

HISTORY OF UNITY AND SILENT UNITY

- Mary Caroline Page was born August 6, 1845 in Pagetown, Ohio, and as a small girl, she adopted the name Myrtle.
- Charles Fillmore was born August 22, 1854 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.
- In 1864 Charles dislocated a hip in a skating accident; developed a disease of the hip leaving him with a withered, shortened leg that was later healed through Unity prayer.
- Charles Fillmore and Myrtle Page wed March 29, 1881 and settled in Colorado.
- Myrtle Fillmore suffered a life-threatening tuberculosis condition in 1886, and with prayer, was completely healed by 1888.
- The Unity Movement officially began in April 1889 with the first issue of Modern Thought, published with the winged globe emblem.
- The Society of Silent Help, now Silent Unity, was founded in 1890 with prayer circles in the Fillmore home.
- The Unity Movement was named in 1891.
- Unity Correspondence School Founded in 1909.
- The Silent Unity prayer Ministry was expanded to operate 24/7, maintaining a constant prayer vigil in 1929, at Silent Unity, based at Unity Farm in Missouri.
- The first World Day of Prayer was celebrated on September 12, 1992, marking a new globally-focused tradition. It now involves an annual live-streamed opening ceremony, panel discussion and closing ceremony, with participants of all faiths submitting prayer requests from around the world.



- Mail prayer requests to Unity Worldwide Ministries Silent Prayer Support, Unity Prayer Ministry, 1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, MO 64065;
- or fill out a confidential prayer form at <https://www.unity.org/en/request-prayer>
- Or call 1-800-NOW-PRAY (669-7729), 24/7 for a live personal prayer.
- Prayer requests are held in confidentiality for 30 days.

By Patti Higgins



LIFE AS A UNITY PRAYER - THE TETERS

Born 10 miles from Unity Village near Kansas City, MO, Don learned to live life as a loving prayer from his Teters elders, teachers of Youth of Unity (YOU) at Unity Village. Don learned Unity's prayer foundation from the Filmore founders whom he met. Years later in Modesto, CA, Don's prayers were answered. His beloved and beautiful beautician Mary left her Catholic upbringing to Unify with Don. Together they scouted Unity churches in Orange County until they found our Rev. Marj in Tustin. Here they express their inner beauty, singing, building, painting, praying, modeling love and demonstrating what it is to be a good neighbor.

Together, Don and Mary beautified our children's garden, building and then furnishing our children's playhouse, the children's wishing well, birdhouses inviting residents to our trees, hand carved walking sticks. They harmonized in Voices of Unity Choir. Don remodeled the MUTS (Men of Unity of Tustin) shed, putting in shelving. Our creatives transported congregants' stuff in their truck, lending a helping hand whenever they could. At many of our gatherings, Don has read one of his ever-conscious prayers. This year's World Day of Prayer at Unity opened with one of Don's prayers.

Unity of Tustin's World Day of Prayer Invocation

September 11, 2025, By Don Teters

"I think, feel, see and react. Let my emotional self be still and focus on the beauty that surrounds me. Even simpler ways can become more fruitful.
In the silence I surrender my energy with every breath I take to the power of prayer and will of the Divine."

Responding to Susan Gilmore's invitation to join our Silent Prayer Team, Don and Mary Teters' lives are grounded in prayer.



By Patti Higgins

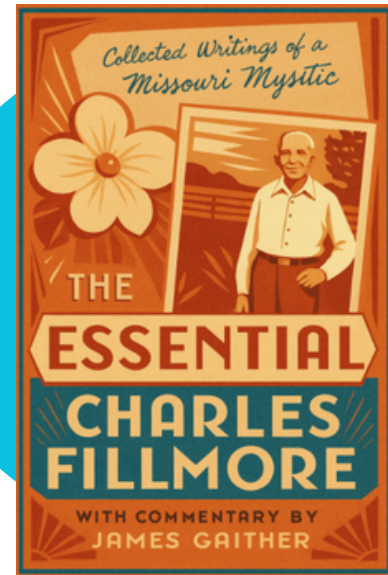
MORE WISDOM FROM CHARLES FILLMORE

From *The Essential Charles Fillmore*, pages 96–98.

Remember, God is not a king who can force his presence upon you whether you will it or not, but an omnipresent Mind enfolding and interpenetrating all things. The real of the universe is held in the Mind of Being as ideas of life, love, substance, intelligence, Truth, and so forth. These ideas may be combined in a multitude of ways, producing infinite variety in the realm of forms. There is a right combination, which constitutes divine order, the kingdom of heaven on earth. There are goodness everlasting and joy beyond expression in a perfect union between your mind and this perfect Mind.

Question: If we are offspring of Divine Mind, why are we not conscious of Its presence?

Answer: In using the privilege of our inheritance—the power to make ideas visible as things—we have created a realm that separates us in consciousness from Father-Mind. This is the teaching of Jesus in the parable of the prodigal son. When we are weary of the sense consciousness, we have only to turn our face (intelligence) toward our Father's House; there we shall meet a loving welcome.



Truth cannot be imparted. It must be individually experienced. The presence of Divine Mind in the soul cannot be told in words; It can be hinted at and referred to in parable and likened to this or that, but it can never be described as it is. The ability of the individual mind to combine the ideas of Divine Mind in a consciousness of its own makes each of us "an only begotten son," a particular and special creation. No two individuals in all the universe are exactly alike because there is always diversity in the ideas appropriated by each individual from Divine Mind.

By Kirk Reeve

FROM AN EDGAR CAYCE READING

"Rather than the stars ruling life, life should rule the stars – for humanity was created a little bit higher than all the rest of the whole universe, and is capable of harnessing, directing, and enforcing the laws of the universe."

Shared by Kirk Reeve

UOT SILENT PRAYER PROGRAM – WHY, WHEN AND HOW?

By Rev. Marj Britt, Gail Hamley, Susan Gilmore, Donna Evans, and Patti Higgins

Rev. Lois Ryan



In 1994, Lois Ryan sent Rev. Marj a flyer offering to teach a course on Deepak Chopra. With a growing congregation of only 30-40 people and a sanctuary seating only 80, Rev. Marj offered Lois, a former secretary at Beach Aircraft, a UOT position as part-time secretary while she completed her field licensing classes to become a Unity Minister.

Calls, visits, and mail requesting prayer poured into the tiny office off the Victoria House kitchen. Rev. Lois accepted the challenge to create a Pastoral Care Ministry. She asked Gail Hamley (now a Spiritual Director and Pastor of Community of Christ Round Rock, Texas) to assist her in developing a Silent Prayer program based on the one at Unity Village. This Pastoral Care Team collaborated in returning phone calls, praying over the requests, writing prayer letters, and creating and monitoring the Prayer Box for Sunday services.

Members of the congregation who wanted to dive into prayer consciousness joined our Prayer Team. Then in 2000, Jan Castelli participated in a new Prayer Chaplain Training Program created by Rev. Lei Lanni Burt, one of Rev. Marj's ministerial school classmates, at Unity of Santa Rosa, and fine-tuned at Unity of Phoenix. In 2005, Rev. Burt's PC Program became her Light and Love Ministries and was adopted by both Unity of Tustin and Unity worldwide, with a manual, tools, and on-line training. Our beloved Donna Evans was in the original prayer team that sit near the Prayer Box on the table near the rose garden entrance each Sunday.

Meanwhile, the less structured, original UOT Silent Prayer Team flourishes as it maximizes the prayer consciousness of the entire congregation. Prayer requests come online, over the phone, and in the Prayer Box, from strangers, UOT members, their family and friends, from all over the world. Requests are held in confidence and prayer for 30 days and then passed on to Unity Village's Silent Prayer Team of about 100 Silent Team Prayers, for an additional 30 days.

Over 23 members currently make up our UOT Silent Prayer Team. We receive monthly prayer lists and daily updates from Susan Gilmore. Some are past or future Prayer Chaplains who may not have the time or availability for today's more structured Prayer Chaplain Program. Some no longer live in Orange County or California!

Many of us treasure the grounding that being on the UOT Silent Prayer Team brings. Each develops his or her own daily prayer process. Many start the day praying over personally annotated monthly prayer lists, and then return to the peace, strength and positivity of prayer throughout the day (and night!) as requests come to our consciousness.

Any UOT member in good standing who wants to benefit from prayer is most welcome to participate. Prayer requests can be made on the UOT website www.unitytustin.org, or call 714-730-3444 X121. Join the Silent Prayer Team! Contact Susan Gilmore at susan@jongilmoredesigns.com.

UNITY HOSTS SUNDAY SUPPER - NOVEMBER 30TH

Thanksgiving is a time of sharing abundant blessings with family and friends. Please join your Unity family in extending this attitude of gratitude by blessing those in our local communities who are experiencing food insecurity at our next hosting of Sunday Supper on November 30th. There are so many ways to be in service. Meal preparation, table and beverage service, help at the grocery tables, set up and clean up. Time frames vary so let us know which volunteer opportunity works for you. A joyous way to practice the love principles we are embracing in our Spirit Groups. Let us walk in this Divine love together sharing our abundant blessings with others.

Susan Gilmore



The shortest distance
between two people is
a smile.

- Author unknown

FROM THE UNITY CLASSIC BOOK LIBRARY

The Influence of Martha Smock, editor of DAILY WORD for over 35 years.

Martha Smock (1913–1984) developed an interest in Unity at an early age. Her mother was a close friend of the Fillmore's, and young Martha attended classes taught by Charles. After her high school and college years, she was invited to join the staff at Unity School as a letter writer in Silent Unity. She subsequently served as an instructor in the Letter Writing Department, and in 1944 was named Editor of DAILY WORD.



The magazine's format of brief daily meditations and monthly articles on various spiritual topics served subscribers from all walks of life ranging in age from early teens to octogenarian (and older) as it does today. Martha believed that DAILY WORD'S clear use of language and its simple, direct, nondenominational approach were major contributors to its success.

Martha described DAILY WORD as "a magazine of today." She went on to say, "Due to our close association with Silent Unity, we are aware of the needs being expressed through prayer requests and correspondence. We endeavor to meet these needs through the DAILY WORD messages." A frequent comment of hers noted how remarkable it was that so many readers felt that messages spoke directly to their situation. "DAILY WORD is what it was intended to be in the beginning," she would say. "It serves as a daily reminder that we are spiritual beings who can meet any situation happily, effectively, and constructively."

In addition to her responsibilities as DAILY WORD editor, Martha wrote three books: *Meet it with Faith*, *Halfway Up the Mountain*, and *Turning Points*. She was a popular speaker at retreats and conferences, and was listed in *Who's Who in American Women* for many years beginning in 1974.

By Kirk Reeve

Note: The Daily Word, annual subscriptions cost \$9.95 (shop: unityonline.org) and are available as electronic and Large Print printed versions.

SPIRITUAL AUTO-BIOGRAPHY

“Know Thyself.”

It has been said that the Father of Philosophy, Socrates, took this ancient mantra, digested it, and then gave us the quote, “A life unexamined is not worth living.” Much more recently, Charles Fillmore, the founder of the Unity movement, took the idea a step further, when he wrote, **“By a right understanding, and by using right thoughts and words, [people] will experience the kingdom within [them].”** The Daily Word, August 22, 2025



One powerful way to develop a more perfect understanding of our lives, while using well-chosen words and thoughts, is to craft a spiritual autobiography. One way we can get started on this without much pain is by thinking of our lives as a branching tree, with new branches forming at significant life events, such as marriage, moving to a new city, or retirement, or forming at more pedestrian life events that have had big outcomes, like reading a certain book.

Some branches may flourish for long periods of time and bare great fruit, while others may eventually seem to wither for lack of sun or nourishment.

The following questions are intended to stimulate our memories and our thoughts about our lives. They are not intended to be answered in a literal manner. It may be best to read through all of them, and then react to the ones that strike a nerve. Remember – each life is unique. These questions do not have the same effect on all people.

1. What was the earliest branching point(s) in your life? What happened? Why was it important? How old were you at the time?
2. What people were involved with you at the branching points; family, friends, teachers, doctors, lawyers, others?
3. Were there any important happenings in your environment, either natural or man-made, that changed the direction of your life, such as tornadoes, fires, floods, or automobile crashes?
4. Were there any lucky events in your life that had positive outcomes, such as winning the lottery, getting a new job, or falling in love?
5. Were there any bad events that influenced your life, such as divorces, deaths, or illnesses?
6. What person(s) influenced your life in a major way, such as a parent or grandparent, teacher, friend, political or religious leader? What was the influence?
7. Did your family move their home when you were young? Did you ever change schools? Or change jobs? Did any of these have a lasting positive or negative effects on the flow of your life?
8. What branching points were you responsible for, in contrast to ones that resulted from outside influences? Have there been any branching points in your life about which you changed your views later, such as the long-range importance of your life, or your feelings about it? Were you angry then, and contented now? Or, vice-versa?
9. Do you think of the flow of your life as typical of most people, or is it unusual? In what way?

By Robert Phelps and Brad Dybel

Note: Robert Phelps has taught Spiritual Autobiography for years at local Senior Centers, as well as at Unity of Tustin – inspiring some of our members to continue writing and publishing books.

PRAYER REQUEST



☐ Chaplain Prayer Call ☐ Spiritual Counseling Appointment



- ## PRAYER PROCESS



PRAY OUT-LOUD



YOUR FEEDBACK NEEDED



**cut and drop at the book store or
email lipscombaj@gmail.com**



1. Go to UnityTustin.org
2. Click on the heading "About" down box
3. Click on "Newsletter" in the drop down box
4. Select the Newsletter of your choice and then click the month in the center.

or use the camera app
on your phone to scan
the QR code

