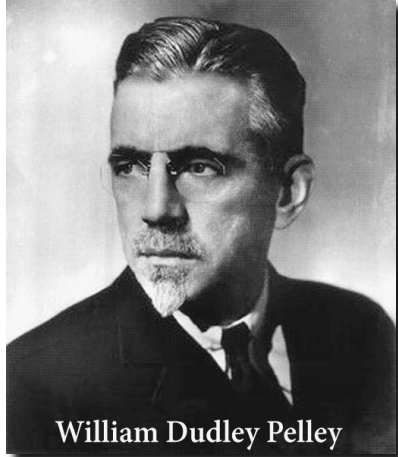


# Overview: Why I Believe The Dead Are Alive

by William Dudley Pelley



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I recently came across this old book first published in 1942. For reasons beyond my conscious thought, I decided to get into it as I am always interested in why people believe in the Afterlife. I was not disappointed, as the author's goal was to provide numerous experiences to prove his point. As I went along, reading chapter after chapter, I became increasingly intrigued with references to an earlier article by Mr. Pelley, titled "Seven Minutes in Eternity," which is a first-hand account of what today would be labeled a Near Death Experience or NDE.

So being an intrepid researcher, I had to purchase that article – now a Kindle book, as well! What I discovered was the NDE described in "Seven Minutes in Eternity" was so powerful that it provided the impetus to entirely change the course of Mr. Pelley's career. Back in 1929, the general public was not aware of NDEs, so if anyone had such an experience, they would be too embarrassed to talk about it for fear of being ridiculed.

Mr. Pelley eventually came into prominence as a writer, winning two O. Henry Awards and penning screenplays for Hollywood films. When his 1929 essay, "Seven Minutes in Eternity" was published in the popular *The American Magazine*, it earned an overwhelming response. In those pre-internet days, people responded by writing letters. He was virtually overwhelmed to receive over 30,000 responses, which caused him to set up shop with two secretaries in an attempt to provide a reply to each letter! (People were very gracious in those days!) This situation caused quite a ruckus at the magazine and caused some of the editors to be fired due to political pressure coming from powerful religious organizations that did not want to lose control of the masses. They also refused to publish any further 'metaphysical' articles, which forced Mr. Pelley to find other avenues of expression.

This NDE event and the aftermath, marked a turning point in Mr. Pelley's career. He began an earnest investigation into all things Afterlife, which included working with an incredible trance medium, George Wehner in New York City, and later with another famous medium, Bertie Lilly Candler, who had the ability to manifest, in 3-D so-called 'dead people' during her seances using something called 'ectoplasm' while she was in a deep trance.

There was a book published back in 1930 titled, "A Curious Life" which is George Wehner's autobiography. Unfortunately it is long out-of-print so I was unable to

obtain it. As William Pelley relates in his book, "George was a commercial artist, about 30 years old, a bachelor who had shown the remarkable faculty of separating his soul-mind from his physical body and handing it over to "disembodied" souls who wished to use his organism for a brief visit to Earth. In other words, he abandoned his own physical mechanism and gave it over to the temporary use of some "dead" person, allowing its spirit-soul to come into it, take possession of it and use it, as though it were his own, thus permitting them to converse with their former relatives or friends precisely as though they had their former bodies restored to them."

One such example provided by Mr. Pelley, concerned a certain Mr. Wehner that allowed a recently deceased (unnamed) famous author to inhabit his body in order to converse with Mr. Pelley about how he was assisting in helping him write from the Other Side!

Later chapters in "Why I Believe The Dead Are Alive" delve deeply into Mr. Pelley's more extensive experiences with the physical medium, Bertie Lilly Candler. She was a Physical Medium that was able to use the process whereby a loved one in Spirit is able to physically manifest within our world, using her capability as a medium. Needless to say this is not at all a common occurrence, perhaps due to the tremendous amount of distraction we have today that they did not have back in the days before television and internet.

The way this works is this: the medium, Mrs. Candler in this case, goes into a deep trance while an assistant plays spiritual records to get everyone synched up and in the correct 'mood.' Then after 15 or 20 minutes, a 'deceased person' known to someone in the audience would appear out of thin air, then proceed to converse with that person and perhaps even touch or hug that person. Fairly incredible, right? Along with the conversation there would be enough proof provided in order to substantiate that the manifested deceased person was really who they claimed. The evidence provided would be things that the medium would know nothing about.

To me, one of the most fascinating spirit persons to manifest in the physical was Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Church of Christ Scientist. The reason she gave was that while alive she specifically railed against Spiritualism and Mediumship and now that she was living in the 'higher octaves,' she clearly saw the error of her ways and wanted to correct that concept... through and with... the assistance of Mr. Pelley. Suffice it to say that Mr. Pelley started a publishing house and indeed did attempt to help Mrs. Eddy to enlighten not only her followers, but also the entire world via all his many publications put out by Soulcraft Chapels.