



The Paul Solomon Story

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On July 7th 1939 in Rogers, Arkansas a young couple celebrated the birth of their second son. They named him William Biló Dove. He would be their middle child, a daughter following later. This child would later become known as Paul Solomon, a man whose extraordinary psychic abilities enabled him to become a great spiritual teacher, healer and humanitarian.

The Early Years

Paul grew up in a strict Southern Baptist family where it was a common occurrence for the house to be full of visiting pastors and members of his father's congregation. With prayer meetings often held in the living room young Paul used to lie upstairs in the bedroom that he shared with his brother listening to the fiery and emotional outbursts from the prayer meetings below. As he grew up, Paul watched his family consult God on every aspect of daily life, and naturally accepted God as an active presence in his own life. He believed that God was someone you could talk to and that God could communicate directly and personally with everyone.

Every day, when the family gathered in the kitchen for breakfast, Paul's mother would read from the Bible and question the children on the meaning of the verses. Paul's older brother showed absolutely no interest in partaking in these discussions and his sister was too young to understand. That left Paul who was always willing to discuss the stories. The first Bible chapter that Paul ever memorized was the Fourteenth Chapter of John. He didn't know why he loved it, but it was his favorite chapter and he was able to recite it by heart when he was in the first grade.

It became obvious to his parents that from a young age, their middle child was unlike their other two children. Although their young son was well behaved, he exhibited many unusual abilities not consistent with their strict Southern Baptist faith. When the family read from the Bible, Paul would excitedly talk about the stories as if he had actually been there, which was met with disbelief and uncomfortable silences from whomever was present at the time. His mother would tell him to be quiet, forbidding him to talk like that, telling him that knowing such things could only come from Satan. This so confused Paul that he would comment in later life that when he was growing up he was convinced his parents would some day tell him that he had been adopted.

From about the age of 4, Paul began to realize that in many ways he didn't measure up to his parent's expectations. He had a very difficult relationship with his father and noticed that his father often took a different route around the house to avoid encountering him. In later years Paul remarked;

“He treated me like some kind of a very, very strange child that he didn’t understand and did not want to get very close to.... I was really a challenge for him because I asked questions that really put him on the spot. I had more questions than any kid ever had about God and religion. I used to ask him what it meant, ‘to be saved’. And he would talk about being ‘born again.’ And then I would ask him what that meant, and he would try to explain. I would ask him about how to tell the difference between what I thought I wanted and what I really wanted? I would tell him that I really wanted to serve God, but how could I be sure that is what I wanted and not what I thought I wanted? When I asked him these questions he would send me to my room and tell me not to sass him. His attitude confused me. I would go to my room and work and work on the question and listen until I had an answer, then I’d go and tell him the answer- and that made matters even worse.”

Sensitive and painfully shy, at times rarely speaking above a whisper, Paul often spoke about the “good lights” and “bad lights” he could see around people, refusing to go near anyone whose “lights” he did not like. Years later, Paul realized that what he had been seeing and reacting to was the human aura, which most people, including his parents, could not see and did not understand. With his sensitivities either ignored or deemed ‘evil’, Paul often felt alienated from his family, with the one exception of his foster brother, also called Paul, who came into the family when Paul was 9 years old. His foster brother was a difficult and rebellious child who only visited the home very occasionally. Paul remembered him as mean and wild and always in trouble. Although there was no love lost between the two boys at that time, they had a strong telepathic link. Many years in the future, these two would become constant companions during a difficult time in Paul Solomon’s life.

Paul was 7 years old when his father first took him to his first country circuit revival meeting. These revival circuits used to be known as ‘The Sawdust Trail’ and were put on by itinerant evangelists throughout the Southern United States. The evangelists would travel from community to community setting up a large tent at the edge of town. Sawdust was spread on the ground to make a floor and folding chairs were set out for the people who would gather for the nightly meetings. On Paul’s first visit to the revival circuit his father brought with him a portable folding pump organ. Years later, Paul told the story of how he sat pumping away on the organ playing hymns that “sounded awful”.

Never having been to a revival meeting before, Paul avidly watched everything that was going on. As the evening progressed, the part of the program called ‘The Invitation’ arrived and people who wanted to be saved or join the church were invited to come forward. Paul told his father that since he had been “born again,” he wanted to go to the front and be baptized.

“Son, you go back to your seat,” his father directed him. “You’re not old enough to understand what that means.”

Paul fired back at him, in front of the people in the congregation, *“I know exactly what it means. It means that I don’t belong to me anymore. I belong to Jesus.”*

When Paul said this, his father let out a whoop and began to laugh and cry at the same time. His son’s answer seemed to release something in him and deciding that Paul’s experience was a genuine one, he allowed him to join the line of people to be baptized.

Meeting R. G. Lee

After that first revival meeting at the age of 7, Paul accompanied his father to many other large church conventions. It was at one particular convention in Ft. Worth, Texas, that Paul first heard the great preacher R.G. Lee, a man whose name he had heard mentioned over and over again while he was growing up. Paul was sitting amongst the audience in the auditorium when a short man, speaking with a most peculiar accent, came on stage. With a flourish the man said:

"I introduce to you Ahab, the toad that squatted on the throne of Israel. I introduce to you, Jezebel, the beautiful coiled adder who sat by his side as a queen."

The stories of Jezebel, Ahab and Elijah came alive on the platform as R.G. Lee narrated his most famous sermon "Pay Day SomeDay." Paul was mesmerized. In his own words he recalled how 'he felt as though the roof was coming off the building.' He had never seen anything like this man, who not only looked like Alfred Hitchcock, but also sounded very much like him. Sitting on the edge of his seat, Paul watched as R.G. Lee walked back and forth across the platform describing Jezebel's painted lips and batting eyelashes. He made the biblical stories so dramatically real that you could have heard a pin drop. At the part of the narration when R. G. Lee appeared as Elijah, wrapped in the skin of a wild animal with his hair flying and a staff in his hand, Paul was half out of his seat with excitement. He felt as if he was going to levitate. He did not know what was happening to him but knew that it was extraordinary and beyond the drama that was on the stage. Paul never forgot that day.

"Every cell of my body was electric and tingling with the most incredible physical sensation. I knew that there was an electric current going through me. I could look at my hands and my arms and see flames coming this far off me. I was wrapped in this flame."

His father, who was sitting beside him, watched in amazement at the intensity with which Paul was watching the platform, a broad beam on his young face, his eyes shining as he brushed away the tears that coursed down his cheeks. It was obvious from his son's behavior that something unique was indeed happening.

After it was over, Paul found himself being led by the hand to the foyer. His feet didn't feel as if they were touching the ground. His father sat him down and waited for him to come back down to earth.

"Would you like to meet him?" He finally asked. Paul could only nod as the tears streamed down his face. *"If you can turn that off,"* his father said, *"I'll take you back to meet him."* Somehow Paul stopped crying and went back stage to meet R.G. Lee.

When they met, R.G. Lee looked at Paul, looked at his father and said, *"He is a master among us."*

Paul's father drew back, his mouth dropping open. This was not the kind of thing that was said in the Southern Baptist religion, and R.G. Lee was the President of the Southern Baptist Convention. Paul's father had the utmost respect for the famous preacher and haltingly replied, *"Well, he is a pretty special child, but there is only one master."*

R.G. Lee nodded in agreement. *"What you say is true, but right now you're holding his hand."*

As Paul listened to the exchange between the two men he had no idea what they were talking about, but he saw his father standing silently as if in shock.

R. G. Lee continued, *"There is only one Master but there are many vehicles through which He expresses and there is usually only one in a generation. I'm old and I've been preaching a long time. For the last six years I've prayed that I would not die until I met him. And now I have met him."*

"But how do you know that what you are saying is true?" whispered Paul's father.

R.G. Lee replied, *"There is only one thing that I knew when I prayed to meet him. The one thing that I knew is that if I ever met him I would know."*

1 R.G. Lee was a Southern Baptist preacher known for his passionate and descriptive sermons. By the time of his death in July 1978 R.G. Lee had served an unprecedented four terms as President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and an unprecedented three terms as President of the Southern Baptist Convention. His most famous sermon, which is still a classic amongst Southern Baptist Christians, was 'Pay Day SomeDay'.

Using Paul's father's nickname, he continued, *"Wigs, there are three things that you could ask me that I could not exactly answer adequately. One is, if you ask me how I know I'm in love with my wife, I could only tell you, I just know. If you ask me how I know that I've been born again, I can only*

answer you, I just know. If you ask me how I know that I've been called to the Lord to preach, I can only answer you, I just know. And since you've asked me how I know who he is, I have to answer, I just know, but that's enough."

Paul's father, wishing to speak to R.G. Lee alone, sent Paul to sit on a nearby bench. His father was silent when he returned from the conversation and Paul knew that there was no point in trying to discuss anything further. Later that night, on returning home, Paul overheard a conversation between his parents about what R.G. Lee had told his father. He had told him that their most important responsibility as parents was not to let Paul think that he was special.

School Days

Schooling was difficult for Paul from the very beginning. Young Paul's mind processed information in "visions" and pictographs, so when he was shown letters in the First Grade, he looked at the letters and couldn't understand them. *"They aren't pictures of anything,"* he would say. The teachers tried to explain that the letters had sounds and the sounds made words, which seemed ridiculously old fashioned, clumsy and absolutely primitive to the young boy. He wanted the letters to be pictures of something so that he could understand them. This caused a great deal of trauma for young Paul in the First and Second Grade because he simply could not read. In fact, it was so traumatic for him in the classroom that he would often wet his pants and was punished for doing so. Only later did Paul understand that his mind saw things in a different way because in his previous existence on Earth he had been part of a culture where written language was produced in pictographs or hieroglyphics. Young Paul realized early on that somehow he had to learn to read what was in books.

Jaida

In 1946, when Paul was 7, he lived near a little town called Arkadelphia in Arkansas, and it was here at a ravine with a little creek running through it in a beautiful, lush, overgrown area that Paul first met a little black boy whose name was Jaida. After a summer of secretly playing together, Paul overheard the adults talking about a little black boy who was very sick. With a heavy heart, Paul knew they were talking about Jaida. Not long after, Paul heard that Jaida had died. He went down to the creek where they used to play, sat on a rock beside the little stream, and cried. As Paul was crying he suddenly became aware that Jaida was sitting beside him. Paul knew that his friend had died and yet here he was beside him! The two boys talked about Jaida dying and Jaida tried to explain what it was like to *"cross over."* He didn't talk about heaven; he talked about people who lived where *"he lived."* He told Paul it was beautiful and assured him that they would play together when Paul came over to the *"other side."* From that day on, the two boys resumed their friendship as if there had never been any separation.

Thanks to his spirit friend, Jaida, Paul discovered that if he held his schoolbooks to his stomach he could read their contents. This became a very useful technique for Paul as he went about learning how to read using letters instead of pictures, and eventually, by wrapping his arms around the books he absorbed enough information to pass school tests. He didn't make good grades but he passed! During their years together Paul learned many things from Jaida who appeared until Paul was about fourteen, after which they drifted apart. Paul never forgot his friend, recalling that being with Jaida *"was exactly like being alone without being lonesome."*

As a 14-year-old schoolboy in Ft. Worth, Texas, Paul demonstrated his ability to absorb information from books to his classmates. He did it at first with a textbook, but his classmates disbelieved him claiming that he could have read the text beforehand. One of the boys who were teasing Paul had a

notebook in his hand that contained a love note from one of the girls. Paul quoted what was written in the love note, which embarrassed the boy considerably. Paul's psychic ability also allowed him to know private details of people's lives. He didn't find it peculiar. He didn't realize that it was an invasion of privacy, revealing personal details about the various teachers in the school was simply a way of entertaining the other students. One of the most respected of the older teachers suffered most due to Paul's abilities. She had no idea how suddenly everyone knew that she had once been a chorus girl in New York, or how the whole class knew many incidents from a past, which she had, until then, kept hidden.

Paul had never considered that his gifts carried any special responsibility until the day his mother was called to the Principal's Office. The Principal told his mother that while we *"don't know exactly what Paul's doing, we do know it's disturbing the other children and it has to stop."* When they returned home, Paul's mother sat him down at the kitchen table and with a very serious face and a very quiet voice said:

"I've watched you and I have known for a very long time that you know things that you're not supposed to know. I want you to know what a challenge that has been for me because I've been praying ever since you were 3 years old that I would be able to deal with the things that are happening to you."

Listening intently, Paul interpreted what his mother was saying as *"You're a burden to me,"* and this realization hurt him deeply. She went on to say,

"It's important that you know this. The things that are happening to you are either of God or of the Devil." She continued, *"When the Holy Spirit causes you to know something because the information will be useful in somebody's life, then that information is coming from God. But when you go reading things out of somebody's notebook or telling students something about the teachers that you have no right to know then ..."*

At that point she stopped what she was saying and left him to try to figure out the rest. For young Paul, his mother seemed to be implying that his gift was from the devil, which terrified him. He had always known that he was different from other people but his mother's statement forced him to finally face the fact that he was very different, and, his mother had implied, evil.

After long years of questioning his powers and apologizing to God for them, and feeling that he had completely destroyed the opportunity for the mission that he had been born to do, he saw himself, in that moment as the anti-Christ. That night he tried to commit suicide by slashing his chest with a knife. Grief stricken and praying constantly, desperately, to know God and to be cleansed of whatever this psychic activity might be, Paul told Jaida to go away. He was convinced that if Jaida went away all his other abilities would go away too. He felt that Jaida too must be of the devil if these other gifts were of the devil. Fortunately, the wounds inflicted on his chest were not deep enough to cause serious physical injury, but he would bear the scars for the rest of his life. This episode had such a psychological impact on Paul that he succeeded in turning off the psychic abilities, which had now become a curse.

After the suicide attempt, Paul was taken to the local hospital where the doctor insisted that he see a psychiatrist. During each session, the psychiatrist sat on one side of the desk while Paul sat on the other, unable to say anything. After the series of silent hospital appointments were concluded, Paul later saw the psychiatrist on a city bus. For some unknown reason this sighting caused Paul to make a decision. Up until that time Paul, an extremely shy child all his life due to his feelings of rejection by his family, had always found it impossible to force his voice above a whisper and would flush with embarrassment when having a personal conversation with anybody older than he was. He decided on the bus that day that from then on, when he spoke to people, he was going to pretend that they

worked for him. He would speak with authority. He went straight home and tried it out on his mother. *"Shocked the dickens out of her,"* he recalled. He did the same thing at school and everywhere he went, and it worked.

The Being of Light

One night, not long after the suicide attempt, Paul lay in bed listening to the familiar, reassuring sounds of a prayer meeting being led by his father in the living room below. Their prayer meeting was not quiet. It was very loud with shouting and incredible ecstatic laughter. Paul could hear their praying. He could feel the energy that was coming from their prayer meeting. The atmosphere in his bedroom was electric, and Paul began to pray, begging once again to know God.

"I don't know what's wrong. I don't know what I have come to do, or why I have become so evil. I don't know what has separated me from You. I don't know if I ever knew You. I don't know how to know that I know You. I don't want to be evil, Please let me know you God"

In the next instant, the house, the people and the bed where he lay no longer existed, and he found himself walking along a dirt road with fields of tall grass stretching to the horizon on either side. A light breeze blew and the air was fresh and cool. He felt peaceful for the first time in his life. Far in the distance, he could see an enormous light filling the horizon, and out of that light arose a being bigger than the world itself. The form of the being went up into the sky, up into the clouds with his arms outstretched. The being reached out to Paul causing something deep within him to respond. Paul's life was forever altered. Nothing was said, not one word came from the being and Paul didn't question who or what the being was. None of that mattered except Paul's connection with the Being of Light. In that moment he began a personal relationship with God. *"You're my God now,"* he shouted as he ran into the embrace of this irresistible Being of Light. Instantly, the feelings of loneliness and isolation, which had existed from childhood, were healed.

Suddenly the experience was over and Paul found himself back in his bedroom, alone. Remembering how he had shouted and cried as he hugged the Being of Light, he was surprised to see that his parents hadn't woken up and that his brother in the next bed was still asleep. The house was quiet. The prayer meeting was over, and the visitors had gone home. This was the first experience Paul had of going *"out of body."* Many more such experiences were to follow. From then on, when Paul became bored in school he would simply *"leave"* his body. His body would slide off the chair and be taken to the nurses' station where Paul would watch what they were doing from an *"out of body"* position at the corner of the ceiling. *"This happened at least a dozen times,"* Paul later recalled. *"It was a neat little trick."* It amused him to watch everyone hurrying around trying to revive the little body slumped on the floor - and it got him out of studying.

Paul had known at age 7 that he did not belong to himself. He belonged to God. Now, at age 14, he suddenly realized that not only did he belong to God but also God belonged to him. It had become a two-way relationship. After his profound encounter with the Being of Light, Paul was convinced that he should be baptized again because this latest experience had irrevocably changed his life. *"The experiences I had when I was younger were real, but this experience was really the beginning for me,"* Paul said. He had difficulty trying to explain to his father why he wanted to be baptized again because the Baptists believed *"once saved, always saved"*. There was no such thing as *"being born again twice."* His father had no intention of baptizing him again until Paul told him that he would go to the *"Holy Roller Church"* and get baptized there. In the end, Paul got his way and was baptized for the second time.

The Adventure Years

Paul described the next period of his life as the “*Adventure Years*.” He was on a spiritual quest but his idea of God was still very much defined as a Baptist God and these “*adventures*” would serve the purpose of freeing him from religious restraints.

The adventure years began when Paul was 16 during his summer at music camp. The camp was much like the Carolina Furnace Camp and was held in a music conservatory in Texas. Paul was the youngest student to attend as most of the other students were either in college, college graduates or college professors who were there for summer courses on church music.

One day, an elderly man came to speak at one of the morning devotional sessions. He spoke about the book of Genesis and introduced Paul to the possibility that the literal interpretation of Adam and Eve, the Apple and the Serpent, was not necessarily the only way to understand the biblical story. He explained to the class that what Adam and Eve partook of was “*self*”. All of a sudden, Paul was out of his body again. But this mystical experience was a turning point for Paul, because when he was out of his body, in another dimension, he found himself surrounded by beings that he knew were teachers. Suddenly, knowing about people’s pasts or the contents of a book seemed meaningless, nothing more than tricks. This new encounter was a communication of a different type. He now realized that if he didn’t understand something, or if someone said something that he believed to be wrong, he could ask these teachers for the correct answer. It was a whole new level of experience. That night, while everyone else slept, Paul also discovered that he could consciously talk with these teachers.

James Dean

While Paul was at the music conservatory, a Hollywood movie company came to the little town of Marfa, about 50 miles away, to film the movie *Giant*. Paul and four of his friends jumped into a friend’s jeep and headed off to investigate. This was very exciting for Paul who had never been allowed to go to the theatre because such places were considered evil. The only movies he had seen were on small screens in the church or educational movies at school outings. Paul’s great aunt had been a silent screen star. Her name was Billie Dove and she had once been engaged to Howard Hughes. Paul had met her when he was a child but that was the only connection that he’d ever had with movie stars. He had thought she was the most beautiful woman he’d ever seen in his life, but being a movie star, the belief was that she was undoubtedly wicked. When R.G. Lee had been describing Jezebel in his ‘*Pay Day Someday*’ sermon, Paul had pictured Billie Dove batting her eyelashes.

When the little group arrived at the movie set, they soon spotted the main stars, - Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson, who disappointingly seemed uninterested in acknowledging or interacting with them in any way. However, nearby, seemingly in a world of his own, was a young man in his early twenties who was literally turning cartwheels. He was like a child in a man’s body, a clown to end all clowns. It wasn’t long before he came over to the group and wanted to know who they were, what they were doing and what their lives were like. He asked all kinds of questions. The young man was James Dean, who at that time was just beginning to become known as a cult hero. Paul, being intensely shy, stood in the background watching him relate to the other boys. But Dean kept looking at Paul and eventually gravitated towards him. Paul had no idea who the young man was but there seemed to be an instant rapport between himself and the young actor. It wasn’t long before someone in the group suggested that they all go for a drive, and so the high-spirited group took off into the desert. James Dean kept the group entertained during the whole trip. Paul said later that he had never laughed so hard in all his life. Unfortunately, not far into the trip the axle of the jeep broke and in one of life’s strange coincidences, James Dean and Paul ended up separated from the group as they made the four-mile walk home.

Walking across the desert that night, Dean became a different person. He was suddenly the most serious, the most sympathetic, and the most interesting person Paul had ever met. Both young men found they had much in common as they walked and talked from sunset until well after midnight through the West Texas desert, each telling the other stories of the way they'd grown up. As Paul later recalled, "He cried, and I cried." As his new friend told the story of his mother's death, Paul was to forever hold the vivid image in his mind of James Dean as a young boy standing alone in a railway station waiting for the arrival of the boxcar that carried his mother's coffin. That night proved to be a life changing experience for Paul. He now felt that someone else in the world really understood him and this gave him a great deal of confidence. The friendship between the two continued up until James Dean's death. They wrote to each other regularly during Paul's senior year. He visited Dean's aunt and uncle's farm in Indiana a couple of months before James Dean was killed. When Paul went back to Indiana for the funeral, Dean's aunt and uncle remembered him and spent time showing him the photograph albums of their nephew's childhood.

The Army and Seminary Years

After his time at the music conservatory, Paul returned home and the family moved to Michigan where he finished high school. Following high school, he joined the army and completed a tour of duty. While in the army Paul was stationed with the medics at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas where he trained as a hypnotherapist. Under the supervision of doctors, Paul used hypnosis to help soldiers with a variety of personal problems, including depression. His family, on hearing about his work in hypnosis, expressed their concerns about this form of treatment and begged him to leave it alone. During his years in the army, Paul married and his wife gave birth to a daughter. Following his release from the army he immediately enrolled in a Baptist Seminary, emulating his father, his grandfather and his uncles, and fulfilling his calling to the ministry. Paul was extremely successful in Seminary. His church background and knowledge of the Bible enabled him to challenge the professors in classroom debates. During his first year at college, he was Minister of Music; he sang, played the piano, and having long ago lost his shyness was now a natural at public speaking, like his father.

Having completed his training at Seminary, Paul discovered that work was difficult to find in the San Antonio area, so he went to California to see if he could find a job. Every month he sent money home, and when he returned to collect his family to bring them to California he found that his wife had fallen in love with another man. She showed him the divorce papers that had been prepared in his absence and the marriage ended soon after. When the divorce was finalized, Paul found himself part of a very rare group, for in 1967 divorce was rare in the Southern Baptist religion, and within the alliance of Southern Baptist Ministers it was unacceptable. Southern Baptist clergy didn't divorce their wives nor did their wives divorce them. Paul's dreams were shattered for the second time.

The sudden loss of his family and career, coupled with the deep belief that he had failed in his mission to serve God as a minister, devastated Paul and for the next five years he embarked on a rebellious and self-destructive journey. Reunited with his foster brother in New Orleans, Paul was introduced to the darker side of life. To get back at God for calling him to the Ministry and then taking it all away, and to get back at his parents for not always understanding him and for making him feel different, Paul got a job as a casino dealer at Diamond Jim's in Las Vegas, and proceeded to smoke, drink and gamble, doing all the things he had never done as a young man due to his strict Southern Baptist upbringing. Paul spent years aimlessly travelling the country going from job to job, drinking and partying, finally ending up in Raleigh, N.C. as the Food and Beverage manager for the Holiday Inn. During this time, Paul's sister, who was divorced and living in Atlanta with her three children, pleaded with him to come and help with her ailing beauty business. Since Paul and his father had invested in the beauty shop and their investment seemed to be in danger, Paul decided to move to Atlanta to help her. After reviewing his sister's business situation, Paul decided to get a

hairdresser's license in order to expand the business and make it more prosperous. He enrolled in a cosmetology school for a six-month course and found that he was naturally very good at hairdressing, to the point where he won first place in the first contest he ever entered.

After the beauty business was back on track, Paul, who liked to read, got a job at Books & Gifts, the nicest bookshop and gift shop in downtown Atlanta at the time. While he worked there, he met two girls from Michigan who were in Atlanta because one was pregnant and had left home so that her parents wouldn't find out. Paul, his foster brother, and the two girls ended up sharing an apartment. Both girls were using drugs including "acid" and Mescaline, as was Paul's foster brother. Although an intellectual with a near genius mind, Paul's foster brother was an alcoholic who was unreliable and usually out of work. Paul, while using marijuana during this period, remained able to hold down a job.

In December 1971, Paul's foster brother decided to move out and persuaded the two girls to move out with him, leaving Paul with no one to help pay the rent. Left on his own for the first time in years, Paul became depressed as he seemed to be losing everybody in his life. He had always been dependent on having people around him to make himself happy and when that ended it was very traumatic. He was left with a profound sense of emptiness. He had nowhere left to go. Memories of how alone and unworthy he had felt in his childhood washed over him again. His mother had been right. He must be evil, why else would God have abandoned him? Paul fell into despair, feeling totally adrift and detached from life. He had cut off any real relationship with his parents; they didn't like the life that he was living and he knew that he couldn't phone them because they would tell him to, "Go to church and pray," and he didn't want to hear that. He wanted nothing more to do with God. He knew his wife had married again so there was no possibility of mending that relationship, and he couldn't see his daughter because she was too young to travel. Life closed in on Paul. The frantic, fast life of sex, booze and drugs suddenly stopped, leaving him isolated and alone. Feeling that he'd lost everything and everyone he had ever cared about, Paul soon retreated into a world of darkness and depression.

Harry Snipes

Paul's life revolved around reading, drinking and going to work – and doing a lousy job when he was there. This went on for some time until one of Paul's drinking buddies, a man called Harry Snipes, got really disturbed about what was going on. Recognizing that Paul was in trouble, he hung around one day waiting for him to finish work. Paul, who was working the 10.00pm -7.00am shift, met up with Harry after work and they headed back to Paul's apartment. Once there, Paul broke down and admitted to Harry that his life was a mess and that he had to do something to get his life back on track. He confided that he had considered hypnotherapy as a possible option, remembering how it had helped the soldiers he had treated during his army years. The problem, he admitted, was that there was no way he could afford the cost of the twice-weekly sessions.

When Harry heard this, he suggested that he have an attempt at hypnotizing Paul. After all, he had tried to hypnotize someone once before, and with Paul's knowledge of hypnotism they might be able to make the technique work. So, on 15th February 1972, thinking that he had nothing to lose and with a desperate desire to escape from his current lifestyle, Paul lay down on the bed in his apartment and Harry began the hypnotic process. Paul fell into a deep trance, immediately bypassing the stages of drowsiness that usually accompanies hypnosis. To verify that Paul was indeed completely "under," Harry tested the depth of hypnosis by sticking pins in Paul's fingers and feet. This had no effect on Paul - until he was restored to consciousness. Next, Harry asked Paul questions and Paul began to answer them in a garbled way. Suddenly, without any warning, Paul's body doubled up as if something had hit him hard in the stomach. Harry was terrified thinking that Paul might have become seriously unwell while under hypnosis. After the convulsion, Paul's body gently straightened itself out into a more relaxed pose and a powerful voice began to speak. Paul

had made a breakthrough to a level of consciousness not previously known to his conscious mind, but a level of consciousness that allowed him to tap into information that he had no knowledge of. Paul Solomon had made contact with what later became known as *"The Source."*

After this first session however, all was not clear sailing, because Paul woke up with painful stomach cramps. It didn't help that Harry was jumping around the room trying to contain his excitement.

"A spirit spoke through you," said Harry, but Paul was convinced that if indeed anything had happened it was just his subconscious mind talking and he wanted nothing more to do with it. After all, hadn't he had enough of all that when he was a child? But his friend Harry persisted; day after day he pleaded with Paul to let him hypnotize him again.

"We tapped into something far greater than your conscious mind" he insisted, but Paul refused to cooperate - until the day Harry appeared with a new tape recorder.

The fact that Harry had spent money on a tape recorder really impressed Paul, and Harry, sensing that he at last had Paul's attention tried one more time. *"The voice that spoke can't be you. You're not that smart!"* he argued.

After weeks of arguing, Paul consented to try again, stipulating that they ask a couple of test questions to check if the information was coming from his subconscious mind. Devising questions that they didn't know the answer to but could later verify proved difficult, but after much thought, they decided that one of the questions should be about the location of Paul's grandfather's long lost savings.

Paul's great grandfather, founder of a covered wagon company, had been murdered before Paul was born and had left a substantial inheritance to Paul's grandfather in U.S. Government Bonds. The bonds had been made out in his grandfather's name but they were hidden somewhere. No one knew where. To complicate matters, the government copies of the bonds had been destroyed when the post office in Lott, Texas had burned down, so his grandfather couldn't prove he owned the bonds and for thirty years had been talking about his lost inheritance. Harry and Paul decided to ask the whereabouts of the long lost bonds as one of the test questions. The other question would be about the painful stomach cramps that Paul had experienced after the first hypnosis session.

On March 1st 1972, Harry set up the tape recorder, Paul lay down on the sofa and Harry began his hypnotic routine, telling him to relax and let go. When Harry saw that Paul had reached a hypnotic state and recognized that Paul had again made contact, he asked the first test question concerning the long lost bonds. That night, Paul, who had never known his great grandfather's name, learned it for the first time. The voice not only gave his grandfather's full name and quite a number of details about him, including where he had hidden the bonds and why, the "voice" also gave information on how Paul's grandfather had died, information which was not known to the family at that time. As well as receiving the answer to their questions, both men were chastised and told that they were not spiritually prepared for what they were doing:

"You have not attained sufficient growth or spiritual awareness to understand contact with these records! That which you perform is a foolish experiment, for you attempt to harness powers you do not understand and to contact sources, records and intelligence you are not familiar with. And how will you try the spirits should you attain that which you seek? Would you recognize Him whom you do not know, have not been familiar with?"

Harry asked; *"What should we do to grow spiritually?"*

And was answered; *"Meditate and study. Write to the A.R.E to receive the "Search For God" books."*

Never having heard of the A.R.E Harry asked; “What’s the A.R.E.?”

The Source gave them not only the full name of the organization: “The Association of Research and Enlightenment,” but also the full address, including zip code.

When Paul woke up and listened to the tape recording relaying information about his great grandfather, he heard a stronger, more powerful version of his own voice, which caused his hair to nearly stand on end. When he heard the voice talk about prayer, Bible reading, meditation and Search for God, he became quite agitated and riddled with doubt. Clearly this information was not coming from his subconscious mind. Suddenly, it seemed God was back in his life again, or was He? For although Paul was convinced that he was dealing with some kind of supernatural force that knew more than he did, uncomfortable memories stirred of the talk he had had with his mother around the kitchen table when he was a young boy. He remembered how, after that talk, he had believed his psychic gifts to be of the devil and how he had attempted suicide in order to switch them off. Now, it seemed, he was confronted with more supernatural phenomena that might be diabolical in nature. Was this of God or of the devil? Paul had no idea what to do with the information they now had on tape.

He looked at Harry; “This “voice” is telling me where my grandfather’s bonds are. What am I going to do now? Walk up to my grandfather, a Southern Baptist minister and say, This Spirit spoke thought me and said this is where your bonds are?”

After much soul searching Paul decided to call the one person he could really trust as a spiritual adviser, his father. He was convinced that his father, a man who had an intimate relationship with God, would know what to do with the information they had received. Paul, of course, was convinced that once his father heard what he had been up to, that he would tell him that the information was from the devil, and then Paul could drop the whole thing and wouldn’t have to deal with it anymore. So Paul took the tape and drove to South Carolina where his father was at the time and played the tape for him.

“What do you think of this? Is this God or is it of the devil?” Paul asked.

His father looked him straight in the eye, *“It is of God.”*

“How can you say that?” Paul asked incredulously, totally taken aback at his father’s answer.

His father said, *“I’ll tell you how I know. For the last five years, ever since you left the ministry, your mother and I have prayed every day that something would happen to wake you up and bring you back to what you are supposed to do. I knew it would have to be something spectacular. Besides, there is a Scripture that says, “Which one of you, if your child asks you for a piece of bread would give him a stone? Or if the child asked for fish, would give him a scorpion.” His father continued, “I asked God for something and I know He didn’t give me a stone or a scorpion. That’s how I know this is of God. Go back and get to work, and do what that voice tells you to do. And know that that is your life’s work.”*

Not long after, the lost bonds were located and passed on to Paul’s grandfather. As predicted, they were found in the place Paul’s great grandfather had hidden them.

In one of the earliest readings, the “voice” commented that Paul had indeed come to earth for a purpose. This validated what he had always believed and spoken of since childhood. Paul Solomon had finally found his mission:

“We would have you realize that this channel has felt, from his earliest moments of recollection that he was sent here to earth for a special purpose. He came not on to your plane in an ordinary manner,

nor for an ordinary purpose. This is given that you may know as a sign. It has been given before that you should study those things of astrology, numerology, phrenology and those things of the wisdom of the ancients. If you will study numerology, you will see the significance of the following:

This channel was born on the seventh year of this age. He was born on the seventh day of the seventh month of the seventh year of your present age. He chose this time to enter earth's plane as the son of a servant of God, which choice was made that he might be early in life prepared to do that work which he has come to do. It will be learned if this entity will follow that which is his purpose and will dedicate his life, his heart, his innermost being without selfishness completely to that purpose for his existence."

Communication with The Source

The door had opened to a new life. When Paul returned to Atlanta, he and Harry continued to explore new concepts and possibilities. In the months that followed, they changed their lifestyles in accordance with direction given in the communications. They exercised and ate more healthily and they studied, prayed and contacted the "voice" for information several times a day. The painful stomach cramps Paul felt on his return to consciousness soon disappeared once he understood the cause of them.

"Your consciousness is disengaging itself from the physical body, and when the physical body feels consciousness leaving, it associates that with death and will do anything in its power to hold consciousness in the body. And for that reason, those muscles are cramping in an attempt to sustain life. As soon as the body becomes accustomed to the procedure and realizes that the cramping is not necessary, or even effective, the reaction will cease."

Paul and Harry also contacted the A.R.E for the "Search for God" books and there learnt about Edgar Cayce and his work. Realizing that Edgar Cayce had had similar experiences Paul wrote to Hugh Lynn, Edgar Cayce's son, telling him of his experiences and asking for advice on how to proceed. When he didn't receive a reply, Paul decided to try and contact Edgar Cayce himself on inner planes. During this time, when Paul went into trance he would see Edgar Cayce. Cayce would point to a path that went up a hill to a little church. Paul's interpretation was that Cayce was telling him to go directly to the Hall of Records and not to bother him. However, as time went on, Cayce would periodically appear to Paul on different occasions throughout his life.

In the weeks that followed Paul and Harry resumed their questioning and investigations with the "voice." The naiveté of both men is evident from the questions they asked during the first few months.

"What is your name? What is it like where you live? Who or what are you?" they asked.

The "voice" replied, *"This is not a spirit or some other person. You are talking with the rest of your mind. The mind that you think of as your mind is just the tip of the iceberg. There is much more to your thinking ability than that. The mind that you ordinarily think with is a result of your five external senses observing the world around you and making judgments about what it sees, hears and feels. It gathers information and makes logical conclusions. This mind is external, a body phenomena, a result of the brain functioning. But this mind is not the sum of your intelligence."*

The "voice" began to refer to itself as "Source," explaining that it was the source of Paul's mind, his Super-conscious or Higher Self. The voice that communicated through Paul was his own higher consciousness, the greater consciousness within him that is also in all people. The Source explained

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that the same guidance and direction was available to every person, but in most people it remained as unused potential. Paul and Harry began to refer to the “voice” as The Source, and communications by The Source as “readings.” Their questions, The Source advised them, should always be directed to God or Source, then God could choose the messenger, whether it be spirit guide or any other teacher or master.

The Source referred to itself as “we,” it was explained, because messengers or servants of God also communicated in the readings. They were called “*The Cloud of Witnesses.*” This collective consciousness could include Paul’s own Higher Mind, the Higher Mind of the person receiving the reading, and also angels, spirit guides and discarnate souls who in previous lifetimes had mastered certain areas of knowledge. “We are a group of beings with a single consciousness who allow in the Light of God”, the readings explained. This Source of knowledge and wisdom also included a Hall of Records, which contained records of the history of the Universe. The records, The Source explained, are more precisely called the “*Akashic Record,*” where past, present and future are written on the skein of time and space.

“Does that mean that information about literally anything that has ever occurred in the world is available?” Paul and Harry asked.

The Source responded, *“I will bring to thine remembrance all things, whatsoever you have need of, from the foundations of the world.”*

During the following six months, Harry and Paul tried to think of deep, meaningful questions to ask The Source. It occurred to them that rather than having to think of questions it would be easier to ask The Source to just tell them everything they needed to know.

The Source replied, *“We can bring you the answers to the questions you ask, but it is not meant that we should lead you by the hand. When you ask, you bring the information. It is by asking the question, that you unlock the source of information.”*

One day, Paul and Harry came up with a particular question that they were sure would bring forth enough material for them to write a book. It was a simple question, “*What is God?*” They were stunned when The Source answered their question with a single sentence;

“God is a being who can recognize good without evil as a point of reference.”

Harry wanted to know if the communication with The Source was unique to Paul, or could he learn to communicate with The Source also. The Source then gave a series of responses on how Harry and others could learn to communicate:

“The phenomena of the rest of your mind, the Super-conscious, the Greater Intelligence, is not peculiar to one person. Everybody has a whole mind, and most access only about one tenth of its capacity in daily life. Right now, cells in your body are actively dying. You could get alarmed about that, but simultaneously, another phenomenon is occurring. You are replacing those dying cells with new cells, new life, as cells are being reborn. The Intelligence inside you knows how to make new life, knows how to cause your heart to beat, and knows how to heal you. That Intelligence is co-existing in the same body with you. It is that Intelligence that made you. It is the Creator of your brain, your consciousness, your eyes, and your ears, all of you. If that Intelligence gave you your ability to communicate, surely it can hear you and knows how to communicate with you. That same Intelligence is available to every person.”

The Source further explained that it was unnecessary, not even desirable, for a person to go into trance or completely lose consciousness. Paul had undergone hypnosis because he had wanted to escape consciousness. His desperate desire to escape life allowed him to reach the unconsciousness

state. The Source assured Harry that anyone could enter the separate, subtler reality where they could ask questions and receive answers from The Source.

“Whether or not you communicate with Source effectively is dependent on where your attention is focused, if you can pay less attention to what is going on around you and spend time every day quietly seeking communication with the Source of your mind, you can learn to communicate.”

The Work Begins

The psychic abilities that Paul had switched off when he was 14 years old reappeared as he immersed himself in learning everything he could about metaphysical matters. During this time a little girl in a nearby apartment complex went missing and one of Paul’s friends told the detective in charge of the case that he knew of someone who could help find the girl. A short time later the girl was found in a terrified state hidden beneath a bed at a location provided by The Source.

When news of Paul’s involvement in finding the missing girl spread, reporters and researchers flocked to his house. One such reporter, from the Atlanta Constitution, had heard of Edgar Cayce and asked Paul if he could provide medical readings as Cayce had done. Paul replied that he had never asked The Source any medical questions but was willing to try.

During the reading, Paul asked The Source for information pertaining to physical symptoms experienced by the reporter. When the session was over, the reporter took the taped reading to his doctor who, after conducting a battery of tests, confirmed that the information provided by The Source was indeed correct. The doctor was so impressed that soon he approached Paul for advice on other patients with troublesome symptoms. This was the beginning of the medical readings. From this point on the number of people seeking advice and guidance increased greatly.

One medical story recounted by Paul concerned a young infant. “An emergency call came from the father of an infant who was dying. The child was unable to keep any food in his stomach, and was rapidly losing weight. Every time the baby ate, he either threw up or had diarrhea. Nothing was being assimilated. The baby was emaciated and was reaching a point of dehydration. The doctors had tried everything they knew, and nothing was working. They told the father that the baby was going to die. They didn’t know what else to do, and the father was frantic. He was determined to come to Virginia Beach immediately, and we agreed to do a reading.”

“Yes, the tiny little thing doesn’t have the facilities for breaking down food for assimilation.” the Source said.

The Source suggested a number of dietary changes, and recommended supplements to be given to the child for a three-week period, explaining that these would add the missing elements to the child’s system and would enable the infant to digest his food. The Source then recommended that the child be massaged to increase the circulation.

“The father left right after the reading, and I didn’t hear anything more about how the baby was coping” Paul said, *“that was in 1974.”*

“Three years later, I received an invitation from Yale University Medical School to do a talk on psychic diagnosis. Naturally, I accepted immediately. Conducting workshops for doctors and other health practitioners was something I had thought about doing. We had taken initial steps toward that goal in our first Healing Conference, but I didn’t know any doctors in Connecticut. I didn’t even know anyone on the faculty at Yale University. It was exciting and puzzling. How had they heard of my work? I asked them how they had gotten my name, but no one seemed to know.”

As I stood on the stage, I looked at the faces of young students and older professionals in the audience. All were solemn. Most looked skeptical. Then I noticed a beaming face, grinning ear to ear. It took me a while to realize who he was, and I almost didn't recognize him because the last time I saw him he wasn't smiling. It was the man who had the reading for his baby. After the lecture, he told me he worked with the Public Relations Department at Yale, and had been trying for three years to set up this lecture. He told me his son had shown improvement within hours after the remedies suggested in the reading had been used, and he was now strong and healthy and a normal size and weight for his age.

While Paul was at Yale University, his abilities were tested. The depth of his trance was measured by electro-encephalograph, biofeedback equipment and registered at a delta level of consciousness, or a comatose state. During the trance, Paul's breathing was so shallow that it was often undetectable. These demonstrations engendered such interest that a series of lectures followed after which an experiment was conducted in which thirty doctors were trained in a technique for diagnosing patients intuitively, the results of which indicated a very high degree of accuracy³. Several medical clinics and a school for children with learning disabilities were also trained in the technique with an equally high degree of success.

The increasing interest shown in his work left Paul with very little personal time, so a friend suggested that it might be helpful to have a pseudonym in order to protect his private life. After some consideration Paul consulted The Source for advice:

"We should find that the pseudonym should be descriptive of that of which it speaks. The description then for this channel might be given as the expositor of wisdom ...

We would choose then two names of two different nationalities. Then further, the wisdom that is expressed should be described as ancient wisdom, not that something new is being revealed, but that which was true from the foundations of the world still is true and still is dependable ...

We would choose then a name from the era that you call the Old Testament era and of that nation called the chosen people. That name then would be symbolic of wisdom. It would be symbolic of the fact that those who chose God this day are those chosen by God and of God this day. As He has said, "You have not chosen me, I have chosen you." Those to which this one would speak are the chosen people. His name then would come from the chosen people and would be called Solomon.

That would be the first name then would be chosen from a different people. It would be called first, Saul Bar Solomon, which would mean in the Hebrew, Saul the Son of Solomon, but would be given in the Greek rather than the Hebrew as showing that the message has come to the Greek as well as the Hebrew, and the name of him who brought this message to the Greek as well as the Hebrew was Saul, who was as well the expositor.

That message that came through Christ and of Christ, and was recorded by the Apostles, was explained, interpreted, expanded in the works, the writings of him who was called Saul, who became Paul the Apostle, the expositor. The pseudonym then would become Paul Solomon, the "Expositor of Wisdom."

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³ The invitation for Paul to lecture on psychic diagnosis by the professors at Yale University Medical School led to Paul giving lectures and workshops at universities all over the world, including Charing Cross Teaching Hospital in London, UCLA in the United States, University of Australia at Adelaide and the teaching hospital of the University of New Zealand at Christchurch.

As time went on, Paul realized that he couldn't help all the people who came to him for help, so he asked The Source what to do, and The Source replied:

"If a man is hungry and you give him a fish, you have fed him once. If you teach him to fish, you have fed him for a lifetime. Teach people to get their own answers. Use the information that you were given and teach other people to find the answers within themselves."

Inner Light Consciousness

In August 1972, Paul and a small group of people compiled the teachings, disciplines, Universal Laws, meditations, diet and exercises that Paul had been given by The Source for his own growth and organized them into a complete system for mental, physical and spiritual development. "Inner Light Consciousness," a guided experience in spiritual evolution was born, and in time Paul brought these teachings to hundreds of thousands of people around the world. Some of the seekers began to work with and test the organized system of techniques and found exciting results in expanded awareness through effective meditation and management of stress and emotions. They called their study group The Fellowship of the Inner Light and set about creating a small organization to coordinate their efforts and explore ways of sharing their discoveries with other interested people. The Fellowship of the Inner Light became an interfaith church in Virginia Beach, founded by Paul in 1972.

The Global Mission

During the years that followed, Paul traveled the world giving readings, lectures and workshops on every phase of human existence. He did readings for scientists looking for breakthroughs in superconductors as well as scientific readings for researchers on how to dispose of radioactive waste. There were medical diagnosis and treatments, which have been proven to be accurate and beneficial. There were prophecies that were born out in fact, and a wealth of instruction in spiritual growth.

In 1991, Paul spent time working with Mother Theresa at the Institute of Death and Dying in the slums of Calcutta, India. Deciding that he didn't want to leave at the end of his stay, Paul said it was one of the few times he saw Mother Theresa become exasperated. She told him:

"I have a gift and I am using it to the very best of my ability to do what I am called to do, she said. You too have a gift. You can take the most complex things and make them simple for people to understand. Some of us are meant to live in a palace. Some of us are meant to live amongst the poorest of the poor. I must demonstrate to the poorest of the poor that it is possible to rise from where they are into prosperity. Your job is to go and be prosperous, live in the most beautiful house that you can possibly afford and teach people that when the people of the world become truly prosperous, there will be no more poorest of the poor, and I will be out of a job. Go and tell people that I said that it's a sin to be poor. Become rich, and then you can do something about world poverty."

In 1993, one year before he died, Paul Solomon was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of the enslaved children of Thailand. The plight of these children who were being sold into slavery was close to his heart, and he risked his life several times trying to secure their safety. "Never leave a slave in bonds when you could set them free," he said. His efforts were rewarded with the opening of a children's village in Thailand where children could grow up together in safety. Although it is not often mentioned, through his work Paul also supported more than one hundred children in Thailand, dozens of families in Palestine, an entire group of children in Peru and Lesotho, (a small tribal nation near Durban, South Africa) giving them the opportunity to build schools and buy much needed books and equipment.

He became one of the most highly respected authorities in the field of self-development and spiritual growth, and was considered an expert on many subjects ranging from Comparative Religions and Ancient Mysteries, to Qabalah and Holistic Healing. Royalty and statesmen from all over the world also received Paul. As a testament to the effectiveness of The Source Readings, Paul received many letters of appreciation, notable among them were letters from Chief Buthelezi of the Zulu of South Africa and from Corozan Aquino in the Philippine Government. Many well-known actors and actresses were also among those who added their appreciation.

Although Paul was considered one of the foremost international teachers of human potential, in everything he did he always pointed toward the greater teacher, the God within. In his lifetime, he brought together people of diverse nations, races, and religions, often under one roof, in the belief that every individual has a gift to give to those with ears to hear. He believed that perfect love actually can cast out all fear, and is, in fact, our most appropriate response to the existing world situation.

From the moment of his first trance experience, the focus of Paul Solomon's life became the empowerment of others. His dream was to inspire others in their pursuit of their full potential, and whether they chose to follow his teachings or not, he loved them anyway.

For Paul, family always came first, and family was not limited to his biological parents, grandparents and siblings. Paul considered the world to be his family. *"Our true mission is to build a beautiful family. This family must extend across religious walls and barriers. This family must reach across socio-economic and class barriers. We must reach and encompass the poor and the sick, the criminals and the insane. Every person on the planet needs to know that someone cares,"* Paul once said. Through building such a global community, Paul Solomon truly believed that peace in the world could be attained within our lifetime.

After a lifetime spent in service to humanity, Paul Solomon passed away on March 4th 1994 in his home in Virginia Beach.