



A Ministry of Teaching

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

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

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

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

We are a faith ministry and this newsletter is distributed *free* of charge. We welcome donations of approx. \$20 per year to cover the cost of production.

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Editors Comments

In the prophet Jeremiah we see a man of God who with distress and tears was *'to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build and to plant'*, (Jer.1:10). Many today have set themselves up as prophets or teachers, but unlike Jeremiah, they only want to *build and plant* and not *root out and pull down*. The problem is that many see very little to pull down. Perhaps they do not know the Bible well enough to see the apostate stench that pervades much of the modern church. Others know what is wrong but do not pull down and expose error because it is simply too difficult or their popularity and finances will be at stake. Still others expose the weed without exposing and pulling out its *roots*.

Bad roots are deeply implanted and they must be pulled completely out rather than just cut off at ground level and allowed to grow again.

The mistake many make, (including myself), is thinking that people, when they see the error exposed, will do something about it. However, *emotive reasoning* raises protests such as: *'surely all these 'false' teachers and prophets cannot be wrong...look at the following they have, and how their ministries have grown...but there is good mixed with the bad...we are not to judge...'* Perhaps the real reasoning is: *'I like this thing, I don't want to give it up!'* They have loved the error for so long and it may have brought temporary happiness and security. To discover that the roots are rotten and must be pulled out is a difficult thing.

This ministry receives volumes of mail, (most of which cannot be answered because of lack of staff). Of the critical letters that charge we are wrong, almost all do *not* deal with the facts and Scripture presented to show *where* we are wrong. They invariably attack the authors of the respective articles. It is evident the 'root' of error has captivated the emotions of many for so long.

The prophet Jeremiah is known as the 'weeping prophet'. The book of Jeremiah is very *negative* yet Jeremiah had no choice but to *pull down* and *root out*. He did it with tears and mourning. The problem with written material is that the reader never gets to see the heart, emotion and tears of the author. Paul says *'out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears, not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you'*, (2Cor.2:4). *But his tears do not appear on the page!*

We in this ministry write with hearts of anguish and tears. It is out of compassion and love that we 'pull down' and 'root out' that we might build and plant sound doctrine, and urge many to return to the *'faith once delivered unto the saints'*, (Jude 3). May the *'spirit of truth'* continue to lead us to the *'excellency of the knowledge of Christ'*. With affliction, anguish, pain, tears and a love like no other, He died as a substitute for us - His beloved. **Terry Arnold**

Contents

P.1 - Editors Comments; Lake Maroon Family Camp **P.2** - Manifestations In History; The Gospel **P.3** - Music As A Means Of Evangelism?; Joyce Meyer **P.4** - On Air Channel 30; Quotable? - Benny Hinn; Uniting Church - Gay & Lesbians; Nostradamus - False Prophet; Gender Neutral Translations; Uniting Church/Catholic - Marriage Agreement; Vatican Pressure; Youth Services; *Youth Alive*; An Alarming Statement; New Tape/CD **P.5,6** - The Forerunners of Pentecostalism **P.7** - Your Comments & Questions; By their fruits you will know them **P.8** - Your Comments & Questions; Praise & Prayer Points; New Internet Website; *SEAM*; Terry's Itinerary.

Lake Maroon Family Camp'99 (Near Boona, Qld.)

When: Dec. 17-20 (Frid. 2pm - Mon. lunch)

Guest speakers: Terry Arnold (Sun. 8.15am Family service); Eric Russel (Frid. & Sat. 7pm); Geoff Vines (Sat. 8am)

Other Activities: Testimonies, video night, water skiing; jet skiing; speed boat rides; tube rides; swimming; canoeing; fishing; climbing; hiking...and more. Bring non-Christian friends.

Cost: Adults: Full w/end \$42; 2 days \$32; or \$25 per day. Students reduced prices. Pre-schoolers free.

Registration forms and further details: Contact Peter Bice, (07)32004841 Mob.0413156782 PO Box 358 Corinda, 4075, Qld.

'Manifestations' In History

One of the most applicable Scriptures to many of today's spiritual movements is: *'...a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit...every tree which bringeth forth not good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire'*, (Matt.7:17-19)...*'...the tree is known by his fruit,'* (Matt.12:33). One of the necessities of discernment is to examine the historical roots. *If the roots are rotten, the fruit will be also.* The 'manifestations' that are occurring in the last few years to do with the modern 'revivals' are not new.

Much of the history and quotes that follow are cited in a book titled *'An Extraordinary Popular Delusion'* by Benjamin Wilson, M.D. (1):

In England, in the 1600's, Valentine Greatraks became convinced he had healing power and the ability to cast out demons. Many when they even saw him would fall in fits and *'he restored them by waving his hand in their faces, and praying over them.'*

At about this time a healer, Fransisco Bagnone, was performing the same feats in Italy: *'He had only to touch weak woman with his hands, or sometimes...with a relic, to make them fall into fits, and manifest all the symptoms of magnetism.'*

In France in the 1700's, *'The convulsionaries...assembled around the tomb of the favourite saint...and taught one another how to fall into convulsions...The scenes that occurred were a scandal to civilisation and to religion...others were shrieking and making the most hideous noises...[they] yielded themselves up to gross indecencies...'*

In the later part of the 18th Century Anthony Mesmer introduced 'animal magnetism' to France, having appropriated it from a Austrian Jesuit priest, Father Hell. The term 'animal magnetism' was used because Hell and Mesmer originally used magnets to perform their magic. Mesmer eventually discovered that he did not need magnets and could produce the same effects just by using his hands. He concluded that he must have an invisible magnetic fluid emanating from his hands which produced the various wonders. *'As soon as one begins to be convulsed, several others are affected...These convulsions are characterised by the precipitous, involuntary motion of all limbs, and of the whole body...by piercing shrieks, tears, sobbing, and immoderate laughter...they are preceded or followed by a state of...depression, sometimes drowsiness...the change of measure in the airs played on the piano-forte had a great influence on the patients. A quicker motion, a livelier melody, agitated them more, and renewed the vivacity of their convulsions...among the patients in convulsions there are always observed a great many women and a very few men.'* Today, to 'mesmerise' refers to placing trusting subjects in hypnotic trances.

Chevalier De Barbarin in France refined the 'magnetizing' process until he was able to induce somnolence merely by praying for them to enter into a trance. He soon had a following and many such people who practised this were called 'spiritualists'.

An American surgeon, Benjamin Douglas Perkins, took out a patent on two strongly magnetised pieces of metal that purportedly had great healing virtue. They were able to 'pull' diseases out of the affected patients. The 'healing power' appeared to be quite impressive. The effect would last for

hours. Several prominent physicians repeated the experiments using pieces of wood that had been painted to resemble the metal and the *same* results were obtained.

One individual, Abba Faria, was dubbed *'the man of wonders'*. He was able to produce loss of consciousness without manipulation in his subjects by shouting *'sleep'*! He claimed to have put over 5,000 to sleep by his command.

Another, Deleuze Gacev, wrote a treatise with the following recommendations if one wished to become a 'magnetizer': *Forget for a while all your knowledge of physics and metaphysics; Remove from your mind all objections that may occur; Never reason for six weeks after you have commenced the study; Remove from the patient all persons who might be troublesome to you...those who reason upon it cannot be magnetised...[but] the weak in mind can be magnetised.'*

Let the reader compare the above with the manifestations and phenomena of the modern day 'revivals' and the signs and wonders movement! The parallels are arguably obvious. However, the *terminology* has changed. Instead of 'magnetism' and 'sleep' it might be *'slain in the spirit'* (2) or *'carpet time'*. Instead of 'fits' and 'convulsions' it is *'manifestations'*!

Reasoning is definitely the antidote to the manifestations. Why does Rodney Howard Browne tell people to *'stop praying'* and to use the heart and not the mind?

God says *'There is no new thing under the sun'*! (Ecc.1:9) Manifestations are not new and God is not 'doing a new thing'.

Many say that spiritual manifestations are a reaction to the 'presence of God'. The term 'manifestation' means *'an indication of the existence, reality, or presence of something.'* (3) Some quote Scriptures such as Ex.34:29; Dan.10:10; Acts 3:8; and Rev.1:17. However, are these Biblical 'manifestations' the same as today's weird manifestations, (such as uncontrollable laughing, barking, roaring, etc.)? Do we not stretch these Scriptures well *'beyond the Word'*, (Nu.22:18)? These Scriptures are accounts where *one person* meets *face to face* with *God* or an *angel*. In these Scriptures there is also no impartation or mediator as we see today.

Many attempt to link today's manifestations with past revivals and with great preachers such as Jonathan Edwards, Whitefield or Wesley. These attempts conveniently neglect the fact that emotion seen in these past revivals was during and under powerful preaching of the Word, not in a 'ministry time' at the end of the service. Indeed, any extremes and excesses, including manifestations, were not 'en masse' and were mostly ignored or denounced by such preachers, (Wesley classified laughter as demonic).

The author has met many seduced by such manifestations who have ended up *addicted* or *shipwrecked*. Many suffer breakdowns, unable to discern reality. One of the fruits of the Spirit is *self control*, (Gal.5:22). *If we are not self controlled then we cannot claim to be God controlled!* The manifestations of today's 'revivals' are arguably part of a massive fleshly delusion traced to spiritualist sources. May we be discerning like the Bereans who *'received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.'* (Acts 17:11). **Terry Arnold**

(1) http://www.pentecostal-issues.org/publius_theologicus/voll_issue1/wilson.htm (2) See *Diakrisis* article July/97 (3) *American Heritage Dictionary*

The Gospel

The message of God is: Jesus Christ came as God (*Deity*) in the flesh and humbled Himself to die (a *substitute*) in our place as a sinless, perfect, and *finished sacrifice*, and through His *blood* to pay the penalty (*redemption*) of our *sin*. He rose from the dead in the (*resurrection*) power of the Holy Spirit to declare (*impute*) His righteousness to those who believe and trust Him as *Lord and Saviour*. His offer is *eternal life* to sinners who *repent* and have *faith* in *who He is* and *what He did*.

Music As A Means Of Evangelism?

Often it is suggested that music is a means of evangelism. It must be noted that in the various passages that mention the gifts of the spirit, none of them list music. Therefore it is not a 'spiritual gift' as such, but rather a human talent. However, human talent can surely be blessed by God when we commit it to Him, allowing him to direct in every sense its use. For this to be the outcome there are guidelines for ministry that would govern its usage.

All ministry actively done in His name needs to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It must glorify God, not self. Music, like other talents, can easily be a means of glorifying self rather than God. Music can be used as an effective means to reach people's hearts and minds. But should one ever seek to stoop to the level of the world in order to reach the world? When Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:22: '*...I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some*', he certainly was not saying he stooped to the level of using drugs, in order to reach a drug addict. The means of the world will not save from the world. When I say the '*means of the world*', I do not mean everything in the world. I simply refer to the *process* by which we would seek to attract the world's attention to Christ and His Gospel.

We are '*not of this world*', (Jn.15:19; 17:16), and to '*be not conformed to this world*', (Rom.12:2), for we '*have received not the spirit of the world...*', (1Cor.2:12). '*...The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...*' (1Cor.3:19); We no longer '*walk according to the course of this world...*' (Eph.2:2) and '*Friendship of the world is enmity with God..*', (James 4:4); '*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...*' (James 2:15).

God has given us a very distinctive passage to instruct us as to His methods of reaching people for Christ. The key passage is 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, where Paul details the mind of God regarding the *preaching of the cross*. The word used in verse 21 '*preaching*' is the Greek word '*kerugma*'. It emphasises both the *message* and the *method* through which God chose to be the primary means of salvation.

This is clearly seen throughout the book of acts, where God's people went about sharing the Gospel, either by gossiping the message or standing up as a herald and declaring Christ. God purposely chose a method and a methodology that

the world's wisdom counts as *foolishness*. The word for '*foolishness*' is the word from which we get the word '*moronic*'. The modern churches that promote '*seeker services*' or '*user concepts*' appear to have missed the point of God's work in the salvation of people. It would appear that nothing that may offend may be used, and so the Scriptures and preaching generally have a low priority in such services. Messages that tell people about God's love and what God can do *for them* and how God can *improve* their life are all popular. As for man's sinfulness and resultant judgement, such are not subjects that would leave the non Christian feeling good.

The power of the Gospel is *in the message itself*. '**For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...**' (Rom.1:16). The Greek word for power here is '*dunamis*' meaning inherent, intrinsic power, or power of itself. This word is where we get the word *dynamo* from - it produces power of itself.

If our purpose is to adopt worldly means and music to attract worldly people, we have missed Biblical evangelism. It is God who draws; it is God who is at work in peoples lives; and it is God who saves. Present day evangelism needs to recapture such truths not as theory but as practice.

I have not dealt with so-called *Christian Rock* music, for to my mind there is no such thing! Either it is Christian or it is rock.

Christian music should not be selected on the basis that it makes us feel good. All Christian service should be that which enlightens the mind, then causes my will to be activated to bring me to action, which in turn will cause my emotions to be joyful. Music is no exception. Feelings orientated service is not what God is seeking. God is looking for service rendered because it is Scriptural. Sometimes I will not feel like service. But if I continue to do service, because God says I should serve, then soon the sense of obedience should bring joy. Joy not only to my heart but to the Lord's. (See 1Sam.15 where Samuel remonstrates with Saul because of his disobedience).

All kinds of music need to come under the search light of the Scriptures. Is it honouring to God? Is it Biblical? Does it sway my emotions or does it enlighten my mind? When these questions are answered, it becomes clear as to what we should play or use in a church service.

Ps. Graeme Ellingsen

Joyce Meyer

Some readers have recently requested information on an author and high profile TV evangelist/teacher, Joyce Meyer. Although Meyer has some helpful material, she is essentially a Word-Faith teacher as well as an enthusiast of psychology. Her Word-Faith teaching copies much of what Copeland, Hagin, Hinn and others have already taught.

A sample of her heretical quotes follows*:

'*During that time He entered hell, where you and I deserved to go (legally) because of our sin. He paid the price there...no plan was too extreme...Jesus paid on the cross and in hell.*' (1)

'*God rose up from His throne and said to demon powers tormenting the sinless son of God, 'Let Him go'. Then the resurrection power of almighty God went through hell and filled Jesus...he was resurrected from the dead - the first born-again man.*' (2)

'*...you cannot go to heaven unless you believe with all your heart that Jesus took your place in hell...Jesus went to hell for*

you.' (3)

'*For three days he was alone paying for our sins as 'only a man'.*' (4)

The above quotes are *serious heresy*! Anything that *adds* to or *detracts* from the *atonement* and the *deity* of Jesus Christ is damnable!

Jesus did not atone for our sins and take our place in hell but on the cross of Calvary! He was never '*tormented*' by demon powers and was never resurrected from the dead in hell! Jesus did not have to be '*born again*'! Jesus was never '*only a man*'!

For Scriptural refutations see our paper: '*The Word Faith Movement - A Closer Look*'.

*See: <http://www.discernment.org/>

<http://www.rapidnet.com/>

(1) '*What Should You Believe*', Ch.4, P.35, Aug/91 edition.
(2) *Ibid*, P.36 (3) *Ibid*, P.38. In a new edition of this book some changes were made but the bulk of this teaching remains. Deletions include '*Jesus took your place in hell.*' (4) *Ibid*, P.38

'On Air' - Channel 30

'Christian TV is on air in Australia' according to a brochure being distributed. 'You will see Carmen,...Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Robert Schuller, Creflo Dollar...Jesse Duplantis, Phil Pringle, Brian Houston, Andrew Evans...The channel delivers a unique blend of creative, entertaining and positive programming that will appeal to the majority of Australians. It will become a major vehicle to touch the hearts of our nation and at the same time provide support to the local church.'

Editors Comments: Although they may be 'creative, entertaining and positive', at least three of the above names are undeniably false prophets. (Various *Diakrisis* editions have documented these false prophecies). The rest are arguably false teachers.

Quotable? - Benny Hinn

'I place a curse on every man and every woman that will stretch his hand against this anointing! I curse that man who dares to speak a word against this ministry!'

Benny Hinn, 'This is your day', Christian Channel Europe, 11/10/99

Editors Comments: This is in total disregard of Scripture, Rom.12:14: 'Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.' Why has this false teacher and false prophet been promoted by, and defended by, such churches as the Australian Assembly of God? For the sake of the sheep, we exhort the leaders to repudiate this man and his ministry.

Uniting Church - Gay & Lesbians

'...The church's Maribyrnong Valley Presbytery decided to allow ordination of gays, in a tight vote; clearing the way for all lesbians waiting to be ordained through the Presbytery, which covers Melbourne's western suburbs...It is believed to be the first mainstream Christian church in Australia to endorse ordination of homosexuals.' (Aust Beacon, Sept/99)

Nostradamus - False Prophet

Many of Nostradamus prophecies have failed to materialise. If only one prophecy is false it makes him a false prophet. Many of his 'prophecies' are so vague that they can be applied in many ways. However, here is one for the readers to test:

'In the year 1999 and seven months from the sky will come the great king of terror. He will bring back to life the great king of Mongols. Before and after war reigns happily.'

This is a specific date - July 1999.

'When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing that Lord has not spoken...' (Dt.18:22)

Gender Neutral Translations

'We the delegates of the 1999 World Congress of fundamentalists unite in opposing and denouncing the recent efforts of the International Bible Society, The New International Versions (NIV) for Biblical translation, and Zondervan Publishing House to produce unisex language versions of the Bible. We hold that such deliberate replacing of nouns and pronouns which are gender specific in the inspired text with those which are gender neutral in temporary translations contradicts the Scripture's clear teaching of its own verbal plenary inspiration and amounts to nothing less than an unholy falsifying of the sacred texts of God's inerrant words.' (Calvary Contender, 1/9/99)

Uniting Church/Catholic - Marriage Agreement

'In an historic first, the Uniting Church in Australia and the Roman Catholic Church have signed an agreement on marriages between members of the two denominations...The paper, entitled 'Inter-church Marriages: The Ecumenical Challenge and Significance For Our Churches', encourages such marriages.

...Meanwhile the Uniting Church ASC...has approved a new liturgy, 'A service of healing for those whose marriage is ending [separation] or has ended [divorce].'

(*'Journey'*, Aug/99)

Vatican Pressure

'The Vatican is taking legal proceedings in Italy to suppress a book, which claims to expose promiscuity, sexual impropriety, financial scandals and careerism within the Vatican and among senior Catholic clergy. The 300 page book subtitled 'Gone With The Wind In The Vatican', reveals no names but the characters portrayed, it is said, are easily recognisable. The book has been published under a pseudonym.

A tribunal has been set up within the Vatican to try a recently retired senior figure who is thought to be the author...' (Evangelical Times, Aug/99)

Youth Services

'A dozen knee slapping kids rap hip-hop style. Guitars, a bass and drums kick in. The young audience clap hands and swings to the pulsing beat. A live concert? MTV? No, it's worship service at the Grapevine Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts.' (Ft. Worth Star Telegram, 4/6/99)

Youth Alive

Joe King of Youth Alive says, '50 kids jumping around getting into the praise and worship music, a church shouldn't get freaked out by that...some of the best services I've been to in my church are where the kids have actually got up and moshed.' (Andrew Carswell, *The Advocate*, 8/5/99)

An Alarming Statement

'A cultist is one who has a strong belief in the Bible and the second coming of Christ; who frequently attends Bible studies; who has a high level of financial giving to a Christian cause; who home school their children; who has accumulated survival foods and has a strong belief in the second amendment; and who distrusts big government. Any of these may qualify a person as a cultist but certainly more of these would cause us to look at this person as a threat, and his family as being in a risk situation that qualified for Government interference.'

(Janet Reno, Attorney General, USA, Interview on '60 minutes', 26/6/94)

New Tape/CD

TA Ministries sells the audio tape/CD 'I Will Greatly Rejoice In The Lord'. Pastor Peter Rahme now has a second tape out titled 'Even So Come Lord Jesus'. The tape includes 23 songs interspersed with Scriptures read by Faith Rahme - all on the theme of the Lord's return. The songs are largely Scripture set to music. The new tape comes with *Herald of Hope* charts in miniature showing God's prophetic plan. Price is \$15 (cassette) or \$20 (CD) post paid, and available from:

P. Rahme, 40 Cardigan Rd, Greenacre, 2190, Australia.

The Forerunners of Pentecostalism

Roberts Liardon is a Pentecostal author of a 12 volume video series '*God's Generals*', featuring the lives of the founders of Pentecostalism. Liardon traces the Pentecostal movement to two healers, **John Dowie** and **Marie Woodworth-Etter**. They came from the holiness tradition in the late 1800's. Both these evangelists denied each others ministry. Dowie believed 'mother Etter's' meetings to be 'trance evangelism'. Dowie later declared himself to be the prophet Elijah and began dressing in robes.

In 1901 a **Charles Parham** encouraged his students to seek the *same* experience as at Pentecost, (Acts 2). An Agnus Ozman, a 30 year old unmarried woman who had a reputation of wandering around the country seeking mystical things and the sensational, spoke in an unknown tongue. Unlike the real known languages of Acts 2, 10 and 19, (the only New Testament historic cases of tongues), no one understood the tongue Ozman spoke. Some thought it to be Chinese. This experience later developed into the new doctrine of the 'Baptism with the spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues'. A Samuel Riggins who defected from the Parham school, wrote: '*I believe the whole of them are crazy*'. (1)

A student of Parham, **Seymour**, later went to Los Angeles and was thrown out of a Nazarene church for preaching extremes in holiness doctrine and the new doctrine of the Pentecostal 'Baptism with the Spirit'. He then set up elsewhere until complaints of loud services caused him to move to 312 Azusa St. When this got out of control Seymour summoned Parham to come and assess the situation.

Parham found '*hypnotic influences, familiar spirit influences, spiritualistic influences, mesmeric influences and all kinds of spells and spasms, falling in trances, etc...*' (2) He denounced the movement as a case of '*awful fits and spasms*' and of '*holy rollers and hypnotists*'. (3) This account is backed up by the newspaper reports of that time. The *Los Angeles Times*, (April 18th., 1906, P.1) wrote: '*...the devotees of the weird doctrines practice the most fanatical rites, preach the wildest theories, and work themselves into a state of wild excitement in their peculiar zeal...And the night is made hideous in the neighbourhood by the howlings of the worshippers who spend hours swaying forth and back in a nerve-racking attitude of prayer and supplication. They claim to have the gift of tongues and to be able to comprehend the babble.*' Another source stated: '*Our missionaries have been stationed at Los Angeles [where the Azusa St. meetings were held] during the whole history of the tongues movement, and have watched it closely from the very first outbreak in Seymour's meetings; and truly, conditions have been such that it would be impossible to publish the things that have occurred there. The familiarity between sexes in the public meetings has been shocking, to say the least. Hell has reaped an awful harvest and infidelity has become more strongly rooted on the Pacific Coast than ever before*'. (4) The Azusa St. Mission was terminated by 1911. Seymour ultimately repudiated the 'initial evidence' teaching.

The story could easily end here except that few people care to research the life of Parham. Earlier in life Parham had suffered a brain viral infection which some believe caused him to behave disorderly. Parham was documented as having mental, emotional, psychological and sociological disorders. He was rejected for ordination by the Methodist Church. He denied the doctrine of eternal punishment, opposed medical and medicine treatment, and believed serious diseases to be demonic. He was also influenced by a cult like centre called '*Shiloh*' run by a Frank Sandford near Durham, Maine, and

believed that missionaries could be endowed with special powers for last days mission work. In 1907 he was arrested for homosexual acts with a 22 year old man in San Antonio, Texas. (5) From then unto his death in 1929, he was considered a fallen prophet by many church leaders of his time, although many still called him 'father'. He continued his religious endeavours up to the end, including raising funds for a trip to the Holy Land to search for the Ark of the Covenant. This trip never materialised as Parham claimed to have been 'mugged' in New York and had all the funds stolen. (6)

Frank Bartleman, an eyewitness to the Azusa St. events, wrote: '*The temptation seems to be towards empty manifestations. This does not require any particular cross, or death to the self life. Hence it is always popular...Any mission that exalts the Holy Ghost above the Lord Jesus Christ is bound for the rocks of error and fanaticism*'.

Charles Spurgeon also warned of the danger of seeking after signs and wonders. He stated that '*so called revivals in the long run wrought more harm than good. A species of religious gambling has fascinated many men, and given them a distaste for the sober business of true godliness...*'

G. Campbell Morgan described the Azusa St. happenings 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*.' (7)

Other founders or '*generals*' cited by Liardon of the Pentecostal movement include:

A.A. Allen: He claimed to turn \$1 bills into \$20. He jumped bail after being arrested for drunk driving and was defrocked by the Assemblies of God (AOG). He is documented on film as going through the leg lengthening routine, (since discarded by doctors as fraud). Exaggerated stories concerning Allen abound: Once a 400 pound lady came for prayer. Allen prayed for her and she fell out of the tent and 200 pounds supernaturally disappeared and when she stood up her undergarments fell off!

Allen died of liver poisoning due to acute alcoholism.

John G. Lake: His 'anointed' bubble gum would heal people when they chewed it. When Lake was in Africa the crowds were so great he could not lay hands on all of them so he 'anointed' a rock and any that laid hands on the rock would be healed.

Maria Woodworth - Etter: 'Mother Etter' who built a church named after herself, practised trances and passed on gifts of the Spirit through her hands. She passed on the 'mantle' to Aimee-Semple Mcpherson.

Aimee-Semple Mcpherson: Aimee faked her own kidnapping to have an adulterous affair. She had three husbands, the third left his wife and children to marry her. That marriage was short lived and she had a nervous breakdown. Her husband filed for divorce. *She died from an overdose of sleeping pills* in 1944 before passing on the 'mantle' to Kathryn Kuhlman.

Kathryn Kuhlman: - Kuhlman fell in love with a married man who divorced his wife to marry her. Kuhlman then divorced him. She had a meeting with the Pope and felt 'a oneness' with him. Benny Hinn got his 'anointing' from Kathryn Kuhlman.

Jack Coe: Coe believed medicine was the 'mark of the beast'. He would pick people up out of wheelchairs and if they fell they did not have enough 'faith'. He was defrocked from AOG in 1953.

Smith Wigglesworth: Wigglesworth prophesied a mighty restoration of the gifts of the spirit and revival *before the end of the twentieth Century*. Wigglesworth is associated with dozens of amazing stories of miracles, healings and raisings from the dead. None are authentically documented but rather heresy from one person to another. The late **Lester Summral** is responsible for many of the stories of the feats of Wigglesworth. Summral recounts Wigglesworth punching cancer tumour victims until they died and then raising them from the dead. *Not one account of the raisings from the dead was ever authentically documented for proof*. Summral himself falsely prophesied that he would see the return of Jesus before the end of 1999 and that Jesus spoke this to him and appeared to him. When Summral died he instantly became a false prophet! Summral was also the subject of a national TV expose for fraud and misuse of funds to do with his 'Feed The Hungry' operation.

William Branham: When Branham was 3 years of age he first heard 'the angels' voice. This voice accompanied him through his lifetime. It told him that as John the Baptist was a forerunner so 'you will forerun his second coming.' (8)

Branham perhaps had the greatest ministry of signs and wonders of any Charismatic/Pentecostal minister in history. He incorporated many ideas from Franklin Hall in 1948 and spawned multiple healing ministries all over the world. To millions he was a prophet and healer. His ministry was similar to the style of Benny Hinn of today. However, as with Benny Hinn, Branham has *no* authentic evidence of any organic healings.

A close worker of Branham, A.H. Pohl, testifies that the healings and miracles were all false and that no one ever checked the testimonies of healings except himself. Many people supposedly healed subsequently died. Not one case of a genuine healing was ever documented. Yet, Pohl believes in healings and claims to have seen healings. *'I believe the gift of healing was given in the early church and was largely something that was a credential for the Lord himself and for the apostles. That was their credential for the fact - in the case of Jesus Christ - that He was the Messiah. And in the case of the apostles, that they were the apostles of Jesus Christ. Christ had laid the foundation of the church (Eph.2:20), and the apostles finished building on that foundation. They had their credentials, as Paul says in 2Cor.12:12 that 'the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all power and signs and wonders...I don't think anyone has the gift of healing today. And I think that this is proven by the fact that the percentage of sicknesses which are healed is so very low.'* (9)

However, amazing stories still surround Branham. At one meeting the piano player supposedly fell off the piano yet the piano kept playing. Unfortunately the cameras were never operating to catch such events. Branham believed God's Word consisted of the Zodiac, Egyptian Pyramids and Scripture, (his parents believed in fortune telling). (10) He taught that he was Elijah come again, that Jesus was a created being - (the heresy of *Arianism*), and that Hell was not eternal. He proclaimed himself the angel of Rev.3:14 and 10:7 and forecast the return of Jesus in 1977. He later denied the Trinity. Branham would frequently show photos of himself with halos around his head. He had his own personal angel who he waited upon before meetings and who Branham claimed did the healing for him. Which spirit taught these things to Branham?

Branham was injured in a head on car crash and died on Dec 24th, 1965. Many expected him to rise from the dead. His occult healing practices continue today among many of his contemporaries.

Most, if not all of the forerunners of Pentecostalism had nervous breakdowns, went insane, became drunks, drug abusers, or taught the worst of heretical teachings. Even Evan Roberts of the great Welsh revival suffered a nervous breakdown due to the strange manifestations happening at his meetings until he was corrected and helped by Jesse Penn Lewis.

Much of the above sad history is traced by many to the Azusa St. 'revival'. However, most fail to dig deeper and trace Azusa St. to its real source - the events in Topeka (1901), where Charles Parham attempted to repeat the events of Acts 2 and Agnus Ozeman received a counterfeit experience. (11) The preparation and the seedbed for all this was Parham's excesses of the holiness movement.

New revelations, manifestations, 'slaying in the spirit' and unknown tongues were common with these above ministers. However, one thing all the founders of Pentecostalism held in common was the distinctive new doctrine of unknown tongues as *the* initial evidence of the baptism with the Spirit.

Can one hold to orthodox Christianity - *'the faith once delivered unto the saints'*, (Jude 3), and to Pentecostalism at the same time? Pentecostalism and its distinctive teaching came at the turn of the 20th Century and included new revelations not taught for 1,900 years! *The 'baptism with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in unknown tongues' is the decisive doctrine that defines Pentecostalism.* (12) This teaching was never heard of until the late 1800's. It was Charles Parham who brought this into common teaching.

Many Pentecostal watchman are today different in degree from neo-Pentecostalism but not in roots and not in kind. Those who warn against the current neo-Pentecostal/Charismatic movements, yet are still clinging to its roots, are really giving a mixed message. The core Pentecostal belief that there is continuing prophecy (new revelation), opposes the reformation pillar and cry of '*Sola Scriptura*'. Anyone who stands up in a church and gives a message from God - are they not giving a Word of God and thus *adding* to Scripture?

This is not to say that 'Pentecostal' Christians are any less or more Christian. We have *all* been blessed with '*all spiritual blessings*' when we received the Holy Spirit. We either have the Holy Spirit or we don't! (Rom.8:9) The issue is: are we prepared to accept the overwhelming evidence of the roots and cut them where they need to be cut?

Many accept Azusa St. and the ministry of the founders listed above as a 'mixture' of good and bad. However, *'Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?...so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh'*, (James 3:11,12). God hates mixtures and the extra-Biblical '*leaven*' must be purged. *Anything which is new in theology or in Christian experience this century is not new and is not truth. This is because anything that is God's truth is not new this century!* (13)

Our foundations must be in Christ, (Eph.2:20; 1Cor.3:11); our roots must be pure, (Matt.7:17). **Terry Arnold**

(1) *Topeka Daily Capital*, 6/1/01 (2) '*The life of Charles Parham*' by Sarah Parham, P.168. (3) '*The Holiness Pentecostal Movement in the United States*' by Vinson Synan, P.112 (4) '*Demons and Tongues*' P. 82 (5) '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' by James Goff, PP.106,136 (6) *Ibid* pages 145,146. (7) Compiled from various sources including '*Slaying in the spirit*', '*Encyclopedia of Pentecostal Ministries and Preachers*', '*Way of Life*' & '*Innecity Christian Discernment Ministry*' (8) '*In the Days of the Voice of the 7th Angel*', P.53 (9) (<http://wayoflife.org/~dcloud/tbns/branham.htm>); (<http://wayoflife.org/~dcloud/tbns/branham.htm>) (10) '*Between Christ and Satan*' by Kurt Koch, P.150 (11) See our paper '*Pentecostal/Tongues Roots - The Amazing Facts*' (12) Dictionary definitions clearly define Pentecostalism as such. (13) Quote by Mark Haville.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry... It is a common mistake to misuses the Scripture '**By their fruit you shall know them**' to suggest that a changed life verifies that God is at work in someones life - a mistake made even in your newsletter...on at least one occasion. The context of the verse Matt. 7:16 is that we will know FALSE TEACHERS [reader see verse 15] by their fruit, not Christians!...Also from my understanding of[wheat and tares] I think that it is plain that the tares do not represent false teachers or counterfeit Christianity but simply the wicked and perverse generation to whom we are called to shine as a beacon to the way, the truth and the life'...(H.S., Cairns)

Editors comments: This important point concerning Matthew 7:16 is worthy of note. As far as the point made concerning the tares I would agree, although I believe the 'wicked and perverse generation' includes the false teachers and counterfeit Christianity. The writer here has made valid points which should point us all to reading Scripture in its context. We have included an article below on this topic by the same subscriber.

'By Their Fruits You Will Know Them'

Many Christians who have sat under the ministry of Charismatic and Pentecostal pastors and teachers have come to believe that if healings, deliverances and provision are taking place then it must be God who is at work, because it is '**by their fruits you will know them**'. The fruit, of course, being either the signs and wonders performed by the ministers, the transformed lives of a host of 'converts', or the great 'blessings' that are being experienced by the delighted church members.

When quoting the words from Scripture, '**by their fruits you shall know them**', people are referring either to Matthew 7:16,20 or to Luke 6:44. These are the only references in the whole of Scriptures that tell us '**by their fruit you shall know** (or recognise) **them**'. However, read this passage in context and one finds that the verse before hand clearly shows our text is referring to *false prophets*!: Verse 15: '**Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves.** Vs.16 **You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?** Vs.17 **Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.** Vs.19 **Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.** 20 **Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them.** Vs.21 **Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but He that doeth the will of my father who is in heaven.** Vs.22 **Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?** Vs.23 **And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'**

Matthew 7:15 tells us to watch out for '*false prophets*'. Verse 16 continues on and warns us: '**You shall know them by their fruit**'. The Bible clearly warns us that it is *false prophets* and false teachers that we will recognise, or know, by their fruit, not Christians as has been consistently and erroneously taught! What is the '**fruit**' by which we will discern these wolves, these false prophets? It is their *doctrine*! It is not by their deeds, either good or bad, that we will recognise them, but rather by checking to see that what they preach agrees absolutely with the written Word of God.

Hughie Seaborn

Dear Terry, Thankyou very much for your valuable ministry. I am finding it to be a very good means of keeping informed of what is happening in some areas of the Pentecostal scene. Someone sent me a copy of a video of a seminar you did on tongues and I am finding it very helpful. Particularly the insight you bring to 1Cor.14.

I would like to draw your attention to an article I read in the 'New Life' Christian newspaper titled: 'Pentecostal Churches Form New Umbrella Grouping':

'The establishment of a new group of churches, called Australian Christian Churches, received a unanimous vote of support at the Assemblies of God conference...' Australian Christian Churches will become an umbrella organisation for several key Pentecostal and independent church groups,' said Brian Houston, National President of the AOG in Australia.' The objective of the movement is to present a cohesive, united voice to our nation, representing the increasing number of thriving, growing churches in Australia. Australian Christian Churches is an initiative of the Assemblies of God National Executive,' explained Mr. Houston. 'The Apostolic churches have also voted to join the organisation, and together with the AOG will become the founding members. Australian Christian Churches is not a new Christian denomination...such an umbrella group will enable us to work together and collaborate on common goals and projects that will effectively bring about the purposes of God in our nation...' (AOG news release, quoted in New Life 20/5/99)

Regarding the name Australian Christian Churches. I think it is very deceptive for a group of churches which hold to doctrines that are different to the mainstream churches to give themselves a name which is likely to deceive the general public into thinking that they are orthodox in their belief and practice. I think the general public need to be warned that they are not truly representative of the mainstream Churches in Australia. (D.H. Brisbane)

Editors comments: This is an important comment. Increasingly many orthodox Evangelicals are being misled into the deception that Pentecostal teaching is evangelical. The distinctive teaching that makes one a Pentecostal is the 'Baptism with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in unknown tongues'. This teaching is irrefutably traced to 1901, (see our articles May/99 and Azusa St. articles).

This union mentioned above could well be another spoke in the wheel of ecumenism.

Dear Terry, I still enjoy your 'Diakrisis', keep sending them. Page 5&6 [July/99] is excellent exposure of error. It's a pity you still haven't got it right about tongues - although that's not a doctrine that should divide. Keep on exposing the false signs and wonders and prosperity movements, Yours in His kingdom, (Qld. AOG pastor)

Editors comments: Dear pastor...Thankyou for your encouragement although a little mixed. It is easy to say someone is wrong but it is a different matter to show where the error lies. I notice you do not answer the hard questions I have [personally] put to you in the past...Thankyou for your good points made but I encourage you to expose the error to me in my 'tongues' teaching and answer the questions on other things I have put to you. I will meet with you anytime. God bless you that you still have an open mind in some things. I am humbled that you, unlike many AOG pastors, are reading the newsletter and being honest about such things as the signs and wonders leaders, etc. I do respect that. Yours in His truth,

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, Are you aware of the 'Impact World Tour' which is being held in Gympie, Maroochydore and the Gold Coast and is heading for Hervey Bay, Bundaberg and Rockhampton next year? It is supposedly an Evangelical crusade organised by two men (one a Mark Anthony) from the Gold Coast and supported by YWAM and the AOG church.

This ecumenical evangelistic outreach has the idea to reach out to youth 'where their at', attracting them by rock music, skate boarding, etc...There have been some unscriptural practices going on in the lead up. The leader of the Gympie prayer team (who is a member of the Gympie AOG church), appears to be into Kingdom Now/Dominion theology and has had the prayer team doing things like - binding the spirit of homosexuality from the public toilets, claiming the land for the Lord, marching around the local Masonic Lodge seven times and claiming the land, and sprinkling salt into the river as this is supposed to cleanse the river and cleanse the people.

My concern is, are the unsaved who partake in this tour, going to be subject to this unscriptural nonsense and in turn be deceived? Sounds like many believers already have been deceived. (Name withheld)

Editors comments: We have received several letters of concern to do with this ecumenical 'outreach'. Our investigations, and material received from the organisers, show reasons for concern. The adverts on TV and the brochures show the open mixture of worldly methods. One night is called 'Island Breeze' and involves fire dancing, where one is supposed to 'catch the spirit of the islands'. Another night is called 'GX Jam' - 'Bikes, boards and beat'. The teaching of 'territorial spirits' and casting them out is also prominent in the literature by the 'prayer co-ordinator'. Natural events such as a 'heavy frost' is said to mean 'the fields are white and ready for harvest.' A commotion seen between a cat and some birds in a neighbours yard is said to be the Holy Spirit showing us we must 'come together from our different denominations...and see the enemy thrust out...as one people we will see the enemy thrust out in this region...and many released to full salvation.'

One prediction is that the area 'will never be the same again'. This co-ordinator urges people to 'take possession of the land' and the Holy Spirit showed her all these things.

We recommend the book 'Making War in the Heavens' as Scriptural teaching on spiritual warfare and such teaching as 'territorial spirits'.

Praise Points

- Praise God for many recent encouraging letters and calls received from people rescued from false teaching and false movements. Pray for their discipleship and progress in truth.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for provision for, and the continued development of our new internet website.

Dear 'Diakrisis', after reading the Sept/Oct newsletter articles on Psychology...May I commend you on keeping up the good fight...Psychology is something that is all man centred, human thought, emotion...even in the world it does not do a great deal of good...To put the word 'Christian' in front of psychology does not change the fact that it is still a worldly invention by man. We are in a fallen nature and there is only one true counsellor...This is mans attempt to marry darkness to light. Does salt water and fresh run from the same stream? If we are saved by the shed blood and cross of Jesus Christ why look elsewhere for answers. Every provision we will ever need here is in the Bible...Jesus did say come to me all you who are heavy laden. Didn't Solomon ask for wisdom from God? God says our ways are not his ways...Seek ye first the kingdom of God...He is the way the truth and the life. Saints, turn to the blessed Saviour. He is more than enough. Pr.19:8; 20:15(P.&A.B. Swansea, NSW)

Dear Terry,...I am an ex-Catholic like yourself and wish to thank you for writing such an excellent book as 'To Catholics whom I Love'. It is very true what is written in it and it is written in love.

A Catholic lady I know told me that the Lord has opened the eyes of both she and her husband and they and their four children have recently left the Catholic Church. They can now see what an evil establishment the Catholic Church is. Praise the Lord...May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministry. (C.B., Qld)

New Internet Website

In the past we have experienced some problems with our website and with servers. We now have, and are continuing to reconstruct, a new website. This site features new books and an ordering system which also accepts credit card payments. Please visit our website at: <http://www.satcom.net.au/taministries>

Any enquiries concerning the website contact the webmaster at: tara7@mpx.com.au

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Terry's Itinerary

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Nov.14th 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ. Ph. 41289375

Dec.17-20 Lake Maroon Family Camp '99 (Near Boona, Qld.) See P.1 advert. (07)32004841 Mob.0413156782

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