ground by God's command. Is it, therefore, not logical that the man who is close to the soil will see and meet God in a more profound way? Why should it be otherwise? God's direction surely will lead man to Himself (God) when followed. Our Lady says on April 25, 1993:

**“Dear children, today I invite you all to awaken your hearts to love. Go into nature and look how nature is awakening and it will be a help for you to open your hearts to the love of God the Creator...”**

Our Lady has never said to go into the city to find God the Creator because God didn't create the city, man did. God created the country. To help us find God, She advises:

October 25, 1995

**“Dear children, today I invite you to go into nature because there you will meet God the Creator...”**

Our Lady does mention the “city” one time in Her messages, but only one time in seventeen years of apparitions (as of 2008, 27 years of apparitions at this reprinting), by contrast to the many times She mentions God's creation, nature, etc. The one time Our Lady refers to the city, we must admit, was for us to go to the city.

November 6, 1982

**“I have prayed; the punishment has been softened. Repeated prayers and fasting reduce punishments from God, but it is not possible to avoid entirely the chastisement. Go on the streets of the city, count those who glorify God and those who offend Him. God can no longer endure that.”**

We know satan wants to destroy people, but would we be surprised if he wanted to destroy nature? Our Lady says:

January 25, 1995

**“...satan is strong and wishes not only to destroy human life, but also nature and the planet on which you live...”**

We know satan wants our souls, so why would he want to destroy nature, as Our Lady profoundly reveals. Is it because nature is such a reflection of God that satan with all his strength “wishes” to destroy it? Adam, being drawn from the soil **as the earth’s first fruit**, then bound by it to atone for his sin, speaks of the earth and harvest it brings forth by man being connected to the soil. It breeds salvation as its fruits of life and eternal life. In other words, it helps man, when he is close to the soil, to be close to God, providing, of course, his heart is opening to God. **Amazingly, among God’s first fruit from the soil of the earth was Adam!** As Our Lady says:

May 25, 1989

**“...You see, little children, how nature is opening herself and is giving life and fruits...”**

By contrast of the country being a place of harvest for both this life and eternal life, satan’s place of harvest is the city. Our Lady never said satan wishes to destroy a city. Why would he destroy his stronghold? By contrast to satan’s destroying nature, God has destroyed cities, Sodom among the first examples.

Of course, it is easy to see why satan would not want to destroy his place of harvest. Yet Our Lady reveals his “wish” to destroy nature. One reason is because nature speaks to man of God. Our Lady says:

March 25, 1990

**“...God wants to save you and sends you messages through men, nature, and so many things...”**

This may all sound as though we are against cities. We are against idols. Cities are bastions for breeding idol worship. Name one major city in all of the United States which places Christ or God the Creator as an integral part of its community. Rather, it is anti-God, while placing itself as God, its power, its destruction of the spiritual life. How many times we hear the city has life, the city breathes, the city mothers. Life? Breathes? Mothers what? Sin or elevation towards God? A city is a place which is birthed out of the country, a place of which was victorious over the country in this battle which takes place between country staying country or becoming city. Rome was once a little place in the country on the banks of the Tiber; Paris, a little place on the bank of the Seine where people depended on the land, an agricultural people as people of the Bible were. Unfortunately, cities, which are birthed out of the country, are to their own demise, for a city is a place

where people lose their hold on the land. In the Prayer to Heal Our Land, it is written:

*We have spoiled your spacious skies with buildings and cities breathing with sin. The amber waves of grain are no longer viewed as our blessing but as our due. The awe and reverence due You when we gaze upon the purple mountains and their majesty is no longer held; rather, how much pleasure they can give us.<sup>10</sup>*

Bruce Maszlish, once wrote in The Riddle of History that the city dweller is today's nomad. He writes:

*The city dweller, rootless, traditionless, without a past. The city population is a mass, not a people or race. It is futureless. At the end there is depopulation and the city crumbles.<sup>11</sup>*

So is it implied that everyone must be a farmer? Jesus and Joseph were carpenters, so everyone does not have to be farmers. However, their trade was still connected to nature. Nazareth was a small village. The ties of the whole community were close to the soil. It is not implied that one's occupation is important for the spiritual life (although there are jobs that are harmful to the spiritual life), rather one's closeness to the ground, to nature. What has all this to do with idol worship? Just plant crops and have animals. Their needs will call

you to water and feed them at the same time the city populous is called to watch the news and to go out for entertainments. God knows what is good for man's spiritual health. Our Lady's call to go out into nature, frequently, will actually protect one from the idols of modern man building up in one's life. But what of so many who are Our Lady's children who live in the city? There are certainly saints among the city population, but it's not because the city has aided them in being so.\* However, Our Lady's messages clearly show repeatedly that nature does aid one toward holiness, and if one is able, one should seek a life structured toward Our Lady's messages. It is our protection. She wants to place us under Jesus' protection. Her call is to change and to teach us about many things, even about our environment, of how we live our daily lives. On December 25, 1987, She told us:

**“...I want each one of you to open your heart to Jesus and I will give Him to you with love. Dear children, I want Him to change you, to teach you, and to protect you...”**

Are you pondering the thought, “This is ridiculous! How can there not be cities?” **The future of a happy life will rest in small villages and towns, close to the soil for their subsistence: where God is acknowledged, where the whole community's first obligations, fulfilled with joy, is to gather daily in prayer,**

\* Unless, of course, the repulsions of the city drives them toward a more holy life. In that case, one could say the city aided one toward holiness.

**where hard work is carried out with peace and children all around, where love reigns and Mary of Nazareth is held as Queen.** It will come, and man's heart thirsts for it. As yet, many are not ready to pay the sacrifice for it to be realized. Those who do are the forerunners, the teachers of how it will be done.

How blest we are to have Mary with us to teach, guide, and to motherly encourage or reprimand us. What generation in all of history has had such favor, and yet so few listen. It is enough to sing praise, to be lifted in prayer, to pay honor with our hearts, to be inspired, elevated in our spirit, to realize who Mary is!

*Thank you Mary! Thank you for helping us to destroy the idols in our lives. Oh Mary, help those who read these pages to do the same in theirs. You, the humble Woman from Nazareth, unknown to many today, who is about to be made known throughout the world to every man as "Queen!" Please prepare our hearts for these new days, the days of **a new Pentecost which is coming, a second golden age for Christianity.** Help this tiny community you have formed here to witness your ways, your teachings to the ends of the earth. Help those in union with your plan for the same. We are so small compared to*

*the task which lays before us, but you have told us, that through us, you wish to renew the world. Grant to us thy courage, thy strength to flower into the people who will rebuild the church. Oh Mary, we are but weak children. Without you it shall not be. Help us, preserve us as our Queen.*

October 31, 1985

**“Dear children, today I wish to call you to work in the Church. I love all the same and I desire from each one to work as much as possible. I know, dear children, that you can, but you do not wish to because you feel small and humble in these things. You need to be courageous and with little flowers do your share for the Church and for Jesus so that everyone can be satisfied. Thank you for having responded to my call.”**

It is time. Now is “the” time to change your life. Change of life does not occur by the addition of prayers and Holy Mass alone. These virtuous acts, delivering grace, must be accompanied with the decision and physical act of changing one’s heart and living profoundly the Commandments. **Do not confuse that a prayer life is all Our Lady calls for.** The prayer She constantly is inviting and guiding us to is to give us strength to identify and realize areas in our lives which need changing and then to change. Our Lady said on January 25,

1995 a statement which should stun us, though many are not. It is profound. Our Lady does not say to have strength to live the messages, She clarifies that we **need strength just to realize what She is telling us**. If this is the case, to need strength to listen and realize Her messages, how much more strength will we need just to change? On January 25, 1995, She said:

**“...So, little children, pray to have the strength to realize what I am telling you...”**

Do not wait another day, not even a moment, to change. Changing your ways, your life, is a decision for God. The time of decision is coming to an end. The decision is made by actions in your life. Some hearts deceive themselves by not deciding against God, but at the same time, not deciding for Him. Don't be deceived! This is a decision rendered! If you haven't decided for God in every area of your life, then you are deciding against Him. This is a special, very special time of grace we live in. The present is a period given to us just for the purpose of this decision. By ignoring it, by not making a decision, one must realize he has made the decision. Your “yes” must be “yes,” and your “no” must be “no.” Any “yes” that is ninety percent means there are “no’s” in your “yes.” While this has been allowed by God during “a grace period,” it will soon be over. Any “yes” with “no’s” in it will be judged as such, a “no” to God. Judgement will be cast by your own decisions to fully live God's wishes for you, or not. Both deci-

sions come with an inheritance of either peace, a supreme peace you have never experienced before, or a cup of bitterness, such as your palate has never tasted. As St. John Vianney, the Cure D’Ars, once said in a homily:

*Be religious or be damned.*

It is very interesting that after the above was already written, we heard the following reading at Sunday Mass from the Gospel (February 14, 1999). It was of the same spirit of which this writing ends, not with St. John Vianney’s words but Jesus’ Himself:

Matthew 5:17–37

***Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until Heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of Heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.***

*You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, “You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgement.” But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement and whoever says to his brother, “Raqa,”\* will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, “You fool,” will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.*

*You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one*

\* Raqa means fool; imbecile; blockhead.

***of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.***

***It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.” But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful\*) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.***

***You have heard the commandment imposed on your forefathers, “Do not take a false oath; rather make good to the Lord all your pledges.” What I tell you is: do not swear at all.***

\* The early church interpreted unlawful as a brother and sister who married each other. These were pagans who married in this manner who later converted to Christianity. Because they were involved in an incestuous relationship, a marital union never existed, therefore, they had to end their marriage relationship. Many today interpret “unlawful” in order to divorce for the most ridiculous, absurd reasons; from “I was verbally abused,” to “I don’t love my spouse anymore.” This disease that has entered the Church is worse than leprosy. It is against Christ. It is unquestionable that Jesus did not, in any way, mean “unlawful” to legitimize the above reasons for the grounds for a divorce. And “No,” we repeat, “No,” not even adultery is grounds for divorce. Divorce is a scourge; a most deadly abnormality. It is the deforming of the family; the murder of hearts. Just as serious as this murder, is he who encourages it or offers support of it to a couple, be it a parent, brother, sister, friend, relative, priest, pastor, judge or jury. Nay, anyone who gives or voices in support of divorce to a couple will be guilty of its sin and the ensuing adultery that almost always takes place when the separated spouses remarry. If one can commit adultery in the heart, one most certainly commits it when one contributes to it, even by their advice or encouragement, just like an accomplice to a crime. This includes judges and jurors who mandate or order it by allowing the divorce. Today many relatives, friends, priests, attorneys, judges, and jurors, who know God’s law or who have been made aware of the law, will be judged as such. God’s truth is God’s truth. Puny man cannot change even a part of a letter of the law. Though some may legitimately claim ignorance to this fact, the reading of this erases ignorance and even the realization of this statement now makes one accountable.

***Do not swear by Heaven, it is God's throne, nor by the earth, it is His footstool, nor by Jerusalem it is the city of the great King: do not swear by your head, you cannot make a single hair white or black. Say, "Yes" when you mean "Yes" and "No" when you mean "No." Anything beyond that is from the evil one.***

Too many Christians are in the middle, too many idols. Does our "yes" mean "yes," our "no" mean "no?" Compromise has infected the Christian value system. Many are not praying enough to even know what is a complete yes, so many walk the path of compromise. So who is to blame – those who walk in darkness or those who wear His name, "Christians?" It is time Christians get real. The song When The Christians All Get Real, relays as much.

### **When The Christians All Get Real**

*I heard 'em laughing on TV. They said we all were fools  
And no one was ever really healed by You.  
They called us charlatans and thieves.  
They don't want us in their schools.  
They don't want us in their neighborhoods.  
Well, I remember how You said they would hate us in this world;  
And the mocking from the dead*

*would be felt like daggers hurled;  
And if our lives they should demand,  
if we fall by their hands,  
Still, we will stand.*

*I heard a preacher on TV. He wanted us to pray  
About a kingdom he had planned.  
He said that when we plant our seeds  
to write down all our needs  
And he'd read 'em in the Holy Land.  
Well, I have seen the Blood You shed*

*being trampled in the ground  
And I remember that You said that a  
man is better drowned  
Than to cause a child to fall. The  
Father sees it all.  
Judgment will call.*

*I don't know who You blame: the  
ones who walk in darkness  
Or the ones who claim to wear Your  
Name.*

*I don't know who You fault: the  
ones who don't know better  
Or the ones who say they know it all.  
I don't know if I have ever under-  
stood  
Why we resent the fire when we sup-  
ply the wood.*

*I don't know how the world will feel  
When we finally tell the truth  
About the lies that we've concealed  
And the Christians all get real.*

*I heard a message on TV. They said  
when sickness comes  
Then there is sin inside our hearts.  
They have some cloths they've  
touched in faith.*

*We can wear'em when we pray  
And they honor major credit cards.  
I remember how they fled when You  
found the den of thieves  
And I remember how You said that  
the subtle would deceive.  
And if we live with compromise and  
the world sees through  
our lies, who, then, is wise?*

*I don't know who You blame: the  
ones who walk in darkness  
Or the ones who claim to wear Your  
Name.*

*I don't know who You fault: the  
ones who don't know better  
Or the ones who say they know it all.  
I don't know if I have ever under-  
stood  
Why we resent the fire when we sup-  
ply the wood.*

*I don't know how the world will feel  
When we finally tell the truth  
About the lies that we've concealed  
And the Christians all get real.*

Rhonda Hanson

So we now come face to face with a decision. There are prices to pay. But when one does right, no matter how much it costs, not considering the price, God will, in time, repay in this life and the next life, with an amount that is inconceivable.

Luke 19:29–30

***Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or wife or***

*brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not receive back an overabundant return in this present age and eternal life in the age to come.”*

Change your life...**today**. It is the most frequent word used after “**dear children**” on the 25th message to the world.

“**Dear children, today...**” is Her plea – now, right now.

Please for your sake, your family’s, for God’s, do not delay... change....

In Christ’s and His Mother’s love,  
A Friend of Medjugorje

End notes:

1. The Millennium Bug, Shaunti Christine Feldhahn, Multnomah Publishers, © 1998, p. 138; 2. Ibid., pg. 138-139; 3. Ibid., p. 138; 4. Ibid., p. 145; 5. Ibid., p. 143; 6. Ibid., p. 143; 7. Ibid., p. 146; 8. Ibid., p. 146; 9. Ibid., p. 139; 10. The Prayer To Heal Our Land, A Friend of Medjugorje; 11. The Riddle of History, Bruce Mazlish

## What Happens When People Decide to Live Christianity More Fully (Get Real)?

As already stated in this booklet, the future of a happy life will rest in small villages and towns, close to the soil for their subsistence: where God is acknowledged, where the whole community's first obligations, fulfilled with joy, is to gather daily in prayer, where hard work is carried out with peace and children all around, where love reigns and Mary of Nazareth is held as Queen. For those who chose to live this, they will be the witnesses and teachers of those who will seek this life in the future. The Community of Caritas lives this in their daily lives. The following will show, by opening up a window into their daily lives, the fruit and the joy that can be produced when one chooses to put God and prayer first.

These pages were written over a six day span here within the Community of Caritas. What happens in our normal routine of a life structured upon the messages? The following description that these six days covered is typical of our life here in community. We began each of the six mornings just as we do every day of the year. Except for the youth and mothers with small children, we all go to 5:00 a.m. prayer in the Field where Our Lady appeared to Marija in 1988.\* Rising at 4:30 a.m. in

\* Marija, one of the visionaries of Medjugorje, came to the United States and stayed with the Founder of Caritas of Birmingham and his family for 2½ months. Our Lady appeared to Marija every day and gave many beautiful messages. On November 24, 1988, Thanksgiving Day, Our Lady appeared to Marija out in a field. Our Lady gave the following message: **"I invite you to live my messages. I am here to help you! I will intercede for you to God for all your intentions."**

the morning, it is a joy to see flashlights coming from different directions on trails to come together as one light of prayer in the darkness, to pray for an hour that then gives way to light by 6:00 a.m. In the country, it is good for one's salvation, despite the sometimes harshness our friend "nature" tests us with. It indeed has a strange personality of both friend and foe, lightning flashing all around, beating us with storms, for atonement of our sins – turning its back on us when we turn ours on God, being cold to us when our sins have made us cold to God's voice. Our morning prayer encourages us to frequent confession. Nature speaks and, in the silence of the darkness, we seek that light which the cross leads us, by way of the difficulty of going to 5:00 a.m. prayer everyday, year after year. The "freezing" temperatures make us thankful for fire. The coolness of the "springs" (water) around us is a heartening thought in the midst of the fire of the summer heat. The fall speaks of reflection of life, death, and resurrection, and ushers us to the joy of rebirth at Christmas. Five o'clock in the morning prayer outside has taught us wisdom, which had we laid in bed, we would never have received, from night to daylight. Good versus evil; pleasantries of spring and fall versus the harshness of winter and summer, such a balance. So many lessons, so many joys, so many sorrows, so many sunrises. Every sunrise, through the 22 years\* of 5:00 a.m. prayer, is a lesson, a profound lesson of salvation.

\* Refer to footnote on page 34.

September 25, 1998

**“...Little children, you seek signs and messages and do not see that, with every morning sunrise, God calls you to convert and to return to the way of truth and salvation...”**

From 6:00 to 7:00 a.m., we prepare to be in the “Tabernacle of Our Lady’s Messages” for our work to spread Our Lady’s messages. The children begin school at 7:00 a.m. Between 7:00 – 8:00 a.m., the whole community works, with the exception of mothers and children, in our shipping area, filling requests from over 130 countries for material, spiritual direction, Our Lady’s messages, etc. At 8:00 a.m., we again join in prayer, but this time some of the mothers come, and there are always several small children crawling and walking amongst the adults as they pray. As Marija says, the angels flutter around Our Lady’s head of twelve stars. The children remind us of these cherubs, always bringing a smile to us as they glide in and out, from one adult to the next. It is among our first joys of the day.

From there, we go to our duties concerning Our Lady’s mission, which keeps us very busy. It ranges from greeting visitors to taking phone calls for marriage or spiritual crisis, etc., to printing mailings, to setting up pilgrimages to Medjugorje, to researching and writing our publications, to preparing materials for shipment overseas to our Mission House in Medjugorje, to archiving our history, as well as the

history of the apparitions, and a host of in-betweens. The community itself has to be sustained, and we try to do that without or on minimal funds. So that means, on top of a full-time mission, that we have a full-time farming operation to support ourselves, ranging from milking, shop work, machinery, welding, to sheep. Since most of the adults are busy with the mission and books, the youth perform a lot of the farming joys, although all of us, in various degrees, are a part of it. At 10:00 a.m.,\* the bells ring throughout the valley, calling us to Rosary. Whether community members are in the mountains working, the fields cutting hay, St. Joseph's shop doing carpentry work, the "Tabernacle of Our Lady's Messages," or in their homes, everything comes to a grinding halt as trails leading to the central spot in the Field where Our Lady appeared begins to appear with community members and visitors resembling, from a distance, ants on various trails going back to their nest.

The sweetness of the daily sound of the bells throughout the valley is such a joy to hear for the children, especially those under fifteen. They have heard it their entire lives. However, it is not the case for a few who live near our site, who despise those sounds. Before that came to be, when our two thousand pound bell was hung, it was foretold that in the future there would be those who would be driven to madness by these daily sounds. The bell was inscribed with the following message:

\* During Daylight Savings Time, Rosary begins at 11:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 C.S.T.

*The daily sound of this bell serves as a voice to the animals, trees, mountains, and most of all to man, that this valley is to serve the interests of God's plan here, and for any man who resides or visits here to do otherwise will find no peace. For this valley was consecrated by Mary of Nazareth, Mother of Jesus, Queen of Angels, by Her appearance here as Queen of Peace, affording great portions of peace for every man who is in harmony with the plan She delivered here.*

We never knew how prophetic, nor how much meanness and hatred would be leveled at us because of the daily sounds of these bells.

But OH!, for the kids, that first strike brings a smile, a joy in the heart. Whether the little ones are in their homes or outside or around the *Tabernacle of Our Lady's Messages*, they scramble in the joy of knowing all the little kids are about to come together for the first time of the day. During the six day span of this writing, one two-year-old was heard, upon hearing the bells, to yell the word, "Kids!" It signified to her the joy of kids joining together, surrounded by adults praying the Rosary. As other children outside of the community play with toys, our children play with each other. We do not give them a lot of toys. Their best toy is each other, and their view of "kid" is something you play with, and play they

do, with nothing but each other, adding only occasionally stick, rock, pine straw, leaves, and such. We see a joy and happiness that visitors repeatedly tell us move them toward believing in the path Our Lady has shown us. We have seen that most toys lead to boredom, but a stick can be everything from a horse to ride to whatever is imagined. It is simple and avoids arguments, since there are always plenty of sticks to be found. More peace is the result.

On the first day of this six day period, a twelve hour-old calf was laid at the spot of Our Lady's apparitions to be consecrated. On the fourth day, two more baby calves lay before Our Lady at the Rosary, just four to eight hours old. The calves, of course, were smothered with love by all the children, and it is just one more day of being so close to nature that we were able to live intimately with God and His creation. The three calves, within only a couple of days, brought the memory of four weeks earlier, in the Field, where we consecrated "fifteen" ten hour-old piglets. Squealing, running in and out of as many children as they, was not only a joyful, but a funny scene, all under the watchful eyes of Our Lady as we prayed the Rosary in preparation for the moment of Her apparition time in Medjugorje. The Rosary, for the kids, is a positive experience in which they associate so many joys with prayer that, as they get older, they, themselves, on their own, begin to kneel with us and pray it. Our witness of always being there, scheduling errands and doctor's appointments around Rosary

time so as not to miss it, teaches them to do the same. These six days contained two days of full-blown rain, non-stop, which for the kids is another adventure, tramping happily through the puddles, streams that are formed, and mud! Most parents would never allow this freedom, mostly because it requires a lot of work for the parent to change shoes, clothes, etc. But we have learned, through prayer, to be patient and give them the joy that other kids can only dream of – that is when you see a puddle that is only one foot wide in a twelve foot wide dirt road, you go through the puddle!

The bells ring again at 3:00 p.m., and we join for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for all our Field Angels,\* their requests, and their loved ones who may be ill or who have left the Church. Afterwards, we pray over the out-going mail, and everyone goes back to their work. In the evening, each family prays together while the consecrated singles join together for evening prayer. Aside from two and a half to three hours of prayer a day, there are many more events of prayer or novenas both by the community as a whole and individually, with spiritual readings, and work many times after evening prayers. The whole community, (which includes the older youth, eight and up) often do a special fifty-four day Rosary Novenas. As Lent begins, we will fast nine days on bread and water to

\* Field Angels are those individuals, through their monthly support, who help to sustain our mission. We pray for them and their loved ones daily, especially those family members or friends who have left the Church. We also pray for them on other special occasions as well as when they call or write with special requests and intentions.

purify our hearts. The youth decide for themselves how many days, if any, they will fast. Several go two, three, or four days. Others go the entire nine days, with joy! This is typical of our life. **It was Our Lady Herself who directly asked Marija in 1988 for a community to be established here, and we see She is forming a culture, a way to live, a witness to a way of life.**

A prayer of consecration which was a combination of small prayers prayed before Our Lady's apparitions here, is prayed everyday. It was begun when there was nothing here, but through it, we have seen the manifestations of its request come to reality, through God granting His grace. In justice, there is only so much Our Lady could ask for, and this prayer asks for more, beyond what She would ask for with Her intentions because in justice God knows man does not deserve it. We pray for God to grant it because Mary deserves it. The prayer asks also to establish Our Lady's Heavenly Queenship here in a unique and special way as no other place on earth – not above other places where Mary is honored, but rather as if She owns the land, for it to be exactly what She wishes, free to reign, unhindered by man (us) or man in his influence. It is our desire and prayer to Our Lady and our prayer of consecration daily that we recite the "Prayer for the Abode of God."

## **Prayer For the Abode of God**

*Holy, Holy, Holy God, I present myself to you with all my good deeds, my charity, my accomplishments as nothing. I have done nothing, nor will I ever do anything for You. Even if I labored to eternity for You, I still could not stand before You and say I merit anything.*

*I, now before You in prayer, naked, weak, and wretched, am ashamed, for I ask of You a great intention and have nothing to give You in return. Yet boldly and strongly do I say, "Grant what I ask because I ask in the Passion of Your Son." His suffering, I argue, merit me anything I ask of You. With His blood and Its merits, can You deny me anything? I ask You not only to grant the intentions of Our Lady, but to go beyond and grant one hundred fold Her intentions pertaining to the Valley. I ask You to establish Her Heavenly Queenship here as no other place on earth. I desire Her to be the Foundress of what is to be and I beg You to give Her untold powers to accomplish Her plans. I consecrate every living plant, animal, person, and the mountains themselves to You so that Our Lady, Jesus, and You might dwell here.*

*AMEN.*

Our life is difficult and contains often times the bitterness of internal purification of our heart, but it contains such sweetness that we are sure we are walking in God's hand.

July 25, 1987

**“...Dear children, pray and accept all that God is offering you on a way which is bitter. But at the same time, God will reveal every sweetness to whomever begins to go on that way...”**

On day three, in the late afternoon, we received a phone call which was a cause for the whole community to gather together. The unexpected gathering caused suppers to be put on hold, the finding of the kids, etc.. Everyone was so scattered that even though we rushed to be joined together, it took several minutes for everyone to arrive and come together in our prayer chapel in the “Tabernacle of Our Lady's Messages.” One by one we came in, knelt down and began praying the Rosary. After the first Rosary, it was announced that our petition in regard to a certain intention had been answered. We had prayed ten long years for this intention, made many sacrifices, and hoped, even when there was no reason to hope. Finally, it had been answered. Many wept as we prayed another Rosary and another, all three mysteries. We were so thankful that for the entire 90 minutes of prayer no one got off their knees. To have prayed so long for an intention and see it fulfilled, we were overwhelmed. We all gathered again

at 9:00 p.m. that night to do a novena in thanksgiving, in the same way we had done it at night many, many times through the years when making this special request – that was to walk on our knees from the house Our Lady appeared in to Marija in 1988 to the spot in the Field of Our Lady’s apparition. Once there, we circled nine\* times around the tree and statue, praying the Rosary and singing to Our Lady in thanksgiving. Walking on our knees for an hour and a half made us reflect on how, through the years, we were even able to do this so many times because of its difficulty, but it always strengthened us, and the prayer, sacrifice, and mortification were always done with love for Our Lady. This answer to prayer we received strengthened mightily our faith in the actions of mortification that we practice so much in our community. Every action we do in the community is rooted to a message. It is how we have learned to do such things to start with, as Our Lady’s messages show.

May 25, 1990

**“...I desire to help you to grow in renunciation and mortification that you may be able to understand the beauty of the life of people, who go on giving themselves to me in a special way...”**

\* Most novenas involve doing certain prayers and/or sacrifices for a certain intention nine times. For this reason, to offer up a special novena of thanksgiving, we circled the tree and the statue nine times.

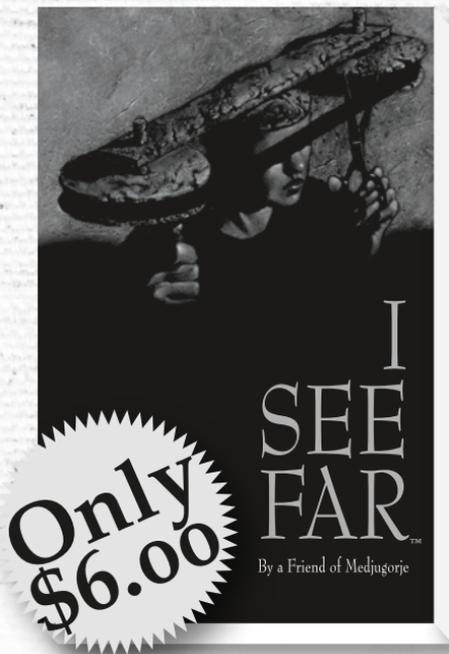
We have literally rooted our action, our way of thinking, to Our Lady's messages, and our life has a certain fullness. A yoke is a burden. One saint said if your mission is not a holocaust for you, it is not a mission. In Scripture, Jesus said He would help us carry our yoke, which with Jesus makes our yoke light. To be yoked with the world is crushing. To be yoked with Jesus, for the spiritual life, is a much heavier yoke, but with Him much lighter than the world's because He is stronger than we and perhaps partly because our sorrows are salved by the intense joys of life, living for Him.

Our schedule is difficult to keep up with. The mission is a full-time job. The duties connected to sustain the community are full-time. Our prayer is full-time. It is like working three shifts. But when there is conflict between the three, prayer time is never compromised. We know we only have to be successful at one thing, and that is prayer. We have never tried to be successful in our mission, our work, our goals, rather only in prayer. We know if we live God's commandments, and we are successful and succeed in prayer, and go minimally, once a month, to Confession, God will work out the details. It never ever ceases to amaze us how well He does it. We know what Our Lady means when She says, "all I ask of you is prayer." It doesn't mean we are to do nothing but pray, but that we stay hard at work, pray and work, consecrating our work so that it becomes prayer. When it is prayer and

work, they become one. Our Lady said in the very first message to Marija in this valley on November 20, 1988:

**“May your life be prayer. May your work be offered as a prayer and may everything that you do bring you toward me. Let everything that you do and everybody that you meet be an encounter with God.”**

A Friend of Medjugorje



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6/4/2007

*“Thank you so much for recommending all of us who read this webpage tonight at Ivan’s apparition. That was so very, very thoughtful and beautiful to do. I feel “touched” in a special way this evening. God Bless All!!! THANK YOU. THANK YOU. ”*

M.C.

Middletown, New Jersey – USA

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*“Just looking at the pictures, I can feel the presence of Our Lady...”*

D.S.

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J.H.

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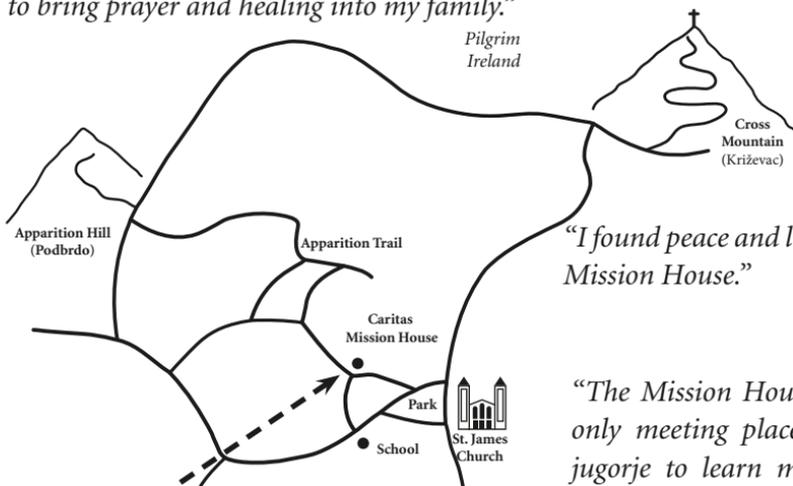
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*Pilgrim  
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# Medjugorje



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*“Following Caritas’ mission for several years and observing their work in spreading Our Lady of Medjugorje’s messages, it’s no wonder to me as to how they became the largest Medjugorje Center in the world.”*

*Pilgrim  
Scotland*

Look for the St. Michael statue.

Caritas of Birmingham Mission House is operated by the Community of Caritas.

The Mother house is located at: 100 Our Lady Queen of Peace Drive • Sterrett, Alabama 35147 USA

**www.mej.com** Extensive up-to-date information on Medjugorje as it happens.

**O**UR DAILY INDIVIDUAL CONVERSION IS absolutely necessary to preserve the world. It is known that **a revolution is caused by five percent of people**, the other ninety-five percent will follow. Our Lady implores us to convert in order to start a revolution of a new rebirth of Christianity. As go God's people, so goes the world. Jesus started with only a small cell of people, the world followed. Our Lady's basis for calling upon us to be a witness is based in the principle that everyone else will follow.



**CARITAS**  
OF BIRMINGHAM

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