

How To Use The Power Of Positive Thinking

Science of Mind

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I LEARNED ABOUT LIFE

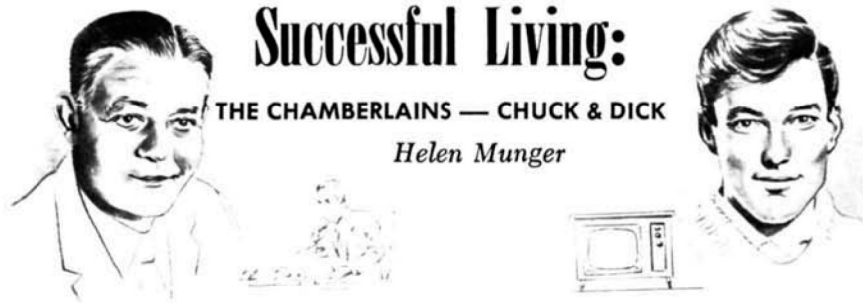
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Right thinking rolls a red carpet in front of you



One of the most promising and admired young newcomers to attain orbit in Hollywood's fabulous galaxy of stars is Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's Richard Chamberlain, TV's popular "Dr. Kildare."

A native Californian, the star grew up in and around Beverly Hills. He attended public schools there as a boy, played football with his brother Bill and other youngsters in the neighborhood, and when his friends did their hitch in Korea, Dick was in uniform too. His flair for acting early found expression in school theatricals. And in the art gallery at Pomona College one of his undergraduate oil paintings is hung permanently. Quiet and unassuming, Dick made bigtime network as a star before most

of his acquaintances even knew he was seriously interested in show business.

To many fan magazines and columnists, the young star is an enigma. In fact, aside from publicity, they audibly wonder just what kind of person he really is. Decent and clean and a credit to the entertainment industry, his success, however, isn't too much of a surprise to those who knew him as a small child. Especially the long time family friends who, along with Dick's parents, Charles and Elsa Chamberlain, shared the early pioneering work and friendship of Dr. Ernest Holmes in his founding of Religious Science. In the eyes of such people, one of the youth's greatest credits is his role as the son of Charles Chamber-

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lain, the man they all admire and fondly call "Chuck." To know Dick's father is to understand the son. To know the long association and friendship of Dr. Ernest Holmes and Chuck Chamberlain is to understand and better appreciate many of the influences which have added their light to Dick's fast-rising star in Hollywood fame.

The closeness of father and son is a tribute to both. While his father's activities are less glamorous and less publicized than his own in show business, young "Dr. Kildare" justifiably expressed pride in his father's contribution to life. Owner of City Refrigerator Mfg. Co., Los Angeles, Chuck Chamberlain is a success in business and as a husband and father. But even greater, in the estimation of his devoted wife Elsa and their two sons, as well as the many men and women who have benefited, is the impact of Chuck's spiritual thinking in a widespread but quietly effective service to others. He is nationally esteemed as a lecturer on Science of Mind and related subjects.

For a special father-and-son interview and talk about Ernest Holmes, *Science of Mind* Mag-

azine recently phoned Chuck Chamberlain to set a time. With humility, typical of both himself and "Dr. Kildare," Chuck quickly ruled out any discussion of his own personal work. "But," he said heartily, "you know Ernest and I were best of friends for thirty-seven years. He was the greatest. I'll be glad to share with your readers the story of our friendship with Ernest Holmes. He knew Elsa and me before we were married, and Dick and his brother from the time they were born."

Just before the day arranged for the interview, Dick Chamberlain unexpectedly was scheduled to fly back East for MGM, to do personal appearances in promotion of his new record album, instead of a holiday at home. However, later caught briefly on the *Dr. Kildare* stage at MGM Studios, between camera calls, he cheerfully, although hurriedly, contributed his part of the interview.

"My time isn't my own, but I'm glad. That's show business," he apologized, and then related, "Dr. Holmes came to our home often for dinner. He spent many evenings with my father and mother. Particu-

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larly," he reminisced, "during the months of my father's injury. I was only about six at that time. Usually evenings my brother Bill and I were sent to bed early. But whenever we happened to be around when Dr. Holmes called, I remember he'd always take time to talk to us about school and baseball, and took a friendly interest in everything we did. Sometimes father and mother took us with them to hear Dr. Holmes when he held services in the Ebell Theater. I recall, he always appeared to me somewhat larger in stature than he really was. His dominant voice and very intense blue eyes particularly impressed me. While in Korea, I sent back home for the autographed book of his lectures which he had given me. Dr. Holmes was a remarkable person and a very good friend to our family." Pausing for a second, he turned away to answer the director's signal; but before leaving, hastily concluded, "You know, my father, too, is a wonderful man."

Chuck and Elsa Chamberlain live in a beautiful many-windowed modern home on a secluded hilltop site overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

"Chuck and I always

dreamed someday we'd have a home like this," Dick's mother remarked on my arrival for our interview. Youthful and trim of figure and admitting her recent sixtieth birthday, Mrs. Chamberlain is a proud wife, mother, and grandmother. Ever thoughtful of others, strategically she seated me for our visit where I could have fullest benefit of the beautiful and literally breath-taking view afforded through the unobstructed front picture window. "We love it," Elsa commented. And then she confided, "Five years ago we found this house already built just as we dreamed it, and Chuck bought it." Sun tanned, wiry, and enthusiastic, Chuck Chamberlain, just home from several strenuous hours of outdoor bowling on a nearby green, came in to join us. Athletic and with the same wonderful smile as his son, Chamberlain is an older "Dr. Kildare."

"Ernest Holmes was the greatest," Chamberlain reaffirmed fondly as he started to tell about his long close friendship and association with the internationally respected spiritual leader. "I first heard him speak at the Embassy Theater in Los Angeles in 1922," he re-

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called. "Elsa's friend, Mrs. Waldsmith, previously had been going regularly to his lectures. She was one of Ernest's first students. Well, on this occasion Elsa and I had a date so she invited us to go too. Elsa and I both liked what we heard. We liked Ernest and continued this interest. We took class instruction. In fact," he enlarged, "I was one of the few invited by Ernest to attend his personal class in preparation for the Religious Science Ministry. He wanted me to become a minister and I suppose in a fashion I have.

"Ernest and Hazel had us frequently at their home in Culver City in the early days. We attended what was then called the Institute, and for years were closely associated there with Don Blanding, the poet, John Hefferlin, Adela Rogers St. Johns, the writer, and the wonderful people then actively interested in Dr. Holmes and his teachings. Georgia Maxwell, now a Religious Science teacher and practitioner, was another friend Elsa and I made. Her brother Hoagy Carmichael and I are close friends and were Kappa Sig fraternity brothers at Indiana University.

"There is no way to evaluate my experience with Ernest in our thirty-seven years of association," the philosopher's good friend stated. "In our discussions, which the two of us had many times, there was no point of departure. We were as one in our thinking of life, its origin, and destiny.

"In class instruction and in the first edition of his textbook, *The Science of Mind*," Chamberlain pointed out, "Ernest originally used a lot of charts. However, I observed as the years went by, his presentations became simpler and simpler. He was a tremendous student. He read everything he could get his hands on. In the first years I knew him, I noted he was so scientific in his lectures he seemed cold as a cucumber. I learned this was deliberate to help get rid of the superstitions, and the emotional hysteria often attached to love and religion. The longer Ernest worked with these ideas, however, the more outgoing he became. Like all truly great men, the more he learned the more simple became his teachings.

"Ernest lived the Science of Mind philosophy he taught. To him, it was one of giving, not one of getting. I believe he was

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the 'givingest' man I've ever known. He always found time to help where he was needed. He was very spiritual but down to earth and very much a human being. He was always compassionate and understood people and their problems. He talked with them at the level of their own language. Some of his most effective prayer treatment work, which few knew about, was with alcoholics," Chamberlain disclosed. "Frequently he referred such persons to Alcoholics Anonymous. He had great respect for their work. Ernest often said one of the greatest examples of Christianity today is found in AA."

For three years every Friday night Chuck Chamberlain conducted "Clinic of Life" which he originated as one of the numerous activities of the Institute of Religious Science. "It was a wonderful experience and clinic," he related. "For three years every Friday night, I met with from 100 to 125 men and women to discuss problems and find the answers. This I've found is a giving life," he informed. "The law works all the time. Whatever I pour into the stream of life comes back. The more you pour out, the more you have. We can't

plant radishes and get cucumbers. Never pour into life anything of which you do not wish to partake. Science of Mind," he explained, "is a philosophy for living in every area of life — home, family, and business. For forty-three years I lived to get, and had very little. For the past sixteen years I have lived to give and find I have infinitely more. As one result of this thinking, now I own the business where previously I worked and from which I was once fired.

"I recall particularly two serious emergencies," Chamberlain went on, "when we called Ernest as our practitioner for prayer treatment. One was the time our son Bill had pneumonia. Of course, you know Ernest always would work with doctors. Bill was a very sick little boy and our doctor was concerned that he might not live. Ernest started treatment. To the astonishment of the doctor who was of a different faith, Bill almost immediately recovered. Our doctor was so impressed with what seemed a miracle to him that he refused to charge us. Christmas he sent us a bill marked paid. He said we owned him nothing because no doctor had had anything to

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do with the boy's recovery."

Prior to coming to California in the '20s, Chuck Chamberlain, a husky star football player, injured his leg in a game. "It didn't heal," he said. "I was in the hospital for quite a period. The bone became infected and though I suffered the ordeal of bone scraping nothing seemed able to help. Finally, the doctor said all he could do was amputate my leg. Well, I refused. Life for me seemed ended so I just decided to get away as far as I could from Indiana and as they say, 'go west.' I came to California on crutches. For a period, when I had decided to let go and let God help me, the leg was all right. Then in 1928-29 came the time when probably without question Ernest Holmes was the instrument through which my life was saved. The leg with the football injury was hurt over again at this time, and it was very rough going. I became very despondent. There was the same old excruciating pain and old con-

dition of the infected bone. For three months I was in bed. Every evening during that period Ernest came to see me on his way home. He would stay beside me, talk and laugh and then give a prayer treatment. Finally, Ernest suggested, 'We could go on with this, but I'm sure that leg is full of pus. I don't think there is any sense letting it go. Call a doctor and let him lance it.' So, without further hedging that's what was done. The leg got perfectly well. I haven't had any trouble with it since. Knowing Ernest Holmes, I learned our lives are spent in a world of miracles and we see people reborn all the time before our eyes."

On leaving, Elsa proudly showed me the flyleaf of one of the books written by Ernest Holmes. It bore this inscription: "Jan. 1929. To Charlie Chamberlain, my best of friends and fellow student and teacher of The Way, The Truth, and The Life, with the best wishes of Ernest Holmes."

*I Breathe a prayer of gratitude for life,
For all that I have learned and comprehend;
And blest indeed am I if I have earned
The kind regard of an enduring friend.*

— Harold G. Hopper