



Builders of the Adytum New Zealand

50th Jubilee - 26 – 27 October 2013



Rev. Ann Davies and Rev. Will Chesterman, 1969.

**The Higher Thought Temple, 1 Union Street, Auckland
The Temple, 1 Strawberry Lane, Dunedin
The Temple, Naenae, Wellington**

Contents:

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Reverend Will Chesterman
- ❖ The Higher Thought Temple, Auckland
- ❖ The Naenae Temple, Wellington
- ❖ The Temple, Dunedin
- ❖ Australia
- ❖ Conclusion: The Next 50 years and Beyond
- ❖ A Glimpse of the Master
- ❖ The Temple of Sacred Tarot and Holy Qabalah



Above: Rev. Ann Davies.

Top Right: Rev. Will Chesterman, Rev. Ann Davies and David Duggan, Auckland Temple.

Right: Joyce Chesterman and Rev. Ann Davies, 1969.

Introduction

Fifty years ago, our Beloved Soror in L.V.X., the Rev. Ann Davies brought the spiritual impetus of Builders of the Adytum to New Zealand. In her own words she stated that the Master R. had spent many years preparing the way for the Ageless Wisdom teachings, through the vehicle of B.O.T.A., to be brought to New Zealand. This was to bring about the development of the linkage in New Zealand for the balancing of certain forces necessary as required by the Inner School. New Zealand is geographically situated so it is relatively the same distance from the equator as California. This balance was required for the linkage to take place.



Rev. Ann and Dick Hartshorne



Rev. Ann and Alastair Wallace

The Rev. Ann came to New Zealand three times - 1963, 1964 (staying for four months) and 1969 (staying for five weeks), thereby laying the foundation for the work of Builders of the Adytum to be undertaken.

As we pause to celebrate fifty Jubilee years of B.O.T.A. in New Zealand, we can remember the loving insight, caring and wisdom that comes to us from our predecessors: Paul Foster Case, Harriet B. Case, Rev. Ann Davies, Rev. Will Chesterman and Joyce Chesterman. It is through their perseverance, continual loving efforts and their laying of a solid

foundation that has enabled the B.O.T.A. work to continue

to flourish. The great love emanating from the Rev. Ann was without doubt the greatest amongst the many treasures which she bestowed upon us. Her unique gift to humanity is precisely the quality of love which she was able to permeate throughout the entire Ageless Wisdom teachings. As the Rev. Ann was able to experience cosmic consciousness on a daily basis at will, she was able to transmit and elaborate the true fraternal acceptance of each other as spiritual brothers and sisters, seen as her examples of loving unity between all peoples.

B.O.T.A. has survived the initial 'birth pangs' that all true occult orders experience. There have been many tests and trials, and now we have extraordinary access to three New Zealand Temples; two in the North Island and one in the South Island. Through the changes we keep moving forward and growing. Imagination, desires and perseverance have bought B.O.T.A. to a world-wide organisation that is growing on a daily basis. The Rev. Ann said, "We are not after quantity, we are after quality."

The three New Zealand Centres of Light shine radiantly, bringing the L.V.X. to the Earth and humanity, and it is our privilege to uphold that Light for all.



John Stancliffe, Rev. Will and Rev. Ann, Auckland Airport, 1969

Reverend Will Chesterman 1917 – 2003

The Rev. Will came from the generation that witnessed and experienced two world wars and a global depression. He was a true gentleman, in every sense of the word, and a true 'doer of the word'.

He was appointed Chief Prolocuter of New Zealand in 1967. He and Joyce had already spent many years remodelling the Naenae Temple to the high standard that remains today. He ensured that B.O.T.A. had everything necessary so the Work may be undertaken with dignity. His meticulous eye for detail (he wonderfully displayed this positive Virgo Sun characteristic) ensured that each piece of equipment was impeccably and beautifully constructed, and made to last.

With his skills as an accountant, he ably managed the Order's finances in both New Zealand and Los Angeles. His exceptional orderliness and attention-to-detail meant that the Temples in New Zealand and Los Angeles functioned in an organised fashion that was beneficial to the growth of the Order.

Rev. Will and Joyce spent periods of time in Los Angeles where their skills and loving guidance served to assist with the Los Angeles Temple work. Guidance, insight and support continued in this fashion over many years. By the time Rev. Will was named Prolocuter General in 1994, he was already guiding B.O.T.A. on a global scale, and his quick intuition and especial guidance was a source of inspiration and comfort for many aspirants. He spent 40 years assiduously working and guiding the Work so, now on a global scale, it has reached a level of stability which can be sustained as we move forward into the Aquarian Age.

When delivering lectures Rev. Will spoke from the heart, and his wisdom-filled talks often contained memorable anecdotes. We fondly remember Joyce in the front row, tapping her watch to remind him that he had gone past the allocated time. We remember his enthusiasm, sense of humour, integrity, his love for the Wisdom of B.O.T.A. and his vigilance in keeping the Work pure.

The following is an excerpt from a sermon Rev. Will gave at Asilomar, July 9th, 2000:

"We do need to forever retain brightness and cheerfulness in heart and soul in the adventure of life itself. We can enjoy all things of life, especially the nature of love and unity, without which all is in vain. Fratres and Sorores, if we can hold deeply within our hearts what we are given in the teachings of this Order, it is an enormous step forward in the development of vehicles of expression for that indwelling Spirit of Life within us, the Life Breath. Then the Life Breath can express in a manner that is governed by the indwelling Spirit, and not by our personalities, which cannot change a thing. Do be encouraged and always remember the rules of the game, which are all positives, rather different from traffic signs, which often tell us what *not to do*. That is what spiritual signposts are like, too, if we ignore their positive direction. It is so painful to say goodbye, but we all have to get back to our work and do what we are expected to do, and what we have pleasure in doing. Bless you all, Fratres and Sorores."



We are sincerely grateful to our
Predecessors, those who have paved
the way for us.

*Rev. Will and Joyce Chesterman,
Naenae Temple, 2002.*

The Higher Thought Temple Auckland

The conditions leading up to the Rev. Ann's first visit to New Zealand in 1963 were underway beforehand in Auckland with Frank Goodey and Alastair Wallace. The record entitled 'An Esoteric Qabalistic Service' had been imported by Frank Goodey, who introduced Alastair Wallace to the recording. As a consequence, Alastair Wallace and Dick Hartshorne sponsored the Rev. Ann on her first visit to New Zealand.

The first meeting was held in the Auckland Town Hall. However, the venue was changed to the Ellen Melville Hall, and this change saw the Rev. Will running through the Auckland streets to be on time for the meeting. He described his first meeting with the Rev. Ann as being "enveloped in a radiance of love that was as sparkling diamonds of light, and embraced in a love that seemed cosmic in source". There were 350 people at that first meeting and the Rev. Will took Joyce to meet with the Rev. Ann and the connections were sealed between the three.

The Auckland Pronaos was originally held in Upper Queen Street at White Hall Chambers. Later, the Higher Thought Temple was rented from Higher Thought New Zealand, which was incorporated in 1930. This society is remembered for its generosity towards small specialised groups who sought health for themselves and others, and to spiritual aspiration groups committed to higher thought, and who did not have a temple of their own.

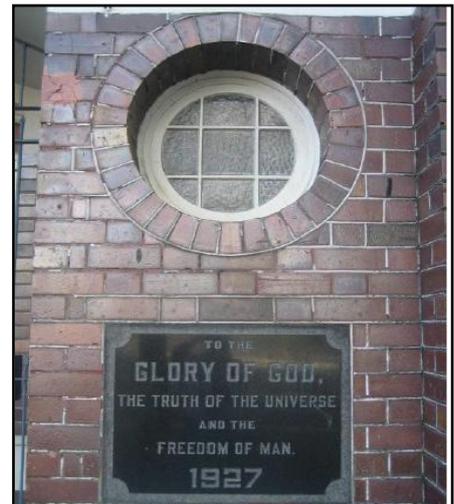
The Rev. Will was well known to the trustees and members and when the land lease expired, the elderly trustees (with dwindling membership numbers), felt unable to proceed, and they offered the beautiful temple to Builders of the Adytum. This offer was gratefully accepted and after renewing the lease for a period, B.O.T.A. was eventually able to raise the funds need to purchase the land.

The Higher Thought Temple was designed in 1927 in the stripped classical style by Henry F. Robinson, a Devonport architect. It was built at 1 Union St in 1928. The building was constructed by Craig Brothers. Original architectural drawings note that it was a double-brick and concrete church hall for the Auckland Higher Thought Centre - non-denominational church, founded with the intention of enabling people to study the principles of Christianity free from restrictions or spiritual dogma. The origins of higher thought were based on an American philosophical movement 'New Thought' that grew in popularity in the late 1800's. Higher Thought New Zealand was incorporated in 1930 and remains as an incorporated society.

The Higher Thought Temple was reported to be the first institution of its type built in New Zealand. The building reflected the comparatively high profile of alternative spiritual philosophies in New Zealand during the 1920's.



The Higher Thought Temple, Union St, Auckland



Front entrance, Higher Thought Temple



One of the leadlight and stained glass windows

In 1951 the lease of the Higher Thought Temple was renewed in the name of the Higher Thought of New Zealand Incorporated. The Higher Thought of New Zealand Trust Board purchased the site in 1992 and transferred it to the B.O.T.A. Trust Board in 1993.

The aesthetic and decorative elements of the Higher Thought Temple accentuate the entrance. The building retains its original spaces and the majority of the design features are still intact. There are numerous decorative details, high plastered ceilings, leadlight windows with stained glass details. A George Croft organ provides an impressive background to the dais. The Higher Thought Temple meets the threshold for scheduling as a Historic Heritage Place, Category B. It is considered to be of considerable significance in relation to historical, social, physical and aesthetic values, and overall it is assessed as being of considerable local value.



Higher Thought Temple, interior view

In gratitude to Auckland founding members:
Rev. Will Chesterman, Joyce Chesterman,
George Massan, Poldi Williamson, Ray
Marret, David Duggan, Alastair Wallace, Dick
Hartshorne, Vida Sutcliffe, Jim Morris, Jessie

Meikle, May Maddox, David McDonald, Sandy Lewis, Mavis
Osbourne and Melva Oliver.

(Apologies if any member's name has been omitted).

The Temple, Naenae, Wellington

The Rev. Ann's third visit was in 1969 where she stayed for a period of four months. Meetings were held in premises rented from the English Speaking Union, first in the central city, followed by a move to Courtney Place in 1965. In 1973 the Chestermans' managed to raise the finance (with help from their family, members and friends), to purchase the Naenae Temple (which was originally a Brethren Every Boys' Rally Hall in need of restoration). During the years prior to the purchase of the Temple and the great amount of work required to bring it up to an acceptable standard, the lessons were stored and distributed from the Chestermans' home, and from the home of one daughter.

The Rev. Will and Joyce travelled to U.S.A. on many occasions, starting in 1965. In 1969 the Rev. Ann returned to New Zealand for her third and final visit. The Rev. Will and Joyce met her in Auckland and after meetings in Auckland, they drove to Wellington. It was a happy five weeks, with meetings, social gatherings,



sightseeing and plenty of rest and relaxation for Rev. Ann in the peaceful surroundings of the Chestermans' Akatarawa Valley home. During this visit Rev. Ann was given a civic welcome by the Mayor of Lower Hutt, Percy Dowse.

The Naenae Temple, Wellington



The Naenae Temple, interior view

In gratitude to Naenae founding members: Rev. Will Chesterman, Joyce Chesterman, Betty McPhail, John Paulin, Nan Stubbs, Jack Barley, Mary Barley, Peggy Weir, Jim Weir, Pat Toop and Colin Toop.

(Apologies if any member's name has been omitted).

The Temple, Dunedin

In 1981 two Auckland members, Trevor and Jan Faris, decided to make the move to live in Dunedin, and after a new addition to the family arrived, they set off in 1983 to make their new home in the 'Deep South' of the South Island.



The Temple, Strawberry Lane, Dunedin

Within a short period of time they were 'led' to the purchase of a one-acre property that has a very large 60' x 20' concrete block building at the rear of the property. After discussion, it was decided that this building would make an excellent meeting place for the B.O.T.A. work. The building was originally used as dog kennels. Many members helped to lend a hand, both physically and financially, to help bring the building to a standard where meetings could commence. A flat concrete floor was laid, a small kitchen and changing rooms were completed, two large rooms at the rear were completed, and a dais made in the main meeting area.

As soon as this was completed to a reasonable degree, the meetings commenced in 1985. At this stage another new addition to the family arrived, just around the time of the first Pronaos meeting.

An old coal-burner was installed, and everyone would huddle around the fire after meetings with cups of hot tea and hot scones. As time went on a log-burner was installed and also ceilings in the main meeting area, kitchen and changing room. This immediately helped to keep the Temple warmer for longer periods of time. Later, an antechamber was built between the kitchen/ changing room and main meeting area. One wall in the antechamber now houses many photos and pictures of our founders, previous and present members. This addition again helped to maintain more warmth in the main meeting area.



Dunedin Temple, interior view

Over the years, there have been many improvements made to the building which has resulted in a comfortable and warm area to meet. The Temple is situated in the country, in a very peaceful garden environment. It has been used for B.O.T.A. work only, and has built up a strong and calming atmosphere within.

The Dunedin Temple is another example of how, when we are given 'gifts' in life, if we can nurture, care and develop these gifts, it can lead to something extraordinary and exceptional, as seen with the two North Island Temples. At present there is a team of dedicated, committed members who enjoy a variety of meetings under the august guidance of our founders, Paul Foster Case and Rev. Ann Davies. We consider that we are very fortunate to have such a beautiful environment in which to undertake the B.O.T.A. work.

In gratitude to Dunedin founding members: Trevor Faris, Jan Faris, Blair Smith, Bronwen Thomas, Gaynor Johnstone, Dawn Hananeia, Colleen, Dianne Clark, Tony Wyber, Pam Wyber, Jean, Martin Sykes, Margaret Sykes, Jenny McQueen, Stephen Poff and Gregor Morgan.

(Apologies if any member's name has been omitted).

Australia

B.O.T.A. flourished in New Zealand under the astute guidance of the Rev. Will and Joyce. The Rev. Will was of the opinion that B.O.T.A. would also grow in Australia, and did what he could to encourage this growth, travelling to Australia with Joyce on several occasions. Initially, the growth of the Teachings in Australia was in part due to some members leaving New Zealand to live in Australia. These individuals, filled with aspiration and enthusiasm for B.O.T.A. had the desire to make contact with other interested individuals in Australia.

From the 1970's the lessons were sent from Naenae to Australian members and this continues to the present day. In the 1980's some members who were known to each other in New Zealand, and with the sanction of Rev. Will, met informally in their own homes to listen to tape recordings of Rev. Ann and to discuss the lesson material. When numbers grew, the small groups were able to advertise.

Study groups were then established in Sydney and Melbourne in the early 1990's. The Melbourne group became large enough to start a Pronaos in 1993 and this remained in operation until 1995. In Adelaide the study group was established in 2002 under the guidance of Felice Arlotta. In 2005 Joyce had the wisdom to suggest that a gathering of B.O.T.A. Australian members take place in Sydney.

We were joined by New Zealand members and U.S.A., including Diane Rhodes, Prolocutor General. The outcome of this meeting was the establishment of Pronaos in Sydney.

The current study group in Melbourne was also established as a result of members from Victoria coming together at the Sydney meeting in 2005. In 2012, a study group was re-established in Brisbane when members from Sydney moved northward to Queensland. Some B.O.T.A. members in Australia live in remote areas and have little contact with their fellow builders. Felice Arlotta from Adelaide and Rev. Suzie Farrow from Sydney were keen to offer these members the opportunity to come together and share in aspects of the B.O.T.A. curriculum available only to city-dwelling aspirants. The retreats have proved to be wonderful opportunities for aspirants to meet and share in work and fellowship.

That inspirational soul, the Rev. Ann commented that “B.O.T.A. is hard work, but is also a pathway of fun and laughter.” We do work to ensure that the latter is an essential part of the work in Australia. The next retreat in Adelaide is planned for 2015.

We thank current members throughout Australia for keeping the Light shining in L.V.X.

In gratitude to Sydney founding members: David Johnson, Isabel Ruivo, Maggie Brown, Craig Streeton, Rosemary Szente, Andrew Szente, Oliver Miller and Rev. Suzie Farrow.

In gratitude to Melbourne founding members: Jim Kakris, Helen Kakris, Beverley Mustchin, Ellen Green, Tania Giles, Ross Giles and Peter Duggan.

In gratitude to Adelaide founding members: Felice Arlotta and John la Torre.

In gratitude to Brisbane founding members: Christine Norris, Trish Body-Moore and Doug McIndoe.

(Apologies if any member's name has been omitted).

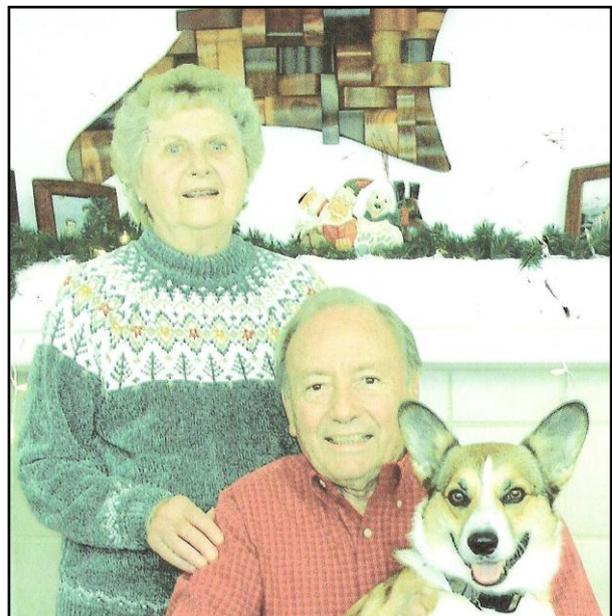
Conclusion: The Next 50 years and Beyond

When Builders of the Adytum celebrates its 100th Jubilee, what will the members remember from the past 100 years? Paul Foster Case stated that it would take 400 years for the Order to become firmly established, so we are really participating in the early stages. As everything does count, every member's efforts to undertake the B.O.T.A. work correctly and with dignity, aids towards the enhancement of goodness and positivity in the world's consciousness and atmosphere, even at this early stage. Nothing is lost, everything matters.

Our Procoluter General, Diane Rhodes, currently resides in U.S.A., and together we are in the process of leaving to those who follow us a legacy, and it is hoped that this legacy can be built upon with reverence and goodwill. It would be a wonderful to see more and more souls who are ready take up the Teachings incorporate them into their lives as a living foundation upon which to base every aspect of their life. It is hoped that you, who may be reading this booklet, are one of those fortunate ones.

New Zealand is a safe haven for the work of B.O.T.A. The three temples, each uniquely different and original, provide three Lamps of Light which broadcast out the energies from the Inner School to the Earth and beyond. For we have the responsibility of keeping the purity and preciousness of these precious and exquisite teachings alive as we move forward into the Aquarian Age. We each can stand guard at the door of our own consciousness with what we permit to flow in and flow out. Our contribution to the evolutionary process is far-reaching and cannot be underestimated. Therefore, be ready for change and to change, in order that we may someday stand on the same lofty heights as our Beloved Teachers stand, so we may share with them the healing and wholeness of the One True Self and, in turn, pass that healing onto our Brothers and Sisters in L.V.X.

*Diane Rhodes, Prolocuter General, and
husband Tom*





Top: Rev. Ann's farewell from Auckland, 1969.
Middle left: Paul Foster Case, 1941.
Middle right: Ray Marratt, Auckland Temple.
Above: Rev. Ann and John Stancliffe, Auckland.
Right: Rev. Ann and David Duggan, Auckland Temple.

Glimpse of the Master by Jess (1969)

A chain of gold, a stone attached, A Master's thought, reflected, matched,
A Master's hand had held this thing, A glow of Perfumed Love, 'twill bring.

A Master's mind had fashioned this, A gift, a message, a hope of Bliss,
A Master's mind had thought of One, A Teacher, follower, with work well done.

A stone of amber. No! 'tis gold. A Roseate glow, now seems to hold,
A Master chose this very stone, A Disciple to please, 'twas hers to own.

A Radiant mauve, the Stone now shows, Beneath the symbol, this changing flows,
A Master's secret Symbol . . . 'tis Life-everlasting – This is His.

We felt his presence with that stone, With awe we gazed – withdrawn – alone
On Earth's fair face, this Master lives, We know he loves, and guides and gives
A Master we have longed to know,

Had held this stone a while ago, A Master's message, sweet and sure,
Of Life Everlasting, of life so Pure.

Yes, we will strive to reach this goal, Divine Mastership – Freedom of Soul,
A Master knew that stone would reach Disciples whom his Disciples teach.

A Master guides our lives through those Who teach and have and grow the 'Rose'.
A Master knows our very heart, The way we grow – the scheme – our Part!

A Master 'waits' and sees 'ahead'. 'Gold' transmuted from the 'lead'
He sees the 'past' – The Perfected State Of us. HE KNOWS – and seems to wait.

Note: It was unlike any ordinary stone. It was an instantaneous creation and resembled a large drop of fluid).



Above: Congregation in Higher Thought Temple, 1960's.

The Temple of Sacred Tarot and Holy Qabalah

I am a Qabalistic Temple. I am dedicated to the perpetuation and dispensation of the Holy Qabalah and Sacred Wisdom of the Tarot.

I have an amazing history whose beginning is lost in the midst of time. It is said the angels brought my message to man. For thousands of years the people have gathered to hear the wisdom-religion of the Holy Qabalah and the ancient Tarot.

From within my walls Qabalists go forth into every corner of the world to bear witness of the truth. I am a very old Temple. My Sacred Wisdom is spoken in many tongues, among all races and it is found in many creeds.

I have heard great men weep, and valiant women sign. In my strength young people have found vision and higher horizons. Children learned how to weave love from God into their lives. I have seen civilisations rise like the phoenix, from ashes of older civilisations, only to crumble back into the dust. Through all change I have borne witness to a God who never changes.

I live in many lands and listen to the rhythm of human souls. My hand and heart embrace all humanity. I see no distinction of class, colour or creed. Within my walls there are no barriers to God's love nor our unity in Him. I am intensely interested in the wellbeing of the ill, the unhappy and the lonely. I share with them the healing and the wholeness of the Lord of the Universe.

In me the rich and poor come together for worship and the attainment of the Sacred Wisdom.

Through me, the poor become rich beyond conception and the rich become generous, gentle and humble beyond belief.

People come to me from the separateness of materiality to find the oneness of being. They come from a world at war to live in a world of peace. The world cannot understand this transmutation, nor overcome it. It is a hymn that sings in your heart ... it is the melody of God's word ... it fills every fibre of your being, as you birth to your Self!

I am a Qabalistic Temple in the heart of a great city. I live for the Glory of the Lord of the Universe and the need of his people. The older I grow, the stronger I become.

The Lord of the Universe is my strength and you are the purpose of my existence. I am a Qabalistic Temple. I am dedicated to the Love and Glory of the Lord of Life and to your service. As in the past, so will it ever be. My life and service to God and to you depend upon your life in service to him and to yourself. I leave my future in your hands. **L.V.X. Light is my Witness.**

Sub Umbra, Alarum, Tuarum, IHVH

May You Abide Under the Shadow of His Wings, Whose Name is Peace

