



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

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

This newsletter is distributed *free* of charge. However, because we are a faith ministry, we welcome donations of approx. \$20 per year to cover the cost of production.

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Editors Comments

In the April editorial I wrote of how to 'contend for the faith' through *literature* and verbal *questioning*. There are two things to remember in such activities. One is the style, or *the way it is done*, and the other is the *timing* of it all. From experience I know, that when one is armed with truth and knowledge of any subject, the danger is in bludgeoning those who cannot or will not see it.

Recently, on several occasions, I have noticed some who would *defend* the faith when engaged in a *face to face* discussion, *attack* rather than challenge. When one is attempting to convince a person of error, *the way we do this may well speak louder than words*. When the conversation becomes heated or angry, we have usually already gone too far. *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them...*, (Matt.7:12)...*and the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth...*, (2Tim.2:24,25). A loving heart and Spirit-led concern for the persons welfare, should guide us when to speak, when to be quiet, or when to wait for another opportunity. *A Scriptural principle is to give milk before meat*. We should be sensitive to the persons reaction. It is pointless to badger stubborn hearts. Is our motivation to win an argument and prove ourselves right, or to win the *person* to truth? Is the Holy Spirit in this? *It is ultimately only the Holy Spirit who leads to spiritual truth*.

Many today are simply not willing to listen and may already have come under a '*strong delusion*', (2Thess. 2:11). However, the *timing* must be of the Spirit of God when engaging people who are in error. Rarely was Jesus vehement in his speech and then to the already hardened religious teachers of the day. Similarly, I believe in strongly warning of, and exposing, the false teachers and prophets. However, to Christians who have been deceived by false teaching, our attitude and timing needs to be in the Spirit of Christ. May we examine our motivations and methods. May we defend the truth in love, remembering Christ's love for His church and His patience with us. **Terry Arnold**

Internet Newsletter Advice

Our costs for overseas deliveries of *Diakrisis* newsletters have mushroomed over the last year, and we now offer all our subscribers with computers, the facility of accessing the newsletter from our website, when posted there monthly.

This would greatly reduce our costs and workload and also allow you to read the newsletter sooner. We would e-mail you a monthly reminder with a link to the site, as soon as the next edition is available. Please e-mail us now and order this new service. We will then transfer your name from the mailing list to e-mail service. **Mike Claydon**

Distributors Needed

To reduce overheads and workload we need distributors of *Diakrisis* for our subscribers in New Zealand and USA. This involves photocopying of the monthly newsletter from masters sent to you, then folding and mailing to readers in your area.

If anyone feels that the Lord would have them do this, please contact us at TA Ministries to further discuss your involvement. **Mike Claydon** E-mail: mbc@terrigan.net.au

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Addictions, Conviction & Repentance

Having had some experience over the years in counselling and teaching alcoholics and drug addicts, I have learned some hard and painful truths. I have noticed that many indeed appear to give up one addiction only to take up another. Some of these newly acquired addictions are very subtle, but the one that often has fooled me in the past is the *addiction of religion*.

An 'addiction' is when a person is excessively and compulsively devoted to something, or to a behaviour, to the damage of family, friends, job, and mental and physical health.

The easy believism gospel and the emotional 'decisional' methods of today's evangelism, enable many addicts to *swap* one addiction for a 'spiritual' addiction. This is not a theory. Today, there is an epidemic of addicts who have found 'religion' in one form or another. Talk to mentally disturbed people and you will find many are addicted to religious extremes. Many of these extremes are so unbiblical that most Christians would not entertain them as valid. However, with the new wave of experiential phenomena such as the 'Toronto Blessing', the 'Pensacola outpouring', and other waves of the signs and wonders movement, many addicts and mentally ill people become 'hooked' on something that is now increasingly accepted as valid. I consistently find drug addicts getting into the latest neo-Pentecostal experiential signs and wonders. The results are 'spiritual junkies'.

These new religious addictions for a time appear to dull the power of the first addiction. There even appears to be conviction of sin and repentance. The mood altering experiences fill much of the void from the previous addictions. However, increasingly people are merely swapping a *substance addiction*, (alcohol, drugs, etc) for a *religious addiction*, based on feel good experiences.

In 1996/97 I investigated a 'tent crusade' staged by some local neo-Pentecostal churches and featuring a Christian motorcycle group. A pastor of one of these churches claimed '30 first-time decisions for Christ and 15 re-dedications...All those who made commitments are now in churches and going on in the Lord...'* The same person claimed people were 'healed' and 'set free' of alcoholism and other addictions. I personally investigated the claims after I had met many of those who were 'saved' and baptised. Many admitted later they did not understand the 'decision' they had made. Most went back into alcoholism and drugs in a short space of time. A survey of those who were supposed to be '*in churches*' revealed only a handful were actually attending church, and now, some years later, only one or two are regular church attendees. Many of the 30 who made 'decisions' took up their new spiritual addiction with fervour only to fall back into their previous addictions within months.

The above account is not an isolated problem! The 'backsliding rate' of modern western evangelism is 80%-90%!** The problem is that the addict fails to realise the addiction is *sin*. They are told it is more a 'disease' than sin. Addiction is in fact idolatry because it replaces God with the worship of something else. In the case of religious addiction God is simply replaced with a behaviour and a system of beliefs that makes the person feel good.

Religious addicts are hard workers in the church. They sometimes 'punish' themselves with extreme religious behaviour to cover the tragedy of an unchanged life. They often think with the heart instead of the mind and feelings may become the basis for reality. If the Holy Spirit has not begun a true work in the heart of the believer, their apparent 'progress' comes to an end. Within months or a few short years they

'backslide' and go back to an addiction. Religious addiction will only change a person *temporarily* in *outward behaviour*.

It frightens me today that *many* are swapping addictions in the world for a new religious feel-good 'jesus'. Many have simply not died to themselves and surrendered fully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. If the reader thinks this is too harsh an observation, then statistics of the aftermath of 'decisions' in modern western evangelism will prove that there is a serious problem. The current Pensacola 'revival' boasts thousands of addicts delivered from their addictions. Local counsellors and drug centres hotly refute these claims and warn of the dangers of addicts being deluded. Added to this the statistics of local area drug problems and crime prove otherwise.

The problem is not the Gospel, for it is still the '**power of God unto salvation**', (Rom.1:16)! The problem is rather a *mixed* Gospel or a Gospel of grace without repentance and a failure to preach and show sin in its depth and consequences.

I have seen some addicts converted. However, I am seeing many more who rest on their 'decision' or become addicted to spiritual manifestations. I have seen them show a religious fervour, zeal, and knowledge that for a time would put many of us to shame. Yet, in many cases there was much foliage and much activity but no lasting fruit of a changed life.

The problem is that many of us mistake 'conviction' for 'repentance'. Conviction is seeing the problem and understanding the need. Repentance is a step further - it entails not only the above but a complete *turning* away from the sin or error and *movement* in the *opposite direction*. Repentance is a gift from God, (Acts 11:18; 2Tim.2:25; Acts 5:31). It is possible for one to see the problem of their sin yet not repent. I have personally seen alcoholics and drug addicts convicted of the Gospel and their sin, yet never truly repent and change. What seemed like repentance was really much religious activity (works), which perhaps made them feel good about themselves. The current signs and wonders movement is a mecca for such people and the warning of deception in Matthew 7:21-23 cannot be ignored.

In Judges 10:10-14 we see a 'false' repentance by Israel. The children of Israel cried to the Lord and admitted their sin. However, God knew their hearts and revealed to them their 'false repentance'. He in fact tells them to go back for help to the gods they had been serving. (How many of us would do that today?) In verse 15 the Israelites realise the depth of their sin and ask God to punish them and to deliver them. To *prove* real repentance they then put away their false idols and began to serve the Lord again in purity and holiness.

We are told to bring forth the fruits of repentance, (Matt.3:8). Jesus calls sinners to repentance (Matt.9:13), and we are to preach '**repentance and remission of sins**', (Lk.24:47). The result is '**repentance unto life**', (Acts 11:18). '**Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation**', (2Cor.7:10). The *first* message of John the Baptist was '**repent!**', (Matt.3:2). The *first* message of Jesus was '**repent!**', (Matt.4:17). The *first* message of the disciples was '**repent!**', (Mark 6:12, Acts 2:38). With salvation comes faith and repentance. You cannot have one without the other - it is a packaged deal.

A person who has been justified in the sight of God through faith, will be sanctified. He will repent and bear the marks and fruit of a Christian life, (Gal.5:22). We are not talking about perfection but rather repentance. Anything less than this is not the Biblical Gospel but a deception. **Terry Arnold**

* See '*The Greatest Deception*', *Diakrisis* Nov/97.

** See the book '*Bride of Heaven, Pride of Hell*' and the tape '*Hells Best Kept Secret*' by Ray Comfort.

'Miracle Money'

Words failed us at TA Ministries when we recently received a mail-out from 'John Avanzini Ministries' office in Brighton, South Australia. This organization is endorsed by spiritual 'leaders' such as Oral Roberts, Kenneth Copeland and Creflo Dollar. Avanzini claims that there are four types of money: earned money, inherited money, chance money and **MIRACLE MONEY**.

Miracle money is apparently the currency that God gives to His children. To endorse this theory Matthew 17:27 is called upon. Simon Peter found this money in a fishes mouth and therefore this provision awaits you if you follow the instructions. 'God wants to reveal Himself to you in the hundredfold release' begins chapter 1 '... I pray above all things that thou mayest prosper...3John 2...the top prayer of a most dedicated apostle is that you prosper'.

According to Avanzini God took him aside and taught him the formula for gaining prosperity and He is now generously wanting to let the rest of Christendom in on the secret. It is simply a matter of adhering to two principles: 1. You must give the exact amount God tells you to give, and 2. You must expect to receive your offering multiplied back to you. Then you must join your faith with John's in believing that your 'offering will be multiplied back to them one hundredfold'. 'The prayer you speak over the offering [prior to sending to John] must not be a long prayer'. (That would cause delay in John's receipt of your hard earned money.) 'Just lay your hands on the offering and speak that it be multiplied one hundredfold. Clearly speak these words in the name of Jesus. That will be your only responsibility in the miracle. My part [God speaking] will be to miraculously release the hundredfold return to those who obey...John, you must carefully watch for those who receive the hundredfold. I will use these obedient ones to encourage you and others in the hundredfold increase.'

We could go on...the literature is appalling. Just how anyone could be duped into sending this man money boggles the mind! But apparently they do. The booklet we received is crammed full of testimonials from people who call themselves 'Christian'. Enclosed in the mailing was an advice slip. It states: 'The response envelope in Miracle Money states that 'all offerings are tax deductible'. This only applies in Canada, England and the USA. Please note that any offerings made are not tax deductible in Australia. With the impending

introduction of a GST, this is an opportune time to lobby the government to make gifts to church Ministries tax deductible. Please write to your local MP as well as the federal and shadow treasurer. Let them know that you want your gifts to Church ministries tax deductible. Ask them why this is available in other countries but not Australia'. The names and addresses for these two gentlemen are given.

On the contrary, all concerned and discerning Christians should be writing to their local MP and the *Department of Consumer Affairs* urging them to investigate the false claims made by this ministry before it brings the same ruin on people here that it has in other countries!

This man is a huckster of the worst kind and the details of conversations he purports to have had with God are monstrous.

He closes his appeal with this: 'Now, without moving about, listen in your spirit for the voice of God. Don't have any pre-conceived ideas as to how His voice will come. The moment you know the amount God wants you to give, start thanking Him for hearing your prayer. Immediately write the amount you are to give on the flap of the envelope in the space marked. 'God told me to give \$ for the hundred fold release. Don't even hesitate one minute. Write the amount down immediately. You know that Satan usually moves when you hesitate to do what God says. Don't delay. Remember, hesitation gives rise to unbelief, and unbelief always stops the hundredfold release. I have now completed the thing God told me to do with the **MIRACLE MONEY** booklet. Now, all I can do is prayfully await your obedient response which **will** [Bold print mine] bring you the manifestation of your hundredfold increase.'

Surely, with this statement in print, anyone is due a refund if the miracle hundredfold increase is not obtained within a reasonable time? Although such would probably hang on John's definition of the word 'obedient'.

As we said to begin with, we are at a loss for words over this blatant scam perpetrated in the name of God. Except for this: if Mr. Avanzini wants to raise goodly sums of money in this manner, logic would dictate that he send you *his* money, ask you to pray, and wait for a hundredfold increase to *his* account! Perhaps our readers would like to write suggesting this approach? It's easy: Mr. John Avanzini, PO Box 421 Brighton, SA, 5048. We have. **Mike Claydon**

Believers Cosy In Soft Options?

Is spirituality the soft option for contemporary Christianity? So asks Chris McGillion the *Religious Affairs* Editor for the *Sydney Morning Herald* in his Easter column, 1999. With the trend in church attendance in steep decline, (and a high proportion of attendees are over 55 years), amongst those who profess to be Christian, acceptance of fundamental beliefs are on the wane. A recent survey undertaken by the *National Church Life Survey*, (includes Roman Catholics) suggests that only over 40% of those polled believe in the resurrection and divinity of Jesus Christ. Chris opines that as traditional forms of Christian observance and beliefs have declined or weakened, interest in spirituality has soared! Moreover, he expresses surprise that much of this interest has been encouraged, or at the very least has not been challenged, by the churches.

He continues: 'Centres of spirituality and retreat houses offering spiritual direction have mushroomed. One of the most vibrant movements in the Sydney Catholic community is a 'discussion gathering' called 'Spirituality in the pub'. Anglican churches have embraced the Alpha Program, a course devised in Britain to awaken people to the Gospel but stopped

short of a comprehensive exposition of Christian belief'. Books such as 'To Thine Own Self Be True' and 'Self Esteem and friendship' are selling extremely well and many are produced by publishing houses attached to the churches.

Spirituality has been psychologised. Professor C. Roberts of Wheaton College, Illinois is quoted as saying, '...contemporary small group Bible studies have a distinctly encounter-group air about them, what with all the sharing of feelings and 'needs'...we hear about sensitivity and openness and being in touch with our feelings, about being vulnerable and going with the flow and having a healthy self concept and experiencing growth. What we don't hear much about, it seems, is core doctrine, church tradition and normative values'.

In summary, it is said that much of today's spirituality is about feeling cosy rather than committed, or simply filling a void. And if this fills pews, the churches seem unmoved to complain.

If we continue down this awful spiral into unbelief we will have misread the impact of the Gospel and we will not produce Biblical Christians. Nowhere in the Gospel does God give people what they want! **Mike Claydon**

Bible Prophecies Of Christ Fulfilled

Birthplace: Foretold in Micah 5:2. Fulfilled in Matt.2:1-6.

Virgin Birth: Foretold in Isaiah 7:14. Fulfilled Matt.1:21-23.

Substitutionary Death: Foretold in Isaiah 53; Ps.22. Fulfilled in John 1:29; 1Peter 2:24

Bodily Resurrection: Foretold in Ps.16:10. Fulfilled in Acts 2:25-31.

A True Disciple

'The mark of a true disciple is not that he never sins, but rather that when he does sin he inevitably returns to the Lord to receive cleansing and forgiveness. Unlike a false disciple, the true disciple will never turn away completely. He may occasionally turn back to his fishing nets, but ultimately he will be drawn again to the master. When Christ confronts him, he will return to a life of service for the Saviour'

(The Gospel According To Jesus' by John MacArthur, P.111)

Holiness

'Whenever we seriously contemplate the holiness of God, our natural reaction is to say with Isaiah: 'Woe is me, for I am undone; Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the king, the Lord of hosts, (Is.6:5)...Therefore it is important that we receive the same assurance that Isaiah received: 'Behold...thine iniquity is taken away, and thine sin purged', (Is.6:7)...'

(The Pursuit Of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges, P.47)

Quotable

'Show the world the fruits of Christianity, and it will applaud. Show it Christianity, and it will oppose it vigorously.' (Watchman Nee)

Billy Graham Crusade

'On Oct.24th Billy Graham preached in person to over 74,000 in Tampa, FL, and another 6,257 logged onto computers on the internet to hear him, (7/12 CT). The Saturday night Cyberspace event included music by rock groups 'DC Talk' and 'Jars of Clay' in a 'concert for the NeXt Generation'. In some ways this was 'like a regular rock concert'. People danced in the stands and on the field, per a report in Foundation. Graham's TV special included the 'Charlie Daniels Band'. Moody (8/94) favourably reviewed a country Rock 'Gospel' album by Daniels (see 1/9/94 CC), but an interview in the 31/7/94 Huntsville Times quoted him using profanity.'

(Calvary Contender, 1/1/99)

Benny Hinn Miracles?

Hinn claims to have healed four people of AIDS, (*Orlando Sentinel*, 11/10/87). However no documentation has ever been produced. When repeatedly challenged he has come up with only 3 so called documented miracles to the *Christian Research Institute*. This was his best evidence. The CRI medical consultant, Dr. Preston Simpson, stated these cases were poorly documented and confusing.

Case 1: Colon cancer. The results proved that the tumour along with other organs had *already been removed* surgically!

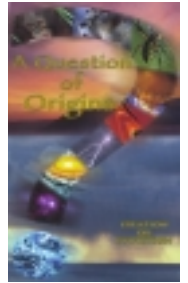
Case 2: Lupus and some related disorders. Lupus can go into remission for several years. The effects of the lupus - damage to the sacroiliac joint showed no healing.

Case 3: Spinal tumour and various cancers. Cat scan tapes were erased before the full condition could be evaluated. Also the tumour on the spine had already begun shrinking three months before Hinn became involved. Added to this the tumour was still present after the 'healing'!

New Video

A Question of Origins \$29.50

Did the Solar system evolve from 'The Big Bang'? Can Chemical compounds spontaneously evolve into life? Does evolution explain the great variety of life on earth? These are some of the questions convincingly answered in this one hour tape. This video is not just another video examining the creation/ evolution controversy. It is a professional and graphic presentation of overwhelming and conclusive evidence for Biblical creation. The presentation is visually rich and fast moving. Some of the evidence portrayed we have not seen before on video. The video demonstrates that the Bible is truly the Word of God. This video would be essential for anyone who doubts the scientific accuracy of the Bible. A great tool to the unsaved and a valuable and worthy reference item for Christians.



Fred Nile - Ecumenical?

Early this year we were sent a copy of a written financial appeal by the *Festival of Light* signed by Fred Nile (Sept/98). Some of the statements in this letter have caused many of us to question the Evangelical position of Fred Nile. One of the paragraphs reads: *'After we experience our vertical reconciliation with God, we can then share in the ministry and the word of reconciliation on the horizontal, as we are reconciled with all people, as our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we become ambassadors for Christ.'*

Our reconciliation message is for all Australians as we replace division with unity - through reconciliation between white and black, rich and poor...'

The advisory committee list of names shows the curious mixture in this organisation. Among the long list are most churches including Pentecostals, (Brian Houston AOG and Phil Pringle CCC), 'Evangelical sisters of Mary' and Independent Baptists.

We have written asking for a more clear understanding of the quotes above but have received no reply. **Editor**

The Power Of Music

One rock star (who died of a drug overdose) was quoted as saying *'You can hypnotise people with music and when they get at their weakest point, you can preach into their subconscious minds what you want to say.'*

(The Australian Women's Weekly, Oct/98.)

Buddhism

'In the beginning the Buddha found enlightenment underneath the Bodhi tree, near what is now Nepal. A pampered prince born around 563 BC, he frustrated his fathers efforts to shield him from the sights of suffering and death, became a wandering holy man and eventually formulated the four noble truths that unite all Buddhists today: that life is full of suffering; that most of that suffering, including the fear of death, can be traced to 'desire', the habit of seeing everything through the prism of the self and its well being; that this craving can be transcended, leading to peace and eventually to an exalted state of full enlightenment called Nirvana; and that the means to do that lies in the eightfold path of proper views, resolve, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness and concentration.' (*Time Magazine*, Dec. 97)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast, (Eph.2:8,9)...Jesus said unto him: I am the way, the truth and the life :No man comes unto the father but by me, (Jn.14:6).

Pentecostal/Tongues Roots - The Amazing Facts

In a book '*A River Is Flowing*' the author Denis Smith gives a history of the *Assembly of God* (AOG) in Australia. The book traces its roots to the '*Azusa St. Revival*' of 1901 where '*Parham himself and a number of other ministers from various denominations were filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking with other tongues.*' (P.15) The book also mentions the influence of John Dowie but not his end, (he was accused of polygamy and misappropriation of funds. His enterprises eventually went broke). Another early leader of the Assembly of God, Van Eyke, is written of as having '*ministerial indiscretions*', a rather convenient expression for the serious scandal surrounding this man. Mention is made too of Philip Duncan's address (titled '*God or Gimmicks?*') to an AOG conference, in which he warned of the *Latter Rain* Movement, commercialising spiritual gifts, prayer cloths, oil on the hands, and casting demons out of Christians. Yet today the current Toronto and Pensacola 'revivals' have their roots and teaching in the *Latter Rain* movement which ended up in scandals and false prophecies in the 1950's.

What is Pentecostalism? Where did the movement begin?

Dictionary definitions describe the movement as holding to the distinctive teaching that all Christians should seek a post conversion experience called the 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit' with the receiving of one or more of the supernatural gifts. Some Pentecostals place their roots back to the holiness movement in the late 1800's but the above distinctive teaching is clearly traced to a Charles Parham, and the movement to the '*Azusa St. Revival*' of 1906.

In the 1890's there were divisions within the traditional Methodist churches over differing views of sanctification. This perhaps was the background to which Pentecostalism drew when the Azusa St. event occurred. However, *it was Charles Parham who first linked tongues with the 'baptism of Holy Spirit' as a second work of sanctification.* This teaching was never heard of before in 1,900 years of orthodox Christianity. Parham stated tongues was an initial evidence but this soon became more *the* only evidence by Pentecostal groups. In the social climate of the day this experience found a release from the problems faced by individuals in difficult times. The importance of this cannot be underestimated and most historians admit the sociological climate to be a vital link in the acceptance of this new teaching. Surprisingly, Seymour the pastor of Azusa St., ultimately repudiated the teaching of 'tongues as the initial evidence of the baptism of the Spirit'.

John Nicol's book '*Pentecostalism*' places Parham as the founder of Pentecostalism, as do most historians. Parham was a leader in the Mid-West of the '*Apostolic Faith*' movement. He organised the first Pentecostal meetings and published the first Pentecostal periodical titled '*The Apostolic Faith*'. He also issued the first minister credentials in the movement.

Some, such as John Sherrill in '*They Speak With Other Tongues*', write that Pentecostalism had no human founder. The above book is in fact full of undocumented stories and woeful exegesis of Scripture. *The doctrine of 'Tongues' as the 'evidence' is traced and documented directly to Parham in the Topeka 'revival' in 1901.* Still some Pentecostals attempt to bypass Parham as the founder. The reasons for this become obvious further on in this article.

The key to examining the roots of Parham and Azusa St. is the understanding of the *type* of 'tongues'. The following truth should surprise most neo-Pentecostals who hold to *unknown* tongues!: *Parham always believed that the experience of 'tongues' that he encouraged at Topeka and subsequently was evident at Azusa St. was known languages as in Acts 2,10*

and 19! Parham believed the last days revival would be for 'missionary' work in that they would have supernatural gifts including *Zenoglossalia* - (*Zeno* - foreign; *glossa* - known language). He believed that the *known* language only had to be worked out as to what country it was from. However, what actually occurred and is documented in Topeka and Azusa St. was not *known* tongues (languages) but *unknown* tongues! The Pentecostal groups that came out of this did not, and today do not, practise known languages but rather *unknown* tongues! *Parham eventually rejected the unknown tongues at Azusa St. when he sadly realised it was a counterfeit.* This fact is documented clearly in his writings yet ignored by most neo-Pentecostal groups.

A further study of the life of Parham and his writings show clearly a telltale trail that led to the events at Azusa St. Much of what follows is documented in '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' by Goff, a Pentecostal writer and descendant of one who worked with Parham. This work is arguably the most accurate and best documented historical account in existence of the life of Parham and the Azusa St. events.

Parham's claims of numbers of adherents to his mission was often grossly exaggerated. Most experts agree his claimed numbers were double actual figures. He claimed Seymour (the leader of Azusa St.) had attended his school for three months when in fact Seymour attended only five weeks. In Parham's conversion accounts '*there flashed Heaven, a light about the brightness of the sun; like a stroke of lightning it penetrated, thrilling every tissue and fibre...*' (1)

At age seventeen Parham entered the Methodist ministry but failed to complete his training. For a time money became important and he enrolled as a medical student. He claimed to be 'backslidden' during this time and he became very ill. Subsequently he claimed to have been 'healed' although this alleged healing was '*not complete*'. However, he later claimed instant healing. (2) By 1893 his theology had already become controversial and he was considered rebellious within Methodist Episcopal circles. He came to believe that there was another 'Baptism' but not as holiness teachers were teaching in their understanding of sanctification. Parham also denied that Hell was eternal but that it was the '*destruction of the wicked*' (annihilation). He published several works on this view and was influenced by David Baker, a Quaker. Parham later married Baker's daughter. (3)

When the church refused to ordain him, he eventually resigned his preachers license and went out on his own. He had a growing conviction that he was 'specially anointed'. He became seriously ill and again claimed healing, this time doing away with medicine and doctors, believing it was wrong to use such. He also taught there was no need of Life Insurance. (4)

Parham began to emphasise divine healing and opened a '*Bethel Healing Home*' in Topeka. In emphasising divine healing he found immediate success in his evangelistic campaigns and gave accounts of various healings such as legs being lengthened by one and a half inches. He began to attribute disease to tormenting demons. He also believed in the unscriptural view that in the absence of strong faith, healing may come gradually. In 1899 he suffered a nervous breakdown.

He was constantly appealing for funds and was influenced by John Dowie who derided doctors. Parham was also influenced by Benjamin Irwin who taught other 'baptisms' such as a baptism of 'fire' and 'dynamite', 'lyddite' and 'oxidite'. Irwin later fell in immorality in his own church.

When the healing home began to fail Parham disassociated himself from it for a time, and in 1900 began a Bible school

with 34 students. Parham encouraged his students to seek the *same* experience as at Acts 2. In 1901 a student, Agnus Ozman, began to speak in what seemed to be the Chinese language and was unable to speak English for three days. The experience spread to the other students and Parham immediately claimed some of the tongues were 'Swedish'. They tried to automatically write the languages down but it became uncontrollable scribble, yet they still believed it to be 'foreign languages'. (5) Copies of these show examples similar to the following: '*Eurossa, Eurossause, rela sema calah mala kanah leulla saga nalan. laigle logle lazle logle. Ene mine mo, sah rah el me sah rah me.*' These sentences were 'translated' as meaning: '*Jesus is mighty to save*', '*Jesus is ready to hear*', and '*God is love*'. (6) Parham exaggerated the spontaneousness of it all, as his later accounts prove. Ozman in fact received the 'tongues' experience *before* the 'baptism' experience. Diary accounts show that she had already spoken in unknown tongues before the event at Topeka. (7)

Parham and those who had received the experience mistook their experience for Zenoglossalia (foreign languages)! This mistake was supported by a report and rumour that a Bohemian observer had understood the tongues. Parham often claimed validation for the languages from unnamed interpreters yet no documentation ever existed. All known interpreters were to deny any such claims and linguists who attended the meetings were adamant that the tongues were unknown. In 1914 a Charles Shumway conducted research on Parham's 'languages' but found none were known. (8) All linguists have since agreed that glossalia as practised by Pentecostals then and now is technically not a language of any sort.

A Samuel Riggins who was part of the initial group with Parham and who defected, wrote: '*I believe the whole of them are crazy...I never saw anything like it. They were racing about the room talking and gesticulating and using this strange and senseless language which they claim is the word from the most high.*' (9)

Soon after, Parham's son died, (16/3/01). Then in July they were forced to evacuate the property when it was sold. This was despite Parham originally predicting the property would be the training centre to send out missionaries with these 'new languages'. In 1902 he moved to Kansas. His original Bible school is now the property of a Roman Catholic church.

Parham continued to claim several healings and drew increasing crowds. However, on Oct. 23, 1904, a nine year old girl, Nettie Smith, died after her father refused medical treatment due to belief in Parham's teaching. The locals became angry with Parham and his ministry suffered greatly.

Parham taught that tongues was the sealing of the Bride of Christ. Later Parham was to reject the seven day creation and believe that Adam and Eve were not a part of this creation and that others existed outside the garden. He taught that Adam and Eve had souls, but the others were flesh and blood. Parham received much of his teaching from extra-Biblical and personal revelations from God.

Seymour, on leaving Parham's Topeka Bible school was locked out of a holiness church after a sermon considered to be heresy. He began conducting meetings at 312 Azusa St. The 'revival' that followed was almost an exact replica of the modern 'Toronto Blessing'. Pastors went to Azusa St. to receive and take their experiences home to other churches. By 1906 Azusa St. had up to one thousand people in attendance. When Parham eventually came to Azusa St. at the request of Seymour he was shocked at what he saw. (10) Parham strongly denounced the various phenomena as hypnotic and not of the Holy Spirit and he was eventually asked to leave. To Parham

the lack of evidence of 'zenoglossalia' (known languages) was an embarrassment. Parham renounced Azusa St. for their '*babbling*' and their co-ercing of such sounds. (11) Had Parham succeeded in gaining control of Azusa St. he could have changed the course of the whole Pentecostal movement, as he would have attempted to address his conviction of counterfeit unknown tongues! However, to this day in Pentecostal/Charismatic circles, the 'glossalia' as unknown tongues continues.

Parham was later charged with the act of sodomy with a J. Jourdan, who had a criminal record for theft. By July 1907 due to lack of evidence, no indictment was ever filed, although several affidavits from witnesses and a confession were reportedly filed. Parham, although initially admitting to the confession, later said it was gained by force. He claimed to be the '*victim of a nervous disaster*' and that he was a '*helpless degenerate physically*'. (12) Certainly Parham's sexual overtones in his sermons were well known. He sometimes asked all females in the audience to cross and then uncross their legs, saying, '*Now you've just opened the gates of Hell.*' (13)

After Pentecostalism was established the '*oneness Pentecostalism*' movement arose which denied the Trinity. Church leaders at the time were adamantly opposed to the Pentecostal movement. Some writers believe unknown tongues is perhaps the greatest spiritual counterfeit of the 20th century! The great G. Campbell Morgan described Pentecostalism and the Azusa St. phenomena as the '*last great vomit of Satan*'. Torrey declared this new Pentecostal movement was '*emphatically not of God and founded by a Sodomite*'. H.A. Ironside described it as '*disgusting delusions...pandemonium exhibitions worthy of a mad house or a collection of holy dervishes*', causing '*a heavy toll of lunacy and infidelity*'. (14) In 1919 the Nazarine Church dropped the word 'Pentecostal' from their name to separate themselves from unknown tongues and Parham.

Parham's followers came under fire when several deaths were reported from false healings and attempts to cast out demons. Parham's ministry then became less prominent although many continued to call him '*father*'. In 1908 he began raising money for an expedition to find the lost Ark of the Covenant but was supposedly 'mugged' in New York with all monies being 'lost'.

Parham was ill most of his life and died relatively young in 1929. All his minister sons also died young, some in their 30's. His predicted mass end-time revival had failed to materialise. Almost all his students believed that the second coming would occur before 1925, (the Jehovah Witnesses had also set this date).

Today most neo-Pentecostal groups see Parham as a champion and pioneer of Pentecostalism. Yet to his death Parham insisted that all authentic speech was 'zenoglossalia' (known languages) and that Pentecostals had a counterfeit experience. The Pentecostal 'glossalia' eventually became known as a '*heavenly language*' since it was not known on planet earth and did not match the historic cases of *known* tongues in the New Testament, (Acts 2,10,19). Pentecostals simply altered the definition of tongue speaking to allow for *unknown* tongues, rather than Biblical *known* languages. **Terry Arnold**

Recommended reading: '*Fields White Unto Harvest - Charles Parham & the Missionary Origins of Pentecostalism*' by James R. Goff Jr. (This is not an anti-Pentecostal book but an historical account) (1) Parham '*Voice*', P.15 (2) Parham '*Life*', P.11 (3) Parham '*Life*', P.14 (4) Parham '*life*' P.32 (5) Parham '*life*', P.53,61 *The Topeka Mail* and '*Breeze*', 22/2/01; other sources also. (6) *Topeka State Journal*, 9/1/01 (7) *Apostolic Faith* & Parham '*life*'; other sources numerous (8) Shumway, P.168 (9) *Topeka Daily Capital*, 6/1/01 (10) See *Diakrisis* article 4/98 (11) Parham '*Life*', P.169 (12) *Zion Herald* supplements, 26/7/07 (13) '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' by Goff, P.228 (14) Compiled from various sources including: '*Slaying In The Spirit*' by Mikhael; *Encyclopedia of Pentecostal Ministries And Preachers*; *Way of Life*; *Inner City Christian Discernment Ministry*.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Mr Arnold,

I have read your March 1999 newsletter with some concern and I must say a degree of mirth. While I would agree that there are many false teachers around today it appears that you are adopting only that which ministers to oneself and as a consequence your advocacy is versed in a manner which is not consistent with the Biblical model...Overall you make a number of valid and logical points in your writings. However I would encourage you to be less adversarial. Your interaction with the Tribe of Judah is one such example and perhaps your methods of communication could have been more Scriptural rather than overtly demanding proof...Similarly your dismissive attitude in regard to the AOG church in McKileyville is supported by the sometimes out of context Bible quotes published, however it is also contrary to the discipleship model of Christ Himself. Jesus spoke to fisherman about fishing, farmers about wheat and seeds and even to prostitutes about sex.

My advocacy to you is simply to consider not what you say, but the way in which you say it...Jesus...spoke in a way in which they could understand and relate...When it is all laid bare, surely the success of your ministry is not in the number of people and denominations that refuse to listen to your point of view, but really the true value is in the number who because of a mature, balanced interaction are prepared to listen and consider what you are saying.

I'm sure Terry Walker for instance would be every open to sitting down and sharing...Indeed I would be every surprised that although you and Mr Walker may differ in doctrine, if you both did not walk away with respect for each other. After all we are all part of the body, even if some us are twisted and scarred!

Ps...some parts of the March newsletter are in breach of equity statutes...

Editors Comments: Dear...You read the newsletter with 'mirth'? Are the serious issues (false teachers, false teach-

ing, etc) that humorous? The matters we raise are hardly ones for 'mirth'. You say we have not written in a 'Biblical model', but nowhere do you state how you would address issues of false teaching and false teachers. Are we not to 'earnestly contend for the faith'? Did not Paul name false teaching and teachers? We consider our efforts whimperish compared to his!

Yes, the Scriptures are quite clear as how to correct a brother and we have done that with the *Tribe Of Judah* and its leader.

'Less adversarial'? Would you have said the same to the apostle Paul? What did we do that Paul did not do?

As for the *Tribe of Judah* - have you seen the correspondence between the parties? How would you know what has taken place? For your information there were several letters and several exchanges. In the end...they were unable to show the evidence of the claims made. To this day the result has not changed.

'Out of context Bible quotes' for the McKileyville article? The Biblical quotes were all about the world and the Christian which is exactly the point we were making about worldly methods for evangelism!

For your information the number which are responding to the ministry is more than we can handle. Our mail is full of letters thanking us for exposing error and setting forth the truth to set many free. This shows us there are many out there deceived by such errors and false teachers.

Your assumptions of the man from the *Tribe of Judah* lack facts. We have invited this man to talk with us. This organisation is preaching 'another gospel' and they have not validated their sensational claims. Evidence has also come from people who have left the above organisation, having been deceived.

Ps. We are not conversant with the 'equity Statutes' and so could not comment on that. We welcome advice here. However, we are understanding of the Biblical model to expose error and teach truth.

What Does It Mean To 'fall from grace'?

God's word clearly teaches that we are saved by God's grace, (Eph.2:8.9). But there are many people who believe that if we move too far away for God and His ways then we can 'fall from grace'. In other words, they believe there is a point where God can say, 'you have fallen too far, I can no longer accept you on the basis of my grace. Therefore you are no longer one of my children; OR, you must do a certain amount of good works to gain your salvation again.'

But what does it really mean to 'fall from grace'? What do the Scriptures teach? The Apostle Paul, at the commencement of his letter to the Galatians, was amazed that the churches, which he had established throughout the region of Galatia, were moving away from the very basis of their salvation - grace!: '**I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him who called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel**', (Gal.1:6).

God had accepted the Galatians on the basis of His grace and now they were beginning to believe that 'God accepts us by His grace, but we better do certain things to secure our salvation,' Sound familiar? Isn't this the way we often think? Well, this is exactly what God's Word calls 'falling from grace' - when we move away from grace alone as the basis of

our salvation.

Further on in this letter, Paul continues, '**Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.**' (Gal.5:4) Paul is saying here that 'the very one who saved you by His grace is no longer of any use to you. *You have fallen from grace.* You have moved away from God's acceptance of you'.

In Galatians 5:1, Paul's message is: '**Standfast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage**'. God has saved us by His grace so that we could live under Grace. Stand fast therefore in grace, *continue in grace*, don't go back to the law!

So then, to 'fall from grace' does not mean a Christian loses his acceptance with God. Rather, *it means that while God continues to accept us by His grace, we as Christians have moved away from living under grace.* We are moving away from our privileged position! We are no longer enjoying the benefits of our salvation - freedom in Christ and freedom from sin! Christ died and rose again so that we could live under grace - but this has all become of no effect to us - we have fallen from grace.

Garth Murray

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, I am so thankful to a dear loving and patient friend for giving me some of your newsletters. What a shock they were to my system! Many of the things I had just accepted in my Christian walk as being true - exposed in your newsletter!! I almost cannot believe how deceived I was. I feel so ashamed that I tried to push all these deceptions onto my husband. I wondered if he would ever catch up with me. How humiliating! I still have a million questions but I am going to take my time and let my husband teach me. I pray that your ministry will be able to reach many more like me - totally deceived yet with a heart towards God and seeking truth. With much love, from your fellow citizen of heaven, **(R.H., Qld)**

Dear Terry,

I have been getting 'Diakrisis' since its inception and it has been a great help during that time to know help was at hand if necessary and to be in touch with other like minded people when the Toronto storm broke four years ago.

This vessel has reached calmer waters again thankfully...thankyou for your wise counsel over the years. **(J.H., Sydney)**

Dear Terry, Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would like to say that you have produced another great newsletter. I was interested to read the sad news about the Lutheran Church signing a statement jointly with the Roman Catholic Church. You have to wonder when it will all stop.

Thanking you for sending the information about Dr. Billy Graham. It was interesting reading...we must not put our faith and trust in anyone except the Lord Jesus Christ. I noticed that you printed my letter and your reply [Aug/98] - thanks, perhaps someone else might benefit from this...

Rev. Fred Nile...He recently wrote to me criticising me for cancelling my membership with the Christian Democrat party...Is it any wonder that [some] Christians don't want to be part of the CDP when the leader of the party is still an ordained minister of a church that not only recognises women and homosexuals but ordains them.

I actually sent an e-mail to the Uniting Church in Sydney...asking them about this, and I have been ignored. Do they have a problem with telling people what they really stand for? May the Lord bless you in your ministry, In His service, **(T.W., Lake Macquarie)**

Praise Points

- Praise God, this newsletter is becoming known Australia wide. Many encouraging testimonies have been received. Many have been set free from deceptions.

Prayer Points

- We are trusting the Lord for finances to secure some part time secretarial/administrative help. This will free Terry to concentrate on the increasing writing/speaking load.

Dear Terry,...I sent you an e-mail asking to be taken off your ministry list...However after reading your excellent article 'Evangelical Backflips' [Jan/Feb 99] I have changed my mind...I need to be kept in touch with what is going on in church today, I need to keep up the fight for truth. I have been reading Billy Graham's autobiography 'Just as I am' for sometime now and even wrote a letter to you supporting him when you had an article about him last year, [Aug/98]. I would not accept what you had to say. Well, last night after reading your article I picked up the Billy Graham book and there it was, as you had said, right in his own words - on P.446 giving a comment on Senator Hatfield...Graham says 'He certainly would appeal to the strong Christian vote, Catholic as well as Protestant'. Then on P.450 speaking with President Nixon - Graham says 'Dick you've got to have all faiths represented, as you're going to have trouble...Eventually Nixon gave into the ecumenical idea...'

Well, Terry I now see that you were right...So sad that someone who has done so much for God's kingdom would lose the plot like this.

If you have taken my name off the mailing list, could you please put it back on...Thankyou also for your answer to the letter on page 7, especially your answer to question 4 regarding the Sabbath -what an excellent reply. This will also help me with my witnessing to an SDA...it is for this reason we find your ministry so important to us...but most importantly I have my Bible.

...Terry and the Diakrisis team, may God bless you as you continue to open up the eyes of the true believer to expose those who are false and not to be ensnared...Please be assured of my constant prayers for you. **(T.W., Sydney)**

Dear Terry, Thankyou for...the guidance and confirmation it ['Diakrisis'] provides. So very few in leadership will speak out and give warnings these days. Surely this is a time when it is vital to do so...May you continue to 'blow the trumpet and sound an alarm'. God bless you and the team, **(A.B., Sydney)**

Website & E-mail - New Addresses

Website: <http://www.satcom.net.au/taministries>

E-mail: tam@satcom.net.au

Terry's Itinerary

May 2nd 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535 **May 9th.** 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld. Ph.

May 22nd. Sat. 2pm - 5pm Logan West Community Church, Bris.-**Seminar on 'Tongues'**. Ph. (07)38007904 BBQ following

May 23rd. 10am. Logan West Community Church Ph. (07)38007904

May 30th. 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535

May 30th. 6.30pm & **June 6th.** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ. **2 part series: 'Baptism and filling with the Spirit & the 'anointing''**. Ph. (07)41289375

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