



## MEMBER STORY

*Bob Ochs, FRC*

In 1975, a friend of mine gave me a book by Harvey Spencer Lewis titled *The Mystical Life of Jesus*. I had been ordained to the office of priest in the RLDS church and, at the time, I was questioning how Jesus had become the Christ while supposedly under the tutelage of his carpenter father, as the Bible would have us believe. I read the book quickly and mentally took notes. The veracity of the book spoke to me and, in my zest, I wanted to share this information with the world. When I returned to my hometown several years later, I shared the information with my lifelong friend who was also a member of the priesthood. His response startled me. He admonished me, saying that if the information I shared was not in the Bible or any of the sacred books of our church, then I should not pay any attention to it. His abruptness ended any other discussions pertaining to it, and I suppressed sharing it with anyone, fearing that his closed mind may be typical with most within my church. So I opted to keep to the script.

A restlessness began to build within me and serendipitous events began to occur through dreams, unexpected mail with no return address, and conversations with people I had never met, all of which added more pieces to the puzzle. Through it, I learned about reincarnation, meditation, numerology, and how to interpret my dreams, all of which are not topics of discussion in my church.

I've taken notes over all of these things and feel like I need to write a book about them. I am writing that book now and have referred to that book that started it all. I have overcome my fear of speaking about these things publicly and as I've opened up more and more in answers to questions that I've fielded, I am discovering that there is a yearning among people to know and understand more. I am included among them.

I am retired now, but during my working years, I was a carpenter, a linguist, an aerospace engineer, a home builder, and a university and high school teacher. I speak four languages, including Arabic, Greek, and Spanish. As an archaeology enthusiast, I have been exposed to ancient documents and have participated in a dig in Corinth, Greece. And now, in the latter part of my life, it's time to piece it all together. I am so looking forward to reading and studying the monographs and, as suggested, I will dedicate Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. to be my sacred time for doing so.

I am looking forward to meeting others and trust as I get more involved, those opportunities will be presented to me. Peace be unto you.