

RELIGION

The Purpose of Love is to Like the World

By FERNANDO SMITH

Every man is hoping for love in his life. But is true love possible and attainable? By the time I was 15, I already felt love was too difficult, confusing, and often the cause of pain. I was cynical about ever caring for someone, or being cared for. I am glad to say that my cynicism has changed because I met a true and beautiful way of seeing people and the whole world that taught me how to love.

I am a student and consultant of the philosophy Aesthetic Realism, founded in 1941 by the American poet and critic Eli Siegel. In Aesthetic Realism, I learned the most important fact for my life, and what I needed to know to have a real chance in love. I learned this principle: The deepest desire of every person is to like the world. Eli Siegel was the kindest person who ever lived and the greatest friend to man; he described the human self and what we are hoping for.

In the chapter, "Love and Reality," from *Self and World: An Explanation of Aesthetic Realism*, [Definition Press, 1981], Siegel writes: "the self by its very nature is compelled to love reality." When I first read those words I had an immediate sense that the subject of love was much larger than I ever imagined. I never thought of wanting to love reality. I thought love was something that went on exclusively between two people, mostly hidden, and apart from the rest of the world. This is the mistaken way of seeing most men have and it is why we feel we have failed in love.

I was born in Rosario, Argentina, and spent most of my childhood here - where, I felt, the unspoken but accepted axiom among Latino men was that a woman's place was in the kitchen. This attitude was in me from the time I was a little boy, sitting at the dinner

table, expecting to be served by the female members of my family. As I got interested in girls I thought, with great arrogance and conceit, that a girl's purpose was to please me and I had a right to order her around. I wanted to care for a woman, but again and

to like the world.

The greatest enemy of love, Aesthetic Realism teaches, is the desire to have contempt for the world. Siegel defined contempt as the "disposition in every person to think he will be for himself by

representing the world, then he would need the world."

I learned that needing a woman stands for our deepest desire to see the world as completing us, making us stronger and more ourselves through knowing it as it is; and in knowing a woman I can know and like the world she is a representative of. I learned to see how a woman has the tough logic of mathematics in her along with feelings for a child in Africa.

Aesthetic Realism defines love as "proud need." I am so thankful that I recently celebrated with my wife Lore Elbel Smith our twentieth wedding anniversary. After twenty years of marriage I love my wife more than ever, and I look forward every day as an opportunity to know her more deeply as a means of caring for the whole world. I feel so privileged to continue my study of Aesthetic Real-



again I found myself hard and unyielding, even tyrannical, with a woman I hoped to love. Siegel writes in *Self and World* about a young man, Ronald Hill, who is like men in North and South America, and who has the question that men all over the world have. Mr. Siegel writes:

Ronald was up against the tough question of just how to give oneself to a person while hating and fearing the world she represented. He did not know how to answer it. He swung from insolence to humility; from triumphant malice to tears.

I am so grateful that Aesthetic Realism explained my agony about love, showed there was an answer, and enabled me to change the ugly male attitude in myself. Men have wanted to have contempt for a world they saw as unlikable, messy, confusing, and yet care for a woman who comes from that very same world. I learned that we cannot see a person any better than how we see the whole world. This is great news because it means that love has a chance if we try to meet our deepest desire

making less of the outside world." Contempt, I learned, is what will have a man feel he can see a woman any way he pleases. It is contempt that makes a man feel a woman's thoughts are unimportant unless they are about him, and makes a man feel he doesn't have to take seriously what a woman says because it comes from someone inferior to him. The desire in a man to have a woman's body and not care about her whole self is contempt. Contempt is the most hurtful thing in man and what interferes most with our hopes. I am so grateful that Eli Siegel criticized my contempt.

In an Aesthetic Realism class I had the great fortune to hear these kind questions from Mr. Siegel, which explain the largest mistake men make with women. He asked: "Do you think that if a man is with a woman and is pleased, he could feel he doesn't need the rest of the world?" "Yes," I said. "Is that a desire on your part?" Mr. Siegel asked. "Yes," I said. "But," he continued, "if a person sees a girl as

ism in classes conducted by the Class Chairman of Aesthetic Realism Ellen Reiss, whose scholarship and good will is beautiful, and I am proud to be learning from her.

Men and women are learning in Aesthetic Realism consultations given at the Aesthetic Realism Foundation in New York City, and through telephone consultations across the country, that the purpose of education, marriage, work, is to honestly see the world as well as we can. The Aesthetic Realism of Eli Siegel is mighty and beautiful education and it is enabling people to change disappointment about love into honest hope, the loneliness and bitterness in marriages have ended as persons study how to use each other to like the world. For more information about Aesthetic Realism you can write to: Aesthetic Realism Foundation, 141 Greene Street, New York, NY 10012 or call 212/777-4490 or via the internet at www.aestheticrealism.org.

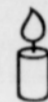
The 8th Annual Summer In The City Celebration

by Augustana Lutheran Church will be held Sunday, August 9th from 4-7 pm. The Celebration will feature music, food, games for kids of all ages, craft bazaar, book sale and a Jazz service at 6 pm.

Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 NE 14th Ave. in Portland or for more information please call 288-6174.

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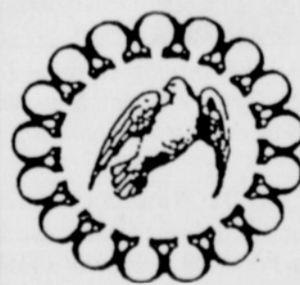


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The Katinas

In 1977 five of the twelve young Katina siblings took their name on the road forming their R&B group the "The Katina." After spending ten years of their youth on the Polynesian Islands located 2,000 miles south of Hawaii in American Samoa; the Katinas traveled from one end of the country to the other. Surrounded by the tropics, music and a very strong family foundation, the boys learned the value of loving people. Since early childhood the Katinas have performed at youth conventions, camps,

high schools, churches, as well as radio and television broadcast. Through this the Katina's grew to know that music was more than singing it was communicating.

The Katina's have performed with the likes of BeBe and CeCe Winans, Andrea Crouch, and Amy Grant, and in such places as the United States, Canada, Holland, Switzerland, New Zealand, Jamaica, and Hawaii.

The music style of the Katinas has been compared to Boys II Men, Tony Toni Tone, Mint Con-

dition, and All for One. Their tight vocal performances bonds many ages and backgrounds. Themes, that thread their way through music of the Katinas, come to life as the five brothers sing. Sam, Joe, James, John, and Jesse feel that their personal style comes by sharing life's experiences, and learning to identify hope in every circumstance. Because of their versatile musical style, the Katinas have always warranted high praises from their audiences.

Ten years of being raised in the

tropics ended in 1988 when the Katinas moved to Washington State to be with their mother as she battled cancer. They gave her up to the lard with prayers and a song entitled "Mama." Since then, they have moved to Nashville and continue to sing about the God that she had taught them to love. They've come to realize that no matter how different people may be, everyone shares the same need. That need is for peace. That peace is indeed heard in the smooth harmonies of the music. Please bring the whole family!



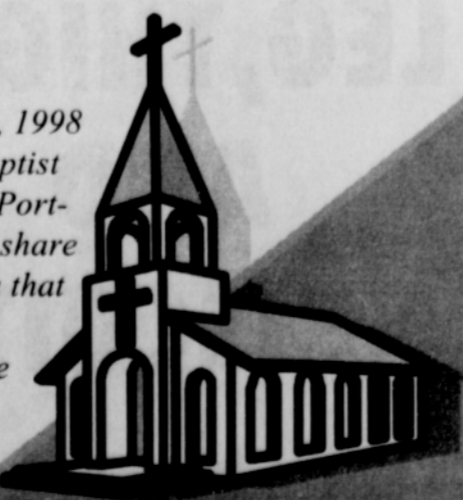
Anniversary

The Lifeline Christian Church will be celebrating The 3rd Year Anniversary of their Pastor Robert L. Weaver, Founder and Evangelist Maggie D. Weaver, Co-Pastor and Founder starting with a Musical on Friday, July 31, 1998 at 7:00 pm. The church is located at 5949 N. Albina Avenue.



We will be closing out on Sunday, August 3, 1998 at 3:30 pm at the Mt. Gillard Missionary Baptist Church located at 2902 NE Rodney Avenue, Portland, Oregon. COME ONE, COME ALL and share with us in this great event for two individuals that deserves this appreciation.

For further information please contact The Lifeline Christian Church at 247-9503 or 286-8248. We do support your support.



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