



... toward peace through the wisdom of the middle eastern traditions

Dear Friends,

The need of the world today reflects the deep desire of many people, across the traditional lines of religious communities, to pray, meditate and be of service *together*. According to one survey, since 9/11 interfaith activity has tripled everywhere. Respecting diversity, in the spirit of religious pluralism, means that we must risk an encounter with the "other." And yet, our present culture of individuality and individual differences — religion, gender, color, sexual preference, ethnicity, nationality — cannot lessen the very human need to connect and to build genuine relationships. As the new insights in quantum physics have shown, "individuality" is a product of the way we view a thing, person or quality either inside or outside of us. We produce differences and distinctions in the way we tell our stories to ourselves.

We have a unique opportunity right now to assist a sea change in the consciousness of humanity by joining together, beyond religious distinctions and differences, to share that deep peace which is called by many different names in many different traditions. With the Middle Eastern traditions at the center of the world's awareness, those of us with experience in these traditions can take a bold step for humanity beyond the ethnic, racial, religious and nationalistic separations of the past.

For 25 years, millions of people around the planet have supported this **interspiritual** impulse in themselves and others by chanting, praying and dancing the words of the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus in the cycle of Dances of Universal Peace brought through this person in 1982. They have used the translations in *Prayers of the Cosmos* and subsequent books I have written in their parishes, spiritual communities, congregations, retreat centers and families for ritual, rites of passage, comfort and support. As the body of work grew, the bridge that is the Aramaic Jesus showed the way to experience and understand more deeply the other riches of the Native Middle Eastern traditions, including the stories and spiritual practices expressed in ancient Egyptian, Babylonian, Hebrew and classical Arabic.

As the shared creation stories of these traditions express it, when we look ahead of us we need not see a limited, Newtonian view of cause-and-effect, a future predetermined by a narrow view of the past, in the selective reports of "history." Instead, when we look ahead, we can see a shared moment of mystery at the beginning of the cosmos, a quantum moment before time itself, a moment of creative possibility that is always *now*.

Beginning in 2007, the Abwoon Study Circle will renew its support for transformative, creative work using the wealth of bridge-building resources birthed in the last 25 years. We will actively support the formation of interspiritual communities, groups and encounters using the translations, liturgies, rituals, body prayers and spiritual practices sparked by the Abwoon work.

Goals of the Abwoon Interspiritual Communities:

- To realize and spread the **global consciousness of unity**;
- To **bridge understanding between the traditions of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar** through shared story, meditation and interspiritual ritual;
- To **build communities of peace** through the celebration of sacred diversity;
- To **share the vision of purpose, creativity and empowerment** that prophet Yeshua calls *markuta* and which is known in Hebrew as *markuth* and in Arabic as *al-Malik*.

In 2007, we are initiating three new projects to support this vision:

- A **manual of models**, experiences and suggestions for grass roots, collaboratively-led, Abwoon Circles written by the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, to be released in April.
- A project to offer all Christians and lovers of Jesus/Yeshua the opportunity to learn to say one prayer **together**: the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic. We have posted a new page to our website to allow everyone to do this. Please visit www.abwoon.com/LordsPrayerinAramaic.html
- A **leadership training program**, aimed toward both established practitioners (for their own deepening) and newcomers who wish to learn to form and serve these new spiritual communities. The program will begin first in North America and at one of our annual retreats at Wiston Lodge in Scotland. Details follow within the newsletter and at www.abwoon.com.

We invite your prayers, support and participation in whatever way you feel moved to offer. May all we do and are benefit the unfolding Reality of the cosmos!

Love and blessings, Neil Douglas-Klotz

New Resource — Available Spring 2007!

**A Manual for Study and Spiritual Practice with
Abwoon Study Circle Resources**
by Rev. Munira Elizabeth Reed, Ph.D.

This manual is designed for people who have no or little group facilitation training or experience. It focuses on small group processes, including peer-led and facilitator-led groups. The manual includes:

- Twenty-two short-term group models that may be followed as written or adapted for specific groups
- Lesson plans based upon all major Abwoon resources by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Ph.D.
- Multiple lesson plans for most resources with various approaches for groups
- Cross-referenced tables of resources and suggestions for leaders to create their own specific lesson plans
- Insights and suggestions from experienced Abwoon Study Circle leaders

Visit the Abwoon website, www.abwoon.com, for the release date and ordering information.

A Vision for the Next Generation: What if all Christians Learned to say the Prayer of Jesus together - in Aramaic?

What if....

All Christians and devotees of Jesus and his example of selfless service would learn to say the words of his prayer ("The Lord's Prayer") in his native Aramaic Language.

All Christians and devotees of Jesus would then have one prayer, one practice that they could share together, without any language or doctrinal differences. Today, we cannot even share the practice called "communion" (or eucharist) together because of these differences.

What difference would it make for Christians to unite in one prayer, acknowledging at the same time what all theologians, scholars and historians know: Jesus-Yeshua was a native Middle Eastern person and spoke Aramaic, a language related to both ancient Hebrew and classical Arabic, the languages of the Jewish and Islamic traditions?

Eastern (Aramaic-speaking) Christians today (Assyrians, Syrian Orthodox, Church of the East) do not agree about the exact pronunciation of these words, but in fact the actual differences between their pronunciations are very slight. A person of any language or background who learns a basic pronunciation of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer could easily understand any others and join in praying the prayer with them.

This year the Abwoon Study Circle begins a program to help promote this vision:

- The pronunciation of the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus, in a dialect that combines both of the major current pronunciations with a "tablespeak" of the ancient Hebrew intonation that Yeshua may have used is available at www.abwoon.com/LordsPrayerinAramaic.html
You can download the sound files in mp3 format, which allow one to learn the prayer at home.
- The *Prayers of the Cosmos teaching* CD, which allows one to learn both Yeshua's prayer and his Beatitude sayings from Matthew in Aramaic will now be available from Abwoon Study Circle at a reduced cost: \$10 plus shipping.
- An **online course on the Aramaic Prayer**, composed by the Rev. Elizabeth Reed from the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz, also provides an excellent, step-by-step way to learn and meditate with the prayer. Details can be found below.

Web-based Meditation Course

Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed has edited and supplemented a 20-session, web-based, healing meditation course based on the books and tapes of Neil Douglas-Klotz. You can receive lessons twice a week, once a week or every other week.

Visit www.SelfHealingExpressions.com for information and to register. If you sign up through the Abwoon website by going through the link on www.abwoon.com/WebCourses.html, the Abwoon Study Circle receives a commission.

This and other courses are available for \$34.95.

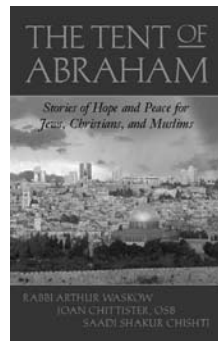
Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

Desert Flowers is an occasional e-mail discussion group, under the direction of Neil Douglas-Klotz. It focuses on the body prayers and spiritual practices from *Prayers of the Cosmos*, *Desert Wisdom*, *The Hidden Gospel*, *The Genesis Meditations* and other books. To join, you must be able to send and receive e-mail.

For information, visit www.abwoon.com/listserve.html or contact Richard McMurtry at rmcmurtry@baymoon.com.

Catalogue of Resources

BOOKS



THE TENT OF ABRAHAM: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims

by

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Joan Chittister, OSB
and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti
With a foreword by Karen Armstrong

In recent years there has been an explosion of curiosity and debate about Islam and about the role of religion, both in the world and in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The numerous books published on these questions speak to issues of politics, history, or global security. None speaks

to the heart and the spirit, and yet millions of people experience these issues not as political, economic, or intellectual questions but as questions of deep spiritual, emotional, and religious significance.

Three key religious thinkers write about the story of Abraham as a way to deepen Muslim, Christian, and Jewish understanding. *The Tent of Abraham* provides readers with stories that can bring all the faiths together. Written by Saadi Shakur Chishti, a Scottish American Sufi, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, an American Jew, and Joan Chittister, a Benedictine sister, the book explores in accessible language the mythic quality and the teachings of reconciliation that are embedded in the Torah, the Qur'an, and the Bible. It also weaves together the wisdoms of the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions into a deeper, more unified whole.

The Tent of Abraham is the first book to tell the whole story of Abraham as found in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim sources and to reenergize it as a basis for peace.

Joan Chittister, OSB, is a lecturer and best-selling author of numerous books, including *Called to Question*. She lives in Erie, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Arthur Waskow is the director of The Shalom Center in Philadelphia and author of numerous books, including *Seasons of Our Joy* (Beacon \$18.00) and *Down-to-Earth Judaism*. Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Neil Douglas-Klotz) is an internationally known Sufi scholar and writer. His most recent book is *The Sufi Book of Life*.

Hardback, **\$24.95**. Beacon Press. (Paperback available Summer, 2007.)

"The Palestinian/Israeli conflict has elicited many books exhorting political and religious peace in the Middle East, but none has appealed to individual minds and hearts quite like this one... Delicate in telling but bold in message, the book encourages every reader to take an inner pilgrimage to understand better others' viewpoints." — Library Journal, starred review

"This book will open your eyes to the possibilities for collaborative work between our traditions, and is a must-read for those doing interfaith peacework." — Tikkun

“Evok(es) the ‘open tent’ policy of Abraham, who welcomed all visitors to his home....” — Publishers Weekly

“[A] celebration of religious diversity that is likely to leave readers more optimistic about the potential for peace.” — David Crumm, Detroit Free Press

“At a time when we have seen too much certainty, *The Tent of Abraham* reminds us that the kind of confusion, fear, and dismay that so many of us are experiencing can be the start of a new religious quest... *The Tent of Abraham* brings three religious traditions together so that we may all become more familiar with the faiths lived by the strangers around us.” — Karen Armstrong, from the Foreword

“We have seen all too much evidence of how the three Western faiths can be used to foment hatred and bloodshed. People really must read this book, for the choice of interpreting our three faiths as the grounds for war or for peace is nothing less than a choice between life and death.” — Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Judaism

“*The Tent of Abraham*, Hagar, and Sarah, open on all sides, and a tent of welcome to the ‘other,’ is an image critical to our fractured time. The stories of our common ancestors told in this book with such creative imagination inspire all of us to build community across the walls that normally divide us. This book is an inspiration for those who engage in such an exciting journey.” — Bob Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches

“When we share our spiritual journeys, even when the stories of our lives are different from each other, we often find their source in the Compassionate One who calls on us to be compassionate. So it is when we share the stories of our great family, the Family of Abraham, peace be upon him. This book shares our different stories in ways that beckon us toward peace and toward the One.” — Sayyid M. Syeed, Ph.D., Secretary General, Islamic Society of North America



BLESSINGS OF THE COSMOS: Benedictions from the Aramaic Words of Jesus by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Aramaic — the language Jesus and his disciples spoke — has captured the imagination of Christians around the world. Since the publication of his 1990 best-seller *Prayers of the Cosmos*, Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz has been recognized as a foremost expert at interpreting the native wisdom of the Middle Eastern spiritual traditions.

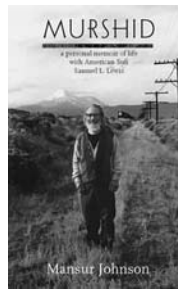
If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his native tongue, what would we learn? Through his insightful translations from the Aramaic language that Jesus and his disciples actually spoke, Neil Douglas-Klotz uncovers the rich layers of meaning and wisdom found in Jesus’ original words.

In *Blessings of the Cosmos*, this renowned scholar presents Jesus’ best-loved benedictions, including:

- His last messages to the disciples, including the “great commandment” on love, the “many mansions” teaching, the blessing of “greater works,” and more
- How to find the divine presence in unexpected places
- Invocations of light, joy, peace, and faith
- A wealth of body-based practices designed to bring spiritual energy and insight
- An 80-minute CD with many guided prayers in Aramaic

Whether for personal inspiration or use in communal worship and rites of passage, with *Blessings of the Cosmos*, readers now have a heart-opening prayer book that will ever deepen their experience of the divine.

Hardback book plus CD, **\$18.95**. Sounds True.



MURSHID: A personal memoir of life with American Sufi Samuel L. Lewis by Mansur Johnson

Otis B. Johnson was a young college professor of English in the 1960’s when he joined the exodus of hippies to California to meet someone his friend said could take them where they wanted to go the fastest. Where did they want to go? They wanted to meet the divinity, obtain God-consciousness, get enlightened, find love, experience samadhi, in short — they didn’t know for sure.

What happened? Otis B. Johnson became Mansur Johnson during a three-year encounter with the world’s first Guru-Roshi-Murshid, Samuel L. Lewis. *Murshid* shows in intimate detail how Samuel L. Lewis, the first Western-born Sufi teacher, Zen master, and practitioner of Indian cosmic metaphysics, accomplished his life’s purpose.

Illustrated with many previously unpublished photos of Murshid Samuel Lewis and his early students.

“Dear Reader: Prepare for a unique adventure of spiritual discovery and transformation.... you have before you a wild, bucking-bronco of a ride. Hold on!” — from the foreword by Neil Douglas-Klotz

“Every time I remember Sam, I end up laughing at myself. That’s pretty good work for a dead rascal-saint.” — Ram Dass, author of *Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing and Dying*

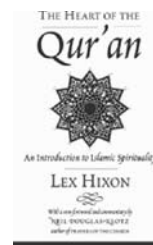
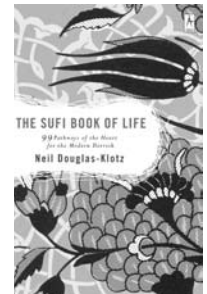
“I have no fonder memory of the 60’s than the appearance of this strange-looking man, who said things that made me first laugh, then smile, then later pause in appreciation of a spiritual original, a pioneer.” — Dr. Jacob Needleman, author of *The Wisdom of Love* and *The American Soul*

Paperback, **\$25.00**. PeaceWorks Publications.

THE SUFI BOOK OF LIFE: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Taking the centuries-old form of a “dervish handbook,” this is a guide to life and love updated for the twenty-first century. This book offers a fresh interpretation of the fundamental spiritual practice found in all ancient and modern Sufi schools — the meditations on the 99 Qualities of Unity. This accessible guide is a handbook that explains how to apply Sufi principles to modern life with inspirational commentary that connects each quality with contemporary concerns such as love, work, and success, as well as timeless wisdom from Sufi masters, both ancient and modern, such as Rumi, Hafiz, Shabistari, Rabia, Inayat Khan, Indries Shah, Irina Tweedie and Bawa Muhaiyadden.

Paperback, **\$15.00**. Penguin Compass Original.
Visit www.sufibookoflife.com for more information.



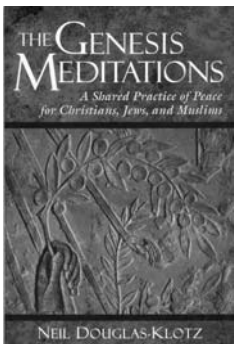
HEART OF THE QUR'AN

by Lex Hixon
edited with commentary by Neil Douglas-Klotz

900 key passages of the Qur’an rendered into English with a focus on their spiritual experience and meaning, revealing the Qur’an’s teachings as one of the great wisdom traditions of humanity. In this edition, Neil Douglas-Klotz has rearranged the passages thematically and provided commentary for each major theme.

The result makes the teachings even more accessible, allowing the reader easily to find relevant readings for guidance on everyday issues such as love, relationships, work, justice, gratitude, self-knowledge, and prayer.

Paperback, **\$18.95, £13**. Quest Books.



THE GENESIS MEDITATIONS: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews and Muslims

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

This book focuses on an ancient form of meditation that unites the three religions of the Middle East: the creation of the universe and the archetype of the first human being. In experiencing the creation story as our own, personal story, we recreate and renew ourselves. Through practicing this original meditation, we can access this power for self-renewal and deeper connection with the divine in our

everyday lives. Hardback, **\$24.95, £17**. Quest Books.

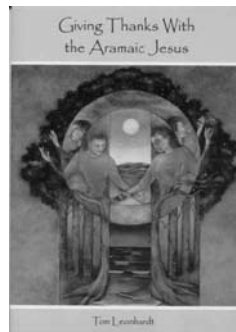
“This is truly a book for our times, revealing the common root of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and making it available in a wise and practical way.” — Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

“By the time we finish his book, we are ready and able to join body, heart, mind and spirit into a healing wholeness — indeed, the wholeness of Creation.” — Rabbi Arthur Waskow

PRAYERS OF THE COSMOS: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

A pioneering book in the movement to recover the wisdom of Jesus as a Native Middle Eastern person. The Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes in new, multi-layered interpretive translations, from the native language of Jesus. Paperback edition, **\$13.00, £8.99**. Harper San Francisco (English), Knauer (German), East-West (Dutch), Triom Publishers (Brasil).



GIVING THANKS WITH THE ARAMAIC JESUS

by Tom Leonhardt

This book includes fifteen complete worship services based on the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The material is usable in a number of ways — from personal prayer to communal worship. Each service concentrates on a line of the Lord's Prayer or one of seven Beatitudes and suggests Dances of Universal Peace that are appropriate to the given theme. Paperback, **\$17**. Woven Word Press.

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The Genesis Meditations (CD)

Companion CD to the book. You can learn to say and chant the words to 14 chants in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Arabic related to our shared cosmic creation stories. Each phrase or word is repeated several times, with space for you to repeat it for easy memorization or to use with the meditations in the book. 68 minutes, **\$15, £10** (or **\$13** online). **SPECIAL order the book and CD online for \$36.**

Desert Wisdom Body Prayers and Chants (Tape)

A companion tape to the book with readings, guided meditations and a selection of the chants used in the body prayers. **\$8, £4.**

Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Lord's Prayer (CD)

Live recording at Lama Foundation in New Mexico in 1989. Powerful, 100-voice rendition of the entire prayer cycle. **\$15, £10. Companion Booklet** with fully notated music, movements and background. **\$8, £4.**

Prayers of the Cosmos (Tape/CD)

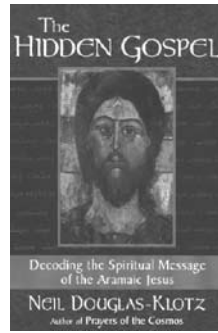
A companion to the book, gives clear pronunciations of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes. Also, all melodies to both cycles sung clearly by Neil Douglas-Klotz. **\$8/\$15 (CD \$10 / £5 anniversary special for 2007), £4/£10.**

Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Beatitude Way (Tape/CD)

Live recording at the site of the "Upper Room" at St. Mark's Convent in Jerusalem during 1993. Moving, devotional recording, wonderful for chanting and meditation. **\$8/\$15 (CD \$13 online), £4/£10. (CD is currently being updated.)**

A Native Middle Eastern Cycle (CD)

Seasonal chants and Dances of Universal Peace drawn from the ancient Middle Eastern Goddess traditions. Includes Belit Mati, Shaddai, Hokhmah Allatu, Innana Damuzi, Eyeh Asher Eyeh, and others. Voices and instruments. **\$15 (CD \$13 online), £10.**



THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The Hidden Gospel of Jesus is... not buried in the sands, not locked in a secret library, not being channeled by a new messiah. The Hidden Gospel is in plain sight. We find it in Jesus' familiar sayings newly translated from Aramaic, the Middle Eastern language he actually spoke.

What emerges is a hopeful, nurturing, and very contemporary spiritual message. Each chapter includes meditative exercises and body prayers

for directly experiencing the life-changing spiritual practice of Jesus' original mystical tradition. Paperback, **\$14.95, £10.99**. Quest Books (English), Koesel (German), Ankh-Hermes (Dutch).

DESERT WISDOM: Sacred Middle Eastern Writings from the Goddess to the Sufis

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

From ancient Egypt through mystical Judaism and the Aramaic Jesus to classical Sufism, *Desert Wisdom* weaves a rich, colorful tapestry that allows these ancient voices to speak to us today. Use *Desert Wisdom* as a handbook of daily inspiration, oracle or source book. Through writings, chants, meditations and body prayers, you will experience in your bones this sacred Earth tradition. Hardback. **\$20.00, £12.50**. Harper San Francisco (US & Canada), Thorsons (UK), Santiago Verlag (Germany), Altamira (Netherlands), Record (Brasil).

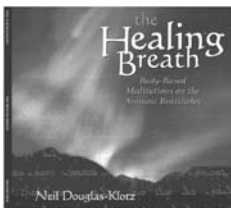


WISDOM COMES DANCING: Selected Writings of Ruth St. Denis on Dance, Spirituality and the Body

edited and with notes by Kamae A Miller

Delight in life, beauty and movement fill the pages of *Wisdom Comes Dancing*, a collection of previously unpublished writings by the mother of American modern dance. St. Denis, the teacher of Martha Graham and other American dance pioneers, was the most photographed woman of her era. Her essays, talks and poetry show a fiery passion and cool intelligence as she addresses topics such as her vision of the arts as a force for social justice and the role of women in peace-making. The book includes many striking photographs of St. Denis in dances inspired by great women prophets, humanitarians and goddesses of various traditions. Paperback, **\$15.95, £10.99**. (PeaceWorks). German edition available from Santiago Verlag (www.santiagoverlag.de).





THE HEALING BREATH: Body-based Meditations on the Aramaic Beatitudes

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Using Jesus' native Aramaic language as a lens, this tape series leads us through one of the great healer's best-loved talks — the Beatitudes (or "Blessed are..." sayings) and shows how this seemingly simple set of sentences reveals a profound approach to healing and wholeness. Each saying takes you deeper and deeper into this divine source of healing. This set gives you ways to access it in your everyday life, using body prayer and spiritual practice drawn from Jesus' own teachings with 12 in-depth sessions, which include 24 meditations involving body awareness, sound, breath and gentle movement.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local Internet source.

Length: 6 cassettes, 9 hours, with accompanying booklet for **\$59.95, £40** or 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £48**.

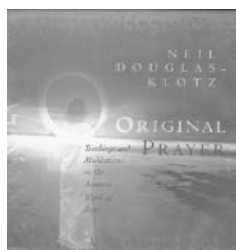
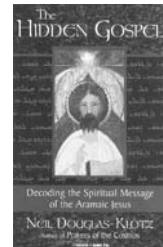
THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his own native tongue, what would we learn? These Sounds True tapes are not a reading of the *Hidden Gospel* book, but a live recording of a workshop with Neil that touches on the main themes of the book. These tapes were re-edited so that one can listen to them in 20-minute segments. They are very high quality and perfect for Abwoon Study Circles. These tapes do not repeat the material in the *Original Prayer* series.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local Internet source.

Length: 3 CDs, 180 minutes, with accompanying study booklet. **\$24.95, £14**.



ORIGINAL PRAYER: Teachings and Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Original Prayer begins by exploring the many rich layers of meaning enfolded within New Testament scriptures written in Aramaic, the language that Jesus and his disciples actually spoke. Through specific insights revealed within the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, listeners learn over a dozen unique "body prayers," an ancient Middle Eastern form of meditation that engages the entire body in the contemplation of scripture. This is the same devotional practice used by the early Christians to delve into the Gospels — not as a scholarly exercise, but as a living, breathing experience of God.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local bookstore or Internet source.

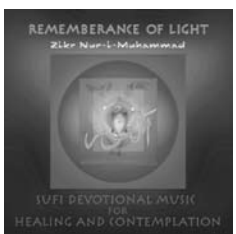
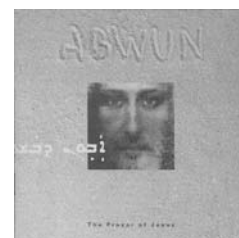
Length: 6 cassettes, 9 hours, with accompanying booklet. **\$59.95, £40** or 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £45**.

ABWUN

A Mantric Oratorio by the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf from the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

The original melodies for the various lines of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer were composed through Neil Douglas-Klotz in 1982–83, as part of his meditative research of the prayer. These melodies are used in a cycle of Dances of Universal Peace, which allows the sounds and feelings of the various lines to be prayed with the whole body. The beautiful arrangements of Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir enrich the multi-textual feeling of the prayer. In this new aural soundscape, the various threads of the prayer weave dynamically and allow the hearer to be bathed in an atmosphere of sacredness.

CD: 72 minutes. **\$18.99, £12.99**.



REMEMBRANCE OF LIGHT: Zikr Nur-i-Muhammad

Sufi Devotional Music for Healing and Contemplation

by Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti)

Bathe in the light of Unity with this CD, which celebrates the One in a six-part cycle of music and sacred words. A celebration of the unity of light and the diversity of sound from the Sufi tradition. The six parts include: 1) Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim: We begin in the Name, Sound and Vibration of the Sun and the Moon of Love. 2) Basir Allah, Sami Allah: Celebration of seeing and hearing the One all around us. 3) La illaha illa 'llah hu: There is no reality but the One. 4) Hu Hu Hu Allah: From the center of sound there is only Unity. 5) Allah Huma Salle Allah Nuri Mohammed: Blessings of Unity on the light of the perfection of humanity. 6) Peace and Blessings on all Prophets and Lovers of the One and Il Allah Hu Canon — Only Unity Exists.

CD: 63 minutes. **\$16, £10**.

Beginnings: A Modern Oratorio Inspired by the Shared Creation Stories of the Middle East

A Musical Collaboration by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Abraham Sussman and Friends.

Enjoy as a companion to the book *The Genesis Meditations*, for listening, contemplation and movement. Voice, guitars, violin, hand drums, piano, flute, cello, bass, accordion, horns and harp.

CD: 80 minutes. **\$15, £10**.



SIMPLE PRESENCE: Dancing "I Am" with the Aramaic Jesus

Native Middle Eastern Chant & Devotional Music

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The "I Am" statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John, as viewed from Jesus' native Aramaic language, point to a state of "simple presence" — a connection to the "I Am that I Am." Each feeling or experience mentioned is a doorway to this connection. This recording gives chants and music to a sequence of Dances of Universal Peace that use seven of these "I Am" statements in Aramaic. Listening to, chanting with and contemplating these chants can take the listener into the **shem** of Jesus — his vibration or atmosphere — and fulfill his advice to pray **b'sheme** ("with my light-sound-atmosphere").

CD 65 minutes. **\$16.99, £10**.



THE OPENING:

Sura Fateha—A Prayer for Peace

This CD has the first sura of the Qur'an, with its emphasis on love, unity and surrender to the One Being, in musical form for chanting. An expanded translation of the Sura appears in the book *Desert Wisdom*.

"These melodies came through while on a personal retreat during the passing of my own

Sufi guide, Moineddin Jablonski, in February 2001 and are dedicated to him. The melodies contain much of his feeling and emphasis on embracing both the shadow and light in one's own being, with joy and acceptance. I encourage it to be used as a chanted prayer for peace."— Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti)

CD \$15, £10. Recorded in Germany.

HEALING PIANO

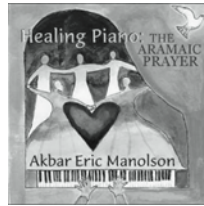
Themes and variations composed and performed by Akbar Eric Manolson

Inspired by the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

In 1997, Neil Douglas-Klotz invited Akbar Manolson to create a keyboard arrangement of the Aramaic prayer for healing, to reach a wide audience. The result is this recording. The purpose of this music is

both to relax and to energize. This is a CD of **solo piano music**, subtle and dynamic, without vocal singing or additional accompaniment. It offers you a new way to experience the inspiration and beauty of this ancient invocation.

CD 61 minutes. \$18, £11.30.



ANCIENT ECHOES

by San Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble

In August 2000, Christopher and Covita Moroney set out on a 1,700 mile road trip to attend a retreat with Neil Douglas-Klotz after reading *Prayers of the Cosmos*. This inspired them to turn their creative attention to the music of the Middle East during the time of Jesus. Their exploration has resulted in the *Ancient Echoes*

CD by SAVAE with ancient Aramaic and Hebrew chants based on Neil's writings and teachings. See www.savae.org for information about SAVAE and more about the *Ancient Echoes* CD. \$17.

V I D E O

ABWUN: The Video with Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf

This video features parts of a live performance of the *ABWUN* mantric oratorio composed by Christian Bollman from the original melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The performance in Berlin, Germany organized in October 1999 by the local Dances of Universal Peace group, drew more than 600 people. Most of the first twenty minutes of the oratorio is included in the video along with selected excerpts of the remainder. Excerpts of a short address by Neil Douglas-Klotz in German precede the performance. Perfect for Abwoon study groups.

35 minutes, **no longer available as a VHS tape. Will be re-issued as a DVD.** See www.abwoon.com for availability.



Ordering Information for Abwoon Study Circle Resources

Main office: Abwoon Study Circle, P.O. Box 361655, Milpitas, CA 95036-1655 USA. tel. 1-408-945-9854, e-mail: selim@abwoon.com.

The Abwoon website www.abwoon.com offers secure, online domestic and international ordering for all of the listed publications and recordings. Retail US shipping and handling through USPS is \$4.25 for the first item and \$1.05 for each additional item. Wholesale and international orders are charged actual shipping costs. Contact the office for faster delivery and wholesale schedule.

In United Kingdom & Europe, Selected English Abwoon books, tapes and CDs may be ordered after March 1, 2007 from Carol Jones, Brynawel, 1 Heol Gwyndalis, Dihewyd, LAMPETER, Ceredigion, Wales, SA48 7PN, United Kingdom. tel. 44-(0)1570-470066, e-mail: carol@abwoon.com.

Retail UK shipping and handling is £2.50 for the first book (or £1 for the first tape or CD if no books are ordered) and 70p for each additional item. Make checks or money orders payable to Abwoon Study Circle UK.

In Germany, please contact Nurah-Majid Ruth Jaeger, nDL Secretariat, Str. am Schoelerpark 26, D-10715 Berlin, Germany. tel. 49-(0)30-86207078, e-mail: nurah@taenze-ndl.de for German translations of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (*Das Vaterunser*, Knauer Verlag), *Desert Wisdom* (*Weisheit der Wueste*, Santiago Verlag) including the Body Prayers recorded in German,

Hidden Gospel (*Prophet aus der Wueste*, Koesel Verlag), the instruction booklet for the Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus (Lord's Prayer) and other musical recordings. Please also enquire for information about German-language seminars in this work by Gita Onnen and Neil Douglas-Klotz.

In Belgium, please contact: Wim and Arienne van der Zwan, Les Venues 44, B-5377 Heure (Somme-Leuze), Belgium. tel. 32-(0)86-38-78-82, e-mail: a&w@peacemotion.info for Dutch language editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (East-West Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Alta Mira), *Hidden Gospel* (Ankh-Hermes), the *Desert Wisdom* Body Prayer recording in Dutch and the rest of the musical recordings. Please also enquire here for information about Dutch-language seminars in this work by Wim van der Zwan.

In Brasil, please contact: Sabira Christina Dora Schkölziger, Caixa Postal 96947, 28.601-970 Nova Friburgo, RJ Brasil. tel. 55-(0)22-2542-1337, fax: +55-(0)22-2542-2052, e-mail: sabira@uol.com.br for Portuguese editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (Triom Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Record) and some recordings. Please also enquire here about Brazilian Portuguese-language seminars in this work by Sabira Christina Dora Schkölziger.

In Australia, please contact Hannah & Vajra, RMB 2592, Bucketty 2250, NSW, Australia. tel. 61-(0)2-4376-1195, fax: 61-(0)2-4376-1150, e-mail: inana@ozemail.com.au

Donate to the Abwoon Study Circle Work

Many thanks to the people and organizations who have contributed to the work of Abwoon Study Circle over the past year. During 2006, \$14,380.00 was contributed to this work and a special individual grant has been received that is designated to the new Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program. The work of Neil Douglas-Klotz is not supported by any outside means other than donations and grants from you.

Your help is appreciated in a variety of ways. Please contact us if you have a family foundation and would like to donate to this work, if you have a suggestion of a foundation or another funding source that Abwoon should pursue, if you have a matching donations program at your work, or if you wish to donate part of an IRA or other investment under the new tax laws.

We are grateful for all gifts — small or large. Areas of support, which can be designated, include programs and projects, administration, outreach

work, and Dr. Douglas-Klotz' research and teaching. Contact Rev. Munira Elizabeth Reed of the Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or contribute by:

- Credit card or check in the included donation envelope
- Credit card through PayPal.com (use donations@abwoon.com)
- Donor-initiated automatic monthly contributions
- Check payable to Shalem Center and marked "for Abwoon". Send it to

The Shalem Center
693½ High Street, Suite 202
Worthington, OH 43085

Please remember Abwoon Study Circle in your holiday and year-end giving plans. All contributions through the Shalem Center, which is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, are tax deductible. If you require a receipt for your donation, please let us know.

Major Abwoon Events

July 10–18

Wiston Summer Institute near Edinburgh, Scotland

The annual Wiston Summer Institute is an opportunity for those who are interested in deepening in the rich resources of Native Middle Eastern Spirituality and Mysticism: the Aramaic spirituality of Jesus, Kabbalah, Sufism and indigenous traditions. It is open to all, and focused on those wishing to learn to share the meditation, chant, contemplations, sacred movement and other processes associated with the work of Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti) as well as the work of Murshid Samuel L Lewis and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. The longer format, in a beautiful setting in the Scottish Borders, allows for more time to share, assimilate and embody this work than is available in a shorter weekend workshop or retreat.

Our annual institute this year **consists of two retreats, which can be combined or attended separately:**

July 10–15

2007 European SoulWork Retreat and Training with Murshids Mariam Baker and Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz

This five-day retreat will focus on the inner practices transmitted by Pir Moineddin Jablonski called SoulWork. The aim is to befriend and engage all parts of the inner self as an integrated community, a whole 'I am' united to the One through zikr, walks, meditation, the Dances of Universal Peace and contemplation. This process frees life energy and gives a gift to our soul. This is the only SoulWork retreat with Mariam and Saadi in Europe in 2007.

This retreat ends at lunch on Sunday, July 15. For initiated Sufi mureeds or by permission.

July 15–18

The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 1 *Aramaic Spirituality I: The Aramaic Prayer of Yeshua*

A three-day leadership training retreat for those interested in sharing the work in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry. Introduction to the training program plus leadership skills for the Aramaic Prayer dances, body prayers and meditations. See the note below.

This retreat begins after dinner on Sunday, July 15 and ends at lunch on Wednesday, July 18.

Prior reading and an application form are required for this retreat.

There is a limit of 40 persons for each retreat, so please take advantage of the early discount and register early.

Location: Wiston Lodge is a 130-year-old listed country house, set on a hill in the beautiful Upper Clyde Valley, which is evolving into an ecological center focused on working with the next generation. It includes: 55 acres of wood and parklands, plus access to superb local hill walks, and an organic farm. It is easily accessible from the south by both coach and car (Junction 13, M74); or from the north via Edinburgh (about 45 minutes south by bus or shared taxi). For visitors from the U.S., please check flights into Edinburgh or Glasgow. Detailed transport information will be provided at registration. In addition, the Edinburgh Festival begins just following the institute, so participants may plan to stay on longer.

Total Costs: All costs include tuition, full board for each retreat, and are in UK pounds sterling.

SoulWork Retreat: The cost for the 5-day retreat is as follows. **Before May 10:** Shared rooms £400. Camping: £275. If booking **after May 10th 2006**, please add 10% to the above charges. All cancellations incur a £75 cost before June 10 or £125 between June 13 and July 10. No refunds after the retreat begins. Required deposit: £150.

Abwoon Leadership Retreat: The cost for the 3-day retreat is as follows. **Before May 10:** Shared rooms £250. Camping: £195. If booking **after May 10th 2006**, please add 10% to the above charges. All cancellations incur a £75 cost before June 10 or £125 between June 13 and July 10. No refunds after the retreat begins. Required deposit: £100.

To register send a deposit by cheque for one or both retreats (payable to Abwoon Study Circle) to Anna Keith, Woodside of Allanton, Auldgirth, Dumfries DG2 0SA, Scotland. You can contact her by tel. 44-(0)1387-740230 or by e-mail: anna@keith.vispa.com. If you are unable to send payment in UK Pounds Sterling add the equivalent of £10 to cover currency conversion costs. **You may also book online at the [abwoon.com](http://www.abwoon.com) website** (www.abwoon.com/workshops) using a credit card, which makes foreign currency conversion easier. This is *only* available online with the link through the Workshops page on the site.

April 15–18: Columbus, OH, USA

The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 1 *Aramaic Spirituality I: The Aramaic Prayer of Yeshua*

Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as retreat work. Prior reading and an application form are required for this retreat.

Contact: The Rev. Elizabeth Reed at the Shalem Center
1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com

Note: See the full description of the Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program on the insert. These modules offer deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice. There will be leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work.

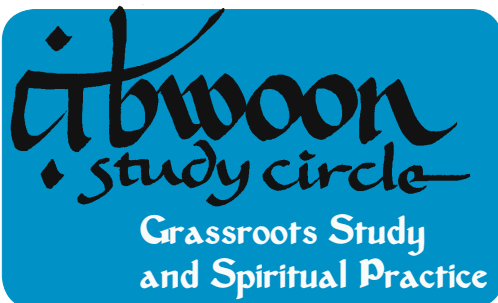
October 28–31: Madison, WI, USA

Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 2 *The Native Middle Eastern Roots of Western Spirituality*

Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing the work contained in the book *Desert Wisdom* in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as retreat work. Included in this retreat: meditations on Depths of the Self, Sound and Embodiment, Simple Presence, Heart Awareness, Gratitude and Celebration; the Native Middle Eastern chants and dances. Prior reading and an application form are required for this retreat.

Contact: The Rev. Elizabeth Reed at the Shalem Center
1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com

Registration: Ken Basir McCullough
1-608-277-0340 or kmccullough101@yahoo.com



Many people inquire about how to begin working with the Aramaic translations and spiritual practices in the Abwoon Study Circle resources. There is no single response to this question. People respond to different aspects of this work: some to the academic work, others to the spiritual practices, while others find the most meaning in the application to one's personal life and others to the experience of body prayer. Whatever the motivation, there is often the desire to find support in continuing one's exploration with the resources of Abwoon Study Circle.

There are people willing to serve as supportive resource contacts to others. These volunteers may be past or present leaders of Abwoon Study Circle groups. Some may simply be lovers of this work and have attended workshops or retreats or worked individually with the resources in a very deep manner. No one necessarily claims to be "an expert" in the content. They share a heart connection to this work and its expansive impact on their spiritual lives.

You can download the most current listing of these resource contacts by visiting www.abwoon.com/contact.htm and clicking the *here* link in the *For help setting up and supporting an Abwoon Study Circle* section.*

If you do not find a resource person or an existing group near you, consider starting your own local Abwoon Study Circle. You do not

For Support in Forming a Local Abwoon Study Circle Group

In North America contact:

Qahira Mary Richardson phone: 1-717-600-1080
60 Quail Run Rd. e-mail: qahira@abwoon.com
York, PA 17406

In the UK contact:

Rev. Wahab Leslie Foot phone: 44-(0)1458-832-247
45 The Roman Way e-mail: wahab.foot@ukonline.co.uk
Glastonbury
Somerset BA6 8AB
England, UK

In Australia/New Zealand contact:

Hannah phone: 61-(0)2-4376-1195
RMB 2592 fax: 61-(0)2-4376-1150
Bucketty 2250 NSW e-mail: inana@ozemail.com.au
Australia

need to have any particular leadership skills – just the desire to connect with others to delve more deeply into this work. There are resources to use that do not require particular leadership skills but only the ability to play a cassette tape or CD and follow along.

For support in local group formation, contact one of the people listed in the box. These people can provide referrals to resources, a free introductory pamphlet on starting a group, and general support in your new endeavors with Abwoon.

**If you are willing to be listed as a contact for support or referral, please contact Qahira Mary Richardson at qahira@abwoon.com. Also, for those who are already local contacts, if your contact information has changed from what we have listed for you, please inform Qahira as this list is updated regularly.*

Abwoon Mailing List: Contact Subhana Elizabeth Ferrio by e-mail at eferrio@houston.rr.com with any updates or changes to your contact information for the Abwoon mailing list. You can also contact her to be added to or removed from the Abwoon mailing list.

The Shalem Center
693½ High Street, Suite 202
Worthington, OH 43085



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