

More From the “Ol’ Farmer” in Pumapungo



Debra Bloedel and Chris Morriss at Ingapirca. PHOTO: Debra Bloedel

We have just received word from Consociate Chris Morriss (aka “the Ol’ Farmer”) that he and his longtime friend have found a temporary residence in Cuenca, near Pumapungo, Ecuador. Chris plans to set up permanent residence there in the neighborhood in the near future with his wife Debra. They plan to set up a small self-sufficient community and retire there. Chris will continue his participation in the Academy Program and hopes to be of some help with the Andean Explorers Foundation while he is in Ecuador.



Tomebamba River in Cuenca. PHOTO:
Debra Bloedel



Countryside north of Cuenca. PHOTO:
Debra Bloedel

“Sonotherapy and Cosolargy: The Future of Healing”



Dr. Gary Buchanan. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

Dr. Gary Robert Buchanan spoke at the 2012 Cosolargy Conference on “Sonotherapy and Cosolargy: The Future of Healing.” His presentation addressed the purpose of Cosolargy and the relation of Cosolargy to ancient Vedic and Buddhist teachings, emphasizing the image of the Heart in these ancient teachings. The presentation also described the important concept of *enantiodromia*, as discussed by Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and recently by Manfred Clynes, who defined the process as “sentic response” in reference to the lower force centers.

Dr. Buchanan’s talk primarily discussed present research into the physical and psychological applications of the revolutionary new healing modality known as “Sonotherapy,” or Wave Front BIOresonance, which combines light, color, sound,

water and subtle energies, to assist healing of the body, mind, and psyche, and the future of Sonotherapy and other spiritually based healing therapies.

Biographical Note:

Dr. Buchanan is a composer, orchestra conductor, educator, theologian, therapist, and the Director of Wave Front BIOresonance Research at Steamboat Hot Springs Healing Center in Reno. He is the author of the 2008 landmark publication *SONA: Healing with Wave Front BIOresonance*, which is now being used worldwide in alternative healing clinics as a Sonotherapy training text. With degrees and certificates from institutions where he has both studied and taught around the world, Dr. Buchanan has been with Cosolargy International since 1975, serving on the faculties of the Jamilian University and the Jamilian Parochial School. He is also Vice President of the Andean Explorers Foundation, Founding Conductor of the Foundation Orchestra, editor, sound engineer, and researcher in vibrational healing.

THE LUMINOUS TEACHING STONE OF CHINA: The Stone Itself, Part 4: Recognition



Luminous Teaching
Stone of China

A full-sized replica of the oldest surviving Christian monument in China is now on permanent display in the chambers of the Sacred Overseer of the International Community of Christ, Church of the Second Advent. The reproduction of this extraordinary monument was donated to the Church on May 11, 1991, by Mark Lord, its creator.

The monument and its cultural context had intrigued Lord since his earliest contact with The Church through the Jamilian University's correspondence extension program in the late 1970s, when he became familiar with its history. Syriac documents and traditions suggest that Christian missionaries contacted China many times during the first millennium, and Chinese imperial edicts record major events in the establishment, and disestablishment, of the Church throughout its existence in China. But the inscription on the Luminous Teaching Monument is the earliest local document testifying to

a Christian presence in China. The inscription, written by a Persian monk in a Christian monastery of eighth-century China, commemorates the mission of his church to the great T'ang dynasty. The narrative tells that the Rabban A-lo-pen made his way to China from the Middle East and in A.D. 635 arrived at the capital of Ch'ang-an. There the emperor investigated A-lo-pen's teaching and in A.D. 638 issued an imperial rescript that recognized the validity of Bishop A-lo-pen's "Sutras and Images." In China, the missionaries of the Church christened their religion *ching-chiao-ching* meaning "luminous" or "bright light" and *chiao* meaning "teaching" or "religion." An examination of the Chinese character *ching* shows its component parts to be two independent characters, the one meaning "sun" and the other meaning "great." In medieval China, the Church of the East began to be officially called "The Great Sun Religion" or "Luminous Religion," a title virtually identical to the Chinese name given to the popular Vairochana Buddhist teaching. (In the West, the Church of the East is generally referred to as the "Nestorian" Church, a misnomer perpetrated for centuries by the Western Churches to indicate, for them, its heretical nature.)

In 1988, Lord learned of an original rubbing of the inscription being displayed in the front window of a small antique shop in Taiwan. When Lord mentioned the prospect of obtaining the rubbing to the then Head Bishop of the Second Advent Church, Gene Savoy Sr., the Bishop urged Lord to make an offer through his acquaintance in Taiwan who had notified him of the rubbing. Over the next year, increasing difficulties prevented further progress when the antique shop became a museum of Taiwanese folk art, and the rubbing was removed. In June 1989, Lord mailed a letter to the museum on behalf of Bishop Savoy, who was then on expedition in Peru. Written under the auspices of the Andean Explorers Foundation, the letter requested the purchase of the rubbing, or a copy of the rubbing, and explained the monument's correlations with other researches the foundation had done. In July, Mr. Shun-

Ming Chang, the wealthy proprietor of the Taiwan Folk Art Museum in Taipei as well as many businesses in Hong Kong and Singapore, phoned Lord to inform him that he was in Reno, Nevada. By coincidence, Mr. Chang had received Lord's letter and made the full-size copy of the 100-year-old-rubbing, which he brought to Reno.

Construction of the replica began later in 1989 with an initial display design and the repeated efforts of friends to aid in the project. One, a professional photographer, was able to photographically replicate the rubbing to size without distortion. Another, a wood artisan, designed a frame for the giant slide of the inscription and, over a few months, constructed it to the dimensions of the original monument as recorded in several texts: approximately ten feet tall, three feet wide, and one foot thick. At Bishop Savoy's request to reproduce the monument as accurately as possible, Lord attempted to reproduce in wood the dragonlike figures of the monument's headpiece for his display. Using photographs from several sources and knowing the exact size of one of the design elements, the Saint Thomas Cross, Lord was able to reproduce the fantastic shapes of the headpiece with relative accuracy, tracing the outline in the wooden slab line by line, then checking the lines again and again as he carved out the figures.

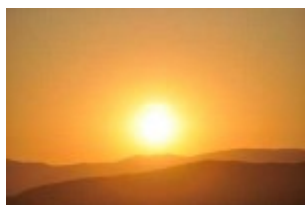
Only two other full replicas of the monument are known to exist. The first stone replica of the monument was cut in 1907 from the same quarry in China as the original through the unrewarded efforts of the young Danish orientalist and explorer Frits Holm. It came under the ownership of a Roman Catholic convert, who in 1916 moved the stone to the beautiful former palace of the popes, the Lateran in Rome, where, as pontifical property, the Monumentum Syro-Sinicum came to occupy for many years a place of honor opposite the main entrance. The Irishwoman E.A. Gordon, author of "On Kobo Daishi and the Nestorians in China," donated another replica

of the monument, which was erected in Japan and dedicated with a full Buddhist ceremonial on Sunday, October 3, 1911. This replica of the monument is displayed at the top of the holy mountain, Koya San, in Japan's chief Buddhist sanctuary. A third partial replica was made in 1937, when the Church of Saint Simeon the Zealot was built in Shiraz, Iran. The priest in charge, the English missionary Norman Sharp, had a facsimile of the monument's headpiece made and placed in the church as a memorial to Persia's Christian past. The original monument remains at Xian, near its first site, in the Forest of Monuments, which was once the grounds of the Confucian College, well protected from wind and rain and the hands of careless visitors.

Robert G. Petrovich

1991, 2010

Consociates Register for the 2012 Convocation



It is time once again to extend to all our members a special invitation to join in Community for our annual Convocation. We will meet this year in September, from Monday the 24th, through Sunday the 30th.

Each year we gather in the sunny high desert of the Sierra Nevada for the purpose of assembly, which is essential if we are to maintain and heighten the *metanoia* of The Community and benefit, each and as a whole, from the special blessings and the grace that are bestowed upon us at our consecrated open-air Sanctuary and other sacred places dedicated to God.

This year, 2012, is the much-anticipated Jubilee Year of our Church. Fifty years have passed since the Birth of the Sun of Righteousness in 1962, and we are now entering a new cycle of Christ-Consciousness and spiritual awakening, which will be ever more evident as we approach the fifty-two-year cycle in 2014.

We ask that registration forms be returned by July 23 with a contribution deposit. A lodging information sheet for details about hotel accommodations and reservation deadlines is available for nonresidents.

The format for this year's Convocation will be along the same lines as last year's (please see the attached mini-agenda). We are once again including in the agenda a two-day "Conference on the Spiritual State of the World," which will be open to the public. Presenters from various disciplines will speak. The presence of practicing Cosolargists is important to the success of this event. Full details of the conference program will be sent in the near future. Consociates are invited to sit in during the Presenters' Round Table Panel Discussion on Sunday September 30, and to meet the presenters at a private reception in their honor later that same day. Those who are interested in participating in these two private events should indicate such on the registration form. A small additional contribution is requested for those who wish to attend. Space is limited, so don't delay.

In addition to the two-day public Conference (which includes the "Spirit of Exploration" dinner with the Andean Explorers Foundation), we will hold the Clergy Counsels lectures for ministers and ministers-in-training, Communion of Fellowship, and a specially planned service at sunrise at the open-air Cathedral Church of the Americas.

We are also scheduling the Residence Training Seminar on *The*

ORAL GOSPEL AS A LIFE SYSTEM, which will begin Monday September 24, for eligible Consociates.

On behalf of the Head Overseer and all of us at the Center, we are eager for all members of our Community to be together again and to share the messages that are so important for us at this auspicious time in our evolution as a Community.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Francine Petrovich at the Chancellery at (775) 786-7827. You may also e-mail her at fpetrovich@communityofchrist.org.

See a provisional copy of the agenda (as of July 2012) [HERE](#) .

Submitted by Francine Petrovich, Convocation & Conference Coordinator

ICC and AEF Featured on Nevada Matters Radio Show



Sean and Gene with UNITE radio show host Richard Flyer PHOTO by

Debbie McCarthy

Gene Savoy Jr. and Sean Savoy, known affectionately to the greater Reno community as “the Savoy brothers,” appeared on Reno local radio throughout the month of August to speak about regional religious matters.

In a series of five interviews with various radio hosts they have discussed the interfaith work of the Nevada Clergy Association, the explorations of Gene Savoy and the Andean Explorers Foundation, Cosolargy, and the September 2011 Cosolargy Conference to be held in Reno.

The first interview with the two was called “A Common Spirit” and investigated what the representatives of different religious and spiritual beliefs in Northern Nevada were doing to work together for the common good. For the show, radio hosts Richard Flyer, founder of the Conscious Community network, and Eddie Floyd of the radio show *Nevada Matters* welcomed to their show *UNITE* the Rt. Rev. Gene Savoy Jr. as president of the region’s interfaith organization, the Nevada Clergy Association, and Rt. Rev. Sean Savoy as the organization’s events chairman.

The shows to follow featured the two as guests of Eddie Floyd, “the King of Talk in Northern Nevada,” who hosts, produces, and records the show *Nevada Matters* on KKFT 99.1 FM out of Reno, a Fox News Radio show that airs across the country, usually on Sundays.

Links to these shows and others will be posted in the *Communique* as they become available.



Sean and Gene with Nevada Matters host Eddie Floyd PHOTO by Debbie McCarthy

AEF President's TV Appearance

Andean Explorers Foundation president Sean Savoy appeared on KOL0-TV, a local Reno television station, on February 12, 2010, to introduce the local public to the activities of the organization.

Father Reano Castell Passes

into the Light



A funeral service to honor the life of the Reverend Father Reano Castell (March 26, 1931 – March 9, 2010) was held Saturday March 20, 2010, in the Chapel of the Holy Child, Reno, Nevada. In recognition of Father Castell's office in The Church, his casket was draped with The Church flag; in recognition of his citizenship and proud service in the Swiss army, the foot of his casket was draped with the flag of Switzerland.

The order of service included scriptural readings, eulogy, benediction of committal, and final blessing. A special addition to the service was the reading of the Swiss national anthem, "Landeshymne," in both German and English, the anthem often referred to as the "Swiss Psalm" because it reads like a sunrise prayer. Another special addition was the solo performance of the song "Edelweiss" from the movie *The Sound of Music* in recognition of Father Reano's love for this national flower of Switzerland. (For the full order of service, see: [Father_Reano.order_of_service](#))



A banquet reception to celebrate the life of our departed Brother in Light was held at the Rectory-Abbey on Carmel following the service. The remains of Father Castell were anointed by the Head Bishop, the Right Reverend Gene Savoy, Jr., before the funeral in a private ceremony on Saturday March 13 and cremated following the funeral service.

The eulogy for Father Castell was composed and read at the funeral service by the Right Reverend Sean Savoy. The transcript follows:

The Reverend Father Reano Castell

March 26, 1931 – March 9, 2010

EULOGY

Delivered by Rt. Rev. Sean Savoy

Introduction

It is a distinct honor for me to have been chosen to speak today for a few brief minutes on behalf of all of us who knew Reano, our dear departed Brother in Light. And I'd like to thank each of you in attendance and those who couldn't be here today who contributed information on Reano's life.

I first remember meeting Reano when he moved to Reno from British Columbia, Canada. I was 10 years old, and we were engaged in building the East Wing of the Rectory. Ironically, perhaps, all these years later I reside in that parsonage, so, believe me, Reano (and the rest of the building crew) aren't often far from my thoughts.

For twenty-seven years, Reano was part of life in The Community. And even though he was a fixture in the weekly lives of each of us for nearly three decades, I'm not sure many of us really understood the private Reano – the man beyond the old stories and jokes he was so prone to repeat – whether it be the story of being forced to eat his mother's

onion pie, the time he put ink in the holy water at school, when he tied his classmate's pig tails together as a prank, or even when he had to kneel for hours on pebbles as punishment for his mischievous ways.

Those who did have the chance to know Reano on a more personal basis, I believe, found a good and loyal friend in him. I know that my father was one of them. In the early years – Reano began communicating with my father in the 1960s – correspondence between them was often by letter, but later on, Reano became more than an associate and student of Gene Savoy at a distance. By the time he moved to Reno in 1983, he had become an extension of our family and of the Rectory.

I remember it was Christmas 1983, and Reano was invited to a big Italian dinner. He walked into the Rectory kitchen and enthusiastically asked, "What can I do to help?" So my dad gave him a block of Parmesan cheese and a cheese grater. Reano had a great time grating the cheese while my mother and Ileana cooked the pasta and sauces. Needless to say, it became a tradition anytime Reano came for Italian, that he was in charge of the Parmesan.

There wasn't a birthday or holiday to which Reano wasn't invited, and I believe these joyous times together gave him a sense of belonging—something that seemed of utmost importance to him.

In one of his early applications to join the Sacred College, he wrote:

"I would spend more time and energy to find the real purpose of life here. My primary goals are to gain a better understanding of this life and spiritual life, to help and lead man to ultimate reality of God. But how can I help? For some reason I'm setting on the fence, and I ask myself: Does God really want me? I don't know if I qualify for Ministerial training. I leave that to the Community and God."

Despite this vulnerability and any flaws he may have shown, indeed, Reano put his trust in The Community, in his service to a New World, and in his devotion to God. Many of us here were witness to this dedication.

Background & Church Life

Reano was born March 26, 1931, to Enrico Castell and Martha Catharina Nagel in Olten, Switzerland. He was raised in a family of twelve children, five siblings and six orphaned cousins taken in by his parents. All the children were only a few years apart, but Reano was the oldest. His home and school were in the Swiss mountains. He skied to school in the winter months. When he was about 13, he was sent to live and study at a monastery in southern Switzerzland. There, he had to learn Italian because no one there spoke German, his native tongue.

As a young man he trained as a Swiss Grenadier, completing his mandatory military service. The following story relates one of the dangerous episodes he lived through as part of his military training:

When Reano was eighteen, he was assigned to work in a tunnel in the Swiss mountains. His supervisor detected a gas leak in the tunnel, and it was up to Reano and his superior to warn all of the other soldiers and get them out of the tunnel safely. Everyone was out of the tunnel but Reano and his supervisor when the area exploded. They were thrown from the tunnel. Reano received severe injuries to his head and spine. He overheard the doctors telling his parents that he would likely never walk again, but he would not accept the prognosis. Six months after the accident, he walked for the first time, from his bedroom to the kitchen, where his mother was. Ironically, she told him to go back to bed because he was not well enough to be up yet. As a result of his injuries, he was prone to seizures for the rest of his life.

Reano also undertook religious studies. After one and a half

years of ministerial training at St. Marie College, he continued his education in civil engineering, carpentry, and architectural drafting.

When he was twenty years old, he traveled by ship to Canada with only a quarter of American money in his pocket. Upon his arrival on Canadian shores, he bought two loaves of bread with his quarter. He kept one for himself and gave the other to a family with children. He walked and caught rides across the continent, working at various farms along the way. He sometimes worked for people who did not speak a language he knew. Eventually, he was taught English by the wife of one of his employers.

He saved his money and eventually married his wife, Betina. They settled in Victoria, British Columbia, where he owned and ran a contracting business, which employed several European master craftsmen specializing in the building of high-end custom homes. To complement his professional and spiritual interests, over the years he took courses in, and later taught, cosmobiology, astrology, and Kabbalistic philosophy.

He was in correspondence with the International Community of Christ Church since the mid-1960s after seeing an article in *Fate* magazine about Gene Savoy. He later joined The Academy in 1971. In his letters to the Center – whether in Lima, Mexico City, or Reno – he often praised The Community for the depth of information, for the quality of our publications, and, most important, for the education and knowledge he believed he was privileged to receive.

Reano was an early member of the Andean Explorers, such as it existed in the 1970s, and wrote with praise for the book *Antisuyo* and of his appreciation for our work in Peru and the Amazon, as well as his desire to maybe one day visit the jungle. Although he never made that trip, he did serve on the board of directors when the club was resurrected in the 1980s, and he was honored for his early design work on *Feathered*

Serpent III.

Giving over his contractor's business to his sons, Brandon and Rob, in 1983, he left Canada and his family to become a permanent resident of the Reno Community in order to complete his ministerial training in The Church and dedicate his life to the Sacred Teachings of Light within the Jamilian Order.

Frustrated that his wife was adamantly opposed to religion in general and was not supportive of his spiritual endeavors in this Church (or any other, for that matter), Reano – I don't believe – ever really got over the loss of his family, who rejected him and his decision to be part of The Community. Yet, Reano was steadfast in his decision.

Following first-level ordination in 1983, he was immediately assigned to The Church's Building Department and became a resident of the Chapter House at the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary attached to the Cathedral Abbey of Monte Viejo. Upon taking the vow of nonmaterialism, he assumed liturgical functions and administration of the sacraments as an assistant to the Pastor, and in 1986 received second-level ordination. He was assigned as part-time faculty of the Jamilian University and was given a Lector's chair at the Chapel of the Roses at the Steamboat Priory.

In 1993, under new pastorship papers, he was given several administrative appointments under the designation of Canon, including a seat on the Sacred Overseer, the leadership of the Building Department, the priorship of Steamboat Hot Springs Priory-Mission, and the role of secretary-director for the International Community Guilds and the Steamboat Springs Water Works.

In 1998, he was made Rector of the Church of the New Covenant, and in the year 2000, he was appointed co-Chair of the American Association of Concerned Clergymen of the Advocates for Religious Rights & Freedoms. Reano remained active in some

or all of these capacities until his passing, although his administrative duties became fewer and fewer in the last few years.

In 1991, he was among the first to enter the Order of Patriarchs, and it is this role that he cherished toward the end of his life, holding to his daily devotions and the rituals of life at the Sanctuary. As a "Father" of The Community, in his later years – despite the frustrations of old age – Reano assumed a more serene attitude, even though he never lost the feistiness that endeared him to – and often frustrated – his fellow companions.

Some may not realize that before he took his vows of poverty/nonmaterialism, Reano was a constant supporter of The Community with his financial donations. He supported many projects, including the Publishing Department, exploration and research projects and, of course, the Sanctuary. Even after taking his vows, he was generous with the small amount of funds he had available to him. He would often give small contributions to help out other projects of The Community not related to his areas. And just a few years ago, after saving up several thousand dollars unbeknownst to anyone, he was able to purchase and install a small greenhouse for the perpetuation of the Sanctuary.

Memories

Reano had many talents. He was a master builder, a contractor, a draftsman, a painter, and a craftsman. He was a competent astrologer and an avid reader. He might have been a meteorologist, as he could often predict the weather with a certain accuracy. He loved to garden. He loved to dance. Does anyone remember his now infamous "chicken dance," which he would perform from time to time at gatherings? He loved to make fondue on his birthdays. And he loved his wine. Yes, how he loved his wine – a Valpolicella or a nice Chianti, please.

Always the ladies' man, he enjoyed the company of all the devoted women of The Community, and did not hesitate to turn on the charm during one of our holiday parties or at a dinner of the Andean Explorers.

Reano enjoyed having the company of the men working on projects at the Sanctuary—especially recently, when he no longer had the weekly visits by my father or the Saturday lunches he used to enjoy at the Rectory to keep his spirits up.

In his last years, Reano continued to be active as best he could with work crews, if only to lend a helping hand and, more important, to offer moral support. And he never faltered from his duty to escort the Sunday groups on their trips to perform “second services” each week.

Certainly, each of us has our own memories of Reano. To summarize, I'd like to share a few memories of Reano as submitted by his friends and companions. These brief stories convey best the essence of the man, far better than I could attempt to do.

“I am very proud to have had Reano as a dear and loyal friend all of these years. I loved sitting at the table with Reano and Rev. Gene and listening to them discuss work projects and tell jokes. I also loved my many walks around the Sanctuary with my friend. I will miss his beloved presence very much.”
(Barbara Whitney)

“Over the last two years there has not been one week where he would not tell me at least twice about how every Wednesday the late bishop would come out to the Sanctuary and bring with him a bottle of wine, a loaf of bread, cheese and olives, and the two of them would sit and talk about ‘certain things’ (he would say), and then they would go hiking around the Sanctuary. He never really recovered from the loss of his friend, and I believe that he is with him now.” (Ted Staver)

“Reano was one of the first people to greet me when I joined the Church. His warm laugh and great sense of humor always lifted my spirits and put a smile on my face. I learned that my birthday fell on the same day as his daughter’s, who had a very short life. This seemed to create a bond that stayed with us for many years.” (LaCynda Gibson)

“Reano always remained loyal to his beloved teacher. When his parents passed away about 1994, he turned down his inheritance and the title of [burgermeister] of the region he had been raised in. His surviving family continued to reject him. He hung on to The Church for the sake of his faith and his loyalty. He proudly accepted and took very seriously the title Rev. Gene gave him, “his Swiss Guard.” (Barbara Whitney)

“He loved to sit with a glass of wine and talk for hours about his days in the Swiss army. He was a grenadier (equivalent to our Green Berets). ‘You had to be one tough son of a gun to make it through that,’ he would often say. And he would talk about the refugees that came into the country during the war and how the Swiss would extend their hands in welcome and that ‘in those days we helped one another, not like today.’” (Ted Staver)

“One of the most endearing contributions I will always remember Reano for was his great and long-lasting role as our dear Santa Claus. We had more fun watching him and listening to him coming in with all of the reindeer. I think [they] had more fun than any of us.” (LaCynda Gibson)

“I remember the time the Bishop, Reano, and I were watching the men work on the Temple Mount. Some of this work involved dynamiting portions of the rocky terrain to make way for the fence. Reano had been pushing the ignite button to ignite the dynamite, and at one point he looked at me, smiled, and asked: ‘Here, you want to do it?’ Of course I did. (LaCynda Gibson)

“When I think of Reano, my mind races with episodes of

adventures. I remember the time he was working out in the field at Red Rock and his thumb nail got caught on something and bent backward. (Ouch!) One of [the men] grabbed him, drove him to the Chapter House, and held his hand over the sink with running water, and flipped the thumbnail back into place. The yell from Reano echoed throughout the valley.” (LaCynda Gibson)

“I considered Reano a master storyteller. He had a way of telling a story over and over again and everyone would listen as if it were being told for the first time.” (Robert Roy)

“I was saddened to hear of the passing of Rev. Father Reano. He was a wonderful, precious man who was always very kind and helpful to me. I will miss his gentle presence.” (Bruce Bunch)

“Reano was a good man and a dear friend of your father’s who loved him very much. I am sorry to hear of his sudden passing.” (Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales)

“The passing of Rev. Father Reano was a great shock to me. He has shown many kindnesses to me. May his soul rest in peaceful Light.” (Shinobu Uwataki)

“The first memory I ever had in my life was of Reano. I was around one year old, and I remember him tucking me into my crib at night.” (Matthew Madonna)

“Just a thought about Reano. For Mother’s Day he gave the women of The Church hand-drawn cards of the Madonna and Child – which he did twice that I can recall – a very kind thing for him to do.” (Mary Foust)

“I was talking about this with Reano two weeks ago: I remembered walking up to the Church of New Ephesus with Reano. It was spring and it had been a wet winter. The wildflowers were everywhere. I spotted a small white flower which I did not recognize. Reano looked down, and with a gasp in his breath, he said it was edelweiss, the national flower of

Switzerland. He just stood there gazing at that flower. I knew he was thinking of home. When he looked up, there were tears in his eyes. He said the flower told him he was home at Red Rock, just like Switzerland.” (Amanda Buchanan)

And this final thought from a fellow Canadian:

“Reano was a man for all seasons. From assistant hog farmer in central Manitoba, Canada, to independent building contractor in Victoria, B.C. From Swiss national guard trooper jumping out of low-flying light aircraft into Swiss mountain snow banks to sergeant in the PPCCL, a crack Canadian forces airborne regiment. From apprentice carpenter to master builder; and from school boy in monastic school to a Rt. Rev. Priest and venerated Patriarch in the International Community of Christ (not to mention a rather convincing Santa Claus). He played a very important role in the construction of the Community’s infrastructure, notably the Chapter House and Sanctuary buildings and the open-air churches; the East Wing of the Rectory; the Cathedral towers, platform, and communion table. These projects and many others that are well known to all of you. They stand better than any words of mine as tribute and memorial to his life and character. I enjoyed working with Reano. While working it was no nonsense, but when the work was done there was always time for a glass of wine and a story or two. He was a good friend, and I know that even as we celebrate his well-lived life and are glad he is in a better place; we feel a sadness at his passing. Rest in The Light, my friend!” (Patrick Newman)

As a child, I came to know and respect Reano – with all of his eccentricities, his charm, his intelligence, his good will, and, of course, his accent. I have many memories of him, but I believe enough has been expressed this afternoon in tribute to him. I will say, however, that although he could be hard line – “no-nonsense,” as Pat put it – on the job site, during Young Explorers outings at the Sanctuary, or on the sports field – where he made sure the guys, or the kids, including myself,

followed direction, he was a proud, kind, and good man who strove for the proper outcome no matter what the project.

Most of all he was a spiritual person, who will be greatly missed. As a final tribute, the pasture area in front of the Chapter House where he lived for twenty-seven years, will be designated Castell Park and Memorial Gardens in his honor.

It became a popular tradition in the 1970s to take the melody of *Edelweiss* – one of Reano's favorite songs and flowers – and to make it into a Benediction. I thought it would be appropriate to read these words as a conclusion to our thoughts on Reano's life.

May the Lord, mighty God,

Bless and keep you forever.

Grant you peace, perfect peace,

Courage in every endeavor.

Lift your eyes and see His face,

And His grace forever.

May the Lord, mighty God,

Bless and keep you forever.

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Reno Community Hosts 2009 Annual Convocation



The Community's annual Convocation officially opened on Wednesday September 9. It was prefaced on Monday and Tuesday September 7–8 with Residence Training III seminars on Color and Sacred Imagery for those Consociates needing to complete

these requirements. These early attendees also enjoyed an evening at the Steamboat Hot Springs Spa on Monday evening. Another such spa evening was offered on Wednesday as well.



The first Convocation event was a Project "X" seminar on the ancient solar cultures of Greece and included lectures given by the Right Reverend Gene Savoy Jr. during the Project "X" tour of Greece in May–June 2009 as well as talks by guest lecturers the Reverend Dr. Bill Bartlett and Dr. Tom Lee, the new Community Archiater (physician). Dr. Bartlett spoke on



solar teachings in the Buddhist tradition, and Dr. Lee on health and healing modalities planned for Steamboat Healing Center. The lectures were offered in the Chapel of the Holy Child and the Monastery Gardens in Sanctuary.

The usual annual Convocation events took place over the

remainder of the week, including the Andean Explorers Foundation meeting and awards banquet and presentation held at the Tuscan Room of the Peppermill Resort and Casino in Reno on Thursday evening. The Right Reverend Sean Savoy presented slides and commentary on his recent trip to Peru to continue the society's work there.

The week's events included the thirtieth annual Clergy Counsels, lectures held at the Monastery Gardens in Sanctuary on Asclepian healing traditions and techniques. Again, these lectures were adapted from those given by Bishop Savoy in Greece



earlier in the year. This year's program included a celebration of The Community's Golden Jubilee, commemorating fifty years (1959–2009) of the Second Advent Church. A high point of the celebration was the interfaith prayer service for world peace held at sunset on Friday evening September 11 at the open-air Church of New Pentecost and Church of the Americas at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary. Clergy from numerous sects and denominations around Reno participated and offered prayers for peace from their traditions. It was a special experience and a fitting tribute to the second anniversary of the passing into Light of The Church's First Apostle, the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy Sr.

As a side note, unbeknownst to The Community members at the time, the evening also introduced it to one Devashish (aka David Mitchell), who was a last-minute replacement for Rajan Zed, the intended representative of the Vedic tradition. Devashish was quite taken with the experience at the Sanctuary and later introduced Community leaders to his teacher, Swami Sri Atmananda of India, and the Satya-chetana Movement that the swami heads and with whom The Community has since formed a collaboration to reintroduce the Teachings of Light to the

Vedic and Brahmanic traditions (see related articles).

On Saturday evening, topping off a day of final Clergy Counsels, Communion Service, and the Emancipation of Acolyte Marie Walters, was the Counsels banquet and program at Bishopstead. As a Golden Jubilee celebration, the dinner was deemed a Vigil Meal and began with a simple course of Essene bread and wine similar to a Community Pannuches meal. The evening's introduction also included the first-level ordination of Dr. Tom Lee and a rededication of the Chapel of the Innocents at Bishopstead. A buffet supper in several courses created by Community chef Francine Petrovich followed this ritual course. Between courses, the attendees were treated to musical performances by the Community schola, directed by the Right Reverend Gary Buchanan, as well as relevant readings from Second Advent scripture.

The final day of Convocation, Sunday September 13, began with a concelebrated Jubilee Sunrise Divine Service at the Cathedral Church of the Americas at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary, followed by the second-degree ordination of the Reverend Dr. Bill Bartlett. Afterward, a fellowship breakfast at the open-air refectory was enjoyed by all. The final event at Red Rock was the rededication of the open-air Church of New Philadelphia in the northlands of the Sanctuary. The church's table had been restored after being damaged by vandals and the elements. Head bishop Gene Savoy Jr. presided.

The Convocation ended with an optional trip to Lake Tahoe on Sunday afternoon.



WINTER 2001



PHOTO Roger Weld

FALL 2001



Gary ("Sarge") Siroshton and Edith Forgy at 2001 Spirit of Exploration banquet. PHOTO: Roger Weld



Bishop Gene Savoy at campsite on the trail in Peru. PHOTO: Roger Weld