

# Saints and sinners: Testing the claims of psychics

The first time I went to see a psychic, she flunked badly. She said I was a lawyer (I'm not), and that I had two brothers (I don't have any brothers).

But wrong answers like these don't shake the conviction of psychics and spiritualists, who use telepathy, extrasensory perception and other mysterious means to leap the wall separating the spirit world from the material world.

Those who purport to bring messages from that other world are known as mediums. They are the go-betweens bringing the two worlds into communion with each other.

The biggest collection of mediums can be found in a town called Lilly Dale, 60 miles south of Buffalo, N.Y.

"Each summer," says an article in the June issue of Smithsonian magazine, "thousands of

spiritualists come here to consult with mediums who profess to be in touch with the immaterial remains of the departed."

The author of the article says that after he talked with a number of people who had consulted a medium at Lily Dale, it seemed to him that "for most it had been a novel experience, but one that left them largely skeptical about having received messages from genuine spirits on the other plane."

The kind of answers many received were of the "one-size-fits-all" variety — descriptions that could apply to almost anybody. A medium asked one man, for example, if he had played any sports. He said yes. She asked if an older man had been his mentor. He said yes, an uncle. The medium said she saw a "J" in the mentor's name, which she said might have been



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Jim. The man said he had an uncle named John. Close. But not exactly convincing.

Did the uncle have a message for his nephew? Yes. He advised him to improve his diet and exercise regularly.

Then there was Ann, who was assured by a medium at Lily Dale that her departed mother was happy because her dentures no longer hurt as they had in this life. Ann told the Smithsonian

writer that her mother "had only had a removable bridge (not dentures), which never seemed to bother her."

One frequent visitor to Lily Dale told the interviewer from the Smithsonian that he had come to get a message from his departed Aunt Martha. He didn't always follow her advice, he said, and he admitted that she was sometimes wrong in her opinions.

Then why was he so anxious to get in touch with her?

He replied, "I like knowing the old girl is there and that we will meet again."

I once attended a spiritualist church service. There were about 60 of us in the sanctuary — mostly well-dressed people, including men in business suits and many younger women.

After some spirited hymn-singing, prayers

and the laying on of hands (for healing), everyone was assigned to one of the psychics stationed at various spots around the church.

My psychic told me I was "probably a professor" (my black horn-rimmed glasses probably gave the wrong clue), or someone who taught people things that would improve their lives. She said I had learned the secret of conquering stress and should go into the business of telling people my secret. (If I knew the secret, I would tell it.)

She also said I tended to be "too critical" at times. She must have been psychic, for she couldn't have known that I would mention in the next day's paper that the word for "pastor" on the bulletin-board outside the church was misspelled "paster."

Maybe I am too critical.

## Senior nuns return to their community to pray, mentor colleagues

By Kimberly Hefling

Associated Press Writer

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — They minister to the sick, pray for the sinners and teach in schools and churches around the world.

And when they are finally slowed by age and infirmity, nearly all of the Sisters of Providence return to their headquarters to be with their friends and colleagues.

The sisters live on a leafy campus with stone buildings, where they spend their time advising and praying for the Roman Catholic order's more active nuns — and dealing with the problems of aging.

"They're our mentors, they're our wisdom figures," said Sister Joan Slobig, a member of the Sisters of Providence general council.

The complex includes a nursing home, where about 85 sisters live. Among them is Sister Agnus Joan Li, who at 80 left

Taiwan, taking with her the memories of three decades teaching math in China and Taiwan and time spent in a concentration camp when Japan invaded her native China during World War II.

On a recent sunny day, a worker pushed Li around the tall trees and groomed flower beds on the nursing home grounds in her wheelchair. She belted out a hearty "hello" to other nuns lined up along a sidewalk to watch children play outside.

These are the happier times at the home — when the children at the day care on campus come over to play or when the women from the nearby Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, founded by the Sisters of Providence, come calling.

"I love it," says Sister Catherine Sienna, 89, pausing after guiding her walker down the hall to Mass.

And the active nuns at the order's headquarters, where about 300 of the 600

Sisters of Providence live, enjoy having their senior colleagues around them.

"The place is made holy by the lives of the women and what they've given of themselves," Slobig said.

The walls of the nursing home are filled with artwork painted by the nuns. Many of the rooms are decorated with pictures of saints.

Some of the nuns wear traditional black robes. Others choose a cross pin symbolizing their vow. They speak Spanish and English and Chinese.

The elderly nuns face many challenges. Many are far from their families. And they must deal with death and constant health problems that make daily tasks difficult.

The order recently started a \$6 million campaign to add a memory loss center and renovate the existing facilities. Once renovated, they hope to eventually open the home up to other religious groups and

community members.

Of the more than 81,000 Catholic nuns nationally, the average age is 68, said Sister Andree Fries of the National Religious Retirement Office at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

More than half of the nation's nuns are 70 and older, and 27 percent are older than 80, Fries said.

In Terre Haute, the average age at the home is 90. Most of the nuns joined the order in their late teens, and after a lifetime of service, for some it was difficult to admit it was time to retire.

"It's a hard transition for anybody to have been so active and then experience that diminishment themselves," Slobig said. Their faith helps them endure their physical pain, she said.

Terre Haute is not unfamiliar to them. Many nuns spend summers at the headquarters, getting spiritually rejuvenated before scattering each fall for service

around the world. Nearly every nun from the order has been buried in a beautifully maintained cemetery near the campus since the mid-19th century.

The senior nuns now spend their days writing letters to those who have sought spiritual advice and accompanying each other to doctor's appointments.

They also pray for their more active sisters — including those who minister to death row prisoners at the federal peni-

tentiary in Terre Haute where Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and drug kingpin Juan Garza were executed in June.

Those too weak or sick to attend watch Mass on closed circuit television in their rooms and communion is brought to them.

"There's a real close bond with each other and we like to be together," Slobig said.

## Study: No difference in divorce rates

VENTURA, Calif. (AP) — Born-again Christians are as likely as nonbelievers to get divorced, according to a report by the Barna Research Group.

About 33 percent of born-again Christians have ended their marriages, compared to 34 percent for those who have not embraced Jesus, said researchers. Nearly all of the born-again adults

were divorced after they accepted Christ, Barna found in its Aug. 6 report.

Study respondents were considered born-again if they stated a personal commitment to Christ and believe they will go to heaven when they die because they confessed their sins and accepted Christ as their savior, researchers said.

### Bible Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Don Crutcher  
Fifth & Broadway  
899-7368

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship Service: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6:30 pm

**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

### Calvary Gospel Church

**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Rains  
Fourth & College • 899-3605  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Morning Worship: 10:30 am  
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday:** Family Night: 7 pm  
Adult Bible Study and Youth Group  
**Saturday:** Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm

If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

### Church of Christ

401 Caldwell  
899-6185

**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 pm

### Church of the Nazarene

**Pastor:** Matthew Delp  
Third & Caldwell  
899-2080 or 899-3797

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:50 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 pm

### First Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Bud Chester  
Fifth & Center • 899-3450  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Morning Worship: 10:30 am  
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm  
**Tuesday:** Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am  
**Thursday:** Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

### Seventh Day Adventist Church

**Pastor:** Bobby Potter • 332-3956  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 11 am

### First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

**Pastor:** Loren Strait  
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 am

**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups,  
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,  
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship  
**Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing  
Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler  
Nurseries Available

### First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman  
899-3631

**Pastor:** Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Worship Service: 10:30 am

### Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398  
**Minister:** Tony Kafka

**Youth Minister:** Doug Bean  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9:30 am  
Sunday School: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:**  
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm  
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

**Pastor:** Scott Grimshaw  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 8:45 am  
Worship Service: 10 am  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 pm



## Our Lady of Perpetual Hope

### Kanorado

#### United Methodist Church

**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
399-2468

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship Service: 10:15 am

### Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

**Pastor:**

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Morning Worship: 11 am  
Evening Worship: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** Call for location

### Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

**Pastor:** Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am  
Worship Service: 11 am

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

**Priest:** Father Charles Schneider

**Deacon:** Gretchen Talitha

**Adult Forum:** Sunday : 8:30 am

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays

**Holy Eucharist:** 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30

Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

**Sacrament Meeting:** 9:30 am

**Sunday School:** 10:45 am

**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 11:30 am

### Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th  
899-5250

**Pastor:** John Coumerilh

**Sunday:** Worship Celebration &  
Kids' Church: 10:30 am

### United Methodist Church

Brewster:

**Pastor:**

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

**Winona:**

**Minister:** Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

### Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Pastor:** Father Daryl Olmstead

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

**Mass Schedule:**

**Saturday:** 6 pm

**Sunday:** 8 am and 9:30 am

**Spanish Mass:**

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

### Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community for over 100 years

Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70

**Pastor:** Jim Cress

899-5784

**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

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