Readers' Letters

In each issue we will give £10 to the author of the letter we find most interesting.



Medical doctor 'deeply upset' by attempt to debunk Stephen Turoff

I was deeply upset by a

Channel Four documentary

in the late 90s that attempted

to debunk Stephen as a

charlatan. They failed to try

and answer why hundreds of

people were so desperate to

see him, and why he charged

only £20 for a treatment.



The article about Stephen Turoff (Issue 4107) prompts me to share my own amazing story with your readers.

In 1997 while working as a full time GP and partner at The Vineyard Surgery

in Richmond, London, I heard about Stephen through a friend in a meditation circle I was then attending.

My wife Lynne developed abdominal pains which had her GP baffled. The next step would be referral to a hospital surgeon with a view to Laparoscopy (a procedure to examine the abdominal cavity with a telescope).

I had an intuition to take her to see Stephen at his healing clinic in Chelmsford.

In all he saw her three times at four-week intervals. What I saw was a physical miracle

that even today I cannot make sense of. The first time I stood four metres away, the second time closer and the third time I asked Stephen if I could stand by the side of the couch. He said 'Okay, but on condition that you do not try to understand what you see."

He had a number of sharp-looking scissors, which he picked up. His fingers and the scissors seemed to disappear into my wife's tummy. Snipping and plopping sounds occurred and Stephen seemed to be taking stuff out and throwing it into a wastepaper basket with a Tesco's carrier bag lining it. I could not see any physical contents in the basket although I heard them falling in!

My wife felt no pain but described being 'operated on' as a sensation which was peculiar but not unpleasant.

At each 'treatment' she had a three- inch red line on her lower

abdomen - like a healing scar - which disappeared after two days.

After the third treatment Stephen pronounced my wife 'cured' and

said he would not need to see her again. And indeed my wife's symptoms disappeared and have never returned.

In the late 90s I sent at least a dozen patients from my practice to see Stephen, and heard some amazing stories.

Another curious phenomenon I witnessed was the materialisation of vibuti or sacred ash on the large picture of Satya Sai Baba which hung in Stephen's waiting room.

This is a very well-documented phenomenon associated with devotees of this Indian saint, who passed to spirit a year ago. An ash-like substance appears from nowhere and congeals in blobs on this saint's photograph. Devotees avoid touching it and look upon it as a 'guru's blessing' on their family.

I was deeply upset by a Channel Four documentary in the late 90s that attempted to debunk Stephen as a charlatan. They failed to try and answer why hundreds of people were so desperate to see him, and why he charged only £20 for a treatment.

Dr Lorenzo da Costa.

MBBS, DLO, LRCP, MRCS. Retired G.P., Richmond