# A Ministry of Teaching

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

## Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.2, No.1

Jan./Feb. 2000

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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**

We in this ministry earnestly show our grief and opposition to the *increase* of false teaching, false teachers, false prophets and carnality within the modern ecumenical apostate church. However, ultimately what we think is *irrelevant* in comparison to what God feels. What does God think about the false teachers, false prophets, and of trends such as Gay and Lesbian leaders within the church?

Readers get angry with us for judging, (Jn.7:24; 1Cor.2:15); testing, (1Jn.4:1); and exposing (Eph.5:11) the teaching of men, but what would God say?!

What would God say if He addressed seven representatives of todays modern churches? To the seven churches of Revelation He found only one that he commended, (Rev.3). To the other six He was very negative! How would the six of the seven churches today respond to the reproofs, corrections and warnings that we see in the book of Revelation?

What would He say to those who ape the world in 'Christian' music and through church growth methods. What would He say to those churches who add the 'steps' programmes and psychology to the Gospel and to His Word, so as to 'help' Christians with their addictions and behavioural (sin!) problems?

What did God say to the Israelites when they turned from His ways and worshipped the golden calf and behaved like those back in Egypt? What did God do when he saw His temple influenced by the money changers and thus turned into a worldly market place? What would He say to the prosperity preachers, the false healers and false prophets in today's signs and wonders movement who 'make merchandise' of God's people, (2Pet.2:3)! What would He say if he was speaking in one of these six churches and the people began to manifest, roll on the floor, laugh like hyenas, bark like dogs and lose self control? What would He say to those who have accepted a gospel from a religion that curses the doctrine of faith alone through the credited righteousness of Christ, (Eph.2:8,9; Rom.4); and believes Mary is sinless and a co-redeemer? What does the Lord of the universe think and feel about all this?!

What God thinks is in His Word!: '...mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them', (Rom.16:17); '...what fellowhip has righteousness with unrighteousness...come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the lord, and touch not the unclean thing...' (2Cor.6:14-18); '...withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which He received from us', (2thess.3:6); 'If any man teach otherwise...to the doctrine which is according to Godliness;...from such withdraw thyself...' (1Tim.6:3-5); '...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints', (Jude 3).

But is not God a God of love? The Bible says: To those 'who do not obey the truth' will come the 'indignation and the wrath' of God, (Rom.2:8). 'Let no man deceive you with vain words for...the wrath of God [comes] upon the children of disobedience', (Eph.5:6). The wrath of God is Gods love blazing out in fiery indignation at every sin and falsehood that besets his beloved church! What does God say? What do we think? Terry Arnold

#### **Pastor Needed**

A Northern Territory Pastor will be leaving the ministry of his local church. He is seeking for someone to fill this position this year. Any enquiries may be directed to this ministry. Ring Terry for more information.

#### Homosexuality

A book titled 'This Remarkable Gift - Being Gay and Catholic' by Maurice Shinnick states homosexuality should be seen not as evil but as a 'gift' from God. Shinnick heads an organisation that supports Gay and Lesbian Roman Catholics. In 1992 he received an Order of Australia medal for his work.

The official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church on homosexuality is contained in the following sentence: 'Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic evil; and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder'. Shinnick believes this is too narrow and that the church should 'dialogue with the world...the church [and] with other Christians'.

Shinnick writes that the turning point of the Gay and Lesbian movement came in 1969 in New York when police closed a Gay bar and a riot resulted from the clash between Drag Queens and the police.

Shinnick says that the attitude to homosexuality has in the past put people's lives at risk and accounted for a 30% factor in teenage suicides. The book documents testimonies of Homosexuals who have gone public with their beliefs. It is interesting to note that in many of these testimonies they 'knew it was not right' or they experienced 'guilt' about it. Yet guilt is the natural result of sin. The whole book attempts to take away that guilt of this particular sin by logic and by a shocking misuse of Scripture. He writes that the Biblical judgements on homosexuality are not relevant to todays society and also argues from psychology, quoting Freud, Jung, and other founders of psychology. However, Shinnick does accept that homosexuality is against the intentions of creation because 'the structure of the sex organs' in human reproduction has 'a purpose not capable of being fulfilled homosexually'.

If one speaks against homosexuality today one is likely to be branded 'unloving' and 'divisive'. Yet the spiritual and physical truths about homosexuality cry out for the soul of every Homosexual and Lesbian.

The Bible is clear - homosexuality and Lesbianism are severely condemned in the Old Testament as an 'abomination' with the penalty of death, (Lev. 18:22). In the New Testament it is called a 'vile affection'; being 'against nature'; 'unseemly'; and 'error', (Rom.1:26,27); and that this act of 'going after strange flesh' will bring 'eternal fire', (Jude 7). The Greek word for 'strange' here means 'another of a different kind' and refers to men with men or women with women. Another reference is 1Corinthians 6:9,10: '..the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven...nor the effeminate, nor the abusers of themselves with mankind...' The original Greek words here for 'effeminate' and 'abusers' specifically refer to Homosexuals and Lesbians. Yet the above is whitewashed by 'Christian' Gay and Lesbian activists who plead and refer to God's love. Yes, God is a God of love but He calls all to repentance before judgement. There is a payday coming! God is also a God of wrath and a righteous and holy judge. Sin must be judged, either in the believer by grace through faith in the blood sacrifice and death of Christ; or at the Great White Throne judgement of unbelievers preceding the eternity of Hell!

The debate could well end here, but wait!...homosexuality not only destroys lives spiritually but also *physically*. The following statistics need to be read and heard!: 'The median

age at death for married men is nearly twice that of Homosexuals: 75 compared with 39. Only 1% of Homosexuals live beyond retirement age of 65. The average age of death for married women is 79 compared with 45 for Lesbians. Homosexuals are 87 times more likely to commit suicide and 23 times more likely to die from heart attacks. Homosexuals account for nearly 90% of all AIDS cases. One who lives an exclusively homosexual lifestyle is 1,000 times more likely to contact AIDS than a heterosexual. Lethal health hazards such as 'fisting' and ingestion of faeces are common homosexual practices. Sadomasochism is practised by 37% of Homosexuals. More shocking and shameful statistics could be given, but these should be enough to condemn homosexuality from a purely humanistic/social perspective. Yes, they destroy lives - their own and multitudes of others!

Secondly they destroy lives morally, and thus eternally, by leading others into their own destructive sin. The tiny 2% minority making up the Homosexual population consistently accounts for one third to one half of all sexual child abuse. A primary task of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) is the removal of all age-of consent laws. The most extensive study done to date of male sexual child abusers reveals that the average Homosexual victimises 7.5 times as many boys as the average Heterosexual did girls.'\*

Homosexuality is physically, mentally, and spiritually dangerous to society! Centuries ago the punishment for homosexual acts was death or life imprisonment! Times have changed! The 13/11/89 issue of *Time magazine* reported there may be some 10,000 homosexual Roman Catholic priests in the USA alone. In Australia it is believed the percentage is similar.

The tolerance of homosexuality in churches has steadily increased since the latter half of the 20th. Century: In 1984 the US Unitarian Universalist Fellowship became the first major denomination to acknowledge marriage between Homosexual couples. In 1987 the Episcopal (Anglican) diocese of Newark, New Jersey called for recognition of homosexual marriages. In 1988 the Uniting Church of Canada became the first denomination in Canada to authorise ordination of Homosexuals to ministry. In 1993 the World Council of Churches sponsored a conference where speakers promoted Lesbianism. One workshop was called 'Prophetic Voice of Lesbians In the Church'. They claimed the biblical Mary and Martha were Lesbian lovers. One Presbyterian minister spoke of making love with her Lesbian partner. Over 100 Lesbians were given a standing ovation when they went on stage to publicly acknowledge they were Lesbians. In 1996 the 500 member Synod of the Uniting Church in South Australia rejected a proposal to put a moratorium on the appointment of Homosexuals to positions of leadership. Since then many ministers in the Uniting Church have admitted their homosexuality or lesbianism. Other churches are moving rapidly towards acceptance of Gay and Lesbians in ministry as 'normal'.

Let us be the ones who will come out of the Sodom and Gomorrah church of our times. Jesus died and paid the price for our sins, including that of Homosexuality. Christ will not accept such sin and He calls all to repentance. To those who are convicted of sin and trust in Him and His righteousness alone, He promises freedom from the guilt now, and freedom from the eternal consequences of sin. Terry Arnold

\* Berean Call, 7/97

## A Bitter Harvest

At the beginning of the 1990's, the then leadership of the Assemblies of God (AOG) in Australia (now Australian Christian Churches), boldly declared the period ahead was to be known as: 'THE DECADE OF HARVEST'. In particular, National and State leaders such as Andrew Evans, David Cartledge and Alun Davies predicted 'in the name of the Lord' that the 1990 's would be such a time for their Assemblies in Australia.

You are reading this now after the above decade has vanished into history, and that allows us a 20/20 vision into this 'prediction'! If we apply the Biblical test, could it now be stated that these men are 'false prophets'? If so then they are not to be feared and not to be taken notice of.

The past ten years for this denomination have been filled with error, scandal, schism, strife and foolish decisions.

Perhaps it has been a harvest of a sort - a bitter one. During the time allotted for this 'great move of God' the leadership introduced and endorsed many heretics to their Australian Assemblies. They urged obedience to their teachings and heeded their false prophecies. Not one word of repentance or sorrow has occurred over the thousands of incorrect predictions made and the decimation of the faith once delivered.

We can report that many of the larger Assemblies across this land have suffered a fall in numbers, rather than a

The problem, however, is not all to do with the AOG. Thousands of Christian leaders have claimed to have the mind of God on such a variety of matters that it almost demands a rewrite of Scripture to bring it all up to date! Jerry Falwell was absolutely certain that God had revealed to him that Y2K was God's method of once again 'confusing the world's languages'. Otherwise respected ministries boldly printed what God had 'told them to tell the people' - and that included the following: that the Americans had inbuilt a 200lb neutron bomb aboard the Mariner Spacecraft which was scheduled to be dropped into gaseous Jupiter on or close to News Years Eve. This would ignite the entire planet and provide the antichrist with a 'star' to herald his appearance

on earth; that the Great Pyramid of Egypt was to be capped at the stroke of midnight with a specially prepared and occult inspired, gold 'capstone' whilst world leaders, including Bill Clinton and family, (supposed to be witches by many ministries), worship Satan deep within the Pyramid in a final convergence of world Witchcraft/Masonry! What riveting stuff this has been for many Christians! However, last time I looked, Jupiter was still there, and I saw the Clintons on CNN on the White house lawn as the witching hour approached. (Although I'm told that some witches can be in more than one place at once...Something to do with 'ectoplasm'...does the Bible need updating on this too?).

We have written before about the total discrediting of the Christian message by those that would have it associated in any way with the failed Y2K hysteria. Many are now asking 'Was all the expense really necessary?' It would appear not. None of these myriad Y2K Christian websites who were offering 'Millennium Survival Kits' have announced their refund policies! (I suggest that those who purchased such things start munching their way through the years supply of Soya Beans, etc. now. The candles you can always use). If ever there was a time to be ashamed of the Christian image to the world, it might be now.

A fitting epitaph to the close of this 'Decade of Harvest' was the revelation, (Malcolm Knox of the Sydney Morning Herald had the wit to use the headline 'Preacher Beadman's Sermon On The Mount'), that the jockey/pastor, (or is it the other way around?), Darren Beadman was to return to competitive horse racing. When questioned as to his ability to juggle the two callings, Beadman carefully explained that 'the answer to the conflict of opposites (at least he admits to that much) in his life is to blend the two' although it had 'caused a tug of war within himself, between his nature and his faith'. It is starkly obvious which was the winner.

Truly did Isaiah say: 'For the leaders of these people cause them to err and they that are led of them are destroyed,' (Is.9:16).

We wish all our readers a new year full of discernment. In the time ahead we may need every ounce of that gift!

Mike Claydon

## **Testimony**

It is true that 'religion covers a multitude of sins'. My father was a deacon and my mother a Sunday school teacher. Our church was evangelistic and many were converted through its ministry. But there was one problem that was a stumbling block and delayed my conversion for 11 years.

There was a practice in our denomination that some call 'easy believism'. Whenever anyone heard the gospel and came under conviction of sin they were invited to 'come forward' and shake the preachers hand, and by this 'decision' they indicated that they were trusting in Christ. I recall responding to that kind of appeal when I was 7 years old. The sermon was God's message to my soul. I was lost. I knew I ought to trust the Lord to save me so I walked the aisle and the preacher shook my hand; but I was still lost.

I see now that my so called new birth was not a true conversion. And so there began a life of deception, camouflage and religious lies. Yes, I was now a baptised church member, but lost. I sang in the choir, went to all the church services; went on visitation, prayed, and I led our youth group; but I also learnt from my schoolmates to swear, to lie and to steal. Sin flooded into my life and more and more deception was practised. My school friends mocked me for

my religiousness and my Christian friends stared in amazement when I let slip some foul word, or was caught in some wicked act. Life became a juggling act. I was forever trying to keep my religion, my friends, and my parents, all up in the air at once. More than once everything came crashing down.

Then one night I met the Saviour. All God's resistance to my self will and sinful life, all the wooings of the Spirit, all the accusations of my conscience, and all the Lord's reasonings with me, came to a head that night. I already knew the Gospel and how to be saved. He became my Lord and Saviour that night. My vocabulary changed immediately, and my goals and my friends changed. Truly all glory and praise belongs to Him! Ps. Buddy Smith

(Pastor Buddy Smith has four children, all saved, and seven grandchildren. He has been in ministry 33 years, pastored six churches, and seen many come to faith in Christ.)

#### **Church Request**

A subscriber has requested help in finding a suitable church or fellowship in the the Nowra (NSW) area. If any readers know of sound fellowships within this area please contact the NSW office of this ministry.

## Pope Kisses Koran

'In May 1999, during an audience granted to three Muslims at the Vatican, Pope John Paul II bowed to the Muslim holy book, the Koran, and kissed it.' (Christian News, 18/10/99, P.16).

'The three Muslims were the Shiite Imam of Khadum Mosque, the Sunni President of the Iraqi Islamic Bank, and a representative of the Iraqi Ministry of Religion. The photo of the gesture has been shown repeatedly on Iraqi television.

The Pope is diligently building the end time apostate 'church' of Revelation 17.

A mere six months later, Indonesian Muslims demonstrated their reply to the Pope's gesture by slaughtering Roman Catholics in East Timor who had voted their independence from Indonesia'.

(4/11/99 David W. Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, 1701 Harns Rd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277)

## **RC Indulgences Still In**

'...The Vatican has issued an updated manual for how modern Catholics can use them [indulgences] and maybe get to heaven faster.

According to a revised guide presented in the Vatican on Friday,...[it] includes giving up cigarettes and alcohol. These...can help you get to heaven, says the Enchiridion Indulgentiarum (Manual of Indulgences).

The 115 page booklet outlines ways that Catholics can gain forgiveness from their sins and reduce the period of time they have to suffer for them in Purgatory...The document grants a partial indulgence to blind people who listened to prescribed religious texts on tape.' (Sydney Morning Herald, 20/9/99 (file://C:\WINDOWS\TEMP\world3.html)

Editors Comments: The doctrine of Purgatory was first invented in AD600 but never defined until 1439. It is not found in the Bible but RC scholars teach it from an obscure text in 2 Macabees 12:40-60 which is one of the apocryphal books added to the Bible by the Catholic Church. There are many Scriptures that refute the doctrine of Purgatory, (Matt.25:46; Mk.16:16; Lk.16:19-31; 2Cor.5:8; Rom.8:1; 1Jn.1:7). If Purgatory purges sin then why do we need the finished work, the death and shed blood of Christ on the Cross of Calvary?

## **Kenneth Copeland**

'Kenneth Copeland has reconfirmed his heretical and blasphemous teaching that 'God is the biggest failure in the Bible' on the 'Christian Channel Europe' today 25/11/99.' (http://come.to/thebelfastberean)

## Jonathan Edwards And 'Toronto Blessing'

Many leaders and writers in favour of the 'Toronto Blessing' and the 'Pensacola outpouring' attempt to quote Jonathan Edwards to support their views. Some of these have been taken to task for quoting Edwards out of context. For those who want to study what Jonathan Edwards wrote on these matters in comparison to what some are quoting him, the following internet sight has some good information. (12 pages): http://www.geocities.com/~contenders/jedwards.htm

Those not on the internet can obtain a copy from TA Ministries (Sydney office) for a donation of \$10 to cover copying and mailing costs.

Let us warn every sinner that he must either be pardoned or punished.

## Christian Nightclubs?

'...Try worshipping at the nearest night club. That's what lots of young people are doing in North Carolina'. The CNS report cited one particular club, 'Cathy's Christian Cabaret'...the clubs usually feature Christian rock music and some, including Cathy's allow dancing. 'The good thing about this club is you can come here and hear all kinds of Christian music - heavy rock, contemporary and alternative - and you get to praise and worship.'...

The idea of 'Christian' nightclubs is one more example of how worldliness is being embraced by professed Christians who will do almost anything to feel comfortable in the world and become accepted by it.' (Foundation, July/August 99)

#### **Pope Images On Phone Card**

Sarasota - 'A telecommunications firm has signed a business deal with Pope John Paul II to market prepaid telephone cards bearing his image. In a deal with Siesta Telecom Inc., The Vatican agreed to market a series of prepaid phone cards with images of the Pope, his signature, his seal and a blessing...' (The Chronicle, Hervey Bay, Qld., 11/11/99)

## **Benny Hinn's Bizarre Prophecy**

'But here's first what I see for TBN. You're going to have people raised from the dead watching...TBN. I'm telling you, I see this in the Spirit. It's going to be so awesome—Jesus I give you praise for this-that people around the worldmaybe not so much in America—people around the world who will lose loved ones, will say to undertakers, 'Not yet. I want to take my dead loved one and place him in front of that TV set for 24 hours.' I'm telling you, I can feel the anointing talking here. People are going to be cancelling funeral services and bringing their dead in their caskets, placing them-my God! I feel the anointing here-placing them before a television set, waiting for God's power to come through and touch them. And it's going to happen time and time—so much it's going to spread. You're going to hear it from Kenya to Mexico to Europe to South America, where people will be raised from the dead. So much so that the word will spread that if some dead person be put in front of this screen, they will be raised from the dead and they will be by the thousands. I see rows of caskets lining up in front of this TV set and I see them bringing them closer to the TV set and as people are coming closer I see loved ones picking up the hands of the dead and letting them touch the screen and people are getting raised as their hands are touching that screen. Now here's something else I see... the day is going to come when the gifts of the Holy Spirit will so intensify in the church that young children will be watching TBN and signs and wonders will begin to take place through them. Impartations of the Spirit will come to them.' (Benny Hinn, Praise the Lord, Trinity Broadcasting Network, Oct.19, 1999) (davidwcloud@worldnet.att.net)

Editors Comments: The false prophesies and revelations of this man accumulate each year. (See Diakrisis, July/99). The signs and wonders leaders have falsely claimed healings of organic diseases and the dead being raised. The Bible does not promise a signs and wonders revival in the end but the opposite - a great apostasy from the faith, (2Thess.2:3). Whenever the Bible mentions signs and wonders in the end time it calls them 'lying' or false! (Matt.24:24; 2Thess. 2:7-19). We urge readers to obtain the papers: Benny Hinn - A Closer Look' and 'False Prophecies, Revelations & Teachings', and distribute them to those who follow the teachings of this false prophet.

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### **Smith Wigglesworth - The Facts**

Recently we received a letter from a subscriber:

Dear Terry, Thank you for your effort to assist others in contending seriously for the Faith. Your newsletter is very much appreciated for it's balance and encouragement to the true believer. Like many others I have come out of the Pentecostal movement, and am testing many of the things we were taught as compared to Scripture. I have begun to research many of the 'Christian Heroes' we were encouraged to read about and admire. One such 'Hero' was Smith Wigglesworth...I am sadly disappointed with my findings:

1. He believed God promises perfect physical wholeness.
2. He believed Christians can command [speak] things into being. 3. He believed that signs and wonders should always follow the preaching of the Gospel. (He is reported to have raised 19-24 people from the dead). 4. He taught against the use of all medicine and believed sickness was of the devil. 5. He taught that handkerchiefs prayed over would bring life if carried to the sick. 6. He claimed that Jesus Christ increased in the fullness of God and in the power of the Spirit. 7. He taught a form of sinless perfection...

There is much more I could share with you that confirms that this man was not what many of today's preachers and books are saying he was. Like many others, his reputation as a great man of God has been distorted and exaggerated to create another of today's church heroes. I would appreciate your comments on this man, and maybe there are a few more like me on your mail list, who once thought this man was great, that would like to know the truth.

#### R.R. Sth.Qld., Australia

Most Pentecostal/Charismatics are shocked when they investigate the forerunners of the Pentecostal movement. To find that Charles Parham, A.A. Allen, Maria Woodworth-Etter, Aimee-Semple Mcpherson, Kathryn Kulman, William Branham and others, were false teachers, false prophets, or had tragic lives and deaths, (see *Diakrisis*, Nov/99), is a shock to many. It causes discerning Christians to question the very roots of the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement. Yet, many still cling to Smith Wigglesworth as a 'hero of the faith'.

Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947) was a famous Pentecostal evangelist and faith-healer. He was converted in a Methodist church, confirmed as an Anglican, and later associated with the Salvation Army and Plymouth Brethren. In 1907 he claimed that he was 'baptised in the Holy Spirit' after hands were laid on him by a Mary Boddy.

Most of what is written of Wigglesworth is typical of the Signs and Wonders Movement today - unsubstantiated and unscriptural stories. For example, Wigglesworth is supposed to have got on a train and before he got off at the end of the journey, all on the train were 'convinced of sin' by the presence of Wigglesworth without any word being spoken. The late Lester Summeral is responsible for many of the stories of the feats of Wigglesworth. Summeral recounts Wigglesworth punching corpses until restored to life or repeatedly 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. Summeral himself falsely prophesied that he would see the return of Jesus before the end of 1999 and that Jesus spoke this to him in an apparition. When Summeral died he became a false prophet! Summeral was also the subject of a national TV expose for fraud with his 'Feed The Hungry' operation.

Despite all the wild unsubstantiated healing claims, Wigglesworth's daughter, who assisted at his meetings, was never healed of deafness. Wigglesworth also suffered for years with gallstones and later with Sciatica. Much has been written about this man regarding claims of healings and miracles, but what did this man believe?

Wigglesworth believed physical healing is guaranteed in the atonement and is part of the Gospel - a teaching not taught in orthodox historical Christianity. Those who hold this doctrine believe sickness is never a blessing of God but of the devil and that it has been defeated on the cross. However, physical healing is simply not gauranteed for this present time. God may heal in answer to prayer, but He does not always heal. The redemption of our bodies is future, (Rom.8:23; Phil.3:21; Eph.1:14; 1Cor.15:53). Some people use Scriptures such as Matthew 8:16,17 to 'claim' their healing in regard to the atonement. D.A Carson, observed: 'The cross is the basis for all the benefits which accrue to believers; but this does not mean that all such benefits can be secured at the present time on demand, any more than we have the right and power to demand our resurrected bodies.' (1)

We have no reason to expect that we can escape from sickness any more than we can expect to escape death! Those who say Jesus conquered sickness for us should explain to us why we still die, since He also conquered death! The fact is we are living in unglorified bodies of flesh in a world that is under the effects of sin and Satan. Any healing allowed by God is only temporary because eventually we die!

Like much false teaching the results speak for themselves. Mary Boddy, the woman who laid hands on Wigglesworth in 1907 when he was allegedly 'baptized in the Spirit', spent the last sixteen years of her life as an invalid. According to his own doctrine, Wigglesworth's daughter should have been healed of deafness and he should have been healed of his own sicknesses. His wife should have been healed of the sickness that took her life (six years after Wigglesworth became a Pentecostal) and when she was but a young woman. His son, who died two years after that, should have been healed of the sickness that took him away in childhood.

In spite of his teaching that God promises perfect physical wholeness and that the Christian can operate in the *same* sign gifts that Christ exhibited, it is doubtful that any who sought Wigglesworth's healing ministry were ever healed.

Wigglesworth taught against the use of all medicine. He taught that handkerchiefs which are prayed over will bring life if carried in faith to the sick. (2) He believed signs and wonders should always follow the preaching of the Gospel.

Yet all major Commentators for 1900 years stated that the miraculous sign gifts were not present at the end of the first century as they were earlier. Many refer to Hebrews 2:3,4 where the writer declares that the message of salvation 'was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will'. The word 'confirmed' ('bebaioo') means 'to make sure, to fix'. In this passage the writer uses the past tense (aorist indicative) meaning a specific time in the past. The English words 'was confirmed' and 'bearing' show this past tense. The same tense is used in Luke 13:13: 'immediately she was made straight'. The agrist tense with the indicative mood indicates a specific point in time past as opposed to the imperfect tense which, if used, would indicate continuous action. The writer has also lumped together 'signs and wonders' and 'gifts' of the Spirit to show clearly that all these things were to prove the Messiahship of Jesus Christ.

When John the Baptist asked for proof of Jesus being the Messiah, the proof given was the gift of healing and signs and wonders, (Matt.11:2-5). The phrase 'according to His own will' might also explain why some people in the New Testament were not healed. Epaphroditus was 'sick nigh unto death', (Phil.2:27). Trophimus was 'left at Miletum sick', (2Tim.4:20). Timothy also took medicine for his sickness, (1Tim.5:23, etc.).

Never since the days of Christ has any period even remotely compared with the miracles of Christ and the apostles. The early church Fathers all agreed that healings and miracles had ceased in the field of evangelism. None of the great revivals featured healing but only the preached Word of 'the faith which was once delivered unto the saints', (Jude 3)! Even if one rose from the dead, unbelievers will not believe, (Lk.16:31). Whitefield, Edwards, Spurgeon and Martyn Lloyd Jones never had one healing attributed to them - just collectively millions of sound conversions!

Much is made of the Scripture, Mark 16:17,18: 'And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover'. Firstly, Jesus was talking to 'the eleven' (vs.14) and He spoke 'unto them' (vs.15). Secondly, the word 'believe' is in the past (aorist) tense and refers to those who did believe, not those who would believe at that time or in the future. Thirdly, all of the above 'signs' in this Scripture occurred in Acts or Corinthians, except the drinking of deadly poison, (which has a concessional 'if' clause before it).

Even apart from *Scripture* and *history - this fact remains*: Pentecostal/Charismatic leaders, including Wigglesworth, have *never* been able to do the miracles that Christ performed. The Lord Jesus never conducted a healing crusade yet He could raise the dead and heal *every* sickness *without failure*.

Although I believe God heals, can those who claim the 'gift of healing' use their 'gift' as it was used in the New Testament? In other words, can they heal 'all' (Matt.4:23,24; 8:16; 10:1; 12:15, etc.), and 'every' sickness (Matt.9:35, etc), and bring 'all sick' people that they would be healed 'immediately', (Matt.20:34). If we are honest with the New Testament, this is an accurate description of the true gift of healing! Will they go today to the hospitals just once and heal organic diseases every time without fail? Will they not heal a Down's Syndrome person? (3) Will they not heal AIDS victims with proof of blood tests?

Of the 42 occasions of New Testament healing, 32 were by Jesus, 9 through the apostles, and 1 through the seventy. In each case healing was *total*, *permanent* and *always* successful, and included incurable diseases, (Matt.8:3). Compare this with *any* of today's faith healers and *any* 'healing ministry'!

Wigglesworth prophesied a mighty restoration of the gifts of the Spirit and revival before the end of the twentieth Century. In 1936 Wigglesworth gave a prophecy to ecumenist David DuPlessis that God would pour out the Pentecostal experience to sweep the world, and that DuPlessis would play a significant role in this movement. The possible fulfilment of this prophecy arguably proves that it was not of God. The ecumenical/Charismatic 'renewal' is a movement with serious heresies and has been the key instrument in building the end-time one-world ecumenical church of the book of Revelation!

Wigglesworth claimed that Jesus Christ increased in the fullness of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit: 'I want you to understand that after the trials, after all the temptations

and everything, Jesus comes out more full of God, more clothed in the Spirit, more ready for the fight.' (4) This is a subtle attack on the deity of Christ! The Lord Jesus could not be 'more full of God.' He was always fully God. He was also given the Spirit without measure! (John 3:34).

Wigglesworth taught that a Christian can be justified and sanctified but still not have everything necessary from God. He stated: 'People are never safe until they are baptized with the Holy Ghost.' (5) This Pentecostal 'Baptism in the Spirit' (with the evidence of unknown tongues) is the distinctive teaching of Pentecostalism which is traced to the late nineteenth Century and to Charles Parham, (see Diakrisis May/99). It effectively does what all of the cults do - it falsely separates 'Christians' into two classes.

Wigglesworth claimed that the Christian has the power to speak things into existence: 'God declares, 'You have an anointing.' Believe God and you will see this happen. What you say will come to pass'. (6) This is exactly what the Word-Faith teachers and false prophets such as Copeland, Hagin and Hinn have heretically taught for decades! Thus Wigglesworth taught that the Christian can operate in the same omnipotent power that Christ exercised: 'Dare you come into the place of omnipotence?...He shall bring many sons and daughters unto glory - unto son-likeness, son-perfection.' (7) This is the false Manifest Sons of God or Latter Rain theology of the perfectibility of certain saints, and a confusion of this present life with that which is to come.

Wigglesworth in fact taught a form of sinless perfection. He stated: '...there is a sanctification of the Spirit where the thoughts are holy, where the life is beautiful, with no blemish.' (8) Yet the Apostle Paul stated: 'For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not...who shall deliver me from the body of this death', (Rom.7:18,24); and John said: 'If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us,' (1Jn.1:8,10). Although we are not to be in habitual sin (1Jn.3:4,6), the Bible stops short of sinless perfection. Wigglesworth taught the destructive heresy of perfectionism and complete sanctification, which has led multitudes down the road of confusion, despair, demonic delusion and fleshly fanaticism.

Popular Bible commentator Harry Ironside sought the sinless perfection experience and at one point thought he 'had it'. However, he soon realized his old sin nature was still present. He had an emotional breakdown and was committed to a hospital. After receiving literature and teaching on Biblical sanctification he went on to have a fruitful ministry and wrote a book 'Holiness: The False and the True'.

In summary, the stories of the feats of Wigglesworth are myths. They have deluded many saints into staying in systems of theology that by their fruits have led to extremes and excesses. Further to this, the beliefs of this man were unscriptural and dangerous. 'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them,' (Is.8:20). Terry Arnold

Source & Recommended reading: Biblical Discernment Ministries rambdm@tima.com http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/

(1) 'The Expositor's Bible Commentary', Vol.8, P.267 (2) 'The Anointing of His Spirit', P.231 (3) Downes Syndrome cannot be healed by psychosomatic means. No such disease has ever been miraculously healed. (4) 'The Place of Power', 6/16, reprinted in 'The Anointing of His Spirit', p. 146 (5) Ibid, p. 151 (6) 'Speak the word and the bound shall be free, the sick shall be healed' Wigglesworth, 'Power from on High', Pentecostal Evangel, 27/5/44 (7) 'The Privileges of Sonship', 8/24, reprinted in 'The Anointing of His Spirit', p. 221 (8) 'Count It All Joy', 8/25, reprinted in 'The Anointing of His Spirit', P. 226

## **Your Comments and Questions**

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

Dear Friend,

We are living in perilous days. The Christian faith has been attacked and eroded by the new tolerance movement or post modernism. Christians have given up their personal witness of Christ. There is an apathy in the church and we don't care if people go to Hell as long as we don't upset them...However, if you love someone you will not keep quiet about their drug addiction, or avoid the subject of their involvement in false teaching, or destructive beliefs and behaviour...the new tolerance says that we must agree with all people and accept them the way they are. Thus we do nothing to help them or to expose the error of their way.

Love says I will help you even if you hate me. Love says I will help you even if you offend me. Tolerance is innofensive. Love is offensive and takes risks. Tolerance is indifferent, love is active. Tolerance costs nothing, love costs everything.

Jesus died because He refused to tolerate the behaviour of society. He loved, no matter what the cost. If you tolerate you will be accepted by all but if you love you will be hated by many. Love will not condemn but will offer hope for forgiveness and restoration. Love will not leave a person in a false way. If we love we will desire all to be set free by the knowledge of truth. If we love we will not be frightened to reveal the truth. Love says, 'Because I love you I will humbly point to the truth about anything that threatens your happiness, health, and spiritual well being.' The love of God will not ignore the truth. We are to love in truth and speak in love. Are we controlled by tolerance or by love?

Yours for the love and truth of Christ,

Pastor Brian Morgan, Qld.

#### 'God's Part'

'A man once rose up in a meeting to give his testimony to the saving grace of God. He told how the Lord had won his heart and given deliverance from the guilt and power of sin. He spoke of Christ and his work but said nothing of any efforts of his own.

When this man's testimony was ended, the leader of the meeting said, "Our brother has only told us of the Lords part in his salvation. When I was converted, there was a whole lot I had to do myself before I could expect the Lord to do anything for me. Brother, didn't you do your part first before God did His?" The other was on his feet in an instant and replied, "Yes, sir, I clean forgot. I didn't tell you about my part, did I? Well, I did my part for over 30 years, running away from God as fast as ever my sins could carry me. That was my part. And God took after me till He ran me down. That was His part." (AMG Illustrations)

Evangelism is one rescued soul telling another how to be delivered from the greatest danger that ever was.

## **Worshipping The Worship?**

A.W. Tozer wrote: 'The flesh, smiling and confident, preaches and sings about the cross; before that cross it bows and towards that cross it points with carefully staged histrionics - but upon that cross it will not die, and the reproach of the cross it stubbornly refused to bear.'

As with many things in Christendom, the music that is now being produced under the banner of 'Christian music' is so integrated with worldly music, it is often hard to distinguish the difference between the two. As the magicians copied Moses, as he threw down his staff and turned it into a snake, and turned the water into blood, we now have the church copying the world in every facet of music.

The enemy has had a great victory in seducing believers back to a place of 'I am', instead of 'He is'. The great playground of pride that was Satan's downfall from the very beginning, has enticed the young and the not so young into party mode, where reverence and worship have been replaced by sheer entertainment. Such is the professionalism, convincing lyrics, and sweet sounds of this new music, it is very hard not to find some of it appealing.

Examples abound today of people who sing in worship leading groups, whose lives have been steeped in sin. Our Christian bookshops are full of tapes and CD's of various artists, yet their lives hardly differ to those of the world. Is it a plastic praise that draws attention to the singer and the sound, but little unto God as it was intended.

Multitudes of Christians are filling their homes with anything 'Christian' that will excite the soul. 'Christian' Radio stations sound so much like the commercial stations, it is only the mention of God that makes it recognisable from the worldly system. We have taken this same style and system into our churches. We have produced songs to make us happy, songs to make us cry, songs for every emotion, songs to convince people we are Christian, songs to convince ourselves we are Christian, and songs to convince God we are Christian. The songs are bigger and better, the bands are bigger and better, the lighting is bigger and better and the sound systems are bigger and better. Do we now sing to another god?; a god who is sensual and excites our souls, a god of exhibitionism, a god we can turn off and on? Do we draw near with our mouths and honour with our lips, but our hearts are far from God? (Matt.15:8) True worship to God brings true repentance and a true relationship with the one who has redeemed, justified and sanctified us, taking us out of our fleshly ways and setting us apart from all that is within the world system.

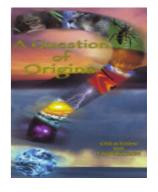
R. Reid

'An estimated 500 Christians will be martyred around the world today!' (VOM)

# \*\*\*New Year Half Price Special!\*\*\*

'A Question of Origins' was \$29.50 now only \$14.75 + postage. (Limited stocks)

Does Evolution explain the great complexity of life on earth? Did the solar system suddenly happen or was it created? What are the odds for spontaneous chemical reactions producing life? This professional and graphic video presentation presents an hour of evidence for 'Biblical Creation'. This is essential viewing for anyone who doubts the scientific accuracy of the Bible, and an excellent resource for personal evangelism. The presentation is visually rich and fast moving. 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.



# **Your Comments and Questions**

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

Dear Terry, Thank you so much for sharing with us here at...Bible College. We find your teaching so helpful and enlightening. Our students thoroughly enjoy the truth that you are imparting to them. We wish you God's richest blessing for future ministry. Thanks again for visiting and teaching with us on behalf of all the college staff, (Principle, Bible College)

Dear Terry, We were very impressed with 'Delivered From the Power of Darkness' [video]...it is getting a lot of people thinking...In our area we are seeing an escalation in the ecumenical push from all the churches.' (B.S., Brunswick Heads, NSW)

Dear Terry, Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou for your tireless effort to tell of the many deceitful ways the enemy of our Lord Jesus is attempting to destroy the elect. We so look forward each month to receiving your 'Diakrisis' and would not be without it. Thankyou also for your seminar on tongues which I attended and also revealing the truth about extra anointing which is not Biblical...May God bless you and protect you and your family, as you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. Your sister in the Lord, (J.R., Qld)

Dear Terry and Crew,...The effects of Post Toronto are well evident here. Three Charismatic churches have totally fallen apart from the leadership down. The leaders have been involved mostly in adultery and divorce and some corruption...

(D.& G. M., Tas)

Dear Terry,...I have been passing on 'Diakrisis' to some of the pastors in [town] and I hope they are challenged by them.

The lord has brought some more Catholics and ex-Catholics across my path recently and I feel the Lord is making me bolder in the area of witnessing to Catholics.. (C.B., Qld)

Dear Terry,...How could people be so deaf and hard necked after watching your 'Speaking in Tongues' [Seminar] tape? I do think God is...permitting things to happen, allowing Satan to do the sorting - for His chosen...' (Y.R., Vict.)

Dear Mr. Terry Arnold, Thankyou so very much for your love of the truth. I've been taught as well as warned, through your Godly articles. I soak up all that you print in 'Diakrisis'. Bless you for your faithfulness! (L.H. Vict.)

#### **Praise Points**

- Praise the Lord for more recent conversions from Roman Catholicism and other false teaching! Pray for speedy and effective discipleship for these converts.

#### **Prayer Points**

- Please pray for efficient organisations of the various itineraries this year. Pray for provision for Terry and Mike.

Dear Mr. Claydon & Mr. Arnold...I have noticed...you, Terry, seem to divide our relationship with Christ into two different experiences...one where He is our Saviour, the other...for Him to become our Lord as well. You seem to think that He can be Saviour and not Lord of the Christian's life at one and the same time.

This is a notion the Wesley brothers and Arminians of that era dreamt up. They would hold 'perfection' or 'Lordship' meetings in which the saved person was required 'to make Christ 'Lord of their lives', because they believed that salvation was not sufficient or complete until this second experience was realised. I ask you, who could make Christ 'Lord of their lives' even if He was not already so? The term and concept is not only ridiculous but is bordering on blasphemy. As if the Christian can do something in and of himself, or as if Christ is not Lord as well as Saviour at conversion. If Christ is not Lord at conversion/rebirth as well as Saviour, then He is neither at any other time.

...show me from Scripture where we are required to 'make Him Lord of our lives'...after He becomes our Saviour. The Bible does not divide the two...if Jesus is not Lord at conversion, He will never be so in our lives because we could not make Him Lord. How could us mere mortals and sinful saints make the mighty God Lord of our life! Nor can He be divided into two, being just Saviour without Lord...

Please be careful in the way you present your theology in this news sheet...it only takes small error to develop into great error. Sincerely, (C.W., NSW)

Editors reply: Dear C.W...God forbid that I would 'divide our relationship with Christ into two different experiences.' This is not what I believe. When we are saved Christ is both Lord and Saviour - it is a packaged event. You cannot split them as you rightly say. When I was a Roman Catholic I accepted Jesus as Saviour but never understood Lordship - but I was then not saved! When God saved me I knew Jesus as Lord and Saviour...I have never been misunderstood on this before...Hope this is now clear...

Dear Terry Arnold!...I thank and praise God for your ministry. Words fail me. Oh how I appreciate your ministry. Please continue to expose error and to bring out the truth of the Holy Bible...to the Luke warm churches.

## **2000 Itineraries**

Terry is expecting to visit Nth. Qld., Sydney, Victoria and Sth. Australia this year. Any fellowships with enquiries or wishing to be included in the itineraries please contact Terry or Mike.

#### Terry's Itinerary

**Feb.6th.** 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld. Ph.(07)41294292 **Feb.6th,13th,20th,27th,** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. - **Series on** *Foundations* **For Evangelism** Ph. (07)41284201

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