



Getting to know Joe... Last month we introduced our new Senior Minister, Reverend Joe Kovach. We continue now with the rest of the story!

Joe Kovach was raised in the Roman Catholic Church. While he no longer follows this level of consciousness, he does love its deep rituals and fondly remembers the energy of Christmas and family traditions. When he left Buffalo, he left that church, recognizing he had attended just to please his mother. Looking for his own religious purpose, Joe was surprised to be drawn to Our Lady of Las Vegas Catholic Church. The idea that he had to pray through Mary to get to Jesus, and then to Jesus to get to God started his

questioning. As an active lay person, he served as head usher, speaker for fundraising, and was an eucharistic minister. About this time, he met his wife Toni at the House of Blues in Las Vegas, and married her three years later.

Toni, from Southern California, has a passion for health coaching and currently works as a health coach supervisor for a national health programs company. "She enjoys cooking and is an amazing mother, who keeps the family creatively involved," states Joe. Formerly a member of the LDS Church, she chose to be Catholic with her husband, which he felt was quite a compliment at the time. "She's a spiritual mutt," says Joe. "She loves Nature and all things metaphysical, and is natural, open and intuitive. She's the yin to my yang; we often talk about the same thing, just from two different perspectives." Toni Kovach has enjoyed meeting the CSLSG group and looks forward to knowing us better and eventually moving to St. George.

How did Joe and Toni find Centers for Spiritual Living? A colleague and friend, who shared a similar passion for exploring spiritual knowledge and experiences, recommended CSL to Joe. He and Toni first attended CSL Greater Las Vegas across town. They liked its old-church feel with stained glass windows and found it to be a friendly community. Eventually Joe and Toni did find what is now CSL Las Vegas (formerly the Center of Positive Thinking), which is located only a mile away from home. They had passed it regularly, but hadn't recognized it. It was located in a strip mall and that's not where Joe was used to looking for a church!

They felt very comfortable at CSL-LV and, when they returned the next week, were very impressed that folks remembered their names! "After 8 years in the other church, we didn't know anyone's names and they didn't know us. And so, after finding CSL-LV, we never went back."

As they learned the Science of Mind and Spirit philosophy, Joe remembers, "I knew this stuff! I had studied Wayne Dyer, Louise Hay, Abraham-Hicks, and Gay Hendricks. It sounded familiar. It felt like home - as I hear many in this faith say. I knew I wanted to be a practitioner from the start. I was so excited to realize there were others that thought and believed what I was learning on my own!"

During this same time period, Joe was teaching the principles of self-empowerment and self-love to inmates at the local detention center. He even helped them receive a \$5000 book grant from Hay House. When that teaching opportunity ended about 2010, Joe began a Saturday class at CSL-LV so that released inmates could join him on the outside. "I then found a life coaching program from Mary Morrissey that I liked and got certified. I offer life/spiritual coaching to individuals and groups," reports the Reverend.

In contemplating becoming a minister, Joe and Toni considered first how it would affect the children and their family life. "The family gave me their grace and it was perfect timing...it all flowed. The greatest gift of our philosophy is being able to raise our two children with its principles."

Reverend Joe Kovach is excited, not only to join the CSLSG family as its spiritual leader, but to assist in guiding its own natural evolution. "First, we (the CSLSG leadership) want to examine our purpose, vision and mission and then be authentically aligned to that purpose." says Rev. Joe. He is looking forward to teaching (the action part) and loves seeing people learn and grow in the Science of Mind and Spirit philosophy. Joe believes, "Changes may rub some the wrong way, but we hope for a cohesive transition."

Joe asks us: "Are we open to change?" One of Rev. Joe's philosophies is: Everything is always happening for our Best and Highest Good! Let's all remember to *Honor the Mystery and Embrace the Change* (song by our friend Allen Stanley) as we move into a new phase for our beloved community, and hold the truth that everything will lead to our best or greater vision.

If you have questions or comments for Rev. Joe, please email stgeorgecsl@gmail.com.

As told to...



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