



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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PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld,
Australia, 4655 Ph. 0411489472
Fax (07)41240915
Website:<http://www.cyberlink.com.au/>
tam E-mail: tam@cyberlink.com.au

NSW office: PO Box 3043 Wamberal,
2260 Ph. 0414689260
E-mail: mbc@terrigan.net.au
Correspondence concerning articles & editorial content should be addressed to NSW office

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

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

Advisory Panel:

(Sub Editor) Mike Claydon (Christian Welfare Worker)

Ps. Bruce Murray (Senior Pastor; Dip. Min.)

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

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

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

Ps. Keith Piper (Senior Pastor, Author)

The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter.

We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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Editors Comments

We wish all a safe and happy end of year break. For many this is an opportunity to rest and spend quality time with family and friends. We thank all the supporters of this ministry. We have seen conversions to Christ and many have been warned and have separated from false teaching through the resources and the newsletters.

Last December we were praying for provision for this year. I look back on that prayer as being answered abundantly! The Lord has supplied all our needs and even expanded this ministry beyond expectations. Although we have very little financial support from churches, (one church recently withdrew support), the Lord has provided enough to see this newsletter printed and the ministry operates by faith and is debt free.

What a year! This year the false ecumenical unity of churches has continued to grow. It has been well fed by various waves of the signs and wonders movement. The latter movement has shown no halt in the amount of false teaching, false prophecy and scams that have been unleashed on the church. The 'Toronto Blessing' is now history and the Pensacola 'revival' is in difficulties with proven charges of lies, financial scams, false healing claims, and the usual false teaching and false prophecies. Meanwhile the ecumenical machine rolls on, being fed by these movements which continue to die and re-fester in its wake.

It is simply staggering to look back and see the depths to which the church has sunk in the last few years. The movements mentioned have perhaps in this decade seen more Christians divided and more churches split than in any other century. However, we see a remnant that continues to separate themselves from error and to the Word of God.

1999 is shaping to be a year pointing to a climax. I believe there will be a greater emphasis on signs and wonders; on the mystical 'anointing'; and on false 'revivals'. However, there will also be many who will begin to ask the question - what on earth is going on in the church?

Those who swim against the tide of apostasy will face increasing opposition. We in this ministry have found that this opposition has only served to build more steel into us all. There are also those who applaud us for exposing various signs and wonders leaders for false teaching and false prophecies, yet become irate when we challenge the teaching and practices of those evangelists in their own backyard. Are we willing to have our own sentiments scrutinised and our own beliefs tested? Do we still '**receive the love of truth**' (2thess. 2:10) when it disturbs our pre-conceived beliefs and affections. Do we judge ourselves before we judge others?

This ministry is set for the defence of the faith, (Phil.1:7,17). We oppose false unity, false teachers and teaching wherever we find them. We care about the thousands being deceived and we will continue to challenge and exhort all. We do no less than Paul in naming names, exposing, informing and equipping.

The world conditions and church climate are being made ready for the return of

Jesus. How long God will delay is guesswork only. It behoves us to be feeding on the sure Word of God that we will understand the signs of the times, and therefore look up and see our redemption drawing nigh.

Terry Arnold

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Carnal Christians?

Within this century there has arisen in the Christian church a new teaching that says there are three types of people: unsaved; Christians; and '*carnal Christians*'. However, early church leaders never considered the term 'carnal Christians' to be a permanent reality in Christian life, much less a doctrine.

The words of 2Corinthians 5:17: '*Therefore if any man be in Christ; he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*' do not refer to a Christian remaining carnal but to a real conversion from the old man to a *new creature* in Christ. Throughout the New Testament there is a definite division between the spiritual and carnal and between those who walk after the flesh and those who walk after the Spirit: '*...in my flesh dwelleth no good thing...*', (Rom.7:18)...*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God...They that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwells in you*', (Rom.8:1-9)...*They which are the children of the flesh, they are not the children of God...*, (Rom.9:8),...*he that soweth to the flesh shall reap of the flesh corruption...*', (Gal.6:8).

Those who walk after the flesh are either unregenerate or *acting like* the unregenerate. In Galatians 5:16-24 we have only two classes again - those who do the works of the flesh and those who are led by the Spirit: '*walk in the spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...who have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires*'. If our sinful nature has not been crucified and there is no change then we are not a 'carnal Christian' but rather no Christian at all! In all the confessions of faith I have read of churches throughout the centuries there is no hint concerning the possibility of a 'carnal Christian'. Yet this is a popular teaching today.

I do believe that a Christian can have degrees of 'carnality' in their life because the '*flesh lusteth against the spirit*', (Gal.5:17). There are no doubt progressive degrees of sanctification and holiness, which are 'worked out' during our lifetime. I also believe that a Christian may 'backslide' for a time but that if they truly have the Holy Spirit, will be constantly convicted by the Holy Spirit of sin and be thus far from content. If a 'Christian' continues in a backslidden state then the question of their salvation must come to bear: '*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...*', (2Cor.13:5). The above teaching is no different to what Spurgeon and others have taught.

Although we can never really know whether the person in question is a Christian or not, *we should never excuse carnality as possibly Christian*. Because we may sometimes have degrees of carnality in our life, this does not mean that we allow for a Christian to be a 'carnal Christian' year after year. It is one thing to act like unconverted people sometimes and in

Roman Catholic Signs & Wonders

Every year there are increasing reports of Roman Catholic miracles. People flock hoping to see these signs and wonders. In Worcester, Massachusetts, a 14 year old disabled girl is credited with working miracles. Audrey Santo has been comatose since she nearly drowned in a pool 11 years ago. Apparently statues near her bed weep and Christs scourging marks have appeared on her hands, feet and sides. Blood has dripped from the Catholic wafer at her bedsides. Up to 8,000 people attended a service of the anniversary of her near drowning.

(Ref: *Sword of the Lord*, 18/9/98)

some areas, but it is something else to be 'carnal' as a dominant part of one's life.

The 'carnal Christian' doctrine depends almost solely on one passage of Scripture: 1Corinthians 3:1-4: '*And I brethren could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ...are ye not carnal?*' If a doctrine is based on one passage of Scripture then we are on dangerous ground and it is most likely no doctrine at all. We must remember that 1Corinthians was written to correct *wrong and carnal behaviour* in the church at Corinth. Paul is here rebuking them soundly for *acting like unregenerate people* in some areas of their lives. Paul clearly taught only two types of people. In chapter two he separated them into 'natural' (unsaved) and 'spiritual'.

If a person who professes to be a Christian and is carnal after some length of time, the question must be asked - are they really true believers? This, in my opinion, is one of the biggest problems in the church today - that many 'carnal Christians' profess to be Christians and the church accepts and excuses the 'carnal Christian' teaching without question. This no doubt helps the evangelist's statistics and avoids evaluation of methods and the message. Could this be the biggest deception of Satan today?

A person who has been justified must be sanctified, for without holiness no man shall see the Lord, (Heb.12:14). Modern evangelism unfortunately has substituted repentance for 'a decision'. The apostles preached the Lordship of Christ. If one continues in carnality and claims to be a Christian, then we enter the realm of 'antinomianism' (against the law' - license to sin), which Paul fiercely opposed when he wrote: '*shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid!*'

Spurgeon warned his students: '*If the professed convert distinctly and deliberately declares that he knows the Lord's will but does not mean to attend to it, you are not to pamper his presumption, but it is your duty to assure him that he is not saved. Do not suppose that the Gospel is magnified or God glorified by going to the worldlings and telling them that they may be saved at this moment by simply accepting Christ as their saviour, while they are wedded to their idols, and their hearts are still in love with sin. If I do so I tell them a lie, pervert the Gospel, insult Christ, and turn the grace of God into lasciviousness*'.

As another writer well said: '*Why is today's church so weak? Why are we able to claim many conversions and enrol many church members but have less and less impact on our culture? Why are Christians indistinguishable from the world? Is it not that many are calling people Christians who are actually unregenerate? Is it not that many are settling for a 'form of Godliness but denying its power', (2Tim.3:5)?**

Terry Arnold

Ref. & Recommended reading: '*What Should We Think of The Carnal Christian?*' by Reisinger * '*The Gospel According to Jesus*' by John MacArthur, Preface, P.XII.

Quotable

'The Christian is a man who expects nothing from this world. He does not pin his hope on it, because he knows that it is doomed.

The Christian is not a good man. He is a vile wretch who has been saved by the grace of God. Do you think that you deserve forgiveness? If you do, you are not a Christian.

One of the best tests of whether we are truly Christian or not is just this: do I hate my natural self?' Martyn Lloyd Jones

'Gotta Have A Hope!'

From Sunday March 14th to Saturday 20th, 1999, American Tony Campolo will be the speaker at *Youth Alive* rallies in Australia, billed as '*Gotta Have a Hope Tour*'.

We issue an urgent plea to parents of children attending this event to study the writings and doctrine of this man! Who is Tony Campolo and what is the hope that he offers?

He is a communicator by profession, and has publicly taught his doctrines for years to hundreds of thousands of young people across America and around the world. His 'tell it like it is' style has put him in great demand. An American Baptist, he is the associate pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

Campolo has written 26 books and is an avid environmentalist who is calling for a major overhaul in the belief system of Evangelical Christians. A master of doublespeak, he states that to speak reprovingly of the Clinton White house is '*meanness*' (1) but to sprinkle ones lawn is '*environmental terrorism*'. (2) He accuses the church of being '*homophobic*' (3) and calls their views on homosexuality '*despicable*' and that the practise is not contrary to the will of God. (4)

A favourite technique is to make unsubstantiated pronouncements as if they were fact: '*the salvation that John 3:16 talks about is for everything in the universe, not just people*'. (5) '*It is a thoroughly pro-life question to ask how to keep the globe at a sustainable growth level.*' (6) '*He [Jesus], can be found exactly where He said...he did not dwell in temples or churches...Jesus who incarnated God 2,000 years ago is mystically present and waiting to be discovered in EVERY person you and I encounter.*' (7) '*In describing the*

resurrected Jesus as the 'SACRED PRESENCE' waiting to be encountered in other people, I was making a literal statement...it is the historical Jesus who is encountered in the I - thou...Jesus is a REAL PRESENCE in other people and this convinces me that there are infinite possibilities for the future and great hope for the world.' (8) (Caps added) Naturally, space confines us to very few of Dr. Campolo's heresies, but they are myriad.

So what is the '*hope*' young people just '*gotta have*'? It is not the Gospel, but a recognition of the '*sacred presence*' in ourselves and other people; a saving of the earth environmentally and the final redemption of everyone and everything! It's the old New Age lie of '*God within*' dressed up in '*green*' clothes; an ecumenical mishmash, designed to confuse young minds and destroy their faith in an omnipotent and sovereign God, who has stated so clearly in His Word all the truth of His workings.

It behoves all parents to become informed about the teachings of such men being foisted upon their children, and to be increasingly vigilant regarding their attendance at church sponsored youth activities in the genre of '*Youth Alive*'!

Mike Claydon

(1) Tony Campolo, '*Campolo Has New View of President*', *Minnesota Christian Chronicle*, 1995 (2) Tony Campolo, '*How To Rescue the Earth Without Worshipping Nature*', P.51 (3) Tony Campolo, '*What About Homophobia?*', P.20 *Prim Magazine*, Feb/94 (4) Tony Campolo, '*20 Hot Potatoes Christians Are Afraid To Touch*', P.111,115 (5) Tony Campolo, '*How To Rescue the Earth Without Worshipping Nature*', Preface (6) Tony Campolo & Dordon Aeschliman, '*50 Ways You Can Be Pro-Life*', P.113 (7) Tony Campolo, '*A Reasonable Faith: Responding To Secularism*', P.171 (8) Randy Rodden, '*A theological Critique of Anthony Campolo's Book: A Reasonable Faith: Responding To Secularism*', PP. 14-15

The Babe Was Born To Die! (Sermon Notes)

- The picture of the baby in the manger is a non-threat to the world. It places no demands. However, Christians know that *the babe was born to die*. This baby *pre-existed* and went to the cross for you and me.

- Pre-existence: (OT) As the great '*I Am*', (Ex.3:14cp.Jn.8:24); as the '*angel of the Lord*'; '*Bethlehem...out of thee...ruler of Israel whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting*', (Mic.5:2).

(NT) '*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...and the Word was made flesh*', (Jn.1); '*and all things were made by him...For by Him were all things created...all things were created by Him, and for him...*', (Col.1:16); '*made in the likeness of men*', (Phil.2:7).

- The cross cost. We must either accept or deny the truth of the baby and the cross. It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home and an exile; it cost mothers the massacre of their babies by Herod; it cost the shepherds to leave their flocks; it cost the wise men gifts and a long journey; it cost almost all the apostles their lives; it cost the disciples and church leaders martyrdom; it cost missionaries in all ages their lives, (more this century than all centuries combined); it cost God The Father His son; it cost Jesus a life of sacrifice and service and a death unmatched in human history. *The babe was born to die!* Yet, '*...who for the joy that was set before Him He endured the cross...*' (Heb.12:1-2).

- The cross is a *place of sacrifice and death*, (2Cor.5:14); a *place of crucifixion: 'I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me'*, (Gal.2:20); a *place of submission: 'Not my will but yours be done'*; a *place of humiliation and shame* - there is no pride at Calvary!; a *place of substitution* - someone bore my sin!; a *place of reconciliation: 'When we were enemies we were reconciled*

to God by the death of His son...', (Rom.5:10).

- You cannot soften the cross! You cannot slant it to fit the latest fashion! We are not PR officers to bring goodwill between Christ and the world! (to make Christ acceptable to business, sport, education, etc). '*The world is crucified unto me and I unto the world*', (Gal.6:14).

-The cross is an ultimatum! You cannot make terms with God!

- The cross is an end to Adams journey in the flesh. We leave the old life at the cross. '*I have been crucified with Christ...*', (Gal.2:19,20). God does not improve your old life. We die to self energy, pity. (Many swap addictions in the world for religious soulish activity). '*The old man is crucified with Him*', (Rom.6:6). '*They that are Christs have crucified the flesh with the affectations and the lusts...*', (Gal.5:24,25). (This means 'has nothing to do with') All is by *grace alone!*

Conclusion: The baby places no demand on any unless we know *who He was and is, and what He did*. The cross is a separation of sinners from saints. The conditions are *faith and repentance*. The dark side of the cross: the darkest exhibition of mans sin ever. The bright side: the brightest display of God's love ever. *The babe was born to die!*

- Why do we need to know this? Because we are sinners. '*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*', (Rom.3:23)...'*There is not one who is good, not one who sins not...*' (Eccles. 7:20)...'*Who can say his heart is pure and is clean from sin*', (Pr.20:9)...The whole world is guilty! (Rom.3:18) We are LOST. But as sinners we cry, '*God have mercy on me a sinner...God be a blood-sprinkled mercy seat for me*'. In response God does not make us into a patched up job, but a *new creation!*

The babe was born to die!

Terry Arnold

Qld Baptist Union and Homosexuality

While much discussion is going on in the Baptist Union concerning Homosexuality, (why bother discussing such absolutes?), the Qld Baptist Union has issued an 'initial' statement, (Sept/98).

The document appears to show homosexuality for what it is - sin, and thankfully sets some things straight:

'A 'gay gene' has not been discovered. Genetics does not determine psycho-social behaviour such as sexual preference...Although many homosexuals testify to the distasteful nature of their first sexual encounter, eventually they can become addicted to the secondary chemical opiates produced through intercourse. Over time this actually alters the neural pathways in the brain regarding their sexual preferences. It is this process that leads many homosexuals, on the one hand, to view their sexuality as innate and essential to their persons, and on the other makes change of behaviour, as with other addictive behaviours, a difficult and painful process...Talk of being 'gay from birth' simply does not make biological nor psychological sense...Scholars who are in favour of accepting homosexual relationships employ ingenious methods of interpretation to give a different explanation of these verses...These interpretations generally fall into three categories of argument:

(1) The [Biblical authors] writers were biased products of their sheltered Jewish cultures.

(2) They were criticising specific acts of worship in which homosexuality featured...

...In Leviticus 18:22 we read 'You shall not lie with a man as with a woman, it is an abomination'...The key term in Timothy 1:10...means 'men who sleep with men'...In 1 Corinthians such behaviour is enough to disqualify one from entering the kingdom of God...

Serial and multiple partners far beyond the heterosexual average are a common feature of the life of the homosexual, whether male or female. The public display of phallic obsession surrounding the annual [Sydney Gay & Lesbian] Mardi Gras is a pale reflection of the distorted lifestyle of many...Note that we have not touched upon the enormous medical costs and risks to life and health faced by an active member of the gay community directly stemming from their various forms of sexual expressions...For these reasons we cannot ordain practising, fragile nor unconvinced homosexuals to the ministry of leadership within the member Churches of the Baptist Union of Queensland.

Quotable

'If preaching is to be [a part of] worship, it must please God; and preaching that pleases Him expounds and explains the Scriptures. It exhorts the hearers and calls for action. It lifts God and His Word high, to an exalted place. Worshipful preaching is not a pooling of the ideas of the minds of men but a heralding of the mind of God as revealed in His Word.' ('Worship in Spirit and in Truth' by Woodrow Kroll, P.21)

The Doctrine of the Cross

The doctrine is that of a full atonement made, and the utmost ransom paid, 'Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree'. In Christ upon the cross we see the just dying for the unjust, that He might bring us to God; the innocent bearing the crimes of the guilty, that they might be forgiven and accepted. That is the doctrine of the cross, of which Paul was never ashamed.'

(Spurgeon's sermon, 'The Cross our Glory' from '12 Sermons on the Passion and Death of Christ', P.144.

Ecumenism

(The following quote is by Roman Catholic Cardinal Francis Arinze, President of the *Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue* - his message is to Hindus at the *festival of Light*.)

'We Christians and Hindus, each on our own respective spiritual paths, can work together to give increased help to humanity. Yet first we must accept our differences and show each other mutual respect and true love.' (CNV News Service, 25/9/98)

Editors comments: This is true ecumenism - all paths lead to a world religion. Rome is wooing and building the paths for Christians and pagans alike. At the same time the Christian church is building paths to Rome. Those that speak out against this perhaps are now only a remnant. Multitudes of Christians are already deluded to the ecumenical movement. Come Lord Jesus!

Quotable

'This is a strange day in some Christian circles. It's a day when praise is in and worship is out. Choruses are in, hymns are out. Melody is in, message is out. Happy is in, holy is out.

Not that these things are wrong. Praising God is good. A striking melody is good. But when one good thing excludes another, we always lose.' ('Worship in Spirit and in Truth' by Woodrow Kroll)

Another Copeland False Prophecy

'...They've been telling me for years that people in this part of the world don't want to hear the Word of God. But I'm moving,' saith the Lord, 'and that's being disproved...I have picked this spot to be a fountain and to become an explosive outpouring that will flow from here out into the rest of this nation...to the south...through the United States...into Central America...to the east...to the west...to the uttermost parts of the world.' (Prophecy by Kenneth Copeland, Canadian Victory Campaign, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1995)

Editors Comments: For 90 years we have been fed this lie of a world wide end-time revival. Not one Scripture agrees with this teaching. Even the statistics in America defy it. See our article on 'World Revival?' Feb/98.

Baptist Unions

'Cardinal Basil Hume made the first ever visit by a Roman Catholic Archbishop to the [Grt. Britain] Baptist assembly in May. The Archbishop led the Baptists in their spiritual reflections and was present when newly-accredited ministers met the Baptist Union President.' ('News of Interests', 11/10/98: news-of-interest@XC.Org)

In Britain the Baptist Union has become increasingly ecumenical. In the 1970's Michael Taylor, principle of the BU Northern College, denied the deity of Christ. In 1989 the BU yoked with the Roman Catholic Church in the Ecumenical Union in Britain and in 1997 appointed a London woman pastor, Pat Took, as area superintendent for London.

Earlier this year the American Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) re-affirmed its commitment to the ecumenical Baptist World Alliance (BWA). The BWA is an ecumenical alliance of 191 Baptist denominations in more than 140 countries. It has in the past supported one world organisations such as the United Nations (UN). In 1985 at the 15th Baptist Congress it challenged Baptists to '*make a new commitment of prayer for the UN...support its programmes...*'

In Australia the NSW BU of Australia in 1995 became sympathetic to the 'Toronto Blessing'. Many BU churches have fully endorsed the current signs and wonders movement despite the exposure of its false prophets and false Christs.

(Internet ref: <http://wayoflife.org/~dcloud/>)

God Forbid!

Recently I was shown some copies of the official Uniting Church magazine *'Insights'*. I have few words to describe what I felt when I read an article titled *'Solidarity...That's Queer'* (July/98, P.11). The article was written by the editor of the magazine, Marjorie Lewis-Jones. She reports on a conference where a Carter Heyward, (an Episcopal professor of theology), addressed delegates of *'gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender people'* in the Uniting Church. The theme of the conference was *'Re-imagining Love: Embracing our Strength'*. Heyward is quoted as saying: *'God is truly a transgenerating spirit' and to be queer means 'living and feeling, breathing and thinking into the connections between our struggles and those of others struggling for justice.'*

Heyward told delegates she had recently taught a course in *'queer theology'* which was the *'most deeply satisfying experience in her teaching career'*. She says: *'We were met in this queer class by a God who is alive and alert and a source of incredible confidence and serenity and hope and humour, truly a transgenerating spirit...transgenerating meaning the God who is crossing over and connecting us one to the other across and through our genders - not anti our genders...God is with me in my femaleness. In my genitals. In my breasts and in my juices. In my smile. In my puzzlement. And in yours - men and women'*. Heyward said that *'queer meant more than simply being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered...for what could be odder, queerer, in heterosexual, patriarchal, religious and cultural traditions than to stand with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people'*. Heyward said that *'while Western Christianity had often defined sacred love as agape or philia (brotherly/sisterly love), eros, too, was sacred'*. She said *'I think one of the tasks we as gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people can take on is that of re-imagining eros itself as sacred...'*

Editors comments: I was left breathless on reading this article but on reading some of the other articles in other months I realised that the Uniting Church has gone deeper into apostasy in the last few years than many perhaps have realised. This author talks of 'justice'. How many realise that these people will receive justice on judgement day for teaching such abominations. The Bible is absolute on Homosexuality and other sexual perversions - there is no room for private interpretation! (see *Diakrisis*, May/98) Is this lady a theologian? God forbid! Her theology on the Greek words for love are abysmal and deceptive. 'Eros' is not referred to as 'sacred' in the Bible. Why would the Uniting Church print such heresy? This Church has truly become all inclusive of other faiths and false teachings. In the September edition of the same magazine, the moderator reports that he has enjoyed *'dialogue and fellowship at 37 ecumenical, inter-church and inter-faith gatherings...'* Christians have little choice but to come out of such apostasy.

Did You Know

There are more martyrs this century than all other centuries combined. In Iran Christians are stripped naked and buried in snow until they freeze to death and in Sudan over 550 churches have been destroyed by radical Islamic governments. (*Maranatha Prophetic Alert*, 6/98)

Malaysia is drafting a new law to punish Muslims who make public commitments to Christ with heavy fines or three years imprisonments, or both. (*Joel News Intl.* 2/7/98)

In a town in Northern Africa a 15 year old boy was beheaded for converting to Christ The father had his son killed in front of the entire village. A Christian worker said he was slaughtered like a sheep. (*Religion Today* 15/7/98)

The Fruit of Current Revivals?

For several years we have warned of the satanic and the fleshly components in the current false revivals and the signs and wonders movement in general. Several times we have exposed the false teaching and the false prophecies of many of the leaders of the new waves of signs and wonders, especially in the 'Toronto Blessing' and the Pensacola 'revival'. One fruit that is becoming obvious is the immorality and fleshly downfall of many pastors and leaders who have been involved in these movements.

In the *Challenge Weekly* (Aug 25/98) it was stated that the Auckland City Elim Church in New Zealand had accepted the resignation of senior pastor, Ian Bilby, due to a *'moral failure'*. Nothing was said about his heavy involvement with the 'Toronto Blessing'. Many believe he was largely responsible for introducing the 'laughing revival' to New Zealand by supporting the visit of Rodney Howard Browne. He also supported a visit by Benny Hinn. Bilby also gave publicity to the false prophecy of Gerald Coates concerning a promised earthquake in Lake Taupo, Central North Island, New Zealand.

There are many other cases of sexual immorality and marriage break-ups that could be cited concerning leaders involved in the Toronto and Pensacola signs and wonders. Is this not some of the *fruit* of such movements?

Holiness

'...God most often appeals to our wills through our reason, sin and Satan usually appeal to us through our desires...Normally our reason, wills, and emotions should work in that order, but since we so often reverse the order, giving attention to our desires, we must work at directing those desires towards God's will...In the final analysis it is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose. But we are expressly told by Paul to work at this ourselves, (Phil.2:12). Our responsibility regarding our wills is to guard our minds and emotions, being aware of what influences our minds and stimulates our desires. As we do our part, we will see the Spirit of God do His part in making us more holy.' (*The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges, P. 128, 129, 131)

Schuller, Cho & Pope

Robert Schuller and Yonghhi Cho met in Sicily (3/98) to conduct a Church Growth conference. On route Schuller met the Pope for the fourth time and the Pope gave his wife a blessing. Five days later Mrs Schuller suffered a mild heart attack.

Schuller does not believe in the concept of sin and mans lost condition. He believes sin is a lack of self esteem and that the cross was to give us self esteem. He also denies the orthodox view of Hell. His heresies have been documented in *Diakrisis* Feb/98. (Ref: *Australian Beacon* Oct/98)

Music

Is my music God's music? Does it honour God and his ways? (1Cor.10:31). Does it help me to think on what is right and true? (Phil.4:8). Does it reinforce my faith? (Rom.14:22,23). Does it approve what God condemns? (Pr.19:27). Do the words displease God? (Eph.4:29). Can I listen to this song in the name of the lord Jesus? (Col.3:17). Do my parents approve? (Col.3:20). **(This was obtained from a Godly teenage girl who had the above notes attached inside her Bible)**

Internet Site

We at TA Ministries highly recommend a site containing much valuable information. *'Christian Discernment Ministry'*. See: www.discernment.org/

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry & Co, I just had to write after receiving the July/Aug. newsletters. Thankyou you so much...I've found it supportive during my times of deep depression (ex-Pentecostal) to be able to identify with others in the same situation, feeling so let down. I know now that I'd been caught up in the 'emotion & spiritual experience seeking', looking to man and having lost sight of God...I miss the singing and fellowship but I feel closer to God singing my heart out to Him alone. I've been really humbled the last 2 years, suffering post-natal depression but the Lord has led me through...I thank others for having the courage to write in and tell of their experiences - it gave me solace and some hope and confirmed that I had done the right thing in not going back. I haven't been able to find a church...some Baptist churches even allow Freemasonry practices! What do I do? Is it better to 'overlook' some faults but at least go to church, as God knows what is on our hearts, or stay at home and practice faith alone? I'm only a 'new Christian' and ex-Catholic to boot. If you know of any 'proper' Bible-based churches near me, could you please advise me...(B.M., Westbury, Tas)

Dear Terry, Thank you as usual for a very informative newsletter - getting out the truth. Of particular interest - the piece on the Asuza St 'revival'...how relevant to the whole T.B./Pensacola 'things' - maybe how still in these churches will begin to be alarmed at the parallels...it is why I'm sending you the enclosed cheque for \$20 - to get the Hagin video to do just that - alarm people - there are those who seem to need shock treatment...(T.R. Sydney)

Dear Bro. Terry, My Pastor...shared about your newsletter. He had just viewed a video...I left the AOG about two years ago because of the direction most were heading. I have been a Christian twenty years and have seen the progression from Jesus dying spiritually, to cult, to occult. I distribute any material I can get my hands on refuting these heresies and would very much like to get on your mailing list (A.W. Bris.)

Dear Terry, I have a question...If we were to die 'unsaved', ie. not personally confessing Christ as our personal Saviour and Lord, do we have a second chance at Christ's second coming (judgement day)? I have heard it put 'that even if we die not confessing Jesus as our saviour, at judgement day all those who have not done so will be given one last chance. I am seeking an answer founded in Scripture to this question. I believe this is something stemming from the Roman Catholics...

Ps. I read with interest the commentary on the 'near death experiences- Deception?' in the September newsletter. Have you seen a copy of the video 'A Glimpse of Eternity' - a true story of Ian McCormack account...a journey through hell. I would be interested to know if you have seen this story and any comments you have on it? (D.P. Sydney)

Editors comments: Dear...the Scriptures are clear...Hebrews 9:27 says: 'It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgement.' The rich man in hell in Luke 16 also tells us this in graphic details! Nowhere in Scripture is there any plan for a second chance of salvation. The Bible continually speaks of repentance or Hell as the consequence. To be born again is necessary in this life or one will 'die in your sins', (Jn.8:24). The dead cannot repent.

The Catholic church teaches a place called 'Purgatory' where people supposedly go at death to be purged of their sins. This is blasphemy to the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

As for the 'Glimpse of Eternity' video: I had seen this many years ago and was intrigued by it. However, it contains much that is *extra-Biblical* and cannot be tested. Some have also cited some of this account as contrary to Scripture. After-death experiences are to be viewed with great caution as are any experiences contrary to Scripture.

The Key To Dying To Self!

In my early Christian walk I used to try so hard to 'die to self'. Sometimes the harder I tried, the less effective I was and the more self I saw. Some years later God showed me a revelation from his Word that stunned me. It stunned me because like most truths it was so simple - and I had missed it!

Romans 6:11 says: **'Likewise reckon ye also yourself to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord'**. Rather than trying to experience being dead to sin, we are first to realise the truth of our position in Christ.

This 'reckoning' requires faith - to believe that which the Word of God teaches. We reckon ourselves dead to sin because we are alive to Christ and because God said it. In the same way that Abraham had to believe Sarah was going to have a baby in her old age, so we are to believe our position regarding sin and self.

As Jesus died once for all, so we died once and forever to the rule of sin. If we are in Christ and joined to him we should reckon ourselves as dead to sin. The word 'reckon' is the Greek word 'logizomai' which means to think from the Word, to account, to credit that something is so.

Our outward man is dying but our inward man is being renewed daily by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, (2Cor.4:16). We have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light, (Col.1:13). This 'reckoning' is a persuasion that nothing can separate us from

God. Sin must never make us a slave again. The apostle John says **'whosoever is born of God, does not commit sin'**, (1Jn.3:9). The tense of this verse indicates that if one is truly born again one will not *continue* to, or *habitually* practise sin. This does not mean that we never commit any sin again, but rather that we should not fall under its continuing power and slavery. A non Christian sins as a slave to sin. A Christian who has been and is being sanctified by the Holy Spirit will hate sin. Even when in a temporary backslidden state, the Christian will more than likely not enjoy sin but suffer from conviction of sin.

In countries where slavery was abolished the slaves took some time to adjust to the understanding of no longer being slaves. Some ex-slaves for a time even continued to partially act like slaves until they *reckoned* themselves free of it. Some habits die hard. As we reckon ourselves dead to sin, we will experience that fact. As we reason that we are not what we should or ought to be, but by the grace of God we are not what we used to be - then we can realise and reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ. If we believe Christ to be who He claims to be and believe the powerful work of the Holy Spirit, then we will reckon ourselves dead to sin and wonderfully alive to the Lord Jesus Christ. The curious blessing in all this is that as we believe and meditate on the Scriptures and *reckon* ourselves **'to be dead to sin...'** the Holy Spirit helps us to put it into practice. **Terry Arnold**

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry,...Thankyou for sending your newsletter, it's information keeps me awake as to what's going on in Christianity today. I can hardly believe that people who have been God fearing Christians for years actually believe some of the heresies being taught. I know this ministry must be draining on you and family. We keep you in our prayers. God needs watchman like you. Keep up the good work...We are saddened by some Christian attitudes and behaviour. We have been able to lead one young man to Christ...If we have been placed here just for that, then it's all worth it. **(R.J. Atherton, Qld.)**

Dear Terry,...Having been disturbed by the 'Toronto Blessing' and the so called 'Faith Movement' we have been looking seriously at their beliefs which we have found are not Biblically based and are concerned that all the 'Pentecostal' type churches in...have taken on board one or other of the teachings. Even the Baptist church has had splits over it...The Lord continue to bless you, **(Qld., Names withheld at editors discretion)**

Dear Terry...thank you once again the great 'Diakrisis'. I especially appreciated your stand against the tide of ecumenism in Feb. issue ie. 'Robert Schuller' & 'Ecumenism - Deception of the 20th Century'. You are so right about the danger here and God's people need to be awakened to this terrible 'plague' sweeping the world. God bless you for sounding the warning, (Ezek.33:2-9). I pray that God will continue to give you the faith and courage to **keep** sounding the warning without compromise or catering to the approval of men, (Gal.1:10).

I'm sending along an order for resources that I pray may also be helpful as I contend (with you) for the faith once delivered...over here.

Thanks again for being a faithful servant of our Lord and of His precious Word. Keep up the good work, (2Ch.15:5-7), Love in Jesus, **(G.B. GA, USA)**

Dear Brother in Christ, I have just read the May issue of your newsletter and find myself in close sympathy with your purpose. I was saddened just last week to hear of yet another otherwise sound fellowship torn apart by Charismatic errors...I feel very deeply for them...**(B.H., SA)**

Praise Points

- Praise God that this newsletter is reaching an increasingly wide cross-section of Christians. The feedback is encouraging and many claim to be encouraged and informed.

Prayer Points

- We are currently working on a new system to handle the increased volume of mail and office work so as to have more time to study, research, and prepare articles for the newsletter. Please pray for good use of time.

Dear Terry & Co. I am interested in receiving your worthy newsletter 'Diakrisis'...In these latter days it is important to be informed as to the subtle, but destructive, luring of Christian men and women from the offensive Gospel of Christ Jesus.

Today it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a Pentecostal Church that has not embraced a false Gospel: signs & wonders, prosperity, Toronto/Pensacola, ecumenism, and the increasingly popular quasi religious social Gospel. The offensiveness of the cross, the certainty of persecution, and the moral requirements of a moral God...are absent from the pulpit of many churches including the main stream. May God bless you and keep you in His care, **(W.L. Stuarts Point, NSW)**

Dear Terry and staff,...keep up the good fight! Thankyou so much for your newsletters, they are a breath of fresh air in the midst of ecumenical mish mash. I have enclosed copies of a couple of brochures...As you can see the AOG are at it again. Ecumenical get togethers with the Catholics and other apostates, all in the name of unity'.

The [radio station] here has gone from bad to worse. They are even advertising 'Promise Keepers' meetings. How even the Independent Baptists can involve themselves in the ecumenical endeavours of this radio station has got a lot of us 'stumped'. Anyway...just keep praying for them to turn away from this deception.

Yours and like ministries are always in our prayers. **(MA, Vict)**

Dear Terry, First keep up the great work with 'Diakrisis'...I eagerly await each month to receive them to help keep me up to date with current issues facing the church...your type of ministry (the type that so many Christians shy away from or denigrate for one reason or another) is so misunderstood by the many, yet is so crucial - and most importantly **SCRIPTURAL!**...with regards... to the article on P.6 October 1998...Yes it is wonderful for the Wesleyan Methodist's pronouncements concerning abortion, marriage and homosexuality. However, do you realise that women are... 'ordained' to leadership roles - even unto the title of 'reverend'?...The article referred to includes this in the first paragraph, along with 'homosexuality, abortion, marriage and sexual purity'...

Wesleyan Methodists have always been outspoken on Social concerns...[however] I do feel a note regarding the 'ordination' of women should be made...**(P.C. Sydney)**

Terry's Itinerary

Nov.29th 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. Ph. (07)54823535

Dec.6th & 13th 9.30am Gympie Community Church (2 part series on **Justification by Faith**) Ph. (07)54823535

1999: Trips to Sydney, Victoria, Nth Qld, Sth Australia and New Zealand are tentatively planned. No dates finalised.

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