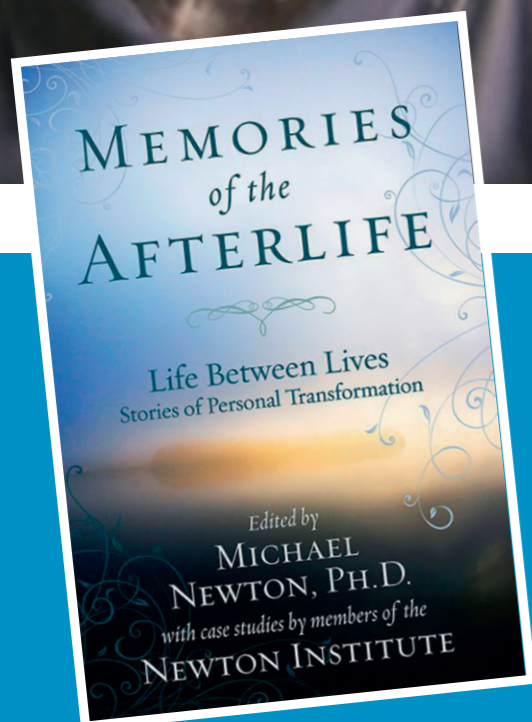


## SPIRITUAL PIONEER

## Dr Michael Newton enters 'Life Between Lives' that he explored for its therapeutic potential

*Peter Smith, president of The Newton Institute, pays tribute to a pioneer who opened the door to the afterlife for so many*



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His best-selling books have now been translated into over 40 languages... He has brought hope and inspiration to millions of people who have been reassured in times of grief when losing a loved one

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EVERY generation has a handful of thought leaders who fundamentally change the way we see the world and our place in it. Hypnotherapist Dr Michael Newton, who passed to the spirit world on 22 September, was one of those people.

Over a period of 35 years, Michael collected an abundance of mind-blowing cases of people moving, via deep hypnosis, into the superconscious state to explore the spiritual realm.

He left the growing interest in past life regression behind, to create a methodology that allowed a deep and detailed exploration of the inter-life, a place he called "Life Between Lives" (LBL).

In short, he interviewed people in their soul state about what they encountered there. The result was the unfolding of incredible cases of meetings with spiritual guides, with the Councils of Elders to plan the purpose for the current incarnation, and reunions with Soul Group members, with whom we incarnate regularly.

He worked by himself for decades, as a way to ensure he wasn't influenced by others and that he had a robust and pure body of research on which to draw base findings.

Of deep interest to Michael was that regardless of a client's cultural heritage, beliefs, age, profession or educational background, they each reported incredibly similar experiences.

In Michael's first book, *Journey of Souls* (Llewellyn, 1994), he presented his work to the public for the first time. It launched at the Book Exposition of America and book signings were then organised in California and, for the next eight years, he travelled around the USA, Canada, the UK and South Africa making presentations at New Age conferences.

At one lecture, a member of the audience rose to his feet and demanded: "This simply can't be true! How many cases have you done?"

Michael replied simply and truthfully: "Oh, around 7,000". The fellow sat back down without further comment.

When the Paramount TV programme *Sightings* featured Michael's work

and the testimonies of two of his patients in 1995 it was viewed by a estimated audience of some nine million people. That number more than doubled with reruns.

He subsequently embarked on a world lecture tour which included meetings of the International Institute of Integral Human Sciences in Montreal, Canada, and Aquarius Rising Communications in Johannesburg, South Africa, where the audiences numbered around 2,000. The assembled groups were stunned by the breadth, depth and robustness of his work.

In 2001, Michael started to teach others, so that the work could expand, and he ran early training sessions under the sponsorship of the National Association of Transpersonal Hypnotherapists in the USA.

The following year, he realised that an organisation was needed to support his work and, together with a few colleagues, founded the Society for Spiritual Regression (SSR) and became its first president. Under this new organisation, dedicated to the art and science of his creation, Michael continued to teach.

The SSR evolved into The Michael Newton Institute for Life Between Lives Hypnotherapy (TNI) in 2005 when Michael refounded his organisation with the help of an advisory group of dedicated LBL therapists. These advisors insisted the new organisation be named after its founder and Michael finally, reluctantly and with humility agreed.

Even though he had opened the door to the afterlife for so many people, he always remained a reflective and private person, more comfortable on his mountain hikes than in the limelight of the emerging spiritual movement.

Since those early days, TNI has prospered and grown. There are now over 200 LBL therapists offering these deep and powerful sessions in around 40 countries. New avenues of research are being explored and our education team continue to run international trainings around the world every year.

The life purpose of one man has now become the collective purpose of many. This transition was most evident, back in 2009, with the publishing of *Memories of the Afterlife*, the fourth book in the LBL quadrilogy – this time bringing forward cases from the TNI LBL therapist network, though still lovingly collated and edited by Michael.

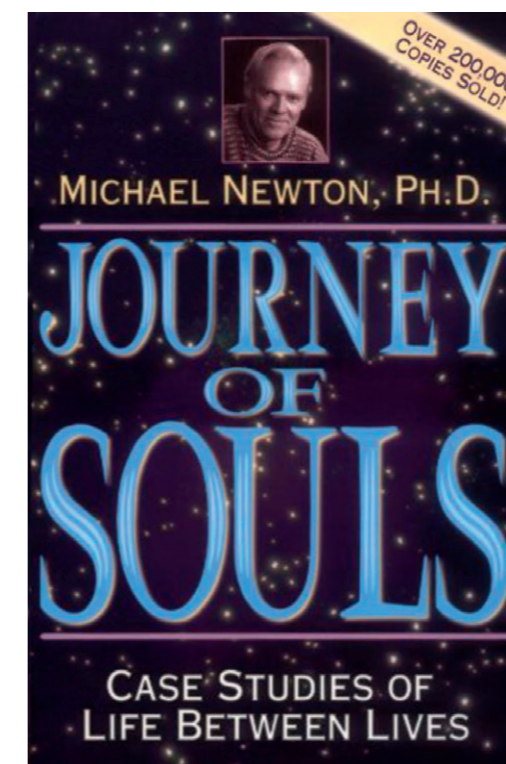
In 2015 it took one step further with the publishing of *Stories of the Afterlife*, the TNI quarterly on-line journal which shares the latest findings in this incredible field of work and offers inspiring LBL client stories from around the world.

His best-selling books have now been translated into over 40 languages. Every day we receive correspondence from around the world, saying how he has touched the lives of people whom he has never met. Michael has brought hope and inspiration to millions

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of people who have been reassured in times of grief when losing a loved one, discovered their deep and profound purpose for this lifetime, or simply released the uncertainty of death for themselves.

But what of the man who brought this work to the world? I'm often asked what he was like and what was important to him.

I can tell you he was much like the rest of us, which shows that the world of spirit is within reach of us all. He was a man of great wisdom, good humour and deep humility. When he taught, he would tell stories about clients that would have you moved to tears in one moment and rolling on the floor laughing the next. He was a man who could hold the attention of a group and time would simply disappear.

Even late in his career, he would spend days preparing his lectures looking for a new angle or interpretations on an old case that supported more recent trends emerging. His intellect was one of the most powerful I have ever seen, so broad in its reach and so deep in its reflection.

One of the things I most learned from Michael was his strong stand on the integrity of being an LBL therapist. He always encouraged us to keep the ego in check and that our facilitation of LBL sessions for clients carried a sacred trust. Many have now replicated his work or claimed association with him, though he remained firm and only supported those trained by his own organisation who operate under a strong spiritual code of ethics.

The Newton Institute and its members are now the custodians of Michael's legacy for humanity and his contribution to the evolution of human consciousness lives on in us.

In all the wisdom I've heard from Michael over the years, I remember two statements well. The first came in a

conversation about a year back when he said to me: "People need to understand that the spiritual realm is their true home that they will return to, not a place that has to be earned."

Whilst Michael had studied the history of all the better known religions, he had no appetite for any aspects of religious doctrine that robbed us of our magnificence. In my last conversation with him, he stated simply a summary of his life's work: "We have something to offer people, in terms of personal meaning, that they can't get elsewhere."

Our founder of Life Between Lives Hypnotherapy has returned to the spiritual realm. His role as a sacred ambassador for spirit is complete for now, though we still feel him with us, lovingly guiding and supporting us still. ■

*Peter Smith has been president of The Newton Institute since 2009. More about The Newton Institute, its research journal "Stories of the Afterlife" and a listing of certified LBL therapists, can be found at [newtoninstitute.org](http://newtoninstitute.org)*