



Australia

# Diakrisis

## A Ministry of Teaching

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

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PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld, 4655  
Australia  
Ph. 0411489472 (Mob.) Fax (07)41240915  
Website: <http://www.satcom.net.au/taministries>  
E-mail: [tam@satcom.net.au](mailto:tam@satcom.net.au)

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

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

### Advisory Panel:

Ps. Bruce Murray (Senior Pastor; Dip. Min.)  
Ps. Buddy Smith (Senior Pastor, Former Bible College principal)  
Mike Claydon  
Ps. Steve Sauvageot (Assoc. Pastor, C.B.A., M.Ed., M.A.)

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### Editors Comment

The way a Christian *thinks* is the way he or she will speak and behave. If our mind is not constantly being renewed by the Word of God (Rom.12:1,2) our *thinking* and our *character* might well lack and show *leaven*.

Physically, *leaven* is yeast in bread. Spiritually, *leaven* is a symbol of evil, false doctrine (Matt.16:6-12) and sin, (1Cor.5:6-8). We are told to '*purge out the old leaven*' and to have the '*unleavened bread of sincerity and truth*' because '*a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*', (Gal.5:9).

*God hates mixtures*, (Rev.3:16). He hated the Israelites mixing with other nations (Ezra 9:2), and even their seed and livestock being mixed with other varieties, (Lev.19:19). In the New Testament the *seed* is often likened to the Word of God and to add to it or mix it with other ideas will pollute it.

The problem with a mixture is that it produces a sterile hybrid and something that cannot reproduce itself. Cross a horse and a donkey and you get a mule. Mules cannot reproduce mules. Similarly, a hybrid 'Christianity' cannot reproduce a true seed born again believer. Mixtures bring false conversions as is proved by the 80% fallaway rate of people making 'confessions' for Christ in modern evangelism. The enemy has sown much false seed into the body of Christ. This is shown clearly in the Gospel parables and in the deluge of todays false teaching and false prophets.

The apostle Paul contended with a *mixture* of the true faith and Judaism which has its counterpart today in the *Seventh Day Adventist* and the *Hebrew Roots* movements. Similarly, in the 3rd Century when the church and state mixed, it resulted in a pagan 'Christianity' seen in Roman Catholicism. Today the leaven of *Evolution* is combined with *Creation* to produce the hybrid '*theistic evolution*' - now accepted by the Pope and even prominent Evangelical leaders such as Billy Graham.

However, the 20th Century has seen a new hybrid 'Christianity' with *leaven* of lying signs and wonders and healings, spiritual drunkenness, and manifestations. Proponents of the above openly admit to a *mixture* of flesh and 'spirit'.

Such errors are bad enough, but *the pragmatic thinking behind these is the real leaven that poisons the lump*. The thinking is that such things will help unbelievers to 'believe'. Many churches now look to the psychology and the world and for better methods to reach, entertain and cater for the 'felt needs' of

people and get them onto seats - hence '*Seeker Services*'. These movements and methods *have* compromised and weakened the message. The message of the cross speaks of the terror of the law and the divine wrath towards sinners. We are not PR officers to bring good will between God and man! The purpose of the Gospel is primarily to address mankind's big problem - *sin!* - rebellion against a holy and just God.

Does our *thinking* contain *leaven*? May our thinking in these things be *unleavened* - pure, clear and fit for the Masters use. **Terry Arnold**

### A Note To E-mail Subscribers

The sending of the newsletter by e-mail is now being co-ordinated by George O'Neil. If you should receive the newsletter from George please remember this is a secure e-mail and with permission from this ministry. George's e-mail address is [geopat@bignet.au](mailto:geopat@bignet.au)

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## Experience In The Light Of Scripture

The recent so called 'revivals', including the 'Toronto Blessing' and the 'Pensacola outpouring', have swept through many churches in the western world. Many mature Christians have been shocked by the roarings, shakings, laughter and other manifestations that are taking place in various meetings.

However, true *Biblical* experiences received from the Lord by *God's Spirit* should primarily effect and move upon the persons *spirit*. Counterfeit experiences primarily affect the *soulish* realm (including the emotions), which may further affect the body.

There is nothing wrong with God given emotions. But emotions taken too far ends up in *emotionalism* which can produce *altered states of consciousness* (ASC). This often comes from inadvertently seeking experiences rather than God Himself. A common denominator of ASC experiences is *passivity* or a diminishing of the reasoning faculties. *This decreases the level of discernment and increases the level of suggestibility* - a hallmark of all the cults!

A cautionary balance is necessary here. Whenever one opposes error there is always the danger of running to the other extreme. We need not throw out experience altogether and perhaps create a legalistic, intellectual and *dead* orthodoxy; rather than a balanced, alive and working faith.

*The key is to worship in spirit and in truth*, (Jn.4:23,24). Doctrine and truth must be the solid *foundation* while the Spirit makes it *alive* and workable. We should not have one without the other. A sailing boat has a keel to keep it upright

and balanced, while the sails generate power from the wind. A Christian or a church without truth and doctrine is like a sailing boat without a keel. It will be knocked down, unable to be borne along by the wind of the Spirit. On the other hand, a boat with a solid keel and no sails has no driving power to lead and guide to its destination.

Religious experiences nowadays increasingly bring more interest than doctrine. Experience is a powerful persuader of the heart but as an interpreter of truth it is extremely unreliable and can be downright deceptive. We cannot always accurately interpret our own experiences. In John 12:28,29 - when God the Father spoke from Heaven, some heard it thunder yet others heard it as a voice.

Experience cannot authenticate any work of faith or grace. Just because it is called a 'Christian experience' does not make it a true Christian experience! *The function of the Holy Spirit is not to give or communicate new truth through experiences but to illuminate the mind through Scripture!* (Rom.12:1,2) Where the Scriptures have no tongue we have no ears.

To seek the Spirit from outside the truth of the Word is to open the door for deception and false spirits! *The Spirit and the Word (truth) are intimately connected*. We can never be sure about anything, apart from the infallible truth of the living Word - the Bible! Our relationship *in spirit* to the Lord Jesus Christ is only what we know of His character from the Bible! Experience must come from Scripture. Let us worship the King in Spirit and in the truth of His Word! **Terry Arnold**

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## James 2 And The Cults

Many cult groups and false religions will eagerly quote one Scripture - James 2:14 - to refute justification by faith without works. However, the Scriptures do not contradict and it is wise to ask the cultist if they believe the Scriptures contradict in any points. A 'yes' answer will show that they do not believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God. A 'no' answer puts the pressure back on them to show how James 2 does not contradict Scriptures like Ephesians 2:8,9. Most cultists will answer to the latter.

James 2, if taken out of context, may appear to be teaching justification by works. Any confusion between faith and works here might come if we fail to realise that there is a difference between justification *before men* and justification *before God*. The Pauline justification is clearly speaking of a justification and righteousness *before God*. However, James is primarily focusing on a justification *before men as proof of true saving faith*. Before God we are justified *by faith without works*, (Rom.3:28; 4:5,6; Eph.2:8,9) through the imputed (credited) righteousness of Christ alone. However, before men we are justified *by works* and not by faith *only*. Throughout James we see the theme of Christian character, behaviour, deeds, and good works *before men*. Indeed it is by our works before men that we glorify God.

A careful exegesis of James also shows the following points: James is clearly writing of *two kinds of faith* - a true faith and a spurious or *false* faith: **'What doth it profit my brethren though a man say he has faith, and have not works? can (that) faith save him? (vs.14)** A man may say he has faith, (perhaps a confession only), but is it true faith if it has no works? A literal translation in the Greek is: *can that (or this particular) faith save him?* The word 'say' here is often missed and is a key word. One may confess that they have faith but this does not necessarily mean it is a true faith. James then

goes on to question this spurious faith further: **'Even so faith if it has not works is dead, being alone'**, (vs.17). A literal translation reads: *'This faith if it has not works is dead by itself.'* The question to ask at this point is - *what faith?* James then goes on to prove his point: **'Yes, a man may say you have faith and I have works: show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith with works'**, (vs.18). A literal translation reads: *'But one will say you have faith and I have works': [However I say] show me your faith without your works and I will show you, by my works, my faith'*. **James again is contrasting a spurious faith with a real faith**. To cement this proof even further, James then shows that even demons have faith too but it is obviously not a real and true faith!: **'...the devils also believe...'** The Greek word for '**believe**' here is the same word as for '**faith**' ('from *Pistis*'). Just as **'the body is dead without the spirit'**, (vs.26), so a faith that does not produce works is also dead. True faith will have works, or it is simply not true faith and is therefore dead or counterfeit.

Luther summarises: *'This is what St. James means in his epistle when he says: 'Faith without works is dead, [2:26]' that is the fact that if works do not follow it is a certain sign that there is no faith, but a dead thought and dream, which people falsely call faith.'*\* The Tyndale commentary states: *'James is not therefore defining the mode of justification as Paul is so careful to do. His aim is to destroy the pretence of those who imagined they had faith, when there was no evidence in the way they behaved to show that their faith was alive. Justified in this verse means in effect 'shown to be justified'. James is saying that we are justified by faith but that faith is not alone because it will produce good works', (Eph.2:10).*

**Terry Arnold**

\**What Luther Says*, Vol.III, PP.1231,1232.

## Harry Potter Books

JK Rowling is the author of the Harry Potter series books which have been some of the bestselling books of all time. *Time* magazine (25/1/2001) reported 76 million printed in 42 languages. There are now films, videos and magazines in the making. The world has simply gone wild over these books.

The books are filled with a seductive array of occult activities such as sorcery, witchcraft, astrology, divination, telepathy, reincarnation and other spiritist activities.

In the book '*The Philosophers Stone*' ('*The Sorcerer's Stone*' in USA), the hero wizard Harry Potter goes to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to learn to become a wizard and use magic and spells.

The books enhance the already powerful influence of psychology and 'self', not God. They teach power for self and power over others and 'getting even'. These books are literally full of magic, spells, evil, witches, wizards, ghosts, potions, broomsticks, etc. *The books normalise witchcraft*. The difference between these books and many other childrens stories is that they class what is evil as good, fun, attractive and desirable. In these books it is not a matter of good eventually triumphing over evil but evil triumphing over evil. Children who read these books will become familiar with occult languages, principles and practises. It will lead many to the New Age.

The Bible has much to say about witchcraft and spiritism, etc, (Dt.18:10,11,12). The Bible says we do not return evil for evil and are not to think on these things, (Phil.4:8; 3Jn.11)

The reader may ask why we are addressing Christians with an issue we would expect only the unsaved to touch. To the shock of many, some Evangelical leaders are actually paying tribute to these book! Wheaton college professor, Alan Jacobs, says Potter books promote '*a kind of spiritual warfare...a*

*struggle between good and evil...*' (However, it is really a struggle between evil and evil!)

A more prominent leader who has spoken favourably of the Potter books is Chuck Colson. Many leaders who have opposed the ecumenical movement believe Chuck Colson has done as much as anyone to promote Roman Catholicism as Christian. Colson heads up *Prison Fellowship Ministries* and has a prominent radio and book ministry in the USA with an office in Australia. Recently he wrote: '*...you could say that Harry Potter is proof of the existence of God...The appeal of other-world stories like Harry Potter is that they tap into our hunger for God's wonder...the Potter craze reflects the longing in our kids souls for God...you can use the Potter craze to get kids and grandkids into something that leads them to the real thing...the Harry Potter phenomena may turn out to be a pretty good thing indeed.*' \*

Colson here has ignored the depravity of man. The fact that the children of the world are seeking after such occultic and satanic books is indicative of the sin nature and the direction of their hearts. This is not a '*longing for God*' as Colson says but an indication of the state of our society, the state of families and the evil desires of man. To recommend the Harry Potter books in any way shows the sad state our Christian leaders have come to! Yet, *Christianity Today* declared in its Jan/2000 editorial: '*We think you should read the Harry Potter books to your kids.*'

It should be no surprise that the world will love this material and thus we in this ministry have not thought it necessary to expose something that the world would naturally be addicted to. But when Christian leaders recommend such, we need to warn the saints. **Terry Arnold** (With thanks to Roslea Midgley for some material) \* *New Life*, July/2000

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## Faith & The Gospel

*'Faith is not some mystical feeling. It is not mere hoping or blind chance. Faith is not intellectual suicide. It is not contrary to reason. Saving faith is based on objective, historical, and Biblical facts. Saving Faith is well grounded. True faith rests on the sure Word of God...The salvation which God offers sinners rests on a simple understanding and faith in the Word of God concerning the death, burial, and resurrection*

*of the Lord Jesus. God, in the person of Christ, stepped into history and acted on our behalf. He lived, died as our substitute, and rose again. A person exercises faith when he looks away from all self effort to the saving history of Christ and depends only on Him and his work of salvation on the sinners behalf.'*

**(*'Firm Foundations'* by Trevor Mcillwain, P.21)**

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## Phil Pringle

**(The following extract is from the '*Herald of Hope*', Aug/2000)**

*'Recently I rose early and...flicked on the television. There before me on the screen was one of Sydneys leading Charismatic preachers. It was Phil Pringle from the Sydney City Christian Church...Phil remembered an experience he had had some years before...there appeared a man standing in the room...this was the Holy Spirit. Phil said he was amazed, because he had always imagined the Holy Spirit to be bigger than He was, but to his surprise was just his own size...The Holy Spirit said 'Phil, how many people are there in the family of God?'...Phil didn't know how to answer...Then the Holy Spirit spoke, 'There are only three persons in the family of God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and Phil, we want you to become a member of the family of God!'*

*I could scarcely believe my ears. So now there was going to be four in the family of God?...I studied the faces of his congregation. Some faces showed disbelief, but others lit up with excitement...there was a ripple of laughter...*

*Then the enormity of what he said hit me like a thunderbolt. Here was a man claiming to have actually seen the Holy Spirit and to have a conversation with Him. Furthermore he claimed he had a personal invitation to join the thee persons of the Godhead...What utter blasphemy!*

*The program closed with an invitation to trust Christ and be born again...I wondered how such a blasphemer could suddenly change to Gospel preacher. Then I remembered the Scripture, 'Not everyone that saith Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven', (Matt.7:21).*

*...I began to wonder how so many people in that large Church could be deceived. If Phil really did see a man in his bedroom that night, who was it? It certainly wasn't the third person of the Godhead...I was left in no doubt that I had just witnessed one of the last days false prophets.*

*...The whole concept of extra-Biblical revelation, of receiving direct communication of truth outside the written Word of God, is utterly wrong.*

## Dobson/Colson

'Evangelical leaders James Dobson and Chuck Colson took part in a conference at the Vatican last month. They joined business executives, Catholic politicians, lawyers, and scholars on Nov. 27-29 discussing family issues. Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, and Colson, president of Prison Fellowship, also had a brief meeting with the Pope...Dobson said that he has theological differences with the Catholic Church, but 'when it comes to the family, there is far more agreement than disagreement, and with regard to moral issues from abortion to premarital sex, safe-sex ideology, and homosexuality, I find more in common with Catholics than with some of my Evangelical brothers and sisters.'

(Religion Today, 13/12/2000)

## Pope - Unbelievers Saved If Live A Good Life

'Pope John Paul II (Dec. 6) said all who live a just life will be saved even if they do not believe in Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church. He said, 'The gospel teaches us that those who live in accordance with the Beatitudes-the poor in spirit, the pure of heart, those who bear lovingly the sufferings of life-will enter God's kingdom.' (12/18 Chr. News) He said Heaven is open to all as long as they are good. This contradicts that Jesus is the only way to heaven (John 14:6) and is a false gospel'. **Calvary Contender, 1/2001**

## Benny Hinn - False Prophet Extraordinaire

'...Benny Hinn, used a false prophecy to extort millions of dollars from unsuspecting victims. He warned TBN's TV audience that 1999 was going to be a year of plenty and the year 2000 would bring disaster. He threatened the viewers that those who didn't double their giving in 1999 would not survive the year 2000. Even the donors who had already called in their pledges were ordered to call back and increase their giving or face the consequences.

...This isn't the first time Hinn has prophesied falsely. Back in 1989 he prophesied to his congregation at the Orlando Christian Centre in Florida what he was seeing for the decade of the 1990s: 'The Lord also tells me to tell you in mid 90's - about '94 or '95, no later than that - God will destroy the homosexual community of America...He will destroy it with fire.'; 'The Spirit of God tells me - an earthquake will hit the east coast of America and destroy much in the 90's.'; 'The Spirit tells me - Fidel Castro will die in the 90's...Holy Spirit just said to me, it'll be worse than any death you can imagine.'

After 20 minutes of prophesying to his congregation that night, Hinn appeared to be 'drunk in the spirit.'...Yet no matter how many times Hinn's false prophecies have been exposed, he still performs to overflowing crowds in stadiums around the world. Hinn shares his latest blunder with 700-Club founder, Pat Robertson...It was the spring, 1999 Praise-a-Thon, Trinity Broadcasting Network's (TBN), bi-annual fund-raiser...pledges were down because people were apprehensive anticipating potential troubles arising from Y2K hysteria. 'Prophet' Hinn exhorted TBN's supporters to not let Y2K fears affect their donations. Hinn started out by establishing his credentials as a prophet of God...He gave a long narrative of his mystical dream ...'I did not see his face. Everything in me knew it was the prophet Elijah...I walked up to him and he was turning water into blood...'As I came to him, he said to me, 'Take this!' I took the rod from him.'

When he finished, fellow guest Mark Chirona, offered the interpretation: 'The formless essence of Elijah is the spirit of Elijah that God promised to pour out on the last days com-

## 'Revival' Churches - The Fruit

'The alleged revival that has dominated the news in Charismatic circles the last few years has been centred in churches such as Toronto Airport Church in Ontario, Canada, and Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida. I call it the 'drunken revival' or 'laughing revival' because of the strange, unscriptural phenomena...This 'revival' was initiated...May 1993 by..Rodney Howard Browne, who calls himself the Holy Ghost Bartender because of the spirit of drunkenness that accompanies his ministry...I visited...the church where the 'revival' broke out. The massive auditorium, which seats ten thousand, was almost empty. Most of the congregation is gone, due to several factors, one of which is the fact that Pastor Karl Strader's son is in prison for theft...[and] in December, Brownsville Assembly of God fired the head of its Bible school, Michael Brown, who immediately announced that he was starting a new school with much the same faculty and students. (David Cloud, *Way of Life*, 5/1/2001)

## Spurgeon on RC

'You Protestants who are today flinging away your liberties as dirt cheap will one day rue the day in which you allowed the old chains to be fitted upon your wrists. Popery fettered and slew our sires, and yet we are making it the national religion!' (Spurgeon, 12/11/1876)

pany of seasoned ministry that will literally fulfil everything that God promised under the old covenant that would come into the new covenant of a prophetic order that would change the course of history.' Hinn responded. 'I feel the anointing here while he is talking!' Chirona continued, 'And when Elijah handed you the rod, God was putting in your hand a new level of apostolic authority for the nations...You are entering into a new age of the miraculous. There will be a sharpening, for the spirit of Elijah rests on you.'

Hinn laid out his first prophetic message under Elijah's mantle. 'Pat Robertson, in January, said 'I have just come out of two days of prayer and fasting. The Lord has said to me that this year, 1999, would be the greatest year for the body of Christ, economically and spiritually, but beginning the year 2000, disasters would hit in the world, economically and otherwise, and only those in the church who have been giving to God would be spared.' Turning his attention to the viewers, Hinn said, 'So when I say to you here and in your home, increase your seed, God knows you can and you must because if you do not, you will be the one to suffer.' TBN supporters then jammed the phones in order to survive the coming year of disaster. Hinn gave dire warnings to those who pledge and then fail to follow through. 'And one final thing, if you break your promise, hear this! Some of you make a pledge and along the way you decide to forget about it. The Bible says God will destroy the work of your hands if you do that...We can't play games with him!...' Then he followed up with a warning to the skeptics... 'There's a heavy price and I would not want to be in the shoes of the one who touches the anointing. Don't touch the anointing! I'm giving you a prophetic word. You know the scripture says they prospered because they obeyed his prophets. I'm telling you tonight, I'm speaking prophetically. Obey the Lord!' Hinn had a solution for those who were short on cash, - liquidate! 'You know if I was you and God spoke to me like this, I'd take it out of my investments to give it to God now cause it's already spring and the year 2000 is almost next door.'

So now that the year 2000 has come and gone with no casualties to count, will TBN refund the extorted funds? Don't count on it!' (By a reporter, Jackie Alnor)

## Grace Displaced?

Occasionally I hear it said, 'Somebody ought to write a book'. We tend to use that phrase when we come across a subject it seems no one has addressed. Some titles I might suggest are: '*Untouched Texts in Scripture*' or '*Unpopular Truths From Heaven*'. But my favourite would be '*Topics I Never Heard Preached Among Fundamental Baptists*'. And the first chapter of this book should be called '*Grace Displaced*'. We Baptists can sing all the verses to '*Amazing Grace*' blindfolded and we know Ephesians 2:8,9 (but not often verse 10) and might quote it at least twice in any sermon. But is that the limit to our knowledge about God's grace?

Let's try a quiz on the subject: Which New Testament writer uses the word '*grace*' most frequently? - of course it was Paul. How many times did he use '*grace*' in all its forms in his writings - would you believe 139 times? (In comparison to Peter, once; John, four times; and Luke twenty four times.) How many definitions of '*grace*' are listed in Encyclopedias? - the ISBE (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia) lists five; another author lists seven. What is the most common definition of '*grace*' among Christians? - 'unmerited favour'. What is the great error of Roman Catholicism regarding '*grace*'? - Roman Catholics believe that observance of the sacraments brings 'infused' grace through which God empowers them to do works acceptable to God. This 'infusion' of grace must be a continuous experience which makes it impossible for a Roman Catholic to ever be able to say he is saved at any point. What is the great error of Protestantism regarding '*grace*'? - many Protestant theologians believe that grace is effectual in salvation, actually justifying the believer, but they do not all believe that grace *enables* the believer for service.

These are some of the questions which provoked me to study the subject of God's Grace. Consider with me a few of 'the *exceeding riches of His grace toward us through Christ Jesus*'.

*The Grace of God includes the unexpected kindness of God: 'That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus,'* (Eph.2:7). As members of a fallen race we rightly deserve the judgment of God but His Grace is shown in His great *kindness* toward us. There is the 'prevenient' (before salvation) kindness of Grace bestowed upon all men: '*He giveth to all men life and breath and all things*', (Acts 17:25); '*For the Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men*', (Titus 2:11); '*That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness to us*,' (Eph. 2:7). A stark illustration of the kindness of God's Grace is seen in King David's treatment of Mephibosheth. The Jebusites had taunted the King with the boast that the citadel was so strong that the lame and the blind could be left to guard the walls and gates. So angered was the king by this that he declared that the lame and the blind would forever be excluded from the king's palace and its environs. But when the King sat upon the throne, grace prevailed and was displayed in his kindness to Mephibosheth, the crippled grandson of Saul, (2Sam.9). So, too, we will enjoy the kindness of the Great King at His banqueting table, as trophies of His Grace.

*The limitless generosity of the Grace of God:* There is no text in Scripture that teaches the generosity of Grace more clearly than 2Cor.8:9 , '*For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might become rich*'. The pre-existence of Christ is implied in this text, else

when was He ever rich? The impoverishment of Heaven for the enrichment of earth is here shown. Here is the humiliation of Christ that men might be glorified at last. '*For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him*,' (2Cor. 5:21). With all our sins laid upon (imputed to) Him and in God's sight He became sin for us that the righteousness of God might be imputed (not 'infused') to us. This is the generosity of God's Grace!

I hesitate to attempt an illustration of this generosity, as no earthly thing can truly compare to God's Grace. But suppose you are walking down the footpath one day, and you are utterly penniless - no food, no shelter, your clothing is in tatters and you have no prospect but starvation. A stranger walking toward you addresses you with gentle words, 'Here, hold out your hands.' And when you comply he opens a bag and pours your hands full of pearls - real pearls, hundreds of pearls, a king's ransom. While you stand in shocked silence, he turns away and approaches another poor wretch and repeats the act, impoverishing himself in order to enrich others.

Such is the generosity of the Grace of God. Limitless, abundant, and available to every poor sinner who will receive '*His unspeakable gift*'.

*The Divine enablement of Grace:* Here I must make a confession of great ignorance. Thirty seven years ago the Saviour found me and saved me, but I must confess that I never heard or read until recently that the Grace of God *enables* the believer in Christ. By this I mean that God graciously provides the ability and power to serve Him acceptably. Consider these verses: , '*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus*,' (1Tim.1:12,14); '*But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me*,' (1Cor.15:10); '*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure*,' (Phil.2:13).

Where did Samson get that superhuman strength if not by God working in him to will and to do His good pleasure? Where did Moses acquire the leadership skills needed for the Exodus of Israel from Egypt? Where did Joshua learn to be the military leader he was? How did David compose the inspired songs for his nation? How did Paul, a former blasphemer and persecutor of the church, become the pioneer missionary of the New Testament? These exploits of faith did not arise from personality, intellect or university degrees. In every case it was the Grace of God enabling them to do God's will.

*Examples of Grace:* Acceptable Service to God, (Heb.12:28); Spiritual Gifts, (Rom.12:6); The Fruit of the Spirit, (Gal.5:22,23); Understanding of the Scriptures, (1Cor.2:7-16); Godly speech, (Col.4:6); Preaching Christ, (Eph.3:8); Godly use of natural gifts, (Col.3:16); Giving, (2Cor.8:1); Right responses to suffering, (2Cor.12:9, 1Pet.2:19,20); Ministering to the helpless, (Lk. 6:33).

A careful study of these passages of Scripture might reveal some surprises. In some of the examples above, (Spiritual Gifts, Giving, Right responses to suffering, and Ministering to the helpless), the examples themselves are called '*graces*'. In Acts 11:23 Barnabas came and *saw* the grace of God. He saw at least some of the '*graces*' listed above.

Over the past few years, I have come to the conclusion that there is no acceptable worship, work or witness that does not

come through the enabling Grace of God. All of our service for God must have His grace working in us. Scripture records numerous attempts by men to serve God without grace. We dare not assume that God will bless our ambitious, self-centred, vain glorious, profit seeking or carnal efforts to appear religious to others. Sooner or later we must learn the lesson that 'strange fire' is not acceptable to a holy God.

*Applications we must make: Our Churches:* In our churches grace may be displaced by pretence (as in drama), or by professionalism (as in aids for a special item), or by entertainment, (as in music or humorous sermons). The indictment of our Lord against the church in Sardis (Rev.3:1), **'thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead'** might apply to many churches today. This was the church with the wrong name. Should the church I pastor be called 'Graceless Baptist Church'? Or should others be called 'Faithless Baptist Church'? Have we displaced the Grace of God by trusting our own abilities, rather than casting ourselves upon the Lord helplessly and depending entirely upon Him for the enablement we need?

The church is thrilled to bits when some brave saint has done some small thing anybody could do in their own strength without God's help. The callings of God require the gifts of God. May we not forget the words of Daniel 11:32b, **'but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits.'**

*Our Bible Colleges:* Our Bible colleges are not exempt from the displacing of Grace. Many of our Bible College principals have the two volume biography of Charles Spurgeon on their shelves, ('*The Early Years*' and '*The Full Harvest*'). It would do us good to pull them down, blow off the dust and read what he says about the men he accepted into his college and the ones he refused, (Vol.1, Ch.27 and Vol.2, Ch.7). It is striking that Spurgeon took no one into the college who had not already demonstrated a call from God to preach His Word. The Divine *enablement* had to be there first before a man could begin his theological studies. In our day many no longer look for the Divine enablement before accepting a man. If his body is warm and he is literate enough to fill out an application, we will have him. Two great errors have spread through the ranks of Fundamentalism as a result: 1) We have encouraged our people to believe that preaching ability (enabling grace) is something you can get from an institution of higher learning. This error came from a desire to copy the seminaries that gave modernism to the churches. 2) We have men without God's enablement standing in the pulpit, men who completed their studies, received their diplomas, and went out to pastor unsuspecting churches. They seem to have all the 'manners' a minister ought to have. But enabling Grace is lacking. Paul said: **'And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God,'** (1Cor.2:4,5).

Many of our ministers have no help from God, and their churches are dying. Oh, we have drama, entertainment, programmes, promotions, organisation, fellowship meetings, websites, (and sometimes big crowds!), but somewhere along the way many of us have lost that unction which comes only from God. I solemnly fear that we pastors, missionaries, evangelists and Bible college principals will stand before the Judgment seat of Christ in shame because we have encouraged men to train for the ministry who evidence no call and no grace for the ministry. How much better it would be for us to be lovingly honest with such men who aspire to the ministry but do not display the grace needed, and to tell them truthfully, 'Brother, I do not see evidence that God has graced you

for the ministry. Let us seek the Lord what He does want you to do instead.'

*Our Church Members:* The saddest result of all is that our church members have come to believe that they too can serve God acceptably without His help. From the ministers who are 'destitute of grace' the church members have learned how to **'make a fair shew in the flesh,'** (Gal. 6:12). The desire to be seen, to appear successful and to achieve impressive results have motivated the microsaints with minimal grace to seek positions of influence in churches. But their gifts do not match their positions. The present day slide of the church into cheap theatrical events, gross worldliness and the complete lack of interest in prayer is proof positive that individual believers no longer believe in the utter dependence on God for enabling Grace.

*Is there any hope?:* There is always hope for those who are willing to look only to the Lord for help. James 4:6 says: **'But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.'** This verse contains three promises. The first: God gives grace to the humble. Heaven's abilities are available to us on a daily basis, but there is a condition: **'Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up,'** (James 4:10). If we would have God to work in us, we dare not boast in our own abilities or have confidence in the flesh. The second promise: **'God resisteth the proud.'** Literally, God *'raises up an army'* against our pride. Has he laid siege to the citadel of your proud will? The wonderful enabling Grace of God is not available to proud saints, only to the humble. The third promise is: **'He giveth more grace.'** Grace is not a once only gift. There is more grace available. It is a perpetual supply, (Heb.4:16).

There is a great golden tap beside Heaven's gate and thereby all the needs of the saints are met. The sign above it reads, **'Grace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.'** The path that leads to the tap was once well trodden, but now is perhaps overgrown. Methinks I see the saints following another path, a path that leads them to the broken cisterns of the world. Why is the abundant supply of God's Grace neglected? Simply because the tap is set very near the ground and everyone who would partake must kneel to fill his vessel. Grace is available only to the saints with dusty knees.

*Seven Signposts that Point the Way:* I confess again to you that I am but a recent traveller on this path and am still making new discoveries everyday. Thus far I have found seven signposts that mark the way to Grace Abounding. If we would have an increased measure of grace in the churches again (Acts 4:33), it may well help to follow the signposts. 1) We must cease admiring the 'successes' of religious leaders who employ the wisdom of the world to build their ministries into 'mega-church' empires. **'For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent,'** (1Cor.1:19). 2) We must abandon all hope of serving God or doing His work without His help. **'For without me ye can do nothing,'** (Jn.15:5). 3) We must believe that God alone has the ability to equip us for service, and that He knows best what we should do for Him. We must be content with His gifts and callings for us. **'But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will,'** (1Cor.12:11). 4) We must be willing to stand alone in our (grace enabled) service for God if necessary. 5) We must pray that God will give us more Grace. His resources are infinite and His supply is in proportion to our humility and faith. **'He giveth more grace,'** (James 4:6).

**'And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work',** (2Cor.9:8). Ps. Buddy Smith

## 'Transformations' and 'Revivals'

Recently I was given a brochure titled '*Transformations - the Conference*'. It was an invite to hear George Otis Jr. and the '*transformation team*'. The list of names brought together '*experts*' in '*spiritual warfare*', '*intercession*' and '*strategies*' - for changing cities to bring revival.

We in this ministry want to see revival. However, there are 'revivals' today, (i.e. 'Toronto Blessing', Pensacola, etc), which do not stand up to the test of Scripture or in comparison to real historic revivals. It should not surprise us that many such movement are connected with the signs and wonders movement and will be counterfeits of true revival. If we deny this we deny the warnings of Scripture for the end-times and the fact that in every place where the Bible mentions signs and wonders, they are described as false or '**lying**'.

Many churches are using the '*Transformations*' video as a means to promote programs which have been developed to make 'revival' happen. However, a study of true revivals in Scripture and history will show they cannot be manufactured by man or any program or methods. Let us look at the philosophy of the '*Transformations*' movement and then look at what has happened in real revivals.

A look at some of the leaders involved in the '*Transformations*' video and conferences should help us examine the fruit of the '*Transformations*' movement, (Matt.7:15-20).

**Bob Beckett:** pastors a church with associations to Peter Wagner/Cindy Jacobs and involved in the 'laughter revival'. He teaches on 'strategic intercession', helping mobilize churches cross-denominationally. He is on the Executive Board of *Generals of Intercession*. This group is headed by Cindy Jacobs, who attends a Vineyard church. Beckett featured extensively as a source for the video '*Transformations*' which makes claims of transformation in Hemet, California.

**Francis Frangipane:** Author Francis Frangipane's church has been involved in the laughter movement. He teaches we are called to '*conquer our city*'. However, there is no Scripture about conquering cities. Christ said His kingdom is not of this world. We are to preach the gospel and disciple people. Francis says that we should not look for apostasy yet Scripture tells us to test the spirits, (1Jn.4:1). He opposes discernment ministries, comparing them to demons and accusers of the brethren, (PP.131-134). He believes that before revival comes, churches in each city must be structured to see one person with a '*Father gifting*' overseeing other pastors in an apostolic role. Frangipane was associated with the '*Kansas City Prophets*' which fell into false prophecies a decade ago.

**Dutch Sheets:** Dutch pastors a Vineyard church involved in the laughter movement. He wrote the book, '*River of God*', endorsed by Cindy Jacobs, Peter Wagner and false prophet Rick Joyner, (see *Diakrisis*, Oct/96).

**George Otis Jr.:** wrote a book in 1978 which became one of the primary books endorsed by the Moral Government of God movement which denies the orthodox view of Christ's substitutionary death on the cross paying for our sins, original sin, and the sin nature of man. One quote from his book shows the denial of the imputed righteousness of Christ as a legal and forensic act at salvation: '*The Bible does indeed teach that Christ's righteousness is imputed to us. This righteousness, however, cannot be imputed as a technicality - it can only come to us through relationship...as I spend time with God, watching Him, listening to Him and emulating Him, I will begin to take on His characteristics and likeness*'. (1) This is a confusion between justification and sanctification. Justification occurs by imputation (Rom.4) at salvation.

Other errors in this book also taught in the '*Transforma-*

*tions*' program are: P.4 - '*Praise God for the miracles that will bring people to Christ.*' [It is the Gospel, not miracles, that brings people to Christ. Many believed on Jesus because of the miracles yet He did *not* receive them, (Jn.12:42)]. P.4 - '*The spiritual forces came under (Jesus') authority because He was obedient...Jesus took spiritual forces captive and disarmed them, because He was obedient to God*'. [Spiritual forces are under Jesus' authority because He is God!] P.12 - '*The way most people come to realize that God exists and to be lived for, is when they experience a miracle*'. [People realise God by faith in His Word. '**An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign...**' (Matt.12:39)]. P.15 - '*Ask Him to empower you with new life from on high to live a holy life*'. [New life was a gift at salvation. The Spirit never comes upon a Christian once they are indwelt. This is more occult than Christian and denies the work of the Spirit filling from within, (Eph.5:18)]. P.16 - '*...I trust that you will lift up your head in such a way that the King of glory will come in and you will have a fresh or perhaps new revelatory understanding of who Jesus is*'. [There is no new revelation of Jesus Christ. We are warned not to add to His Word, (Rev.22:18). '**...that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written...**', (I Cor.4:6)]. P.24 - '*Over these past few weeks we have chosen to prepare our personal lives to be 'temples' or 'habitations' for God to dwell... We have looked at...becoming 'places' - 'beings' for God to dwell...*' [If we are in Christ, we are already the temple of God! (1Cor.3:16,17; 6:19)]. P.28 - '*...unity services... Walls are coming down! Pastors and priest are coming together in and for prayer*'. [This is the false ecumenical movement. It is 'unity' at the expense of doctrine. Unity must come only through the Word, (Jn.17)]. P.40 - '*The unity of the Church is the ultimate witness to the presence and divinity of the living Christ*'. [The Word of God, not unity, tells of Christ's presence and divinity]. P.42 - '*...birth a miracle in our midst*'. [This was a catch phrase of the 'Laughter movement' which practised '*birthing in the Holy Spirit*', complete with squatting, grunting and groaning participants]. P.44 - '*Unity within the Body of Christ is a key to revival within a city... We must set aside the issues of style or doctrine and begin to join together... Unifying with other congregations is not compromise, but love... We must build a bridge from church to church so that we can build bridges to our lost world... When we are one, the world will be won!*' [The real historic revivals never occurred because of unity. Doctrine does divide! Light cannot fellowship with darkness and false doctrine is *leaven* which must be purged out or separated from. However, the Bible does mention a global church - the harlot one world church ridden by the antichrist and which Christ will destroy!] P.63 - '*...breaking the power of possible generational cursing...*' [If we are in Christ, all the old is gone (2Cor.5:17), including '*generational curses*'].

**Paul Cain:** Over 50 years ago, William Branham, George Warnock, Paul Cain and others attempted to introduce *Latter Rain/Manifest Sons of God* teachings into the Pentecostal movement. In 1949 the *Assemblies of God* officially rejected their teachings as heresy. The cult went underground but surfaced again in the 1960's as the *Manchild Company*. Paul Cain and the *Kansas City Prophets* subsequently reintroduced this false doctrine into many Pentecostal churches.

**Michael Pierce:** Michael co-ordinates efforts to bring 'revival' to cities using a pre-set agenda/sequence of events. He endorses the Toronto Blessing/Laughter movement.

**John Dawson:** is director of *Youth With a Mission (YWAM)* in Los Angeles, California, and teaches spiritual warfare (new



teaching as taught by Wagner).

**Peter C. Wagner:** is considered by many to be the leader of the signs and wonders movement and has stated that the Gospel is not enough, that we must have signs and wonders to convince the unbeliever. His church teaches that it is necessary that every city have an Apostolic leadership over it before the end of 2003.

**Cindy Jacobs :** is involved with the *Generals of Intercessions* and Peter Wagner's Apostolic Council of Prophetic Elders. This group believes in the restoration of the apostolic ministry. Cindy Jacob's was involved in the Argentinian 'revival' (Ed Silvoso) which was one of the triggers for the 'Toronto Blessing' and 'Pensacola Outpouring'.

**Ed Silvoso:** worked with his brother-in-law evangelist Luis Palau, before founding *Harvest Evangelism*. Ed is the author of *Taking Our Cities For Christ*. He believes ecumenical unity is essential for the world to believe. He endorsed the Toronto Blessing/laughter/spiritual drunkenness.

**Ruth Ruibal:** is pastor of *Ekklesia Christian Colombian Centre* and a leader in promoting unity among churches.

**Julio Ruibal:** was Ruth's husband until he was killed in 1995 over a property dispute by the owner of the land next to the church. However, the *Ruibal Foundation* website says that Julio was *'martyred for the Gospel of Jesus Christ'*.

**Thomas Multhee:** is pastor of the 'Prayer Cave' in Kiambu, Kenya, which is featured in the 'Transformations' video. The Prayer Cave is a 'Word of Faith' church. The Word-Faith movement is lead by such false prophets as Hagin, Copeland, etc, (see our paper *'Word-Faith Teaching a Closer Look'*). The teaching of this movement is rank heresy concerning the doctrine of the atonement and the deity of Christ on earth.

**Ted Haggard:** of Colorado Springs, spoke at the 'National School of the Prophets' conference in 1999 to *'mobilize the prophetic office for the next century'*. The brochure stated: *'The prophetic streams across this nation are uniting to sound a clear trumpet for the future!...Prophets help to prepare the way for the Apostles to establish the Lord's Church.'* Peter Wagner's world prayer centre is located on the same property.

The above references and associations should concern the Evangelical reader. However, **the claims** of the *transformations* movement show the credibility of recent 'revivals':

**Cali, Colombia: Claim - Drug Cartels have been defeated. Truth:** Only six of the leaders were put in jail. The drug Cartels re-organized with two of the original leaders still operating out of Cali, one operating from prison. Others set up just outside Cali or elsewhere in Colombia. The organization is now more resilient. The rebels (who protect the drug trade) have attacked churches in Cali, shutting many down. Curfews have been imposed upon some services. Drug enforcement agencies state that 65% of heroin seized in the United States in 1998 was produced in Colombia. (2) **Claim:** *Cults have decreased. Truth:* Satanists are invading churches to shut them down. (3) **Claim:** *Cali is a 'safe' city, revival flourishes and people now safely walk the streets. Truth:* Ruth Ruibal, (mentioned in the video) states in her own newsletters that Cali is *'a gross darkness'*, a city where her church must hire armed guards and be protected by barbed wired, (soon to be replaced by a 10-12 ft. wall). Bodyguards are hired to get any work done. In one church a body guard was killed when the church was attacked by guerillas protecting the drug trade. (4)

**Alomolonga, Guatemala: Claim - 92% percent of the people are Christians. Truth:** Stephen Sywulka (in Guatemala City) for *Christianity Today*, says the figure is exaggerated and more like 65%, and in many cases the change is only *'skin deep'*, with former witchdoctors now calling themselves 'prophets' but doing much the same thing as before. (5) **Claim:**

*Large vegetables; production increased 1000% over 20 years.*

**Truth:** The war in Guatemala brought agriculture to a standstill and went on for 36 years. This ended only in the early to mid-1990s. Other natural factors also affected production. (6)

**Hemet, California: Claim - Once 9 methamphetamine labs operated, now most have been shut down. Truth:** Traffickers have changed their operations to avoid detection, due to better methods used by drug police. (7) **Claim:** *75% decreased Drug Trade. Truth:* Neither the churches nor the authorities contacted were aware of any such drop. One authority stated: *'I have not heard of...anyone in that area, including the police, talking about such a mind-boggling drop in drug use.'* (8) A police contact in Hemet said *'...This is a new claim to me.'* (9) **Claim:** *Unity amongst the churches; Most cults have left town; decrease in crime, church attendance increase to 14% of the population/(double in 10 years).*

**Truth:** Two churches contacted were not aware of any such claims. Police comment: *'Like most cities in our nation, yes, the crime rate is measurably down.'* (10)

**Claim:** *Revival has broken out across the city from 'The Prayer Cave', (Kenya). Truth:* *'The Prayer Cave'* is a 'Word of Faith' church, (see reference earlier) .

**Real Revival is the sudden, sovereign and selective operation of the Spirit of God.** Man cannot manufacture it through any programmes. In the Ulster revival of 1859 a meeting in a Belfast Presbyterian church filled the church and overflowed into the street where eventually the crowd mysteriously grew to 40,000. True revivals *reach the masses of perishing souls suddenly and sovereignly*. You cannot package it and take it elsewhere! In the New England revivals (1740-1770) a staggering 20% of populations were converted within years. Real Revival is 10,000 people coming to hear George Whitefield preach a sermon in Pennsylvania - *in driving winter rain!*

True revivals such as the New England, Welsh and Ulster *affected the very fabric of society* including dramatic *decreases in crime rates*. In the Welsh revival pubs closed, police ran out of work, (they conducted roving musical bands to pass the time) and Judges had many days free.

True revivals affected churches that held firmly to *Evangelical doctrines of Grace* such as *Sola Fide* (Faith Alone) and *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone).

True revivals were characterised by a *fear of God* and *fearsome and fearless preaching on the wrath of God, the law and sin*.

*Revival is not the Church doing something, but rather something being done to the church.*

Today there are many man made efforts to produce revival but many are racked with false teaching, false prophets and claims that are exaggerations in the least and outright lies at the worst. The 'Transformations' programme is no exception but part of God's prediction of a falling away into the endtime signs and wonders and ecumenical church. **Terry Arnold**

References excerpted from: <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/4948.transformations.html>

(1) *'120 Days of Prayer for Your City - God's New Millennium for Your City'* - *'The God They Never Knew'*, P.43. (2) <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/traffickers/Colombia.htm> (3) <http://www.bijbelnet.org/landen/colombia.html> (4) (<http://www.Ruibal.org/1999oct.htm>) (<http://www.ruibal.org/1999nov.htm>) (<http://www.ruibal.org/1999dec.htm>) (<http://www.bijbelnet.org/landen/colombia.html>) (5) <http://www.christianity.net/vt/9T4/9T423c.html> (6) <http://134.197.49.132/GR/issues/GR%20Vol%2088/GR-Jan1998/Jan98-Arbona.html> (7) <http://www.inlandempireonline.com/meth/meth5.shtml> (8) <http://www.inlandempireonline.com/meth/> (9) Ibid (10) <http://www.antioch.com.sg/events/hei/>



## Navigators Linking With Roman Catholics?

(The following is a letter sent to Navigator field staff by Navigator Nav Press division, Sept/14/2000) (dcloud@wayoflife.org)

'Dear Sir,... God has led several staff to develop ministries with Catholics...In 1993, Rich and Gail Cleveland...were welcomed by the local Bishop and several parish priests. Rich now directs the small group ministry at the largest Catholic church in Colorado Springs, leading more than 200 people each year through a three-book discipling tool, Emmaus Journey,... This series, incorporates Catholic terminology, theology, and references while preserving Navigator values and distinctives... Rich explains [we] make no attempt to undermine their Catholicity... There is room to run in ministering with Catholics... We believe the Holy Spirit is doing a new and unique work of evangelism...'

**Editors comments: Roman Catholics need to be reached with the motivation of salvation. It used to be that we minister to them, not with them. The Bible forbids fellowship with Roman Catholics: 'Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them', (Rom.16:17); 'Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us', (2Thess.3:6); 'And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them', (Eph.5:11).**

While some may argue that Emmaus does not foster Roman Catholicism itself, it does foster fellowship with Roman Catholics, who deny the essentials of the faith and preach another gospel of salvation. If we love the Lord we will obey His Word and not fellowship with those who have another gospel but rather call them to the true Gospel. While we increasingly opens doors for fellowship with error, the message to a lost and dying world is polluted.

The twin slogans of the Reformation were '*Sola Scriptura*' (Scripture Alone) and '*Sola Fide*' (Faith Alone) - slogans which the RC religion curses!

**RC Teaching: (Canon 9, Session 6): 'If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone, meaning that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to obtain the grace of justification...let him be anathema [cursed].'...(Canon 4, Session 7): 'If anyone says that the sacraments...are not necessary for salvation but...men obtain from God through faith alone the grace of justification...let him be anathema.'** [Reader compare Rom.4; Eph.2:8,9]

**RC Teaching: (Canon 30, Session 6): 'If anyone says that after the reception of the grace of justification the guilt is so remitted and the debt of eternal punishment so blotted out to every repentant sinner, that no debt of temporal punishment remains to be discharged either in this world or in Purgatory before the gates of heaven can be opened, let him be anathema.'...(Vatican II ID; 1:2): 'Sins must be expiated. This may be done on this earth through the sorrows, miseries and trials...Otherwise expiation must be made in the next life through fire and torments or purifying punishments...in Purgatory the souls...are cleansed after death with punishments designed to purge away their debt.'** [Reader compare Rom.4:7,8; Jn.19:30; Heb.10:18; Jn.5:24; 1Jn.1:7; Lk.16:19-31; 2Cor.5:8]

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### 'Holy Fathers' New Year Message

'I entrust all these hopes to the intercession of the Madonna. Most Blessed Virgin, Dawn of new times, help us to look with faith on the history of the past and the year that is beginning. Star of the third millennium, guide our steps toward Christ, who lives 'yesterday, today, and forever,' and grant humanity, which advances with trembling into the new millennium, more and more fraternity and solidarity.'

(Excerpt from Pope's New Years Eve message)

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### Paul Crouch/TBN

'...TBN founder Paul Crouch is now claiming that he and his wife, Jan, and TBN are God's appointed Noah's Ark for the last days. Their names are encrypted in the book of Genesis in the passage where Noah loaded the survivors of the flood onto the ark...This latest revelation was made possible by the occultic Bible code theory, a lethal means of interpreting the Bible. This method of soothsaying was made popular by non-Christian author, Michael Drosnin's book, 'The Bible Code,' that has now become a fad in the Bible prophecy teaching arena...no reputable Bible scholar acknowledges it as a valid way of studying Scripture.

...[the] guest was Paul Crouch's personal Bible code decoder, Yacov Rambsel, whom Crouch commissioned to write a book...called, 'The Genesis Factor.' 'I honestly believe God is revealing it to us in these last days,' said Crouch, 'to unseal this book (holds up the Bible) and tell us things that no other generation has ever known.'...Rambsel uses what he calls ELS, equidistant letter sequences, to find hidden messages in the Hebrew words of Scripture...Various critics of this method have continually shown that virtually any message can be extracted from the Bible through this method. Rambsel explains in his book how he found the ministry of TBN encrypted in Genesis 7:13, where Noah is gathering his family and all the animals into the ark. 'It's the ark of refuge...' as they're loading everybody on the ark, starting with the third letter in the eighth word and counting forward every 15th letter, spells 'Paul'...adjacent to his name at the

same ELS is 'Jan,' which is the name of his wife...starting with the fourth letter in the third word, counting every 20th letter spells 'TBN'. Adjacent letters in the same ELS spell at least eleven different words that are directly associated with the work of TBN. Not only TBN; Paul; Jan; last name Crouch; good news; satellite; film; praise; shall be clothed with faith; information and knowledge.' It's all there!' Crouch was quick to point out that his is not the only name encrypted in the Bible. 'We honestly believe, Yacov, don't we? That everybody's name is encoded in the Holy Bible.' ...Back on December 5th, 1999, on Benny Hinn's 'This Is Your Day' telecast, faith healer Oral Roberts told Hinn that Hinn and his ministry was the ark...

Crouches and Benny Hinn are the leading voices of apostasy in our time. They spread the false prosperity gospel, worshipping the god of mammon and give honor to the biggest purveyors of heresy in the church today. The potential of this Bible code trend for evil is almost infinite...This certainly does complicate the simplicity of the gospel. God never gave man any such method of interpreting Scripture. Unfortunately, people by the thousands are being driven by various winds of doctrine coming from today's TV preachers...'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables, (2Tim.4:3-4)'. [www.cultlink.com](http://www.cultlink.com)

## Children's Edition of *Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ*

In the Aug/Sept 2000 *Diakrisis* we reviewed the *adult* version of '*Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ*'. The *chronological* approach to evangelism/discipleship is a tried and proven method with lasting results, especially in some tribal areas. The chronological method is not new - Jesus used it in instructing disciples, (Lk.24:27).

We have been testing with much fruit the *childrens version* in Sunday School and childrens groups. This unique Children's Bible study system is designed for unsaved as well as Christians. It lays solid foundations for both the Gospel and Christian growth. The lessons follow a chronological pattern of progressively revealing who God is and His redemption plan through Jesus Christ. Key themes of the Bible are developed to show the *nature, character, and sovereignty* of God.

The full year of lessons are contained in five books for the teacher - the students use the Bible as their text. Each lesson includes a review and a skit which may be photocopied for classroom use. The colourful maps, chart and posters are included in the lesson package. Several visuals may be photocopied for overhead projection. (Chronological teaching pictures are also available separately.)

These lessons are for children of reading age. Although designed for third and fourth graders, the lessons may be adapted for a variety of ages and repeated each year as the children grow in understanding. Families can learn together -

the 50 lessons parallel the 50-lesson adult course,

Key themes of Scripture are presented through the context of Bible events as they occurred in history. Children see the panorama of God's working and thus see the Bible as a whole. Each lesson builds upon foundations laid in previous lessons and thus children grow in understanding of *God's character*.

**Contents:** 50 Lessons + 3 full colour maps, 1 chronological chart, variety of posters and visual aids.

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**Prices:** Set of 5 books - \$50 (includes maps, chronological chart and various visuals); Chronological Colour Pictures (Set of 105 A3 size) - \$49.00; Laminated - \$149.00; Black & white line drawings of above pictures - \$19.50 Order below

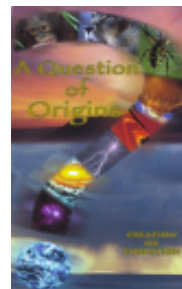
### **\*\*New CD - Back Issues\*\***

Due to the demand for backcopies of '*Diakrisis*' newsletters we have depleted our hardcopy supplies of some issues. We are now installing all back issues (54 to date) on CD - from the commencement of the newsletter in March/96, and updating the disk each newsletter. *Acrobat Reader* will also be included on the CD to enable the reader to read in an easy to read pdf format.

Readers on the e-mail list who buy the CD should be able to add current newsletters to their disk. **Price:** \$19.50 Order below

### **A Question of Origins Was \$29.50 Now \$14.75**

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



### **Order Form**

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## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, Thankyou so much for your excellent ministry. Praise God for your work, the truth, and the blessings it brings. I have listened to your tapes over and over...I am writing to point out just a couple of little things that will help you to supply the quality of merchandise that a Christian in ministry needs to be known for.

...Please don't be offended by my brother but I found several copies of the tapes to be quite muddy and a bit poor on audio quality...The Benny Hinn exposed tape...was all secular, non-christian, television news programs. You would know yourself that all our poor Charismatic friends will just write that off as persecution from the Devil, and many will not even notice the fact that it points out that Benny is a fraud. In fact, there is so much repetition, and repeating of the same footage that many folk are bored with it in no time, and don't see the point of watching non-christians tear up a so-called 'Christian' brother. But, in saying that the other ones exposing Robert Tilton, and Morris Cerello, etc, were superb!!! Really got 'em. Exposed!

Terry, we love you and your work, and always speak very highly of what you are doing. Do be careful though in accepting folks like Hank Hannegraffe and their compromise within your ministry by recommending his books, or having his name on your site. He does not reject Roman Catholicism, yet your ministry does a good job in exposing and teaching against RC error...You are a person that I am proud to call brother, so please do not think I am not for you. I am

...I look forward to seeing you teach the truth in regard to the rotten 'christian' music industry...I am an ex-semi pro drummer, who lived in the whole rock industry thing for a long time. I just recently sold up all my gear after learning the truth about rock music.

God Bless you in Christs name my friend. (C.K., Vict)

**Editors Comment: I accept many points and agree.**

- The Benny Hinn video is repetitive but the best we have.

- Our audios are not always good quality. I just don't have the time nor finance to organise anything better, although this year I will have some secretarial help and someone to check on these things for me...

- Am not sure where we recommend Hank Hannegraffe. I do not agree with his soft stance on some things.

As you can see I'm losing touch with many things in this ministry. Thankyou for bringing these to my attention. I appreciated everything you said.

### Private Reprove For Public False Teaching?

Some readers get annoyed with us when we expose false teachers and false prophets. They expect us to always attempt to reconcile or contact the person concerned.

However, it is a misconception that we should not *publicly* expose someone for false teaching or as a false prophet. If there is no personal unreconciled condition between the two parties then it is not a matter of 'church discipline'. The false teachers/prophets we expose speak their untruths publicly to the world and infect the church at large. This is far removed from a church discipline situation. Error taught publicly sometimes needs to be corrected publicly otherwise multitudes are not warned and benefited. The writers of the epistles in many cases named names publicly.

However, we in this ministry do attempt wherever possible to expose the error to the individual privately first. It invariably is met with silence or anger.

**Editors note: In the Oct/97 'Diakrisis' we documented a 'prophecy' by Kenneth Copeland to Ray Macauley, who was involved in the Toronto Blessing in Sth Africa.**

To 'Diakrisis': I have had it confirmed that Ray Macauley of Sth. Africa was being sued for divorce by his wife Lindy...I have kept notes on sermons from CLC Hills Centre, Sydney [AOG]...on Ray Macauley's sermon given at CLC on 27/3/94 and also his wife Lindy in the evening service.

...a few of Ray Macauley's words of wisdom: 'God is raising up a people, not a denomination, get out of the smoke and into the fire.'...'Be a wet water walker, not a dry boat Christian.'...'The Bible is so simple you have to find someone to help you misunderstand it!' 'Compassion is the love of God'. 'We can get high without a bottle of scotch'...

In the evening of the same day he told about the Sth. African Cricket Team being saved. Could it be that one of the conversions was the man who accepted bribes from an Indian bookmaker?...a few of Mrs Lindy Macauley's words of wisdom: 'We need 'living' Churches, like the Macauley's Church'...'Success is peace and joy flowing outward'...

Isn't it important to consider how vital it is to test the spirits...? Preaching the wrong Gospel spawns awful sorrow and...may bring awful sorrow on the preachers too...It is so sad and we are constantly in touch with people...whose own lives are infected with these spirits...Yours in sadness,

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

### Bonnke's Crusade In Nigeria

'German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke's mass 'healings' and evangelistic crusades are setting records in Nigeria. His 'Christ For All Nations' ministry said total attendance for his recent six-day crusade reached nearly 6 million and drew a record-breaking crowd of 1.6 million in a single night. He shouted, 'All of Nigeria is going to heaven!' and promised 'all of Nigeria will be healed.' He said the blind would see, and paralysed would walk. (2/5 Chr. Today) He told the crowd to begin shouting 'Alleluia!' until the Holy Spirit entered their bodies. 'You are going to speak in new tongues - a language you have never learned.' A theologian who works with the International Bible Society in Nigeria said of Bonnke's instructing a massive crowd to speak all at once without an interpreter, 'How am I sure that what people are saying is actually coming from God and not another spirit?' 'In our traditional religions, people [also] speak in tongues.' (Calvary Contender, 2/2001)

**Editors Comments: In the Dec/99 issue of 'Diakrisis', P.5,6 we featured an article titled 'The Healing of Jean Neil - 'Something To Shout About?'** This was reported by many to be the best documented miraculous healing of modern times. The video by the same name is sold by Bonnke's ministry and appears to be irrefutable footage of Jean Neil rising from her wheelchair and being healed of several diseases by Bonnke. The accompanying evidence documented on this video was very convincing - until investigated by a Christian surgeon in England. He found it to be not miraculous and a tragedy of misdiagnosis. Bonnke's ministry was presented with the findings and asked to take the video off the market. However, it remains in circulation and is still deceiving many Christians.

Aside from the false claims of healings, the teaching of this man and others like him should be enough to warn Christians. If more pastors/elders in the church were prepared to speak out, less people would follow such men.

## Your Comments and Questions

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

### Expressions of Interest Needed - Conference

I have for some years had an interest in hosting a 3 days seminar/conference in Hervey Bay. This would be for all 'Bereans' and 'lovers of truth'. Sessions would incorporate an 'ex-Catholics for Christ' segment; ecumenism; witnessing to Jehovah Witnesss, Mormons, etc; as well as teaching on various Charismatic/Pentecostal issues. Specialist speakers would be brought to the conference and booktables with a variety of literature/tapes/videos would be on display.

If you the reader would be interested in attending such a conference, please contact this ministry so we could gauge the level of interest in such an event. **Editor**

### Expressions of Interest Needed - College/Institute

I am currently involved to a limited extent in teaching in a new Bible college/institute in Hervey Bay. For many years I have planned the possibility of a one or two year discipleship & ministry diploma course. Some subjects would include *OT & NT survey; NT Greek; cults; evangelism/discipleship; discernment; doctrines of Grace; Holy Spirit theology/issues...* A discipleship component and involvement in a local church would be part of the course.

It would involve half days, approximately 35 weeks per year with minimum fees. (Lecturers are expert in their fields). Arrangements could be made for board or shared accommodation. If you the reader would be interested in attending such a college for one or two years please contact this ministry so we could gauge the level of interest in such a course. **Editor**

*Dear sirs, Why the fuss about the Potter books unless Christians start teaching or reading them? (A.W., Sydney)*

**Advisory comments: My feelings exactly. Unbelievers are free to write and read exactly what they want! Christians can be extremely gullible at times...showing horror at the world's intrigue with the occult yet embracing Rome as 'Christian' and Pentecostal/Charismatic teaching/experiences as the Holy Spirit - without batting an eyelid! Mike Claydon**

*Dear Terry, Greetings from New Zealand!...Thankyou so much for your master copy of 'Diakrisis' we receive here. I photocopy 20 of each issue and distribute them. (L.S., NZ.)*

### Praise Points

- Praise God for secretarial help this year! This should enable us to streamline and improve many administrative areas of the ministry as well as release Terry to concentrate more on speaking, writing and studying.

### Prayer Points

- Please pray for wisdom, humility and Holy Spirit guidance.

*Dear Terry, Thankyou very much for the newsletter. Thankyou for the way your ministry has positively impacted our family. We had a beautiful son who had Christian upbringing and who sadly became addicted to Marijuana. When we met you we shared our dilemma. Our sons addiction ballooned into a psychotic illness.. On your advice a Christian drug counsellor (Mike Claydon) was contacted...to now see our son fills us with joy unspeakable as he now attends a vital church recommended by you and has excellent teaching and support. He no longer needs medication, is independent and loving life. We encourage you and your ministry team. For us the fruits are so real, Biblical, tangible and where the rubber meets the road. We encourage Christian families with similar problems - never give up. God is greater than all that. Praise God. (J&W.P., Hervey Bay, Qld)*

*Dear Mr. Arnold, I have recently come to faith through hearing for the first time the true unadulterated Gospel. My background is in the Roman Catholic faith...A Christian friend loaned me a copy of your book 'To Catholics Whom I Love' which I found very illuminating regarding the RC false doctrines and teachings and their origins..the local Christian bookshop does not have copies...(B.H., Nth. Ireland)*

*Dear Mr. Arnold, Recently a friend of mine loaned me your book 'To Catholics Whom I Love'...I admire your honesty and care in writing the book...I found it covered a vast number of subjects peculiar to the RC religion...there were things in your book which were new to me..I have been a Christian for 44 years. I think it is vital that we take any opportunity to put Catholics on the road to God through Jesus Christ, and that it must be done in Love...(P.E., Tas)*

*Dear...'Diakrisis'. Thankyou for the faithful delivery of your newsletter...could you come to the Gold Coast sometime? The only problem is I cannot think of a public church which would welcome you...(C.G. Gold Coast, Qld)*

**Editors Comments: Any fellowships who would like to be included in a possible itinerary for Brisbane/Goldcoast in the first part of this year please contact this ministry.**

### Terry's Itinerary

**March 1st & 8th** MEC Bible College, Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld - **Seminar on SDA & law/grace.** Ph. 41284201

**March 11th 6.30pm** Hervey Bay Church of Christ: **Video - 'SDA - the spirit behind the church'.** Ph.415284201

**March 18th 10am** Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. 41284201

**May 4-7: Lake Maroon Dam Family camp** (Near Boona, Qld) Frid.3pm - Mon.3pm **Guest speakers:** Bruce Jenyns; Terry Arnold (Sun.7.30pm & Mon.9am); Eric Russel **Other Activities:** Testimonies, video night, water skiing; jet skiing; speed boat/tube rides; canoeing; fishing...**Cost:** Adults: Full w/ end \$52; 2 days \$39; or \$12 per day. Student discounts. **Registration forms and further details:** Peter Bice, (07)32004841 Mob.0411594585 PO Box 358 Corinda, 4075, Qld.

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