

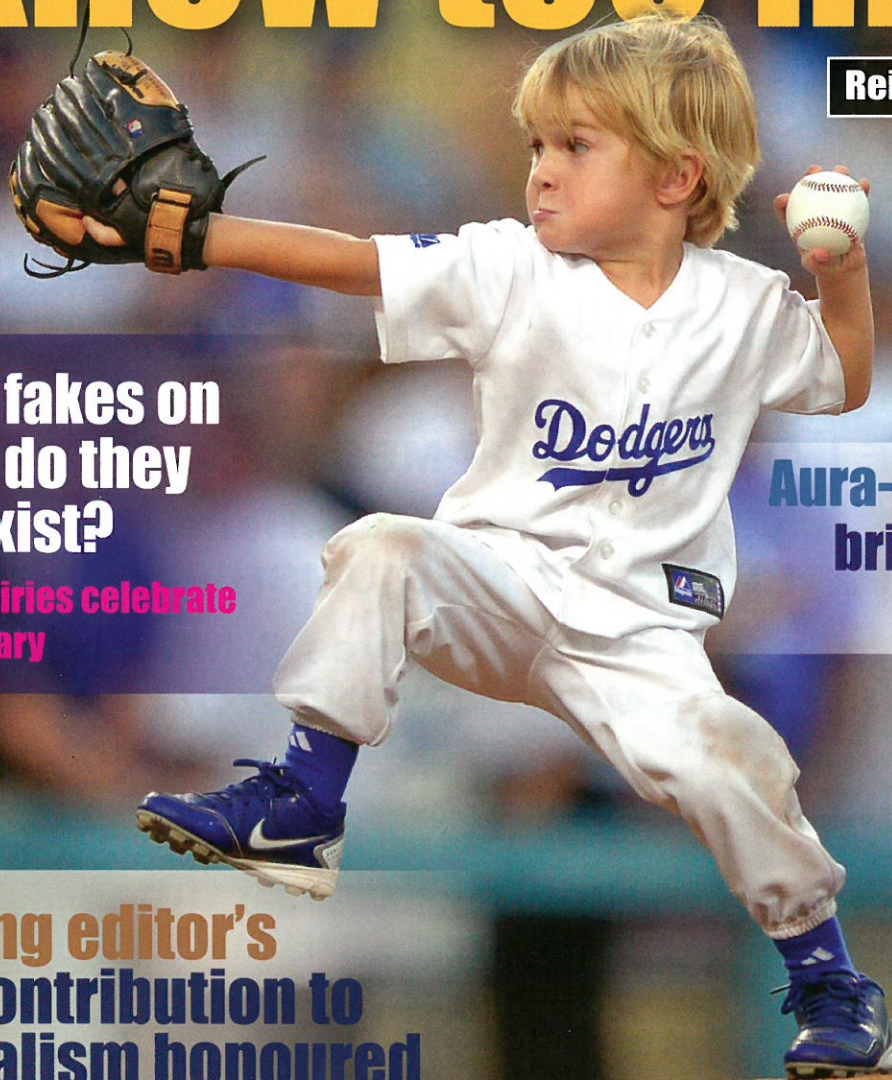


# PSYCHIC NEWS

DEVELOPING YOUR MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

## The boy who knew too much

Reincarnation Special



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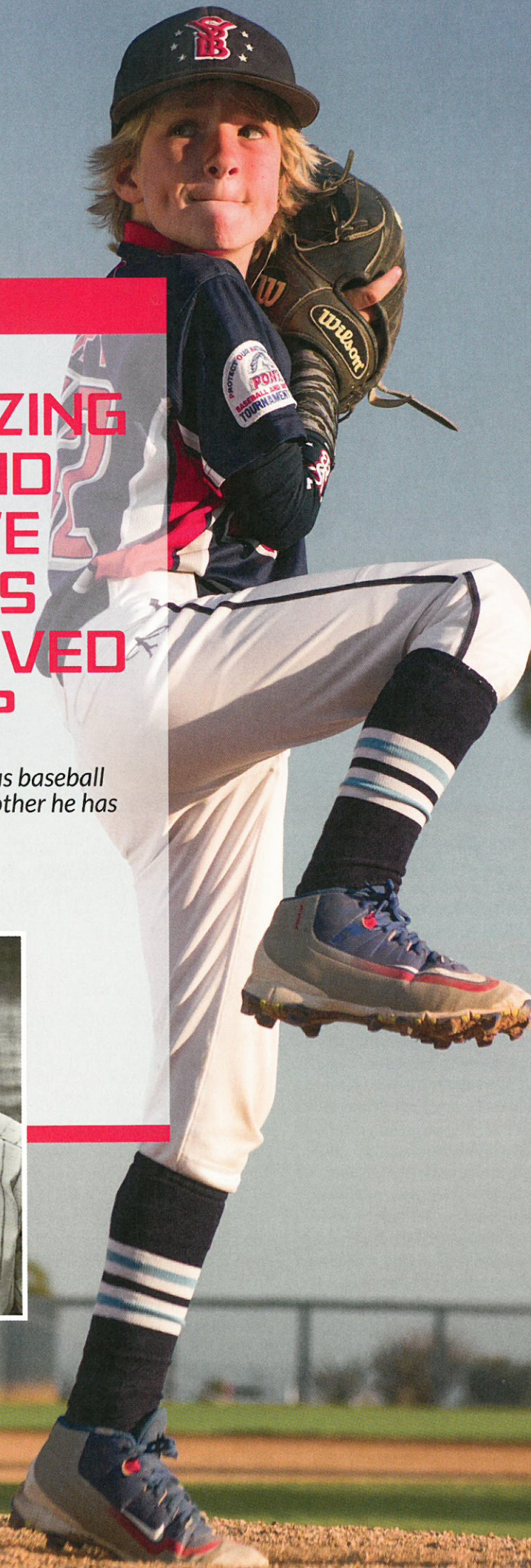
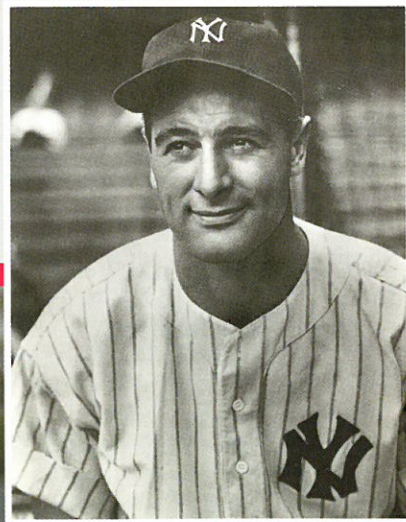
Eight-year-old Christian on the pitching mound in September 2016 (Photo: Michael Coons)  
Below: Lou Gehrig, the baseball star whose life he recalls (Photo: National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, New York)

## REINCARNATION

# DO HIS AMAZING SKILLS AND ACCURATE MEMORIES PROVE HE LIVED BEFORE?

Youngster remembers being famous baseball player Lou Gehrig with the same mother he has in his present life

By ROY STEMMAN



FAME seems to have followed a cute dimple-faced Californian youngster from one incarnation to another.

Christian Haupt was a YouTube sensation at the age of five, when a video of him playing baseball – recorded two years earlier – attracted five million viewers. He was seen, in a clip posted by his mother, pitching a ball with all the skill of a seasoned professional. The total views now exceed 14 million.

He was so skilful that actor, comedian and film producer Adam Sandler signed him up for a cameo appearance in his comedy movie *That's My Boy*. Before long, in 2012, he was throwing a ceremonial first pitch at Dodger Stadium, the home of the legendary Los Angeles Dodgers.

In doing so, Christian made baseball history. The team, winners of six World Series titles and 21 National League pennants, had never extended such an invitation to a kid before, but he took it all in his stride. The 30,000 spectators cheered with delight. He had celebrated his fourth birthday only a few days earlier.

Most would have assumed that his ability had been encouraged by an enthusiastic baseball-loving father, but this is not the case. Having been born and raised in Germany, Michael Haupt was typically uninterested in baseball, which has been the USA's "national game" since the 1850s. He did nothing to encourage his son.

Christian didn't need encouragement. From the time he was old enough to stand unaided he was determined to play the game and to wear the typical baseball uniform – even at school. His parents and elder sister had little choice but to participate as he constantly threw the ball at them indoors and out.

Even at a tender age he seemed aware that this impulse to play baseball rather than watch TV or do other activities needed to be rationalised and so, when driven by the urge to pick up a bat or a ball, he asked his parents and sister to call him "Baseball Konrad" – an alter ego he had created for himself using his middle name.

But then something stranger happened. Christian began talking about having been "a tall baseball player" in a previous life or, as he put it, "in the old days".

His mother, residential real estate agent Cathy Byrd, tells this astonishing 21st-century story of reincarnation in *The Boy Who Knew Too Much* (Hay House, Inc, 2017), a fascinating book that will soon be the basis of a movie that is currently at the scripting stage.

Slowly, Christian added new pieces to the puzzle, particularly when viewing



Three-year-old Christian warming up for his ceremonial first pitch at Pepperdine University in May 2012 (Photo: Ed Lobenhofer)

old photographs of the Dodgers. On one occasion, he remarked to his mother, "I was a tall baseball player – tall like Daddy." On another, confronted by a 30ft-high portrait at Dodger Stadium of baseball player Babe Ruth, Christian declared: "I do not like him. He was mean to me."

Byrd, who has a strong Christian faith and attends a Lutheran church, and her husband struggled to understand what was happening. "How could a toddler have an emotional reaction to a portrait of a man who had died half a century before his birth?" she asks her readers.

She had sought an answer from a pastor who was also a friend but, without saying so in as many words, he implied that Christian might be possessed. That wasn't a view Cathy accepted, particularly when her son's statements soon became more

challenging and provided further evidence that he knew things about people that he could not have known normally and at an age when he had yet to learn to read.

She turned to counsellor and therapist Carol Bowman, author of *Children's Past Lives: how past life memories affect your child* (Element Books, 1997), who specialises in the study of reincarnation cases involving youngsters after personal experiences with her own son and daughter.

Carol advised Cathy to obtain some old photographs of George Herman "Babe" Ruth – regarded by many as "the greatest baseball player who ever lived" – and others who played with him between 1914 and 1935. At the height of his fame he played for the New York Yankees. Perhaps seeing those images would jog Christian's memory about why he didn't like him.

One evening, just before bed, Christian repeated something he often said: "Babe Ruth was not nice, Mommy". It was the right moment for Cathy to produce a photo of the 30-strong 1927 Yankees team.

She handed it to her son without saying a word. Instantly, he pointed to one, saying, "There's dumb Babe Ruth". He was correct.

When Cathy asked him gently if any of the others didn't like him, without hesitation he pointed at a stocky guy with big dimples and said confidently, "Him!"

"Do you know him?" his mother asked. "That's me," he replied.

She pulled out other pictures of players, asking Christian each time which ones didn't like Babe Ruth. He pointed to the same stocky player in every case. The man he had identified as himself in a previous life was Lou Gehrig, a formidable first baseman who won multiple awards and titles and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939.

Interestingly, both Christian and Gehrig have a German heritage, physical



Lou Gehrig gives his mother, Christina, a hand with the dishes. She was his biggest fan and he lived at home during the early part of his early career



similarities, are left-handed and, of course, have a passion for baseball.

Gehrig's name lives on to this day, outside of baseball circles, more than three-quarters of a century after he announced his retirement from the game in 1939. His physical health had seemed poor and those around him noticed that his speed and coordination had deteriorated. After six days of tests the Mayo Clinic diagnosed amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), an ever-worsening condition. He died within three years and to this day the condition is often referred to as "Lou Gehrig Disease".

Both Gehrig and Ruth were New York Yankees players. Their greatest rivals were the Brooklyn Dodgers. After Babe Ruth's retirement in 1935, he became first base coach of the Dodgers, which moved from New York to California in 1958, becoming the Los Angeles Dodgers – hence the large picture of him at Dodger Stadium.

Choosing the moments carefully, on later occasions Cathy asked her son questions about people in other photographs she had obtained, including a picture of Lou Gehrig's parents, Heinrich (known as Henry) and Christina. She asked him to confirm their names, giving two false ones for each to begin with and then the correct name. He said "No" to the first choices and "Yes" to the third option in each case.

Then, staring at the photo, he asked, "Why weren't you there then, Mom? I like you better."

Then, to Cathy's astonishment, he pointed at Christina and said, "Mommy, you were her."

At this point, this very readable book could easily move swiftly to its conclusion by quoting an abundance of other information provided by the young baseball addict that unexpectedly proved to be right – including why Gehrig and Babe Ruth, once the best of friends, had fallen out and had never spoken to each other off the pitch for many years.

But Cathy Byrd, intrigued by her son's claim that she had been his mother in his past incarnation as well as in his current life, takes this intriguing reincarnation story to another level by undergoing hypnotic regression to see if she can recover memories of that existence.

Remarkably, she does. And they confirm what Christian had claimed. She shares with the reader her own concerns that the research she did into her son's past-life memories of being Lou Gehrig may have implanted information that her subconscious used in the regression sessions. But she made statements and described situations, scenarios and



Cathy Byrd and son Christian with framed Lou Gehrig photo in Tampa Bay, Florida, July 2016

relationships about which she could not have read but which proved to be accurate.

Part spiritual quest, part detective story, part child psychology and part travelogue, *The Boy Who Knew too Much* is compelling reading, regardless of whether you are a baseball fan or a believer in reincarnation. As the story develops, Byrd takes us to the homes in which Gehrig lived and meets with people who had known him and his parents and are able to confirm information she produced during her regressions.

Above all, the book shows that cases suggestive of reincarnation are not confined to Asia or countries where rebirth is widely accepted.

Those who have taken an interest in the case include Dr Jim Tucker, Bonner-Lowry Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioural Sciences at the University of Virginia (UVA), who is continuing the work of Dr Ian Stevenson at the UVA Division of Perceptual Studies with children who report memories of previous lives.

He visited Christian and asked him pertinent questions as he played baseball with him. Here's how the dialogue between them played out, as seen through Cathy's eyes:

"Do you remember how you died?" Jim asked Christian.

I'd never asked Christian about dying

before, so this was brand-new territory for me. Christian's response shocked me even more than Jim's question. In a matter-of-fact tone, Christian replied:

"My body stopped working, and I didn't feel anything."

"Then what happened?" Jim asked.

Christian threw a tennis ball against the wall above our staircase, dove across the floor to catch it, and replied, "After I died, I became Christian."

Christian threw another ball, dashed over to the landing to retrieve it, and then said out of the blue, "I picked her to be my mom, and then she got old."

"When did you pick her?" Jim asked calmly.

"When she was born."

"Do you remember where you were when you picked her?"

Without hesitation Christian said, "In the sky."

Dr Tucker's book, *Return To Life* (St Martin's Press, 2013), incidentally, contains a case he investigated with striking similarities to that of Christian Haupt. It concerns a boy he does not identify who claims to have been a famous 1920s golfer, Bobby Jones.

Neither of his parents was interested in golf but he developed a passion for it and by the age of seven had won 41 out of 50 junior golf tournaments, including 21 in a row.

I spoke to Cathy Byrd on the day she was signing off the deal with 20th Century Fox to make a movie based on her book.

"The interesting thing they're going to do is make it a Christian faith-based movie," she told me. "That's amazing because it's hopefully going to open a lot of people's minds to the concept of reincarnation by showing that it's not taboo."

A pastor is quoted in her book as suggesting that what she and Christian experienced were not memories of an actual past-life but were a "channelling" of the information. How does she feel about that explanation?

"You know, I've kind of combined the two. I feel until we all die and find out the answers, none of us really knows. So I haven't really clearly defined it. But when I speak to my son about it I always speak of it as reincarnation because I don't want to not validate his feelings."

The "channelling" theory might apply to some cases involving past-life memories but it would certainly not explain the huge number investigated by Dr Ian Stevenson in which children are born with birthmarks or birth defects, such as missing hands or parts of a leg, that coincide with damage caused in their previous lives, often at the moment of death. ■