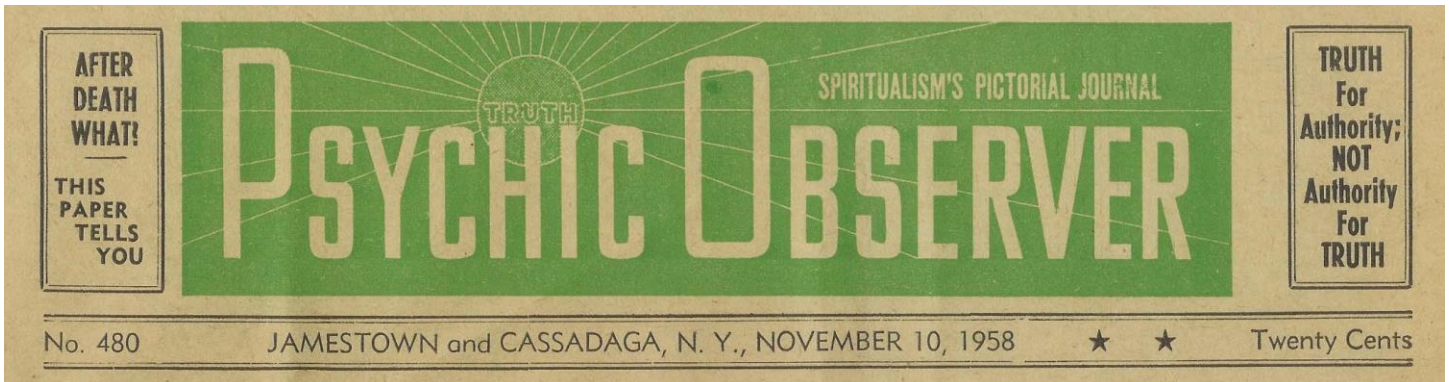


(Names of famous spirit inspirers have been removed as they directed)

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'A Man With A Mission' Aspires To Spiritualize Mankind Michael Flagg Means Just What He Says

By The Editor

"A Man With a Mission" is how London's **Psychic News** described him.

And **Two Worlds**, in publishing his article "New Movement Launched From Beyond," prefaced it by a statement from the editor that Red Cloud, one of the greatest guides that has ever manifested, had urged him to publish the contribution.

So when Michael Flagg came east for a visit, I was interested in interviewing him about The Universal Spiritual Brotherhood, which he had founded on

earth under the direction and guidance of Spirit, much of it given at tape-recorded seances in England.

He's Serious

One thing was plain from the start. Flagg is a man of intense conviction, profound integrity, unswerving determination, great spirituality, and deep humility, well aware how blessed and privileged he is to serve with and under Illumined Ones united in the burning desire to bring love and peace and brotherhood to mankind. He will certainly need those qualities to accomplish what he has set out to do.

I heard several of the recordings, in which those who came through spoke with a sublime loftiness of thought and sentiment, expressed in exquisitely simple and beautiful language. I was amazed, as I am always amazed, by the extraordinary flow and beauty of language that comes so easily to Great Souls on the other side of life.

They made their mission clear. It is a mission to spiritualize mankind; to make man realize he is a spiritual being here and now, and not at some remote and future time; to make man aware more and more of his oneness with God, and the truth that love is the basis of all spiritual life; to bring peace and tranquility of spirit to the people of earth; to break down all the barriers that stand between peoples, and nations, and individuals;



MICHAEL FLAGG

and to form one great spiritual brotherhood of men and women throughout the world.

They made it clear, too, that they have, for several reasons, entrusted Flagg with the responsibility of being their representative on earth.

The Universal Spiritual Brotherhood is an organization of spiritual truth patterned after the original that has long existed in the higher realms of spirit. Flagg pledges that The Brotherhood will always remember that "in all things we do, there is no cause greater than truth."

Everyone Welcome

The Brotherhood is open to men and women everywhere, regardless of the color of their skin, the faith they were born in, the country they live in, or the views they believe in. It is under the leadership and inspiration of [five well-known names from the afterlife], and a host of others.

Flagg quoted [an illumined spirit inspirer's] words to him, words that I heard on the tape: "Many of the great prophets and teachers who once trod your earth are the instigators of this that we are endeavoring to do, and under their control are many souls bound in love to serve mankind, to follow out the instructions of the great ones—[three famous names]"

Flagg states that every individual who forges his link with The Brotherhood brings the day closer when the barriers that man has built in ignorance and foolishness over the centuries will be demolished; and that every group that meets from time to time in love and harmony, and that develops mediumship for purely **spiritual** purposes, adds to the spiritual reservoir that will be used for great things in the years to come.

Again he quoted [the illumined spirit inspirer]. "There are great **powers**, greater than any that you or any soul upon earth know of—greater powers that any can **comprehend** upon earth! There are great **forces** that can be brought into being, whereby we can, when the time comes, demonstrate the power of God that flows through us!

"And then we shall demonstrate in such a way, that **none** can turn their face from us. For all shall say: 'This is indeed the path of truth, for we have seen the signs! And these signs are unto us of a new life, and a new power, where love shall sway **all** men in the direction of truth and tranquility and peace... But we need thousands of souls—souls afire with the burning desire to do the will of God'."

Souls with courage, Flagg adds, souls that realize that "he who serves must be prepared to sacrifice," souls that have been waiting for direction as to what they can do to spread the word of spirit, and to help bring about a heaven on earth.

The Brotherhood has nine principles, given to him in inspiration, Flagg says, and confirmed in direct-voice seances. But one need not accept every purpose and principle of The Brotherhood to become a member.

"It is enough to realize that we are all God's children, and that the Fatherhood of God means the Brotherhood of Man. Other realization will come in time. The Brotherhood has no wish to make anyone give up beliefs that comfort him, even though they may be wrong. He will discard them in due season, when he is ready, and when he himself wishes to."

Once again Flagg quoted [the illumined spirit inspirer]:

"We must give man above all things his personal freedom... One of the most important tenets of our work is that **all men shall be free to live and worship, and to die—as the world terms 'die'—in their own beliefs, or lack of beliefs!"**

Certainly the tape recordings that I heard contained nothing but the noblest philosophy and spiritual ideals. And those who spoke stressed again and again the need for humbleness, a humbleness reflected in their very own words.

"We who come to you, though we have progressed far beyond the conditions of earth, though our development through the spheres has been great, yet are we ever conscious of the greatness that can yet be. We who worship at the feet of the Most High are most humbled because we are conscious of that which we lack.

"We come in humbleness and in spiritual desire to work with you, and through you... We only ask that you accept us and treat us as brothers a little more enlightened. We come, my son, as we want you always to remember—as brothers of spiritual awareness and spiritual affinity.

"We do not want adulation. We do not want those upon earth to bow to us, or to make of us saints, or to make of us gods. For we come in the true sense as true brothers, in love and in harmony and in peace."

I discussed with Flagg the principles of The Brotherhood, which are very much like the principles

of Spiritualism, but worded in much simpler language.

In fact it seemed to me that what he advocates is nothing but pure Spiritualism.

"I'm glad you said **pure** Spiritualism," he said. "For it is Spiritualism as it **should** be, and as it **could** have been but isn't! It is **all** religions as they **should** be, and as many of them **were** until their truth and beauty became so buried under layer upon layer of dogma and creed and ritual and falsehood as to become quite unrecognizable. Spiritualism is falling, if it has not indeed already fallen, into the same tragic pattern.

"Not because the truth in it has changed—for **truth never changes, no matter how some may twist it and make it hideous**—but because of the words and actions of many who represent Spiritualism.

"Too many Spiritualist churches slavishly imitate their orthodox counterparts. They observe rites. They observe rituals. They are filled with symbols and decorations associated with other religions. In fact, apart from proving survival, some of them are little different from orthodox strongholds.

"Please let me make one thing clear: The Brotherhood does not condemn these things, which have value and meaning to many people. But how can any movement that preaches the brotherhood of man endorse, or **appear** to endorse, anything that suggests any particular group, or that draws distinctions between them!"

Must Be Universal

He added that anything that is not universal makes it more difficult than ever—"and heaven knows it is difficult enough even under ideal conditions!"—for highly evolved souls to come through, because highly evolved souls all think in universal terms, and any condition that is low or narrow and sectarian provides difficulties and barriers to them.

It is to **avoid** drawing distinction between people, Flagg says, that The Brotherhood has another rule—no formal attire or outlandish or unusual garb while performing work for The Brotherhood.

He states that simplicity and humility marks the work of The Brotherhood in all its aspects—enlightenment, healing, and mediumship.

There is no glorification of individuals; and in the regular meeting places of The Brotherhood there are no plaques or pictures of any individual, and no monuments to any individual.

Here are some other things that Flagg says make The Brotherhood different.

No "days" set aside for any individual.

No titles that separate a worker in The Brotherhood from the great flow of humanity. No "reverends" or "ministers" or such.

No politics of any sort, and no discussion of politics.

No worship of any medium or healer or speaker—a worship which he states has done great disservice to Spiritualism.

No requiring members to stand at any time during meetings.

No passing of collection boxes or plates.

No selling of blessings. No statement from the platform or anywhere else that contributors will be in any way rewarded for what they give.

No fulsome praise. Too often, says Flagg, is a speaker's talk referred to by a chairman as "words of wisdom" when it is nothing but an imposition on the audience.

No dreary or funereal music. We have much to be grateful and happy about, he says, and our music should reflect it.

No smugness, no assuming that anything that is presented must be of value and interest to all. It is a Brotherhood rule that advertisements and announcements of meetings must, where possible, give not only the name of the speaker but the **topic** he will discuss, to help people decide whether or not to attend.

No membership fees or assessments of any sort. I asked Flagg how The Brotherhood will manage to do its work, and he quoted his inspirers.

"We realize in the material world that money must have its place, and to do this work—(the work of The Brotherhood)—there must be financial support. But it shall come... It shall come freely, and will come from the hearts of men. That in itself will mean that the work can be done in the way that we would wish it to be done. It will be done with love."

No manipulation or massage while laying on hands.

No rituals, rites or prescribed ceremonies at meetings.

No position on controversial subjects such as reincarnation, meat-eating, and vivisection, and no discussion of such subjects on Brotherhood platforms.

Pro-Reincarnation

I was somewhat surprised at the exclusion of the subject of reincarnation, for Flagg is as convinced of the truth of reincarnation—"without the trappings and nonsense so many invest it with!"—as he is of survival. And he thinks that reincarnation, properly understood, is of even greater importance to us and our spiritual development.

But he explains that there are many other avenues for discussion of controversial subjects that **divide** people; and that The Brotherhood's aims are to **unite** people in peace and harmony—a peace and harmony based on love and service, knowledge of survival, communication with those in other expressions of existence, enlightenment from Illumined Ones, and the power of Spirit to heal.

"When the world as a whole is ready for greater truths," he says, "they will be given, but even then only when the illumined inspirers of The Brotherhood so counsel. That, incidentally, is what mainly sets The Brotherhood apart from other movements; it was founded on earth under the direct inspiration and guidance of Illumined Ones, and it will remain under that inspiration and guidance."

The Brotherhood has strict rules affecting mediums and speakers, Flagg declares.

He has visited scores of mediums and a great number of churches, and has the greatest regard for the work some mediums do. And he emphasizes that good mediumship on and off the platform is essential.

But he says that truth suffers much too often at the hands of many who profess to expound it, and that some mediums are among the worst offenders, using or misusing their psychic gifts to enslave others, and to prostitute and exploit truth for their own material ends.

"It is an immense disappointment and disillusionment to Great Souls on the other side of the veil, who seek ceaselessly for mediums of truly spiritual caliber—for the condition that would make it possible for them to give their teachings and their philosophy, and thus bring light into the darkness of men's minds."

Time and again these great souls develop the gifts of mediums, only to see their mediums fall by the wayside.

An inspirer told him: "There are those through whom we **might** have worked, through whom we would have **liked** to have worked, for the good of

mankind, who have become selfish, who have become as it were enamored with the material things around and about them, who have become slaves to their own desires of a personal and material nature. And in consequence they have debased their gift, and they have built up a barrier through which we are unable to pierce with the truths of spirit."

Flagg has little praise for speakers who apparently think that a flood of words can make up for poverty of ideas, or who speak by "inspiration" only, and refuse to prepare for what they have to say. Neither has he much use for trance or semi-trance addresses, which he states usually leave their listeners more confused than enlightened.

"Only when speakers are controlled by truly advanced souls—which is rare indeed!—are their words of any real value."

Only The Qualified

So The Brotherhood's position is to have no medium at all rather than a feeble or unconvincing one, or one who works along fortune-telling lines; and no speaker at all rather than one who poorly prepares, or who speaks fluently but says nothing.

The Brotherhood has hundreds of members in various parts of the globe, united in aspiration and the desire to serve. Small groups meet regularly in places as far apart as South Australia and the North of England.

"Most of them felt that they could go no further on the old paths they had traveled, and the aims and policies and principles of The Brotherhood have refreshed them and given them new hope and greater opportunities to serve."

Much of Flagg's time in the last two years has been devoted to the work of organizing The Brotherhood throughout the world; but the organizational stages have been completed, and The Brotherhood's work in this country is about to begin.

He asks all those who share his views, all those who are ready to sink themselves in service, all those who have the courage to blaze a new trail for mankind, to get in touch with him. (He lives at ... [no longer], San Francisco.)

To them he would say what Spirit has told him over and over again—the path is no easy one.

"With all our power and love, and all our desire to fulfill God's work through you and others, we can **not** promise that the path will be easy!"

But he declares that the bridges **will** be crossed, that the obstacles **will** be surmounted, and that The

Brotherhood **will** achieve its goal within the lifetime of many of us.

And after meeting him and speaking with him, I wouldn't bet against it.
