

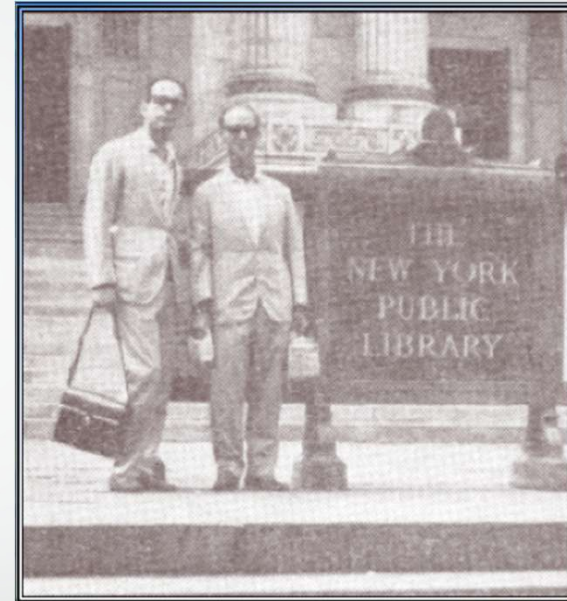
# Spiritist Workers: The Heart of the Movement



Tania Schwartz

# Spiritism in the US

- 1920's: Hispanic immigration and foundation of first small study groups – info through testimonies from descendants of founders.
- 1960's: Visit of Chico Xavier and Waldo Vieira in NY, and later Divaldo Franco starts his precious collaboration to the US movement.
- Mid 1980's: large influx of Brazilians.
- Today over 110 Spiritist centers, over 160 book titles in English, organized state and national federation.



# First Spiritist Institutions

**spiritist**  
Federation of Florida

1987 - Creation of the Kardecian Spiritist Federation of Florida, Inc., by Benjamim Rodrigues (Colombian)

A participant in the foundation of the International Spiritist Council.



1992 - ISC (CEI) is an organization founded on November 28th, 1992, by national associations of the Spiritist movement in various countries.



1997 - Creation of the United States Spiritist Council



**SPIRITISM IS PRACTICED IN SPANISH, PORTUGUESE AND ENGLISH IN THE US**

# Spiritist Movement

- **Movement:** a group of people working together to advance their shared ideas.
- **Institutions:** The **collective effort** to study, practice, and disseminate the teachings of Spiritism codified by Allan Kardec.
- Where Spiritist workers gather **to console:** fraternal assistance, passes.
- It consists of **centers**, and **federations** that work together for Spiritism teachings to be known in as many places as possible.
  - Bigger picture: 22 countries, members of International Spiritist Council.
  - We get together, work together, learn together, and multiply the efforts.

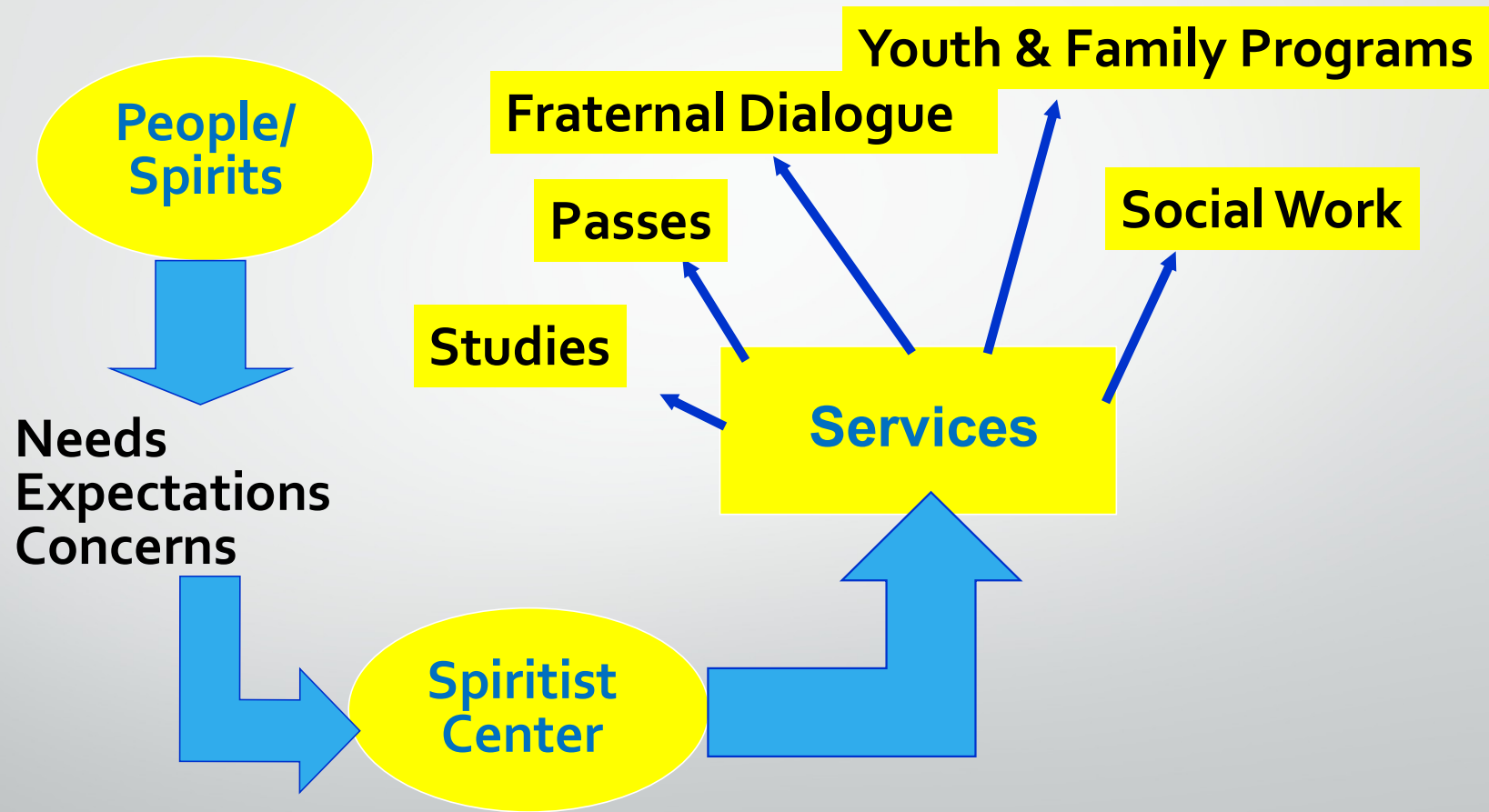


# The Spiritist Center is the fundamental unit of the Spiritist Movement



- Spiritist centers serve as places for study, spiritual support, and community gatherings.
- **Spiritist worker is like a gear in a machine:** when all workers fulfill their roles, the whole movement advances smoothly, and generate light, consolation and progress
  - Same analogy now each gear being a Spiritist center when in HARMONY with others, make the machinery of the Spiritist movement function properly!

# Why do we come to the Spiritist Center?



**PRACTICAL PERCEPTION EXERCISE**

# Spiritist Workers

- Volunteers dedicated to sharing, studying, and practicing the Spiritist teachings in centers and federations.
- They dedicate time and effort in many areas in the center. Example: the work done here today!



- Some are in the role of leadership. This role includes guiding, inspiring, pacifying situations, capacitating other workers for continuity.
- To be a Spiritist worker we need to commit and assume the responsibility. Get involved!

**ALL WORKERS ARE IMPORTANT!**

# What would Spiritism be without workers?

- Buildings do not sustain the Spiritist Movement. Books alone do not sustain it. Events do not sustain it. **People do.**
- The Spiritist worker is not merely a volunteer, but a conscious collaborator in the Divine Work.
- The Spiritist worker volunteers to help and stays when realizes he/she is the one needing inner transformation.
- Let's be solidary, not solitary

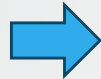


**SERVICE IS THERAPY FOR THE SOUL!**

# Spiritist Workers: The Heart of the Movement

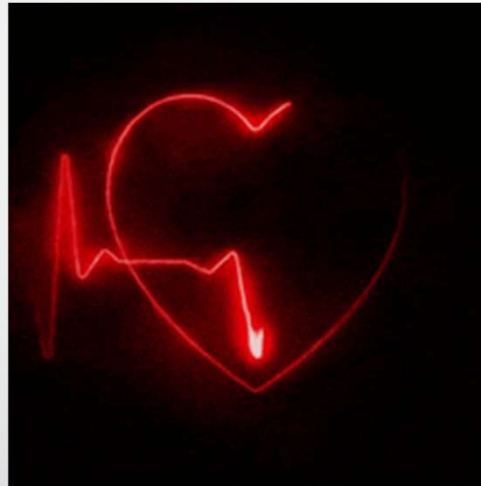
## Heart:

Vital for the life of body



Pumps blood to nourish and sustain each part of the body

In service to the whole body



## Spiritist workers:

Vital for the Spiritist movement

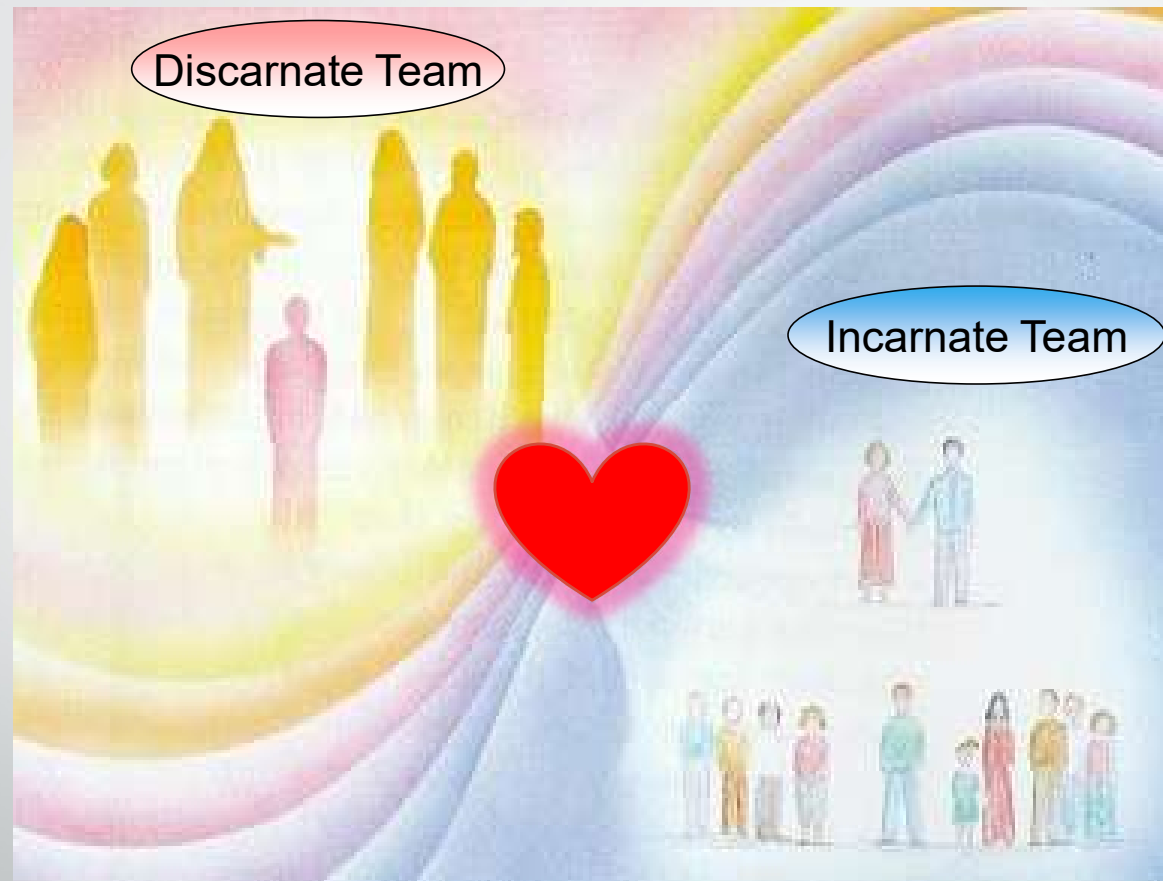


Thru dedication and commitment infuse energy, understanding and compassion

Selflessly serve the collective cause of Spiritism

- The Spiritist Workers ensure that the message and practice of **Spiritism** are always **pulsating!**

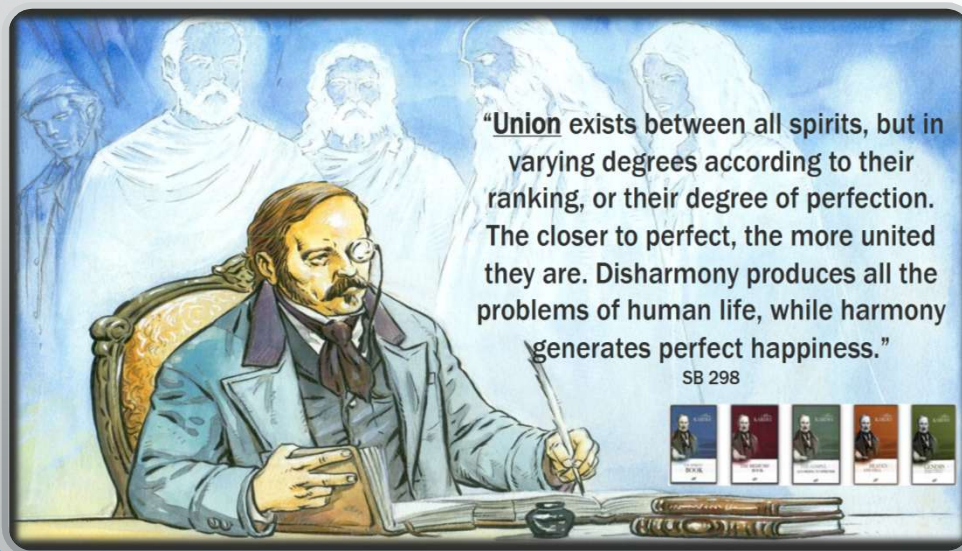
# Teamwork with Spirituality



**We people feed ourselves in this fraternal love!**

# Love as the Foundation of Spiritist Work

- Spiritists! Love one another; this is the first teaching. Educate yourselves; this is the second.”  
(Gospel Chap. VI, Item 5)



- We can even disagree on ideas, as this is natural and healthy, but what we must not lose is the spirit of fraternity that should unite us today and always. Dr. Bezerra de Menezes
- Teamwork is a challenge!

**LET'S PRACTICE FRATERNAL LOVE!**

# Messages Through Actions

- What a blessing being part of this team to convey **answers to Humanity according to the Spirits:**
  - ✓ We are immortal spirits. Life continues after the death of the body
  - ✓ All spirits are destined for progress and happiness.
  - ✓ We reincarnate to learn and grow morally and intellectually.
  - ✓ Our actions have consequences (law of cause and effect)
  - ✓ Suffering and challenges are opportunities for growth.
  - ✓ Faith should be in harmony with reason and understanding.

**We are responsible for our own happiness!**

# The U.S. Spiritist Federation (USSF)

- **Mission:** Promote, support, and strengthen Spiritism throughout the US.
  - Programs and initiatives:
    - ✓ **Symposia and Workshops:** gatherings for education and discussion.
    - ✓ **Networking:** connections between centers for mutual support.
    - ✓ **Resources:** educational materials, speakers, and logistical support.
    - ✓ **Publications and Translations:** Spiritist literature accessible in English.
    - ✓ **Representation of the Spiritist Movement:** in the US and Internationally.



# Let's continue the work!

- ✓ Let's serve with love, courage, and humility! Our work must be **aligned with the teachings we disseminate!**
- ✓ Let's have a **sincere pleasure in working with Jesus!** Our work must be done with joy, genuine dedication and renunciation!



- ✓ Let's **be the heart** offering love and understanding, let's **check our own hearts** getting to analyze and transforming ourselves, let's **offer our hearts** by forgiving and having compassion!

**Thank you for sharing this spiritual journey with me!**

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