

Diakrisis

A Ministry of Teaching

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

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

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter. We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

This newsletter is distributed free of charge. However, because we are a faith ministry, we ask for donations of up to \$12 per year to cover the cost of production.

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Editors Comments

In this ministry we try not to name denominations. I am aware that within many denominations there are *local New Testament autonomous churches* that are *faithful* to the Gospel and have not accepted the latest wave of false teaching sweeping through many churches. We cannot necessarily *associate* them with apostasy. However, it has been with dismay that I have been reading the Assembly of God magazine '*Evangel*' over the last two years. I have decided to share and write strongly about something that grieves many of us.

Since the 'Toronto Blessing' was endorsed by the AOG leaders in Australia, nearly all the *Evangel* magazines have been devoted to, or feature some aspect of this phenomena. Some of the exegesis of scripture has been nothing short of pitiful! In a recent article '*Laughter: A time and a Purpose*' (May, 96), the writer takes scriptures to do with laughter, and Abraham and Sarah, and then jumps a theological *chasm* to the following statement: '*He will create laughter in us just as He did with Sarah...which will bubble up in our spirit and wash away those failures and hurts of the past...Sarah ...knew it would be infectious..God has visited us with laughter.* Then Job 8:21 is *wrongly* quoted, which in reality is Bildad *falsely* advising Job that if he were acceptable to God he would be rich and full of laughter! As usual, Ps.126:1,2 is also quoted which is only one of possibly *two* scriptures that can be used for laughter. This scripture has nothing to do with the current phenomena. Rarely do the writers such as the above mention the other 38 out of 40 scriptures that would in these writer's own context speak *against* laughter! This same writer then goes on to say: '*The history of revivals tells us that God moves in unusual ways for a period of time which gets the attention of the unsaved and softens their hearts*'. This generalisation is rubbish at worst and only partially true at best. The '*unusual ways*' (manifestations) were usually in the *minority* and considered demonic or fleshly by many of the great revival leaders.

Such deceptive use of scripture is now common place by those who are intent on taking scriptures *out of context* to keep a movement alive that by most accounts is waning! This is why they must keep the likes of John Arnott visiting Australia *again* ('Catch the Fire *again*' conference), in October this year, and adding the word '*again*' to last year's conference title.

I wonder if many of these advocates of this 'wild fire' care about the thousands who have been shipwrecked in their faith and no longer attend church. We are one of very few ministries that are attempting to pick up the pieces of wrecked lives and coax them back into sound churches. My files are filling up with calls for help. Many become wounded, disillusioned and never go back. Many agree to be re-taught (Heb.5:12-14). Others are never heard from again. My heart goes out to those casualties in what is nothing less than a battle for the Bible! **Terry Arnold**

He died for me!

William and Mary Tanner were crossing the railroad tracks some years ago when it happened. Mary's foot slipped and wedged itself between the rail and the wooden cross walk. She tried frantically to wrench her foot free as the sound of an approaching train was heard. There were but seconds left as the express came rushing towards her around a curve.

Will Tanner pulled on her foot, frantically trying to free her. As the train came closer, it's whistle screamed and brakes shrieked in the agony of trying to stop, Mary saw that it was too late! She cried to her husband, 'Will leave me!' She even tried to push him away as he continued his rescue attempts. Seeing he could not release her, he arose quickly and held her in his arms to protect her as much as possible. While people shuddered in horror, the train thundered over them. The flagman said that just before the engine hit them he heard the brave man cry, 'I'll stay with you Mary!'

Greater love hath no man than this! Why is it that while this story can move the world to great emotion, yet hearing how the Lord Jesus died on the cross for us often

'And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth' (Isaiah 11:11,12). 'For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land' (Joel 3:1,2)

A recently published article in the 'New Age Bulletin' written by British author Roy Livesey reflects current 'Replacement Theology' espoused by many pulpiteers both here in Australia and around the world. The writing is titled '*Dispensationalism; Talmudic Judaism and The New World Order*'. Replacement theology (Christian anti-Semitism?) teaches that national Israel has been discarded by God and been 'replaced' by 'spiritual Israel' ie 'The Church'.

This pernicious teaching enjoys increasing popularity today and flies in the face of both Old and New Testament scripture. In the article mentioned, a case is put forward to prove that '*when Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD, (the Christians had fled and got out of it) (sic), every prophecy in the Bible that ever had anything to do with Israel was now fulfilled...except in Luke 21:23 about them being led away into captivity*', and further, '*The Jews as a race: The findings of physical anthropology show that contrary to the popular view, there is no Jewish race*'. It concludes by asserting that national Israel exists again today by the power of the antichrist and new world order forces, and anybody who believes otherwise have come under the false teaching of Hal Lindsey ('*The Late Great planet Earth*') and others.

Some 77 verses in Isaiah, 147 in Jeremiah, 60 in Ezekiel, 7 in Micah, 7 in Zephaniah, and 58 in Zechariah speak explicitly of a final restoration of national Israel prior to, and at the time of Christ's return. These promises are unconditional and confirm New Testament writings such as Matthew 24:15-28; Mark 13:14-20; Luke 21:20-24 and Revelation 16:13-16 which clearly depict Israel back in her land at the time of the end.

Zechariah 14 states '*For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives*'. Acts 1:9-12 reveals that very occasion to be yet future! If Israel has no further purpose why is Christ, (and the church) returning there? Why is the world's last great battle to be fought in the valley of Meggido? And why is the Lord Jesus Christ promised the throne of David **forever** if such an office no longer exists? Zechariah portrays a day when all the nations of the earth will be gathered against Jerusalem and God Himself will destroy those that seek to annihilate His people! Why would he do this for a nation and people cast off?

That for a Jew to enter the Church he must come through the Lord Jesus Christ is obvious, but the future of national Israel is another matter entirely and is in a sense 'post-church'.

Replacement Theology which emphasises the superiority of the church over the Jewish people, found a dynamic expression in the crusades and the Nazi holocaust. The crusading ideology is still pervasive in the western Christian church today and many Christians still view Jews as 'Christ Killers' and as having lost the promises of God - this mindset does nothing but aid and abet the cause of those that will bring the final holocaust to Israel soon.

God chose the nation and people of Israel to reveal His plan of redemption to the world. They remain elect of God, and without the Jewish nation His redemptive purposes for the world will not be completed. At the time appointed by God, Messiah will return to sit on the everlasting throne of David in Jerusalem and will rule over the world in righteousness and peace.

While Gentile believers have been grafted into that household of faith which is of Abraham (the Commonwealth of Israel), replacement theology within the Christian faith, which does not recognise the ongoing Biblical purpose for Israel and the Jewish people, is serious doctrinal error. **Mike Claydon**

'Toronto Testimony'

The following letter was written to the editor of 'Prophecy Today' in England, ('Prophecy Today' Vol.12, No.2).

Dear editor,

In April 1994 I was in San Fransisco attending the Vineyard church on the Sunday when the pastoral team came back from Toronto with 'the blessing'. I quickly jumped in...It wasn't long before I was manifesting...I was of course coached on how to 'receive' and then coached on how to 'give it away'...my walk with the Lord did seem to come on in leaps and bounds....I had for some time been spiritually dry...I returned home...my local church had come under the 'Toronto Blessing'. I became part of the 'ministry team' and helped to take 'TB' to other churches. My manifestations got more and more uncontrollable and violent as I fell over and thrashed about every time someone said 'come Holy Spirit' or other trigger phrases. I felt like I had lost control of my life in every sense - physically, emotionally and spiritually. Then after committing a serious sexual sin at the end of 1994, I realised that my life was falling apart. I was at the most unholy, unclean, unspiritual and unhappy point of my Christian life.

After a great struggle, I finally managed to walk away from the Toronto Blessing...I don't now drink alcohol, but when I did, I found that it takes away a lot of inhibitions to sin. I personally found that the 'intoxicating' effects of the Toronto Blessing had the same effect on me, at a much more sublime and subtle level. I found that, for some inexplicable reason, I was more willing to sin, and consequently did so - and much more often.... I can never blame anyone or anything else for my sin. But there is a remarkable coincidence between being drunk on alcohol and being under the 'alien' influence of the TB....Renouncing the Toronto Blessing was a very difficult and traumatic experience for me. It was very frightening at the time, because I realised that I had come under an 'alien' influence, whether it be Physiological or a demonic power...I felt defiled, almost raped, it was disgusting and extremely upsetting. I cried myself to sleep for many nights, and woke up only to spend my days in tears and disillusionment for several weeks. It brings tears to my eyes when I think about it. How could I have been so stupid? How could I have been so blind? How could I have got so close to such a powerful (demonic?) force without detecting something wrong? I know my Bible well and yet I was so easily duped....The Toronto Blessing has its twin pillars - testimony and manifestations

The last few decades has seen a new emphasis on the view that spirits reside over geographical areas, as well as national, ethnic or tribal, religious, and even generational groups, and that they can be *expelled* by certain means. This goes beyond the Biblical view that demons can oppress individuals. In the eighties Christians began meeting to '*bind Satan from the San Fransisco Bay area and bring godliness to public life through spiritual warfare*'... '*and to dethrone the spirit of homosexuality from its capital city, San Fransisco*'...*

In these meetings Satan is rebuked by addressing him publicly, directly and 'binding' him verbally. These meetings often spend more time talking to Satan than to God! The results are obvious - the city of San Francisco has got *worse!*

We are never told to exercise spirits of lust or alcohol, etc. Although there is perhaps some scant Biblical evidence of some territorial spirits, (Dan.10:12-13), the practice and methods of trying to expel these spirits are spurious. The bible does show Jesus and Paul verbally rebuking demons which *physically* possessed individuals. However, Jesus, nor the disciples, never rebuked or taught anyone else to rebuke geographic, or ethnic, demons!

To engage in 'spiritual warfare' Paul reminds us of our armour, (Eph.6:11-14). The weapons he lists are such things as honesty, righteousness, witnessing, assurance of salvation, faith in God, and knowledge of scriptures. This is what rebukes Satan - the *Word of God and good Christian living!* None of the great evangelists spent time talking to the devil! **Terry Arnold** (Adapted from Christian Research Journal, Summer/1992, P.38). (An excellent treatment of this subject is: '*Making War in the Heavens*' by Bill Randles).

1. What are the psychological factors involved?

A. Are there hypnotic aspects such as pressure to discontinue the use of the mind?; Pressure to yield to a powerful personality?; use of words that trigger phrases?; repetitive music or music beat? B. How much of the worship experience is spiritual and how much is aesthetic? All music has both these elements. However, in excess, music can produce an altered state of consciousness, (ASC) C. How much peer pressure is there to conform to a behaviour?

2. Are Biblical criteria being strictly applied?

A. Are the experiences or manifestations clearly scriptural? Are they at least in harmony with Biblical principles? (E.g. animal noises and involuntary bizarre behaviour may humiliate a human being and is not a blessing but in scripture is a judgement.)

3. Is scripture being interpreted according to proper, objective criteria?

The scriptures used should be in total context

4. Is there a strong emphasis on the ministry of the Word?

The normal method used by the Holy Spirit is to reveal spiritual truths from scriptures which then leads to a response in the hearers.

5. Do you or did you have an uneasiness in your spirit about aspects of the phenomena?

Your 'witness of the spirit' (Rom.8:14,16; Gal.5:16) is a guide!

(Adapted from 'Charismatic Crossroads' - A report by Charismatics on the current situation in the church; Centre for Contemporary Ministry, Yorkshire)

Jack Hayford says Mass and Lord's Supper the same

In the first chapter of the 'Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper', Charismatic leader Dr. Jack Hayford sets forth some good truths about worship. However, on P.19 he writes: '*Redeeming worship centres on the Lord's table. Whether your tradition celebrates it as communion, Eucharist, the Mass, or The Lord's Supper, we are all called to this centrepiece of Christian worship*' This is typical of the Ecumenism of the 'Promise Keepers'. Would not the unlearned or the unsaved who would read this think that the Mass is part of Christian worship?

The Catholic mass in fact '*offers anew to God the victim of Calvary...In the Mass Jesus really offers His life*'* However, the Bible clearly states that Jesus is not to be offered again, (Heb.6:6), and that he was offered '*once for all*', (Heb.10:10, see also 9:25,26). We cannot equate the Catholic Mass with the Christian (Protestant) practice of the Lord's Supper or Communion! The two are entirely separate teachings! * **Terry Arnold** (See 'To Catholics Whom I love' for full documentation of this Catholic teaching).

Archbishop Tutu Speaks for Homosexuals

'Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu on BBC radio has spoken against excluding homosexuals from the priesthood. He recently signed with 300 leading Christians, an advertisement, congratulating a Gay Christian organisation on its 20th anniversary. He told BBC that it was a matter of justice, compassion and consistency that the church accept homosexual clergy. He called for recognition of '*same sex*' couples. He said, '*I am opposed to injustice and I know where my Lord would stand*'. ('Australian Beacon', March,1996)

Editors note: Does Tutu really know where God stands on this issue? The Bible clearly says that a Bishop or elder, ('*episkopos*' - same as elder, overseer, Pastor, etc.), must be '*the husband of one wife*'! The scriptures are also clear that homosexuals and Lesbians will face serious judgement, (Rom.1:26,27) - women here have '*vile affections*' and '*change the natural use into that which is against nature*'...and men '*leaving the natural use of the woman...men with men working that which is unseemly... (to) their error...*' God warns against '*going after strange flesh*' and that this would bring '*eternal fire*', (Jude 7). God loves these people and died for them but they must repent or they will '*not inherit the kingdom of God*', (1Cor.6:10), because they are '*abusers of themselves with mankind*' - (1Cor.6:9 - Greek word is '*arsenokoites*' meaning one guilty of unnatural offences and referring to sodomites and homosexuals).

Pope John Paul II and Mary

'John Paul II's recent four nation Latin America trip kept tensions between Catholics and evangelicals in the region bubbling...The Pope called for all who had abandoned the faith [i.e. Catholicism] to return to the fold. "*All those who have at some time prayed to the most Holy Virgin, even though they may have strayed from the Catholic church, conserve in their hearts an ember of faith which can be revived,*" he said. "*The virgin awaits them with maternal arms open wide*". ('Christianity Today' 4/8/96)

Church of England on Hell

Popular conceptions about hell are off the mark, according to a study by the church of England. "Hell is not eternal torment, but it is the final and irrevocable choosing of that which is opposed to God so completely and so absolutely that the only end is total non-being", the report said, "*Annihilation might be a truer picture of damnation than any of the traditional images of the hell of eternal punishment*". ('Biblical Fundamentalist' 3/96)

Editor's note: Prominent ministers such as John Stott, Brian Jones and Michael Green have questioned the traditional biblical view of Hell. What do we do with scriptures such as: Matt.25:49 ('*everlasting punishment*'); Rev.20:10 ('*Tormented day and night for ever and ever*'); Rev.14:10 ('*Tormented with fire and brimstone*'); Mk. 9:45 ('*fire that never shall be quenched*'), etc. Do we ignore these verses? God

Port Arthur & Ecumenicism?

Following the Port Arthur massacre, a memorial service was held in Tasmania at the Anglican Cathedral on Sunday morning. This was broadcast live to millions of Australians as was other services following. As one observer reported to us, 'The Anglican Archbishop began with prayers, and a Bible reading, then was followed into the pulpit by a lady with a red spot on her forehead from the Bhagvad Gita and prayed to Shiva, then by a gentleman who read from the Koran and prayed to Allah, then a white Australian Buddhist who read from their writings and spoke about 'Nirvana'. Afterward a Rabbi spoke and a Roman Catholic priest in crimson robes said the Requiem in Latin while thirty five candles were placed before him. Question is: Why, if the Hindus deny Jesus, Muslims are told to kill us as infidels, Buddhists believe their is no God, Jews deny Christ as Messiah, and Catholics deny Faith alone for salvation, are they allowed, nay, invited into a protestant pulpit?

(Name supplied and withheld at editors discretion)

I just wanted to express my appreciation for your newsletter. I receive many newsletters from around the world, but there is a special quality about 'Diakrisis' - I think it might be its simplicity and unaffectedness. I always find the articles informative, and striking just the right note between a gentle and loving attitude to others, and firmness as to doctrine. Keep up the good work! I am sharing them around my friends...

I am glad you chose Diakrisis for the name of the newsletter. Its a good description of the aim of the ministry, yet could still be given to non-believers without alarming them too much by an over-loud title...

The article on the state of the Charismatic church was especially clear and helpful. Also, the 'other look' at Azusa St. I thought very timely.

P.S. I really appreciated Selwyn Stevens 'Freemasonry Unmasked'. This is the best book I've read on the subject.

Jill Henderson, Sydney

Date change

Please note change of date for the seminar on evangelism (see 'Itinerary' this page). The new date is now September 7th.

Praise Points

- Praise God for the letters of support and encouragement we have received recently.

Prayer points

- Recently we have sent out a large mail-out of booklists and scans of our literature and tapes to bookstores across Australia. Please pray that bookstores will see the need to order.

- We still are asking for supporters to pledge a set amount each month to the sending out of free literature to the unsaved and those in deception. This ministry has proven to be very fruitful and rewarding in the past. At present we are sending up to \$50 per month. Anyone interested in helping towards this please contact Terry.

Cut here



Book Review

'Tongues?' by Spiros Zodhiates (\$12.95)

One of the world's most respected Greek and New Testament scholars, Spiros Zodhiates has written many excellent treatises on many subjects, as well as his unsurpassed editing of the Zodhiates Hebrew/Greek Key Study Bible.

However, because of its previous unavailability in Australia, many are unaware that he has written a definitive study of the New Testament phenomenon, Tongues.

If anyone is struggling with, or questioning the use of this gift in the church today - this book must be read!

Hardly a Biblical word on this subject is left untranslated and the full meaning of Paul's writing on the matter is laid out in clear concise words that make good study.

A warning though. If you do not want your thinking and view on this subject challenged and perhaps changed, stay clear of this book. If, however, you want to be absolutely informed of the Greek text and it's meaning, order this book now!

It is not a large, overly verbose writing, yet it is a serious study. For this reason I feel that it needs to be read several times to allow the wealth of the material to be absorbed.

This is also a volume that you, (and especially Pastors) will want for reference in your library, not to be given away lightly for others to lose!

Recommended as an urgent purchase for those willing to learn!

Mike Claydon

(TA Ministries has imported limited quantities of this book. Order now)

****New****

After twelve months we have now decided to make available copies of a personal unofficial paper issued by the Secretary General of the General Council of the Assembly of God, USA, in 1995. This is 26 pages on the 'Laughing Revival' and is a must for all those who are following the events of the 'Toronto Blessing'. We wish that all Australian AOG Pastors could see this manuscript, as many are still blind to the consequences of the direction of the Australian AOG leadership! We highly recommend this well written document to be given to those involved with the 'Toronto Blessing'. Price for photocopying plus postage: \$5.90

Terry's Itinerary

- **September 7th. (Please note this new revised date)-** (Saturday) 1.30 - 5.30pm. **Seminar on Evangelism and witnessing**, followed by BBQ. Venue: Hervey Bay Church of Christ. Admission free. Contact: Terry or Pastor Bruce Murray (071) 289375. Billets available for those wishing to stay a night. More details in August newsletter.

- **October** - A tentative trip to **Sydney** is planned. For ministry appointments contact Terry 018183093, Ps. Peter Rahme (02) 7425719, or Mike Claydon (02) 6892635.

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