



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.11.

January 1997

PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld,
Australia, 4655
Ph. 018183093 Fax (071) 284014

TA Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational 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; Stop, Look Listen!; The Inspiration of the Bible; Joke.

P.2 - Promise Keepers Update; What Leaders said about Catholicism; Ecumenicism; Holiness - not Another Theme; The Sovereignty of God.

P.3 - Some Thoughts on Healing; Evangelism Methods - Entertainment...; Christian Leaders Ripped off by a Charlatan.

P.4 - Your Comments and Questions; Book Review; Praise & Prayer Points; Terry's Itinerary; Subscription.

Joke: A man once went to see his doctor for advice about being cured of snoring. The doctor asked, 'Does your snoring disturb your wife?' The patient replied, 'Does it disturb my wife? Why, it disturbs the whole congregation!'

Editors Comments

Welcome to the New year! Each day the Lord gives us is another opportunity to love, worship and serve Him, the captain of our souls. We thank all those who sent us greetings and gifts. We cannot answer them all but the support and encouragement is appreciated.

I believe 1997 will be a year of challenge and separation. I am convinced that the line between truth and error is systematically being blurred. I believe this will cause further confusion but I also believe this will cause more Christians to come back to safe and clear ground - the inerrant and infallible Bible. Pastors, leaders and teachers, as undershepherds, are responsible for teaching and warning God's sheep. If they fail to do this God is '*against them*' and will hold them accountable, (Ezek.Ch.34).

Two things are lacking in today's Christian leaders: Discernment and a defense of the *faith which was once delivered unto the saints*, (Jude 3). General Discernment is not just a special gift of the spirit but is available to all mature Christians, (Heb.5:11-14). It comes from separation, study and knowledge of the truth of the Word of God, (2Tim.2:15).

Christ said his disciples would be persecuted and rejected. To stand for what is true means rejecting what is false! Australians do not like dogmatism but prefer accommodation. My plea is for many of us to lovingly challenge those leaders and pastors who are teaching extra-Biblical errors and extremes. I encourage readers to distribute the newsletters, write letters and send literature that many may be informed. Lack of information is much of the reason why so many churches have fallen into error today.

A word of balance and caution here: any defense of the faith must be done in *love*. Never judge the persons salvation or their heart. Unconditionally love the person but hate the teaching. The two must be separated. Never attack anothers character. One must also act in God's timing. Many are coming to the knowledge of some truth in a *continuous* sense. To push them further than what they can understand may even thwart the acceptance of that truth. Learn when to back off! Give milk before meat, (Heb.5:11-14).

Also let us be scholarly, creditable, well informed and adhere to the *facts*. Admit any mistakes. We are not the Holy Spirit, nor is anything we write inspired and 100% accurate in the same sense as the Bible. Deal with major issues that affect salvation wherever possible.

Finally, never leave a person with knowledge error without truth. **Terry Arnold**

Stop, Look Listen!

Stop - for judgement lies before you
And a Holy God you face
If you still refuse His mercy,
And despise His offered grace
Look - to Him who once was lifted
on the cross for you - for me -
Bore the storm of wrath and judgement
that the guilty might be free
Listen - to His call of mercy
'Come and I will give you rest'
Trust in Him who died to save you,
And believing you are blest.
Stop, and Look, and Listen,
For you will soon pass away
Either into outer darkness,
Or to heaven's eternal day.

The Inspiration of the Bible

(The following is from The Ryrie Study Bible by Charles C. Ryrie supplied by Jill Henderson.)

'Just to illustrate how times have changed, not many years ago all one had to say to affirm his belief in the full inspiration of the Bible, was that he believed it was 'the word of God'. Then it became necessary to add 'the inspired word of God'. Later he had to include 'the verbally inspired word of God'. Then to mean the same thing he had to say 'the plenary, verbally inspired Word of God'. Then came the necessity to say 'The plenary verbally infallible inspired Word of God'. Today one has to say, 'The plenary, verbally, infallible, inspired, and inerrant-in-the-original-manuscripts Word of God'. And even then he may not communicate clearly'

The Atlanta clergy conference held in February 1996 attracted about 39,000, about half of what the organisers had hoped to draw. Although 'Promise Keepers' has now begun to speak of 'doctrine' from the platform, yet the movement continues to compromise for the sake of unity. The statement of doctrine of the 'Promise keepers' continues to be vague, which is why they have attracted churches from nearly every denomination, including Catholic and Mormon. It is reported that American Mormon bookshops now have the 'Promise Keepers' handbook, '*Seven Promises of a Promise keepers*'.*

At the conference, founder Bill McCartney encouraged pastors to enter into a '*blood covenant*'. Max Lucado also pleaded for the participants to be neither Protestant nor Catholic and to apologise to any other group that they might have spoken against. Steve Green also loudly repeated the cry to '*Let the walls come down*'. To this the hyped up crowd of ministers whistled, cheered and clapped in agreement.

However, there is only one covenant we can enter into with other Christians and that is the one we are already in - the New Testament Covenant through the blood of Jesus Christ! At this conference McCartney asked people to enter into a blood covenant with false religious leaders such as Mormons and Roman Catholic priests. I personally could not do this. We are told to avoid (Rom.16:17), to be separate from, and not to be yoked to false teaching and their teachers, (2Cor.6:14-18). I could also not apologise for speaking against other false groups as this would contradict the Word of God, (2Tim.4:2; Jude3). As for the '*walls*', they are there because false teaching separates from the truth of the Word of God. We cannot bring together righteousness and light, with unrighteousness and darkness, (Eph.5:11; 2Cor.6:14-18). Doctrine divides because the Gospel and it's truth divides! Isaiah 5:20 says '*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*'

The 'Promise Keepers' is the largest and one of the most blatant ecumenical movements in history. The question must be asked - why does this movement have the support of many Catholic and Mormon leaders? Is it because it is a false unity without truth? Its roots are in fact firmly in the Vineyard movement which itself is one of the roots of the 'Toronto Blessing'. Although I have little problem with the 'seven promises' of 'Promise Keepers', I believe P.K. is a compromised Gospel and not exemplary of the **narrow way** (Matt7:14), but rather is the **broad way** (Matt.7:13). **Terry Arnold** * 'Media Spotlight' Vol.17, No.1, P.18.

What Leaders Said About Catholicism

Martin Luther (Lutheran): '*...The Papacy is the seat of the true and real antichrist*' (18/8/1520; The Prophetic faith of our Fathers', Vol.2, P.121)

John Wesley (Methodist): '*He [Papacy] is the man of sin...and he is, too, properly styled the Son of Perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his opposers and followers...He it is...that exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped...claiming the highest power, and highest honour...claiming the perogatives which belong to God alone*'. ('Antichrist and his ten kingdoms' P.110)

John Calvin (Presbyterian): '*I shall briefly show that Paul's words in 2Thess.2 are not capable of any other interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy*' ('Institutes')

John Knox (Scotch Presbyterian): '*That tyranny which the Pope himself has for so many ages exercised over the church...The very antichrist, and son of perdition, of whom Paul speaks*'. ('The Zurich letters' P.199)

Holiness - Not Another Theme

(The following article supplied by pastor Ian Davidson is taken from an article written by Louie E. Bustle, Director of the Nazarine World Mission Division.)

There are many themes in the Word of God, all worthy of our attention...The Church of the Nazarene preaches the scriptural doctrine of holiness. It is not just one of the many themes of the Bible, it is the heart of the Gospel. We need to preach holiness in order to bring people to full commitment and to the cleansing of the heart. It is the solid food the writer of the Book of Hebrews talks about in Chapter 5. Holiness fortifies us for service and for holy living. Holiness is not an optional experience for some special, elite group of Christians but is for everyone. It is the reason Christ died on the cross! Through Him we are cleansed from all sin and able to live a holy life...The centre of our message is holiness, the good news that God deals powerfully and effectively with sin in all its forms. We are saved that we might be holy. We are sanctified and cleansed from the carnal nature, enabling us to be holy. The full-orbed message of salvation expresses both movements of God as He works for us and in us, saving and sanctifying us by His grace and power...Scripture declares the availability of a transformational experience by faith, in which God cleanses and purifies the human heart. Holiness -

Ecumenism

Jacob Prasch writing on ecumenism, states: '*Meanwhile, ecumenical 'Promise Keepers' meetings addressed by Roman Catholic clergy take place in an Elim Pentecostal church in New Zealand...Billy Graham, a Baptist, places converts into Roman Catholic churches. In the U.K. the Baptist Union, in rejection of the heritage of John Bunyan and Charles Spurgeon, to say nothing of the droves of Baptists murdered by Rome for rejecting the same doctrines Rome still holds, has voted overwhelmingly to enter the ecumenical 'churches together' movement with Rome and liberal Protestantism*'. ('Moriel' No.6, 1996)

The Sovereignty of God

Christians should rejoice that God is in total control. Not a sparrow falls to the ground that is not in his will, (Matt.10:29). He decides who he will show mercy and who he will show wrath, (Ex. 33:19; 34:5-7, Rom.9:14-24). He puts rulers up, (good and evil), and takes them down, (Dan.4:17, Rom.13:1). He even made it possible for Judas to fulfil his treacherous role in history, (Acts 1:15-20). Yes, God uses even evil! Joseph said to his brothers '*But as for you, Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive*.'

Even though God allows evil he does not *cause* it. There is a huge difference between *allowing* and *causing*. *Nothing* can happen to us without God first allowing it, (Rom.8:28)! Yet despite all the above, we are free to oppose or accept God.

Although the kingdom of darkness has great power and this causes much suffering and sin, God's kingdom *rules* over *all* (Ps.103:19), and *reigns* throughout *all* generations, (Ps.145:13). The devil can only do what God permits, (Job.1:12; 2:6). Praise God for this simple Bible truth! God is in complete control! Acceptance of this would destroy much of man made doctrine that says God cannot act until we help him with various methods. God is sovereign! He says, *I have purposed it, I will also do it...For mine own sake, even for mine own sake will I do it...*(Is.48:11), *...he putteth down one and setteth up another*, (Ps.75:7), *...Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will*, (Eph.1:11). Terry

'Seek the truth, listen to the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, hold the truth, defend the truth until death'. (Herben, 'John Huss and his followers', P.7) (Huss was burned at the stake by the Catholic Church, after being promised safe exit from the country!)

Is God working miracles through people like in the days of Jesus and the disciples? Dr. William Noland, after much research, believed that God had not given the gift of healing or miracles as in the days of the apostles. He writes: *'Two years ago I began looking for a healing miracle. When I started my search, I hoped to find some evidence that someone, somewhere, had supernatural powers that he or she would employ to cure those patients we doctors, with all our knowledge and training, must still label as 'incurable'. As I have said before, I have been unable to find any such miracle worker'** Similarly, other commentators also refer to Hebrews 2:1-4 as evidence that the miraculous sign gifts were not present in about AD 68 as they were earlier. Here the writer declares that the message of salvation **'was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will'**. In this passage the writer used the *past* tense and lumped together **'signs and wonders'** and **'gifts'** of the spirit. The phrase **'according to His own will'** might also explain why some people were not healed, (eg. Epaphroditus - Phil.2:25-30; Trophimus - 2Tim.4:20; Timothy - 1Tim.5:23, etc.). However, most believe that James 5:13-16, in accordance with the will of God, is a valid method of healing for today.

Why is not everyone healed today in answer to prayer? Job had many similar questions, yet God never answered his queries. However, we do know that God is sovereign and allows sickness and suffering even if he allows Satan to inflict it. God is always in control! Sometimes we see good reasons why suffering occurs. Suffering can make us more like Christ (Heb.2:10, Phil.3:10), and suffering may keep us humble (2Cor.12:7-10). God gave the devil *permission* to inflict Job but Satan could only go as far as God allowed. Sometimes we are given no reason why God allows suffering. For example, Mephibosheth was crippled through a fall and never cured, (2Sam.4).

Some people use scriptures, including Matthew 8:16,17, in regard to the atonement, to 'claim' their healing. D.A Carson, observed: *'The cross is the basis for all the benefits which accrue to believers; but this does not mean that all such benefits can be secured at the present time on demand, any more than we have the right and power to demand our resurrected bodies'*

** Sometimes God does not heal despite much faith. Dr. Paul Brand, in *Christianity today* (Nov.1983), told the story of a 15 month old boy who developed flu-like symptoms. The parents, according to advice from their church leaders, depended solely on prayer and faith for his recovery. Over several weeks the boy got worse, losing his hearing and sight. He died with the parents still believing he would be restored to life. The autopsy showed that the cause of death was a form of meningitis that could have been easily treated. Despite the parents tremendous faith and much prayer effort the boy still was not healed nor raised from the dead.

Never since the days of Christ has any period even remotely compared with the miracles of Christ and the apostles. We have no reason to expect that we can escape from sickness any more than we can expect to escape death! Those who say Jesus conquered sickness for us should explain to us why we still die, since he also conquered death! The fact is we are living in unglorified bodies in a world that is under the effects of sin and Satan. Any healing allowed by God is only temporary because eventually we die! I believe God heals. However, God is *sovereign* and according to *His* will he will or will not heal. **Terry Arnold** * *'Healing: A Doctor in search of a Miracle'*, P272. ** *'The expositor's Bible Commentary'*, Vol.8 P.267

Evangelism Methods - Entertainment...

One of the reasons the western church has such a huge backsliding' rate (80% or more), is because of the questionable methods used to 'win souls' or get 'decisions'. In 1995 Tozer wrote, *'Religious entertainment is in many places rapidly crowding out the serious things of God. Many churches these days have become little more than poor theatres'*.

An Australian Bible College wrote recently: *One of Pauls' descriptions of the last days was 'lovers of pleasure'. The focus of many churches is no longer on a pulpit but on a stage...The Gospel does not entertain, it disturbs, confronts, convicts and offends human pride. It is a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to sinful man. If people come to church primarily to be entertained, they will surely leave when they find something more entertaining and accommodating. And before the churches realise it, they are bogged down in this hopeless cycle where they are obliged to concoct a bigger and better spectacle to outdo the previous one...Any time we adopt a philosophy of 'the end justify the means' our perception of truth will ultimately be shaped by what we think effective or not effective.'**

The cry today is that the message has to be adapted to the needs of the audience. Yet Paul put no trust or emphasis on worldly methods but in the power of the message itself, (1Cor.2:1,4; 1Thess.2:3-5). Paul said, **'For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...'** (Rom.1:16)

One example of a compromised gospel is the use of worldly music to hype or prepare an audience. Increasingly Crusades and churches are using 'Christian Rock' to promote the gospel. 'Christian Rock' is really a contradiction of terms. Rock can never be Christian. The two terms are in opposition since the roots are opposed to each other. Rock is clearly traced to rebellion. The fruit is clearly 'drugs, sex, and rock'n roll'.

Some years ago the Christians in the Soviet Union issued a plea to the West: *'...freedom is bringing another great harm to our churches. This damage is coming from Christians who are sending rock music and evangelists accompanied by rock bands...We are embarrassed by this image of Christianity...We abhor all Christian Rock music...it is true that rock music attracts people to church but not to Godly living...do not desecrate our teenagers with it. Even the unbelievers recognise it is unholy music and they cannot understand how American Christians can be so much like the world. We call this music from hell.'***

One lesson from the above is that the rhythm in music should not dominate the music as this make it worldly, hypnotic and sensual. The lyrics should also be doctrinally sound and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Surely this should make it *distinct* from today's worldly music.

The church today seems to be more concerned with entertaining people with the hope that there will be many 'decisions'. However, it has been said that the bait you give them will be the diet you will have to feed them. **Terry Arnold**

*SBBC News & Views No.4,96. ** Peter Peters & Vasilij Rychuk, Unregistered Union of Churches, Moscow, Russia, Nov. 1991

Christian Leaders Ripped off by a Charlatan

In 1995 several American newspapers reported accounts of the *'New Era Foundation'* scam in which several Christian Ministries were seduced for large amounts of money by a John G. Bennett. Bennett was a high profile figure in some evangelical circles, being invited to speak at a Billy Graham Crusade in 1992. Bennett promised to *'match one dollar for every dollar put up'* by Christian groups. He said *'Give New Era 1 million dollars and we'll give you back 2 million'*. Numerous Christian leaders fell for the scam, including James Dobson, Pat Robertson, Chuck Colson and Bill Bright. *'Joining them in agreeing to hand over tote bags full of cash were the leaders of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Luis Palau Evangelistic Ministries, The Salvation Army, Willow*

Editors note

Some readers are confused with letters concerning 'Copeland/Howard-Browne Tapes' in Dec. P.4. These tapes are *not* the same as the two tapes we sell and recommend by Alan Morrison and Jacob Prasz.

New Booklet '1914 Generation'

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus, Thankyou for offering to advertise our '1914 generation' booklet. We feel this little booklet is ideal to show to a Jehovah's Witness as many of them do not realise the very significant effects of this major change [1914 generation re-worded] in Watchtower policy. In fact I have found that many do not even realise the change has even taken place...In one stroke of the pen the Watchtower society have effectively got rid of the next major failed prophecy which was hurriedly looming on the horizon for them. However, all the documentation of the prophecy remains in their old publications and this is what the booklet sets out to expose. A strong point which should be noted by anyone showing the booklet to a J.W. is the fact that, contrary to Watchtower teaching, they claim to (1) be Jehovah's prophet and (2) to be the only organisation on earth that is directed by God's Holy Spirit, (see Pages 4,5,8 & 9). If these claims be true and they were guided by God's Holy Spirit, why have there been so many Watchtower prophesies that failed to come true?...Thankyou again for your help in getting this booklet out to those who would use it in talking to the Witnesses, may God continue to bless your ministry. In Jesus name, **Ray Beharrell. (Ray is an ex-JW and his booklet is available by writing to: PO Box 308, Kingswood, 2747. Send minimum of 2 by 45 cent stamps.)**

Dear Terry, I'm a Pentecostal Christian of some eighteen years standing, but I agree with you in relation to the Toronto Phenomenon. I believe that it's a fraud, perpetrated on the body of Christ, and that many sincere seekers have been lead astray by the false prophets and teachers of the movement...The whole T.B./C.I./SOP/ entourage is heavily involved in dominion/Reconstructionist theology, and this is not suprising, seeing that they hold unorthodox views on basic beliefs too. I'm not a believer in Hyper-faith either. I regard Copeland and Hagin, as well as Benny Hinn to be heretical in their views of the trinity, Christs vicarious sacrifice, and prosperity/healing.... We need to 'contend earnestly for the faith' as it says in Jude, and not let these deceivers encourage the common believers to shift away from basic Bible truths, towards existential experiences....Please include me on your mailing list...Yours in Christ, **A. H., Alice Springs.**

Praise Points

- All those who have recently made commitments in our New Christians class are growing strong in the Lord and His Word. Most are hungry for knowledge.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for some new contacts made for the new Christians class. Some have not yet made commitments to Christ but are open to His Word. Pray for Holy Spirit guidance.
- Please pray as Terry meets with two Mormon missionaries this month.

Cut here

'Keep The Fire' by John Arnott

(The following is a review by Mark Haville, reproduced from 'Evangelicals Now', 5/96)

The long-awaited 'Keep The Fire' is 237 pages of Toronto apologia. The very unattractive cover will probably not increase the sales, as would have a photograph of Carol Arnott marrying Jesus in her 'vision' on page 64, had one been available. Carol literally becoming the bride of Christ is only one of the incredible things found in this book which I can only describe as a DIY for deception. Carol is also looking forward to seeing her two pet dogs in Heaven (P.64). The author's constant injunction is to 'try first, analyse later'. After which it is too late...

The author says 'this book is speaking more to the heart than the head' and he uses expressions like 'cerebral theology' to reinforce your passivity. He ignores the fact that the most important scripture in the Old Testament is Deuteronomy 6:5, 'And thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, (mind), and with all thy might'. And that in the New Testament the word most often translated 'heart' is 'keardia', which means the soul, intellect, reasoning, etc. The book serves as an apologetic to defend the animal noises and other manifestations experienced at John Arnott's meetings. In doing so it necessitates the re-defining of almost every Bible story and doctrine.

For example: 'Studying too much is quenching the Spirit' (P.34); 'theology is no longer the study of God's nature, but a reflection on Toronto experiences' (P.62). He redefines 'preaching', 'refreshing', 'decent and in order', 'test the spirits' and 'evangelism' (P.29). He states that when he preached more on salvation, the ministry time was difficult. This is a warning to anyone as to what spirit is being manifest.

He goes on to reinterpret parts of scripture, such as David and Goliath, Elija and Elisha, Paul and Silas, and the woman at the well in John 4 - they all suddenly have something profound to teach us about the 'Toronto Blessing'. Mr. Arnott also tells that Jesus bled to death on the cross and that his bloodless body was contaminated by literally becoming sin for us (P.212,213). This, which he claims the Father revealed to him, is at variance with the apostle John, who record blood and water flowing after Jesus had died.

But for me the most distasteful part of the book is where Arnott describes the crucifixion of our Lord as being the payment for the ongoing party at the Toronto Airport Vineyard church: 'This is the cost of the party. He was nailed to the cross' (P.211). The same spirit is allegedly encouraging unity with Rome (P.18) and evangelism without preaching (P.166). This book will only keep the fire in your living-room if you deal with it appropriately'.

(For more material on John Arnott and his teachings, order 'A Paper concerning the visit of John Arnott to Australia'

'The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.' E.M. Bounds, 1907

Terry's Itinerary

Jan. 5th. am. Howard Baptist 9.45am. Ph. 295563

Jan. 5th. pm. Fraser Coast Baptist 6.30pm Ph.018183093

Subscription Form

Send this form to:

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

I am interested in receiving the monthly TA Ministries newsletters.

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

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