

THE JOURNEY TO PASSAGES-  
THE NEW CENTER IN MALIBU by Audrey Hope

*"Everything in life benefits us." I Ching Wisdom*

Between the mountains in Malibu, upon a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, there is a new center. It is called, "PASSAGES", and within its view, we can see - the way adversity has turned into gold; how hell became heaven; and how heroin caused a paradise of healing; and the realization of a dream.

I want to share the beauty and miracle of such a healing haven- new to our city- but first, I must begin with the story of two amazing men. Their path is one of inspiration, hope and possibility, and their voices speak a profound language - that no matter what may befall us in life, there is a "passageway" back to happiness and peace.

Chris and Pax Prentiss are father and son, who have personally experienced the horrors of drug addiction. At age 19, and for 6 years, Pax began his journey of experimenting with every drug on the planet. He went in and out of drug rehabs, but always ended up at the same door - the one of despair, shame and depression. Through low self-esteem, a want to be accepted, lost to a purpose in life, he spiraled down into hell. Chris, his father, was a man on a mission, to save his son, but nothing worked. Until one day, in the space of embracing a simple truth, that can cause great change to take place, Pax asked himself, "Is there anything I can do with this pain?"

Pax found the key - the dream of opening a healing center, so he can help others. Both men said, "Okay, lets do it". Thus "PASSAGES" was born - to be a safe place for healing - body, mind and spirit- and filling the void, where other rehabs have failed. Where other rehabs talk and gather in groups for most of the day - to chat... they listen, and awaken the whole person, and get to the core issues of pain and suffering. They offer help on all levels - the practical and the spiritual- and provide hands-on, intimate help.

I asked both men, when the dream really started, and Chris - a man of great distinction - laughed the hearty laugh of a child, "It began on a wonderful evening, in a shed, with Pax's mom". He means it. He believes that everything comes as a result of a journey that began a long time ago and that

they, and their clients, were always on the way to "PASSAGES". We assist people on their journey, and we offer all the information we can.

And that information is wisdom to understand how the universe works, and principles for living, that make for peace and happiness in any situation. Chris says, "One must change the way they think, the way they look at life and their perception of things in the past. When something happens, we can't change what happened, ( like when the egg cracks- you can't put it back together) - but you can change the way you look at it, and in that way, you can heal the past and stop one from medicating to dull the pain.

Their strong philosophy to see perfection in all things, reflects the ancient wisdom of the I CHING. Chris is hailed as one of the worlds greatest living scholars of this great knowledge, though he humbly apologizes, in his books and his works, for the assumption that he knows something that we do not. As a matter of fact, he apologizes for the egotistical assumption that he knows anything at all. He refers to himself as an "insignificant and humble servant", who has just spent more time seeking this information, with the goal, like his sons'- to help others lead a more peaceful life. And one, who just happened to mortgage his life earnings to do so. (Don't tell him I told you).

Chris calls these principles, "volatile" because they give one the power to fly, and to break loose, to reach lofty goals and to overcome the adversity of the world. In knowledge, the mystery of a difficult time will unravel itself to reveal a happy ending. Some examples of the laws of reality are:

- All things happen for our benefit.
- Ill fortune is a needed tap on the shoulder.
- Pain was the cause of your discovering a truth that blessed your life.
- Difficulty is an opportunity for growth.
- Obstacles are signposts, to strengthen areas that need strengthening.
- You are what you are because of the pain, not in spite of it.
- You heal the past by acknowledging its perfection.
- Every action produces a result and the result is in accordance with the action. If you plant an acorn, you get an oak tree, not a plum tree.
- The time of trouble will be replaced by a time of joy.

Chris says it is easier said than done, to embrace a new way of seeing. People do what they do, because they found, through trial and error what

works. They are afraid to step into the void, to a brand new way of being, living and acting. But like the catalogue to "PASSAGES" states, "your weeping has endured for many nights and now your joy has come. Welcome to PASSAGES".

In Malibu, you can enter their paradise. These exquisite grounds hold: four fireplaces, a library, a chef's kitchen, (and marvelous chefs), a fully equipped gym, an arts and crafts room, an eighty seat auditorium with a professional stage, beautiful guest rooms, and acres of elegant landscape overlooking the healing pacific.

Their mission statement reads- " the way to achieve freedom from addiction is to discover and heal its causes. We are dedicated to providing comprehensive treatment, which utilizes a wide spectrum of eastern and western medicine. Our primary focus is the healing of mind, body and spirit to attain freedom from addiction".

Their program is unique, innovative and structured, with the structure of flexibility, that serves the clients needs. And they offer so much: The 12 step program, medical treatment, group therapy, individual counseling, drug and alcohol education, bio-feedback, chiropractic care, acupuncture, yoga, Zen, herbal therapies, Swedish massage, shiatsu, reflexology, vitamin and nutrition counseling, theatre, sports therapy, equine therapy, and gardening.

All of this is in dedication to bringing about the emergence of new individual, ready to live life as it was meant to be lived: with joy, compassion and freedom. and to discovering their mission on earth. In other words, to come to know the song they were meant to sing, and then to sing it beautifully and wholeheartedly.

Just recently on January 28th, Linda West, the new spiritual director, put together a full moon meditation - a night of magic, moonlight and miracles, but the miracles take place there everyday.

"PASSAGES" is an idea whose time has come, to a world that is ready. "PASSAGES" is a revolutionary place of healing. And "PASSAGES" is truly the story of two beautiful men on a beautiful mountain, giving others the passage to freedom and the passage to their dream.