



Diakrisis

A Ministry of Teaching

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

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

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

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Editor's Comments

This newsletter is now two years old. The results and fruit continue to be a blessing. The mailing list has increased by over 400% and continues to grow. The newsletter now reaches out to every state in Australia, as well as New Zealand, USA, Sth Africa, England, and parts of Europe. Several have been rescued from cults, false religions, from the current false ecumenism, and the false signs and wonders movement. Many have received information on current issues within the church, available from few other Christian sources. We continue to encourage people to think about *what* they believe and *why*.

The ministry has also caused me personally to increasingly rely on and surrender more to God. I have an increased hunger to grow closer to my Lord and Saviour in prayer and through His Word. I have come to appreciate more the sovereignty of God and the unending faithfulness of His Word. I cannot describe the overwhelming passion and burden I have for the lost and deceived. Without God's strength and temperance, this would consume one's soul and sap every last bit of self energy! It is a paradox that the Bible predicts that apostasy will continue and even worsen and that we will *not* stop the delusions. However, like Noah, we are commanded to contend for the faith and preach the truth to those in deception until He comes, or until our race is run.

This ministry has not been all smooth sailing. Finances have been stretched to the limit, yet God has supplied *all* our needs *in His time*. I acknowledge and thank those churches and individuals who have sent newsletter subscriptions or have regularly supported us with monthly donations.

Opposition to this ministry has come from sectors *within* the church. Recently I received a fax from an AOG pastor with a threat of legal action by one of the church members if I sent any more literature. It came after I had responded to and exposed errors in a document sent to me describing false statistics to do with the Pensacola 'revival'. It appears most do not want to have their claims tested or answered.

There is a growing dissatisfaction within many churches. Some are informed and hungry for knowledge, yet many are ignorant of, and closed minded to facts. Bookstores are blatantly or ignorantly stocking literature and tapes by false prophets and false teachers. Many of these bookstores will not look at, yet alone stock, material that documents or exposed the errors of the above leaders. Yet, without knowledge being laid up and dispersed, (Pr.10:14; 15:7), the people perish, (Hos.4:6). Information is freedom!

I have received many letters from those who, because of the current false movements, are fellowshiping in 'home churches' or home study groups, as an alternate to being exposed to continual error. Many of these people say that most churches are either into extremes or excesses to do with the signs and wonders movement, or else they are formal, ritualistic, and 'dead'. It seems there are few churches having a balance of both sound doctrine and with the life of the Holy Spirit. This year we ourselves will commence a new home study group for those who have become 'unchurched' or those desiring teaching and fellowship. May we all love, serve and glorify the Lord Jesus, who is to come. **Terry Arnold**

Leaders of Pensacola In Separate Accidents

'Brownsville AOG's senior pastor John Kilpatrick continues to recover after a serious fall from a building project back in September. Curiously, evangelist Steve Hill also had a fall at that time and some of Ken Gott's visiting...(Sunderland UK) team were injured in a car accident...' (Aust. Evangel, Dec/Jan 1997/8, P.4)

Please note new fax number: (07)41240915

World Revival?

The straight and narrow path has not developed enough traffic to need a four lane highway

Are we heading for apostasy or world revival? What does the Bible say? Most Christians today are being persuasively convinced that world revival is close. For almost one hundred years this *imminent revival* message has been taught on and off! Today more than ever, songs are being sung in churches with words like, 'By faith we speak revival to this land'. Messages are being preached to prepare people for a 'mighty world-wide end-time harvest' coming *soon*. Does the Bible say there will be a great end-time world-wide revival? Why are people each decade being increasingly convinced of this teaching?

The word 'revival' itself is never used in reference to an end-time revival. Most of the Old-Testament Scriptures refer to an individual being revived in spirit or soul, or to Israel being restored. The New Testament has only *two* Scriptures using the word 'revive', (Rom.7:9; 14:9). Both these Scriptures have nothing to do with an end-time revival!

Where then do some find the idea of an end-time revival in Scripture? One way to come to this teaching is to take Scriptures that pertain to Israel and apply them out of context to the church. This is called 'Replacement Theology' and falsely leads to the idea of a Christian domination of the world in the end-times. This idea is at least partly refuted by the fact that the world is *not* progressing for the better. False religion and evil are increasing at a rate greater than Christianity in most countries. Many believe that we are indeed approaching days similar to the days of Noah and Lot (Lk.17:26,28), when wickedness prevailed and God's mercy ran out.

Most who teach a world-wide revival refer to Joel 2:28-32: '**And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh...**' Most people read only two verses and fail to read the next three verses (vs.30-32)! '**...And I will shew wonders in the Heavens and in the Earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The Sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come...**' The key word is '**afterward**'. After what? The exact timing is important! Matthew 24:29,30 gives us the answer: '**Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heaven shall be shaken: ... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds ...**', These events, (the *same* as in Joel), are also spoken of in Revelation 6:12 and 16:10, and the *sun* and the *moon* are similarly mentioned in Mark 13:24-27. All these events are '**after the tribulation**', as proven by Matthew 24:29.

If this prophecy, ('**I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh**' - Acts 2: 17,18 cf. Joel 2:28), is speaking of a world revival, , what are the signs of those days? The signs are clearly those we have mentioned above: '**I will show wonders in the Heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come**', (Acts 2:19,20 cf. Joel 2:30,31). In Acts 2:16-21 Peter says: '**But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel**', (Acts 2:16). This was at least a partial fulfilment of Joel's prophecy because the '**wonders in the heaven... and in the earth**', (Acts 2:19,20 cf. Joel 2:30), have arguably not occurred then, and have not occurred since! Therefore many commentators believe we are still to see the complete fulfilment of Joel's prophecy, ('**Latter rains**' - Joel 2:23).

Will this be a world-wide end-time revival? Is this prophecy to the world or to Israel? Many commentators refer to the context of the whole chapter as referring to *Israel*.* Indeed when one reads the whole of Joel, phrases like '**Israel**' (2:27), '**in Zion**' (2:1,15,32;3:16, etc.), '**in Jerusalem**' (2:32;3:16), '**thy people**' (2:17), '**His land..His people**' (2:18), '**my people**' (2:26,27), '**the northern army**' (2:20), '**your sons and your daughters**' (2:28), and '**I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen**' (2:19), do appear to be referring to *Israel*. In fact when one reads the *whole* of Joel it should appear that God is warning more of *judgement* rather than of any revival!

The '**day of the Lord**' in Scripture is a phrase that refers to the *final return* of Jesus Christ to earth. This phrase is mentioned *many times* throughout Joel. Most commentaries see this phrase as referring to the coming of Jesus Christ. Words and phrases such as '**afterward**' (vs.28), '**in those days**' (vs.29), '**in those days and at that time**' (3:1), clearly refer to the end times.

In view of the timing of these events (Matt.24:29: '**after the tribulation**'), those that believe in a 'Rapture'*** or a 'Great Tribulation' *** should see any world-wide revival as being *after* the Rapture and at least at the end of the 'Great Tribulation', with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a curious thing that those that teach an imminent world revival usually teach a rapture and tribulation and have therefore completely misplaced the timing of any 'revival' in Joel 2 or Acts. Nowhere else in Scripture do we see any mention of an end-time world revival!

A world-wide end-time revival is not only unbiblical but in *opposition* to numerous other passages of Scripture. The Scriptures that speak of a massive *apostasy* and falling away from the faith are overwhelming! Below are just a few :

'Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy:...(1Tim.4:1)...the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first,... (2Thess.2:3); For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;...and they shall turn away their ears from the truth,...' (2Tim.4:3,4). The Bible clearly predicts '**false christs and false prophets**', (Matt.24:11,24); false and '**lying signs and wonders**', (2Thess.2:9,10; Matt.24:24); increasing '**deception**' (2Tim.3:13; Matt.24:11,24; Rev.6:4); and '**iniquity**', (Matt.24:12).

However, there is no doubt that *localised* revivals can take place as this is attested to by Scripture (eg. Acts), and history. God is sovereign and He can bring revival to any part of the earth that He desires. The idea of a *world-wide* end-time revival, however, does not have the backing of God's Word! The Scriptures rather speak strongly of a '**falling away**' - a great apostasy before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Could these things not already be occurring? Are we really preparing for a world revival or are we blinded to a major apostasy? The Bible says '**many**' will go down the '**broad road that leads to destruction**' and '**few**' will travel the *narrow way*, (Matt.7:13,14; Lk.13:23,24). Does this sound like a world revival? God's Word says: '**as it was in the days of Noah so it be in the days of the Son of man**', (Matt.24:37). In Noah's day only *eight* people were saved! God has always kept a *remnant* to Himself: '**Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace**', (Rom.11:5). Let the Words of Jesus be true: '**When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**'# (Lk.18:8)

Terry Arnold (For further reading see the book '*Finding The Balance*')

* E.G. 'Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries' by D. Hubbard. ** Some teach a 'Rapture' - from the Latin '*raptus*' and Greek '*harpazo*' meaning 'taken out' or 'caught up'. *** Some teach a 'Great Tribulation' - believed to be a seven year period of terrible judgements.

The original Greek construction of this sentence requires what is called a '*negative answer*'!

Robert Schuller

Robert Schuller is pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in California. He has written many books including '*Self Esteem - the New Reformation*' in which he says there is no need for repentance, dying to self, conviction of sin; but rather a need for self esteem.

On sin he says: '*I don't think anything has been done that has proven more destructive to human personality and hence counter-productive to evangelism enterprise than the often crude, uncouth, and unchristian strategy of attempting to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition*', (Compare Rom.1:18-3:20). (1)... '*What do I mean by sin? Answer: Any human condition or act that robs God of glory by stripping one of his own children of their right to divine dignity...Sin is any act or thought that robs myself or another human being of his or her self esteem.*' (2)... '*The core of sin is a lack of self esteem...the most serious sin is one that causes me to say, 'I am unworthy', I may have no claim to divine sonship if you examine me at my worst. For once a person believes he is an 'unworthy sinner', it is doubtful if he can really honestly accept the saving grace God offers in Jesus Christ.*' (3) On denial of self, Schuller says: '*Jesus knew His self worth; His success fed His self esteem. He suffered the cross to sanctify His self esteem and He bore the cross to sanctify your self-esteem. The cross will sanctify the ego trip.*' (4) Yet the scriptures would say: '*...let each esteem others better than themselves*', (Phil.2:3); '*God forbid that should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*', (Gal.6:14; compare also Matt.16:2)... '*To be born again means that we must be changed from a negative to a positive self image - from inferiority to self esteem*' (5)... '*He [Christ] was self esteem incarnate.*' (6)... '*Jesus never called a person a sinner.*' (7) (Cp. Matt.23; Mk.1:15; Jn.8:11; 1Tim.1:15; Rom.5:8). Robert Schuller says we should change the Lord's prayer to read: '*Our Father in Heaven, honourable in our name.*' (8) On Hell he says: '*What is Hell? It is the loss of pride that naturally follows separation from God...A person is in hell when he has lost his self esteem.*' (9) In short, Schuller's theology is blatantly man centred. He says: '*Classical theology has erred in its insistence that theology be 'God centred', not 'man centred.*' (10) Schuller says: '*When we know we have been redeemed and we know we are a part of God's family, we are ready to dream that great divine dream of building the kingdom of God in the world.*' (11)

His TV show '*Hour of Power*' has hosted many New Agers, cultists and occultists. On ecumenism he says: '*It's time for Protestants to go to the shepherd [the Pope] and say 'what do we have to do to come home?'*' (12) Schuller, in fact, commends the Catholic Jesuits as '*a wonderful organisation of Godly men*' and calls them '*dear brothers in Christ*'. Along with Billy Graham he has endorsed books that seek greater cooperation between Protestants and Catholics in evangelism, (eg. '*What Christians Can Learn From One Another About Evangelising Adults*' - A Catholic publication). In 1992 he formed the ecumenical '*Churches United in Global Mission (CUGM)*'. The declaration of CUGM was to seek '*a spirit of unity that is truly Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Evangelical, and Charismatic.*' (13) In his favour it must be said that his services are orthodox and worshipful. Most of his heresies have been picked up from humanistic teachers; 'positive thinkers' such as Norman Vincent Peale; or from his support of Word-Faith teachers, (Hagin, Copeland, Hinn, etc.). Robert Murdoch finances Schuller's TV empire in Europe. Indeed, Schuller is a popular TV speaker in America with an audience of many millions. Schuller has been praised and promoted by the likes of Billy Graham and Bill Hybels. His books frequent Christian bookstores in many countries.

Schuller is basically a *universalist*. He does not believe that Christ is the *only way* to Heaven. He says: '*The Christ spirit dwells in every human being whether the person knows it or not.*' (14) What would Jesus say to the above list of heresies? Schuller's teachings make a mockery of Paul's teaching on sin and the cross. Would not Paul say: '*..Such are false prophets, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ*', (1Cor.11:13); '*...from such turn away*', (2Tit.3:5).

Terry Arnold (1) '*Christianity Today*', 10/5/84. (2) '*Self Esteem: the New Reformation*', P.14. (3) Ibid, P.98-99 (4) Ibid. (5) Ibid, P.68. (6) P.135. (7) Ibid, P.100,126 (8) Ibid, P.67 (9) Ibid, P.14,15,93 (10) Ibid, P.64 (11) '*Calvary Contender*', 1/2/97 (12) '*Calvary Contender*', 11/15/87. (13) '*Calvary Contender*', 5/1/92. (14) '*Aust. Beacon*', 9/91. (Other references: '*Calvary Contender*', Vol.IX No.3 1/2/92)

Ecumenism - Deception of the 20th Century?

'With Billy Graham, Bill Bright, Jack Van Impe, Pat Robertson, Paul Crouch, Oral Roberts and other evangelical and Charismatic leaders praising the Pope and advocating acceptance of Roman Catholics as fellow members of the body of Christ, millions of Christians are being deceived.' ('*Foundation*' July-Aug/1997)

Editors Note: At the risk of being called a bigot, negative, and narrow minded, I offer the following without apology: For ten years I have ministered to, outreached to, witnessed to, wrote to, and pleaded with thousands of Roman Catholics. Only a small handful of these had any semblance of understanding of the true Gospel or of the Bible. I challenge anyone to do their own survey! In one survey done of 1,000 Catholics, only *one* out of a thousand gave a clear testimony of any Gospel truth. Every minute scores of these people go to Hell yet they are one of the biggest '*people groups*' in the world!

When I was a practising Catholic, (and later a Charismatic Catholic), I accepted Jesus as Saviour and believed in Him. I believed strongly in good morals and the ten commandments; I taught religious education in schools; I believed I would somehow make it to Heaven through the purging fires of Purgatory, and because of good works and the sacraments. However, I never understood, nor practised what it was to accept Him as the *Lord* of my life. I was not a *disciple* and a follower of His Word. Later when I was radically *changed* into a '*new creature in Christ*', I gradually realised I had no choice but to reject the Catholic teaching that was contrary to the Word of God. The real Holy Spirit *will* lead us into truth!

The Catholic Church has not changed one single doctrine, as is stated by the Pope in the *Vatican II* documents. Instead, over many years teachings have been added, of which the Catholic Church admits some are not found in the Word of God. They *curse* any Christian who says that we are justified by faith alone, in Christ alone, and without works. They do not believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross, hence the blasphemous re-sacrificing of Jesus at every '*Mass*'.

This is '*another Gospel*', '*another Jesus*' and '*another spirit*! I am angry that while we in this ministry are working hard to preach the Gospel to Catholics, men like the evangelists mentioned above are actively sending Catholics back to Catholic churches, or accepting Catholicism as '*Christian*! I am angry that the ecumenical movement has blurred the lines between the Catholicism and Christianity and that a generation is growing up and not knowing the difference!

However, I trust in the *sovereignty* of God, and that he judges '*righteous judgement*' and avenges the wrongs that have been done by those leaders that the church has foolishly supported. Let there be a remnant that remember the cries of the reformers as they burned at the stake at the hands of the Catholic Church! Thank God that the Lord Jesus Christ *will restore righteousness and truth. THE BEST IS YET TO COME!* Terry Arnold

Psychic Spiritual Olympics 2000

The Australian Institute of Psychic Research will hold their own Olympics in conjunction with the Olympic Games. They will include activities such as automatic writing; dead peoples voices; *'dead people full form materialisation'*; laying on of hands; miracles; spiritual healing; spiritual gifts as listed in 1 Cor. 1:12; tarot cards; tongues; walking on water; meditation; astrology; aura reading; divination; levitation; mind-reading; prophecy; telepathy; etc.

Their brochures state: *'At midnight on December 31st, 1999, the world's gold medal sensitives will raise the spirits of the dead physically, as did the prophets of old, on world Television...At the grand finale, the..mediums..will prove contact with a spirit world for all mankind to witness and be evermore changed...Let us come together...the holy spirit of christ consciousness returning, guides this united...people dedicated to the exposure of truth,...history will be repeated and this time recorded...We at the institute have proven beyond doubt what the world is required to accept by faith alone. Death is not!'* (Director of AIPR, 1996)

SDA Malnutrition

*'A survey of 245 Seventh Day Adventist ministers showed 77% had B12 intakes below the minimum required and the problem was related to their diet'.**

* The report was released by Bevan Hokin, Director of Pathology at Sydney Adventist Hospital. (*'Daily Telegraph'*, 12/7/97)

Editors Comments: God warned that in the last days many would 'command to abstain from meats...' (1Tim.4:3)

Christian Nudist Village

In Cedar Waters village in Nottingham, a church group 60 strong meets in the nude. The pastor, Harry Westcott (aged 72), feels that by preaching nude he's saying, *'Here I am as you made me, Lord...'*

In 1995 the first Christian nudist convention was held. Cedar Waters is the first Christian nudist resort. The fee to join is \$570 per year. Van sites are up to \$1870 per year. Apparently anything seen as *'sensuous behaviour'* is outlawed. One spokesperson stated: *'In the garden of Eden it was nudism'..they are probably going to be shocked when they get up there and find God's a nudist...we run it as an outreach to people...we tell people it's Heaven to us...'* One lady said, *'On a given afternoon there could be 100 men in here with really pure thoughts, because if they weren't it would be obvious.'* (*'Who'*, 6/9/97)

Editor's Comments: There is a difference between before the fall and after the fall in the garden of Eden! Before the fall Adam and Eve were naked but after sin entered they covered themselves and were expelled from the garden. We no longer live in that garden of Eden! We were born with original sin and are not sinless. As Christians our sin may have been forgiven but we still have a fleshly body that suffers the effects of the fall. Nudism is mans attempt to reverse or ignore the effects of the fall.

Bible Code

Brisbane's *Sunday Mail* (8/6/97) referred to a secret code in the Old Testament claiming to predict future events. Professor Rips called a press conference to discuss Drosnin's book, *'The Bible code'* and said: *'All attempts to extract messages from Torah codes or to make predictions based on them are futile and of no value. This is not only my opinion, but that of every scientist whom has been involved in serious codes research'*. (*Jerusalem Post International*, 14/6/97) It was further stated that Drosnin's technique could also be used to predict the assassination of Winston Churchill, an event that never occurred.

How Close Is the One World Church?

In July, 1997 the *'first Religion and cultural diversity conference'* was held in Melbourne. The three day conference included New Age leaders, the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey (who opened the conference), Catholic Cardinal Francis Arinze, and other political and religious leaders, including Anglican, Catholic Archbishops, Buddhists, Islamic leaders, Greek Orthodox priests, Jewish Rabbis, Quaker leaders, World Vision reps., Salvation Army officers, Uniting Church ministers and some other Christian churches.

Catholic Cardinal Francis Arinze is world advisor to the United Nations and the New World Order's syncretic World Thanksgiving Square in Dallas, Texas. He is considered to be a likely candidate to succeed Pope John Paul II. New Age organisations such as *'Conflict Resolution Network'* and *'Unity and Diversity Council'* were also present. Several speakers attacked Christian fundamentalism and *'separationists'*.

Following is the prayer that was prayed as everyone bowed together: *'Let us focus on the candle, the small quivering fire, the light in the darkness, the call to evening prayer, the call to thanksgiving...for our togetherness for our unity, as sons and daughters of the earth in this vast and ancient land, this sacred soil of the dreamtime. In the presence of the ineffable Other, the Holy Being of infinity, the Numinous Beyond, the One and the Ultimate, the Alpha and the Omega, the Unknown and the Unknowable, Lord of the Cosmos, Centre of Creation god, the god of Power and Righteousness. We pray to you in the immensity and grandeur of the world, (et al.)'*

The United Religious organisation (UR) launched a charter in June 1997, and is expected to be fully operational by AD2000 in San Francisco as headquarters for a united world church. (From *'Dispatch'* 8/8/97 *'special report'*.)

Revival?

While some church leaders are falsely claiming revival, Australians are becoming *less* religious. Recent statistics for Sth. Australia showed the number of people identifying themselves as Christians dropped by more than 10% in 1996. Added to this Buddhism is the fastest growing religion with an increase of 33.5% in just a few years. (*Advertiser*, 16/7/97)

In Britain, *'as many as 100 mosques will be built by the end of the century...Britain already has 1,000 mosques...'* (*Christian News*, 2/97)

The Effect of TV?

'The attention span of today's youth is a maximum of 13 minutes.' (*Record*, 14/6/97)

The Downward Spiral

In a TV interview (30/5 PBS), Billy Graham said: *'I'm equally at home in a Baptist church, Anglican church, or Roman Catholic church'*. His acceptance of Catholicism is not new. In the past he has stated that he *'admired the Pope'** and believed the Pope to be *'one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of this century. He is an evangelist.'*** He also repeated his long held belief that Hell is merely *'separation from God'*: *'When it comes to a literal fire, I don't preach it because I'm not sure about it.'****

* *Chicago Tribune* 8/6/63; *Michigan City News* 6/8/63. ** *Saturday Evening Post* Jan/Feb 1980 and also on *Phil Donahue Show* on 10/11/79; and in Poland tour 1978. *** *Time Magazine* 15/11/93 (Other Christian sources: *Calvary Contender*, 15/6/97).

How Close Are We?

'Hospitals in China are selling aborted babies to be cooked and eaten. Dr. Zou Qin has eaten 100 babies in the past 6 months.' (*New Aust. Times*, 4/97). ***'And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.'***

Media Coverage of Signs & Wonders Movement

The media world-wide is cashing in on the bizarre phenomenon of the likes of the 'Toronto Blessing', the Pensacola 'revival' and the charlatanism of the faith-healers. Recently in the *Northern Territory News* (Australia) the signs and wonders movement took front page headings such as: '*religious con*'; '*Believers pedal imaginary bikes*'. One of the captions showed a cartoon of two drunk men, one saying to the other '*Hey...I'm full of spirits too!...*'.

The article mentioned the visit to Darwin of pastor Philip Powell, (ex-superintendent of Australia AOG). He warned of the signs and wonders movement and stated it was a '*multi-billion dollar con*' which made false claims about miracles. A local AOG pastor was also warning of the scam of the current movement. He said: '*These so called revivals are aimed at people who don't have a good knowledge of the scriptures and who are being duped...The motivation of these TV preachers is money. The scam is slipping over into the bizarre, with strange manifestations from so called 'revivals'. These manifestations include men and women barking like dogs, roaring like lions, clucking like chooks, as they crawl around church floors and lie on their backs pedalling imaginary bicycles. It's false demonic fire; not of God at all...The movement is also billed as the Pensacola Revival, after the city in Florida where it started.*

Editors comments: As is stated in Ezekial, the church has become 'a reproach to the nations'. What statement are we really making to the unsaved when we exhibit such strange fire, manifestations, and endorse such proven charlatans as Benny Hinn and others? Some say we need a revival, but perhaps more than this we need a reformation!

Narrow Minded?

'The church has changed much in the last three decades. It used to be holiness, but now its legalism. We used to have conviction, but now its a religious spirit! We once covered discernment but today that is viewed as cynicism. We used to preach (and practice) separation, but today we answer the higher call to relevance. There was a day when sinners were called sinners but now we call them seekers! May the Lord help us find our way back to the narrow way that leads to life because the broad way that leads to Hell is well travelled and, sadly, there are many journeying there. It's the broad way or the God way. Friend, which path are you on? ' (Pillar of Fire, 4/96)

The Cult of 'St. Joseph'

In a Roman Catholic magazine, '*Ave Maria*' (No.31, 1997), there was a front page article titled '*St. Joseph - Husband of Mary, Foster Father of Jesus, Patron of the Universal Church*'. It says in part: '*St. Joseph was the representative of the eternal Father on earth...the patron of the universal church, and from that time his feast has been celebrated on March 19...From his throne of glory in Heaven, St. Joseph watches over and protects the church militant, and no-one who calls on him in need ever calls in vain. He is the model of a perfect Christian life and the patron of a happy death. His patronage extends over the mystical Body of Christ, over the Christian family, the Christian school, and all individuals who in their need appeal to his charity and powerful intercession, especially in the hour of death; for he who when dying, received the affectionate ministry of his foster son, Jesus, and his virgin spouse, Mary, may well be trusted to obtain for us the mercy of God and the grace of a peaceful and holy death.*'

The above is followed by the prayer: '*Almighty God, You entrusted to the faithful care of Joseph the beginnings of the mysteries of man's salvation. Through his intercession...under his protection, we may accomplish the works you give us and obtain the rewards you promise. Amen.*'

Are these teachings Biblical? The word '*Patron*' has a dictionary meaning: '*advocate, protector or one who supports*'. The only reference in the New Testament to the word '*advocate*' is 1John 2:1: '**If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**'. Who is the real head of the universal church in Scripture - Joseph or Jesus? Ephesians 5:23 says '**...Jesus is the head of the church**'. Where in Scripture does it say that Joseph '*watches over and protects the church militant*'...? Where do we see his powerful '*intercession*'? The Bible *never* mentions the saints interceding for us but *only* Jesus interceding for us, (Rom.8:27,34; Heb.7:25). God help us if Joseph was '*patron*' of our '*families and Christian schools*'! Joseph was a sinner like Mary, (Rom.3:23; Lk.1:47)! How can the '*mysteries of man's salvation*' be '*entrusted to the faithful care of Joseph*'? '**For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**, (1Tim. 2:5, see also Heb.12:24)...'**My soul wait thou only upon God**', (Ps.62:5)...'**Neither is there salvation in any other: For there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved**', (Acts 4:12)...'**Whom have I in Heaven but thee?**', (Ps.73:25). How can Joseph help us in death? Is not the Lord Jesus Christ our saviour and did He not conquer death for us? '**Oh death where is thy sting**', (1Cor.15:55)! Praise God for the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our patron, head, mediator and intercessor! Terry Arnold

Baptist Union and Ecumensim

Recently the *Baptist Ecumenical Fellowship* has been formed and will be formerly a part of the Baptist Union of Australia. Its mission statement aspires to a: '*relationship between Baptists and the wider church...to encourage ecumenical initiatives and relationships. To promote ecumenism in Baptist churches nationally, to disseminate information...through NCCA, WCC...to the whole church of Jesus Christ.*'

Editors Comments: The president of the NCCA is Catholic Archbishop, John Bathersby. Does the wider church include Catholics? Since when do we need help from the World Council of Churches (WCC)? This group is apostate to the core and has been exposed for their illegal activities, acceptance of homosexuality, and hidden agendas.* For years many of the major denominational churches refused union with the WCC. It is time for me say this openly: We have a massive shift almost right across the field of churches in Australia. We may well have the greatest apostasy in 2,000 years! *See 'The Trojan Horse in the Temple' by Morrison.

'Sword Waving'?

'The large Garden City AOG Church in Brisbane have introduced sword waving in the so called being 'slain in the spirit' demonstrations. This was done during the visit of a team from Underland and has already resulted in some foundation members of the Brisbane assembly withdrawing from the church over the craziness.' (CETF Dec.97)

Christian Martyrs

'In the past decade approximately 2 million people, mostly Christians, have been killed in Sudan...Christian homes are marked with an 'X', a symbol for militant Muslims to literally bulldoze them.' (VOM, 6/97)

Divisions Continue

"WA Calvary Church Minister, the rev. Reg Skinner lost most of his congregation after returning from a holiday to find the [Toronto] Blessing had infiltrated his Warwick congregation.

'There was an exodus of people when I refused to accept that the Toronto Blessing had anything to do with God', Mr Skinner said. 'Out of a congregation of 70 or 80, I was left with about 25'. Calvary Church leader Kath Barnard said the blessing took just two weeks to divide the congregation.' (Sunday Times, Perth, 12/10/97)

Quotable

'It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. Let me tell you something, friend, it is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth, than to be loved for telling a lie. It is impossible to find anyone in the Bible who was a power for God who did not have enemies and was not hated. It is better to stand alone with the truth, than to be wrong with a multitude. It is better to ultimately succeed with the truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie. There is only one Gospel and Paul said, 'If any man preach any other Gospel unto you than which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed'. ('The Berean Call' Dec.96; Pastor Adrian Rodgers, excerpts from, National Religious Broadcasters Convention, 1996)

Manifestations

'...Nowhere in Scripture does the ministry of gifts (publicly or privately) produce any supernatural physical manifestation, such as shaking and falling down...The Spirit brings self control (Gal.5:23 cf. Acts 24:25). Moreover, the most Spirit filled of all human beings, Jesus, showed no evidence of physical manifestations as a result of His being controlled by the Spirit.' ('Are Miraculous Gifts For Today', by Wayne Grudem)

Yesterday and Today

The following event took place in a Midwestern Holiness Camp meeting in 1881:

'One day in the midst of a great sermon, a woman from Carrol County, a holiness professor, sprawled out at full length in the aisle...It kept some of the sisters busy to keep her with a measurably decent appearance. Directly she began to compose a jargon of words in rhyme and sing them with a weird tune. She persisted till the service was spoiled and the camp was thrown into a hubbub. Strange to say, the camp was divided thereby. Some said it was a repetition of speaking in unknown tongues as at Pentecost. But every preacher on the ground without exception declared it to be of the devil...' ('Theological Roots of Pentecostalism' by Dayton, P.178)

The question is: What do today's Pentecostal preachers say when this happens, as it does now on a widespread scale?

Being 'Spirit filled' (Eph.5:18)

'Many Christians have become bogged down with the idea that the answer to their problems and powerlessness is in having more of the Holy Spirit, when really the answer is in the Holy Spirit having more of them.' ('The Pentecostal Issue', K. Smith, P.19)

Thoughts on Today's Signs and Wonders

The signs and wonders advocates expect a worldwide end-time revival. Yet others expect a great end-time apostate '**falling away**' from the faith, (2Thess.2). The former support ecumenical endeavours such as *Promise keepers, March for Jesus*, etc. The latter are appalled by the erasing of the differences between Bible believing Christians and false religions.

*'The Catholic trip to Lourdes is now being matched by trips to Pensacola...One of the biggest fruits of the Toronto's spirit, (stand up, Guy Chevreau), has been the breathtaking dishonesty and misrepresentation about what[Jonathan] Edwards taught.'**

Many are concerned and troubled by the false conversions, (80% 'backsliding' rate), false revivals, proven false claims of healings, false prophecies, false teachings, etc. The order in the current signs and wonders movement has been reversed. It used to be mind-emotions-will. It is now emotions-mind-will. Truly, the church has been polarised.

'...they have a real zeal of God, but not according to knowledge', (Rom.10:2). * CRN Autumn, 1997.

Which Jesus? (Sermon Notes)

Jehovah Witness Jesus: '*a god*'; a created being; the archangel Michael; a man, not God; not to be worshipped; was re-created at the resurrection; did not rise bodily from the grave; This 'Jesus' has failed to come back many times.

Mormon Jesus: Spoke to Joseph Smith in a vision and said that all other religions were wrong; is a created being; was exalted to Godhood; was physically conceived by sex between Mary and God the Father, (Mary was not a virgin); is the spirit brother of Satan, the demons and all humans; was a polygamist, (ie. had several wives). This Jesus together with Joseph Smith can save us; born in Jerusalem, not Bethlehem, and came to America, despite no archaeological evidence.

Word-Faith Jesus, (as taught by Hagin, Copeland, Hinn, etc): Jesus can be manipulated by a '*force offaith 'contained in words*'; went to Hell to atone for our sins; was tormented by demons for three days and three nights in Hell; was 'born again' in Hell; his blood did not fully atone on the cross, but rather in Hell.

Catholic Jesus: Speaks through Mary to the world, (eg. Medjugorje; Fatima, etc.); uses Mary to draw people to Christ; is in the host (the bread-wafer) and is to be adored in the form of bread; speaks through infallible Popes; has his one true church - the Roman Catholic Church.

'Toronto Blessing' Jesus: His Holy Spirit, (who is no longer a gentleman), zaps people into altered states of consciousness; makes people spiritually 'drunk' and unable to preach the Word; makes people uncontrollably laugh, bark like dogs, shake like Cerebral Palsy and generally causes people to lose self control, contrary to the fruit of the spirit, (Gal. 5:22). This Jesus is doing a 'new thing' outside of scripture, (extra-Biblical revelation), and is bringing a great end-time world wide revival, (contrary to scripture and statistics).

The Real Jesus!: Has always been, (Jn.8:24,58 cp.Ex.3:13) and is the first and the last as is Jehovah, (Rev.1:8,11,17 cp.Is.41:4; 44:6; 48:12); atoned *fully* for my sins on the cross (Rom.5:9; 1Jn.1:7, etc.); is not created but the *creator* (Col.1:16,17); is not an angel, (Heb.1:4), but above and better than the angels; born of a virgin, (Matt.1:23); is not now a baby and does not speak through Mary, statues, or the Pope, but through His Word and the Holy Ghost. God is jealous of His name!

Uniting Church National Assembly

In a pastoral letter to '*all people of the Uniting Church in Australia*', the president wrote: '*On the most difficult, complex and controversial matter of homosexuality, the assembly...unanimously decided to commit the church to a continuing dialogue...at the communion service at the close of the assembly I preached on Ephesians 4:3, 'make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace'...This is a marvellous church. God is beckoning us to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to worship creatively...'*

Editors Comment: Why is the issue of homosexuality so 'difficult, complex and controversial' for the Uniting Church? Will they not take the plain words of scripture from both Testaments that homosexuality is and always was an abomination and is condemned in His sight! (Lev.18:22; Rom.1:26,27; Jude 7; 1Cor.6:9,10; etc.). Why should there be 'continuing dialogue' on an issue that God has already judged? How can there be true 'unity of the spirit' with homosexuals when God expressly forbids it?

How can this be a 'marvellous church'? What does God say to the Uniting church in Australia? Does he not say to separate from those who persist in false doctrine (Rom.16:17), and to avoid and separate from such, (2Thess.3:6; 1Tim.6:3-5)? 'Come out from among them, and be separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you', (2Cor.6:14-18).

NewVideo Review

'*The Toronto Blessing*' - Video documentary, \$9.50

On the 3/7/97 a British TV program ('3D') produced a current affairs type segment on the phenomena known as the 'Toronto Blessing', which has taken a strong hold on churches in Britain

Both sides of the debate are at first reviewed and then some serious consideration is given to the downside 'fruit' of this 'blessing'. Mark Haville, who formerly was an exponent of the signs and wonders movement, is interviewed. Some past shots of him in action are shown to demonstrate the manipulative techniques involved with signs and wonders leaders. He is now a powerful voice in the UK against the current phenomena.

Various testimonies are given by people who have been touched by the 'blessing' and are now exhibiting painful side effects and illnesses. These are the stories many do not want to hear. This is a short, powerful, factual and loving documentary that could well make people think before they leap into any future 'blessing'. I highly recommend this tape as an outreach tool to those in deception. **Terry Arnold**

Wesley On 1Corinthians 14:32

'The impulses of the Holy Spirit, even in men really inspired, so suit themselves to their rational faculties, as not to divest them of the government of themselves, like the heathen priests under their diabolical possession. Evil spirits threw their prophesy into such ungovernable ecstasies, as forced them to speak and act like a madman. But the Spirit of God left His prophets the clear use of their judgment, when, and how long, it was fit for them to speak, and never hurried them into any improprieties either as to the matter, manner, or time of their speaking' ('Expository Notes upon the N.T.)

Spurgeon on Ecumenism

'It is impossible but that the Church of Rome must spread, when we who are the watchdogs of the fold are silent, and others are gently and smoothly turfing the road, and making it as soft and smooth as possible, that converts may travel down to the nethermost hell of Popery. We want John Knox back again. Do not talk to me of mild and gentle men, of soft manners and squeamish words, we want the fiery Knox, and even though his vehemence should 'ding our pulpits into blads,' it were well if he did but rouse our hearts to action'.

(Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Sermons)

End-Time Signs?

Jesus said the days just prior to his return as a time of great religious deception, (Mtt.24:4, 11, 23-24). Many will be claiming to utter prophecies, cast out demons, performing miracles but they would be evil doers, (Mtt.7:22,23). He said a '**wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign**', (Mtt.16:4).

In order for the false church to develop, discernment must *diminish* so that the false church grows. Tolerance and doctrinal absolutes must diminish. An experiential, worldly, and ecumenical false religion must *increase*.

How close are we? Watch for the falling away of the church, (2Thess.2), it's discernment, and the rapid growth of ecumenism. All are now nearing centre stage! **Terry Arnold**.

Scripture & Doctrine

'If you have one Scripture only on which to base an important doctrine or teaching you are most likely to find, on close examination, that you have none'.

(A saying by one of the early church fathers, cited in '*What Should We Think of the Carnal Christian*' by Ernest Reisinger, P.12)

The Stranger We Took In

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind each member had a special niche. My brother Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister gave me the opportunity to play 'big brother' and to develop the art of teasing. My parents were complimentary instructors. Mum taught me to love the Word of God and Dad taught me to obey it.

But the stranger was our story teller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries, and comedies were daily conversations. He would hold our entire family spellbound for hours each evening. If I wanted to know all about politics, history or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so full of life that I would often laugh or cry as I watched.

He was like a friend to the whole family. He took dad, Bill, and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see movies. He even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular. The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind, but sometimes mum would quietly get up, while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of far away places. Mum would go to her room, read her Bible and pray. I wonder if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my dad ruled our household with certain moral conditions and convictions, yet somehow this stranger never felt obligated to honour them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house - not from us, from our friends, or from adults. Our long term visitor, however, used occasional four letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge the stranger was never confronted.

My Dad was a tee-totaller who didn't permit alcohol in his home, but the stranger felt we needed exposure. He didn't actually ever give us any alcohol, but he constantly tried to enlighten us as to other ways of life. He covered the gusto side of life with beer and other alcoholic beverages. He talked freely (probably much too freely) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationship were influenced by the stranger.

As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God and what we had been taught in church and Sunday school that kept the stranger from deceiving us. Time after time he opposed the moral values of the Bible. Yet no one said much about it, and no one wanted him to leave.

More than thirty years have passed since the stranger first moved in with our family. To be honest, I found a stranger like him and took him into my own home. Now they both sit in the den of my parents home and in my home. He waits patiently for someone to listen to him talk, and you look at him as he talks.

His name?...We always called him by his initials: T.V.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, family, and friends,

I express my gratitude to you and your family for your prayers. I have just recently come out of the signs and wonders movement, of which I have been heavily a part of for approximately 9 months. After participating in all of these wonders I had become closed minded towards any other teaching. But fortunately after several other crisis through this period, I started questioning.

I had not been able to read my Bible for some period of time. I had even reached the stage of not knowing who I should be praying to, whether it was God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit.

As time went by I had more of the world back in my life than I did God. I began to feel spiritually empty and my alcoholic drinking habits plus other things, began recurring more consistently. I have now reached the stage that I now realise that I no longer can afford not to question some of these movements and I have also come to the firm belief that those who are involved in the slaying in the spirit, healings, tongues, and the manifestations in these churches, need to seriously question their actions and the doctrine being taught. God's Word says that the Holy Spirit will witness with God's Word. If it is not in God's Word it is not of God. Please I pray, to those who read this, please don't be deceived and test the spirits by the Word of God!

I thank God that he is merciful and forgiving, and today my life is filled once again with the love of the Jesus from the Bible.

Many thanks and God bless, (S.A., Hervey Bay, Qld.)

Dear Terry, Once again thank you for your continuing ministry in calling attention to the good news and warning about the false gospel which is no good news at all... Only today I passed on your newsletter to various people. Why are we so ready to accept Paul's letters, the prophets warnings and Jesus' 'woes', yet at the same time consider a ministry's call to return to God (and do away with falsehood) as critical, or 'without love'? Does not the scriptures teach that an enemy will flatter us with kisses but one who loves us will 'blow' us with the truth?

Please know that your work is to the good pleasure of our Lord because in Him there is no darkness, (1Jn). Praise be to God and His Messiah! In Him, (M.Z)

Dear Terry,... We meet such a variety of 'Christians' and try to relate to each one individually. The majority have as much of a closed mind to reading anything as the J.W's we talk to. Anyway, God is in sovereign control and we praise Him for that! Take care and God bless, Love, (R.&A. F. Atherton, Qld.)

Praise Points

- Praise God for those who monthly support this ministry.

Prayer Points

- Being on the internet would be a great advantage to this ministry. The ministry would then go world-wide and we have access to a huge amount of updated information and research material. Please pray for finance to do this. Cost is about \$450 and then \$25 per week. Many souls will be saved from deception.

- Please pray earnestly for voluntary labour in this ministry.

- Please pray about a possible ministry trip to Sydney in March/April this year.

- Pray for the possible purchase of a fax machine this month.

Dear Terry, I received the book 'Signs and Wonders exposed from you recently and I read it. I thoroughly agree with your comments in the book review [Nov.1997]. I find it very useful and helpful in understanding the signs and wonders movement in more ways than one.

I shall be thankful if you could send me 4 more copies of the same book so I can give them to some of the people I know who need to hear the message in this book... Keep up the good work, May God bless you all in your ministry, Your brother in Christ, (H.Y., Cairns, Qld.)

Dear Terry, I recently read two of your newsletters. Thank God for newsletters like 'Diakrisis' and the exposing of these men and women who are leading precious sheep from the true narrow path that God has put before us. I pray those involved in these deceptions would repent. However, in my years as a Christian they remain unrepentant.

I feel very passionate about a good balanced walk in Christ Jesus as my wife and I have been down the path of Hyper-faith and Prosperity doctrine - 'name it claim it', 'blab it grab' it rubbish. I was injured greatly, but truth prevailed, glory to God.

My wife and I attended a motor cycle ministry and were on staff on the south side of Brisbane. We encountered many lovely people but sadly they are totally deceived as we were. We pray that they will find the truth. This ministry was totally Kenneth Copeland centred. I have wept many times over the trouble that has come to the body of Christ.

Keep up the great work... Your newsletter will be a welcome addition to our home. I pray peace and love upon you in our precious Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all at 'Diakrisis'. Ps. Could you please send me any additional information you have on any of these men and women, so that I too may be able to help set some poor soul free, all to the glory of God, Amen. Acts 20:26-31 (P&A.)

Dear Terry, Keep up the good work - really appreciate your ministry and the 'Diakrisis' with all its precious information. (R.B. Port Elliott, SA)

The Gospel of Satan

'Satan is the arch counterfeiter... He is seeking to prevent the growth of the wheat by another plant, the tares, which closely resemble the wheat in appearance. By imitation he is seeking to neutralise the work of Christ. So we see two Gospels in operation... The Gospel of Satan in these last days does not promote strife or war, but aims at peace and unity... Satan's apostles are not publicans or drug traffickers, but for the most part, ordained ministers... We must remember that heresy is not so much the total denial of the truth but rather a perversion of it.' (Extract from an article sent in by Pastor Frank Brennan, of Wagga Wagga, NSW)

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