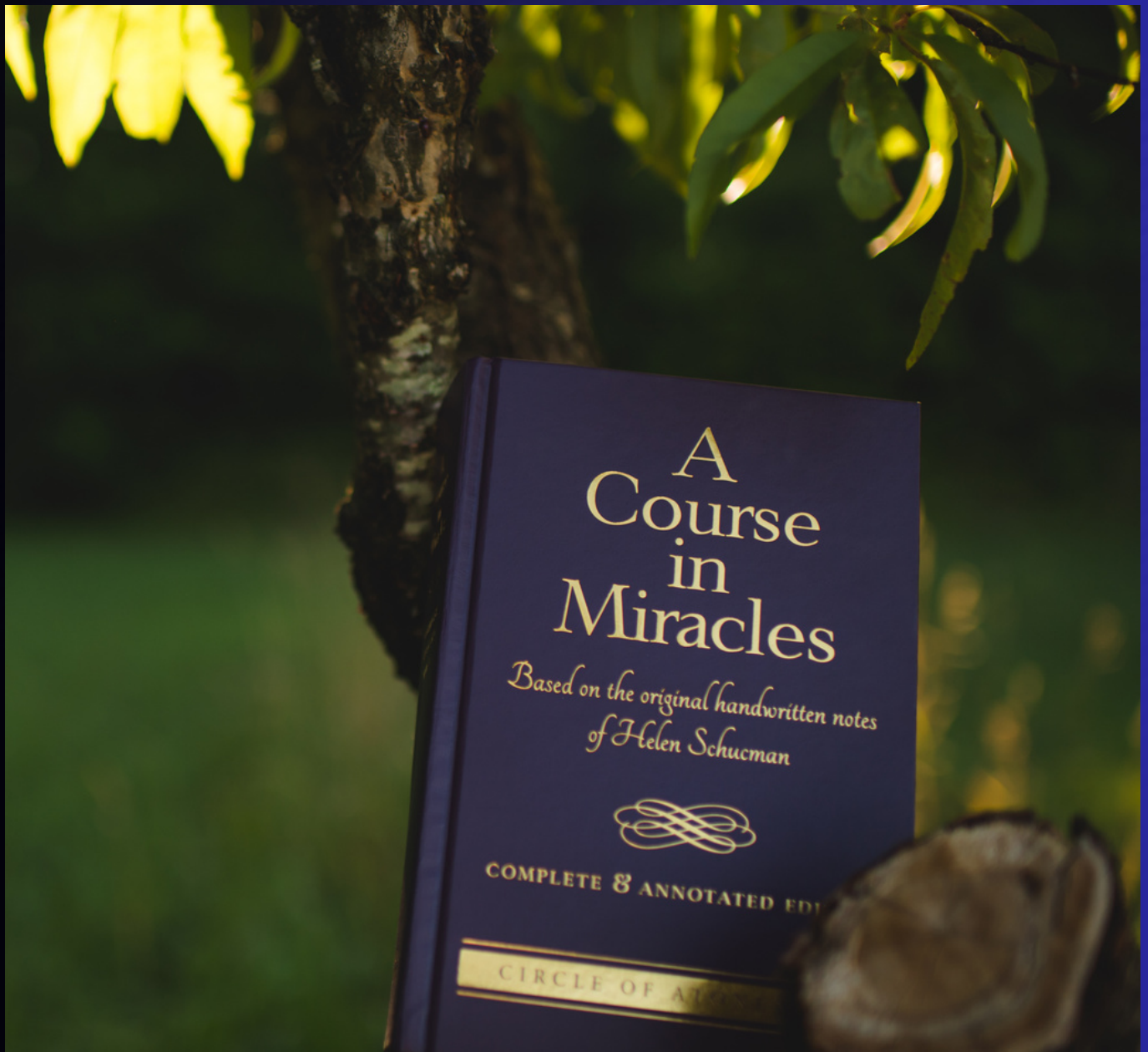


Circle of Atonement:  
Teaching and Healing Center



# 2022 Annual Report



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# Message from Our Board & Staff

Dear friends,

There is so much to celebrate about 2022 for us here at the Circle. We released our free ACIM Complete and Annotated Edition app. We kicked off our prayer ministry, with thirty team members praying for 2,000 prayer requests and counting. The listens for our *Exploring A Course in Miracles* podcast—the primary way we reach new people—were up 50%. We started free weekly prayer and meditation gatherings which are now a core part of our programming. And we migrated our online community to a new platform that we believe will tremendously expand our capabilities going forward.

All of this was made possible by those who generously give of their talents and resources to the Circle. Indeed, our volunteer hours increased by over 100% in 2022 and in June we started Friends of the Circle, which has increased our number of monthly recurring donors to approximately 140 – a significant first for us!

That said, we had challenges in 2022 as well. Our expenses exceeded our revenue, resulting in a net loss. As we seek to reverse this loss, we will need your help and support in various forms as it really is your individual engagement that holds up our small but dedicated team.

And speaking of our team, we would be remiss not to say a heartfelt thank you to Mary Anne Buchowski, who has recently stepped off the board after five years of service, but who continues to be a devoted teacher to all of her Workbook students. We would also like to thank our customer service manager Cindy Jones Lantier. Unlike the other members of our team, Cindy is not directly mentioned in the projects outlined in this report, but her work on the backend makes them all possible, which is why she is so beloved among our community of students.

Onwards and upwards,

Rick Baker  
Robert Perry  
Bob Simpson  
Mark de Bruijn  
Emily Bennington Perry

”

*It really is your  
engagement  
that holds up  
our small but  
dedicated team.*

”

# 2022 At-a-Glance

2,068

Volunteer hours  
donated in 2021

4,235

Volunteer hours  
donated in 2022

↑ 105%

Difference from  
2021-2022

48,578

Exploring A Course in Miracles  
Podcast listens in 2021

79,319

Exploring A Course in Miracles  
Podcast listens in 2022

↑ 48%

Difference from  
2021-2022

44,074

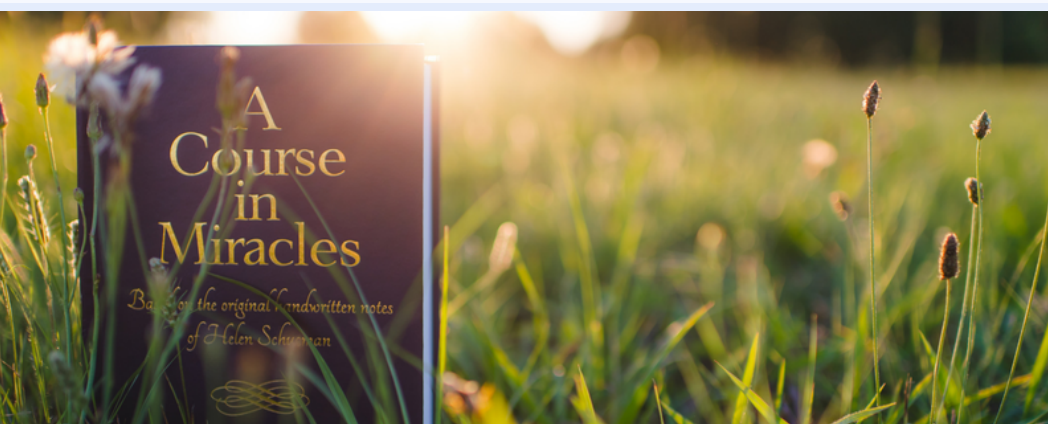
Visitors to circleofa.org  
in 2021

52,787

Visitors to circleofa.org  
in 2022

↑ 16%

Difference from  
2021-2022



1,786

ACIM CE app user accounts  
created since launch





## About Us

From our origin in 1993, the purpose of the Circle of Atonement has been to be a bridge into the profound and unparalleled wisdom of *A Course in Miracles*. We clarify the Course's sometimes difficult language in order to make possible a deeper understanding of its teachings. We then help you put those teachings into practice, explaining how to apply them in your everyday life. Our work grows out of our commitment to be as faithful as possible to what *A Course in Miracles* says. It also grows out of our years of dedication to walking this path ourselves and our desire to see the Course's purpose realized in the lives of students and in the world.

## Our Purpose

We believe *A Course in Miracles* came to give the world an incomparable gift. We are here to extend that gift as faithfully as possible, to help it reach "from the paper on which it was written into the hearts for which it was intended\*," so those hearts can, in turn, light the world.



# Our Values

## **Faithful Interpretation of *A Course in Miracles***

We consider our foundation to be the faithful interpretation of *A Course in Miracles*. We are committed to the Course itself as the authority and we seek to represent its meaning to the best of our ability. We attempt to adhere to the words on the page without bias or personal preference as we seek an ever-deepening understanding of Jesus' teachings.

## **Service to a Higher Calling**

We serve a sacred calling, which provides the basis for the way we conduct operations. The business dimension of our organization is secondary to this higher calling and is considered purely a means to its accomplishment.

## **Sincere Care for the Spiritual Development of Those We Serve**

We facilitate the spiritual growth of students in their study, practice, and extension of *A Course in Miracles*. As a student-focused organization, we treat their progress as our own and act out of love and genuine care for those who come to us for help on their journey with the Course.

## **Guided Decision-Making**

We are a guidance-based organization. We are committed to seeking and following God's will in all aspects of operations, and we make this process central to our planning and decision making. Recognizing that we are imperfect channels, we exercise careful discernment of the guidance we receive.

## **Application and Demonstration of Course Principles**

We aspire to live the teachings of *A Course in Miracles*. We are serious about our personal study, practice, and extension of this path. We endeavor to demonstrate Course principles in all our actions and relationships. We strive to view every interaction as a holy encounter, an opportunity to show love, respect, and forgiveness.

## **Responsible and Wise Stewardship**

We are committed to being loving and accountable guardians of all aspects of Circle operations. We strive to maintain a high standard of excellence in our programs and services. It is our intention to be wise and responsible stewards, and to always act with integrity and honesty.



# Our Payment Policy

## No one is turned away who cannot pay.

We exist to heal through teaching the wisdom of *A Course in Miracles*. Since truth is a free gift from God, our bedrock policy is that no one is turned away because they cannot pay. We believe everyone who comes to us has been sent for a purpose. Some are sent with the intention that they pay. Some are sent with the intention that they do not pay, since they are not in a position to do so. We gratefully accept everyone in recognition of the priceless gifts we can offer one another.

(The above is drawn from “The Question of Payment” section of the Course supplement Psychotherapy: Purpose, Process, and Practice.)



# Our Five Focus Areas

To best achieve our goal of sharing *A Course in Miracles* with the world, and to measure our efforts along the way, we have determined that the main areas of concentration for the Circle are as follows.

## 01 **Strengthening Our Organizational and Financial Base**

We serve a sacred calling, which provides the basis for the way we conduct operations. The business dimension of our organization is secondary to this higher calling and is considered purely a means to its accomplishment.

## 02 **Growing Our Community of Students Through Consistent Outreach**

The Course is here to change the world and, to do that, it needs to be part of the world in a more mainstream way. To this end, we are actively seeking to grow the number of students we serve, particularly through outreach to Christians who have left the church.

## 03 **Addressing Major Societal Issues from a Course-based Perspective**

With so much hatred and suffering all around us, we are more proactively sharing Course teachings in response to personal suffering and global crises. Our goal is to be a place where students can turn for support and guidance through difficult times, both individually and collectively.

## 04 **Building a Global Network of CE Study Groups**

There is a clear need for Course-based study groups, but the complexity of the material often prevents many would-be leaders from stepping forward to host them. Our goal is to offer resources for study group leaders that will make the process of creating and maintaining a group easier from beginning to end.

## 05 **Developing a Capital Campaign to Fund an Education and Retreat Center**

Given how deeply felt the need is for spiritual belonging and community, it has been a long-held dream at the Circle to have a home where students can come for renewal and connection. This would be a place to study Course teachings, experience the practice, and then carry these gifts home to others.

"The compassion and deep knowledge here is so clear and the community is heart expanding. This is exactly what I have been looking for - a community that discusses and wrestles with the Course in practical and encouraging ways.

I'm so grateful for the work you are all doing!"

— Tehout

# 2022 Highlights by Month

## January

### Completed our 13-week tour through the Psychotherapy Supplement

From January to April, Robert and Emily guided students through each section of the Course supplement Psychotherapy: Purpose, Process and Practice. The Psychotherapy supplement presents an approach to therapy based on the principles of the Course, one that is unlike any form of therapy currently practiced. This series was the first time Robert had taught the Psychotherapy Supplement in more than 20 years(!) and we hope and fully expect that it will be the first step in beginning a tradition of training Course-based therapists here at the Circle.

## February

### Hosted Neda Boin's *Remember You're Dreaming* Thank You Concert

In 2021 we hosted a community fundraiser to help with production costs for Neda Boin's album, *Remember You're Dreaming*. When the album was released, Neda sweetly returned the favor by offering a concert where she performed songs from her new record (and a few old favorites as well). Hosting this concert was extra special for us because, during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic when the world was quarantined at home, we were incredibly blessed to have Neda and her music as part of our Course Companions Sunday Gatherings for a year. This was an extraordinary gift that gave us all something to look forward to through a very difficult time. Thank you Neda!



Neda Boin's latest album *Remember You're Dreaming*





[Click here to watch The Late Deposit](https://circleofa.org/story-project) with Derek Isetti

## Released Our Second Story Project Video

On Valentine's Day, we released our second Story Project video, *The Late Deposit* by Derek Isetti. In this video, Derek shares a heartwarming story of how he handled a very stress-inducing situation by using Course principles of generosity and kindness. Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, but we tend to view it as a celebration of romantic love. The Course's view of love is far more universal, however, and it is this kind of love Derek's story celebrates. For budget reasons, we have currently ceased production on Story Project videos but we hope to resume this work soon.

## March

### Weekly Prayer for Peace Gatherings Begin

In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the worsening crisis in Europe, we began hosting free 30-minute Prayer for Peace gatherings every Tuesday. We didn't expect to continue the gatherings but they proved to be a popular offering and so we renamed them "Prayer and Meditation Gatherings" and made them a core part of Circle programming. To register and attend our free Prayer and Meditation Gatherings, please visit [community.circleofa.org/events](https://community.circleofa.org/events).



Free Prayer and Meditation Gatherings are held every Monday from 11-11:30am Eastern

## April

### Holy Week Tradition Continues

For the second year running we met throughout Holy Week to explore the new meaning the Course has given the final days of Jesus' life and how that meaning can serve our own journey to resurrection. Holy Week is the time between Palm Sunday and Easter and many of us remember this as a sacred week, rich in ritual and emotion, all of it building to the joy of Easter. It's wonderful to recapture the significance of Holy Week through the wisdom of *A Course in Miracles* and we feel it's important for the Circle to offer Holy Week programming in some form each year.

*A Course in Miracles*  
**Holy Week**


**Palm Sunday**


**Maundy Thursday**


**Good Friday**


**Holy Saturday**


**Easter Sunday**

CIRCLEOFA.ORG/EVENTS

Holy Week programming is an important part of the Circle's event calendar each year

### Interviewed Katherine Woodward Thomas, New York Times bestselling author of Conscious Uncoupling

In April, Emily sat down with one of her favorite authors, Katherine Woodward Thomas, to discuss how to apply the principles of love to the ending of a relationship. This interview is part of our ongoing efforts to explore the overlap between the work of other spiritual teachers and *A Course in Miracles*. The replay of this talk is available on the [Circle's YouTube channel](#).



New York Times bestselling author Katherine Woodward Thomas

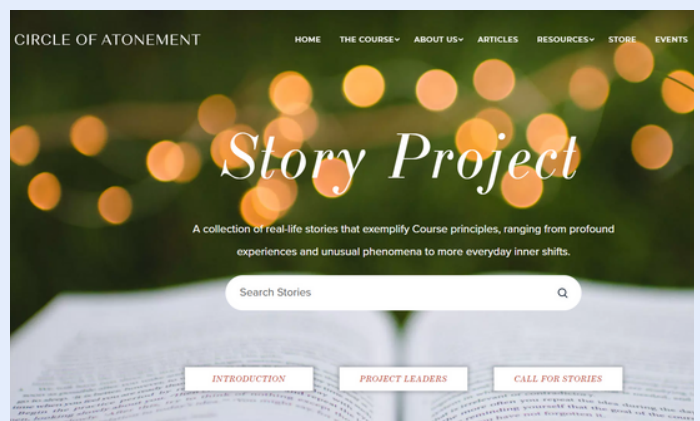
## Celebrating Our Wonderful Volunteers

April is National Volunteer Month and we took the opportunity to share our gratitude for the Circle's many volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills. As a small nonprofit with just two full-time staff members (Robert and Emily), the contribution of every single volunteer makes a real difference in helping us share *A Course in Miracles* with the world.

Our volunteer team contributes to a wide range of projects, many of which take place behind-the-scenes so you may not be aware of the remarkable contribution they make. What follows is just a few of the projects our wonderful volunteers are working on at the moment - and how you can get involved as well!

### Story Project

One of our most 'high-profile' volunteer projects, ACIM Story Project aims to collect and share real-life stories that exemplify Course principles in action. These stories range from profound experiences and unusual phenomena to more every-day examples of inner shifts, forgiveness, and healing. The Story Project is led by Sue Pearson, who generously gives her time and talent to share these stories online. James Gregory is also integral to the Story Project and handles all aspects of our popular "From Church to Course" category. Please visit [circleofa.org/story-project](https://circleofa.org/story-project) for more.



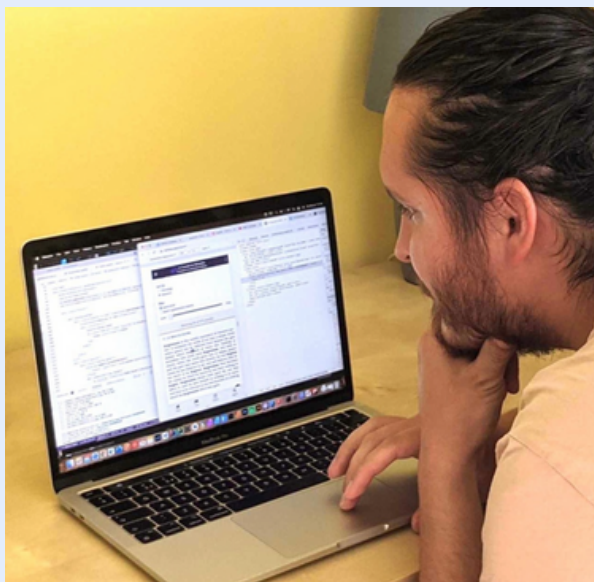
Story Project homepage

## Spanish Translation

What started as a few people translating articles and materials into Spanish has now become a whole team of volunteers who are determined to facilitate a future 'ACIM in Spanish' offering. We are grateful to Carolina Alonso, Miguel Carrera, Jose Fuentes, Cathy Urroz, Julio Martinez-Clark and the entire Spanish Translation Team for their considerable efforts to share and introduce the Complete and Annotated Edition of *A Course in Miracles* (CE) to a new community of Spanish-speaking students.

## Documentation & Archiving

With over 30 years worth of articles, plus the ongoing production of new content, a number of volunteers help with archival, referencing, and checking/proofing of various materials. While this may not be the most glamorous work, it is incredibly important and relies on a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail. Volunteers working within this category are currently contributing towards class materials, booklets, and even the *A Course in Miracles* CE app. Special thank you to Joseph Giacco, Jennifer Sheehan, Martha Fitzgerald, Chantelle Punch, Sandra Rocafort, and Laura Fortin for all of your invaluable help with the Circle's documentation efforts.



## Sunday Gathering Music

Those who attend our Course Companions Sunday Gatherings will already be familiar with Albin Marklund and Dave Anderson who regularly share their musical talents. Live music adds so much to our gatherings and both musicians also compose their own music. (If you have been to a Sunday Gathering with Albin, you'll know that he also writes lyrics especially suited to the week's theme, based on the words of the Course!) Thank you Albin and Dave for sharing your gifts with us.

## App Testing

To prepare the ACIM CE app for launch, we relied on a very large group of volunteers who were given the task of "kicking the tires!" As well as testing the app to help identify bugs and technical issues, the team listened to the audio of all three volumes and checked it against the written content to identify any errors or inconsistencies. This was a huge undertaking and one that we simply couldn't have done without the support of our volunteer team. We are especially grateful to Bettya Saleh for her tireless work on the CE audio to get it ready for inclusion in the app.





## Captions Crew

Our newest team is the self-named "Captions Crew", a small dedicated group of students who are adding closed captions to our YouTube videos. Captions help to make our videos accessible to more people so this is incredibly important work. Captions are auto-generated by YouTube - with varying levels of accuracy! - so this team checks and amends them, and they hope to eventually extend captioning to other recorded materials. Thank you to Shawn Mahan, Hewan Fekadu, Margretta Stone, and Bettia Saleh for your efforts, which are so greatly appreciated.

We hope this has given you insight into some of the projects that we simply wouldn't be able to do without the help and dedication of our volunteers. If you'd like to join our volunteer team, we are currently looking for volunteer support in the areas of fundraising, video editing, and marketing. If you have skills in these areas, we would love to hear from you!

[circleofa.org/volunteer](https://circleofa.org/volunteer)

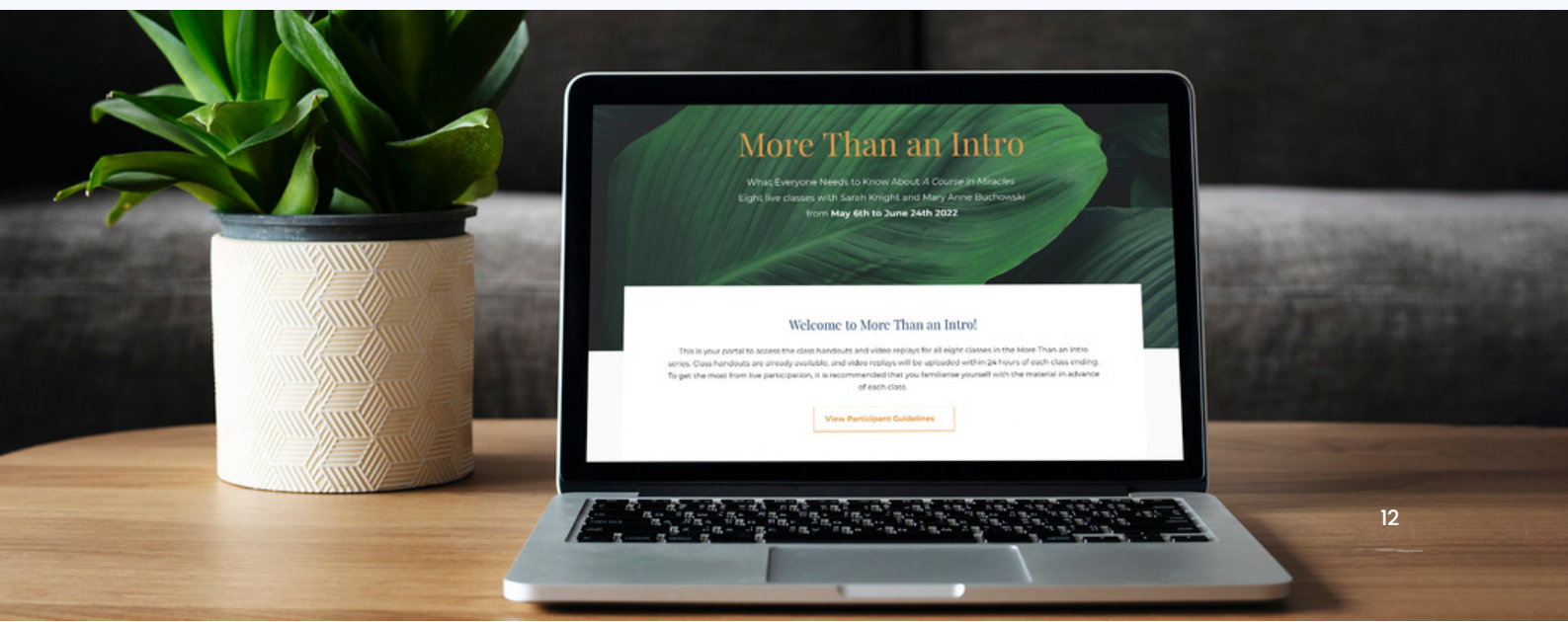
## May

### Sarah Joins Mary Anne in Teaching *More Than an Intro*

*More Than an Intro* is an eight-week course which has been lovingly developed by longtime Circle teacher Mary Anne Buchowski over a number of years. As the title suggests, it's much more than an introduction, with each class covering a specific theme every Course student should know. This year we were thrilled to have our administrative director Sarah Knight co-teach *More Than an Intro* alongside Mary Anne and we look forward to more teaching from Sarah and in the months and years to come.



Circle of Atonement administrative director Sarah Knight



## Completed 73 Text Guides for Study Group Leaders!

In May, Robert completed the last of the 73 Text leader guides. Designed to help study group leaders take their groups through the Text week-by-week over a period of 18 months, each guide contains summaries of key themes, a selection of important passages to cover, and questions for discussion. Our study group directory currently lists approximately 50 study groups led by certified study group leaders, many of which would not have begun without the help of the guides. (Note: Robert is currently in the process of writing Workbook leader guides for release in 2023.)

### Siding With Love Through a Tragic Series of Mass Shootings

May 2022 was a difficult month in the United States due to a string of devastating shootings, including those at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas and a racist attack at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York. Here at the Circle we are heartbroken by all acts of violence and seek to help our community respond through statements (like the one below) and by hosting Prayer Gatherings.



#### Our Statement on Racially-Motivated Hate Crime

We are deeply saddened by yet another series of hate crimes recently in the United States. Our hearts go out to the families of those who lost their lives in the horrific shootings in New York and California.

Given the fact that, once again, the hatred behind these violent attacks stems from a racist ideology, here at the Circle we are recommending our community respond by understanding and embodying the views on equality found in *A Course in Miracles*. Simply put, these are:

1. God created everyone with equal holiness and worth. He loves everyone equally.
2. Without exception, the desire for inequality—specifically the desire to be above—is the root of all conflict.
3. When we deny another their true equality, we deny it to ourselves as well. This is why seeking dominance always ultimately backfires.
4. Thus, if we want to know ourselves as equally worthy, we must love everyone equally.

We send our sincere prayers to those who are grieving, and we offer our continued commitment to work towards sharing the Course's teachings on true equality for the peace and safety of all.



June

### Launched Friends of the Circle!

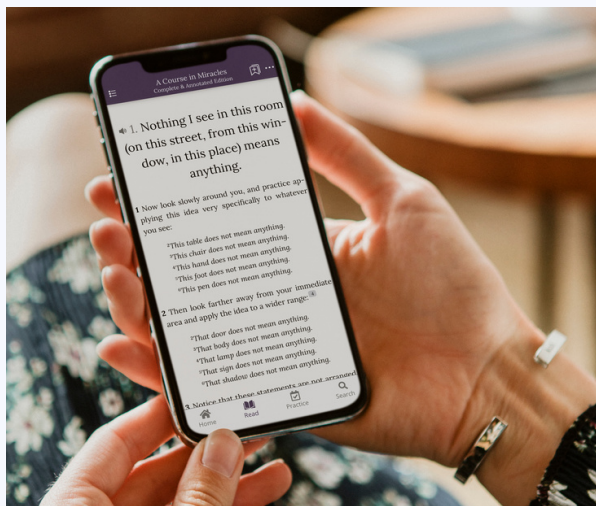
Friends of the Circle is a group of both donors and volunteers—comprised, in other words, of those who contribute to the Circle’s mission with a monetary gift, the gift of their time, or both. Friends of the Circle is what we consider to be our stakeholder's group. We turn to the Friends for advice and feedback on Circle operations and we keep members informed on what's happening behind the scenes on Circle programming, administration, and financials through an optional monthly meeting with our leadership team.

If you are interested in joining Friends of the Circle, you can participate for as little as \$5/month. If you cannot or prefer not to contribute financially, you can also join by being an active volunteer. As noted above, we rely on volunteers for many projects that we could not otherwise complete on our own.

For more information or to be part of Friends of the Circle, visit [circleofa.org/donate](https://circleofa.org/donate).



## July



### Beta testing begins on the CE App!

This month the ACIM CE app project reached another milestone with the expansion of beta testing. Testing initially began internally with a small group of staff and volunteers. In the beta testing, a larger group of donors and supporters were invited to download the app and help uncover any bugs and issues. This was an important stage in the testing process and helped us ensure the finished product was as robust as possible.

## August

### Avonie Brown-Reeves joins the team!

In August Avonie became the Circle's new community manager. Avonie has been both a publisher and editor of various publications including Metro DC's Guide to Arts, Entertainment & Black People's Culture, as well as a professor of journalism for University of the District of Columbia. Her resume is obviously impressive, but what we love most about Avonie is her heart for the Course and the Circle's mission.



## September

### Amazon Audible version of the Workbook Released!

It took uploading 365 lessons and jumping through almost as many administrative hoops to get the Workbook of the Complete and Annotated Edition of *A Course In Miracles* (CE) on Audible, but we did it thanks to the hard work of our logistics manager Jacqueline Ramsey. (Thank you Jacquie!) Now you can listen to the Workbook continuously during your practice or on the go.

## Reaching out to a new post-Christian audience

In an effort to introduce the Course to those who have left the church but retain a connection with Jesus and community, this month we sponsored the Deconstructing Faith Summit hosted by author Angela Herrington. This was a free 4-day virtual event featuring pastors, coaches, therapists, and former churchgoers challenging old beliefs about God, religion, and the Christian community. If you or someone you know is on a journey of deconstructing faith, we invite you to visit <https://circleofa.org/deconstruction>.

# Come Out of the Wilderness.

*A Course in Miracles* is a book about God and Jesus and forgiveness, but framed in a unique and original way. It offers a practical path for leaving behind guilt and judgment, learning how to love unconditionally, and making your contribution to the healing of a hurting world.



CIRCLEOFA.ORG/DECONSTRUCTION

## Robert and Emily Get Engaged!

After three years together, Robert and Emily were engaged on her birthday (September 4th). Robert and Emily look forward to enhancing and deepening their holy relationship as husband and wife.



Robert and Emily's engagement photo



## October

### The Prayer Ministry Launches!

Robert led our devoted team of 30 Prayer Ministry volunteers (in 9 different time zones!) through a multi-week training in how to pray for others as outlined in *A Course in Miracles*. Upon completion of the training we officially launched our Prayer Ministry in October. The Circle's Prayer Ministry, led by volunteer Christina Manuilow, monitors and prays daily for all prayer requests received. So far almost 2,000 prayer requests have been submitted at [circleofa.org/pray](https://circleofa.org/pray).

### Prayer for Peace in Iran

Following the murder of Mahsa Amini, women across Iran took off their veils, cut their hair, and marched to oppose the head covering (hijab) law and harsh enforcement policies. In response, we came together as a community to send our peace and healing to all the people of Iran, both the oppressed and the oppressors. Recognizing the very real power of collective prayer, we often dedicate our weekly Prayer and Meditation Gatherings to events in the world, trusting the Course when it says that all prayers are answered and no effort is wasted. Circle Prayer and Meditation Gatherings are held every Monday from 11am - 11:30am Eastern and are free and open to all. To register please visit [community.circleofa.org/events](https://community.circleofa.org/events).



Protests in Iran following the murder of Mahsa Amini

## November



### Hosted our first Angel Auction Fundraiser

In November we hosted our first Angel Auction fundraiser with items including a private Zoom call with Marianne Williamson, a private voice liberation session with Neda Boin, a 3-night stay at a beach home in Charleston, South Carolina and much more. In the end, we had more than 450 bids from 150 bidders and we exceeded our goal of \$10,000! All proceeds from the Angel Auction were used to fund the CE app project. The success of this auction was only made possible because of community participation and we are grateful to everyone who donated an item or bid on the offerings. We are especially grateful to our volunteer organizer Bryan Hebert for making the project come together so seamlessly and for bringing so much fun to the process.

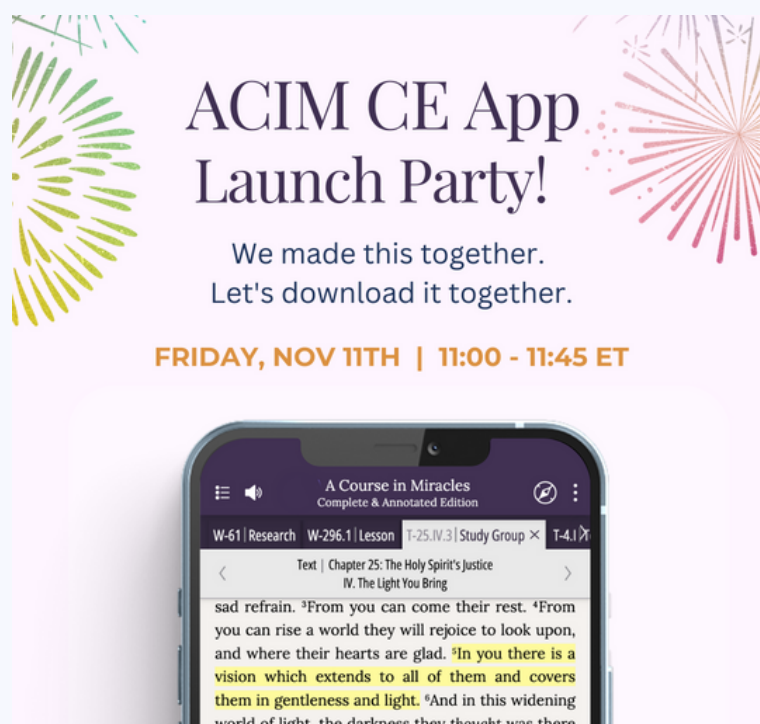


(L) Angel Auction logo and (R) volunteer coordinator Bryan Hebert announces the lucky winner of our Angel Auction raffle

### The CE app launches!

Thanks to your generous contributions, in November we were thrilled to launch the 1.0 version of our *A Course in Miracles Complete and Annotated Edition* (CE) app! Since it took a whole community to make this app happen, it was wonderful to download the app for the first time together as a community alongside our developer Peter Batory-Bernardin.

At the launch event, we were also thrilled to announce that this version of the app is 100% free. It was Peter's vision that the app be free and so we all have Peter to thank for the app itself and for the fact that now anyone can read, search, or listen to the CE from anywhere at no charge. To download the ACIM CE app, please visit [circleofa.org/app](https://circleofa.org/app).



Hundreds of Circle community members joined in November to download the CE app for the first time together.





I'm so excited about the release of the free *A Course in Miracles* Complete and Annotated Edition (CE) app. As we've been working on this for the last two years, one thing I hadn't anticipated was how it would change my own journey with the Course.

I have copies of the hardcover and softcover scattered around my place—next to my bed, next to my recliner, etc. But since I've had the app—I regret to say it—they have been gathering dust. Emily and I now read our lesson together on the app. We read from it to each other in the car. We're focusing on the Workbook prayers right now, and we can pull up the day's prayer on the app regardless of where we are. I went for a walk the other day and listened to a number of the prayers on the app. And given my aversion to listening to my own voice, that's saying something.

On top of that, I use the search feature all the time. I'm constantly checking the app for the number of times a word or phrase appears in the Course. Yesterday, for example, I searched for passages containing both "darkness" and "light," as the basis for our next Prayer and Meditation Gathering. Emily and I will search for a particular passage that we remember a snippet of. I've always done searches in the Course, but now they're at my fingertips wherever I am. I can't imagine going back. I'm just so grateful the app is here at last and I hope you'll join me in saying thank you to developer Peter Batory-Bernardin and project manager Sarah Knight who made this possible for all of us.

I have long wanted a beautiful and functional app that would help share *A Course in Miracles* with the world. Our app launch is not only the fulfillment of that dream, but it's also just the beginning.

With love,  
Robert Perry  
Founder  
Circle of Atonement

To download the app, visit [acimce.app](https://acimce.app)

## December

Our community is growing and so we've had to rethink the way we organize and deliver the content and resources we offer. We know that having a website, Zoom classes, emailed commentaries, and a Facebook group meant having to check a lot of places and was inconvenient for many. To address this, in December we moved to a new community-based platform that serves as the hub for all things Circle. This is where we host our free programming like Prayer and Meditation Gatherings and live podcast recordings, and also where students have access to paid programming, like courses and workshops, all in one place. Ideally, we'd like to build our own customized community platform one day, but until then, we are pleased with the new system and will continue working to enhance our student experience. To join the Circle's new community platform at no charge, visit [community.circleofa.org](https://community.circleofa.org).

### Released our new Text Journal and Planner!

It has been a long-held dream of ours to have beautiful journals and planners for all three volumes of *A Course in Miracles*. In December, we took the first step in making this happen with the release of our CE Text Planner and Journal. The Text Planner and Journal offers a short summary of each Text section, reflection questions, space to journal, and a suggested practice. It's designed to walk you through the Text in one year and is offered as part of our online course *A Year Through the Text*. You can learn more and register for *A Year Through the Text* at [community.circleofa.org](https://community.circleofa.org).



A Course in Miracles CE Text Planner and Journal



# 2022 Financials

## Revenue

Online programming	217,675
Wholesale and retail sales	175,879
Donations	150,828
Other Income	1,939
Gross Revenue	546,321
Cost of Goods Sold	80,588
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>465,733</b>

## Expenses

Personnel and benefits	346,348
Office and operations	105,948
Software and technology	30,801
Advertising and marketing	25,570
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>508,667</b>
<b>Decrease in net assets:</b>	<b>(\$42,934)</b>

# Financial Review

While 2021 was the most financially successful year in Circle history (with a gross revenue of \$579,357), in 2022 we experienced a financial loss of almost \$43,000. There are three primary reasons for this:

01

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## **We experienced lower than expected online programming sales.**

Online programming for the Circle includes our Course Companions Community, our trainings (e.g. Study Group Leader Training, More Than an Intro, etc.), and our workshops with Robert and Emily. In 2022, online programming sales were down \$58,221 compared to the previous year. While we aren't entirely sure why this drop occurred, we suspect it's a combination of covid restrictions lifting and students being out of their homes, a lack of growth in our mailing list (meaning we aren't reaching new people), and we also hosted fewer workshops in 2022 than we did in 2021.

02

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## **We made the CE app free.**

All told, we have spent more than \$100,000 on the *A Course in Miracles Complete and Annotated Edition* (CE) app including design, development, and production. Originally, we planned for the app to generate revenue through a subscription model of between \$2.99 - \$7.99 per month, but when developer Peter Batory-Bernardin came to the project he felt strongly that the app should be free. In the end, we agreed to release the reading, audio, and advanced search function of the app for free (reserving the right to charge for Workbook practice reminders down the road). So far we have raised almost \$84,000 towards the app, but these donations have not covered all of the expenses incurred.

03

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## **We had a difficult time transitioning our bookkeeping.**

At the end of 2021, our bookkeeper of eight years stepped down to pursue other opportunities. After a few starts and stops, we decided to outsource the Circle's bookkeeping to an accounting firm that specializes in nonprofits. While it's common for nonprofits to receive the bulk of revenue through donations, the majority of our revenue comes from product and programming sales that funnel in from different income streams. As an example, we sell the CE: (1) in our bookstore, (2) on Amazon US, (3) on Amazon UK, and (4) on Amazon Canada. That's one product with four different income streams! We also have multiple payment gateways - Shopify, PayPal, Amazon, and our fundraising software Network for Good - and each of these have daily transactions that need to be reconciled. This requires a significant amount of work every month and our new accounting firm had to do a lot of learning to get up to speed. The result was a dramatic increase in accounting costs for us.

## Looking ahead, here is what we are doing to improve our financial position:

01

**We reduced or eliminated contractor hours.** In the fall of 2022 we reduced hours for most of our contract team members and severed contracts with non-essential team members. Projects affected by this decision include: social media videos (especially podcast clips), Google and Facebook advertising, search engine optimization, and marketing.

02

**We stopped production on some projects until the funding can be secured to complete them.** We have a series of projects that we are committed to completing, although we have ceased to finance them until funding is secured in advance. Projects affected by this decision include: hardcover reprinting, app practice reminders, Spanish translation of the CE and commentaries, our website redesign, and an album of Course-based music from Albin Marklund.

03

**We have set a conservative budget for 2023 with a focus on developing evergreen programming.** As a team we have analyzed the Circle's financial performance over the past few years and put a modest budget in place for 2023 that is designed to break even. Obviously, that's not ideal - organizations typically plan for growth - but we recognize that our growth cannot occur until we have the structures in place to support it. As a result, in addition to our live offerings, this year we are working to create on-demand programming that allows students to take our courses in shorter segments and on their own schedule.

04

**We are creating a clear "Student Success Path" that will provide a recommended roadmap through our programming.** Because we have so many programs - and because our offerings are growing all the time - we recognize it's easy for new and potential students to become overwhelmed and confused. Accordingly, we are working to develop a streamlined onboarding process where those who are new to the organization become properly introduced and integrated. New student onboarding will include things like a Circle handbook, clear instructions on how to navigate our community platform, and more orientation videos. In addition, we are also developing a Student Success Path (and eventually a Teacher Success Path) with recommendations on the sequence in which to take our programs.

With these improvements and modifications in place, we are looking forward to brighter days ahead for the Circle. If you have benefited from our programming and would like to make a donation to help us ensure a financially successful 2023 and beyond, please visit [circleofa.org/donate](https://circleofa.org/donate).





I would like to thank you for all the work you do. I've watched every single podcast and I am also watching the Text classes and joined the Course Companions Community.

You don't know how this helped me to get through what is I think the most challenging period in my life. You have saved my life. I know these are egoic sufferings, but still it was utmost challenging in my current state.

The last couple of weeks I have been praying, meditating and studying the Course very intensely and I used your material, the app, the book and webinars to the fullest extent possible. You have been my companions and unknowingly you got me through this.

I would like to express my love for you, my respect and my deepest gratitude, for it is you who sent the Holy Spirit to come to my rescue and perform these miracles in my life. You have saved a brother from going insane. I feel under certain guidance now and I also feel the presence of Jesus almost tangible now. He is here with me all the time, like a brother and friend. I am under God's care and I lost my guilt about it all. There are no words to express this properly, let alone the peace, joy, and love that I feel.

I am so very humbled by it all and feel healed. I am still weak and not my former self in all ways, yet there is a light inside of me, a Voice that guides me through it all.

Thank you,

Ben

# 2022 Scorecard

In our 2021 annual report, we shared a list of priorities for 2022 grouped by focus area and attendant goals. What follows is that list along with the status of each project.

## Focus Area 1: Strengthening our organizational and financial base.

- |    |   |              |
|----|---|--------------|
| 01 | Revise operational bylaws   | IN PROGRESS  |
| 02 | Strategic planning for 2023-2025  | NOT COMPLETE |
| 03 | Develop and launch Monthly Giving Program<br>(This is our Friends of the Circle program.) | COMPLETE     |

## Focus Area 2: Growing Our Community of Students Through Consistent Outreach

- |    |  |              |
|----|--|--------------|
| 04 | Successfully launch and promote the CE mobile app  | COMPLETE     |
| 05 | Successfully launch and promote the CE audiobook   | COMPLETE     |
| 06 | Reach out to a new post-church audience, i.e. those who have left organized religion but maintain a connection to God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and spiritual community | COMPLETE     |
| 07 | A Course in Miracles introductory video.   | IN PROGRESS  |
| 08 | Develop new programs: Psychotherapy Supplement Series and Jesus course. (We completed a psychotherapy program but not a Jesus program.)                                | 50% COMPLETE |
| 09 | Launch Daily Course (250 word pieces sent to the list every weekday)   | IN PROGRESS  |
| 10 | Bi-weekly live recordings of <i>Exploring A Course in Miracles</i> podcast. (We actually went to weekly recordings.)   | COMPLETE     |

## Focus Area 3: Addressing Major Societal Issues from a Course-Based Perspective

- |    |  |                |
|----|--|----------------|
| 11 | Develop guidelines for study group leaders on creating safe spaces for members of color  | ● NOT COMPLETE |
| 12 | Issue statements from Circle leadership in response to major news events. (We released a video for Pride Week, a statement on LGBTQ violence, a statement on racially-motivated hate crime, and we led prayer gatherings on the women's protests in Iran, and the Club Q shooting.           | ● COMPLETE     |
| 13 | Host webinar workshops with Course-based approaches to personal issues. (We led a workshop on Healing Anxiety & Depression, though we can do more in this area.)   | ● COMPLETE     |
| 14 | Explore societal issues through the podcast and social media. (Podcasts this year have covered living a love ethic, what ACIM offers Christians leaving the church, leadership from a spiritual point of view, rising above our anger, boundaries, and where is the feminine in the Course.) | ● COMPLETE     |

## Focus area 4: Building a Global Network of CE Study Groups

- |    |  |            |
|----|--|------------|
| 15 | Complete all 73 Text Leader Guides for study group leaders   | ● COMPLETE |
| 16 | Launch Study Group Leader Training: Level 2 (Workbook)   | ● COMPLETE |
| 17 | Launch recruiting and marketing intensive to help study group leaders begin and develop new CE study groups                            | ● COMPLETE |
| 17 | Begin resource website for CE study group leaders and students. (This is in our new community platform, although there is more to do.) | ● COMPLETE |

## Focus area 5: Develop a Capital Campaign to Fund an Education and Retreat Center

- |    |   |          |
|----|---|----------|
| 18 | Create a plan for a feasibility study   | ● TABLED |
| 19 | Plan for a capital campaign kick-off in October 2023, the Circle's 30th anniversary | ● TABLED |



# 2023 Priorities

The following provides an overview of our 2023 priorities grouped by focus area and attendant goals.

## Focus Area 1: Strengthening our organizational and financial base.

- 01 — Complete a new strategic plan for 2023-2025.
- 02 — Develop our Student Success Plan with recommendations on the sequence in which to take our programs.
- 03 — Develop a streamlined onboarding process for [community.circleofa.org](https://community.circleofa.org) that includes a Circle handbook, clear instructions on how to navigate our community platform, and orientation videos.
- 04 — Create and implement a plan to grow involvement and engagement in Friends of the Circle.
- 05 — Launch a fundraising committee and recruit qualified development volunteers.
- 06 — Create and implement a marketing plan / social media calendar for our programming, the CE, and the CE app.
- 07 — Redesign [circleofa.org](https://circleofa.org) website.\*
- 08 — Complete organizational bylaws.

## Focus Area 2: Growing Our Community of Students Through Consistent Outreach

- 09 — Add practice reminders to the CE app.\*
- 10 — Launch Course-based healing program.
- 11 — Release *A Year Through the Workbook* in Spanish.\*
- 12 — Create a page for post-Christians on our website.
- 13 — Create “Walking the Path: A Day of Living A Course in Miracles” diagram and programming.

## Focus Area 3: Addressing Major Societal Issues from a Course-Based Perspective

- 14 — Develop guidelines and training for study group leaders on creating safe spaces for members of color
- 15 — Issue statements from Circle leadership in response to major news events.

## **Focus area 4: Building a Global Network of CE Study Groups**

- 16 — Improve recruiting and marketing intensive to help study group leaders begin and develop new CE study groups.
- 17 — Develop plan for study group leaders to network, share best practices, and support one another, possibly leading to a study group coordinator role.
- 18 — Release Study Group Leader Training and More Than an Intro courses as evergreen programming.

## **Focus area 5: Develop a Capital Campaign to Fund an Education and Retreat Center**

Tabled for 2023

\* Completion of this item is contingent on funding.

# Want daily Course and programming updates? Follow us on social!



We are active on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube to make the message of *A Course in Miracles* more accessible to students. EVERY DAY you can find postings of clips from our classes, poems, quotes, Workbook lessons, and more!

Follow on Facebook and Instagram for access to events, announcements and daily Workbook commentary.

Follow on YouTube for in-depth podcast discussions exploring Course topics with Robert and Emily.

Follow on TikTok for behind the scenes videos, key podcast moments, as well as creative content and poetry.

Your participation is the most impactful resource for sharing the Course to more people in the global, internet community. So please follow, like, subscribe, share, and comment on our channels as this helps to make our mission more visible and allows us to share the message of the Course with more people.

<https://instagram.com/circleofatonement>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CircleOfAtonement>

<https://www.facebook.com/circleofatonement/>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@circleofatonement>



# Acknowledgements

We are truly grateful to the following individuals for their mighty efforts that make the Circle's work possible.

## **Our Board of Directors**

Rick Baker  
Robert Perry  
Mary Anne Buchowski  
Bob Simpson  
Mark de Bruijn

## **Team Members**

Robert Perry  
Emily Bennington Perry  
Mary Anne Buchowski  
Sarah Knight  
Cindy Jones Lantier  
Jacqueline Ramsey  
Avonie Brown-Reaves  
James Gregory

## **Project Support**

Peter Batory-Bernardin, App Development  
Simon Wang, Podcast Editing  
Tutik Pita Handhayani, Graphic Design

## **Volunteer Leaders**

Christina Manuilow, Prayer Ministry

# Appendix: 2022 Programming

## Workshops

This year Robert and Emily hosted four workshops on the following topics. Replays are available at [community.circleofa.org](https://community.circleofa.org).

- Boundaries: A Course-Based Approach
- Healing Depression and Anxiety with *A Course in Miracles*
- Freedom from Anger with *A Course in Miracles*
- Shadow Figures: How Ghosts of Past Relationships are Affecting Your Present Ones
- How to Pray: A Practical Guide from *A Course in Miracles*

## Podcasts

With just under 185,000 listens to date, our Exploring *A Course in Miracles* podcast continues to be one of our most popular offerings. Episodes are available on most podcatchers or by visiting [circleofa.org/podcast](https://circleofa.org/podcast).

- What Does the Course Say about Boundaries?
- Was Helen's Editing Guided?
- Where is the Feminine in ACIM?
- Holy Week Preview
- BONUS: Interview with Katherine Woodward Thomas, author of *Conscious Uncoupling*
- How to Rise Above Our Anger
- BONUS: What is the Story Project?
- Is Belief in God Necessary?
- The Pull of God
- Cult of Self: Living in the Age of Narcissism
- Shadow Figures
- What is the Real World? Spiritual and Metaphysical Understanding
- INTERVIEW: Dr. Sharon Hewitt Rawlette - Evidence for Spiritual Truth
- What is the Holy Spirit?
- What is Leadership? Definition from a Spiritual Point of View
- INTERVIEW: Roger Walsh on *A Course in Miracles* and the World's Great Spiritual Traditions
- Is God in Nature? Spirituality of Nature, Plants and Animals
- What Does the Course Say About Oneness?
- What *A Course in Miracles* Offers to Christians Leaving the Church
- BONUS EPISODE: Fumbling Jesus' Legacy: We Can't Let It Happen Again
- What Does *A Course in Miracles* Say About Prayer?
- Which Journey Are You On? Physical or Spiritual?
- The Golden Rule in *A Course in Miracles*
- The Way Out of Fear with *A Course in Miracles*
- BONUS: Living Jesus' Love Ethic
- The Insanity of Being Well Adjusted to an Insane Society
- Part 1: Manifesting and *A Course in Miracles*
- Part 2 - Manifesting & ACIM: Does God Supply Our Material Needs?
- What We've Learned About Holy Relationship in *A Course in Miracles*
- INTERVIEW: The Case For Life After Death With Jeffrey Mishlove

## Sunday Gathering Topics

Sunday Gatherings are an offering for students who enjoy the community aspect of traditional church service but connect more deeply to the messaging of the Course. Typically in Sunday Gatherings we open with a prayer, followed by Course-based music or one of Helen Schucman's poems, an inspiring message, and a lengthy exercise/meditation at the end. We usually have between 100-130 students for our Sunday Gatherings, making them our most popular premium offering at the Circle. Sunday Gatherings are part of our Course Companions Community program and are available at [community.circleofa.org](https://community.circleofa.org).

- Circle of Atonement
- God's Voice Speaks
- Neda Boin Concert
- Above the Battleground
- The Celestial Speed-up
- Equality as a Law of God
- What is the Holy Spirit's Role in Our Life?
- The Eternal Fixation
- All That I Give is Given to Myself
- You Are Part of God
- Course-Based Leadership
- I Am Determined to See
- I Place the Future in the Hands of God
- The Golden Rule
- Your True Identity
- The Priestess
- Living a Love Ethic
- Walking with Lightened Footsteps
- How to See Each Other Truly
- Trust
- Opening Your Inner Altar

## Psychotherapy Supplement classes

Psychotherapy: Purpose, Process and Practice is the first supplement to *A Course in Miracles*, dictated to Helen Schucman in 1973 and 1975. It lays out an approach to therapy based on the principles of the Course, one that is unlike any form of therapy currently practiced. This year Robert and Emily led a 13-week tour through the psychotherapy supplement, one that we hope will become the beginnings of training Course-based therapists.

- Introduction and Chapter 1: The Purpose of Psychotherapy
- Chapter 2: The Process of Psychotherapy
- The Limits on Psychotherapy
- The Place of Religion in Psychotherapy
- The Role of the Psychotherapist
- The Process of Illness
- The Process of Healing
- The Definition of Healing
- The Ideal Patient-Therapist Relationship
- Chapter 3: The Selection of Patients
- Is Psychotherapy a Profession?
- The Question of Payment
- Summary of Course-based Therapy



## Trainings

In 2022 we offered two of our signature training programs: Study Group Leader Training (Level 2: Workbook) and More Than an Intro. These trainings are between 8 and 9 weeks in length and provide more comprehensive Course study for serious students and those who want to become teachers.

### Study Group Leader Training (Level 2: Workbook)

- The Workbook: It's Nature, Place, and Purpose
- What is the Practice and Why is it So Important?
- The Components of Practice
- You As an Example of Practicing the Workbook
- Your Role as Group Leader
- Meeting Preparation and Format
- A Sample Meeting
- Facilitating Discussion
- Summary and Wrap-up

### More Than an Intro: What Everyone Needs to Know About *A Course in Miracles*

- Introduction and Background
- The Main Characters of *A Course in Miracles*
- Basic Terms in *A Course in Miracles*
- What the Course Says About Itself
- The Anger and Attack Cycle
- The Forgiveness Cycle
- The Spiritual Practice of the Course
- The Course as a Complete Spiritual Path

In addition, Mary Anne Buchowski hosted a weekly Study Group Leader Support (SGLS) for graduates of these training programs who would like ongoing assistance to facilitate study groups.

“

Thank you for this AMAZING Study Group Leader Training. I had no idea how essential this was to and for me as a group leader. I'm grateful beyond words. This was the missing link I needed to start my preparation this coming year in facilitating an ACIM group. Your commitment level is over the top. What a beautiful group we had participating in these 9 classes together. I hope to stay in touch with many of them over time.

Mary

# 2022 Annual Report

**Thank you!**

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CIRCLE OF ATONEMENT