



September 2013
From the Desk of
Rev. Chuck

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Dear Friends,

Wow, here it is already, Labor Day weekend, 2013. Is it really my 20th anniversary of my very first time giving a talk at Unity Church of Bakersfield? I guess it is because the wonderful friends and members of our spiritual community surprised me with an awesome 20th anniversary pot-luck. Thank you, all!!

The board had invited me to speak as a candidate for the position of spiritual leader. Walter Jones, the previous minister had retired and moved to the great Northwest. I agreed to speak on Labor Day weekend and then spend the holiday checking out Bakersfield. My talk was on the challenge of change in our lives and how we overcome the difficulties it can bring.

Just before 3 p.m. that Sunday afternoon I received a phone call at hotel room from Dr. Peter Johnson, President of the Board, inviting me to be the new spiritual leader for Unity of Bakersfield. I accepted and on September 6th, 1993 I signed a two-year contract to be the spiritual leader and administrative director of Unity Church of Bakersfield. The rest, as they say, is history.

In Unity we teach about an activity known as divine appointment. This activity works with the spiritual principle of divine order. It means that we are always in our right place at the right time, regardless, at times, of the appearance to the contrary.

This activity works in our lives to help bring about an awareness of God in our life and affairs. You don't have to believe in God, divine order, or the fact you are always where you need to be because it's going to work in your life anyway.

I traveled to several Unity churches as a candidate: Springfield, MO, Muskogee, OK, Sioux Falls, SD, Lewiston, ID, and Valley

Stream, NY, before coming to Bakersfield. It was by divine appointment that I came here. Why? I choose to send my application to the other Unity churches, it was never my first choice to send one here. It was only after one of my classmates had been here as a candidate did I hear about Bakersfield.

Kathy was one of the boards choices but she withdrew her application and took a position at Unity of Hollywood, FL, which was a few miles from my mother's home. She told me that I needed to send my application to the board. I didn't want to, but she kept insisting that I do. So I finally did. I was the fifth and last candidate to speak. It was a divine ordered appointment that I was meant to keep.

Sometimes the Universe will use other people (the angels in our lives) to push us into the direction, or correct a wrong or misplaced turn on our path to awareness. And then there are the times in our lives when we say, "Why me? Why now?" It may be that there is something there for you, a hidden gift, a "pearl of great price" that will awaken you to something greater and more wonderful.

You are where you need to be by divine appointment. You have a gift, a lesson, a teaching, a skill, an attribute, an ability that is yours and yours alone that is needed. Affirm: *Divine order is now active in my life and affairs. I am in my right and perfect place by divine appointment and all my needs are supplied.*

As I affirmed this statement over and over again during my first year here little did I realize that the Universe was again pushing me in a direction where I would have another divine appointment encounter. In 1995 I decided to go into training to become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). It was in this training class that I would meet Katherine Aney. You all know her as KD Vargo. Do I need to say more?

Divine order is always at work. Trust it, accept it, live it. God knows what is best, why not allow that good to be manifest in your life? Have a great divine appointment month!