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*'To Whom Shall He Speak Knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine...?'*

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry, *teaching, informing and equipping* the church.

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## Editors Comments

*We are living in amazing times.* Less than a decade ago I would have been simply staggered if someone told me that in the new century we would see the Lutheran church join hands with Rome and compromise Luther's stand on the Biblical doctrine of Justification; that the Pope would address the *World Baptist Alliance* (Dec.7/2007); that a Roman cardinal would 'preside' over a *Methodist 'Wesley' Conference*, (December 3/2007); that *Hillsong*, an organisation that teaches a prosperity Gospel and applauds the Pope, would give a whole new meaning to 'worship' music - one that so echoes the beat of the world that it allowed one of their young adherents to win a recent secular '*Idol*' television competition! I would have been amazed to hear that the conservative Sydney Anglicans would view the Roman Catholic *World Youth Day* 2008 as a boost for Australian evangelism; that the Pentecostal church worldwide would begin to unite with the *World Council of Churches* and with Rome. Despite the prophecies of a 'falling away' and an ecumenical church in the endtimes, I never dreamt that so many churches would so quickly tread the road to Rome!

*We are living in momentous times of change.* Today I am seeing once sound people go soft on key doctrines, adopting the latest church frill.

In 1996 we reported that churches were being shaken up and there was a 'polarisation' taking place. Waves of new teaching such as the 'Toronto Blessing' swept through the church shunning those who dared stand against it. Today I am convinced the Lord is shaking his church again but in a more subtle way. We have had the 'Purpose Driven' Warren/Hybel's church growth philosophies which, (as we have been saying for years), have not delivered true converts. A recent confession by Hybel's proves this: '*We made a mistake. What we should have done when people crossed the line of faith and become Christians, we should have started telling people and teaching people that they have to take responsibility to become 'self-feeders'. We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their Bible between services, how to do spiritual practices much more on their own*'. Their own report revealed that the millions of dollars spent on various aspects of their ministry were *not producing true believers*. But what of the thousands of churches who followed the Hybel's/Warren philosophies? Hybel's now says: '*Our dream is that we fundamentally change the way we do church. That we take out a clean sheet of paper and we rethink all our old assumptions. Replace it with new insight. Insights that are informed by research and rooted in Scripture. Our dream is really to discover what God is doing and how he's asking us to transform this planet*', (*Apostasy Alert*, 2/Nov/07 and 15/Feb/07). Despite opposition, we have for years been warning that the modern church is filling fast with false converts. And it is these that do much harm to the church...

*We are living in turbulent times.* I see pastors and leaders now struggling to deal with professing Christians who want to have their own way in complete disregard for the flock as a whole. If one challenges the character of the troublemakers or takes a stand, one is labelled legalistic or a dictator. I have never seen such 'warfare' within the church. But then Jesus did say: '*...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*', (Lk.18:8).

Terry Arnold

## Unprofitable Prophets

It only takes a global or national event it seems, to flush out those in the Church who do not believe that God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son. They claim He is still adding to His Word through personal revelation to them. Such an occasion was the November 24th General Election in Australia.

It was simply too much for some to resist. Kenneth Copeland of 'Believers Voice of Victory' in the United States and Australian's Danny Nalliah of 'Catch the Fire Ministries' and Col Stringer of Col Stringer ministries amongst them.

On August 11, 2007, Melbourne's [Australia] Pastor Danny Nalliah, [Catch The Fire Ministries] announced that the Lord had spoken to him and that he could now '*boldly declare that Prime Minister John Howard will be re-elected in the November [24th] election*'. As the prophet Samuel, according to Nalliah, was sent to anoint David as the future king of Israel, so the Lord directed him '*to spend time with Prime Minister John Howard and [Treasurer] Peter Costello*'. The Lord God, as Nalliah records it, '*gave me a clear prophetic word for both of them...I'm not at liberty to share the details of these private encounters*', however, '*John Howard will be elected and pass the leadership on to Peter Costello sometime after*'.

Not only did John Howard's government lose the election in a landslide of historic proportions - he also forfeited his electoral seat of Bennelong in Northern Sydney that he had held for over thirty years! It was a rout.

Not to be outdone, on 26 October 2007 Kenneth Copeland announced: '*now this is no time for that man [John Howard] to be defeated. Well he's not going to be, Amen? He is Lord to the glory of God the Father. He is Lord to the glory of God the Father. He is Lord over Australia! It has been announced! Amen.*'

Although no retraction is expected from Copeland, Danny Nalliah did e-mail his flock on the 29th of November in an effort to explain how he could have misheard God to such an extent. Said he:

*'Personally, the weekend of the election was one of the worst weekends in my life. Immediately I said, 'Lord, what's happening?? I kept asking the Lord, 'DID I GET IT WRONG???' Around 5.00 am on Sunday morning, I began to hear the voice of God say, 'Why are you so downcast, rise up and fight. The word you received was from Me'. At this moment I felt so prompted to read the prophetic word from the Lord regarding the election that I released on 11th August 2007. As I began reading the prophetic word from the Lord, I was greatly stirred in my spirit to read the following words that I had stated, 'I will boldly declare that PM John Howard will be re-elected in the Nov election - 'IF THE BODY OF CHRIST UNITES IN PRAYER AND ACTION.'*

*'Again I heard the voice of the Lord, 'For My people were not united in prayer and action for this election. If they were, they would have experienced spiritual revival under My freedom reigning in this nation, but now My people have chosen another way. They have not voted for My will, but for self gain and personal change.'*

Col Stringer had this to say after the election: '*I guess like so many other Christians you were surprised or disappointed at the election outcome. The first thing that*

*came to my mind was 'what happened'? As you know, several well-known prophetic voices [?] believed that they had heard from the Lord as to the outcome and while I never prophesied the outcome myself, I did forward one on from Kenneth Copeland. So what happened? How did I miss reading the signals so badly? Did the prophets miss it? Did we not pray? We have had prophetic words concerning the re-election to government of John Howard and the Coalition. **This has not happened as we see it now. Does that mean that these prophetic voices are false? No, it does not!** There has been an apathy in the church, despite the call to 'Arise'. People have decided to 'have a change' much like many have done with church, jumping from one thing to the next to see what is better! Well now we need to pray. If you have been apathetic about these elections, then wake up!'*

Pastor Nalliah subsequently claimed, [one imagines in an effort to retrieve his prophetic reputation?], that God had broken the decade long Australian drought in answer to an Ecumenical prayer meeting organised by *Catch the Fire Ministries* and held in Canberra earlier in the year, because they were '*united*' in that effort. The rain he is speaking of was more a judgement than a blessing. Large tracts of land were flooded and thousands driven from their homes to relief shelters - after which Australia quietly slipped back into drought, in which she remains to this day.

When are Christians going to wake up to the fact that these people who self-appoint themselves as prophets to the nation are frauds? That they drag down the name of our God and Christianity in general and subject it to ridicule? That God's Will can be frustrated by the puny actions of mere men would be laughable if it wasn't so deadly serious? High profile so-called 'Christian' politicians also endorsed these 'prophecies'!

If church leaders can, outside of His written Word, speak for God - why the caveat that allows them to blame others when their words fail? If the Church accepts this as reasonable behaviour - then the prophetic sky is the limit. If their prophecies do not come to pass they simply and boldly exonerate themselves by shifting responsibility to either 'the enemy' or 'Bible believing Christians' who simply didn't pray hard enough! Uttering presumptuous prophecy is nice work if you can get it! And don't think it doesn't pay well either! It does.

These men are extremely fortunate that we are not yet living in the times forecast by the genuine article, Zechariah; '*And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the Lord: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. [Zech. 13:3]*

I will leave the last word to Pastor Nalliah, as he seems to be unwittingly describing himself in a further e-mail sent by him to his followers this year:

*'I urge all Bible-believing Christians to watch out and unceasingly pray against the enemy's strategies, for in the days ahead there will be many wolves in sheep's clothing, deceiving many in the church. They are from within the church and could even be some very prominent Christian Leaders'.*

**Mike Claydon**

## Science Disproves The Bible? - No Way!

Opponents of Biblical truth constantly assume and reiterate that there is a dichotomy between science and faith. However, the idea of the mutual exclusivity of science and faith is based on modern self-serving definitions of 'science' that deliberately exclude notions of any supernatural reality, especially the immanence and activity of God. They require exclusively mechanistic (or 'naturalistic') explanations for all physical phenomena. However, these requirements are their own undoing, because there are several absolutely vital instances within the naturalistic worldview for which there is no possible mechanistic explanation, so that naturalists themselves are forced to accept certain proposals 'by faith' - that is, against logical reasoning and in opposition to established scientific evidence and principles.

There are at least five hurdles over which naturalists must jump by faith. They are: origin of the physical universe; the physical attributes of the earth in relation to the rest of the cosmos; the production of biochemicals from inorganic matter; the beginning of life; the perfection of design in living creatures; and the origin of the information required for the specified complexity of living things. Christians should do a little reading of creationist literature so as to be able to fulfil 1 Peter 3:15, as well as for their own satisfaction in the confidence that the Bible matches scientific *knowledge* in spite of common acceptance of scientific *opinion* to the contrary. This distinction is important.

For example, the 'big bang' is widely believed to be a scientific explanation for the origin of the physical universe, but is only an *hypothesis*, a history that cannot be observed or tested. Not only does it not provide any real explanation for the origin of the 'singularity' from which everything is supposed to have emerged, but it is seriously questioned by the community of scientists whose domain of study includes it. Many alternative cosmologies have been proposed, but Christians should be confident both that these cosmologies have to be invented only because people refuse to accept the Bible account (not because of scientific imperatives), and that the Genesis model fits scientific observations at least as well as any other model.

Christians should also take comfort from the fact that a statement like 'life began in the sea', which one so commonly finds in evolutionary books and articles (and even, unqualified, in school textbooks) is a statement of faith that should be preceded by 'I believe', just like our own creeds. Actually it flies in the face of all the science we know. Years of searching and experimenting by the world's chemists has failed to find *any* instances of inorganic chemicals spontaneously forming amino acids (the 'building blocks of life'), let alone having these polymerize into proteins in the atmosphere or oceans. Amino acid to protein reactions actually *reverse* in the presence of excess water. Biotic chemicals are built atom by atom *only* in living things and *only* under the control of instructions from the DNA, which in turn only exists in living things - an inescapable circle for those who think it all arose bit-by-bit.

That life began by itself, that is, without supernatural assistance, is a tenet of evolutionary faith, yet it has absolutely no support beyond the assumption that it must have happened because life exists. The same school text books that spend chapters expounding evolutionary theory

are duty bound to also explain the 'law of biogenesis', an expression of an observation that every human being makes every day - that life *only* comes from life (seeds, spores, eggs, cuttings). No exception has ever been observed. 'Spontaneous Generation' has been firmly disproved, yet evolutionists ignore this, claiming it happened, not once, but many times in the past, until a *self-replicating* organism finally appeared. What 'faith' they have!...Blind faith in the face of scientific reality.

'Survival of the fittest' is a catch-cry of evolutionary theory, and yet its assumption that those fit to survive can also create 'improved' offspring has yet to be demonstrated. Bible believers can take heart in several factors relating to this concept. The first is that the death of the 'unfit' is a *culling* process that results in *loss* of genetic information (variety) from the gene pool, leaving more specialized organisms actually more susceptible to extinction. Darwin's idea was that variety in any population allows population pressure to kill off the unfit, leaving only the most fit to reproduce. Creationists do not deny this principle, because it can be observed. In fact it was first proposed by a Bible-believing creationist before Darwin. However, this process *decreases* variety. It is a conservative process, maintaining the genetic health of the overall population. It does not produce increased information, such as is required for 'new' features such as legs on a fish, fur, feathers or wings on a reptile.

The evolutionist's answer to this is 'mutation' which simply means 'change', and evolutionists assume that such changes will be for the better. However, a mutation is actually an *error* in the copying of genetic material when cells divide. These errors cause damage to the daughter cells, and most often express themselves as cancer, or 'genetic defects'. Even the advent of so-called 'super bugs', such as antibiotic-resistant golden staph, results from the *loss* of information that controls the production of anti-biotic-resisting substances, much as poodles and sheep have lost the ability to control hair production. Mutations are almost always harmful, or at least neutral, and have *never* been observed to produce new, useful information.

Yet information is the key, and information theory demonstrates that information cannot arise spontaneously - no amount of random tapping on keyboards will ever produce meaningful information, let alone the library-full needed for a living creature.

Thus, Christians can be confident that such anti-Biblical ideas as the 'big bang' and evolution are scientifically impractical, and even defy the laws of physics and chemistry that are well established. However, there is no 'magic bullet' of evidence that can prove evolution wrong, because evolutionists and creationists have exactly the same data to examine. They just *interpret* it differently. To posit a supernatural cause for things that obviously have no natural cause (such as the origin of life) is no less scientific than to posit blind chance as the cause, which is basically what evolutionists do. So let us consistently see the world through Biblical glasses, and interpret the observed data with an intelligent, inventive, miracle-working God in mind, (2Corinthians 10:5, Romans 1:18-25,28). Visit [creationontheweb.com](http://creationontheweb.com) for further information and literature.

**Gordon Howard**

## Pat Robertson's Prophecies

We remind readers of Robertson's 'prophecies' - Wed, Jan.03, 2007, Virginia Beach, Va. (AP)

'...Pat Robertson said Tuesday God has told him that a terrorist attack on the United States would result in 'mass killing' late in 2007. 'I'm not necessarily saying it's going to be nuclear', he said during his news-and-talk television show, 'The 700 Club' on the CBN. 'The Lord didn't say nuclear. But I do believe it will be something like that'. Robertson said God told him during a recent prayer retreat that major cities and possibly millions of people will be affected by the attack, which should take place sometime after September...

The broadcaster predicted in January 2004 that President Bush would easily win re-election. Bush won 51 percent of the vote that fall...In 2005, Robertson predicted that Bush would have victory after victory in his second term...Social Security reform proposals would be approved and Bush would nominate conservative judges to federal courts. Lawmakers confirmed Bush's 2005 nominations of John Roberts and Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. But the president's Social Security initiative was stalled.

'I have a relatively good track record', he said. 'Sometimes I miss'. In May, Robertson said God told him that storms and possibly a tsunami were to crash into America's coastline in 2006...the U.S. was not hit with a tsunami...Robertson on Tuesday cited last spring's heavy rains and flooding in New England as partly fulfilling that prediction'.

**Editors Comment: One false prophecy makes a person a 'false prophet' (see article P.2). Yet millions of professing Christians worldwide follow this Pentecostal leader, watch his TV shows and send millions of dollars to his ministry. Similarly, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland and many of the TV teachers/evangelists/healers - have delivered well documented false prophecies.**

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## Revival, What Revival?: USA

'According to some of the most recent polling information, America is undergoing an unprecedented religious transformation in this generation. It would appear that the fastest-growing religion in America (in terms of percentage) is - and I'm not making this up - witchcraft!' (Apostasy Alert, Oct/2007)

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## Revival, What Revival?: England

Membership statistical graphs\* show a steep decline in membership of most churches in Great Britain. Many believe this can be traced back to the liberalism of the nineteenth century. Many church buildings in Britain have closed or been sold to be used as offices and warehouses.

In 1859-60 the Anglican churches experienced revival and membership grew from 18% to 27% percent of the population. Yet now Anglican churches (about 300,000) are declining fast. 50% of its 'clergy' will soon be women.

The Methodist denomination (less than 300,000) is dramatically heading for extinction by 2035.

The Baptist Union denomination (less than 150,000) is also in decline.

Most of all the above denominations show steep curves heading for extinction in less than one generation from

## Benny Hinn's Eisegesis

Recently Benny Hinn sent this to his mailing list. Editors comments in bold and brackets.

'The Law Of The Seed [by Benny Hinn]...It is possible that as you seek to live a godly life and give to the Lord's work, you are not receiving the harvest that God has in store for you. [But it's 'his harvest' at 'the end of the world' - Matt.9:37; 13:39] What believers don't understand may literally be destroying them. You must understand the law of the seed. [Scripture?] This law means sowing what you have received from the Lord to create something else you have been promised by God. Your seed is something you have been given to create your future...At times your seed is time. It can be love, mercy, kindness, or anything else that will bless others. [Scripture says the seed is 'the word of God' and it is not something we sow - Matt.13]

Calvary is a perfect example of understanding the law of the seed. God planted His only Son in order to create a family! [The Mormons will agree here]...The mistake we make, not understanding the law of the seed, is keeping and using the seed, rather than planting it...

Mark 10...In this passage, the apostle Peter said, "Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee" (verse 28). To this, Jesus answered: Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time...[The context here is about following Jesus and is actually speaking against accumulated riches!]

YOUR MIRACLE: When you understand God's laws concerning sowing and reaping, you begin to discover that when something leaves your hand, something leaves heaven...Seed faith is sowing something you have received from God in exchange for something God has in store for you. What you keep is your harvest. What you sow is your seed...When you open your hand, God opens His windows...Do you need a miracle in your life?...plant your sacrificial seed for a specific result...Consider what you can give today as a seed toward that abundant, supernatural harvest: \$1,000? \$500? \$250? \$100?...Do it now! It is a decision that can change your life forever!...Winning the lost for the glory of Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son, DONATE NOW'

**Editors Comment: Those who know their Bible will see how the scriptures here have been horribly misapplied.**

now.

The Roman Catholic religion (approx.1,250,000) shows decline in 'Mass attendances' from about 1955-60 onwards. (However, this number does not reflect those who would still adhere to the label of 'Roman Catholic').

Some Independent Evangelical Churches, Grace Baptists and Reformed Baptist Churches have shown some growth.

The Pentecostal/Charismatic denominations (eg. AOG 60,000-70,000) are growing steadily.

Islam has increased from almost nil in 1965 to a rapidly increasing membership today of well over 1,000,000. (Most of this is family growth and immigration).

And the cults (eg. JW 130,000; Mormons 175,000) continue to grow rapidly.

\* Information from graphs in 'Reformation Today' Jan/Feb/2006

## Today's 'Tongues' and Linguistics

Recently I received a copy of an article from the *Assembly of God 'Australian Evangel'* titled 'A Pastor and a Linguist Discuss Speaking In Other Tongues'. The article is a discussion between a pastor Ron Wilson and a Dr. Tony Evenhuis attempting to prove that today's Pentecostal/Charismatic speaking in unknown tongues is an experience from God and received by faith. Tony claims to be a 'linguist' and fluent in 5-6 languages. (He is actually a lecturer in French at the university of Tasmania, Australia).

Tony tells of a dream he once had when he was 'seeking' the gift of tongues. In the dream he saw a newspaper 'with alternating lines', one a language he knew and another he did not understand. He began to recite the unknown language by syllables and then he was able to 'put the paper aside and keep going by myself'. From that dream he then takes a quantum leap to today's 'tongue speaking' and makes an astounding statement: 'There remains something mysterious about 'tongues'. If we try too much to look for evidence to strengthen our case, it is as if the Lord says: No, I'm not going to do it that way, you have to accept this by faith'. And 'the genuineness of this experience is not determined by identifying the language spoken. In fact that would be difficult with the thousands of languages in the world. The validity of any experience is tested by God's word...all his gifts are received by faith...' Tony then goes on to say how he got this unknown tongues 'experience' - he was advised to 'go to a quiet place alone, relax, and just speak to the Lord any words that came into my head'.

Tony is then asked by Pastor Ron if today's 'tongues' in churches are 'real languages'. Tony rightly answers: 'a linguist can tell the difference between real language and gibberish'; but then he says: 'not every utterance in 'tongues' that I have heard has had the characteristics of a true language, but others certainly have...' He then cites his wife as one day hearing a person speaking in tongues in 'Italian' who knew no Italian.

Pastor Ron concludes: 'the most important use of tongues is for private prayer in which the speaker is built up by faith'. 1Corinthians 14:4 is cited as a proof-text.

### **Experience or Scripture?:**

It will be noticed that this 'gift' of speaking in unknown tongues was received by *experience*. The whole article is based on a dream and then an experience in 'a quiet place'. No scripture is applied to explain this event. The article says that the gift is received 'by faith' - but what faith? - is it a blind experiential faith, or a faith in what the Bible actually says about 'tongues'?

Pastor Ron says 'the genuineness of this experience is not determined by identifying the language spoken. In fact that would be difficult with the thousands of languages in the world. The validity of any experience is tested by God's word...all his gifts are received by faith...'. Yet nowhere in the article is scripture given to validate these views. Nowhere in God's word does it teach that we accept this 'gift' 'by faith' or that we 'seek' it? And contrary to what Ron says, the 'genuineness of this experience' can actually be tested by 'identifying the language spoken'! Linguistic experts can in time identify a language family and even a dialect.

But let's 'test' this 'gift' using God's Word: The Greek root word for 'tongues' is 'glossa' and in scripture always

refers to *known* human languages or to the physical organ of the tongue. There are only three cases of people speaking in tongues in the New Testament: they are found in Acts Chs. 2,10,19. The word translated '*language*' and '*tongue*' in Acts 2:6,8 is the Greek '*dialektos*' meaning *known* ethnic languages or dialects. The '*tongues*' in Acts 10 were also *known* human languages as is proved by the phrase in vs.45 '*on the Gentiles also*' and vs.47 '*as well as we*'. Here the Gentiles had exhibited the *same known human languages as the Jews had in Acts 2*. The fact that they '*magnified God*' (vs.46) also proved there was *understanding*. Lastly, in Acts 19 there is no evidence that the experience there was any different to Acts 2 or 10.

Some say today's tongues are 'angelic languages' but if 'the validity of any experience is tested by God's word' as Pastor Ron says, then let's test this!: In every instance in the Bible, angels always spoke in known human earthly languages that were understood, (eg. to Abraham, Lot, Jacob, Peter...)

To escape the fact that Biblical 'tongues' are always *known* languages some will go to 1Corinthians 14: Firstly, the '*spirit*' here is always in *lower case* (small 's') and speaking of the human spirit, not the Holy Spirit. This is proved by verse 14: '*if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful*'. The chapter is not about any angelic or 'Holy Spirit language' but rather about a *selfish problem* that Paul was *correcting* - to do with the Corinthians own human spirits. 1Corinthians 14 is a *rebuke* and teaching *against* the practice of uttering in an 'unknown tongue'! The word '*understanding*' and '*edification*' are key words the apostle Paul uses *repeatedly* to have the Corinthians speak in languages that are '*understood*'. Paul uses these words to argue *for* known understandable languages ('*glossais*' - 'tongues' - plural) as in prophesy; as *contrasted to* an 'unknown tongue' ('*glosse*' - singular). If the reader underlines the plural 'tongues' and brackets the singular ['*unknown tongue*'] they will discern that Paul never argues for or favours the 'unknown tongue'! Rather, he strongly argues for 'understanding' and thus 'edification' *for the church; in contrast* to edification of self with any 'unknown tongue'.

Many people might also forget that the Corinthian church was *multi-linguistic*. Paul himself spoke in many different languages: Greek, Aramaic, Hebrew (Acts 22:2; 26:14), Latin (Acts 22:25-28); and additionally, there were many other dialects in Corinth.

Lastly, the word '*interpret*' ('*diermeneuo*') literally means 'to interpret, translate, to explain clearly and exactly'. When it is used in scripture it means to interpret *from one known language into another known language* (Jn.9:7; Acts 9:36; Heb.7:2). It is *never* used in the sense of translating from an unknown language into one that was known!

The key summary of 1Corinthians 14 is found in verses 18,19: '*I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all. Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue*'. Again, there are *two distinctions* in tongues here ('tongues' and 'unknown tongue'). Otherwise we have a contradiction! Paul speaks *for* one and *against* the other. The 'tongues' (plural) are *known* languages; the 'unknown tongue'

(singular) being spoken in the Corinthian church is that which Paul is urging the Corinthians to leave behind for the sake of *'understanding'* and *'edification'*. In these verses 18,19 - two extremes are put for the sake of emphasis.

So why ever would Paul condone the following *'advice'*: *'go to a quiet place alone, relax, and just speak to the Lord any words that came into my head'*. Again, the writer applies no scripture to validate this experience. Why condone something in private that Paul speaks against in the church? Why teach something that does not give *'understanding'* or *'edification'* to the body of Christ? How does one know it is from the Lord if it cannot be 'identified' as a known language? And why is this experience of unknown tongues not found in Acts 2 !?

### Linguistics:

Dr. Tony, arguably, is no linguistic expert. Certainly his testimony contradicts that of many linguists, and defies linguistic principles. Many qualified linguists of the 20th century have examined the 'unknown tongue' or ecstatic utterances as exhibited in many churches today and they simply contradict what Dr. Tony says. Here is just one example: *'We do know something about representative languages of every known language family in the world...If a glossolalic, (ie. one who professes to speak in unknown tongues in the Holy Spirit's power), were speaking any of the thousand languages of Africa, there is about a 90 percent probability that I would know it in a minute. Now, I have also had the opportunity of making a sympathetic study of an alleged instance of speaking in tongues. And I must report without reservation that my sample does not sound like a language structurally...The consonants and vowels do not all sound like English (the glossolalic's native language), but the intonation patterns are so completely American English that the total effect is a bit ludicrous. My sample includes an 'interpretation'. At the most generous estimate, the glossolalic utterance includes ten or eleven 'sentences'...But the 'interpretation' involved no less than fourteen distinct and independent ideas. There simply can be no match between the 'tongue' and the 'interpretation'...from the viewpoint of a Christian linguist the modern phenomenon of glossalia would appear to be a linguistic fraud and monstrosity, given even the most generous interpretation of 1Corinthians 12-14'.*\*

If one researches today's unknown tongue phenomena linguistically, these are the obvious conclusions:

1. The frequency of 'repetition' in today's 'tongues' speaking and the excessive use of one or two vowels.
2. The similarity of the tongues spoken to the speaker's own linguistic background. (The accent does not change as easily as Dr. Tony would have us believe).
3. The absence of language structure.
4. The great length of the 'interpretation' as compared with the tongue utterance!
5. The inconsistent 'interpretation' of the same clauses or phrases.

There are numerous reports of those who have 'tested' the 'tongues' in churches today by entering a prayer group or church service and speaking in a known second language. In every instance the language has been interpreted giving an entirely different meaning to the words spoken. This proves the interpretation was false and not 'from the Holy Spirit'; and that the congregation had no discernment or true understanding of what was said, (the speaker could have blasphemed the Lord and who would have known?).

Another method of discerning the validity of the tongue and the interpretation is as follows: tape record a 'tongues message' and then have two separate 'interpreters' with the 'gift of interpretation' interpret the same message, with each interpreter being isolated in separate rooms. Then compare the two interpretations. They should be identical. An extension of this test would be to have the message in a known foreign language and then have the two interpreters, again separately, interpret the message.

Are churches today prepared to be tested in their unknown tongues? This ministry has on numerous occasions challenged Pentecostal/Charismatic leaders to be so tested and all challenges have met with either a wall of silence or we have been accused of using 'carnal' methods!

The evidence by Dr. Tony is not only linguistically false but lacks objectiveness. If he says that *'not every utterance in 'tongues' that I have heard has had the characteristics of a true language'* then what is it, where does it come from and why is it allowed? Acts 2 lists all the 'tongues' as known human languages. And Paul rebukes the Corinthians for using an 'unknown tongue' which gives no 'understanding'.

### 'Tongues' is for 'Private Prayer'?:

Pastor Ron finally says: *'the most important use of tongues is for private prayer in which the speaker is built up by faith'*. 1Corinthians 14:4 is cited. But what does verse 4 really say? Let's read it in context with verse 3: ***'But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; BUT he that prophesieth edifieth the church'***. The word 'but' shows the contrast here between the unknown 'tongue' and prophecy. *This is selfishness contrasted with edification!* Paul does not commend this unknown 'tongue' but contrasts it to show something better. This is consistent with the same contrast throughout the whole chapter! And this unknown tongue here is not a 'private prayer'. There is no text in the New Testament that speaks of a 'prayer language'. The whole of chapter 14 is in fact about public behaviour in the church! (vs.19,22,23). Unknown tongues as 'prayer language' was unheard of until the mid 20th Century when certain Charismatic leaders introduced it into the denominations.\*\*

*Why would Paul teach the use of private unknown tongues when he speaks against them for the church?* No gift is for self or for self edification! (Rom.14:19; 15:1-3; 1Thess 5:11). The gifts for the church are to 'edify one another' - the body of Christ (Eph.4:11,12). No gift is for self!

The history of the 'tongues movement' is unique to the 20th Century and how it entered the church should shock those who may be unaware of its history.\*\* It came exactly as Pastor Ron and Dr. Tony say - by experience alone. Even its instigator, Charles Parham, later *rejected it* as did the church at large at the time. One commentator labelled it *'the last great vomit of Satan'*. The use of the 'unknown' tongue has been a catalyst for division, ecumenism and the setting aside of scripture within the church, as well as a foreign body injected into the doctrine of Sanctification.

### Terry Arnold

\* 'Christianity Today', 8/11/63, P.127,128 Dr. William Welmers, Professor of African languages, University of California, Los Angeles.

\*\* See the book *'Tongues & The Baptism With the Spirit'* available from this ministry.

## Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

Dear Terry and all at 'Diakrisis'. Thanks for the latest newsletter Nov/Dec 2007. We really look forward to every new edition of 'Diakrisis' and I can affirm that I have seen and had to leave a few denominations because of the apostasy you speak of.

Your article on Jesus being called 'YSHUA' by some who would have us be subject to the rituals of the Old Testament, reminds me of an experience I had in...years ago. They came as Messianic Jews... Most who attended were impressed but I disagreed with them on many points.

I think of the trouble the Apostle Paul had with some Judaisers and no doubt some today might continue to trouble the church and lead some astray.

Please continue to send us the 'Diakrisis Australia' and we enclose a donation to help you in your essential message to the churches in these end days. Yours in Christ,

(G&A)

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Dear Mike, I have recently been reading a book 'Letters of Charles Haddon Spurgeon' - Selected with Notes by Iain H. Murray, The Banner of Truth Trust. It has been so interesting to read his reactions to Associations that are a wayward on Biblical Truth. Towards the end of his life, he discerned serious problems and decided to have nothing to do with them. You may already have or know about this publication but I thought I would pass the info on anyway.

I need to know a definition of 'Inter Faith' and the difference between ecumenical inter-faith or inter-congregations within the Christian churches; as I have been asked a question because a local church has declared itself 'inter-faith'! I am not very good at explaining things and end up getting into arguments and then getting upset because the person doesn't agree with me.

Love in Christ Jesus, and really appreciate the light you shed on these very dark paths...'

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

**Sub Editors Comment: Yes, I have read this book - I would also recommend Iain Murray's 'A New Biography' of Jonathon Edwards - excellent.**

**There are two major camps in the 'interfaith' field: people who think of interfaith as communication happening between established religions, and people who think of interfaith as being a common ground where many religions can be combined or unified.**

*Ecumenism* is a movement of deliberate efforts to diminish concern about the differences among religious denominations, and thus to promote unity among them. This term is used in many conservative religious groups - mainly between Christian denominations or between different strains of the same basic beliefs of a religion. In summary I would say that 'Inter-faith' covers the dialogue between religions - whereas *Ecumenism* deals mainly with dialogue between 'Christian' religions so-called. However, the terms seems to be interchangeable also? I am not aware of a book on this subject that is written from a Christian perspective although our editor has written several articles on Ecumenism and its history.

Mike Claydon

Dear Terry, Referring to 'Diakrisis' Nov/Dec, 2007 P.6 'Evangelicals and Adventists' and your 'Editors Comments'. I really must commend the way you presented in a nutshell the majority of the false beliefs of Adventism. It is hard to believe that an organisation like WEA cannot see the glaring contradictions to God's word in this belief system. If they are uniting solely on the common grounds of good morals, ignoring the fact that their doctrinal beliefs are poles apart and some being diametrically in opposition to God's word, then they may as well follow George Bush and include some of those eastern religions too. Is it not uncanny that Dr. Parker says that no one want's to gloss over the differences between Adventism and Biblical Christianity! I wonder why!

I believe Adventism has run its course. It is only those blinkered 'die-hards' that still hang on to the set of unscriptural doctrines espoused by Ellen G. White and their pioneers, while many sincere folk are now leaving the sinking ship when they honestly read God's word with an open mind.

One of Adventism's brightest lights, Mark Martin has put out a series of CDs under various headings exposing their false beliefs by skilful comparison with God's word, and revealing the shrewd twists that have deceived the unwary. Today we are rejoicing with some who have just come out of Adventism having bought a set of Mark Martin's CDs. They are so thrilled to be free from bondage...

**Mark Duckworth**

**Editors comments: Mark Duckworth is an Ex-SDA and author of the following books available from this ministry: 'The Adventist Sabbath - Is It For Christians?' \$3.75; 'A Close Encounter with 7th Day Adventism' \$3.90.**

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### **Presbyterians and Adventists?**

'Delegates to the Seventh day Adventist Church of North America met leaders of the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the Presbyterian Church's national headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, in August to affirm common beliefs and dispel stereotypes...delegates discussed the church's respective understandings of the law and the gospel, referring to the writings of Ellen G White an early Adventist church co-founder...

Adventist and Presbyterian delegates affirmed the authority of Scripture and agreed the law should guide Christian living'. (Adventist Press Service)

**Editors Comment: How can both parties agree on the 'authority of scripture' when SDA claims clearly Ellen G. White as authoritative and as a prophet equal to any of the true prophets? And what of the blatantly false prophecies by her? Ellen G. White claimed her articles were given by visions from God. She predicted the date of the return of Jesus would be in 1843,1844, 1845 & 1851 but changed the wording after they failed. (The 'Shut Door' doctrine was introduced as a result of this change). This ministry has a list of the false prophecies and her other errors - for any who would require evidence. The DVD 'Seventh Day Adventism - the spirit behind the church' also highlights this, and has interesting testimonies from ex-SDA pastors.**

## Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

### E-mail Alerts

Mike Claydon, (our sub-editor) has for over seven years now been producing two daily e-mail bulletins, sent to an ever-increasing list of subscribers around the world. *Apostasy Alert* features up-to-date information and news items with a focus on the declension in the Church today; and *Israel Report* contains daily news on the unfolding, prophetically important, geopolitical events in the Middle East and elsewhere, from a Biblical standpoint.

These bulletins are sent free of charge. To be added to the mailing list to receive *Apostasy Alert* subscribe at [apostasyalert@hotkey.net.au](mailto:apostasyalert@hotkey.net.au) and *Israel Report*: [israelreport@hotkey.net.au](mailto:israelreport@hotkey.net.au)

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*Greetings brother Terry...I had the opportunity to read your article on the Herald of Hope and Election...For years I believed free will was only our responsibility and even after studying the topic perhaps 10 years ago, I still rejected Election by God.*

*My purpose in writing is to thank you and Mike Claydon for the way you explained the topic, which I am thankful to the Lord how He brought that article to me. There was mention that your ministry has available five short studies on the Doctrines of Grace, election, predestination, etc. and was free by e-mail. Is there a possibility that you would e-mail that to me...Thank you again and God Bless.*

(N.T.)

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*We pray that your organisation will continue to bring some hope to those in such need. We look forward to receiving 'Diakrisis (Australia)' in 2008.*

(J.&S.D., Qld.)

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*Dear all, Thankyou for the 'Diakrisis' you send regularly and the information they contain. They are a real eye opener to what's going on in the so called Christian churches of today. It is a stand for truth in this day and generation.*

(P.E., Sydney)

### Praise/Prayer Points

- Please pray for the Tasmania Itinerary. There is a small but increasing mailing list there and this itinerary will be our first in this state.
- We are hoping to also fit in an itinerary in the Brisbane area in the first half of 2008.

*Dear Terry, I have just finished reading one of your early books, 'The Toronto Blessing - a Critique'.*

*I have and still am looking for a good balanced church (8 years now)...all I find is churches who embraced the 'Toronto Blessing'...they still receive special revelation, etc. Do you know of any church groups in Melbourne around the Epping Broadmeadows area...churches that teach the word with understanding and care about people inside and outside? I'm tired of having to be on guard of a pastor/minister or elder preaching error...I've had elders trying to push me over in their prayer lines...*

*I thank you for your book - very informative on the Holy Spirit...thank you for your conviction to research and publish your material. May God deeply bless your ministry.*

*Yours in Christ*

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

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*Dear Terry & Mike, Be strong and of good courage in your work for the Lord and His truth. We hope and pray that you will always be faithful to the Lord and His Word.*

*It's perilous times: Speak the truth in love but faithfully, boldly, unreservedly and unashamedly. Be a light in this dark world. Christendom will not endure sound doctrine.*

*You will be reviled and they will say all manner of evil against you falsely. But be of good courage, stand fast in the faith...Be strong in the faith and the power of His might, put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil who is let loose by God to deceive the nations in the last times.*

*The Lord Jesus said, 'Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life'.*

*May the Lord bless you and keep you and lead you and guide you.*

(C.Y., Cairns)

### Terry's Itinerary (Tasmania Itinerary)

Several churches in Hobart are now involved in an itinerary in Tasmania expected to be during April/May. A full itinerary will be printed in the March/April edition of this newsletter. Any churches wishing to be added to this itinerary should contact this ministry.

### Subscription Form

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