



Diakrisis

A Ministry of Teaching

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

Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.1, No.36

March 1999

PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld,
Australia, 4655 Ph. 0411489472
Fax (07)41240915

Website: <http://www.satcom.net.au/>
taministries E-mail: tam@satcom.net.au

NSW office: PO Box 3043
Wamberal, 2260 Ph. 0414689260

E-mail: mbc@terrigan.net.au
Correspondence to do with articles & editorial content address 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

This ministry is now more than ten years old and this newsletter now three years. We praise God for the encouragement and the opposition in that time. Many have applauded us for our material exposing obvious false prophets and false teachers such as Hinn, Hagin, Copeland, Howard-Browne, etc. However, when we have documented neo-evangelical leaders such as Billy Graham sending 'converts' back to a false religion, we have been castigated! We have been accused of misquoting, taking quotes out of context, and even 'doctoring' tapes!

We would challenge these people to show us our error! If we have ever misquoted or our facts are wrong we will repent in no uncertain terms. This does not mean that we consider our writing to be inspired, inerrant or infallible, in any way the same as the Word of God. God forbid that we would ever take away from the precious inspired, inerrant and infallible Word of God. We are only here to edify, equip and inform the saints - to stir them to go back more and more to the living Word.

People have also accused us of 'blaspheming' and 'grieving' the Spirit; not believing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and worse, even not believing in the Holy Spirit Himself! These charges are imputed to us because we simply will not swim with the tide of the false teachers, the false signs and wonders prophets, and the Charismatic 'anointed' leaders. We have found we have to beg people involved in the above errors to listen, (I have concluded mostly it is not worth it). If we are wrong in any fact or doctrine that we have ever written in this newsletter we want to be shown from facts or through the Scriptures! This is not to say we have never been corrected or do not now remain teachable. We love the truth and are ever more hungry for it than yesterday. The fact is that the people who we believe are deluded by the issues raised in this newsletter will not listen, will not receive literature, will not test us, and when asked to correct us with Scripture or facts, they run the proverbial mile! Are we really lovers of truth, (2Thess.2)? Are we willing to have our beliefs and doctrines tested, sifted, and perhaps trashed if in error? The answer is yes.

It was written of Spurgeon that many '*followed him with zeal in his assault on Anglo-Catholicism, only to recoil, alarmed, at his attitude to the Baptist Union when the latter body refused to impose discipline. But in both cases he was acting on the same Biblical principles.*'* Spurgeon was castigated in life yet restored as a hero of the faith only after death, when it was realised his uncompromising stance was correct.

We in this ministry not only have a passion for truth and facts but a fierce allegiance to the integrity of this ministry! We challenge our critics - is it truth?; and if not, then correct us. More than this, we challenge our readers to test what is written, and '*prove all things; hold fast that which is good*', (1Thess.5:21).

Terry Arnold * '*The Forgotten Spurgeon*' by Iain Murray, P.203

Visits to Nth. Qld, Vict, Sydney

Ministry visits by Terry Arnold to Nth Qld (April) Vict. (May) and Sydney (Aug/Sept), are planned this year. Those fellowships wishing to be involved please contact Terry 0412668649 or the following people: Nth.Qld.: Ps. Buddy Smith Ph.(07)40966657; Vict: Ray Levick Ph.(03)97202408 or Noel Dunn (03)94624136; Sydney: Mike Claydon Ph.0414689260 E-mail: mbc@terrigan.net.au

N.B: Please note our new website and e-mail addresses on this page

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Charismatic Crowds & Controversy by Mark Haville

Despite the enthusiastic gusto of the Charismatic world, the world 'revival' is still waiting in the wings - some say waiting for those who are not walking in the spirit to be moved out of the way. However, one thing we can all predict with a measure of certainty is more adverse publicity in the secular media concerning the antics of Charismatic revivalists.

Recently John Avanzini, a 'prosperity preacher' from America, made the front page in a UK local newspaper, the *Walsall Advertiser*, because of his 'bill burning campaign'. Avanzini's mail-out encouraged supporters to send bills or copies of their bills to his UK Walsall office with a pre-printed, 'PAID IN FULL' sticker adhered to them. The red stickers which came with the mail-out, (apparently signifying stepping out in faith'), would then be burnt by ministry personnel at a special ceremony. A photo of the event would follow on.

The only thing being burnt of course is the people sending him their cash - a recommended one hundredth of all the participants outstanding debts. According to Avanzini, if you have debts totalling \$50,000 send him \$500 in faith expecting a hundredfold return. Perhaps setting fire to his mail-outs would be a greater act of faithfulness!

Avanzini, a featured speaker on the '*Christian Channel Europe*', follows a standard 'God told me to tell you this' approach which, although many would find offensive, works very well with many Charismatic Christians who want to be faithful to what they believe is the will of God. The *Christian Channel Europe* has just launched a fund raising appeal to propel them into the domain of *digital TV*. A recent video is asking viewers to donate 4,000,000 pounds to match 4,000,000 promised by an anonymous businessman.

Elsewhere controversy continues to plague the stars of TV evangelism. *Recently news broke that two of Benny Hinn's staff have died of heroin related problems.* They died in November and December 1997, but the circumstances surrounding their deaths were kept quiet and only known by church staff and those in law enforcement circles in December 98. David Delgado, the second to die, began his career as one of Hinn's catchers, helping believers who had been 'slain by the power of the spirit'. He quickly arose in the church to become Hinn's personal assistant, taking care of his meals, schedule and grooming. No one was closer to Hinn than Delgado. Delgado had just returned with Hinn from a crusade in Jordan, and according to Orange County Sheriffs records, was wanted for questioning by local drug and homicide officers in connection with the death of co-worker Sydney Williams.

It is difficult to imagine how any honest Christian could believe that a Holy God is performing miracles and healings

through these people.

According to Lt. Mike Miller of the Sheriffs Department, Delgado was already under suspicion in connection with the death of Williams because Williams had visited Delgado's home the evening before he died. Williams was formerly another close Benny Hinn aide, taking care of Hinn's son Joshua. Benny Hinn had, according to Delgado's widow, been told by her of Williams' visit to their home the evening before he died. In response she was told by Hinn that her husband was under suspicion because of William's visit.

All this is on top of Hinn's last years major scandal surrounding his illegal employment of local law enforcement officers for his own personal bidding. The Orange County Sheriffs Department, at the centre of the 1997 furore, have already agreed to settle for \$310,000 with those who were abused by Benny Hinn's hired police force.

Enthusiasts in the Charismatic world will probably continue to remain strangely quiet through all of this. Many on the evangelical side of the fence only pray that charismatic Christians will ask the obvious questions that need to be asked, and honestly re-evaluate their scriptural standing in light of these latest events. Of course, none of us are immune from sinning, or from members of our churches behaving in ways that shock or mystify us. But many Christians who believe in the divine sovereign intervention of God are tired of being labelled 'anti Charismatic' because they draw attention to practices which clearly preclude the possibility of the Holy Spirit in anything like that which is being claimed by proponents of faith healing revivalism.

Hinn's latest problems have also surfaced simultaneously with allegations of theft and corruption at Benny Hinn's *World Outreach Center*, as Mario Licciardello, Hinn's former Chief of security, threatens to go public with information about Benny Hinn's financial dealings. Hinn's chief financial advisor said in an affidavit that Licciardello's allegations could potentially close Hinn down or cost the ministry 80-90% of its revenue, 30% of it immediately. The question of course is whether the allegations are true, and if they will ever see the light of day. Hinn has settled out of court before. Hinn's organisation have taken out a gagging order on Licciardello, based on a contract that all employees sign agreeing not to disclose any information about the ministry.

According to recent surveys the public view of Christianity is at an all time low and mainly because of the televised version being offered. Christianity is becoming '*a reproach among the nations*', (Ezek.5:14).

Mark Haville (author of '*Signs & Wonders - Exposed*')

How To Assess Charismatic Phenomena

1. What are the psychological factors involved?

A. Are there hypnotic aspects such as pressure to discontinue the use of the mind?; pressure to yield to a powerful personality?; use of words that trigger phrases?; repetitive music or music beat? B. How much of the worship experience is spiritual and how much is aesthetic? All music has both these elements. However, in excess, music can produce an altered state of consciousness, (ASC) C. How much peer pressure is there to conform to a behaviour?

2. Are Biblical criteria being strictly applied?

A. Are the experiences or manifestations clearly Scriptural? Are they at least in harmony with Biblical principles? (E.g. animal noises and involuntary bizarre behaviour may humiliate a human being and is not blessing but in Scripture is found as *judgement*.)

3. Is Scripture being interpreted according to proper, objective criteria?

The Scriptures used should be in total context

4. Is there a strong emphasis on the ministry of the Word?

The normal method used by the Holy Spirit is to reveal spiritual truths from Scriptures which then leads to a response in the hearers.

5. Do you or did you have an uneasiness in your spirit about aspects of the phenomena?

Your 'witness of the spirit' (Rom.8:14,16; Gal.5:16) is a guide.

(Adapted from '*Charismatic Crossroads*' - A report by Charismatics on the situation in the church; Centre for Contemporary Ministry, Yorkshire)

Pentecostals Be Aware!

'Some Christians say that the Catholic Church is a cult, others say it is a 'brother' denomination. Still others (myself included) qualify the latter and see the denomination as a Christian church. I would suggest that these are belief: (sic)

** In Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the only way to God*

** That Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine.*

** That through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection we have atonement for our sins and a sure way of salvation.*

** In the Trinity*

** That the Bible is the Word of God*

** If you are a Christian, your lifestyle should reflect that.*

Do Catholics teach and believe these essentials? The answer is 'yes'. They do package other things in their faith that we find unbiblical. But ON THE CORE ISSUES CATHOLICS ARE CHRISTIANS. (Caps mine). And that leaves me where I started off - the Catholics are Christians with serious theological problems.'

So goes the teaching of Jim Reiher, Academic Dean at Harvest Bible College, Dandenong (Vict.), boldly published in the Assembly of God (AOG) *Evangel* magazine for December 1998/January 1999.

This above teaching is in answer to questions aimed at a person held up as a Christian academic! Such mis-information does not discern that the Roman Catholic religion has pronounced many *anathemas* (curses) on anyone who espouses the tenants of the true Christian faith, including justification by faith *alone* and the imputed righteousness of

Christ! Pentecostals be aware! Catholicism does not teach that Jesus is the *only* way to God, for they *add* Mary as a mediator. Catholicism does not teach that through Christ's death and resurrection we are *sure* of our salvation, (what happened to Purgatory?), for they *add* many works and sacraments and *never* teach absolute assurance in this life. Catholicism does not teach that the Bible is the *only* infallible Word of God, but rather they *add* that traditions are *also* the infallible Word of God. Catholicism does not teach that your lifestyle should reflect Christianity but *add* that 'venial' sins can be purged in the next life in a place called *Purgatory*. *All of the above is no better than the Galatian heresy of adding something to grace for which the Bible warns of a curse by God himself.*

Only a few short years ago, Frank Houston and other leaders of the AOG movement in Australia were calling Roman Catholicism '*extremely wicked and unscriptural*'; '*A wicked and pernicious system*'; '*Babylonianism is the very root of Catholicism*'; and '*A system that is spoken about in the Word of God.*'* What happened over just a few decades?

What is happening now is exactly that which we in this ministry have been warning of for years! The slow but not so subtle indoctrination of Pentecostals into the belief that Catholicism is 'Christian', although perhaps mildly wonky, and that the formation of a one world ecumenical religion is to be accepted and not feared. **Mike Claydon**

* Sermon by Pastor Frank Houston 7th & 14th. December 1986. Tape on file at TA Ministries, (Sydney office).

Doctrine and Conduct

Paul exhorted right *doctrine*. James spoke much about *conduct*. The New Testament exhorts Christians to right doctrine twice as much as right conduct. Why? Because if we have unsound doctrine we may well have poor conduct. One only has to look at those leaders in the current signs and wonders movement who are falling in sinful behaviour, to show that poor doctrine may cause poor conduct. **Terry Arnold**

Evangelism

'Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.'

Christianity Yesterday and Today

'[Years ago] no one would ever dare to rise in a meeting and say, 'I am a Christian' if he had not surrendered his whole being to God and had taken Jesus Christ as his Lord as well as his Saviour, and had brought himself under obedience to the will of the Lord. It was only then that he could say, 'I am saved!'

Today, we let them say they are saved no matter how imperfect and incomplete the transaction, with the proviso that the deeper Christian life can be tacked on at some time in the future.

Can it be that we really think that we do not owe Jesus Christ our obedience?

We have owed Him our obedience ever since the second we cried out to Him for salvation, and if we do not give Him that obedience, I have reason to wonder if we are really converted!

I see things and hear of things that Christian people are doing, and as I watch them operate within the profession of Christianity I do raise the question of whether they have been truly converted.'

(Excerpt from: 'I Call It Heresy' by Tozer)

Quotable

'It may surprise you to learn that Scripture never once exhorts sinners to 'accept Christ'. The familiar twentieth century evangelistic appeal in all its variations, ('make a decision for Christ'; 'ask Jesus into your heart'; 'try Jesus'; 'accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour'), violates both the spirit and the terminology of the Biblical summons to unbelievers.

The Gospel invitation is not an entreaty for sinners to allow the Saviour into their lives. It is both an appeal and a command for them to repent and follow Him. It demands not just passive acceptance of Christ but active submission to Him as well...The great miracle of redemption is not that we accept Christ, but that He accepts us..'

(The Gospel According To Jesus' by John MacArthur, P.113)

The Gospel

The Gospel is ultimately *good news*. However, first it must be *bad news*. The bad news is that man is a hopeless sinner on his way to the necessary and deserved judgement of Hell. The good news is that Christ is the *substitute* for our hopeless condition and that he has already overcome that deserved judgement and death.

A person cannot be saved unless they are confronted with their *sin* and willing to exchange all for Christ. Only then might they have new resurrection life in Christ through faith in His imputed righteousness.

The Gospel is at first bad news but it then reveals the greatest miracle in the history of the world - Jesus as God in the flesh to rescue his creature from their sin through His finished sacrifice - for those who will repent and trust Him as Lord and Saviour! **Terry Arnold**

Holiness

'It may not be the activity itself that determines whether something is sinful for us, but rather our response to that activity.' 'The Pursuit of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges, P.92

What Is Good Christian Doctrine?

Doctrine is the truth *once delivered to the saints*, (Jude 3). The word 'once' has largely been ignored today. The 'once' has a reference to the closure of the canon of Scripture, as agreed to by the early church, which gave us the Bible. This body of truth is not to be added to without the threat of a curse, (Rev.22:18; Dt.4:2; 12:32; 5:22; Pr.30:5,6).

Good doctrine is not extra-Biblical material that one has difficulty in explaining from the Word of God. Good doctrine is not based on single verses or Scriptures taken out of context. Sound doctrine is not matching a Scripture to an experience that is supposedly from God. Truth has bounds, error has none. Extra-Biblical teaching has a history of being made into doctrine, becoming 'essentials', and then causing division in the body of Christ. Anyone who examines the reasons for church splits should come to the conclusion that in most cases it is caused by *extra Biblical teaching* or *extreme emphasis* in a particular area. We have got to be satisfied with the main things within the bounds of the Bible! The main things are the plain things and the plain things are the main things!

What are the main things? This is the area where some disagreement or disunity enters. Some Christians have a longer list of essentials than others. Other Christians have almost no list and will compromise important essentials to accept almost anyone into their 'unity'.

A possible list of 'essentials' are those beliefs that are necessary to becoming a 'Christian.' What is a Christian? In brief a Christian is one who accepts the *one Lord* Jesus Christ, (Eph.4:5), for *who* He is and *what* he did, and then *receives* the person of the Holy Spirit, (Eph.1:13; 4:4), by *faith* alone. This should involve the following essentials of the Gospel:

- Belief in the *death, burial* and *bodily resurrection* of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The *deity* of Christ - that God came in the *flesh*, (1Jn./4:2,3; 1Tim.3:16; Col.1:14-19; Heb.1:1-14). (Unless one believes Jesus is God there is no salvation! - Jn. 8:24; 8:58).
- The *finished* sacrifice of the cross of Calvary, (Heb.9:25, 26; 10:10,11,12,18; 1Pet.3:18; Jn.19:30, etc.)
- That we are saved by *grace* through *faith* in Christ alone, wholly apart from our own deeds or works, (Eph.2:8,9; Tit.3:5; Acts 16:30,31; Rom.4:5; 2Tim.1:9; Acts 20:21).
- That Christ bore our sins on the cross and that His *blood* sets us free, (1Jn.1:7-9; Heb.9:22).
- That with acceptance of the grace (unmerited favour) of God we must, in obedience, *repent* of our sinful ways and *follow* Jesus Christ as *Lord* and *Saviour*, (Rom.10:9,10; Acts 2:38-47; 1Cor.12:12-27; Matt.18:15-17).
- To follow Christ is to follow the Bible as the *inerrant and infallible* Word of God, (2Tim.3:16,17; 2Pet.1:19-21; Pr.30:5,6). **Terry Arnold**

Testimonies...A Caution?

In recent years I have become concerned about the use of 'testimonies'. Many sensational testimonies are doing the rounds in which the sordid past lives of those who have now become Christians are displayed and replayed. These testimonies often focus much on the past with graphic details of Satan's world of drugs, alcohol, or other deviant behaviour, and very little about salvation. Perhaps much glory is sometimes given to the power of Satan.

Some years ago when I was doing the rounds of churches with my testimony the Lord spoke to me through the Word of God about spending too much time recounting a sinful past.

A co-worker, Mike Claydon, who has experience in ministry to addicted people, recently crystalised my thinking on this when he wrote: '*...testimonies of peoples conversions are often an opportunity for people to glory in their past, or for other people to have their ears tickled with all sorts of lurid details of unregenerate lives...God sovereignly saves people by coming to them individually in their current circumstances, and for that reason I have never heard of two identical conversion experiences. It is like fingerprinting!...A good testimony might be: 'I was brought up by Godly parents, went to Sunday School, sovereignly saved, and went on serving God'. A bad testimony might be: 'Because my father beat me I became a criminal, after killing untold numbers of people and robbing others, I found out that I still had an empty feeling and shook my fist at God. He then apparently saved me...*

...But you never hear of testimonies from insignificant people, they just get on with their lives. But bigshots, criminals, gang leaders...their was a guy a few years ago, a leader of a murderous triad in Singapore, who arrived in Sydney with this great testimony! Murder, mayhem, rape and pillage - then was apparently saved. He hit the pulpit circuit big-time and we had him come to a church I was attending. Everyone was gobsmacked and wanted to make him assistant pastor! He finally muscled his way into a fellowship and proceeded to split the church. The man has not been seen or heard of since! But what a testimony!' Terry Arnold

Sanctification/Holiness

There are two aspects of sanctification: one is the setting apart and the other is the work of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament the temple furniture was set apart, not to be used for anything else but the service of the Lord. Secondly this furniture was sprinkled with blood many times. In the New Testament, God has set us apart from the foundation of the world (Eph.1:4), and we are washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ at salvation and throughout our life on earth. One work makes our position perfect with God, the other work changes our character. The evidence of this will be the fruit of the Spirit, (Gal.5:22).

Holiness is God's desire in us. Spurgeon said: '*Those men who despise holiness of heart are in direct conflict with God. Holiness is the architectural plan upon which God builds up his living temple.*'* **Terry Arnold**

* '*The Key To Holiness*' by Spurgeon, P.33

Ten Top Tips For Teenagers?

In an attempt to teach parents and children how to best cope with difficult teenage years, Father Denis Madigan writes in his weekly column in the *Sydney Sunday Telegraph* outlining his choice of the best role model to follow in this endeavour. It is none other than the young men and women sent out as missionaries by the Mormons!

'These...members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints devote two years without pay to help others better their lives...What they say is worth listening to, and their handouts make valuable reading...All too often because we belong to another faith, we tend to reject these missionaries and the goodwill they bring'.

Although he may not realise it, Father Madigan is simply stating the stance of the Bishop of Rome with regards to the matter of other religions.

With Rome becoming bolder in its ecumenism each day, it is even more baffling to watch once sound evangelical churches joining hands with her in co-evangelism!

Mike Claydon

Some Thoughts on *Tolerance, Compromise and Controversy*

Today the word 'tolerance' is being lauded as the new way of thinking. There is an increasing plea for tolerance in Christian circles and in Christian doctrine. However, what is really meant and achieved is often 'compromise' rather than 'tolerance'. *Tolerance is to grant the other person the same rights as I allow myself.* If we judge hypocritically (Matt.7), then the same judgement we meter out we will in turn receive from God.

However, *compromise is to sacrifice beliefs and standards in order that others may be pleased and that there be peace.* Yet to compromise with God's laws and His Words is *sin!* To compromise with important doctrines is also *sin!* To compromise with men who are false teachers and who are leading multitudes away from sound doctrine is *sin.* The Bible speaks often about separation rather than unity. *We already have unity with every Christian who has the indwelling Holy Spirit.*

Jesus was tolerant of most people but never compromising. The fact is He was almost always in controversy! The apostles also had much controversy. Paul and Barnabas **'had no small dissension and disputation'** with the Judaists, who were propagating a false Gospel. What would have happened if they compromised and made peace without controversy? Suppose they had avoided dispute - where would we be today?

Those who fall away from sound doctrine are to be questioned and corrected where possible. Paul said to even **'rebuke sharply'** that some would be sound in the faith, (Titus 1:13).

In controversy Paul withstood Peter face to face. What if Paul had avoided this? Where would we be today?

I am wary of *'peacemakers'* who compromise on small things because they are more prone to compromise on bigger things at a later date. Many churches today have pastors and elders who will not take a stand on some issues for fear of losing people or losing their own positions and popularity. These churches (especially growing churches) develop party spirits or camps of people with different mindsets on various issues. Eventually the problem and the issues re-surface in various disguises and leads to division in the body. Unless the issues are dealt with early the split is often worse at a later date.

Sound Christian doctrine is to be defended and will be controversial. Jesus was, and is, controversial. His people are controversial. Yet it is not doctrine that divides but truth! Jesus warned and prepared us for such controversial truth.

Tolerance at the price of truth leads to compromise. *Compromise always lowers the original standard.* Truth has boundaries, error has none. Unfortunately compromise is now a virtue and to many people truth has become an offense.
Terry Arnold

Science In An Ancient Book

The Bible as early as 1800BC teaches that: light travels (Job38:16); stars produce sound waves (Job38:7); some stars are bound in *'clusters'* (Job38:31); and the moon has no light of its own (Job25:5).

Grace!

'Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.'
(The Discipline of Grace' by Jerry Bridges)

Is The Holy Spirit A Person Or An 'It'

Over the years I have met many who did not believe in the personage of the Holy Spirit. Many were indoctrinated with Christadelphian or Jehovah Witness teaching.

The plain teaching of Scripture says that the Holy Spirit is a **'He'** by the use of the personal pronoun.: **'..He may abide with you forever...whom the world cannot receive...it sees Him not, neither knows Him, but you know Him because He dwells with you and shall be in you'**, (Jn.14:16) **'... 'When He the Spirit of truth is come He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself but whatever He shall hear that shall He speak and He will show you things to come, He shall glorify me, for He shall receive of mine...'**, (Jn.16:13,14). Other comparable Scriptures are Is.40:13,14; Rom.8:16,26.

Persons refusing to take such passages as John14 and16 as stating the personage of the Holy Spirit, are openly denying the plain sense of Scripture. The Holy Spirit who leads us into truth cannot be leading these people.

The Holy Spirit also has a *mind* (Rom.8:27), a *will* (1Cor.12:11), and *emotions*, (Rom.15:30; Eph.4:30; Is.63:10). The Holy Spirit also *spoke* directly, (Acts 13:2; Heb.3:7-11; 10:15-17).

The Holy Spirit is also called God. In Acts 5:3,4 Peter equates the Holy Spirit with God. He says firstly **'You have lied to the Holy spirit'**, then he adds you have **'lied to God'**. In Matt.28:19 the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit all have the same name, (use of the singular).

Some cultists have asked why the Holy Spirit is sometimes called an 'it' if it is not an impersonal force. There are two ways to answer this question. One is to *answer the question with another question*: Does the uses of 'it' contradict with the uses of 'He'? If the answer is 'yes', then the person does not

accept the inspiration of the Bible as God-breathed and inerrant. The more likely answer is 'no' in which case I then ask the person to explain why the Holy Spirit is called a **'He'**.

A second and further explanation is to explain the use of gender in Greek. Nouns in Greek are either masculine, feminine or neuter. The endings indicate these genders. The word 'spirit' is neuter. However the word 'wine' is masculine and 'wisdom' is feminine and the word for 'child' is neuter. In English the neuter noun is used for inanimate objects, the masculine for masculine individuals and the feminine for feminine individuals. However, in Greek the system is different and more spasmodic.

The reason why sometimes the spirit is used as an *'it'* is because the Greek pronouns sometime strictly take the neuter form where the genders of their antecedents are neuter. This is why Romans 8:16 has **'The Spirit itself'** in the KJV as a strict and accurate rendition of the Greek text. Here the translators have gone for the stricter translation to the Greek even though it may be an *'idiom'* peculiar to that language only but not to the second language as translated. The word **'He'** in John 16:8 is from a masculine pronoun in Greek. But the pronoun is masculine because it's antecedent *'comforter'* is masculine.

This phrase **'another comforter'** is a key Scripture to prove the personage of the Holy Spirit. In Jn.14:16 the word **'another comforter'** is *'allos paracletos'* meaning *another of the same kind* - here referring to Jesus. We get the word *'alias'* from this expression of *'allos'* - *the same being, but different name.* If the Holy Spirit were not a person the word *'heteros paracletos'* would have been used meaning *another of a different kind.* *The clear teaching here is that the Holy Spirit is a person and of the same kind.* The teaching of the Holy Spirit is Scripturally and historically clearly a person. **Terry Arnold**

Raising The Dead - The Truth

'Pensacola - Doug Fournier did everything he could to keep his 6 week old daughter alive. After she died he did not stop trying. He packed her body into a picnic cooler, surrounded it with ice and drove 350 miles from Gainesville to Pensacola.

His destination was Brownsville Assembly of God Church, where he believed Brownsville Revival leaders, could bring his dead daughter back to life. Pastor John Kilpatrick and Vann Lane...gathered some staff members around the cooler in the church's sanctuary and began to pray. For at least two hours they prayed to God to bring Fournier's daughter back to life.' (John Allman - News Journal staff writer, as cited in internet site: <http://www.discernment.org/raisethe.htm>)

The conclusions to be drawn from the above are obvious. The above child was not raised from the dead. Jesus was not glorified and no doubt the father's grief was increased. The above sad circumstances can only occur when false teachers of the Pensacola 'revival' such as Steve Hill can say: *'I know that we could all get to the place where the dead are raised. We're seeing miraculous healings, cancerous tumours disappearing and drug addicts immediately delivered'*. * The fact is that there is not one single case of a documented healing of an organic disease from the Pensacola 'revival'. The above quote by Steve Hill has been exposed as lies by Christian researchers.

The Pensacola 'revival' leaders have had such speakers as David Hogan, a missionary in Mexico who has claimed to have raised many from the dead. Hogan sells videos telling how to do these feats and claiming that no one has raised as many dead as himself. The Pensacola leaders have endorsed the videos and even introduced the first tape with claims that the dead have been raised through this man. However, not a single proof is given for Hogan's claims.

The History of claims of raising the dead make interesting reading.

Smith Wigglesworth is supposed to have raised six people from the dead. The stories are told mainly by the late Lester Summeral, himself a false prophet, who prophesied that Jesus

appeared to him and showed him that he would see the return of Jesus in His lifetime, and that it would occur before the end of 1999. Summeral died some years ago, being exposed by the secular media for fraud to do with his ministry *'Feed the Hungry'*. The fact is that no documentations exist for the outrageous stories to do with Wigglesworth. Yet millions of people have been duped by such stories handed down over the years.

A.A. Allen, a forerunner of Pentecostalism, was supposed to have raised two people from the dead. This man was excommunicated from the Assemblies of God and in the mid 1960's he launched a 'raise the dead' campaign. He failed miserably and the campaign became a farce when his disciples refused to bury the dead until urged by Allen himself.

Mel Tari, who wrote *'Like a Mighty Wind'*, a book about the Indonesian revivals, wrote of several people being raised from the dead - even a body that had been dead two days and was decaying badly. However, another book was written after this revival refuting the claims as third hand reports or false. The research that came to light was that the 'dead' people had rather been in *comas* and that the local people often did not understand the difference between the two states.

Benny Hinn claimed to have seen a dead man raised from the dead on the platform, and claimed to have it on video. However, when the media challenged him on live TV he admitted it was not on video and that he had only heard about it second-hand. The fact is Benny Hinn has lied too often about such claims.

There are others, (not all of them Christian), who have made similar claims yet not one authenticated case of modern day raising of the dead exists!

The Bible says that some Old Testament prophets, Jesus, and Peter and Paul, raised people from the dead. After this no evidence exists of such events. All such Biblical events were for specific purposes, and these New Testament events specifically pointed to the Messiah - the Lord Jesus Christ.

Terry Arnold * Nov/Dec *'Ministries Today'*

'Sumo Evangelism'?

'An Assemblies of God church in America claims hundreds of teenagers have become 'Christians' through a 'Sumo Wrestling Ministry' in McKinleyville, California. The AOG church holds Sumo wrestling matches, boxing bouts and other events, to reach teens. The Gospel is preached at half times during the events'. ('Religion Today', 7/7/98)

Editors comments: The argument goes that we use the world to win the world or we use the music of this generation to reach this generation. However, does this mean I become a drunk to reach the drunk? What does the Bible say about *'the cares of this world'* (Matt.,13:22)? *'Ye are not of this world...'*, (Jn.8:23); *'...I have chosen you out of the world...'* (Jn.15:19); *'...and be not conformed to this world...'*, (Rom.12:2); *'...now we have received not the spirit of the world...'*, (1Cor.2:12); *'for the wisdom of this world is foolishness...'* (1Cor.3:19); *'...the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world'*, (Gal.6:14); *'...in times past ye walked according the course of this world...'*, (Eph.2:2); *'...keep himself unspotted from the world...'*, (James 1:27); *'...friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God'*, (James 4:4); *'...having escaped the corruption that is in the world...'*, (2Peter1:4); *'...they have escaped the pollutions of the world...'*, (2Pet.2:20); *'Love not the world neither the things that are in the world...'*, (1Jn.2:15).

Yesterday's Preaching!

(The following is the conclusion to a sermon by Wesley on *'Justification By Faith'*)

'Thou ungodly one, who hears these words, thou vile, helpless, miserable sinner, I charge thee before God, the judge of all, go straight unto Him, with all thy ungodliness. Take heed that thou destroy not thy own soul by pleading thy righteousness more or less. Go as altogether ungodly, guilty, lost, destroyed, deserving and dropping into Hell; and thou shalt then find favour in His sight, and know that He justifies the ungodly. As such thou shalt be brought unto the blood of sprinkling, as an undone, helpless, damned sinner. Thus look unto Jesus! There is the Lamb of God who takes away thy sins! Plead thou no works, no righteousness of thy own! No humility, contrition, sincerity! In no wise. That would in very deed, to deny the lord that bought thee. No: plead thou singly the blood of the covenant, the ransom paid for thy proud, stubborn, sinful soul. Who are thou, that now seest and feelest both thou inward and outward ungodliness? Thou art the man! I want thee for my Lord! I challenge thee for a child of God by faith! The Lord has need of thee. Thou who feelest thou art just fit for Hell, art just fit to advance His glory; the glory of his free grace, justifying the ungodly and him that worketh not. Oh come quickly! Believe in the Lord Jesus; and thou, even thou, are reconciled to God.'

Tribe of Judah Motorcycle Ministries

Some of our readers have enquired about the activities of a ministry by the above name which holds healing crusades and operates from Brisbane. This ministry has made sensational claims with regard to miracles occurring in their meetings. Some months ago an ex-member of the *Tribe of Judah Motorcycle Ministry* received a harsh letter from the head of the organisation. A portion of this letter stated: '*Only last week a young five year old girl was healed of a life threatening brain tumour and just before that we laid our hands on a young man with a freshly broken leg and he was healed instantly.*'

TA Ministries wrote to the leader of this group, a pastor Terry Walker, politely asking for evidence of these two healings and stating we would publish them on confirmation of their validity.

In replies to our letters and e-mails Mr. Walker promised a video of his own testimony and an '*anointed prayer cloth*' but refused to send any evidence of the two healings, stating: '*We*

do not have any time to go chasing after doctors medical evidence'. When we then asked for the doctors names Mr. Walker then questioned the credentials of this ministry because he has fears '*that we are among those who are bagging good men like Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Hagin, Jerry Saville and Jesse Duplantis and even the Tribe of Judah Motorcycle Ministries*'.

We continued to request any evidence of the two healings. Despite several promises and letters, no evidence has been received of the claimed healings.

We warn our readers of this ministry. Today many such ministries make such claims yet in every instance, when investigated, they are found to be false or grossly exaggerated. On examination of this ministry, we have found their teaching to be false and their claims lack any evidence of truth. We have offered the *Tribe of Judah* leader to meet with us when he is next in our area.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Testimony - Christian Motorcycle Gangs

Dear TA Ministries, Drinking, swearing, smoking, bad language, lying, threats of violence, getting tattoos, sexual immorality - sounds just like the world doesn't it, or things that would take place in a [Christian] motor cycle gang? Very sadly I have witnessed or heard of all the above mentioned things in Christian motorcycle ministries. I spent 18 months in a motorcycle ministry and have personally seen a number of these things taking place...I know there are many genuine people...but I keep wondering what these people are saved out of if they think that partaking of any of the above men-

tioned is normal behaviour...it is a mockery and shame to the blessed name of Jesus Christ...I am questioning the ones who have been saved for years... [We] should put these abominations upon the altar and sacrifice them...Why continue to bring disgrace upon Jesus Christ...He paid the price. Jesus said it is finished on the cross...He died and shed His precious blood...Let go of the world - hasn't it hurt us enough? God bless all at TA Ministries, (Lev.19:28; 2Tim.3:1-5; Col.5:7-10; Eph.4:19-25; Phil.2:1-5, 12-18; Col.3:1-18)

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry & Associates,...Thank you for having the strength of your convictions...I recommend it [Diakrisis] to everyone...Just over two years ago, my wife and I left our Baptist fellowship in Hobart because the leadership was introducing 'Toronto' theology, along with its laughing manifestations into the services...Then about a year ago, a revival meeting was held by the local AOG fellowship. We attended out of curiosity so that we would know what was happening and thus be able to warn others against it.

The gist of the talk was that the speaker felt that the person responsible for spiritual revival in Israel during King David's reign was a priest called Obed-edom, (2Sam.6). The speaker then shared what the Holy Spirit had revealed to him about his [Obed-edom's] work, his nature and character, as the Scriptures are silent on these matters

After saying this, all those who wanted to see revival were called to the front of the hall for the laying on of hands to receive the spirit of Obed-edom and thus also his heart burden for revival.....we left...(B.A. Tas.)

Editors comments: While there are some instances where folk have gone to these meetings to investigate for the specific purpose of later exposing error, we do not recommend our readers attend such meetings at churches known for such current errors. The danger is in opening oneself up to false teaching and false spirits. The Bible is clear to separate from such. We know of many cases of later difficulties, sickness and confusion, because of people placing themselves in the midst of such occultish or extra-biblical extremes. In this case, to attempt to receive someone else's spirit of one who is dead, is occultic, dangerous, and expressly forbidden by Scripture.

Dear Terry, I was brought up a Roman Catholic and always believed in the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. However, since becoming a Born Again Christian I have realised that the Roman Catholic Church is unbiblical and is deceiving many sincere Catholics who wish to know our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

For some time now I have been asking the Lord how I can serve Him. I now know that it is God's will that I proclaim the Gospel to my brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church.

I have no formal training or qualifications in Biblical studies (I am a medical doctor), however, I know that through prayer God will give me the wisdom and knowledge to witness. I also know that this God given task will be difficult so any advice or suggestions you could offer would be greatly appreciated. Unfortunately I am getting very little support from my Baptist pastor who I feel knows very little about Roman Catholicism and its doctrines....Yours in Christ, (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors reply: Dear...It is always wonderful for us to hear of Roman Catholics being saved...I enclose a booklist and a free copy of '*To Catholics Whom I Love*'... As you write of your pastor, this is true of so many pastors today. Many simply do not understand what Roman Catholicism really teaches and that it is dangerously and deceptively '*another Gospel*'...There are hundreds of ex-Catholics on our mailing list...I do know of a Baptist pastor who is an ex-Catholic and lectures [on Roman Catholicism]...this newsletter will update you and teach many things about Catholicism and other issues facing the church today...Hope this has all been of some help to you...Thankyou for your encouraging letter, Yours in His service,

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry...I am a member of..Anglican Church...Recently I have been involved in discussions with many of my Pentecostal friends about a man called Benny Hinn...You have a video of Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth Hagin 'hissing' and 'personifying a dog' on stage in the name of Jesus. I would like to purchase a copy...Can you assure me it is not doctored in any way?...The Christian Growth Centre pastored by Michael Murphy...I went there a few weeks ago...When I asked the guy leading the 'Faith Building School' lesson if he taught 'Prosperity doctrine' he admitted to it and when I asked him why Christians in Sudan are suffering living Hell at the moment he told me that it was a punishment for the sins of their fathers and their idolatry. I couldn't believe it...Your brother in Jesus, our great Lord and Saviour, (**Name withheld at editors discretion**)

To Terry Arnold: Thankyou for sending your July letter. I appreciate it and thank God that He has given you such a ministry. Be encouraged. It is not easy in these end-times to speak out on important issues...you no doubt receive a lot of 'flak', but keep on keeping on. The warnings are needed. But always tackle the issues uncompromisingly, and deal with the people in error with sensitivity.

I appreciate the article on impartation...You helped to crystalise for me the differences between impartation and imputation...May the Lord richly bless your efforts in His wonderful service, (**R. H., Sydney**)

Dear Terry, Another thankyou for the latest 'Diakrisis'. It really is a must read as soon as it arrives. I find that you always explain something that has often puzzled me for years in each issue...the way you explained...about using the newsletter 'without love'...people,...with wrong doctrinal beliefs...must now read your words with a different perception of your motives!...(**A.W., Sydney**)

Dear Terry...We continually compare the Scriptures with the information in 'Diakrisis' and it is reassuring to know that you have obviously done that yourself already. Stand firm in the belief that your good work helps those of us that struggle daily with that which seems to be 'creeping in unawares'. Yours in Him, (**K.W. Bris.**)

Praise Points

- Praise God this newsletter is now more than 3 years old. The ministry has expanded more than we could have imagined. Praise God for those saved, informed and set free.

- Praise God for His every provision. He never fails!

Prayer Points

- Please pray for several unchurched people who are looking for fellowships in difficult areas.

- Pray for the finalising of the various itineraries for Nth. Qld, Victoria, Sydney and New Zealand. Pray for the success of these trips.

Dear friends,...I've just come out of the AOG movement after noting the misleading conduct of the church. After making the break away after 20 years I am now avoided like the plague by lifetime friends and family...I've been asking the Lord to guide me and give me some contact with some faithful brethren...then your page came along today from a brother...I believe this is the beginning of a new chapter in my life and would be grateful if you could put me onto some brethren who are real faithful to the true teachings of our Lord...The next time you send out your newsletter could you kindly send me one so I can get the full picture...Another great concern is the laughing over the reading of God's Word, then having to stop - because of the laughter, so the Word could never be given out. The lack of teaching in God's Word was terrible, along with high pitched screaming, shaking, etc. I thank God that He opened my eyes and ears to the very sad way the church was going. It's been a very difficult stand. I've been under attack left right and centre. But praise God for his faithfulness and pray that the pastors and elders will see the light. Your sister in Christ, (**Qld, Name withheld at editors discretion**)

Terry, We enjoy your newsletter, and are grateful for the wonderful information that you give us. But one small point, you persistently interchange the phrases 'Holy Spirit' and 'Holy Ghost'. He is not a ghost!...The phrase rendered either 'Holy Ghost' or 'Holy Spirit' is the same Greek phrase 'hagios pneuma' in the New Testament. The Old Testament consistently renders equivalent phrases the 'Spirit of God', not the 'ghost of God'...hope that there will be more consistency in reference to the Holy Spirit.' (**P.M., R.M., & J.P., Sydney**)

Website Problems

For several weeks we have had problems with our website and it has not been accessible. We wish to advise that we expect the problem soon be rectified, and we have **new addresses**.

Terry's Itinerary

Fellowship groups wishing to be included in Nth. Qld or Vict. itinerary please contact Terry or the numbers on Page 1
Feb.28th 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535
March 7th, 14th, 21st 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. **Series on Justification by Faith.** Ph.(07)41289375
March 28th 11am & 2pm Wondai Baptist, Qld. Ph. (07)41685223
April 4th. 11am & 6.45pm; 9.45am Sunday School: Grace Baptist Church, Malanda, Qld. (High School) Ph. (07)40966657
April 5th. & 12th. 7pm Ravenshoe, Qld. (home church) (07)40966657
April 9th. 7pm **10th** 6.30pm Cairns (home church) Ph.(07)40514213
April 11th 10am Mareeba New Testament Baptist, Qld (07)40927351
April: 21st, 22nd 7pm Seminar series on '**Tongues**' at Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. Ph. (07)41289375
April 25th 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535
May 2nd 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535
May: Victoria (tentative) See page 1 for contact numbers.

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