

Saints and sinners: The Bible speaks of only one ghost

The Bible doesn't have much to say about ghosts — except the Holy Ghost. But there is a passage in the New International Version (NIV) in which Jesus speaks of ghosts. It comes after his resurrection. When the disciples saw the risen Lord, they were startled, "thinking they saw a ghost." Jesus reassures them by saying, "A ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

While most people are inclined to dismiss ghost stories as superstitions, Archie Matson, the clergyman-author of "The Waiting World: What Happens at Death" (Harper Collins, 1975), stated in his chapter on ghosts: "I was once sure that there was nothing in these 'superstitions' (as I called them) for an intelligent person in a scientific age."

Matson, a retired Methodist minister, decided to examine some of the "evidence" for ghosts.

After studying experiences involving ghosts in the lives of people "whose integrity was beyond question and who also had a reputation for sound judgment," Matson concluded that ghosts "demonstrate that the deceased are very much alive, still care for friends and relatives, know what is happening to their loved ones and want to help."

In his book, Matson related seven stories of manifestations of ghosts. Each appearance had a purpose — such as giving a warning of impending danger or bringing comfort and assurance that the departed is safe and happy in their new existence.

He concluded that ghosts may be proof of life after death.

Another author, Susy Smith, stated in her book, "Prominent American Ghosts" (World Publishing Co., 1967), that "there are those who



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will tell you that an apparition is actually originated by the person who sees it — a hallucination that is the result of nerves, alcohol or too much pizza. It is more often a person who has not seen a ghost who says this."

The reason some people can see ghosts and others can't, Smith said, is that certain people are more psychic than others.

"Yet ghosts do appear," she said, "to a great many people in a great many places. They have brought true information too many times to at-

tribute them to imagination or mass hallucination." Parapsychologist Hans Holzer wrote in his book, "Ghosts I've Met" (Ace Publishing, 1965): "I am convinced there is indeed another world where life continues to function on a mental basis. There is a non-physical component in human personality that transcends the grave."

One story that came to the attention of the Society for Psychical Research in London, which investigates claims of communication with the dead, concerned a college professor who returned to his room one night after a lecture and saw an apparition of his father at the foot of the bed. The older man was dressed in overalls and had two pencils and a pair of pliers in his pocket.

The next morning the professor got a telegram from his brother informing him that their father had died the previous night. He was told

his father's death had occurred while he was fixing the car. He was dressed in overalls and had two pencils and a pair of pliers in his pocket.

The society was inclined to regard the professor's experience as authentic.

As you read here last week, to reduce the opportunities for cheating, the society requires mediums to blow through their lips while conducting a seance. It is impossible to blow and speak at the same time.

Another test mediums must pass is the "light bulb test." A wooden box containing an electric light bulb is rigged up. A tube protrudes from the box. When the medium blows through the tube, an electric contact is set up that lights the bulb.

If the blowing stops, the light goes out. If you still hear voices, you can be sure you are dealing with a ventriloquist and not with somebody who is in touch with the "other world."

Islamic prayers and cold baths offer hope for Indonesian drug addicts

BY Chris Brummitt

Associated Press Writer
CIBEUREUM, Indonesia — Shivering in the early morning mist, recovering heroin addict Slamet prepares to start another day of Islamic prayer and meditation.

The 28-year-old man used to spend most of his time stealing and shooting up. Now, after eight months in an Islamic drug rehabilitation center high in the hills of west Java, he is becoming a rare success story in Indonesia's often feeble war on drugs.

"Before, people used to look at me like I was trash. All I could think about was heroin. Now, I can eat, sleep and pray like a normal person. I feel good," he says.

Indonesia is undergoing an explosion of illicit drug use and some social activists believe the solution lies in Islam, a faith which some 90 percent of

Indonesia's 210 million people adhere to. Slamet, along with 30 other ex-addicts, receives no specialized counseling or detoxification treatment at the center — just a steady diet of religious devotion. In the end, the center claims a higher success rate than conventional clinics trying to combat the drug crisis.

The center is run by a nearby Islamic boarding school, or pesantren. The school, named Suryalaya, is home to around 3,000 students, from kindergarten to university level.

There are hundreds of thousands of similar schools across Indonesia. Most teach a mixture of religious and secular subjects and are rarely inspected by state officials.

Fears that Indonesia is leaning toward Islamic extremism have been fanned by reports of pesantren where students are indoctrinated with hardline anti-Western

teachings. Some pesantren have been accused of having links to regional terrorists groups.

But Suryalaya is different. It specializes in the study of Sufism, the mystical form of Islam that stresses devotion to God and religious tolerance. Its 90-year-old leader is revered as a holy man who, according to tradition, can trace his teaching in a direct line back to Islam's prophet, Muhammad.

Suryalaya's 30 drug rehab centers are called Inabah, or "returning to the correct path." They revolve around three Islamic principles: communal prayer, the chanting of God's name and ritual bathing.

Each of the complexes, of which one is reserved for females, is run by a husband and wife team. There are also branches in neighboring Singapore and Malaysia.

The day starts at 2 a.m. with a cold shower.

The first prayer of the day is then performed in the mosque followed by Arabic chanting of the phrase "There is no god but God" — part of the Muslim profession of faith — at least 700 times.

The recovering addicts then drink a cup of coffee before saying the dawn prayer, followed by more chanting. Apart from meal breaks and a couple of hours of rest or sport in the mid-morning and afternoon, this combination is continued until bedtime early in the evening.

Anang Syah, the religious teacher who heads the complex in Cibereum, says faith alone is enough to break an addict's habit. "We don't heal them, we don't even treat them. All we do is make them aware that they belong to God," he says.

The clinic's founders say that around 40 percent of the addicts they treat go

back to drugs when they leave, normally after about a year. No statistics are available to back up their contention.

Skeptics doubt the claim, and point out that conventional detoxification and counseling centers admit to relapse rates of around 85 percent.

The centers' wealthy clients, who have included the children of high-ranking politicians and police and army officers, subsidize those from poorer families. No one is turned away, Syah said.

Indonesia has approximately 4 million addicts. Cheap heroin accounts for many of them, though the country has been awash with cheap Ecstasy and amphetamines since the 1990s. Thousands of nightclubs function as little more than drug dens, allegedly with the backing of corrupt security forces.

Critics say the Islamic clinics' lack of

AIDS and HIV policies — there is no routine testing or special counseling for those found out to be infected — is irresponsible. Up to 40 percent of injecting users in some parts of Indonesia are infected with the virus, health workers say.

Drug activists also say the clinics should introduce programs to support former addicts once they return to society. "The idea of religious-based treatment is a good one ... but for them not to deal with (AIDS) is negligent," says David Gordon, a Californian who runs two detoxification centers on the southern outskirts of Jakarta.

For the young addicts, getting clean is easier than staying clean. But hope is in ample supply at the Inabah complexes.

Says 22-year-old Novi, two months into her stint at the female center: "There was before and there was after. I feel like I've been reborn."



Pleasant Home Church

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 Service: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 6:00 pm
Wednesday: Adult Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
Helping you focus upward in worship, inward in commitment and outward in evangelism

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
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
1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888
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: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
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. Janet Hernandez
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 8 am and 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

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
Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm
Adult Bible Study 6 pm

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 Norbert Dlabal
307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 10:30 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

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