

"You wouldn't believe some of the things that happen in this office. I really get a charge out of some of these people." — Carl Hewitt

Photo by Harry Bishop



AS A MEDIUM, Carl Hewitt calls upon his ability to transmit messages from the spirit world to the physical world. From the Gifts of the Spirit Church and Psychic Center in Cesterfield, he has done hundreds of psychic readings for people throughout the country.

Chesterfield psychic Carl Hewitt

Contacting the spirits to find what others cannot

By MATT KEENAN
Staff Writer

The gift first manifested itself when Carl Hewitt was three years old. But, as a child in North Carolina's Baptist Bible Belt, he was never believed.

By the time he was seven years old, he had visions and heard voices from the "spirit world" and would tell of those experiences. In the best of times, his gift was whispered about behind closed doors, he said. But generally, he was called a "liar, and worse things," he recalled.

"I went through hell with the gift for years," Hewitt, now 56, said. Gradually, as more research was done on psychic phenomena, he became more comfortable with his ability to act as an intermediary between our world and "the spirit world." Today Hewitt, an ordained minister in the "spirit religion," is pastor of the Gift of the Spirit Church and the Psychic Research Center in Chesterfield. While the medium has devoted his life to the workings of the spirit, he said he still does not completely understand it.

Hewitt's center shares the same Route 85 building as the hairstyling salon he owns. The scent of shampoo and conditioner drift to the rear of the building, where the outer office is filled with mainstream bestsellers like Leo Buscalgia's "Personhood," Harold S. Kushner's "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," and Richard Bach's "Jonathan Livingston Seagull."

There are also tomes — "The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ, Reincarnation Through the Zodiac," and books on Indian spiritual beliefs — which may not appear in the ordinary bookstore. Incongruously, a microwave cookbook rests on a file cabinet.

Although he is listed in the telephone directory as a psychic, Hewitt said that all people, to some extent, are psychic. However, he said as a medium he is able to transcend the physical and spirit world, much as those referred to as oracles, seers, and prophets have done throughout history. Hewitt said he is clairvoyant, which allows him to see things from another level, and clairaudient, which allows him to hear from the "spirit or mind's ear."

Hewitt's inner sanctum is dark, with a blue rug on the floor, and another darker rug with geometric patterns on the wall. There are several bookshelves throughout the room and a rack filled with gospel music tapes. On his desk, clean of papers, is electronic equipment: a microphone and tape deck. He "insists" on using the materials to record his readings, psychic sessions performed for those seeking information about lost relatives, guidance, answers to philosophical questions, or analysis of dreams.

For the \$50 sessions, which may last from 40 to 90 minutes, Hewitt enters and "altered state of consciousness." Speaking through the voices of the spirit world, he answers questions the person asks. During the

session, he may move through time; it is something he has no control over, Hewitt said, since he merely acts as a conduit spirit. He holds items — watches, rings, bracelets — which permit him to stay attuned to the individual.

In respect for confidentiality, he does not take the last name of those who have readings. However, he said that 90 percent of those who come for consultations have seen him for years. In addition, they come from throughout the country, he said. Many seek guidance with personal problems, job pressures, and investments. Hewitt has even been asked to perform marriages for people he has done readings for.

"You wouldn't believe some of the things that happen in this office," he said. "I really get a charge out of some of these people."

The cases which offer the greatest challenge and satisfac-

Seeing without seeing

While Carl Hewitt has some precognitive powers, they are not always precise. Far from being frozen in time, his clairvoyant and clairaudient experiences fluctuate from the past to the present and future, he said. Sometimes, however, his meditations evoke strong images of events to follow.

One such case occurred in late 1980, near the end of then-President Jimmy Carter's four-year term. Hewitt said he had a vision of a president — he was unsure of which and of the time period — walking on a city street in front of reporters and photographers. Then, bullets hailed from what appeared to be a television camera and struck the president, Hewitt said.

Several months later, an event transpired in much the same way Hewitt had envisioned it. President Ronald Reagan was shot as he walked from a Washington, D.C. hotel where he just completed a speech. The attempted assassin, John Hinckley, stood in a crowd of television cameramen; thus, the bullets had the appearance of coming from one of the cameras.

Last month, a person came to Hewitt for a reading (anonymously, as always) and, during the course of the session, inquired about an 8-year-old girl who has been missing since November. No mention was made of the state or town the person was from, but Hewitt focused on the name of the child and clairvoyantly saw a motel renovated near a bridge in the Exeter, N.H. area, he said.

The hotel is where the person responsible for the girl's disappearance was staying, Hewitt is certain. While the man is being held on another charge, police have been unable to question him about the girl.

—Matt Keenan

tion to Hewitt are those involving missing persons. He has worked successfully with police departments and private individuals throughout the country, he said.

Recently, he conducted a reading for a New York couple whose teenage son disappeared. For seven weeks, the frantic mother called Hewitt daily, asking if he could help locate the boy. Finally, her husband allowed her to see Hewitt.

Speaking through the boy's grandmother who "went to the spirit world" 20 years ago, Hewitt said the boy was in Tampa, Florida, working on a boat and would call within three months. Ten weeks after the reading, the boy called his parents from Florida, where he was staying with family friends. Hewitt proudly displays the letter from the father — who maintains his skepticism — thanking him for his assistance and reassurance.

Despite the success of these readings, Hewitt said he prefers to work in a low key setting. There are no signs calling attention to the psychic center, since Hewitt said he is busy enough already. A member of the answering service which includes doctors and lawyers, he has been told his is the busiest line. He has no inclination to advertise.

"I wouldn't want to be looking for every lost wallet or set of keys in the immediate area," he said. Hewitt does not perform more than three readings per day, since entering into an altered state requires a great deal of energy, he said. "I do get gratitude in some cases and there are some days, after being in this office, I want to go off into the woods or to the ocean and be by myself."

Hewitt said he speaks through a Tuscarora Indian chief, who acts as his spiritual guide when he goes into a trancelike state. The chief, who lived in the 16th century near Cape Fear, N.C., prevents "mischievous spirits" from breaking through to the physical world and planting false readings.

Hewitt said the ability made him an outcast in his hometown, and his treatment made him feel as if he had a deformity. Dropping out of high school, he moved north, working first in electronics, then in hairstyling. At that point the gift was "almost embarrassing." Slowly, a psychic phenomena became a more acceptable explanation for natural occurrences, he became comfortable with the gift. In the late 1960s, he began making readings. For the past few years, he has committed himself to the readings fulltime.

For the past seven years, Sidney Scharz, Hewitt's assistant and erstwhile critic, has conducted research on psychic phenomena. Last year, he went to Europe, where he visited the birthplace of Joan of Arc (whom Hewitt believes was a medium) in pursuit of material. Schwartz's work serves as the basis of a slide-and-lecture presentation that will be presented in the spring.

Ordained in 1974, Hewitt founded his church in 1977. The church services are conducted weekly in a small basement room. Hewitt said the church, which is non-denominational, draws people from a variety of backgrounds. Most use the services to supplement their own set of beliefs, he said.

"They are looking for something else, something they're not getting," he said.

Through much of history, organized religion and psychics have opposed one another, he said. While most early priests and holy men were mediums, later priests, not blessed with the same ability, branded mediums frauds,

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► Hewitt

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he said. Therefore, they and others who misunderstood mediumship tainted religion with man-made words rather than infusing its spiritual truth, he said.

"They saw the real mediums as a real threat to their livelihood," Hewitt said. "They were afraid they might lose their flock and they might have to get up and get a job. This goes on even today. There

State Indian affairs

The Mashantucket Land Trust's 4th annual Winter Get-together is set for Jan. 19. Edward W. Sarabia Jr., Indian Affairs Coordinator for the State of Connecticut, will be the guest speaker. Sarabia is a former resident of Alaska and serves as liason between Connecticut's 5,500 American Indians and the State government.

The meeting scheduled for Hewitt Hall Congregational Church in North Stonington village, begins with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. To be followed by Sarabia's presentation entitled, "Indian Affairs in Connecticut," at 7:30 p.m.

is a tremendous amount of jealousy even today." Hewitt said that even in the spirit churches, there is some quarreling about the amount of "the gift" one has.

He said the spirit church discard the "labels above the doors" of established churches. Since the church is based on the spirit or mind's energy which is present in all people, it is a purer religion than others, he said.

"I believe that churches should be schools for teaching, not preaching," he said. Hewitt, who noted that mediums in 17th century Salem, Mass., were burned as witches, chuckled at the coincidence of his living in Salem, Connecticut. So far, he said, he has gone unscathed.

Hewitt said that many of the spirit church's teachings are inconsistent with those of popular literature. For example, Hewitt said that, in his lectures, bestselling author Leo Buscaglia stresses that the potential for human fulfillment ultimately comes from the individual himself.

"It's all within," said Hewitt, echoing his church's teaching. "We don't have to reach out to another world because it's all within. We have it in ourselves."