



# The Transformer

Inspiration and News

from the Center for Transformational Presence

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## Introducing the Center for Transformational Presence by Alan Seale



For over 20 years I have been writing, teaching, speaking, and coaching in the realm of personal development and transformation. This work has brought wonderful people into my life, cherished friendships, extraordinary travel,

profound learning and growth, and opportunities I never could have imagined. The last few months have been very exciting for me as a new chapter in my life and work has been unfolding. With this newsletter, I am very pleased to announce the creation of The Center for Transformational Presence.

The Center for Transformational Presence is a discovery, learning, development, and transformation environment for individuals and organizations who are committed to making a significant difference in their world. Grounded in the great convergence of ancient wisdom teachings, an unfolding evolutionary consciousness, universal spirituality concepts, and the basic principles of quantum physics, the Center's programs and philosophy are built on the fundamental concept that life is energy in motion. When we partner with the universal laws of energy for creation and manifestation, extraordinary things happen.

**Presence** – how an individual or organization “shows up” in the world, the energetic space that their “being” creates, and the energy that they bring as they meet challenges, opportunities, dreams, and visions.

**Transformational Presence** – a state of being in which one lives, leads, works, and engages in life from a place of profound alignment with their soul, their soul mission or life purpose, and the Greater Consciousness. A part of what creates that presence is a commitment to being a steward for the greatest potential waiting to emerge in any moment, situation, or circumstance, supporting that potential to become manifest. The more authentic and dynamic one's presence, the more effective that individual or organization will be in serving the positive transformation and evolution of our world.

The Center for Transformational Presence offers leadership and personal development coaching as well as courses and training programs in Transformational Leadership, Transformational Presence Coaching, Soul Mission, Manifestation, and Personal Presence. The Center's programs are designed to help participants:

- build a foundation of knowledge and a practical understanding of how life works from a quantum/spiritual perspective

- engage the intuitive mind and the matrix of Consciousness to heighten awareness and discover new ways of listening, observing, thinking, and moving into action
- clarify who they are called to be, what they stand for, and the roles they are called to play in our rapidly changing world
- develop a personal and/or organizational presence that inspires and supports transformation and accomplishment through partnering with potential, aligning energies, and calling forth the best from everyone
- master practical skills and tools that can greatly accelerate the realization of potential, accomplishment of goals and visions, and the evolution of the mass consciousness, contributing to the development of a sustainable world that supports the greater good for all

Through the Center's programs, participants (we call them colleagues) take their next steps in development as transformation agents. As each individual and/or organization claims the gifts they are here to share, steps fully into living those gifts, and supports others to do the same, we are collectively able to serve the greater good at all levels of society – family, community, regional, national, multi-national, and global.

We invite leaders, executives, entrepreneurs, coaches, artists, healers, teachers, forward-thinking organizations – anyone who feels called to make a positive impact in their world – to become a part of the Center for Transformational Presence. To further support our colleagues, we also host several online communities. Each community offers resources and learning opportunities, with some community memberships also including discounts on services and programs, member-only teleconferences with me, and more. Here we hope you will find a like-minded gathering of people with whom to study and learn, share ideas, partner for projects, and continue to refine your own transformational presence.

If you are subscribed to this newsletter, you are already automatically a part of the Transformational Presence Community, our free community available to anyone simply by signing up to receive the newsletter. By mid-autumn our Book Study Community and Transformational Leadership and Coaching Community will be open for membership. Watch for your invitation to become a part of one of those communities.

I extend great thanks to those of you who have been involved in this work with me over the years. Without you, the Center for Transformational Presence would not have come to be. Your openness, love, support, and commitment to both your own transformation and the transformation of our world has brought the work to this new level. Thank you.

Please visit the Center for Transformational Presence and explore the many opportunities for learning, growth, transformation, and community. And when you find something that is calling out to you, honor that call. Join us in whatever way feels right for you as we serve the positive transformation and evolution of our world.

Many blessings,

Alan

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[transform@transformationalpresence.org](mailto:transform@transformationalpresence.org)  
[www.transformationalpresence.org](http://www.transformationalpresence.org)  
(585) 473-9793

# Eighty Years of Grace and Wisdom— Celebrating the Transformational Presence of Jim and Dudley Seale by Alan Seale



In the next few weeks, my parents, Jim and Dudley Seale, will each celebrate their 79<sup>th</sup> birthdays and enter into their 80<sup>th</sup> year. They have been happily together for over 60 of those years. There is much to celebrate about their lives – the many gifts they have given and continue to give to their world, and the tremendous love they share. As I celebrate the launch of the Center for Transformational Presence, it seemed fitting to celebrate them as well, for so much of who I am and what I do has its roots in them. I want to thank them in this public way for the gifts they give to me.

My mother, Mary Dudley Harrod Seale, will celebrate her birthday first. She is the model of Southern grace. From my mother I learned about creating a space of grace and beauty. I learned about being a host and the importance of helping people feel welcomed, honored, and valued. I learned to “look for the bright side” of things and how to “put your best foot forward.” I learned about organizing a house

and about the beauty and texture of fabrics and clothes. I learned about standing up for what is right.

From my mother I also learned about learning – not just education, but about learning from life. I’ve watched my mother challenge her own beliefs about things, stretch herself, and grow, not being afraid to transform her stance on things that mattered. And I’ve watched her gather the courage to speak of those things to others who may not agree. I am so grateful for these ways in which I feel my mother in me now.

My father, James Millard Seale, will enter his 80<sup>th</sup> year a few weeks after my mother. During those few weeks each year that my mother is “a year older,” he takes great delight in reminding her that she is much older than he is.

This past spring, my father, a retired minister, had been invited to preach at a nearby church for the Easter services since they were without a minister. He had been struggling with significant physical challenges, and I couldn’t understand why it was so important to him that he be in the pulpit that Sunday. It was not until later that day, after he had returned home from preaching, that he wrote to me and told me that on that day he had marked 60 Easters as a minister. Then I understood, and was overcome with emotion at what this had meant to him. That is the story of my father in a nutshell. His commitment to his faith and the people he has served in more than 60 years of ministry is unmatched.

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From my father I began my learning about the art of ritual. For him it was about the design of a worship service. For me it is about workshops and lectures. Being by his side during my early years as he designed special services and meticulously cared for every detail of each service and special event taught me about the importance of details and the bigger picture of taking people on a journey through ritual and structure. Even at home, my father is still the master of creating surprise events and keeping big secrets. There is one in the works now, in fact, as he has invited my mother to be ready on Sunday afternoon, September 6<sup>th</sup>, with her suitcase packed for a two-day trip. All she knows is that transportation will arrive in the driveway in the early afternoon and that she should be ready to go. She has no idea where they are going or what is going to happen. That's my father.

Watching him be "called" up the professional ladder and respond to the call throughout his professional life has also had great impact on me, although I've only recently come to realize this. As I look back, I don't recall my father ever focusing much on how to "develop" his career or what the next move should be for professional advancement. Rather, he focused on doing his job well and being the best he could possibly be as a pastor and preacher. Then he simply responded when opportunities arose for taking the next step up the ladder. He always had tremendous faith and trust that his life was being guided and that when the next step was to be taken, he would recognize it. Indeed, many opportunities did come. While I was growing up, he was invited to join the national staff of his denomination. He would go on to serve in two significant national leadership positions in the church, and be recognized internationally for his work. Even today, he still holds fast in his faith and trust that his life is guided and that he will always be alright. My journey has followed a similar path.

My father has a great passion for ideas and learning. He is always reading several books at a time, and is always sending me articles or quotes from books he is reading so that we can have a conversation about them. He is driven to understand spiritual and philosophical concepts at ever deeper levels. This passion, and even the practice of reading several books at once, he passes on to me.

Both of my parents have a great love of travel. They have traveled all over the world. Growing up, travel was always a part of our lives, and we have continued to take trips together at least every couple of years. Because they have traveled to many parts of the world, some of them quite remote, and have spent time with people of different faiths and who live in very different ways, they have a great appreciation for people from all walks of life. My father comes from deep in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, my mother from a tiny farming community in Central Kentucky. Who could have imagined that they would expand their horizons the way they have? They have passed on that great love to travel to far-away places and cultures to me.

Recently my father was asked to write a short entry for a book entitled *The Meaning of Life*, a compilation of writings from retired ministers. The following is what he wrote:

*As I thought about the statement The Meaning of Life, several quick answers came to mind: being able to love others and to be loved, an opportunity to do some good in the world, the enjoyment of God's world of creation, knowing your life is in the hands of God, and others that could be named. Any one of these primary statements could call forth a definitive statement. However, looking back across 47 years in active ministry, I worked to become a better helpmate, parent, pastor, preacher, server of God. My daily prayer was that God would use me*

*to touch the lives of others in love and compassion. When retirement came, that prayer was still a focus on reaching out and touching people's lives as helpmate, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, volunteer, friend.*

*Paul Tournier has a phrase in his writings which I have remembered through the years. He writes about "perpetual becoming" in meaning for his life. I have changed that to a descriptive term one of my dear friends gave to me: "encourager." Our son, Alan, is a life coach and he helps people sort out their lives to develop what he calls Soul Mission. To pick up on his teaching language, I would say the Meaning of Life for me would be "perpetual encourager."*

*Recently, I had a near death experience in which my kidneys were almost at the point of completely shutting down. Doctors worked through the night and a team of 12 - 15 specialists worked with my problems for three days. During that time I was constantly being encouraged in the progress I was making by their reports and by the prayers which were coming in from many loved ones, friends, and even strangers. With this renewed view of life, I intend to work even harder at being a "perpetual encourager."*

*With age and with physical disabilities, life changes but there is the continuing challenge to know the presence of God more clearly, to love others more dearly, and to have an even greater appreciation for God's world of creation. In doing those things I will continue reaching out with God's love to encourage others.*

"Perpetual encourager" – that is my father and my mother both. These days they are the perpetual encouragers for each other as they both have their own physical challenges. Life is not always easy – in fact, some days, downright hard. Yet they lift their heads, look into the new day, thank God for the gift of life, and keep living it to

the absolute fullest that they can. My father continues to keep up with what is happening in the church nationally and internationally, to encourage younger ministers and colleagues, to read and learn, and to create surprises. He's even planning our next trip together to Alaska. My mother continues to host lunches and dinners, do small acts of kindness for people in their community, and bring her great smile and warm heart to every gathering.

Each in their own way, my parents have encouraged me, supported me, loved me, and most importantly, have given me great gifts of themselves. From them I continue to learn about grace and wisdom, laughter and tears, accomplishment and disappointment. They both have found their own powerful presence, and their presence in many people's lives, not to mention my own, continues to be transformational. When my mother enters the room, she brings with her hospitality and heart-felt connection. In my father's presence there is palpable joy, optimism, and love.

So this autumn season as you enter into your 80<sup>th</sup> year, I honor and thank you, Dudley and Jim Seale, Mother and Papa, for carrying the torch of grace and wisdom, love and encouragement, lighting the way for so many of us who come behind you.

# Soul Mission Profile—Marie Josee Smulders

## Finding Grace in Every Day

by Johnathon Pape



When I interviewed Marie Josee for this article, she was spending two months at the house that she and her husband have bought in France. It is far from the nearest city, and even farther from her home and work in Southern Holland. It is quiet and peaceful there in the French

countryside, and, in her words, “it has allowed me to complete the journey home to the essence of myself.” That journey has stretched over several years, through her work as a Dutch-language teacher, and later as a sociologist and counselor. It has led her to a new coaching practice and extensive corporate work with people facing difficult transitions in life. And the journey to her essence took a huge leap forward when she participated in *Soul Mission \* Life Vision* in Holland in the spring of 2007. Her soul mission – *I am heaven on earth* – was affirmed and amplified as she subsequently assisted in two other SM\*LV workshops that Alan led in Holland.

Marie Josee’s soul mission has informed her work since the day she claimed it, but, like many people, she found it easier to be **heaven on earth** in her professional life than in her personal life. Which brings us back to France... “It is easier here to be out of my normal routine and in the silence. People are able to meet soul-to-soul here, and there is space for freedom. Complete surrender to love is a long, tough journey. It

isn’t a free thing. I have to do the work, but now I have the tools. I’ve been reading Alan’s books again to refine my soul and find my own peace. My old beliefs are really dying and I’ve come to the place where I can truly be that **heaven on earth** by claiming my own power. I know that I will have to work hard so that old patterns don’t come back. But I have faith that I can take this back home with me to Holland. Healing is always available for us. We just have to find the space to heal in.”

*Johnathon Pape: Finding the space to heal in and the tools to help you do the work is so important for all of us. I know that you’ve also taken Intuitive Living in Holland, and you even traveled to Sweden to take Manifestation. How has developing your intuition and learning the principles of manifestation helped you live “heaven on earth?”*

**Marie Josee Smulders:** I support myself each morning by meditating. I go to my own place of stillness, and I tell myself, “I love you exactly as you are. I support you unconditionally in this day of beauty in all your power, greatness, and possibilities.” I then ask Spirit, the universe, and the four directions to support me in walking softly on the earth and in opening to the advice and gifts coming from heaven. For me, it is important to be constant. Every morning I get to the stillness. I have to step out of the place of my ego cycle and surrender to love.

*JP: How has knowing your soul mission and living it changed your life?*

**MJS:** Claiming my soul mission and focusing my manifestation moves me forward and lifts me up. I feel supported by the universe and more aligned with my own power and talents. It reminds me to enjoy my lucky moments and paradise feelings. My whole life I was hoping and feeling and waiting to open up to a place of safety and love. I used to do this in forcing – in ego – and now I surrender more to soul and love. This is from Alan. I feel it more in my body. I honor my own soul and that of others and all of our individual journeys. A great lesson for me was that expectation can be very limiting. Now I am able to see the beauty and possibility of all potentials. I can feel compassion more quickly and accept that everybody walks their own path. I can only walk *my* talk, shine the light, and hold myself and others in sacred space, trusting what wants to happen. When I connect with an open heart and create heaven on earth, I can be “magic Marie Josee”.

**JP:** *You have assisted twice in the latest Soul Mission \* Life Vision workshops that Alan has led in Holland. How was it to be part of the process, helping to support the circle?*

**MJS:** It is a great gift for me. Because I’ve done this journey for myself, I know how difficult it can be to open to your own fear and pain. But in holding the circle there is no attachment to the situation – it’s not me – so I can be more objective and neutral in it. I can easily honor that this is their journey. And I can see how the work brings them all to a new place.

**JP:** *Organizations often seek your help when their own support structures cannot help employees who are going through difficult situations, such as being fired or dealing with a family crisis. How does your soul mission help in these situations?*

**MJS:** Well it is a definite way that I live my

soul mission. I don’t approach the situation as a therapist. I just believe in the people. Sometimes you have to just be aware of the pain and walk into it. You have to cry a lot and release the pain and sadness to the light. To help them do this you must believe in them and offer them love and support. It is like the hand of God reaching out to the hand of man in Michaelangelo’s painting in the Sistine Chapel. This image has been a major theme in my life.



**JP:** *That’s not surprising, since it depicts such a wonderful connection between heaven and earth. And how do you keep that connection when you are experiencing challenges, doubts, or setbacks yourself?*

**MJS:** My mother died last winter. I have peace with her and her passing, but it led to a difficult situation with my sister. She had an explosion of frustration and jealousy from the past. At first, I was emotionally shocked by this, because I want peace with her, too. . I tried everything, but the old patterns of aggressiveness and victimization didn’t allow us to come together. I saw that I couldn’t find the solution on a physical or mental level. I had to bring it to a higher level. On that level I visualize us together in love and light. Then the sadness disappears. I have to accept the reality from this moment and be aware that I have a choice for a new opportunity to surrender to what wants to happen.

**JP:** *What is a specific way that your soul mission has come into play recently in your daily*

**life?**

**MJS:** At the end of May I organized a big event between a group of businessmen in Holland and a group of dropout young people. I empowered the young people (who are normally swimming in their own problems and being very aggressive) to give a training to these successful businessmen. The only thing the businessmen knew in advance was where this surprise happening was taking place. It was very much a blank slate for them. The young people developed themselves as trainers through a series of joyful and serious games. After a two-hour session, there was no longer judgment between the two groups. There was really heaven on earth. Everybody was enthusiastic, curious, and listened at a deeper level. They became more aware of living from a place of fulfillment. Afterwards, we had dinner together with a great discussion. There was real communication, listening, and confirmation between the two groups and a genuine longing for a better social community. There will be a fairly big follow-up, and more schools and businessmen are going to participate. The distance and judgment between the two groups can be so big. But if we can bring them together and find common ground, we can see that we are all the same.

**JP:** *What tools from Soul Mission \* Life Vision have been the most useful to you?*

**MJS:** Knowing that I have the power to make a choice, being more aware of my future self, and remembering my final commitments from the workshop – the things that I will say “yes” and “no” to. I have learned the importance of staying with each moment as it comes and that each situation gives you a new opportunity to accept “what is”. Now as I learn my lessons, I enjoy each new step that I choose to take. That is so much more encouraging than my old way of suffering through each step because I was caught in my stories about the past.

**JP:** *What would you say to someone who is considering taking a Soul Mission \* Life Vision, Intuitive Living, or Manifestation workshop?*

**MJS:** Just do it and experience that you can claim much more joy and love and come to those places you never dared dream about. Give yourself the gift of remembering and reclaiming your own authentic power. It will help you step out of the cycle of being manipulated by your ego so you can surrender to love and your soul. I invite everyone to attend a workshop that Alan will conduct in Holland or France. They are such wonderful places for the meeting of souls and getting clear about what our gifts are for the world.



Marie Josee enjoying heaven on earth.