

Embrace this campaign

The Gospel at Home and in the Heart

Expand the good that's inside you!

Participate: do and teach how to do

THE GOSPEL
at HOME and in the HEART

208. Don't the spirits of the parents exert an influence on their children after birth?

"A very great influence because, as we have already said, spirits should aid in one another's progress. As it is, the spirits of the parents have the mission of developing their children through education. This is a task for them – if they fail to perform it, they will be guilty." *The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec*



INTERNATIONAL SPIRITIST COUNCIL

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THE GOSPEL
At HOME and in the HEART

Peace in the home. Peace for Humankind



INTERNATIONAL SPIRITIST COUNCIL

First Published in Portuguese by the Brazilian Spiritist Federation (FEB) in 2009.

English Translation:
United States Spiritist Council
www.spiritist.us

Translation Revision:
British Union of Spiritist Societies
www.buss.org.uk

International Spiritist Council
www.intercei.com

PREFACE

"If human beings are the divine particles of society, the home is the sacred block of every structure of civilization."
Emmanuel¹

Dear Reader,

There can be no doubt about the level of violence affecting human society around the world.

Perplexed by the various manifestations of violence, parents, thinkers, educators and public authorities feel helpless to curb this outbreak of lovelessness.

Each country has its individual scenario, its own perpetrators and reasons, but in essence, all such manifestations find their roots in people's moral formation.

The Spiritist View of Reincarnation

It is absolutely certain that this scenario of conflicts is intimately related to the moral advancement of the individuals who are reincarnating on our planet.

The Spiritist Doctrine teaches us that reincarnation is a natural law, and as such it is Divine, pointing to two basic purposes for the reincarnate individual: it is an opportunity granted by Divine Providence for redeeming past wrongs and a way of contributing to Humankind's progress. It is a means by which individuals can accelerate their evolution by improving themselves morally and helping others to better themselves.

¹ Psychographed by Francisco Candido Xavier, *Cinquenta Anos Depois [Fifty Years Later]*, Brazilian Spiritist Federation (FEB), Rio de Janeiro, 1985, p. 102.

In this sense, we are living alongside an immeasurable number of incarnate spirits, with whom we have spiritual obligations resulting from relationships in previous lives; and, at the same time, we are also living alongside discarnate spirits, with whom we relate by means of thought or through mediumistic faculties: two humanities situated in different dimensions, but which interpenetrate and intertwine each other.

Thus, peace-loving and violent individuals are both mixed together in human society in such a way that those who know more assist those who know and understand less, so that God's designs may be fulfilled: for us to be a universal family, linked by the Law of Love.

The importance of the home in moral education

The home is where spirits find themselves together again, under the same roof, as parents, children, and siblings; in this environment new opportunities for moral learning experiences are granted, enabling reincarnate spirits to develop fraternity, solidarity, and all the sentiments derived from love.

Thus, the family's educational and regenerative function is extremely delicate and important, with reincarnation regarded as an opportunity for ascending the evolutionary ladder through new experiences in morality and intellectuality.

In keeping with this view, Emmanuel states:

"The best school is still the home, where the individual should receive the foundations of sentiment and character."²

² Psychographed by Francisco Candido Xavier, *O Consolador [The Consoler]*, question 110, FEB.

DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION

A number of high order Spirits have expressed the value and benefit of gathering in the home around the Gospel of Jesus:

Emmanuel emphasizes the importance of such practice when he states:

“The Gospel at Home is not a mere novelty. It is a necessity everywhere where Christianity has set down roots of improvement and sublimation. ... When the Master’s teachings are alive between the four walls of a home, small sacrifices weave common happiness.”³

Bezerra de Menezes states in turn:

“Let us work to implement the Gospel at Home as much as we can. ... To bring the light of the Good Tidings into a family’s home is to improve all the qualities that the earthly experience can offer us.”⁴

According to **Andre Luiz**:

“Spiritists, especially those of mediumistic groups... need to understand the necessity of the Gospel at Home gatherings. It is advisable to meet at least once a week with family members or relatives who understand the importance of studying the Spiritist Doctrine in the light of the Gospel of Christ, and under the moral support of prayer.”⁵

³ Xavier, Francisco Candido. *Luz no lar [Light at Home]*. By various spirits. 8th ed. Rio de Janeiro: FEB, 1997, ch. 1 Culto cristão no lar [The Gospel at Home] Emmanuel, pp. 11, 12.

⁴ Xavier, Francisco Candido. *Temas da vida: Evangelho no lar [Themes of Life: The Gospel at Home]* Bezerra de Menezes. São Paulo: CEU, 1978.

⁵ Xavier, Francisco Candido. *Desobsessão [Disobsession]*. By the Spirit Andre Luiz. 23rd ed. Rio de Janeiro: FEB. 2003, ch. 70, p. 239.

Joanna de Ângelis also addressed this matter in two selected works, explaining:

“At least once a week, meet with your family and bless it with Spiritism, thereby creating and regularly observing the Gospel at Home gathering so that the Master’s teachings may become the effective path of love toward wisdom in your home ...” And she continues: “And if you wish for happiness on earth, incorporate the Gospel at Home to create an overall climate of happiness.”⁶ In the second work, she states: “The transformation of the home into a living cell of active Christianity constitutes a pressing endeavor. This is because the home is the creative force of a joyful community, upon which rests the backbone of progressive nations. Light the sun of the Gospel in your home; gather your loved ones for prayer and the darkness ill never triumph in your home, your family, or your heart.”⁷

Finally, **Bezerra de Menezes** concludes, inviting us to action:

“... Let us help to sow Christianity in the family sanctuary in the light of the Spiritist Doctrine if we really want a better society tomorrow.”⁸

⁶ Franco, Divaldo Pereira. *Espírito e vida [Spirit and Life]*. Joanna de Ângelis. Salvador: Leal, 1991, p. 90.

⁷ Franco, Divaldo Pereira. *Leis Morais [Moral Laws]*. Joanna de Ângelis. Salvador: Leal, 1987, p. 19).

⁸ Xavier, Francisco Candido. *Temas da vida: O Evangelho no lar [Themes of Life: The Gospel at Home]* Bezerra de Menezes. São Paulo: CEU, 1978.

PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE

1. To study the Gospel of Jesus, which enables us to understand the Christian teachings, whose practice leads to our moral improvement.

2. To create in every home the habit of meeting as a family in order to awaken and increase the sentiment of fraternity amongst family members.

3. To enable its members a moment of peace and union, thus providing a peaceful and balanced existence.

4. To cleanse the home with elevated thoughts and sentiments and to facilitate the influence of the Messengers of the Good.

5. To facilitate in and outside the home the necessary support in material and spiritual difficulties by actively observing the principles of vigilance and prayer.

6. To raise the vibrational pattern of family members and to help the Spirit World in making the earth a better place.

7. To make the Gospel known, understood, felt and exemplified in every setting.

SIGNIFICANCE

“When the Master’s teachings are alive and well between the four walls of a home, small sacrifices weave common happiness.”⁹

⁹ Xavier, Francisco Candido. Luz no lar [Light at Home]. By various spirits. 8th ed. Rio de Janeiro: FEB, 1997, ch. 1 Culto cristão no lar [The Gospel at Home] Emmanuel, pp. 11, 12.

HOW TO DO IT?

Choose one day and time during the week in which the family can gather together for about 30 minutes. Children can also take part. The family might have visitors every now and then, and they may be invited to participate. If they are not Spiritists, the purpose of the meeting should be explained to them. It is also possible for a person to do this alone – the guidelines are still the same.

GUIDELINES FOR THE GATHERING

1. Beginning of the meeting – simple and spontaneous prayer.

2. Reading of *The Gospel according to Spiritism* – starting with the Preface and then one or two sections always in sequence.

3. Comments on the reading – they should be brief and should involve all present, emphasizing the application of the moral teaching to everyday situations.

4. Vibrations – ask for fraternity, peace and equilibrium for all Humankind, all leaders and for those who are responsible for children, youth, adults and the elderly; for the implementation and living example of the Gospel in all homes; for the participants' own home, mentalizing peace, harmony and health for the body and spirit.

5. Petitions – one can make petitions for family members, friends, persons who are not part of the circle of friendship, and for all Humankind.

6. Closing prayer – simple, sincere and spontaneous, thanking God, Jesus and the Good Spirits.

NOTE: The Gospel at Home should not turn into a mediumistic meeting.

Any intuition or inspiration that may occur should be expressed during the general comments at the suitable time.

PRIMARY BOOK / RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Primary book: *The Gospel according to Spiritism*. (Allan Kardec) (International Spiritist Council, 2009).

Recommended Books:

Our Daily Bread (Emmanuel)

The Pathway, the Truth and the Light (Emmanuel)

Happy Life (Joanna de Angelis)

Child of God (Joanna de Angelis)

Living and Loving (Joanna de Angelis)

Recipes for Peace (Joanna de Angelis)

Open Your Heart and Find Happiness (Joanna de Angelis)

Christian Agenda (Andre Luiz)

THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL AT HOME

The firmament was full of stars on a night of silvery moonlight when the Lord, temporarily staying at Peter's house, reached for the Sacred Writings. As if wanting to set the conversation on a new course, once it became unproductive and unedifying, Jesus spoke kindly: "Simon, what does the fisherman do when he is about to go to the market with the day's catch?" The apostle thought for a few moments and answered somewhat hesitantly: "Well, Master, of course he chooses the best fish. No one would buy leftovers."

Jesus smiled and asked another question: "And the potter? What does he do to carry out the task at hand?" "Obviously, Lord," replied the fisherman, intrigued, "he molds the clay and gives it the form he wants."

With a luminous benevolent look, the Heavenly Friend continued: "And what does the carpenter do to accomplish the work he proposes to do?" Simon answered very simply, without wavering: "He cleans the wood and uses the adze, the saw, the hammer and the chisel; otherwise, he cannot shape the raw piece."

Jesus was quiet for a few moments and then added: "This may also be said of the home in this world."

"The domestic cradle is the primary school and temple of the soul.

"The home is the true shaper of one's character to community life.

"If the merchant selects his merchandise, if the woodworker cannot build a boat without shaping the wood to his purposes, how can one expect a safe and peaceful

community if the home does not become a better place? World peace begins under the roofs that shelter us.

“If we do not learn to live in peace between four walls, how can we expect harmony between nations? If we cannot get used to loving the brother or sister right next to us, and who is involved with us in our daily struggle, how can we revere the Eternal Father, who seems so far away?” Jesus glanced around the humble room, paused briefly and continued: “Peter, let us shine a new light here, around all those who seek our fraternal assistance.

“The table in your home is the place for your bread.

“On it you receive from the Lord the food you need each day. Why not set around it the seeds of happiness and peace in conversation and thought? The Father, who provides wheat for our warehouse through the soil, sends us light through Heaven.

“If light is the diffusion of the rays that constitute it, abundance starts in the simple seed.

“For this reason, the Gospel did not begin amongst the crowds, but rather in the simple home of shepherds and animals.”

Simon Peter gazed at the Master with humble, understanding eyes, and because he could not find the right words to explain himself, he replied timidly: “Master, may it be as you wish.”

Then Jesus, inviting the disciple’s family members to join him in edifying conversation and uplifting meditation, unrolled the scrolls of wisdom and instituted the earth’s first Christian worship at home.

Neio Lucio

Psychographed by Francisco Candido Xavier, *Jesus no Lar [Jesus in the Home]* FEB.

SCHOOL OF THE HEART

In essence, the home is the school of the soul.

In it all the sentiments function as educational disciplines.

Responsibility governs; affection inspires.

Duty obliges; work solves.

Necessity proposes; cooperation resolves.

Challenge provokes; goodness assists.

Ingratitude injures; forgiveness soothes.

Sickness corrects; care sustains.

Selfishness imprisons; selflessness liberates.

Illusion darkens; pain illumines.

Demand destroys; humility reforms.

Struggle renews; experience edifies.

All disciplines that improve the brain are easily found in the universities on earth, but the family is the school of the heart, elevating loved ones to the position of educators of the spirit.

And it is only in the family that we realize that the varied affective postures that which we adopt in conventional circles are merely pathways to the true fraternity that unites us all in pure love and in holy union before God.

Emmanuel

Public Meeting on 07/25/1960

Question 341

Psychographed by Francisco C. Xavier, *Seara dos Médiuns [The Mediums Workfield]*, FEB.

IN THE HOME SANCTUARY

Goodness in the domestic circle is the charity that begins at home.

Never yell at each other, abusing the intimacy with loved ones.

Utilize household equipment without making a lot of racket, thereby guarding the home against imbalance and disturbance.

Learn to provide for yourself as much as possible so as not to increase the concerns of the family.

Without complaining, assist in the solution of problems that arise.

Alone or together, eat your meals quietly.

Talk in a way that builds harmony.

It is always possible to find the door to mutual understanding when we are willing to concede by means of small demonstrations of selflessness in matters of points of view.

How often does an apparently unsolvable problem need only a calming approach to be solved?

Refrain from commenting on scandalous or inappropriate subjects.

As far as illnesses are concerned, only talk about what is absolutely necessary.

Look for some home-related item in order to praise the effort and care of a shared existence.

Don't take advantage of the conversation to voice criticism or to blame anyone.

If you are in a hurry to leave, do so quietly and respectfully, so as not to disturb the tranquility of others.

Andre Luiz

Psychographed by Francisco C. Xavier, Sinal Verde [Green Light], CEC.

THE GOSPEL AT HOME

Let us endeavor to implement the Gospel at Home when possible.

The harvest depends on what has been sown.

If the field is neglected by those who plough and prepare it, if the plow remains idle and the farmer is afraid of the work, the harvest will always lead to deprivation and disillusionment, increasing discouragement and anxiety.

It is important that we unite together to sow Christian principles in the sanctuary of the home.

To bring the light of the Good Tidings to the family sanctuary is to improve all the qualities the earthly experience can offer.

It is not enough to enshrine material relics as symbols of the Divine Master among other adornments in homes where souls gather under the bonds of communal or personal affection. It is necessary to blend Jesus' teachings in one's own life, adapting one's sentiments to their highest beauty.

The Gospel at Home is Christ speaking to the heart. By upholding this light in the living churches of homes, our lives will be transformed on the pathway to the Infinite Good.

Heaven certainly does not demand our sublimation from one day to the next, nor does it expect us to suddenly display the spectacular behavior of heroes.

The work of evangelization is gradual, patient and persevering. Whoever receives a drop of the light of Christian Revelation each day or each week begins to transform his or her actions and understanding in an imperceptible manner.

Those fortunate souls then see the fire of passions, as well as the impulses of pointless anger that keeps their thoughts in dark precipices of wasted time, disappear from their lives.

People then awaken to their spiritual edification where service is the constant norm of faith and charity, and they finally see the Lord not only as a Sublime Friend who supports and upholds them, but also as a Mentor who corrects and shows them the way to real happiness and true goodness.

Let us aid in the implementation of Christianity in the sanctuary of the home in the light of the Spiritist Doctrine, if we effectively desire an improved society tomorrow.

In fact, roads divide in the world's vast realm, but it is in the home that the threads of destiny start to be woven, and we know that men and women are, in essence, the legislators of their own existence and the providers of their own peace or despair, happiness or suffering.

Supporting such an endeavor and extending it to friends and acquaintances offers our active support in the work of regeneration of spirits at such a crucial moment. It is a duty that will bring us near the Divine Mentor, who started his ministry on earth not only with the scholars of Jerusalem but also at the joyful celebration at Cana, where he symbolically transformed water into wine as a consecration to family peace.

May Divine Providence strengthen us so that we can proceed with rebuilding the home on the foundations of Christ, our Master and Lord, dutifully collaborating to the best of our ability.

Bezerra de Menezes

Psychographed by Francisco Candido Xavier, *Temas da Vida [Themes of Life]*, CEU

BEARING WITNESS AT HOME

"HENCE, WHILE WE CAN, LET US DO GOOD TO ALL, BUT MAINLY TO THE FAMILY OF FAITH." PAUL (GALATIANS 6:10)

The Apostle Paul, in suggesting that we take special care of our family of faith, was surely referring to our unwavering duty to assist immediately those who live with us.

If we cannot be useful, understanding, loving and devoted to these individuals, how can we expect to bear witness to the lessons of Jesus before humanity?

In the light of the Spiritist Doctrine, however, the apostle's recommendation is filled with a deeper meaning.

This is because among our family members we find the particular bonds from past existences, many of them demanding readjustment and clearing up.

Our daily family group is commonly composed of those spirits who, due to our commitments from the past, watch us, criticize us, admonish us, and test us.

It is always easy to make a good impression on those who do not live with us. A gesture or a sentence can momentarily bring us praise and admiration of those who meet us exclusively on the polite landscape of social occasions.

After a formal function, before friends that bid their farewell, it is not difficult for us to disastrously delude ourselves under the flattery that exaggerates our superfluous

virtues.

Let us test our moral gains, however, by demonstrating them to those who know our weaknesses.

Let us not deceive ourselves.

Let us do good to everyone, but let us prove to ourselves that we are really good when faced with difficulties and before those who live with us daily, monitoring our behavior between good and evil.

Emmanuel

Psychographed by Francisco Candido Xavier, *Palavras de Vida Eterna [Words of Life Eternal]*, FEB

JESUS WITH YOU

Dedicate one of the seven evenings of the week to the Gospel at Home gathering so that Jesus may spend the night in your home.

Prepare the table, set out a pitcher of pure water, open the Gospel, expand the message of faith, gather the family, and pray. Jesus will come to visit you.

When the home is made a sanctuary, crime retreats to the museum. When the family prays, Jesus remains in the home. When hearts are united in faith, balance offers blessings of comfort and health pours its peace over everyone.

Jesus in the home is life for the home.

Do not expect the world to bring you its fleeting goodness. Spread the light of the Gospel from your Christian home to the tormenting world.

When a family prays together at home, united around the Gospel's loving words, the entire street receives the benefit from this communion with the Most High.

If someone in an apartment building gathers with his or her family in prayer, the whole building benefits from it, like a forgotten lamp lit in the windstorm.

Do not distance yourself from the guiding principles of the Gospel in the midst of your family members. Continue praying faithfully, studying the Divine Guidelines with your children and those you love, and whenever possible, discuss with them your troubles in the clear light of the Good

Tidings and examine the difficulties that concern you under the light of the consoling inspiration of Christ.

Do not leave home that evening unless it is a duty that cannot be neglected.

Remain at home so that the Divine Guest may also remain.

And when the lights dim at bedtime, pray once more in communion with him, as he also does, so that, connected to you in this way, you may have Jesus in your home seven evenings a week.

Joanna de Ângelis

Psychographed by Divaldo P. Franco, S.O.S. *Família [SOS Family]*, LEAL.

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