



Talks in English

Sunday

3 February 2008

With the blessing of
His Eminence, Archbishop Hilarion of Sydney,
Australia and New Zealand,
Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia,
You are invited to a talk by Priestmonk Kosmas entitled:

The “Near-Death Experience”

One can find a large number of books in almost any bookstore or library, some of them bestsellers, on “Near-Death Experiences.” Moreover, these experiences are also portrayed on the Internet, on television, and in films. They relate the experiences of people who have nearly died or who in fact have died and then returned to life. Such people often describe meeting a “being of light” that is full of love and non-judgemental. Accounts of these “Near-Death Experiences” have influenced public opinion on matters relating to death and the afterlife. Many, unfortunately including some Orthodox Christians, feel that this new teaching offers a more enlightened and humane approach towards death and dying. These accounts have even been promoted as a helpful way to prepare the dying for the transition from this life to the next. It is claimed that these accounts remove the fear of death, replacing it with a calm acceptance of, or even an eager anticipation of death and the afterlife.

In these talks, these modern “Near-Death Experiences” will be examined in the light of the teachings of the Orthodox Church concerning the soul after death. Whether we want to or not, each and every one of us will have to meet with death one day. How we prepare for death will determine our eternal future - in the afterlife.

Venue: Saint George Russian Orthodox Church, 15 Garfield St Carlton NSW 2218

At 6.00pm the Akathist for The Repose of Those Who Have Fallen Asleep will be read in English. This will be followed by a memorial Pannikhida (commemoration service for the departed). The faithful will have an opportunity to submit the names of their reposed Orthodox relatives and friends. A booklet containing the Akathist to the Lord for a Loved One Who Has Fallen Asleep will be distributed at no cost to those present.

At 7.00pm the talk will be given in the hall at the rear of the church.

After the talk, there will be coffee, tea, savouries and sweets for those who wish to stay. People are welcome to come to the service, the talk, or both. A bookstall with Orthodox books and CDs in English will also be available.

Next talk: Sunday, 2nd March 2008 at 7.00pm

For more information call: (02) 9558 2207