



6219 Palma Boulevard #210
St. Petersburg, Florida 33715
(813) 867-3533

February 7, 1993

Founder:

GARY P. POSNER, M.D.

Board of Directors:

GARY P. POSNER, M.D.
TERRY A. SMILJANICH, J.D.
PASCHAL N. STRONG, Ph.D.

Executive Council:

Chairman
TERRY A. SMILJANICH, J.D.
Attorney
St. Petersburg

Vice Chairman
MILES W. HARDY, Ph.D.
Psychology Dept.
Univ. of South Florida (U.S.F.)
Tampa

Secretary/Treasurer
GARY P. POSNER, M.D.
Internist, TBS Report Editor
St. Petersburg

At Large:

JAMES W. LETT, Ph.D.
Anthropology Dept.
Indian River Community College
Fort Pierce

VINCENT E. PARR, Ph.D.
Clinical psychologist
Director, Tampa Bay Institute for
Rational Living, Tampa

Consultants:

MELANIE A. BANKS, Ph.D.
Univ. of Florida Food Science and
Human Nutrition Dept.
Gainesville

The REV. W. THOMAS LECKRONE
Episcopal priest
Hudson

RICHARD MANNY, Pharm.D., R.Ph.
Clinical pharmacist
Tampa

CHARLES R. MATHEWS, M.D.
Asst. Secretary for Health Services
Florida Dept. of Corrections
Tallahassee

JAMES "The Amazing" RANDI
Magician, author
MacArthur Foundation Fellow
Plantation

JACK ROBINSON, Ed.D.
U.S.F. Astronomy Program
Tampa

JOSEPH L. SIMON, Ph.D.
U.S.F. Biology Dept.
Tampa

JOAN STRAUMANIS, Ph.D.
Dean of Faculty, Rollins College
Winter Park

PASCHAL N. STRONG, Ph.D.
U.S.F. Psychology Dept.
Tampa

JERRY L. TOUCHTON
Physics teacher
Brandon

WILSE B. WEBB, Ph.D.
Univ. of Florida Psychology Dept.
Gainesville

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. [Redacted],

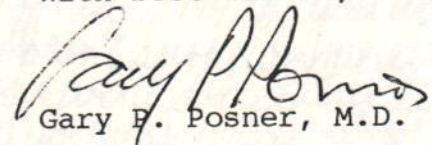
With great difficulty I have managed to work my way through your letter of February 4, written in response to my recent letter in the St. Petersburg Times.

While your letter does express many unusual opinions, and certainly confirms that "mental problems" exist, it does not contain proof of any paranormal phenomenon. We therefore cannot honor your "claim" to our "\$1,000 Challenge."

If you believe that you possess proof of any paranormal phenomenon, you are welcome to write us again (preferably in a cogent, readable style), briefly identifying the specific phenomenon and the specific nature of the proof in your possession. We will then work with you to prepare a binding legal contract specifying exactly what shall constitute "success" on your part in our "\$1,000 Challenge." Should you succeed, the \$1,000 will be turned over to you immediately, as specified in the contract.

As a physician, I feel that I would be remiss if I did not offer to forward your letter of Feb. 4 to TBS Vice Chairman Miles Hardy, a clinical psychologist and university professor, for his professional opinion (I am an internist, not a psychiatrist). Please let me know if you would like to avail yourself of this opportunity, which of course would be at no charge to you.

With best wishes,


Gary P. Posner, M.D.

The full letter fills two sides of a piece of paper 11 x 17":

St. Petersburg, FL 33501
Feb 4, 1993

anybody with an open mind who studies Christian Science & its so-called "miraculous healings" knows very well that it works, the evidence is massive, & unmistakable. Anybody who understands basic logical principles knows that whatever premises you start with are the same conclusions you end with. If you start not believing you end up not believing that naturally, isn't being skeptical at all. One basic problem that ^{many} Christian Scientists have is that they, & others, apparently believe in a "God" out there, external to & separate from people, a "God" that they can "pray" to & receive "healings" from. There isn't any "God" out there. "Miracles" don't exist. People who have "faith" aren't using their brains. There's nothing "miraculous" or "supernatural" about "spiritual healing". There's plenty of evidence that such things occur. The fact that "Disease", "Death", "Evil", "Sin", "Imperfection", "Disorder", "Accidents", "Problems", etc, don't exist was proved in Christian Science over a century ago. Please note that I didn't state that they could be "miraculously & spontaneously healed" - I stated that they don't exist. As Mary Baker Eddy stated, they're "mental problems" - illusions, false ideas, unreal abstractions, trays. Doctors, researchers, etc, have never found a cure for any "disease" - the reason is because there aren't any "diseases".