



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)*

Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.1, No.6.

August 1996

PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld,
Australia, 4655 Ph. 018183093

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

Editor: Terry Arnold (Dip. Bib.& Min.,
Dip. Teaching, Author.)

Advisory Panel:

Ps. Wall McDonald (Sen. Pastor, Dip. Bib.
& Miss.)

Ps. Steve Sauvageot (Assoc. Pastor,
C.B.A., M.Ed., M.A.)

Ps. Buddy Smith (Senior Pastor, Former
Bible College principal)

Mike Claydon (Christian Counsellor)

Ps. Ian Davidson (Senior Pastor, Dip.
Min.)

Ps. Keith Piper (Senior Pastor, Author)

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.

Articles in this newsletter may be copied or reproduced provided proper credit and references are given.

Contents

P.1 - Editors Comments

'Our Awesome God!'

P.2 - 'Uniting Church on Sex'

P.3 - 'Holy or Unholy Laughter?'

'Rodney Howard-Browne on revival'

Catholic 'Evangelical Language'

Jonah Swallowed by Fish

Hell of a Queue

P.4 - Your Comments and Questions

45,000,000 murders a year

The Downward Path of Compromise

Praise & Prayer Points

Terry's Itinerary

Subscription

Editors Comments

We have been greatly blessed by those who have written to encourage and support this ministry. This often seems to come when the road is hard and difficult. The Lord's timing is always perfect. Paul commended the brethren because they *addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints, That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to everyone that helpeth with us, and laboureth*, (1Cor. 16:15,16). *Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account*, (Phil. 4:17). We should therefore support our Pastors and those who labour for the Lord. In this we are all in the one work and will receive the desired fruit and reward.

In this ministry we experience a mixture of joy and often sadness. There are joyous times when people are rescued from bondage but there are sad times when we see deception ensnaring the church. Recently I was encouraged to know that two students involved in the Jehovah Witnesses viewed a video we sent to a bookstore. As a result they have left the group. Praise the Lord for the results that comes from literature distribution! It is however, sad, when many bookstores will not stock literature that will make people *think* enough to be released from deception.

We are currently also helping and encouraging several people who are disillusioned with the excesses and extra-Biblical extremes that have invaded many churches today. Please take note of the prayer points in this newsletter as there are several people needing our prayers who are currently examining their very foundations in the Word of God.

Terry Arnold

Our Awesome God!

We are profoundly impressed with the unlimited resources of God and the Bible. He never does anything small. When he makes an ocean He makes it so deep that no man can fathom it. When He makes a mountain he makes it so large that no one can measure or weigh it. When He makes flowers, He scatters multiplied millions of them where there is no one to admire them but Himself. When he makes grace, he makes it without sides or bottom and leaves the top off. Instead of giving salvation with a medicine dropper, He pours it forth like a river.

When God sets out to do a thing for us, *He does it with a prodigality of love-prompted abundance that fairly staggers one who reckons things by the coldly calculating standards of earth.*

Whatever blessing is in our cup is sure to run over! With Him the calf is always the *fatted calf*; the robe is always the *best robe*; the joy is *unspeakable*; the peace *passeth understanding*; the grace is *so abundant that the recipient has all-sufficiently for all things, and abounds to every good work.*

There is no grudging in God's benevolence; He does not measure out His goodness as the apothecary counts His drops and measures his drams, slowly and exactly, drop by drop. God's way is always characterised by multitudinous and overflowing bounty, like that in nature which is so profuse in beauty and life that every drop of the ocean, every square inch of the forest glade, every molecule of water, teems with marvels and defies the research and investigation of man. Well may we cry with the apostle, *'I have all and abound!'*

Marie Alexander, Cooranbong, NSW.

'A Magazine which is not outspoken, and is destitute of principle, is a literary nuisance' - C.H. Spurgeon

If something is true, it can stand being questioned, but if it is not true, then it needs to be questioned!

Uniting Church on Sex

In May this year, a Task force in the Uniting Church of Australia issued a report called 'A Journey into Sexuality'. Following is a summary of this document followed by our comments, (as per numbers).

'We have changed in our understanding of the Gospel and culture, in our appreciation of scripture and its interpretation, and in our understanding of what it means to be sexual creatures'. (1) The task group stated that 'listening was its primary strategy...listening to the church...listening to the sources of our faith (scripture, tradition, theology, ethics); listening to the world...listening to the other areas of experience and inquiry (psychology, sociology) (2)...The historical distance between our times and the biblical times means we cannot simply translate the writers conclusions about sexuality into our time. (3) For example, the practice of polygamy is assumed throughout much of the old Testament, is never explicitly forbidden and is even protected by Mosaic law (Deut. 21:15-17) (4)...Our task is to bridge the gap between the ancient world from which the scriptures come and our contemporary situation...The Greek texts of the scriptures have no separate word for sensual love. Agape is not another kind of love, but the transformative quality essential to any true expression of any kind of love. So when we speak of our love for God, there is a sexual and erotic dimension to it (5)...From the perspective of right relationships there is no legitimate reason for rejecting homosexuality or homosexual relationships per se. The same ethical standards for right relationships should apply both to heterosexual and homosexual relationships (6)...there should be no barrier to the acceptance of homosexual people as full members of the church. In addition the church rightly supports equal human rights for gay and lesbian people....such relationships should be recognised and affirmed and work begun on appropriate liturgical resources (7)...The phrase 'living in sin' is an alienating concept (8)...These relationships need affirmation and building up in faith like every other relationship...To continue to postpone our full acceptance of lesbian women and gay men within the church is unjust...The key is loving acceptance...it is not our place to reject other Christians from the community because they are different (9)...The Task Group has found no evidence that a person who is a homosexual is less fit for ministry per se, or that a homosexual minister damages the credibility of ministry, any more than anyone else. To reject a person from ministry purely because that person is homosexual is a rejection of their personhood. It is similar to the rejection of women from ordained ministry in previous years (10)...In 1987, the Assembly standing committee affirmed 'that all baptised Christians belong in Christ's church and are to be welcomed at his table, regardless of their sexual orientation'...' (A journey into Sexuality' - Summary of Interim Report, Assembly Task Group on Sexuality, Uniting Church in Australia, May/96)

Editors Comments: Although this is an interim report only and does not officially yet represent the church's position, it clearly shows the direction of the Uniting Church in Australia. This report approves of homosexuality, lesbianism and pre-marital sex. Some 'evangelical members' of the Uniting Church have spoken against this report. Reverend Dr. Robert Iles has stated that the report was '*theologically defective*'. However, Andrew Fiddian, founder of the support group for gay, lesbian and bi-sexual people in the uniting church, is '*delighted*' with the report. He says: '*As a gay man, I'm pleased to see the task group challenges the traditional interpretations of the scriptures daring to push boundaries*'.

(1) Why should we have '*changed in our understanding of the Gospel...our appreciation of scripture and its interpretation...?*' Is it now not the same Gospel '*once delivered unto the saints*' (Jude 3)? Or is it '*another Gospel*' (Gal.1:8)? (2) Why should we '*listen to the church*' when it has been wrong many times over the centuries? Why listen to '*tradition, theology, ethics*' if they might disagree with scripture? Why should we '*listen to the world*' when the Bible clearly has much to say about the way of the world? Why should we '*listen to other areas of experience and inquiry (psychology, sociology)*' with its worldly ways and often anti-Christian thinking? (3) The report states: '*..we cannot simply translate the writer's conclusions about sexuality into our time*'. If this is the case then the Bible is not inspired for today! God has clearly set standards on sexuality that transcend time! (4) The report deceptively confuses the reader with old Testament law saying that '*polygamy...is never explicitly forbidden...*'. The fact is that the Law was only a stop gap until Christ came to fulfil it and bring in a new covenant. However, homosexuality is in fact condemned in *both* Testaments, (Lev.18:22; Rom.1:26,27; Jude 7; 1Cor.6:9,10; etc.). (5) This report highlights sheer deceptive use of scriptures. It says: '*The Greek texts of the scriptures have no separate word for sensual love. Agape is not another kind of love. So when we speak of our love for God, there is a sexual and erotic dimension to it*'. The Greek *does* in fact have four separate words for love: '*Egapao*' is God's love and is unconditional. '*Phileo*' is a love of feeling as distinct from principle that comes out of the human spirit and is never used of God's love. '*Eros*' is a romantic or sexual love. '*Stergo*' is a love of instinctive natural affections or a love of a father or a mother for their children. I find *nowhere* where we could say that our love for God has a '*sexual and erotic dimension to it*'. The word '*erotic*' is *wrongly* used with Agapao love, considering its natural usage and understanding today. (6) To say that '*there is no legitimate reason for rejecting homosexuality*' is totally contrary to the Bible! The Bible is clear on homosexuality. It calls it a '*vile affection*', being '*against nature*', '*unseemly*' and '*error*', (Rom.1:26,27), and that this act of '*going after strange flesh*' will bring '*eternal fire*', (Jude 7). The Greek words for '*strange flesh*' here mean '*another of a different kind*' and refer to men with men, women with women, and occasionally evil angels with women. Another reference is 1Corinthians 6:9,10 - the original Greek words here for '*effeminate*' and '*abusers*' clearly refer to sodomites, homosexuals and lesbians. (7) How can we '*affirm*' something that the Bible condemns? (8) If the phrase '*living in sin*' is an '*alienating concept*' then sin is no more sin! God hates sin. It is a stench in his nostril! '*Living in sin*' is an accurate description of homosexuality and lesbianism and some other forms of sexuality. We cannot ignore the word sin. '*Living in sin*' is '*living in sin*'. (9) How can a lack of '*full acceptance of lesbian women and gay men within the church*' be '*unjust*' when the Bible condemns their gross sin? Yes, we must love the sinner but we must hate their sin. We must warn and '*reprove them*' (Eph.5:11), and '*rebuke with doctrine*' (2Tim.4:2). The word '*reprove*' is the Greek word '*Elencho*' meaning '*to expose or to show to be guilty*'. Can we call homosexuals and lesbians '*Christians*' when the Bible clearly condemns their acts as sin and states that true Christians will not habitually sin or continually to live in sin, (1Jn.3:6,9)?(10) How can there be '*no evidence that a person who is a homosexual minister damages the credibility of ministry*'? The qualifications for ministry are clearly spelt out in the Bible. Ministers must be a '*husband of one wife*' (1Tim.3:2,12); '*of good behaviour*' (vs.2); '*he must have a good report of them which are without*' (vs.7); be '*Holy*' (Titus 1:8); and of '*sound doctrine*' (Tit. 1:9). Every one of the above requirements excludes the homosexual or lesbian!

This report shows that many in the Uniting church lack obedience to and respect for the Word of God. God has a standard of holiness and righteousness which cannot be lowered without impending judgement. Let the Words of Jesus speak to us all: '*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my Words, hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*' Terry Arnold

Holy or Unholy Laughter?

The following are two separate cases of laughter*: one reported to be *spiritual*, the other reported by the *secular* media.

Case A: *'Unsaved people are being touched by the presence of God, too, as people take the blessing out. I went to dinner with a friend who was facing a crisis in her life. ...I prayed the Lord would give her joy that night. We arrived at the restaurant and sat down, and all of a sudden, both of us began to laugh. The waiter had to come back three times to take our order, because we were unable to speak. The third time we pointed to the menu to indicate what we would like, because we were still having trouble speaking. We continued to laugh through the entire meal. The waiter kept walking past us, trying to work out what we were doing. Eventually he came up to us and said, 'I don't know what it is but I've got it too!' We watched him trying to pour coffee at the tables, his shoulders shaking as he tried to suppress the laughter. He then came and told us the chef was laughing out in the kitchen. Two ladies sitting at the next table, then began to laugh, sometimes with an expression of bewilderment on their faces, as they tried to work out what they were laughing at!'* ('Pray With Fire' by Guy Chevreau, P.238,239)

Case B: *'A teacher's banal remark got a couple of children giggling, and pretty soon the entire classroom was chuckling. Those in adjacent classrooms heard the laughter through the walls, and began to laugh too. Soon every one, pupils and teachers, were laughing - and the school was adjourned. Virtually none of them had a clue why they were laughing...Then the children went home laughing and when their parents saw them, they too were infected. Next day, they were all laughing so hard nobody was able to go to school or work...The entire village was infected. Over two weeks it spread to neighbouring villages. Finally the Red Cross was called in because people were collapsing from exhaustion and dehydration. There have been similar incidents in Africa, but this was the longest laughter on record.'* ('What a Joke: Africans Laugh Till Their Sick', The Sunday Telegraph, 19/11/95, a Sydney newspaper) * See 'The Toronto Blessing and Slaying in the spirit the telling wonder' by Nader Mikhael, P.91,92 (new third edition.)

Editors note: **If the case B had been reported in a church meeting, how would it have been described? - As a powerful 'anointing', 'holy laughter', 'the Toronto Blessing', a 'move of God'...? In both cases non-Christians were involved and did not know why they were laughing! Yes, laughter is contagious in both the spiritual and the natural realms.**

Rodney Howard-Browne on Revival!

He prophesies, *'For I am raising up my army, says the Lord. I'm raising up men and women from obscurity to walk in my power and my anointing. They will not be shaken by hell's lies. They will not be shaken by hell's deception. But they shall see that which I purchased for them 2000 years ago. They shall walk in the power of my resurrection. They shall walk in the power of my Holy Spirit and march across the earth. nations shall crumble at their feet, says the Lord, and its going to be because of the church!'*

He goes on to say that Australia will never be the same again (after his visits one concludes), and that God is shaking Australia to its very roots of religious tradition - every church denomination will be touched with the fire of revival and he wants you to know, *'the Holy Spirit is checking you out and he's looking at you real good!..The Lord spoke to me and said that how many of his children smelled of stale oil in the spirit. They stank of the stale oil of yesterday. Many Christians are living on yesterday's revelation, yesterday's bread..The time has come to prepare our hearts, not our heads!..The devil has kept the church in bondage long enough - God will light a match to the fire of the Holy Spirit and set you aflame. You will march through the land like a mighty firebrand, blazing a trail for the Holy Spirit. Forget about everyone else. Concentrate on yourself! What about you?..We are living on the brink of the greatest revival of the Holy Spirit!'*

Rodney is adamant that revival is at hand and that the state of revival *'is not for the sinner'* but *'for Christians turning back to that first love..You can have revival anywhere, any place, anytime, all it takes is somebody who is hungry and thirsty and crying out for God!'*

No Matter how you personally understand revival - it is impossible to reconcile this thinking with scripture.

Nowhere does God reveal that the church will have nations crumble at her feet, blaze a trail of fire for the Holy Spirit or be in bondage by the devil.

This nonsense can only be absorbed and believed if one follows Mr. Howard-Browne's instructions to receive the information via the heart and not the mind! Many thousands in this country have willingly done that and now await the promised awakening.

Rodney may be partly right - we are probably on the brink of the greatest revival of a spirit!

Mike Claydon, Parramatta, NSW.

Catholic 'Evangelical language'

Over recent years I have become aware of Catholics using 'evangelical' language such as *'salvation by grace', 'born again'*, etc. These are not normally common terms to Catholics but Catholic Charismatics and apologists are increasingly using such terms. This has confused many Christians into thinking that the Catholic church has changed. However, these terms usually have a completely different meaning to both sides. *'Salvation by grace'* to Christians means *without* works. However, to Catholics this grace is earned by various works and sacraments which *produce* grace. The term *'born again'* to Christians means to become a new creation spiritually handed over to Christ. To Catholics this term usually refers to when they are *baptised*, usually after birth.

Catholicism has the amazing ability to adapt and change its colours but *never* its teachings. Pope Paul II told his weekly audience at the Vatican, *'Christian unity will not become a reality unless all churches accept the authority Christ entrusted to St. Peter and his successors...This unity will not be fully manifested until all Christians accept Christ's will for the church and acknowledge the apostolic authority of the Bishops, in communion with the successor of Peter.'** **Terry Arnold** (*Pope: For unity, Churches Must accept Papal authority' by Cindy Wooden, Catholic Moment, Aug., 10, 1995).

Jonah swallowed by a fish

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah... (Jonah 1:17)

Dake's Bible commentary notes (P.13 N.T.), states: *'Some Baleen whales are up to 100 feet long and 40 feet around...A Mediterranean fish was recently caught and exhibited in Beirut...A man standing on the lower jaw could not reach the upper jaw, the opening being about 8 ft. across. The April 4, 1896 Literary Digest gave a story of a Mediterranean whale that demolished the harpoon boat. Two men were lost. One was found alive in the whale's belly a day and a half after it was killed. James Bartley lived with no after effects, except his skinned was tanned by the gastric juices...'*

Hell of a Queue

'Bogota: Thousands of devout Catholics are rushing to baptise their children at churches throughout Columbia's capital after a rumour foretold the arrival of the Antichrist, a local TV program has reported. Churches baptised more than 7000 children in less than six hours over the weekend, it said.' (Sydney Morning Herald 4/6/96)

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor or the advisory panel)

Testimony by Ex-JW

I was a Jehovah's Witness in England for 18 years up to 1974 when I started to have many doubts about the teachings. After a new book was published with 'new truths' I was appalled that we were instructed to 'use up' the old books, which now of course contained 'untruths' of course. Following my withdrawal from the WT organisation...I did not associate with any Christian churches because of my long held teaching from the Watchtower organisation that they were instruments of Satan the Devil.

Praise the Lord early in 1993, and after much prayer for guidance, I came to know two ladies from the Blacktown Anglican church who were involved in a ministry to people trapped in cults and, as an ex-cult member, I thought I may be able to help. In helping them, they of course were able to help me with my Christian walk. The ministry was run at that time by an ex-Jehovah's Witness, and had been in operation for a number of years and was known in the cult ministry circles. In time, after attending a number of different churches, I started to associate on a regular basis with one church where the Bible is upheld and taught.

It was in this church that I came to realise that Jesus had died for my sins (1Cor.15:3-4), and that it is God's grace that gives me my salvation (Eph.2:8,9; 1Jn.5:13), and knowing this I accepted Jesus as my saviour in November 1993 at an alter call at the church.

In January of 1994, like the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36,37), I asked my Pastor what prevented me from being baptised by immersion. I learnt that baptism pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and also that it is a public testimony of my identification with Jesus (Rom.6:1-7; 10:9,10). Knowing this I submitted myself to baptism by my pastor.

Since that time I have been asked to look after the ministry which I mentioned above, due to the fact that the original worker had decided to study at college for the full time ministry. This ministry is an outreach to those troubled by cults and especially those in the Watchtower organisation.

Since accepting Jesus as my saviour I have had an inner peace and contentment which I have never experienced before and I have learnt to place my whole trust in Him for those things in this world that I need, (Phil.4:19).

I have spoken at our own church regarding the Watchtower organisation and church support has been offered for this ministry...I was retrenched from my job 18 months ago and am now on the mature Age Pension so I have ample time to devote to this ministry and also help my pastor at our church with various jobs.

I also hold support group meetings once a month for ex-witnesses and interested or concerned parties, and these have been proving very useful in meeting and personally talking to those affected, either directly or indirectly, by the Watchtower organisation.

I am currently attending certain Bible courses...and am finding these of great use in my Christian walk.

Looking back at my letter I notice a lot of 'I's' but of course I recognise I could do none of this without the Lord's leading and strength...

*...Of all the books written about JW's the two I most strongly recommend are 'How to rescue your loved one's from the JW's' by David Reed and an excellent book by Ron Rhodes, 'Reasoning from the scriptures with Jehovah Witnesses'. The last book was most useful to me personally as it first shows the witness teaching on a subject then counters it with the Christian teaching, so it helped me in my Christian walk and I have recommended it to many ex-witnesses as it is most helpful in tearing down the WT brain washing. Raymond Franz, an ex-governing body member, has written two books which are also most helpful to an ex-witness but may not be fully understood by most Christians, not having been there, done that'. In Jesus name. **Ray Beharrell**, Sydney.*

45,000,000 murders a year

'Forty-five million abortions, about one for every three live births, are performed round the world every year, the united Nations has reported'. (Nirr, 4/3/96)

Praise Points

- Praise God for those of you who support the ministry financially and especially in prayer. I have been greatly encouraged by those recently offering set monthly support.
- Two students involved in the JW's have now left this group after viewing a video sent by us to a bookstore. Praise The Lord for resources to set captives free from error into truth!

Prayer points

- Please pray for a number of people who have recently left, or are considering leaving churches involved in excesses and false teaching. Pray that we can help them with compassion and truth in their time of difficulty. Pray for Holy Spirit guidance.

Cut here

The Downward path of compromise

1. The Christian recognises the error.
 2. He tolerates it.
 3. He excuses it.
 4. He defends it.
 5. He condones it.
 6. He embraces it.
- (From 'Evangelicism - The New Neutralism' by W. E. Ashbrook, P.120-

Terry's Itinerary

- **August 4th.** pm - Fraser Coast Baptist
- **August & September** - Every Wed. night 7pm, Hervey Bay Church of Christ - teaching series on **witnessing & the cults**, (including J.W., Mormonism, Freemasonry). Contact Frank Spier (071) 252258
- **September 7th.** (Saturday) 1.30 - 5.30pm. **Seminar on Evangelism and witnessing**, followed by BBQ. Venue: Hervey Bay Church of Christ. Admission free. Contact: Terry 018183093 or Ps. Bruce Murray (071) 289375. Billets available for those wishing to stay a night.
- **October** - Sydney. Itinerary in Sept. & Oct. newsletters. For ministry appointments contact Mike Claydon (02) 6892635 or Ps. Peter Rahme (02) 7425719

Subscription form

I am interested in receiving the monthly TA Ministries newsletters.

Name-----Address-----

-----Phone-----Fax-----Signed-----Date-----

I enclose \$----- as a donation for costs and postage

Send this form to:

TA Ministries
PO Box 1499,
Hervey Bay, Qld, 4655, Australia