



## MEMBER STORY

*Anthony Jones, FRC*

As a teenager in the Caribbean about to graduate from high school, I was aware that soon I'd be on my own in this vast, competitive world. Looming was an insecure feeling about myself and the future.

One day while walking to school, I picked up from the gutter a discarded magazine, *Popular Mechanics*, which had printed on the back cover a tiny picture consisting of a lighted candle, an old book clasped with a large lock, a key, and a triangular symbol. It was an ad by the Rosicrucians, about which I was clueless, having never even heard the name, but it was an image that stunned me, as if a deeper part of me recognized something. After reading the text about the inner self and the resourceful mind, I felt deep down that this is it. I realized that this find was no accident. This is my path, my life.

That same day, trembling with anticipation, I wrote to AMORC for the Mastery of Life packet. I was not at home when it was delivered, and my mother, who thought it was a strange-looking envelope, opened it. I remember clearly, she confronted me at the door with the literature in her hands when I returned.

Being God-fearing and concerned, she felt that the contents were dangerous, that I wanted to go beyond what the church was teaching, and, in handing me the package, she asked that it be taken away from the house.

As we lived close to the beach, I went there and read the literature over and over, then sealed them in a cookie can and buried them in the sand. I wanted to become a member there and then. Included was an application form stating the admitted age, and, as I was too young to apply, I became very disappointed. But over the years I'd return to my buried treasure, reread it, and fantasize about being a member.

Eventually, in 1974, at the age of 23, I applied and was accepted as a member. It was the most important decision I've ever made, the adventure of my life. The lessons, easy to understand, gradually introduced me to the marvelous world within and around. Step by step the experiments and exercises helped me to become attuned with to my Inner Self, its wisdom and guidance, and to understand and trust the natural universal laws that supported seeming miracles that opened doors for me. And in time it helped me in finding my real place in life as a visual artist, harmoniously and thankfully.