

# 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, non-denominational faith ministry, teaching, informing and equipping the church.

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# Contents

P.1 - Editors Comments.

**P.2** - David Wilkerson on Revival; Wesleyan Methodist on 'T.B.'; The Filling With the Spirit; Facts of the Cross. **P.3** - Yongi Cho's Prophecy; The Cambridge Declaration; The Trinity - a Mystery; Finding the Balance; There Is No God?.

**P.4** - Revival Harvest; The Bible; Promise Keepers Speakers; AD 2000 Movement; The Tongue; G.R.A.C.E.

P.5,6 - The 'Pensacola Outpouring'.
P.7 - Responses to 'Mail-Out' Conducted in May; Successor to Pope John Paul II?; Priest Challenges Pope.
P.8 - Your Comments and Questions; Praise & Prayer Points; \*\*New Book\*\*.

It is with thanks to God that we increase this newsletter from 4 to 8 pages and the number of subscriptions continues to grow. Thankyou for your continued support and encouragement in prayer and finance!

**Editors Comments** 

This month we have had much mail concerning revival, in particular the Pensacola 'revival'. While we would love to support reports of revival, we are living in days when it is vital that we 'test the spirits', (1Jn.4:1; Gal.1:6-9), and 'prove all things', (1Thess.5:21). The Bible warns us of a great 'falling away', (2Thess.2:3); 'signs and lying wonders', (2Thess.2:9); increasing 'deception', (2Tim.3:13; Matt.24:11.24; Rev.6:4); 'seducing spirits and doctrines of devils', (1Tim.4:1); and a 'strong delusion' to those who will 'believe not the truth', (2Thess.2:11,12). Yet, despite all the warnings, many church leaders chase after peace, revivals and 'blessings'. I too want revival, but before any revival comes there must first be repentance and judgement in the church. There is no escaping this - according to Scripture, these must come first!

Every genuine revival in history has begun with peopleweeping and repenting, not laughing! Nor is revival people getting saved - that's the *fruit* of revival. Revival is the church repenting! The fact is we are losing the battle! New Age, mysticism, homosexuality, and an increase in cult groups, false teachers and false prophets, are undeniably rampant. In England, Islam is growing faster than Christianity, with more Mosques being built than churches. Similarly, in Australia, Buddhism is growing faster than Christianity. It is a curious thing that wherever moves like the 'Toronto blessing' are in evidence, evangelical faith is declining. Churches that have embraced these new 'blessings' have largely been depleted.

Today in many circles there is a refusal to judge the teachings of others. Many seek peace and unity at any price. Pastors can teach the worst heresies and Christians don't question or speak out. Many simply do not know their Bibles. Others, because of a fear of negativity or persecution, refrain from contention. Yet, God said to Jeremiah: '*Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord*', (Jer.1:8).

In the Old Testament, judgement came when God's people deviated from the Word of the Lord and ignored the prophets and the watchmen. In every generation God has given prophets and watchmen to warn of these judgements and to exhort the people to repentance. Yet, in almost every generation, these men were not listened to: '*Also I set* watchmen over you saying, hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, we will not hearken', (Jer.6:17). However, many watchman did not, and still do not warn God's people: '*His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb* dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.' (Is.56:10).

Today many leading evangelists and church leaders are involved in or with false teachers, false prophets, or a false ecumenism. Listen to the Word of God to Jeremiah: 'I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying I have dreamed, I have dreamed...they are prophets of the deceit of their own hearts...the prophet that has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that has my Word, let him speak my Word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord...therefore, behold, I am against these prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my Words every one from his neighbour. Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness;...ye have perverted the Words of the living God, (Jer.23:25-36)

Although there are watchmen in the church today, the Word of God is like a watchman to us, and it sets a narrow path before us. The Great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, leads the way! Today He says this to us:..to this man will I look, to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my Word', (Is.66:2). Terry Arnold

### David Wilkerson on Revival...

(The following is a personal letter sent by David Wilkerson of World Challenge Inc. (courtesy Frank Brennan). Wilkerson is considered by many to be the leading Pentecostal pastor/author in America.)

#### Dearly Beloved: GREETINGS IN THE EXALTED NAME OF CHRIST OUR LORD!

I have been receiving a number of letters asking my opinion about certain 'revivals' in Canada and the USA....I have never endorsed any so-called revival. .. I can never help nor hinder any true spiritual movement...Do I believe any of the 'revivals' represent the last days outpouring - the last great revival before Jesus comes? No! Not at all. We should rejoice in every work of the Spirit that results in true conversions - but any 'revival' that purports itself to be 'the great revival' and is promoted and 'spread' by its leaders must be *immediately discounted. When the last great outpouring comes.* it is prophesied to come 'upon all flesh'. It will not be isolated in just a few areas. No one will be counting numbers. Hungry seekers will not be falling backwards - but frontwards, on their faces, humbled and broken. The preaching of the cross will be central. There will be no fund-raising, no introducing of star visitors. The meetings will be times of wooing by the Holy Spirit, because He never drives people to altars - He woos them. No one will have to defend such an outpouring. All manifestations will focus on Christ, not flesh. Weeping, brokenness. a lifting of holy hands in thankfulness for God's mercy and grace will produce a true spirit of joy.

Local revivals usually have a life-span of five to six years. Even the Azusa Street revival that gave birth to modern Pentecostalism lasted less than six years. People flock from around the world to see the 'new thing'. Good reports and evil reports go throughout the land. Theologians and preachers either bless or curse it. Some who attend are blessed and changed; others leave wounded and confused. So it is today - nothing changes. I have heard from some of our readers who visited a revival and were greatly touched. Others write telling us they left emotionally wounded and convinced it was mostly flesh. God be praised for all who have repented and are changed. For others I grieve. Tides that come in must go out. The Toronto tide is fading fast - it's tide going out. Soon it will be only a memory. So with all other localised revivals. The excitement ebbs - the crowds leave - and suddenly it is all over.

My recommendation? Get your own revival! You will find it in Isaiah 58:10,11. You need no airline ticket, no travel. I have found the springs of water that never fail!

'And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.'

Thankyou,...His bondservant, David Wilkerson (12/6/97)

# The Filling With the Spirit

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?... It means to come continuously and progressively under the control and influence of the Holy Spirit. This is expressed clearly as a command in Ephesians 5:18: 'And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Holy Spirit'.

The Greek word for filled is in the *continuous* tense. This is not a one-off experience received at any one time! The issue is not how much of the Spirit you have, but how much the Spirit has of you! The Holy Spirit is also not a substance to be doled out! The Corinthians were baptised in the Spirit but were in fact '*babies*' and '*carnal*', needing to be filled (continuously). Terry Arnold

## Wesleyan Methodist on 'T.B'.

Very few denominations took a stand on the 'Toronto Blessing'. However, the following is an extract from an early statement on the 'Toronto Blessing' by the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, National Superintendent's office on 6/5/95.

'..It should be remembered that the work of the Holy Spirit is an inward work, wrought upon the soul which brings with it justifying and sanctifying graces, resulting in the fruit of holy living, and gifts that promote the maturity of the whole church. It is error to conceive of the Holy Spirit acting as a force outside of a person, exerting an irrestistable power over them, as has been observed in these meetings. Such a concept is occultic and fundamentally not Christian.

The Toronto Blessing does not meet criteria of true revival at several important points. There is a conspicuous absence of the preaching of the Gospel and there are very few conversions taking place as a result of the movement. A deep sense of God's holiness and human sinfulness is markedly absent, giving way instead to a jovial carnival atmosphere, marked by an abandonment quite inappropriate in a Christian gathering. In many quarters there is very little Biblical exposition associated with the movement...this movement would open the door to a potentially divisive and destructive element..We are under no obligation to accept teaching, which we do not believe to be in keeping with classic Christian orthodoxy and which have not received the consent of mainstream Christianity..' (T.J. Blythe)

#### **Facts of the Cross**

(Extract from an article sent in by Ps. Frank Brennan, Wagga, NSW)

Many saints on hearing the truth of co-death [Gal.2:20; Rom.6:6], immediately assume that they ought to die, so they try their best to crucify themselves..The results are too obvious: no POWER is theirs to be freed from sin, and their old man they feel will not die. THE BIBLE NEVER INSTRUCTS US TO CRUCIFY OURSELVES. Its precisely the opposite in Holy Writ. We are taught that when Christ went to Calvary, He took us there and had us crucified...(Rom.6:6). When He died...so did our old Adamic nature die as well.

How do professing Christians demonstrate self crucifixion? Many become over-active in good works, plus many church activities...Many of these folk have come to believe they are Christian...because of Christening as a child/water baptism...receiving the right hand of fellowship...confirmation, etc, but without a deep conviction of sin...and a turning in total repentance to God for His saving grace and mercy. There are countless thousands of people who fall into this category. They believe in a saviour in their heads, but have never experienced Jesus in their hearts. This is termed as self crucifixion by good works. The ruling sin behind this group of people...is called pride and deception.

The second category of professing Christians, trying to work out their own salvation by self crucifixion, are those who try to live in the law and grace camp. These folk are very miserable indeed...These folk cannot for some reason or another accept that Christ has done it all..They are always finding fault in others..

Gaining spiritual life is conditional on suffering loss...We cannot measure our lives in terms of gain...Those who can afford to lose the most, are those who have the most to give. The power of love is attested by love sacrifice. If our hearts are not separated from the love of the world, our soul life has yet to go through the cross...

We can despise all the things in the world only after the Holy Spirit has shown the reality of Heaven and its perfect life. The above was a wonderful reality to me upon my conversion to Christ...I literally tasted of Heaven and the world to come, (see Heb.6). The experience of the apostle Paul in Philippians Chapter 3 begins with esteeming everything as loss. Therein does the apostle come to know Christ and the power of His <sup>2</sup> resurrection...such is the way! Frank Brennan

### Yongi Cho's Prophecy

Yongi Cho is a Korean pastor of the largest church in the world, (over 700,000). On the 12/1/86 at Paradise Assembly of God church, Adelaide, Sth Australia, Yongi Cho made the following prophecy. The prophecy was*repeated* in the evening service. (Video tape on file at TA Ministries).

'...From last evening while I have been praying and [I] know that God has spoken to my heart - that you are going to grow [to] 10,000 in less than 3 years. [audience applause]... Well you are clapping hands but that means you should give more offering...3 years is a very short period...get ready for God's outpouring of his Spirit...God is going to use your church...God [also] wants me to have 1 million members by 1990. The same Holy Spirit spoke to me very clearly when I was sitting on this platform: 'Son, this church will grow to the number of 10,000 in less than three years'...because my ear is very finely tuned to the Holy Spirit...'

This prophecy did not come to pass. The church in fact *decreased* in numbers in 1990! Cho's church has also not reached 1 million. As with the false prophesies of the Wordfaith teachers and the Toronto teachers, we are commanded to reject false prophets and separate from them and their teachings.

'But a prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak... When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously,...' (Dt.18:20-22)

'Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves' (Matt,7:15)

'And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many.. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders: insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.' (Matt.24:11,24)

'Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.' (1Jn.4:1)

# **Finding the Balance**

Many people who are coming out of the excesses and extremes in this current 'wave' of experiential Christianity, report that it is difficult to find local churches with a 'balance'. Perhaps this is because many Christians in doctrinally sound churches, *react* too strongly to error and become 'unfeeling' Christians. If we run to the latter extreme we may become content with only head knowledge of the Christian truth.

Some think that even controlled emotions are wrong or an excess. This thinking can give rise to 'dead' churches with 'dry' Christians. The characteristics of these churches may be:- an inflexible structure and ritual or formalism in church services; singing the same songs every week or a lack of freedom in worship; resistance to change or to new ideas; few or decreasing young people; and a lack of souls won, or an inability to keep them. Some of these things can quickly lead to legalism.

Let us get excited about Jesus! Let our emotions be stirred! I am not here advocating emotionalism. Emotionalism is emotions taken too far. Emotionalism in religion is allowing our hearts to dominate our minds. The Bible says our hearts are 'deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?' (Jer. 17:9) Our hearts cannot be trusted! Let our mind keep our hearts in check through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

However, let Christ affect every part of us *including* our *emotions*, because Jesus came to save every part of us, even our emotions. There is such a thing as holy emotions in contrast to disorderly emotions. The early Christians knew of the '*love shed abroad in the heart*', (Rom.5:5), and the '*joy unspeakable and full of glory*,' (1Pet. 1:8). Terry Arnold

## The Cambridge Declaration

'Calling for churches today to return to the Reformation roots of evangelism, 80 theologians. pastors, and church leaders signed a declaration in Cambridge, at the conclusion of a four day summit held by the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals. Westminster's Robert Godfrey noted: 'If we evaluate the pragmatism of the pragmatists on a pragmatic basis, we have to say that by their own standards they have failed. Why don't American medical statistics reflect the healings of the Charismatics? Why don't our crime statistics reflect the holy living of evangelicals? Why, after a generation of church growth methodology and user friendly worship, is church attendance down significantly?' The Cambridge declaration condemned 'the church growth movement' for allegedly stressing 'that a sociological understanding of those in the pew is as important to the success of the Gospel as is the Biblical truth which is proclaimed'. (Aust. Beacon, 2/97)

#### The Trinity - a Mystery

The Bible clearly teaches the Trinity. The Father is God, the Son claimed to be God, (Jn.8:24,58), and the Holy Spirit is equated with and as God, (Acts 5:3,4). Often when witnessing to Jehovah Witnesses they will attack the Trinity. This is often a 'red herring' to get you off the vital topic of *who* Jesus really was, and is - the '*Alpha & Omega*', the '*first & the last*', (Rev.1:17; 2:8; 22:13 Cp. Is.44:6; 48:12; 41:4); the great '*I am*', (Jn.8:24, 58 Cp. Ex.3:13,14); and the *only* name by which we can be saved, (Acts 4:12). The issue is *firstly* Jesus, not the Trinity!

However, if one should need to explain the Trinity, the method is to show that each person of the Godhead claims to be God, as shown in the Scriptures above.

Sadly, most Christians are ill-equipped to discuss the Trinity with J.W.'s. Apart from using Scripture to prove the Trinity, when cultists stray from the topic and want to attack the Trinity, I recommend a method that Jesus used to the closed minded -*answer a question with a question*. For example, I ask the cultists to please explain to me how water ( $H_2O$ ) can be solid (ice), liquid and gas (water vapour) *at the same time*, yet remaining three different substances in appearances, all being *one* and the same, ( $H_2O$ ). If they can explain the trinity of  $H_2O$ then I will attempt to explain the Trinity of the Godhead. To this day no one has answered this mystery. **Terry Arnold** 

#### There Is No God...?

The earth rotates on its axis at the speed of 1000 miles per hour. If this were much slower the sun would begin to burn the vegetation and disease from over radiation would increase. The nights would be so cold that new vegetation would freeze. The sun is the exact distance from the sun that we do not fry or freeze.

If the moon were closer, the tides would be much bigger and more difficult for civilisation to live with...

The earth is tilted at 23 degrees. This gives us our seasons. If this were not so the air flow and precipitation from the oceans would move to the bottom or top of the earth and increase the ice caps greatly, causing massive weather changes. The atmosphere of the earth is 50 miles deep and exactly the right density and the right mixture of gases to sustain human life!

Who gave humans a conscience and a brain that no computer can match, yet denied it to animals? Birds migrate from Canada to Argentina at precise times and speed. What calendar do they use?

There is no God...? 'For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse', (Rom.1:20).

## **Revival Harvest**

Brownsville AOG Pensacola is now following the trend of its parent 'The Toronto Airport ex. Vineyard' and marketing itself in the form of revival conferences on a global scale, including upcoming visits to Australian centres.

In August 1997 at Sydney's North Christian Life Centre and in September 1997 at Lighthouse Christian Centre, Wollongong, *Revival Rain*, and *Revival Harvest* conferences respectively are to be held. Advertising material for these events fell out of the latest AOG Australian *Evangel* magazine.

If you wished to attend both conferences and hear the different speakers, it would set you back \$190 per couple. It may be necessary to be financially blessed these days if one is to be enlightened by these conferences.

Pastor Carey Robertson from Brownsville AOG (Pensacola), is ministering at Chatswood whilst a Messianic Jew named Dick Reuben who is involved in the revival services in Pensacola, will be teaching at Wollongong.

The theology espoused in the publication featuring Dick Reuben is horrifying, if not blasphemous. Since he was saved 26 years ago, he has been looking for *patterns* in the Word of God to live his life by. He says: 'If you look at the system that God has, which he never changes, it opens up the entirety of the Word of God to you'. Reuben explains how two years before the so called 'revival' broke out at Pensacola, Florida, he conducted a five day series which explained the pattern of 'the tabernacle of Christ'. Senior Pastor John Kilpatrick then implemented the pattern of intercessory prayer, praise, and weekly communion. 'When the pattern is right, the glory has to fall' (bold italics mine), 'You can't stop the glory from falling because God wants to share His glory among His people. However, God is bound (italics mine) by His own Word, and the parameters of His Word must be met. Revival came to Brownsville because the pattern was applied', (italics mine), says Dick.

He teaches and claims to be used by God to 'bring the glory down' in the meetings by the blowing of the Shofar (ram's horn). Regarding his forthcoming trip to Australia, he says: 'I am excited about what God is going to accomplish by our visit to your country. Your nation is ready for revival. Your countrymen are truly seeking the face of God, (reader check out Romans 3:11), and I do believe He hears your cry and is going to answer that cry by sending revival your way'.

This conference is about '*end-time revival*' and we are told: '**Do not miss out**!' Put this theology together with the manifestations at the Pensacola meetings and you should conclude that something is amiss. We warn: Caveat Emptor! **Mike Claydon**, 8/97

## The Bible

'A nation would be truly blessed if it were governed by no other laws than this blessed book. It is such a complete system that nothing need be added to it, or taken away from it. It contains most things needful to be known or done. It affords a copy for a king, and a rule for a subject. It gives instruction and counsel to a senate, authority and direction to a magistrate. It cautions a witness, requires an impartial verdict from the jury, and furnishes the judge with his sentence. It sets the husband as lord of the household, and the wife as mistress of the table; tells him how to rule and her how to manage. It entails honour to parents, and enjoins obedience in children. It prescribes and limits the sway of the sovereign, the rule of the ruler, and the authority of the master; commands the subjects to honour, and the servants to obey, and promises the blessing and protection of its author to all who walk by its rules. It promises food and raiment, and limits the use of both. It points out a faithful and eternal guardian to the departing husband and father, tells him with whom to leave his fatherless children, and in whom his widow is to trust, and promises to be a father to the former and a husband to the latter. It defends the rights of all, and reveals vengeance to every defrauder, over-reacher and oppressor. It is the first book, and the best book, and the oldest book in the world. It contains the choicest matter, gives the best instruction, and affords the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that can be revealed. It contains the best laws and the profoundest mysteries that ever were perused. It brings the best of tidings, and affords the best of comfort to the enquiring and disconsolate. It exhibits life and immortality, and shows the way to everlasting glory. It is a brief recital of all that is past, and is a certain prediction of what is to come. It settles all matters in debate, resolves all doubt, and eases the mind and conscience of all their scruples. It reveals the only and true God, shows the way to Him, sets aside all other gods, and describes the vanity of them, and of all who trust in them.

In short it is a book of laws to show right and wrong, a book of wisdom that condemns all folly, and makes the foolish wise; a book of truth that detects all lies and confronts all errors, and a book of life that shows the way from everlasting death. It is the most compendious book in the world, the most authentic, and the most entertaining history that ever was published. It describes the celestial, terrestial, and infernal worlds, human tribes, and angelic myriads. It will instruct the most accomplished mechanic and the profoundest artist. It teaches the best rhetorician, and exercisest the wisest anatomist and finds employment for the nicest critic. It corrects the vain philosopher, and guides the wise astronomer. It exposed the subtle sophist, and makes diviners mad. It is the best evidence that ever was produced, and best deed that ever was sealed, the best will that ever was made, and the best testament that ever was signed. To understand it is to be wise, indeed, but to be ignorant of it is to be destitute of wisdom. It is a complete code of laws, a perfect body of divinity, an unequalled narrative, a book of lives, of travels and voyages. It is the king's best copy, the housewife's best guide, the servant's best directory, the young man's best companion, the schoolboy's spelling book, and the learned man's masterpiece. It affords knowledge of witty inventions for the ingenious and dark sayings for the grave. It encourages the wise, and the warrior; and promises an eternal reward to the conquer. And that which crowns it all is - the Author is One in Whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning.'(Document found in Westminster Abbey, nameless and dateless. Supplied by Austin Hellier, Alice Springs.)

## **Promise Keepers Speakers**

Franklin Graham who is the vice chairman of the Billy Graham Evangelistic association is the guest speaker for the ecumenical *Promise Keepers* in 1997.

## The Tongue

'A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it till afterwards.' (Pr.29:11)...'Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him.' (Pr.29:20) <sub>A</sub>

## AD 2000 Movement

The ecumenical AD 2000 movement has named four men as honorary chairman: Billy Graham, Luis Palau, Bill Bright, and Kyun Chik. AD 2000 is an ecumenical movement that includes Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Charismatics, Pentecostals and Protestants of all kinds. It also has some New Agers in its ranks, (Jay Gary and Robert Muller).

**G.R.A.C.E** = Gods righteousness at Christs expense

# The 'Pensacola Outpouring'

Reports from those visiting the Toronto Airport church are that on some Sundays as little as fifty now attend the morning service - a huge difference to when the 'Toronto Blessing' first broke out! Now that the Toronto phenomenon and its false prophecies have all but faded, one would assume such phenomenon would die. Not so! Another 'revival' has taken its place!

#### **Roots:**

Brownsville evangelist, Steve Hill, is credited with bringing 'revival' on June 18th. 1995 to Pensacola, (Brownsville Assembly of God (AOG) church), after he had been touched by the 'Toronto Blessing' in London.

On the first morning of the 'revival', Kilpatrick, pastor at Brownsville AOG, claims 'a river of the glory of God' moved between his legs. 'It felt like a telephone pole...A telephone pole was coming through my legs...in the church'. He fell to the floor drunk and paralysed for three and a half hours. He said 'It felt like fluid was dripping out of the joints in my bones'. This fluid he claimed was all the stress built upon from years of ministry. Later in the evening service he could not move his head, tongue, or any part of his body. He sat in a comatose state till the early hours of the next morning. For three weeks Kilpatrick and his wife were 'drunk in the spirit' while in their home. He was not able to go to work because of the drunkenness. He speaks of a 'river of the lord' in the church: 'You could feel the current, this invisible current, just like a river. Some nights it will come along the wall. Some nights it may come down the aisle...One night it was so powerful going across the back of the church, that I actually jumped up, wrapped my legs around the beam and stopped in mid air and watched the crowd go by me...There is a blue haze that comes in that place a lot of times, just a blue haze of the glory of God..Angels [were] dancing at the top of the auditorium. Childrens eyes rolled back in their heads, and they'd not move a muscle for four hours'. (1) Kilpatrick also admitted that there was 'pandemonium going on'. (2)

The roots of Pensacola are linked to Toronto and it appears that Pensacola has simply replaced the Toronto phenomena. John Kilpatrick acknowledges the links of the Pensacola 'revival' with the 'Toronto Blessing', (his wife and many in his church previously visited Toronto). Subsequently, AOG churches in America have been greatly affected by the 'Pensacola outpouring', and many believe this is an awakening, an end-time revival, or the last days '*Latter rain*'. Yet, this '*latter rain*' teaching stems from false teachers, false teaching, and false prophecies made in the 1940's and 1950's.(3) James K. Bridges, General Treasurer of the AOG in America, likens this revival to the last days '*Latter Rain*': '*It is a season of Harvest just before the 'catching away' of the church...Many are again experiencing the Latter Rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit for this last-days revival'.* (4)

#### Phenomena:

Initially the Pensacola phenomena was more believable than Toronto because it did not have the intensity of manifestations of laughter and the animal noises. There also appears to be more emphasis on repentance. However, recent reports show that many of the manifestations are now as uncontrolled and extreme as those of the 'Toronto Blessing'. Brownsville AOG has even created the '*Alter of Incense*' similar to the 'glory cloud' in the Old Testament. Yet, Steve Hill claims: 'conviction of sin and reaching the lost - not Charismatic hoopla - is what this revival is all about'. However, this same Hill claims that a current of electricity has thrown him four feet into the air and that 'there's nothing a catcher can do if a lady a hundred feet away is hit by the power of God, is thrown up against the wall and wakes up with a knot on her head'. (5) Typical of reports is an internet letter from Texas: 'I visited that church [Brownsville]...I felt as if I'd...ended up in a mental ward...a very large number of people were swatting at the air as if something were trying to land on them - maybe like you'd fight off a swarm of bees, yet nothing was there!!! Many others were writhing and jerking uncontrollably, while others walked as if they were 'the Hunchback of Notre Dame', and others were walking like chickens. Our church members and I left during the invitation. We still can't believe what we saw with our own eyes!!! It was evil!!! ...an evil unholy spirit was in charge'. (6)

The New Age movement has similar manifestations as do the Hindu cults. Swami Baba Muktananda and his 'Kundalini' type manifestations, through laying on of hands, produced uncontrollable laughter, crying, roaring, barking, shaking and speaking in tongues. Deceased Oregon guru, Bhagwhan Shree Rajneesh, in the book '*Dance your Way to God*', refers to being '*drunk on the divine*' and falling down in ecstasy, not unlike the modern Charismatic 'slaying in the spirit'. Ecstatic joy, visions, and healings are claimed while under these manifestations.

It is interesting to see how the unsaved or the media view the meetings. The April 27, 1997 Washington Post had a feature on the Pensacola 'revival'. Staff writer Peter Carlson explained how the meetings begin: 'It begins with a drummer laying down a slow beat that goes on for several minutes, a steady inescapable, portentous heartbeat. The guitarist and the organist join in, along with a choir of several dozen singers...In front of the first row, teenagers pogo up and down, a sort of Pentecostal mosh pit. If it weren't for the cross and the stained glass behind the altar, you might think you were at a rock-'n'-roll show..' Other testimonies of unsaved people describe these meetings as 'madness', exactly as Paul describes the Corinthian behaviour, (1Cor.14:23).

What would Jesus do in a meeting if such manifestations or '*pandemonium*' occurred? In Mark 1:23-26 a man cried out in a meeting while Jesus was teaching. Jesus reaction was to stop and *silence* a demon and cast it out!

## **Dramatic Claims and Failed Prophecies:**

Pastor Kilpatrick said God told him that this revival 'would spread across the nation'. One brochure stated: 'During 1996 the juvenile crime rate in Florida increased by 1%, however, in Pensacola County the rate dropped by 13%. This is revival impacting the community'. (7) However, investigation has shown that the statistics for crime, robberies, forcible sex offences, assaults, drug possession and traffic fatalities, have all increased over the period between 1991-1996! (8) Indeed, many of the Pensacola claims are false. Charisma magazine claimed that 25,000 people have made 'decisions for Christ' through the Pensacola phenomena. The Brownsville Pensacola church itself claims over 100,000 souls saved. The numbers appear to vary dramatically, depending on the source. A closer look shows that most are 're-dedications' or 'confessions' of faith.

Questioning the credibility of this 'revival' incurs angry reactions, as did author Hank Hanegraaffe when John Kilpatrick gave

(1) 'The Pensacola Outpouring', - article by Matt Costella, Foundation magazine, March/April, 1997. (2) The word 'pandemonium' was coined by John Milton in 1667 in his epic 'Paradise lost'. 'Pandemonium' was the capital of Hell. The word literally meant 'place of all the demons'. Today it means 'place of wild disorder, noise or confusion'. (3) See 'Diakrisis' 6/97, P.2. (4) James K. Bridges, 'Last Day Outpouring',

P.7 Pentecostal Evangel Sept.29, 1996. (5) Steve Hill, 1997 Conference on the ministry, 1st. AOG. Grand Rapids, Jan.6-7. (6) CETF 3/97 (7) Brochure: 'Revival Rain - National Pastors and leaders conference' (Chatswood, Sydney). (8) 'The Pensacola revival', P.40, 'Reformation Today', No.157, 1997. a judgement prophecy on April 6th, 1997. Kilpatrick publicly stated: 'And Mr. Hanegraaffe I want to say to you...you better back off from this revival...because I'm going to prophecy to you that if you don't...within 90 days the Holy Ghost will bring you down. I said within 90 days the Holy Ghost will bring you down...Mr. Hanegraaffe and all the other devils listen up...This revival shall not diminish, and this revival shall turn into a national awakening...'. (1) This has already proven to be a false prophesy!

## **Biblical and Historical Considerations:**

Kilpatrick says preaching in church today turns people away. He believes it is the signs and miracles that turn people to Christ. '*This move of God is not about preaching...tonight I don't feel bad about not coming up here and preaching a sermon*'. (2)

The acknowledged and accepted '*pandemonium*' at Pensacola is contrary to 1Cor.14:33, which says clearly that God is not the '*author of confusion*'. Although Pensacola leaders have made some efforts to remove extreme manifestations, the manifestations (listed by Pensacola) are the same as Toronto: slaying in the spirit, laughter, shaking like Parkinson disease, etc. Pensacola has also exhibited some new phenomena. These manifestations are contradicted by Scripture and more demonic in nature, and thus similar to New Age, spiritism, voodoo and other satanic religions. It was such manifestations that helped the ruin of the Welsh revival. Yet the Pensacola enthusiasts are deceptively packaging this 'revival' as being like the revivals of Wesley! The truth is that Wesley and other revivalists warned against them! Wesley called the same manifestations demonic and out of order. Concerning laughter, Wesley stated in his diary of 1740: '*I was a little surprised at some, who were buffeted of Satan in an unusual manner, by such a spirit of laughter...*' Similarly, other revivalists also warned of these manifestations.

As one Charismatic revival historian puts it: 'I'm sorry, but I just cannot go along with the idea that God wants to distort the limbs and the bodies of His children so that they look like sufferers of Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy and Parkinson's Disease..that makes God's children jerk..like the mental patients seen in our psychiatric wards every day. And I cannot go along with a shrieking, hyena-like laughter being described as 'holy'. I have to be frank and say, it all sounds too much like the devil to me. Some writers have pointed out that people 'fell down under the power of God' during many previous revivals. Yes, they fell down all right - under the most PIERCING SORROW AND CONVICTION OF SIN. They fell down under the preaching of Edwards, Whitefield, Wesley...BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT STAND UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THEIR OWN SIN FOR A MOMENT LONGER. They fell as thunderstruck by the awesome HOLINESS of the living God. As I have said, I have been studying revivals for over twelve years now, and I would have to say that the overriding theme of genuine revival down the centuries has been TREMENDOUS CONVICTION OF SIN AND DEEP REPENTANCE (not 'inner healing', which has always been one of the very major emphasis of the New Age Movement worldwide, but is not found in the Bible).' (3) (emphasis in the original)

David Wilkerson, America's leading Pentecostal pastor and author, has said to *Charisma* magazine: '*There are people having* great emotional experiences right now and calling it revival. But I think that true revival will come through searing, heartpiercing, convicting preaching, where people are driven to their knees to repent'. As another writer puts it: '*The depth of revival* will be determined exactly by the depth of the spirit of repentance.'

Perhaps what we need is not 'holy laughter' but 'Holy Repentance'! There are 40 references to laughter in the Bible. Almost all references refer to a scornful or unbelieving laughter. Only one or two Scriptures speak of laughter in a positive sense and those Scriptures cannot in any way be used to support the Toronto or Pensacola manifestations, without doing a terrorist act to the Word of God! The last reference in the Bible to laughter should remind us all as to the will of God concerning laughter, repentance and revival: 'Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep; let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.' (James 4:9,10)

Another Biblical issue that is perhaps the cornerstone of the Toronto and Pensacola phenomena, is the teaching of 'spiritual drunkenness' as a blessing, (evident in the writings of Kilpatrick and others). This teaching directly violates Scripture! Not one single text in the Bible speaks for drunkenness as a blessing! Two Old Testament Scriptures specifically refer to spiritual (not alcoholic) drunkenness as *judgement* rather than a blessing!: '...they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes...', (Is.29:9,10); '...they shall roar together like lions' whelps...and I will make them drunken...I will bring them down...', (Jer.51:37-40). Fruits:

We praise the Lord for any genuine repentance and conversions. Pensacola people are saying that 100,000 souls have been saved. However, others state: 'random interviews of these people prove none say they were born again'. (4)

One of the fruits of Pensacola is ecumenical unity. *Charisma* magazine stated that Roman Catholic clergy had been attracted. (5) However, those who call for ecumenical unity are ignoring serious doctrinal divisions. Paul said to teach '*no other doctrine*', (1Tim.1:3). The Ecumenism of today may have love but it is sadly lacking in *truth*. This gospel is a soft gospel lacking repentance, holiness, and a conviction to '*flee from the wrath to come*,' (Matt.3:7; Lk.3:7; Rom.5:9). It entertains rather than convicts and it's fruit is a huge 'backsliding' rate and unchanged lives. (6)

The initial 'fruit' from the 'Toronto Blessing' was hailed as good by supporters. However, the trail of shipwrecked and damaged Christians, (including deaths), can no longer be ignored. One of the fruits that is often ignored is the *teachings*. If there is false teaching then we are commanded to separated from such a movement or purge out the *leaven*, (a symbol of sin, 1Cor.5:6-8; Gal.5:9, and false doctrine, Matt.13:33; 16:6-12). God is clearly against any *mixture*.

#### **Conclusion:**

Many of those leaders who were leading the charge to Toronto, (especially AOG leaders), are now pushing for visits to Pensacola. Matthew 24:23-26 warns that if anyone says '*here he is...there he is*' that we are '*not to go*'. The reasons why we should reject the Pensacola movement are the *same* as for Toronto. Apart from the false teaching and prophecies, the acknowledged confusion ('*pandemonium*'), is *against* Scripture, (1Cor.14:33), and a sign of '*madness*' to the unsaved, (1Cor.14:23).

Despite people claiming salvation in this move, if teachings are contrary to Scripture we must separate! When will we wake up to these delusions? When will we stop being an *evil and adulterous generation that seeks after a sign*, (Matt.12:39)? When

## **Responses to 'Mail-out' Conducted in May.**

(This mail-out consisted of an open letter and papers on the 'Toronto Blessing'; (see '*Diakrisis*' 9/96), the 'Word Faith' (see 3/97) and Benny Hinn, (see 4/97). These papers were included in the above newsletters and are available from TA Ministries.

I appreciate your concern for the body of Christ. I did read your articles concerning Benny Hinn and the faith teachings. I do agree to some extent with you. The style of these type of ministries do not enthuse me greatly...I made a commitment many years ago that I would not deny anyone the blessing they received from God even if it did not come in the way I thought it should. Satan has robbed people of a genuine blessing from over cautiousness from concerned Christians. I believe the scribes and pharisees did a similar thing to those whom Jesus ministered to many years ago.

...21 years ago...being a Christian for only one month I was prayed for and ended up on the floor laughing and rolling around the ground for some thirty minutes...Twenty one years later I still love the Lord with all my heart...

My hope and prayer is that more people today would let go and let God get a hold of their life instead of worrying about what the devil might or might not do. I believe the word of God tells us that if we ask for bread God would not give us a stone and if we ask for fish he would not give us a serpent, (Matt.7:9,10) (chapter and verse of course). The context: well I leave that to your good self as you are certainly the expert on all these matters.

My suggestion is that you get hold of a mailing list of some sleazy group of no gooders and spend some money on mailing them the gospel on a regular basis. Someone might even get saved one day. Thanks Terry. Yours for His concern, (AOG Pastor, Vict.)

Editors Reply: Dear Pastor... Thankyou for your comments to our mail-out. I am encouraged that you, unlike most others, took the time to read the material. My question to you is can we really be 'over cautious' with false teaching?...Surely I still should question things if they are in an unscriptural context or involved with false teachers. The comment about the 'scribes and pharisees doing a similar thing to Jesus'-please remember that this is speaking of unsaved people (Matt.5), not Christians...

Your experience of laughter...I can never deny. I too had many experiences...I have learnt the hard way that experiences do not always prove truth or the Scriptures...God is gracious and merciful despite what valid or invalid experiences we may have. I am deeply concerned about the teaching that is often behind the 'Let go and let God' thought. There is a fruit of the spirit

called 'self control' which the Word demands of us. I see people 'letting go' at meetings and having no self control and then someone has to pick up the pieces of shipwrecked lives later, (believe me, we can show you files of letters!).

The Scripture (Matt, 7:9,10) you have used is rarely qualified with 1Jn.4:1: 'Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God...' We can be deceived when we are already on Satan's ground, no matter how sincere our efforts...The assumption many use from the use of your Scripture is that they are seeking a right and scriptural objective. However, there is 'another Jesus', 'another Gospel' 'a different spirit', etc. These are realities!

As for your rather cynical comments on me being 'the expert on all of these matters'...I am sorry. I try to deal in facts and Scripture. When I see my neighbours house burning down do I remain silent because I might offend him and he might think I am 'the expert' and not listen? ...There are numerous in [your denomination] who...warn of [its] direction..

For your information, many have been saved...the mail out is only one area of our ministry. We regularly outreach to cultists and the general unsaved. How many Mormons, J.W.'s, etc, have you won to the Lord?..How can you therefore say, 'Someone might even get saved one day'?..Apart from the above comments, I do appreciate that you took the time to read the material and comment. I pray that the Lord will grant you souls for your labour, God bless your walk with Him, Yours in Christ.

Dear Terry, I appreciate your point of view, and may even agree in some instances BUT I think it's very sad that so many are fighting each other in the body of Christ. ALL your energies put into something that God can take care of. Look at the 'revival centres'. No one could convince them of their doctrine BUT God could and now many are flowing in with the greater body of Christ. We only have about 4% Christians in Australia, and with sincere Christian concern I suggest you put your energies there. Let us be a positive, not a 'speck finding' people. Read Phil.1:18. What if people get healed and set free, praise the Lord! In Christian Love, (Pentecostal Pastor, Lake Macquarie, NSW).

Editors reply: Dear Pastor...I thankyou for your comments on our mail-out and that you did read it...Your comment 'fighting each other' is strange to me. Are we not to 'earnestly contend for the faith'...(Jude3)?...Your comments about the 'Revival Centres' are interesting to us who have worked with cults for many years. Your statement: 'No one could convince them of their doctrine...' is not true. Many had left and are coming out because of written material that exposes the errors against the truth. How do you think we win J.W.'s and the Mormons - by keeping quiet? God calls some of us to 'reprove, rebuke, contend, etc'...Your reference to Phil.1:8 is a good Scripture but the verse before says: 'I am set for the defence of the Gospel'. I agree with you - let Christ be preached! These men we expose do not preach just Christ but add to the Gospel much 'leaven' which is a symbol of false doctrine, (Matt.13:33; 16:6-12; Mk.8:15) and sin, (1Cor.5:6-8; Gal.5:9), and must be 'purged out', (1Cor.5:6-8)!...The facts in our mail-out need to be heeded to or refuted, but surely not frowned upon or forgotten.

Again I thank you for your comments and I do appreciate them, and that you have shown some interest. May God bless your ministry and grant you many souls for your labour. Yours in Christ,

'Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken unto thee...truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.' (Jer.7:27,28)

## Successor to Pope John Paul II?

A likely successor to Pope John Paul II is Jesuit Cardinal Martini of Milan. The World Council of churches has suggested a Universal Council in the year 2000 of which Cardinal Martini says is 'a good idea'. At the second European Ecumenical assembly, Cardinal Martini said: 'We must all move toward a time when it will be possible for all to celebrate in peace at a Universal Council'.\* \* Sunday Telegraph, 2/7/97

The more we serve Christ, the less we will serve self.

# **Priest Challenges Pope**

'An Australian priest has directly challenged the power of the Pope,...In a controversial new book, Melbourne historian, Father Paul Clooins,...says that historically, the role of the Pope was not one of sole rule...'I am arguing these things from an historical point of view...The Pope is not the church, nor does he have a direct line to God in any sense.." (Sunday Telegraph, 16/2/97).

Editors Comments: Not until the 5th. century did the doctrine of Roman Papal supremacy take effect. Catholics claim Peter was the first Pope, yet Peter called himself an 'elder', (1Pet.5:1)!

# **Your Comments and Questions**

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

To TA Ministries: Recently I was in a Christian Bookshop when I came across a copy of 'To Catholics Whom I Love' Being a Catholic myself, I bought a copy. At that time I was a bit disorientated by the whole Catholic system. Many things were opened up to me by that book and it was the icing on the cake for me to leave the Catholic system. I now attend a Bible church where I am much happier, where all teachings come straight from the Bible. I would like to thank TA Ministries for taking the time to write books and literature for people who are confused, in a world where it is so easy to be. God bless, (D.W. Douglas Park, NSW)

Dear Terry Arnold, Please find a cheque...to renew my subscription for another year. I have been very pleased to read your monthly publication and always look forward to receiving it.

I was also a Roman Catholic, until it pleased the Lord to bring me out of it 18 years ago. The Lord used a Pentecostal evangelistic service to bring me forward to be saved and I believe as a result of that prayer over me by a wonderful pastor, the power of the Roman Catholic church was broken over me.

I began to read a Bible, (I didn't have one before as a Catholic), and I started to realise the difference in the Roman doctrine and the Bible. I knew the Roman doctrine well because I was of the old school, having been educated by the nuns in the 1940's and being of a studious nature, had remembered their teachings. I am now 62 so I came out of their power roughly in my mid forties. Since my first beginning I have read every book I could get my hands on that would help me to understand as the Lord gave me a hunger to do so.

I rejoiced when I found your ministry, as I realised you had also been a Roman Catholic.

I also fell into the trap of believing Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth Hagin and bought some of their books, but their 'methods' never 'worked' as far as I was concerned, and I suppose I put them in the 'too hard' basket. Thanks to you and others who are exposing their teachings for what they are, I can see their teachings are false and to be rejected.

I know people caught up in the 'Toronto Blessing' and who believed in 'soaker services' and I could not get enthusiastic as they were, and felt 'out of it', alarmed, and wondered 'what is wrong with me'. However, although I love these people dearly, I thank God that he preserved me from seeking 'more, more' of the Holy Spirit, and to be content with what he has given me and simply to live as God wants me to in obedience to His Word.

I would be interested in purchasing 'Such a Candle' by Douglas Wood. Thanking you 'In Christ' & I thank you again for your ministry. Yours sincerely, (S.P., Sydney)

Dear Terry,...thank you for your help. Am looking forward to next newsletter. Keep up the good work and may God bless you and your family, (D.E., Sydney)

# **Praise points**

Praise God for conversions from false religions and false teaching. **Prayer** points

\*\*\*New Book\*\*\* We are currently praying for and seeking support from some

Dear Terry,...I have not read any of your particular subject matter on Mormons or SDA literature. I have over the years read much on both. My... daughter...got caught up in the SDA. We have seen and heard from her only a few times over the past years...I do not know any of her children. All I can say is that you will know them by their fruits. For those who say SDA's are not a cult, I can only say personally that has not been my experience.

My second daughter...she has been held by the control of being threatened with the loss of her children if she tried to leave and the LDS [Mormon] church fully backed him. These grandchildren have never been allowed to have any relationship with us, but rather have been taught to hate us as we are the enemy according to Mormon doctrine.

My only son...has not spoken to me in the past five years, as I am a Christian and he does not wish to have anything to do with me.

So the 'real Christian walk' is not name it, blab it, and grab it. I must keep on believing that God who is still on the throne, will in His time, deal with them as He did with me.

Bye for now and blessing to you and your family, (Name withheld at editors discretion).

Editors Comments: Compassion is someone else's pain in our hearts. The loss of loved ones to false religions or cults is pain that sometimes only the person and Jesus can understand fully. Please pray for the author of this letter and the souls at stake.

Dear Mr. Arnold, Many thanks for sending the Oct.96 issue of 'Diakrisis' to me as I requested. Your newsletters are very helpful in these days of confusion amongst so many Christians...(E.M., Gympie)

Dear Terry, Thankyou very much for the interesting critique on the Word-Faith Movement, something the Lord brought me out of about ten years ago. It seems so plausible and believable and wonderful when you're in it. The key to my release was when my teacher said that faith was the greatest thing. I waited for the words 'except for love' and when they didn't come, my doubts and questioning did, and in that small beginning I was set free! Praise the Lord.

The thing that often strikes me though, and it came to mind again as I was reading your notes, is the way Satan has influenced the world to actually believe that Hell is his kingdom, where he and his demons reign, inflicting dreadful torture, without suffering anything themselves. Quoting Copeland's words: 'for three days...every demon in hell...tortured Him [Jesus]'. How ridiculous! ... I do know that if Hell is really the way Satan has depicted it, it would be Heaven for him, and not punishment at all.

... I met a lovely sincere SDA pastor... and he gave me some of his literature. It has often worried me that I can't keep the Sabbath, and so what a breaking of bonds to read [your] wonderful book about it. Now if the dear man calls again, I will be much better informed. (L.W., Sydney)

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