Messages We Need to Hear

Rise Up!
This booklet is devoted to the writings of Martha Smock, who was editor of Daily Word for 33 years and who is truly one of the legendary writers of Unity. Her name may not be as familiar to you as James Dillet Freeman’s, who was a contemporary and good friend of hers, but Smock’s inspiring messages resonate today as perhaps no other. These are messages we need to hear—affirming that we are worthy, divine, and loved inordinately.

Smock grew up in Unity and found a job at Unity Village at 16 to help support her family during the Great Depression. Her life and work brought her into contact with some of the most renowned leaders of Unity, including founders Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. Her story in the coming pages reads like a Who’s Who of the New Thought spiritual movement.

We begin with some of her poetry and move into excerpts from her five books. The messages are grouped according to the most powerful teachings of Unity—the divine within you, prayer, healing, and the creative power of thought. Because we know you will want to read even more, Smock’s final book, Fear Not, has been revived and is available at unitybooks.org.

Although Smock wrote decades ago, her messages are alive with reassurance and inspiration for today’s tumultuous times. We know you will love her as much as we do.

Your Friends in Unity
Listen, Beloved …

Do you hear me? I am speaking to you, not in words but in your inmost heart, in the silence of your soul.

I am the Christ in you.

I speak, yet it is not I but the Father who speaks.

I am the Christ in you, the beloved of the Father in you.

Do you hear me? I am speaking to you now.

I am speaking to you of infinite possibilities that are before you, of wonderful powers that are within you.

I am speaking to you of mysteries of the spirit, of everlasting love, of unending, eternal life.

I am speaking to you of inner reality and an outer realization.

I am speaking to you of greatness and goodness, of dreams fulfilled, of prayers answered, of appreciation of things present, of anticipation of things to come.

Listen, beloved …

I do have faith. I do believe that all things are possible.

I Am Listening …

O loving Christ, I am listening, listening with all my being, listening with intensity of concentration.

I hear Your voice within me, strong and sure and clear, saying:

“I am that in you which never falters, never fails. I am that in you which is strong and steady. I am that in you which gives you strength and courage and overcoming power.”

I hear you, O loving Christ.

I am renewed in faith.

I am inwardly strengthened.

I am filled with confidence.

I expect good and right outcomes to every situation.

I expect difficulties to melt away.

I expect mountains to move aside.

I do have faith. I do believe that all things are possible.

I can do all things through You.

O loving Christ, I am listening …
Martha Smock Still Inspires

By Mallory Herrmann

Martha Smock's legacy in Unity extends well beyond her 33 years of service as editor of *Daily Word*. Having grown up in Unity, she helped share a message of hope and faith with readers worldwide—young and old, religious and agnostic—reminding them of the truth about themselves.

Smock's family was steeped in Unity tradition. When Smock was born in 1913, her mother sent a birth announcement to her friend Myrtle Fillmore, who had founded Unity with her husband Charles in 1889. Smock was raised in Unity, attending its Sunday school and even spending time with the Fillmores. When Smock married her husband Carl in 1935, the officiant was Rev. Ernest Wilson, the internationally renowned author and speaker who was editor in chief of Unity publications at the time.

A Leap of Faith

In 1930, as the Great Depression was wreaking havoc on families nationwide, Smock had just graduated from high school at 16 and was living with her family in Kansas City, Missouri. She and her sister Ruth applied for work with Sears to support their household, but only Ruth was hired. Smock would say later it was divine order that she ended up working at Unity instead, first in the files and then as a letter writer and instructor in the Silent Unity prayer ministry. She later assisted Frank B. Whitney, who had founded a magazine of prayer messages called *Daily Word*.

In 1944, May Rowland suggested that Smock take over the role of editor. Smock, just 30 years old, wasn’t sure she was ready for the position, but Rowland had no doubts. Rowland had been a young woman herself when she was appointed director of Silent Unity in 1916, and she had complete faith in Smock’s capacity to edit the beloved booklet.

Smock went on to serve as editor from 1944 to 1957 and then from 1964 to 1984. The break came when her family moved to Long Island, New York, but they found their way back to Kansas City—and Unity Village—just a few years later. Billie Freeman, who served as *Daily Word* editor in the interim, told Smock she’d only been keeping the chair warm for her.
As editor, Smock sometimes worked from home—a unique situation at the time—using paper files and a typewriter. Her daughters worked with her during the summer while they were in college, typing (and retyping) carbon copies and writing lessons for the magazine. While Stephanie and Kathy were not always eager to help and admit their typing was prone to mistakes, they say their mother typed everything, even personal letters. The only time Smock handwrote her letters was while sitting under the hair dryer at the salon.

When she was working on campus at Unity Village, Smock occupied the office previously used by Myrtle Fillmore herself. Just down the hall was writer and poet James Dillet Freeman in an office that had been used by Charles Fillmore. Smock and Freeman had met during their time working in Silent Unity and became quite close friends. Her daughter Kathy asked Freeman to officiate at her wedding ceremony in 1971, for which he wrote his now-treasured poem “Blessing for a Marriage.”

A Life in Unity
At home, Daily Word was a vital part of the morning routine for Smock’s family. Her daughters recall that they didn’t read the Daily Word; they did the Daily Word. The family would take turns reading the affirmations together at the table before they ate breakfast.

The young Smock family attended Unity Temple on the Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri, and spent plenty of time at Unity Farm. There they shared breakfast picnics on holidays (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day) and dances with Unity leaders who were also great family friends.
Smock loved playing games, especially card games, and always had a deck of cards in her purse. She and her sister Esther raced each other to complete daily crosswords—the Sunday puzzle could get particularly competitive—and whoever finished first made the long-distance call to the other. She was a voracious reader. She knew the Bible backward and forward, but she also loved murder mysteries and the humorist Erma Bombeck. She wanted to read everything, to know what everyone was thinking. During long car trips, she would read stories aloud and recite poetry from memory.

The Legacy She Left

The name Martha Smock never appeared on the masthead of *Daily Word* because all the writers, even the editor, remained anonymous. But she was a frequent contributor of the daily prayer messages and helped the magazine grow to more than 2.5 million subscribers by the time of her passing.

She also published several books, including *Meet It With Faith* (Unity Books, 1995) and *Fear Not* (Unity Books, 1986), which has recently been revived by Unity Books. She was a favorite speaker at events and retreats, both at Unity Village and across the country.

Smock was given an honorary ordination as a Unity minister in 1980. Although she never took any formal classes, her daughters Stephanie and Kathy say almost no one knew more about Unity.

Smock made her transition on July 5, 1984, leaving a long legacy of faith and devotion for those who knew her personally, for the broader Unity movement, and for the millions of readers around the world who still look to the wisdom of *Daily Word* today.
I am going to tell you the Truth about you. How do I know? I know because I know you. You may say, “But you do not really know me … How can you know the Truth about me?”

I know you, dear friend, even though I may not know you personally. I know you as a child of God. I know you as a living spirit sent forth from God. I know you as God intends for you to be known …

Will you listen as I tell you the truth about you? I shall not tell you anything you do not already know. I shall only bring to your remembrance things you may have forgotten. I shall only confirm that which you believe in the depths of your heart …

The truth about you is that you have a great capacity for love … God has given you a heart of love, a heart that does not seek its own, a heart that does not reject or condemn, a heart that
is ready to understand, ready to forebear, ready to forgive, ready to rejoice. By the very nature of being, you are a loving person …

The truth about you is that you are wise. You have understanding, you have intelligence … Your mind is one with the Mind of God. All intelligence is within you to draw upon, to use. Your capacities are not limited by what you have or have not learned in the past. Your capacity for wisdom, for knowledge, for enlightenment is as unlimited as God is unlimited.

The truth about you is that you have all the supply you need … You are one with the source of all supply, you are one with God, and you live in the midst of a veritable sea of substance. The supply is there. You have but to realize it and to ask in order to call it forth. Supply and demand are equal in Spirit. There is no lack in God; there is only abundance, pressed down, shaken together, running over.

The truth about you is that you are happy. Happiness is not dependent on circumstances, on outer conditions. Happiness is a condition of the heart, and God keeps the spark of happiness, of joy, always burning within you. Even in times of grief or sadness, the joy is there deep within you. It cannot be quenched … You are instinctively a happy person, for this is the way God made you.

Yes, I know the truth about you, and I like what I know, for the truth about you is that you are a wonderful person, a living, breathing, healthy, happy, prosperous, wise, loving child of God.

If you had only one day of life, you would try to make that one day count. It would be a day when every moment had meaning, a day when everything and everyone mattered.

In a sense all we ever have is one day: today. Yesterday is gone, tomorrow is yet to be, but right now, this day, at this moment in time, we live …

If you will begin your day with these words from the Psalms it will help you to set up the pattern of your day: “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” [KJV].

How will you rejoice and be glad in this day?

Pray today. Let this be a day when a prayer of thankfulness sings in your heart, when a prayer of faith fills your mind, a day of prayer without ceasing …