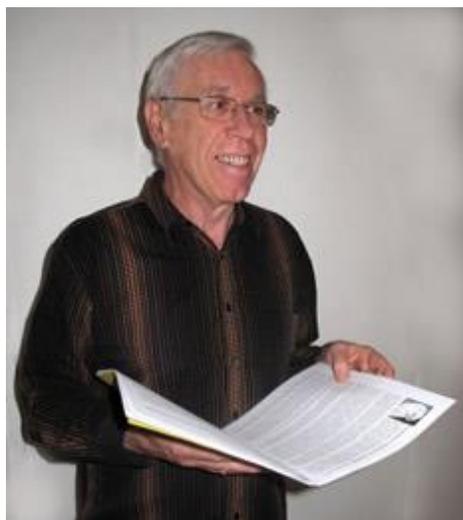


## TOS France - In the Light of Theosophy



*“The TOS does not see its role as peripheral to the work of spreading Theosophical teachings, nor does it see itself as simply duplicating the work of humanitarian groups. The TOS exists to show the world that Theosophy has much light to shed on contemporary issues of concern and can help people find meaning in suffering.”*

These words from page two of our TOS International Handbook have been taken to heart by Mr Michel Chapotin in his role as President of the TOS in France. Over the past ten years, he has organised seminars on such practical themes as: our carbon footprint, a healthy diet, animal suffering, service in our daily life, solitude on

the Path, the spiritual challenge of old age, unmerited suffering, the place of humour on the path of service and spirituality, burial, cremation and alternative funeral services. All these subjects are handled in a theosophic spirit and a folder of relevant writings of leading authors is distributed to participants: H.P. Blavatsky, Col. Olcott, Annie Besant, C. Leadbeater, Rudolf Steiner, Eliphas Lévi, Maria Montessori, J. Krishnamurti, A.E. Powell, Geoffrey Barborika...and selected 21<sup>st</sup> century thinkers. Perspectives in the Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish and Hindu traditions are added when appropriate as well as those of Freemasons, Rosicrucians and Liberal Catholics.

The French TOS's latest seminar theme has been approached particularly creatively as over 60 members and friends of the TOS in France have themselves written thoughtful texts for the large folder published!

**Education and the transmission of knowledge** is the French TOS's latest theme for exploration. Does this theme sound rather intellectual for a TOS group? Surprisingly, the undertaking permitted participants to get to know aspects of each other's lives hitherto completely unknown, to learn of the myriad, highly individual ways, in which they have transmitted knowledge, discreetly and lovingly helping their fellow humans to develop skills and perceptions in widely diverse domains and to move forward more confidently in life.

The folder of texts accompanying the seminar is in two parts. The first is composed of thoughts and theories on the nature of enlightened education by Theosophists and other thinkers. The second contains the thoughts and experiences of 65 members and friends of the TOS in France. We see them endeavouring to share knowledge, lovingly and dispassionately, in the nitty gritty settings of their lives, both professional and personal.

Examples:

- Empathy in the role of the funeral director
- Communication with prison inmates
- Helping others to overcome trauma
- Wordless communication through Reiki
- Widening horizons for hearing impaired children
- All that a simple smile can communicate
- Choosing the right moment to share knowledge
- Trust and respect as fundamental in educational endeavours
- Passing down lifelong knowledge of the medicinal properties of plants
- Teaching the art of living together
- The impact of gratitude toward one's spiritual teachers
- Our influence on our children and grandchildren
- Education as nourishment at all levels
- Apprenticeship of the heart and the eye
- Learning how to teach
- Pilgrimage as a vector of learning
- Facilitating a conscious approach to death
- Non-violent activism for animal rights
- Educating by example
- The precious opportunity of kindergarten work

65 testimonials of human solidarity and spiritual insight! The French TOS's next theme will be "Service: giving and receiving".





