



THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

Let's stay in touch!

1. brianmclaren.net

blog, books, social media, email newsletter

2. Convergence Leadership Project:

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Framing our time together.

In this critical moment in human history, I believe there are really only two kinds of churches, two kinds of Christians, and two kinds of leaders:

Those who actively or tacitly support the current
unsustainable civilization ...

And those who are part of a movement to give birth to a
new civilization (the “civilization of God” announced and
embodied by Jesus).

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new civilization (the “civilization of God” announced and
embodied by Jesus).

**The migration that we will speak about is
movement from the former to the latter.**

My hunch in this moment is that if we try to “save our lives” we will lose them, but if we risk our lives for Christ’s sake, we will find them.

This requires a conversion on our part, from the assumption that the world exists for the good of the church ... to the conviction that the church exists for the good of the world.

As spiritual leaders in Pennsylvania, part of the UCC,
you can play a pivotal role.

So our time together is profoundly important.

THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION



BRIAN D. MCLAREN



CONVERGENT



THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

HOW THE WORLD'S LARGEST
RELIGION IS SEEKING A **BETTER**
WAY TO BE **CHRISTIAN**

BRIAN D. MCLAREN

AUTHOR OF A NEW KIND OF CHRISTIAN TRILOGY AND A GENEROUS ORTHODOXY









SWALLOW-TAILED KITE
2013 Southbound Migration

07/15/13 - 1/14/14

- Palmetto
- Pace
- Gulf Hammock
- Suwannee
- Day
- MIA
- Slidell
- Pearl MS

ARCI



www.arcinst.org

Image Landsat
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, Nasa, SeaWiFS
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Google earth

Swallow-tailed Kites
2014 Southbound Migration
7 Jul - 9 Sept 2014

- Palmetto
- Bluff
- Gulf Hammock
- Pace
- Day
- MIA
- PearlMS

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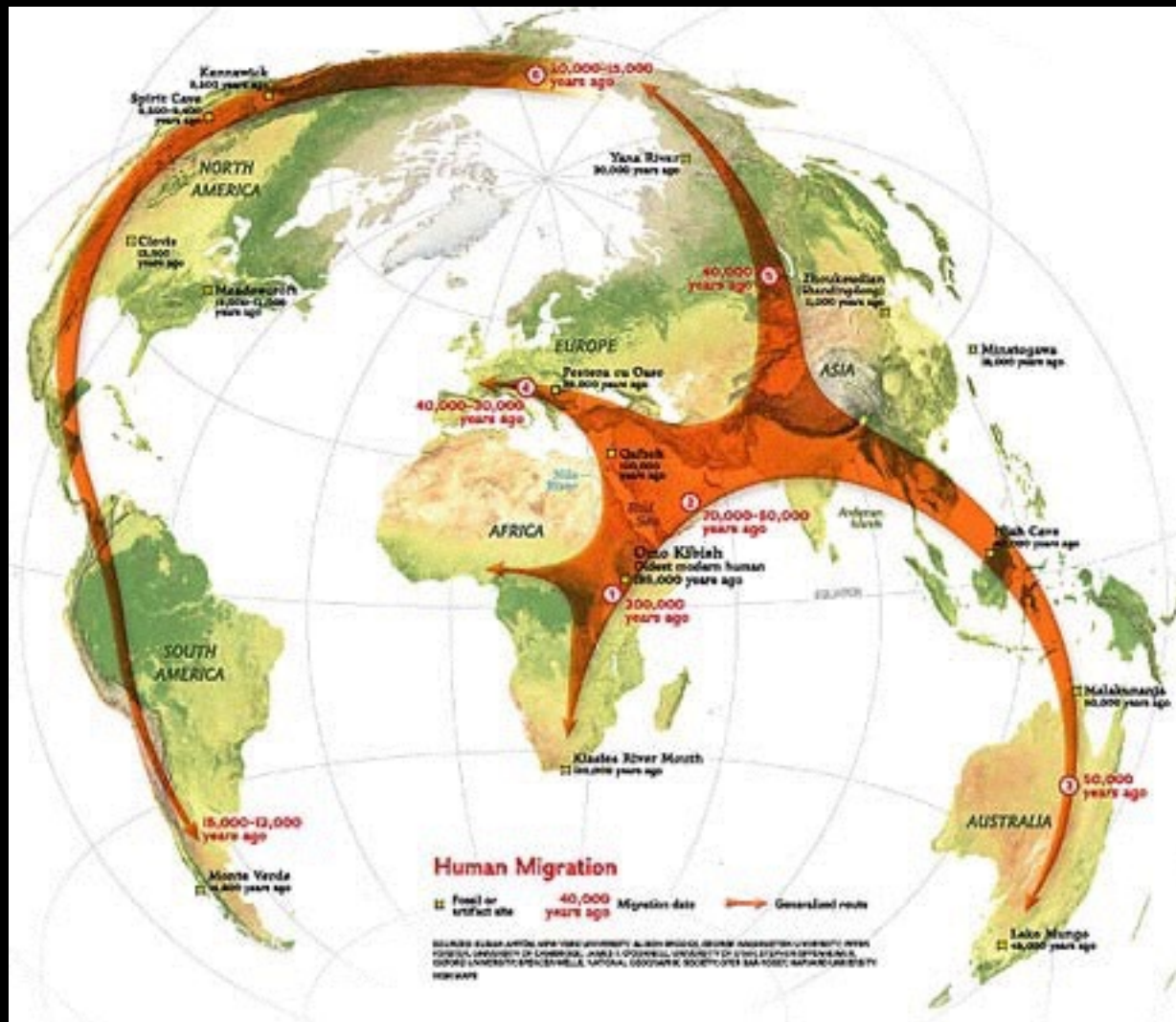
Image Landsat
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
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US Dept of State Geographer

ARCI



Google earth

Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 lat 11.440327° lon -85.356462° elev 265 ft eye alt 2265.69 mi



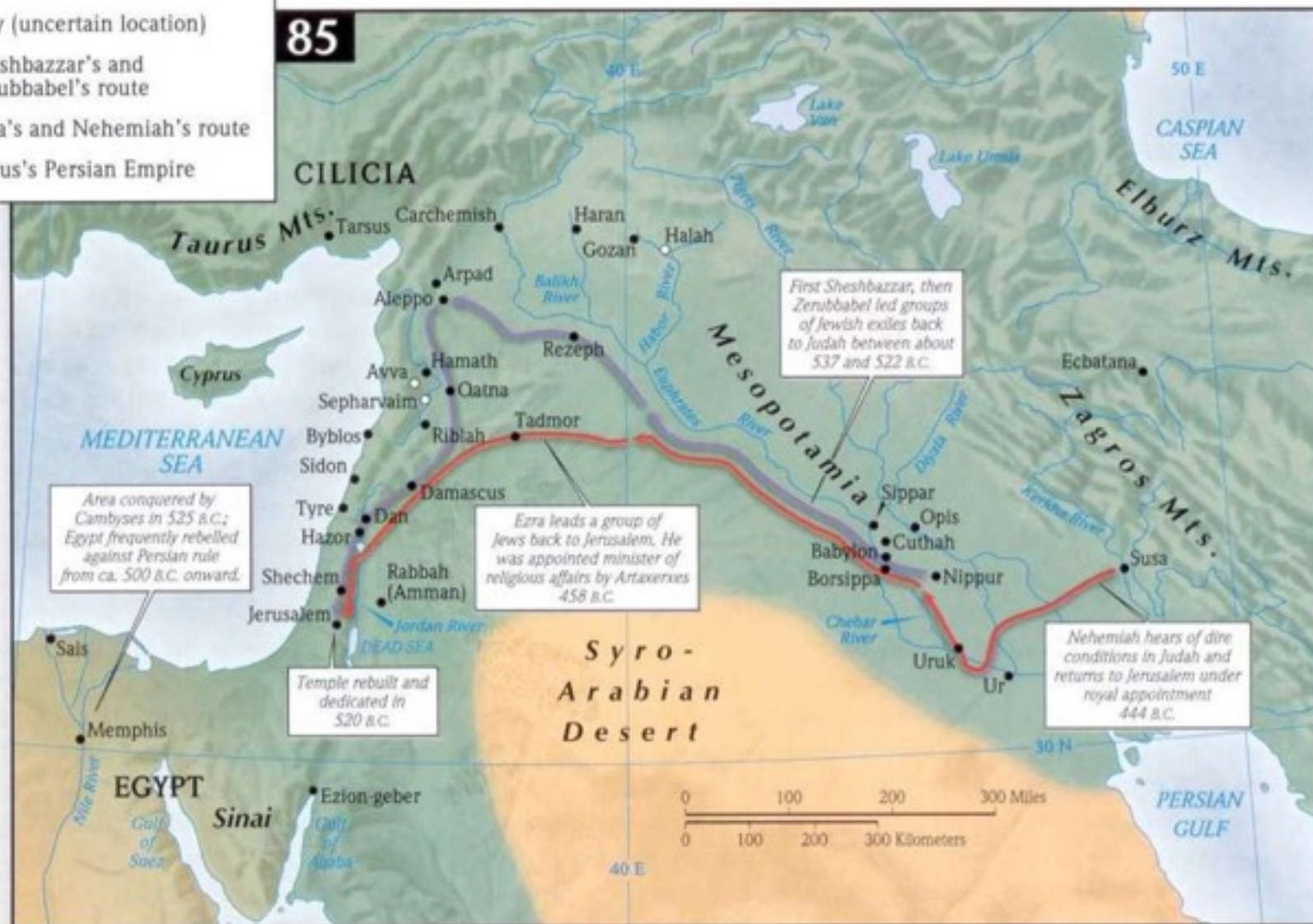


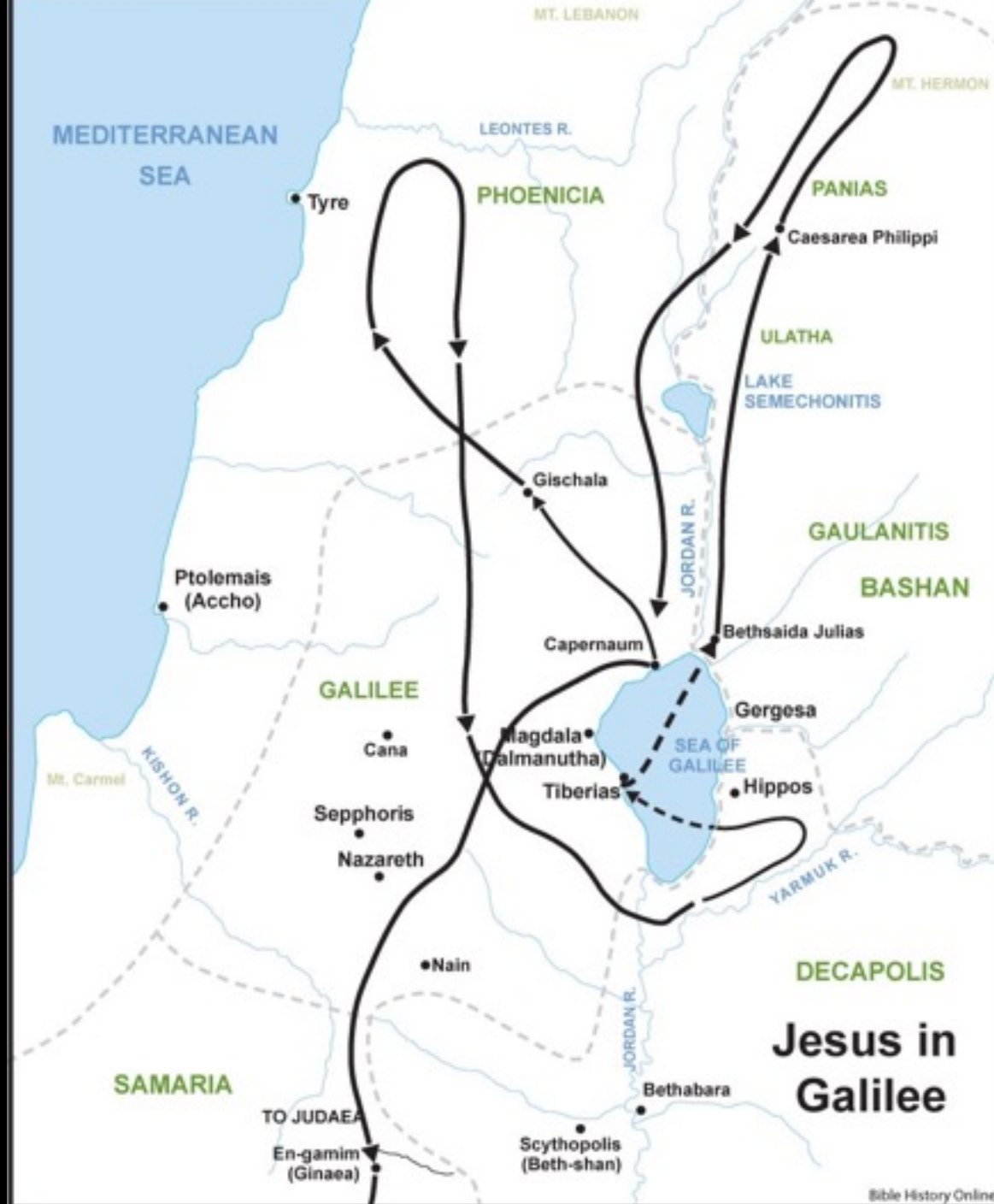


THE RETURNS OF JEWISH EXILES TO JUDAH

THE EDICT OF CYRUS: EZRA 1:2-4; 6:1-4
see also EZRA 1:5-8:35
NEH. 1-3

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ← Sheshbazzar's and Zerubbabel's route
- Ezra's and Nehemiah's route
- Cyrus's Persian Empire



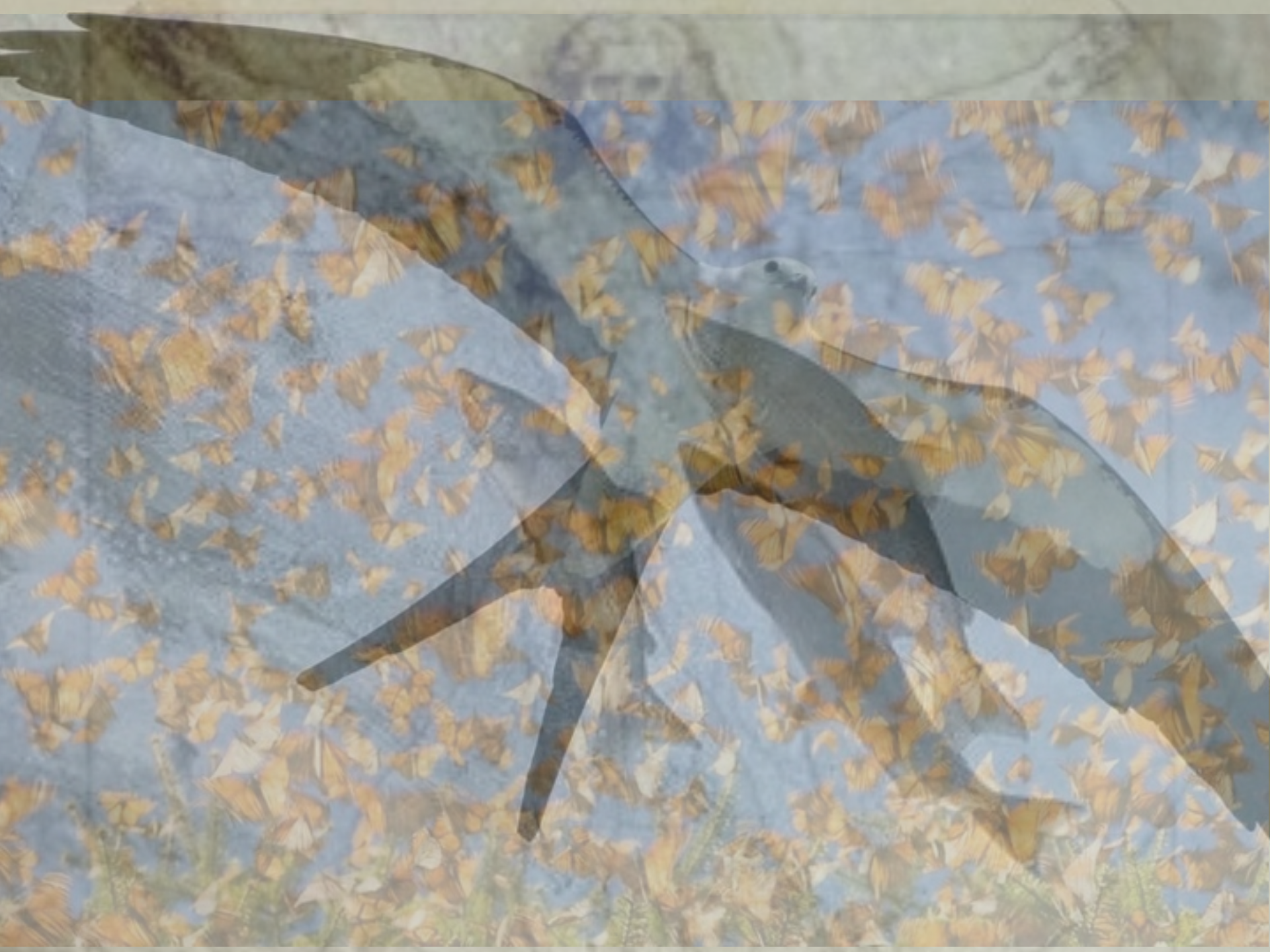


Jesus in Galilee





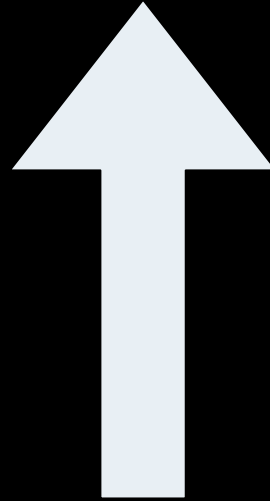




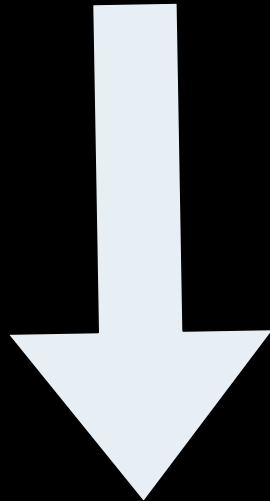


THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

Creative Guide, leading forward



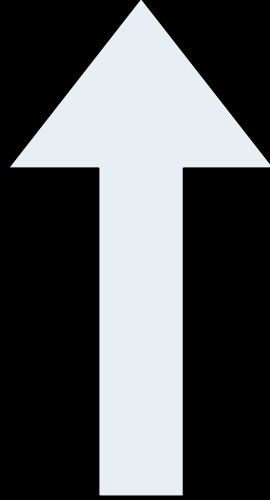
Religion



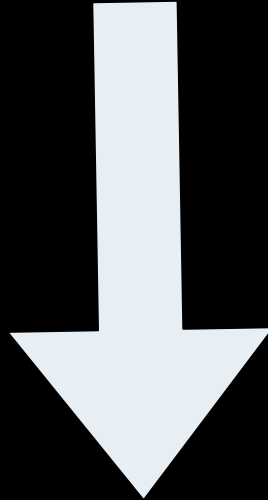
Conservative
Gatekeeper,
resisting
change

Regressive Reaction, leading back.

Vision



Religion



Nostalgia

For centuries, Christianity has been presented as a system of beliefs. That system of beliefs has supported a wide range of unintended consequences from colonialism to environmental destruction, subordination of women to stigmatization of LGBT people, anti-Semitism to Islamophobia, clergy pedophilia to white privilege.

What would it mean for Christians to rediscover their faith not as a problematic system of beliefs, but as a just and generous way of life, rooted in contemplation and expressed in compassion, that makes amends for its mistakes and is dedicated to beloved community for all?

3 minute meeting ...

Why do so few see religion as a guide into the future - and so many see it as a guardian or preserver of the past?

What are the consequences of religion being far more conservative than creative?

Phyllis Tickle spoke of a 500 year rummage sale. If we are in such a moment - what do you feel must be kept?



Three Migrations



THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

A spiritual migration

from system of beliefs to way of life



Religious Beliefs & Scientific Facts

Facts and “Method”



a
cigarette
a day?



*"What cigarette do
you smoke, Doctor?"*

The brand named most was

Camel



*Make your own
30-Day Camel
Mildness Test
in your "T-Zone"
(T for Throat,
T for Taste).*



In a repeated survey—conducted by
a leading independent research
organization—doctors in all branches
of medicine, in all the 48 States,
were asked: "What cigarette
do you smoke, Doctor?"

THE BRAND NAMED MOST WAS CAMEL!

The reason so many doctors prefer Camels
are the same reasons you'll prefer Camels—
mildness and flavor! Try Camels as your smoke
smoke. Make the enjoyable 30-day Camel Test, the
one month test of cigarette mildness. Smoke
Camels, and only Camels, for 30 days. It's fun...
and it's real good!

Even if we knew what Camels are, how will
they agree with your throat—day in, day out.
And just after you, your taste will tell you
no other cigarette compares with Camel!
Start your own 30-day Camel mildness test today!

According to a repeated nationwide survey:

MORE DOCTORS SMOKE CAMELS than any other cigarette!

envisioningtheamericandream.com

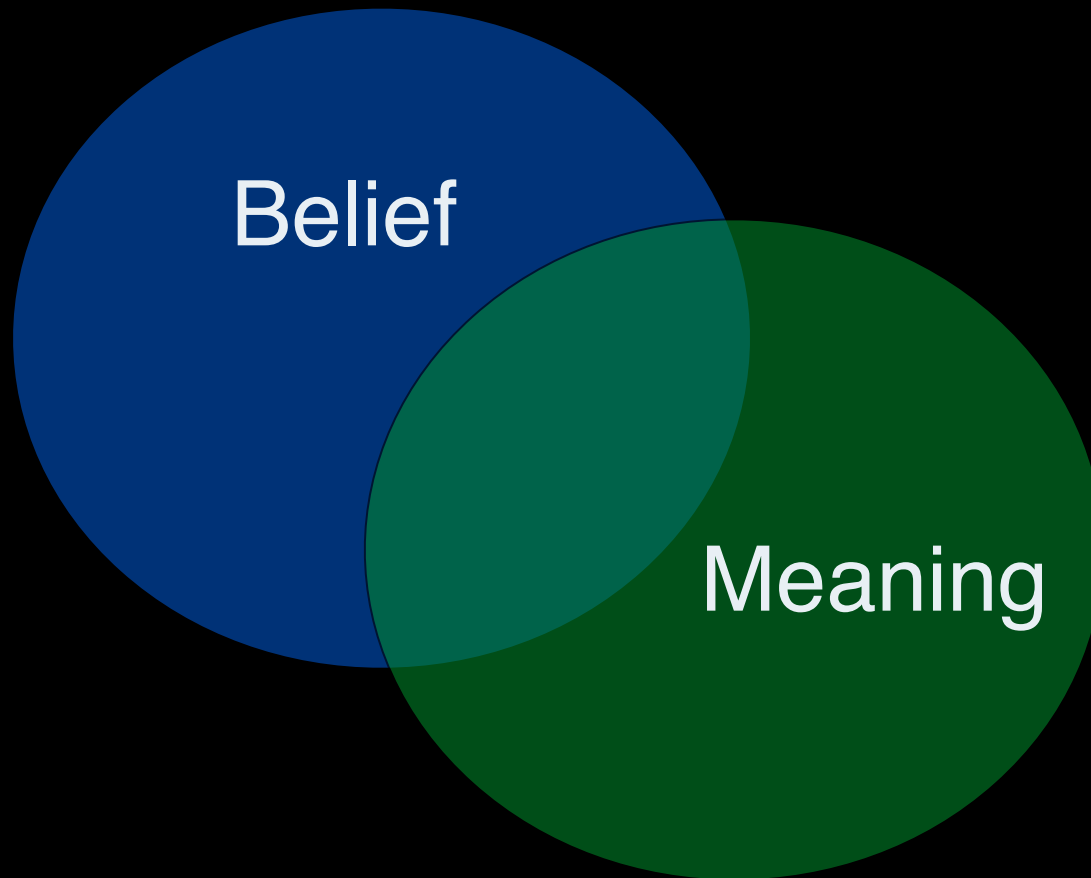
Scientists are more loyal to their method
than their facts.

To what are we more loyal than our beliefs?



Belief

Meaning





A Venn diagram consisting of two concentric circles. The inner circle is a medium teal color and is labeled 'Belief'. The outer circle is a darker green color and is labeled 'Meaning'. The 'Belief' circle is entirely contained within the 'Meaning' circle, illustrating that belief is a subset of meaning.

Belief

Meaning

Consider the meaning behind these beliefs:

incarnation of Christ

miracles of Christ

death of Christ

resurrection of Christ

Could one have faith in the meaning (actuality)
while being unsure about the factuality of the
beliefs?



Belief

Meaning

Way of Life

Method = “Way”

Religion as System of Beliefs
or Way of Life?

What is the Christian
way of life?

What is the one greatest
commandment?

“You shall have the correct
beliefs system!”

(not)

What is the one greatest
commandment?

Love ...

and the second is equally
important ...

Jesus

Paul

John

James

Complete this sentence in at least 5 different ways that you see some people agreeing with:

The primary purpose of the Christian faith is to ...

Respond to this statement:

The primary purpose of the
Christian faith is to ...

help people become life-
long learners and
practitioners of the way of
love embodied by Jesus.

Imagine making this promise:

If you become part of our community, we will help you and your children become the most loving version of yourself you can be.



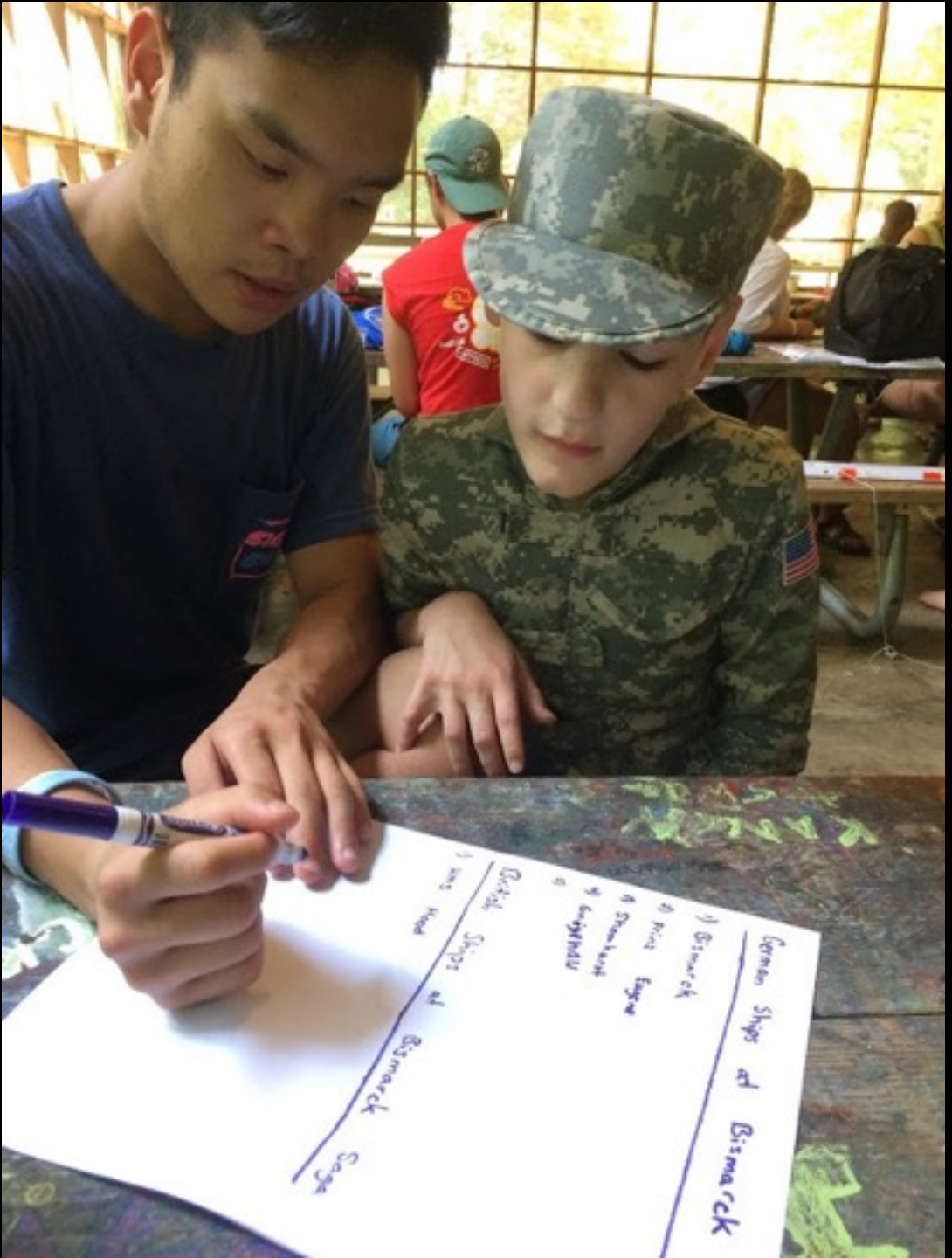
Three Migrations

a story about learning how to love









German Ships and Bismarck

- 1) Bismarck
- 2) Prinz Eugen
- 3) Stettin
- 4) Leipzig

Other Ships and Bismarck

1) Prinz Eugen











a story about learning how to love

invitation

exposure to models

experience

relationships

reflection

more challenging experience

training

celebration/consecration

repetition

Love 101:

neighbor

stranger

outsider/outcast

enemy

Love 201:

self

not selfish

not self-hating

Love 301:

the earth

all creation

for neighbors & self

for God's sake

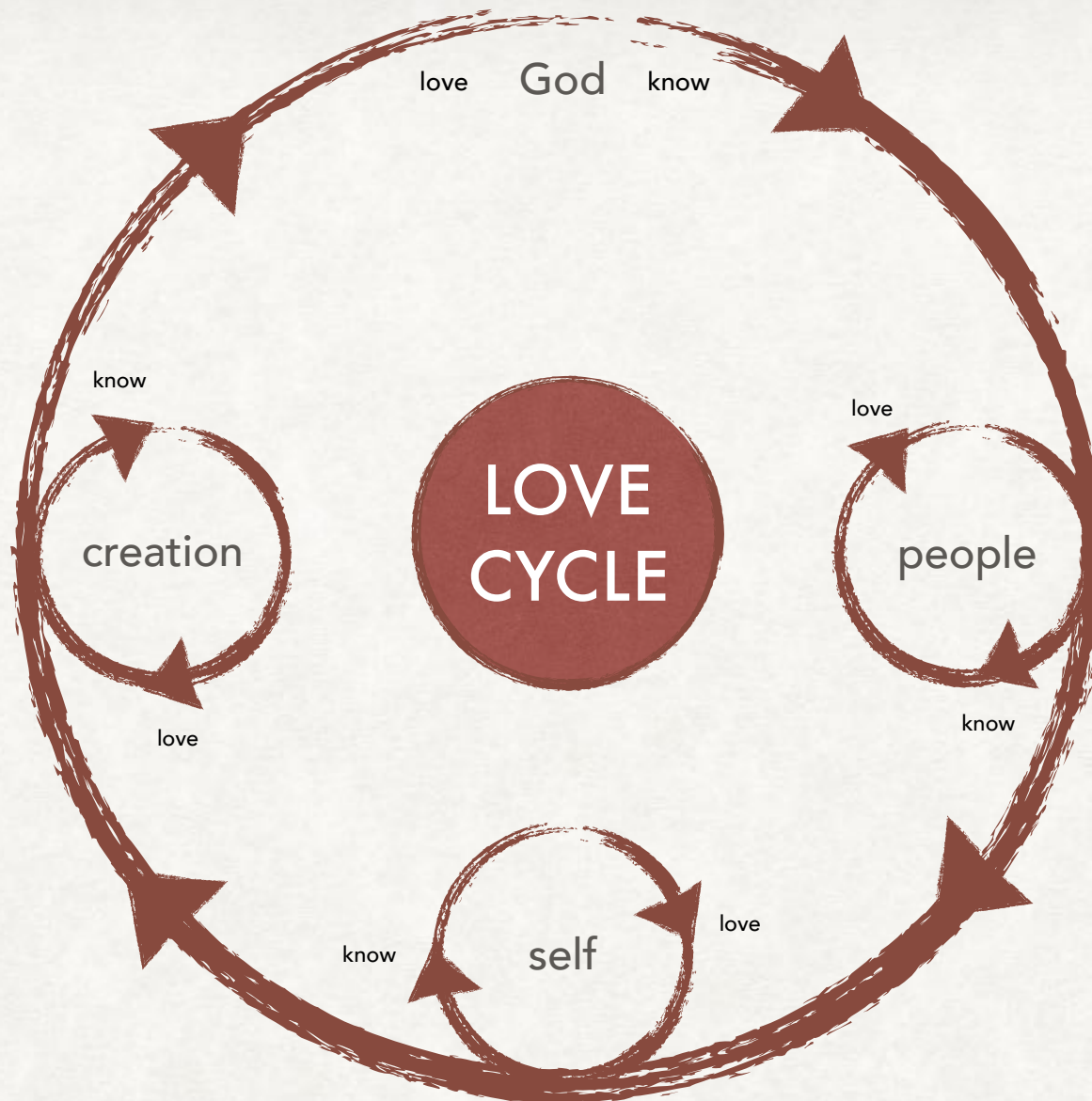
Love 401:

God

People who are learning to love their neighbors, themselves and the earth will not find it hard to learn to love God, because God will not be for them a doctrine or theory separate from or inconsistent with what they already love. Rather, in their experience of love for neighbor, self and creation, they will already have experienced God, because, as Richard Rohr says, ‘God is an event of communion.’¹¹ They will already have come, as the Quakers say, to love and reverence ‘that of God in every one’. So in Love 401, people learn to recognize and love the familiar light they see radiant in everything they already love. They learn to inhabit God as the loving reality in which they ‘live and move and have their being’, the all-encompassing ‘event of communion’ in which they have experienced countless events of communion. Each experience of love itself, they will realize, has been an experience of God, for, as John said in the New Testament, ‘Love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God ... for God is love’ (1 John 4:7–8).

Yes, loving a distant and theoretical God who must be approached through complex belief systems can indeed be tough – even exhausting, mentally and emotionally. But loving the God who is experienced in love for neighbor, self and creation comes as naturally as breathing. A character from Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* captures it perfectly:

Love all of God's creation, both the whole of it and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love animals, love plants, love each thing. If you love each thing, you will perceive the mystery of God in things. Once you have perceived it, you will begin tirelessly to perceive more and more of it every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an entire, universal love.







the only thing that matters

is faith

expressing itself

in love

way of life/
way of love



system of beliefs

q & r

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