

A Ministry of Teaching

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

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

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

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Editors Comment

How do we handle confrontation and disagreements? Do we unnecessarily foster confrontation in our own lives? Are people attracted by our conversation and behaviour, or do they feel to avoid us? Because of the commitment to hard truths in this newsletter some readers may think the writers to be dogmatic and unapproachable in character and conversation. However, when face to face, many have been surprised to see we avoid confrontation wherever possible. The truth of this is because of the following philosophy of ministry which I personally have learned from Scripture, experience and past failings.

Passive separation (sifting): Christians who have been and are being truly sanctified are usually *unentangled* with false professors of Christ or with Christians with false doctrine. This can be seen too in those fellowships which have not opened their doors *wide* for the world, false doctrines and false professors of Christ to enter in. This is not to say we *actively* bar such from entering our lives (sectarianism). Rather, we do not *fellowship with* them...but *minister to* them. The result is that *God does the separation for us* and a true spiritual *sifting* takes place. Wolves, tares, false professors and false doctrines leave to find for themselves more suitable environments. Those that stay will respond to truth and the light of the Word of God, (Jn.3:19-21).

Many people become weakened or create difficulties in their own lives because they encourage *fellowship with* the unsaved or with Christians having false doctrine. This is not to say we might not have *friendships* with such people that we might have opportunity to *minister to* them. However, *friendship does not necessarily include fellowship with*. I have personally found this philosophy of ministry *unentangles* one from those who will not listen, and actually attracts those who seek truth.

Hitting the mark: Jesus spent much time with sinners - publicans and tax collectors, etc. He was *a friend* to them, (Matt. 11:19; Lk. 7:34). However, a look at each Scripture shows that *they came to Him!* (Matt. 9:10; Mk. 2:15; Lk. 5:29; 15:1). He never *fellowshipped* with them. Jesus also did not remain around people who were in disagreement or who would not listen, (Jn. 8:59).

Unfortunately some people *need* confrontation, disputation, argument, and to be exposing some error in something or with someone. It gives them a sense of purpose, achievement, attention and power to know some special truth others don't have. It may help to make them feel important and worthy. But this may well be a thin veneer for wanting self affirmation that they are true Christians.

This ministry, although primarily a teaching ministry, will continue to expose high profile false teachers and false prophets where necessary. However, I rarely engage people face to face with their errors without first having some leading on their behalf. Any such activity must be out of a concern for their influence on others and a scriptural loving motivation to see them restored.

However, for the most part when face to face, *all we need to do is to answer and give truth when asked.*

May our *fellowship, friendship* and *ministry* be hitting the mark of God's will.
Terry Arnold

Victorian Itinerary

We have prepared a Victorian itinerary for November. For enquiries or final details please phone the contact numbers on Page 8 or this ministry.

Spiritual Warfare

Much emphasis today is being placed on 'Spiritual Warfare'. 'Deliverance ministries' abound. Demons are being blamed for sinful behaviour and are being 'driven out' of Christians. Territorial spirits and strongholds are supposedly being broken and cast out of areas of the earth. The Devil is being 'rebuked' and 'bound'.

But what do the Scriptures say? We read in Jude 9 the archangel Michael did not dare rebuke the devil but rather said: **'The Lord rebuke you!'**

2Corinthians 10:3-5 is used to teach the breaking of 'demonic strongholds' and 'territorial spirits': **'For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.'** The word 'strongholds' here refers to trusting in strong points or arguments in *the mind*. The word 'imaginations' ('logismos' - used once elsewhere and translated 'thoughts' in Rom.2:15) further proves the context is to do with *the mind*. The phrase '**high thing that exalteth itself**' refers to any proud *thoughts* or *reasonings* against God. This pulling down of strongholds in 2Cor.10:3-6 has nothing to do with *territorial* demonic strongholds but rather refers to *the mind*! The context is clear - we are to *resist* and *captivate thoughts* that oppose the knowledge of God.

The phrase '**principalities...powers**' in Ephesians 6:10-20, is also taught by some to refer to us making war with demons. However, the passage is almost all *defensive*. We are told to '**stand**' our ground. The only weapons of attack here are the '**Word of God**' and '**prayer**'. Nowhere are we told to command spirits to leave their territories! There is nothing in the Gospel that tells us to evict demons from towns! *When we preach the Gospel demons must leave people. As we disciple people they will resist any oppression from demons.* In all the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation there is not one mention of binding demons or commanding them to leave an area, despite several mentions of Satan and evil! Yet today thousands of books, tapes and 'deliverance ministries' are being spawned in an attempt to solve what is really man's age old problem - the flesh or sin nature! The modern 'deliverance ministries' are simply not found in Scripture. The modern church has truly gone '**beyond the Word of the Lord**', (Nu.22:18)!

The danger of the *new modern* 'spiritual warfare' teaching is that it takes the emphasis off *personal responsibility for sin*. I once put some questions to a man who claimed to have a 'deliverance ministry' yet who opposed churches and submission and accountability to elders. The reaction was breathtaking: *'...you still have a Charismatic demon. You ought to get rid of it. As for all this other nonsense [questions and Scriptures concerning submission/accountability, etc] - your questions are not in order anyway...You are wrapped up in your own knowledge and qualifications. You have the typical Charismatic arrogant and proud attitude...Keep your silly nonsense to yourself, I've no time for it...May the God I know make you aware of the arrogant proud Charismatic spirit that still lives within you'*. Such is often the response - to find a demon for every disturbance, challenge or rejection.

The last few decades have seen a new emphasis on the view that spirits reside over geographical areas and even generational groups, and that they can be *expelled* by certain means. This goes well beyond the simple Biblical view that demons can *oppress* individuals in their *minds*.

In the eighties Christians began meeting to '*bind Satan*

from the San Francisco Bay area and bring Godliness to public life through spiritual warfare'... *'and to dethrone the spirit of homosexuality from its capital city, San Francisco...'** In these meetings Satan was rebuked and 'bound' by verbally addressing him publicly and directly. These meetings spent more time talking to Satan than to God! The results spoke for themselves - the city of San Francisco got *worse!*

Although some believe there is *implied* Biblical evidence for some territorial spirits (Dan.10:12-13), the practice and methods of trying to expel these spirits are erroneous. The Bible does show Jesus and Paul verbally rebuking demons which *physically* possessed *unsaved individuals*. (There is not a single case in the New Testament of a Christian being possessed with a demon). *However, Jesus, or the disciples, never rebuked or taught anyone else to rebuke geographic or ethnic demons!* None of the great evangelists spent time talking to the Devil!

One writer (Ted Brooks) sums up: *'As a former teacher and supporter of modern warfare methods...for me fighting demonic forces was a daily routine. I don't recall many meetings which did not include casting out devils, pulling down strongholds...I truly believed my efforts were Biblical.'*

But...I began to re-evaluate these tactics and questioned the Biblical accuracy of my ministry...I began to ask 'what happens when we war after the flesh and call it spiritual?' 'Are we pulling down strongholds that are not Biblical or casting out demons that have been fabricated by men?'

I began to intensely study Jesus earthly ministry. I discovered that Jesus regularly cast out devils. But I also discovered that we in the modern church were regularly casting out demons that Jesus never heard of. I took extra effort to notice when Jesus did not cast out devils...Jesus did not cast out demons of deception or religious spirits out of Pharisees. I would have attempted it. Jesus confronted their teachings and their religious ideas.

...It is now common for us to believe that people are not responsible for their own deceptions. Today we credit spiritual blindness to powerful demonic forces which are assigned against individuals, churches or cities...We seem to forget that Jesus came as the light of the world but was rejected by men because 'men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil', (Jn.3:19).

I also discovered that Jesus did not cast out the spirits of murder or alcoholism as we do today. We have invented new extra-Biblical demons. How convenient! We can now credit our fleshly lusts to demons of pornography. We can blame our anger on spirits of rage that come and go as they please...We can now attribute our abusive tendencies to family spirits and generational curses. All kinds of emotional problems can now be assigned to familiar spirits. Our Adamic nature is no longer at fault. Our unhappiness can now be attributed to spirits of oppression. We can blame our addictions on spirits of alcoholism or demons of nicotine.

In defence of our modern deliverance ministries we claim, 'We are doing what Jesus did.' But in reality we are not doing what Jesus did, we are doing what He did not do...

We no longer understand the Gospel of crucifixion...Our deliverance ministries belittle Jesus earthly ministry. We are more anti-Christ than we dare admit...we need to once again exalt Christ as the ultimate minister. His ministry was complete...all the works that are of God can be found in His ministry...The miracles He performed are all the miracles we need...Christ is sufficient.' **Terry Arnold**

* Christian Research Journal, Summer/1992, P.38.

Correction

In the July/August 2001 issue on page 2 we printed an error in dates. The dates for the false prophecies by William Miller on which the SDA church was partly founded should have read 1843, 1844, not 1883, 1884. We apologise for this error and ask readers to please make adjustments on their copies of this article.

Biblical Philosophy or Legalism?

How does God change the character and behaviour of a saved person? How does a pastor/elder/teacher see the desired change in a persons life?

There are two ways I have seen that affect change in peoples lives. One is God made and one is man made. One produces lasting fruit, the other is deceptively fleshly.

The logical and Scriptural philosophy is as follows:

The Word of God, including the preaching/teaching of Scripture, in the believers own life, gives *understanding* and *conviction* by the *Holy Spirit*. The persons *attitude* then changes. It is this Spirit inspired attitude and conviction that leads the person to continued repentance and a change in character and behaviour. They should then practice what they believe and understand. They will be 'doers of the word'. They will have been transformed *by the renewing of their minds through the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit*, (Rom.12:1,2).

So the Biblical philosophy for ministry is:

Doctrine > Attitude > Application.

This philosophy takes a great load off the elder/teacher or those involved in discipleship! The teacher is responsible for the *teaching of doctrine* and leads the recipient *to* truth; the Holy Spirit is responsible for taking the person *into* truth. The Holy Spirit produces the *attitude* and the resultant *application* will be *spiritual* instead of fleshly.

If the conviction and attitude is appropriated by the believer then it will be *his* or *her* conviction and they will willingly change with a happy and contented spirit. No one will have to make them do things and check up on them. There will be no pressure and coercion. However, *the attitude developed is governed by where we start. We must start with the truth of Scripture and doctrine and trust the Holy Spirit to do His promised work!*

But what if we were to start in reverse with application?:

Application > Attitude > Doctrine

The pastor/elder/teacher sets the rules and standards that he wants the believers to adhere to. Although these may be Bible based they will govern the behaviour of the church members. As he finds more and more things that he sees as wrong behaviour he sets more rules in place. Likewise the Pharisees continued to add laws to their already long list of laws. These kept people under bondage but also made it even harder for the Pharisees themselves to live up to these laws.

Because of the rules the pastor/elder/teacher has *applied* he now develops an *attitude* of authority to administer these rules. To justify this he may go to the Bible for proof texts for his *doctrine*. So he preaches from *application rather than doctrine*. The starting point is wrong.

In practical terms legalism is someone taking the place of the Holy Spirit! This approach has shipwrecked not a few pastors, families and churches. Legalists develop methods of applying God's laws (and some of their own) to others. The person becomes the authority, administrator. The flesh naturally bends towards legalism. We might remove the outward effects of legalism but the mindset can still remain.

The Bible alone is our authority in all spiritual things. The Holy Spirit is the administrator, the interpreter.

Terry Arnold

(This material with many thanks to Ps. John Reynolds)

The Value of Studying Greek

Many people have asked me the value of learning New Testament (Koine) Greek. NT Greek may no doubt be a wonderful aid to studying the meaning of the Scriptures. However, the Bible in our native tongue is all that is needed to be saved or to lead a spiritual life that glorifies God.

Such things as studying Greek, hearing from Greek experts or the need to know the 'Hebrew roots' should never be put before the people as a stumbling block. However, there is much value in studying the NT Greek language as this is the original language the Bible was written down in under the inspiration of God Himself.

Koine Greek replaced Classical Greek in about 300 BC and was the language of the day until about 300AD. Some parts of the Koine Greek Scriptures manifest Hebraisms where the Hebrew and Aramaic influences can be seen. However, the Koine Greek Scriptures are totally inspired, inerrant and infallible. Koine Greek is a unique and exacting language which some scholars believe was God-ordained for that particular short period of History in order to produce the canon of inspired Scriptures.

Knowledge of Greek helps in understanding various commentaries that discuss the Greek Scriptures. Some knowledge of Greek may help in the teaching of Scriptures, particularly in exegetical work. Knowledge of Greek helps in determining the accuracy of various translations. Some knowledge of Greek may help in exposing false teaching.

The NT Greek language is very different to the English language in Grammar structure and often more exacting in vocabulary. The word '*master*' is translated from six different Greek words, all with different shades of meaning. The word '*judgement*' has eight different words in the Greek. The extent of this is that two translators would arguably never come up with the same translation of extended passages of Scripture. Our English translations are only that - *translations*. Even the best of translations may have errors in tenses or moods (ie. how the action occurs) and sentence constructions may vary, but a good translation will not change the doctrinal meaning.

Unfortunately, most of the modern translations are loose in word for word accuracy in comparison to the Greek. Modern translations have increasingly relied on phrase by phrase translation ('dynamic equivalency') rather than literal word for word accuracy.

A valuable aid is a *Greek Interlinear* which shows the word by word equivalent from English to Greek. The sentence construction remains in the Greek yet this can be a valuable aid to studying the literal meaning of words.

In studying Scripture and especially doctrine, *word studies* are invaluable. In this we choose a word and search the same word out through Scripture, noting the number of times used and how it is used. A valuable insight is gained when one realises many English words are different Greek words, as can be seen by the use of Word studies that have *Strongs* numbers attached to each word. Different numbers mean different Greek words and therefore different meanings.

Such programmes as '*Greek Tutor*' may give a basic working knowledge of Greek. For those wishing to have complete word studies at their disposal the *AMG Key Word Study* Computer programme* is a most valuable tool. **Terry Arnold**

*Available from this ministry.

Evangelicals Promote Catholicism?

'A Catholic journalist (*First Things*, 12/2000) says Charles Colson and Billy Graham pay more attention to the writings of [Pope John Paul II] and take them to heart more readily than do some dissenting Catholic priests and theologians. He says 'Pat Robertson for a time was sending copies of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a gift to friends, while some Catholics view the Catechism as oppressive and authoritarian. It could even be argued that Campus Crusade and Prison Fellowship have done more to advance the Church of Mary than entire theology departments of some Catholic universities.' (*Foundation*, Jan/Feb/2001)

Lutheran Lesbian Ordained

'With the National Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) watching, Anita Hill was ordained April 28 by more than 1,000 people in a unique service in St. Paul, Minn. Hill has satisfied all the requirements for ordination into the ELCA, but she is also a lesbian in a committed relationship and therefore cannot be ordained by the church under its current rules. Her congregation decided to call her and ordain her outside the rules of the national church. More than 200 clergy, from Catholics to Presbyterians to Baptists, surrounded Hill as she knelt at the altar, and with the laying on of hands, they blessed her ministry. She was then led to the centre of the sanctuary, where her congregation blessed her and 'ordained' her.'

(*Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune*; *Religion Today*, May/4; <http://news.crosswalk.com/religion/item/0,,342934,00.htm>)

New Bible With Erotic Pictures?

'A glossy magazine-style version of the Old Testament, featuring leading models pictured by the world's leading fashion photographers, will be unveiled later this year. Claudia Schiffer and Markus Schenkenberg are the models expected to portray Adam and Eve in a project designed to attract young people who rarely read the Bible.

Gustaf-Wilhelm Hellstedt, one of four Swedish entrepreneurs behind the idea, said: 'Forget those old sketches in the Bible. Instead of a boring drawing of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, we may well have a couple walking down a New York street, kissing.'

Who is to be pictured in the new *Illuminated Bible*, which will retain the traditional King James text, is being kept under wraps by the group, which trades under the name 'Fishtank'. It has revealed, however, that its list of fashion photographers rivals that of *Vogue*.

Among those signed up is Paolo Roversi, who has often photographed Miss Schiffer and Madonna. The venture has been greeted with shock in some quarters. David Phillips, the General Secretary of the Church Society which promotes Christianity with the Church of England said: 'It sounds like a gimmick that is entirely unnecessary.' David Phillips said: 'The power of God's salvation is in the Gospel, not the images. The real concern is to make known what the Bible teaches, not to make it attractive.' The Bishop of Durham, the Rt. Rev Michael Turnbull, cautiously welcomed the idea. [He] said: 'Anything that enlivens people's interest in what a good read the Bible is, is good. But it needs doing with taste.'

Michel Gyring, another member of *Fishtank*, said: '...We had the idea to contemporise the Bible and make it accessible to 15 to 30 year olds...Most of the models, who will earn up to £10,000 a day, will have their clothes on, but there will be some nudity because the Bible is very sensual and we are going to exploit that...' (By Jessica Berry © Copyright of Telegraph Group Limited 2001; *Apostasy Alert*, 29/5/2001)

Alpha Testimony

'On 25 September I went to hear Nicky Gumbel and his Alpha team...in Belfast..My assessment follows:

...Gods love was referred to frequently but the 'fierceness of his anger' never got a mention...The word 'sin' was studiously avoided. Man's problems were identified as 'wrong doings' but no yardstick was identified...The result of these 'wrongdoings' we were told, is 'guilt' and 'addiction', from which Christ can set us free. Again, there was no reference to condemnation for sin, (Jn.3:19). Jesus was presented as one who can 'satisfy' people. Matthew 1:21, on the other hand, says, 'Thou shalt call his name Jesus for He shall save (not satisfy) His people from their sins.'

According to Nicky Gumbel, the answer to man's need is friendship and companionship with God...friendship was elevated above forgiveness as the means to obtain happiness...

People were then encouraged to 'check Jesus out'. At no time were the eternal consequences spelled out for those who would not 'check Jesus out', (a lost eternity in Hell - another word never used).

When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, those listening were 'pricked in their heart', (Acts 2:37). But no attempt was made to confront people in the waterfront hall with the reality and consequences of their lost and sinful condition...

Overall, the Alpha team presented an inaccurate and incomplete view of God, and a faulty diagnosis of man's problem. Christ was presented as 'satisfyer', not as Saviour...

Nicky rounded off his talk with a typical easy-believism 'sinner's prayer'. I do not for one minute doubt the sincerity and loving zeal of Nicky Gumbel. The problem is that he and 'Alpha' are attempting to evangelise without offending people by confronting them with truth about sin. This is not God's Biblically ordained way...'

(Cecil Andrews, *Take Heed Ministries*, UK)

Pentecostal Church Turns Roman Catholic

'After years of study and some agonizing disagreements, the Rev. Alex Jones and the 64 remaining members of his Maranatha Christian Church in Detroit gave up their Pentecostal affiliation on April 14 to become lay members of St. Suzanne Catholic Church...

'Joining the Catholic Church feels like returning to a spiritual home', said Jones. He is studying at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit toward ordination as a Catholic deacon, which would allow him to preach at Mass...Jones immersed himself in Christian history, and as his studies continued, 'I discovered the word 'tradition' and how important it was to the early Christians.' He soon changed the style of worship to include a Eucharist, modelled after a traditional Catholic Mass. Some members left, with 64 joining Jones... 'Losing so many friends was painful...but I feel as though I'm heading home.' (*Religion Today*, 4/2001)

Fishes Out of Water?

A subscriber has sent us a copy of a major Christian bookstore's advert for books on 'revival'. Most of the books are by false prophets or false teachers such as Kenneth Copeland and Peter Wagner. However, in amongst the books were two publications - one by RC Sproul and the other by Warren Wiersbe. Both these books are vastly different in content to the books by the rest of the authors. RC Sproul's book details the works of Jonathan Edwards and Wiersbe's book details other great preachers of old.

Beware, this 'mixing' of leaven and truth is increasingly commonplace in 'Christian' bookstores. **Terry Arnold**

New Book

'*Our Sufficiency in Christ*' by John MacArthur Jr.

Although not all will agree with all of MacArthur's writings, this book in our opinion is a worthy read. The book deals with three '*deadly influences that undermine your spiritual life*': Psychology, Pragmatism and Mysticism. Covered in these topics are a wide range of issues that Christians are confronted with in the modern church. Although written in the early nineties it details the very problems the church is increasingly facing in the 21st Century, such as: humanism, unbiblical 'Christian counselling', easy believism, the Church Growth Movement, experiential Christianity, the Signs and Wonders Movement, the modern 'spiritual warfare' movement, as well as a host of others.

The book is a trumpet call back to *Sola Scriptura!*, the fundamentals of the faith once delivered, and an exhortation to trust in the all sufficiency of Christ alone. It is an honest open and direct plea for truth and perhaps one that every Christian and elder/pastor should read once every few years.

Available from TA Ministries **Price:** \$19.90 + postage

Material on 'Spiritual Warfare'

We recommend the following materials for sound teaching on 'Spiritual Warfare', demonology, etc:

- '*Delivered from the Powers of Darkness*' (video) \$25.90
- **Neil Anderson Critique** (audio tape on Neil Anderson, demonisation; psychology, etc) \$4.00

New Video

'*Obstacle to Comfort*' - by Dr. Ken Connolly

A documentary video on the life of George Muller, founder of the Bristol Orphanage. For sixty years George Muller provided for a total of 10,000 orphans simply *by faith*. A mighty testimony to the faithfulness of God! This video will encourage viewers to rely on and trust in God's provision, sovereignty and faithfulness.

Price: \$25 (includes GST and postage)

Order from: Ps. Buddy Smith, PO Box 684 Malanda, Qld.
4885smithy@ledanet.com.au

New Website Master & Addresses

We wish to publicly thank our previous Website masters, Peter Dwyer and Eddie Moonie. Both did excellent and professional work in establishing the Website. Recently Eddie relocated and is doing university studies.

Our new Website master is Mike Smith who will continue to develop and upgrade the site. It now contains facilities to purchase books, videos and tapes on-line. The site also contains an increasing array of articles and newsletters. We are also currently developing an index facility to access topics throughout all the newsletters. We have a new website address (the old address may still be in operation). Our new website address is: <http://taministries.cjb.net/>

For any queries or difficulties with the website please contact Mike Smith: micraysmith@ozemail.com.au

Quotables!

Doctrine

'The man whose doctrine is shaky will be shaky in his whole life. There is nothing so fatuous as the view that Christian doctrine is removed from life. There is nothing that is more practical. I always find that those who are driven with every wind of doctrine are those who are too lazy to study doctrine. I spend half my time telling people to study doctrine and the other half telling them that doctrine is not enough. My observation over the years is that it is the people who have not been taught the truth negatively as well as positively who always get carried away by the heresies and cults, because they have not been forewarned and forearmed against them.'

(Martyn Lloyd Jones)

Sin

'I knew what sin meant...I felt its poison boiling in my veins. When the Holy Ghost made sin appear as sin to me, I was overwhelmed by the sight. I would rather have fled from myself to escape the intolerable vision. A naked sin that is stripped of all excuse and set in the light of truth is worse to see than the Devil himself.'

'When I saw sin as an offense against a just and Holy God, committed by such a proud and yet insignificant creature as myself, I was alarmed. Did you ever see and feel yourself to be a sinner?' (Spurgeon, 'The Holy Spirit', P.132,133)

Modern Prophetic Movement

'Throughout the prophetic literature, we notice a common theme: the false prophets tell the people what they want to hear, baptise it with God's name, and serve it up as God's latest word to his people.' ('Sola Scriptura!' P.XV)

Roman Catholicism

'We must have no truce, no treaty with Rome. War! War to the knife with her! Peace there cannot be. She cannot have peace with us - we cannot have peace with her. She hates the true church; and we can only say that the hatred is reciprocated. We would not lay a hand upon her priests; we would not touch a hair of their heads. Let them be free; but their doctrines we would destroy from the face of the earth as the doctrine of devils. So let it perish O God, and let that evil thing become as the fat of lambs. Into smoke let it consume; yea, into smoke let it consume away.'

'We must fight the Lords battles against this giant error, whichever shape it takes; and so much we do with every error that pollutes the church. Slay it utterly; let none escape.'

(C. H. Spurgeon)

The Holy Spirit

'I have heard many fanatical people say that the Holy Spirit has revealed this and that new idea to them. This is revealed nonsense. The Holy Ghost does not reveal anything fresh now. He brings old things to our remembrance. 'But the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you', (Jn.14:16).

'The canon of revelation is closed. There is no more to be added. God does not give fresh revelation, but He rivets the old one. When it has been forgotten and laid in the dusty chamber of our memory, He fetches it out and cleans the picture but does not paint a new one. There are no new doctrines, but the old ones are often revived...'

(Spurgeon, 'Holy Spirit Power', P.21)

'Man can guide us to a truth, but it is only the Holy Spirit who can guide us into a truth. John 16:13 says, 'into'. Mark that word.'

(Spurgeon, 'The Holy Spirit', P.69)

Charles Colson Praises Neuhaus

'...On his radio program 'Breakpoint,' Charles Colson, the most effective American propagandist for the Romanist religion, said, 'Seven years ago my friend Richard Neuhaus lay near death. Doctors told him a few months before that he had intestinal cancer. Surgery to remove the tumour had not gone well...He started to haemorrhage...doctors had to open him up again and risk his dying on the table...providentially - Neuhaus survived. Then, the next night, while lying in his room, he was 'jerked into an utterly lucid state of awareness.' He sensed that there were two 'presences' there with him. And he heard someone say, 'Everything is ready now.' My friend [Neuhaus] has never doubted that he was visited by angels that night, who were prepared to take him home. But he was allowed to stay here, and I think God graciously did that because there is still so much we have to learn from Father Neuhaus.

For nearly four decades, Richard John Neuhaus has been setting an example of how Christian faith can transform not only individuals, but society as well...His commitment to Biblical standards of freedom and equality led him to become an active participant in the Civil Rights movement, marching alongside Martin Luther King...Neuhaus is one of those intellectual leaders whom I have been talking about in recent days - the ones who are leading a Christian counter-attack against the entrenched secular mindset in academia and other centres of cultural influence. His powerful books and articles have earned him the title of 'the modern-day C. S. Lewis'...God in His sovereignty is raising up some mighty warriors like Neuhaus - armed with a Biblical view of life and a keen intellect to contend for Christian truth. And this is one reason I think we'll experience a great Christian renewal in this century.' (Apostasy Alert - excerpt from Trinity Foundation)

Advisory Comments (Mike Claydon): We have demonstrated repeatedly and this quotation shows again, that Colson cannot tell the difference between Christianity and Romanism. What he sees as 'a great Christian renewal' is a great apostasy and Colson is one of the leaders of that apostasy in America. Notice how cleverly his essay is written: (1) Colson first gets the sympathy of the hearers by speaking of cancer, surgery, and possible death; (2) Colson appeals to the superstitious nature of his listeners by referring to visiting angels (worship of angels is popular today); (3) Colson tells us God providentially spared Father Neuhaus because he has so much to teach us; (4) Colson praises Neuhaus, a Romanist priest, as a Christian intellectual with a Biblical worldview, who participated in the Civil Rights movement with King; (5) Colson concludes by referring to God's sovereignty, making sure that those who are Reformed are in sympathy as well.

Transformations II

'Transformations II is a conference video presentation on city transformation by George Otis...City transformation is billed as a sweeping revival that transforms whole cities for Christ. Transformations I was a slick media production featuring testimonies from people who represented four cities in California, Colombia, Guatemala, and Kenya. These undocumented testimonies asserted that a divine visitation has completely transformed these cities, i.e., local bars were transformed into churches, ancestral shrines were destroyed and entire family clans have come to faith in Christ.

But is it true?...One Christian researcher who attended the April 30 premier showing of Transformations II in Seattle, WA, has written a report on this conference where George Otis announced that American cities are on the threshold of massive revival. One of the transformed cities for Christ is Hemet, California, the U.S. West Coast headquarters for Scientology. To confirm reports of a city-wide revival, researchers called Hemet authorities, the media and even the mayor! Strangely, no one in Hemet had any knowledge of a Christian revival, but they were aware of the Scientologists there!'

(Apostasy Alert, 6/2001)

Anglicans To View Gays As 'Good Friends'?

'The Anglican church could possibly consider viewing same-sex relationships in the context of 'committed friendships' rather than marriage, according to Primate Peter Carnley. Carnley, head of the church in Australia, stops short of condoning gay marriages but suggests the church should be open to long-lasting, faithful homosexual relationships. His thoughts come after statements last week by Catholic Archbishop of Sydney George Pell were interpreted as being anti-homosexual and drew protests.

In an article in the Bulletin magazine...Dr Carnley says given that the church saw marriage as being for procreation, it 'may wisely avoid the concept of 'marriage' as a category for referring to same-gender relationships, even those of a long-term committed kind'...

Dr Carnley questions whether the church could view same-gender friendships with not only 'humane tolerance but with a positive sense of acceptance', and asks if that acceptance could be expressed publicly through a type of formal approval.' 'In other words, could not the ministry of the church publicly and solemnly witness this kind of covenant relationship in a way broadly analogous to the way that it furnishes a public witness to the marriages of heterosexual people?' Dr Carnley says the church would in this way be seen to be rejecting promiscuity by 'upholding the values of faithfulness and loyalty in a relationship of friendship intended to be permanent and exclusive'. 'At the same time, by generating the expectation that the relationship will be exclusive and for life, it would provide concrete support that would make such relationships less likely to fail.'

Dr Carnley says the Bible makes no clear teachings about homosexual behaviour, and the 'handful' of mentions of homosexuality appear to target promiscuity. He says the church might do well to focus on the spiritual quality of homosexual friendships 'as vehicles for the expression of love, joy, peace, forgiveness, gentleness, mutual respect, care and steadfast loyalty'. 'Meanwhile, our first task, before there is any discussion of appropriate physical behaviour, is to pause to reflect and to reframe the understanding of homosexual relationships themselves within parameters set by the category of friendship,' Dr Carnley wrote...

(Apostasy Alert, 17/5/2001)

Evangelicals Forced Out By Catholics

'Catholic leaders in San Nicolas, Mexico, a town of some 4,000 people, are telling 36 Evangelical families they must leave town within 90 days 'or be kicked out.' (24/5 Ala. Baptist). Their water and sewer services were cut off Mar.28. A San Nicolas spokesperson said, 'What the town wants is for the Evangelicals to stop spreading their religion to more people and to stop having their meetings...' Another example of Romanist intolerance!' (Calvary Contender, June/2001)

Lest We Forget

'In the dark ages, 100 million men woman and children lost their lives as martyrs for Jesus at the hands of the Vatican'. (Towards 2001)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry...if you and I were to encourage someone to understand the Scriptures would we tell them to read all the books written against the Scriptures? Obviously not - but that has been the story of peoples appreciation of Ellen G. White's writings [co-founder of SDA]. They hear she said this and that; they quote her out of context and some dishonest folk misquote her...they don't bother to read her, then judge her...I believe true Adventism can be vindicated by the Scriptures and the Scriptures alone...No church has all the truth...'in the last days your sons and your daughters will prophesy...Daniel said knowledge will increase'.

I hope you attend to the Scriptures one day that Adventists quote from...I believe you'd be man enough to look at the whole Scriptures...If you feel Adventists are serious liars perhaps you could call the Charismatics cheerful liars. If you consider the Scriptures they propose - please do the same with true Adventism. I must be and are SDA. (Name withheld at editors discretion, Far Nth. Qld.)

Editors comments: Dear..., Some quick comments:

- Ellen G. White was a false prophet -she prophesied dates and events which did not come to pass. I don't doubt that some may have taken Ellen G. White out of context as you say. However, my investigations have shown irrefutable evidence that she made predictions which did not come to pass and also plagiarised a large portion of her writings from other sources. Added to this, some of her teachings are nothing short of ludicrous and others are blasphemous, (eg. 'Investigative Judgement'/'Shut door', etc).

- The use of Joel 2:28 should be in context with the verses following which refer to a future time, not just to this age now, (see *Diakrisis* May/June 2001, P.2).

- In the last days 'knowledge shall be increased' (Dan.12:4) but no extra Biblical knowledge will be needed to add to Scripture. This Scripture does not and never has been used to refer to adding to Scripture. Ellen G. Whites writings are not inspired and not needed to add to 'the faith once delivered', (Jude 3).

- I may sound hard here but if you will not see clear evidence of Ellen G. White's errors and false prophecies then you will be denying the clear command of Scripture concerning false prophets and the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit as expressly shown in Scripture.

Are you prepared to watch a video on Seventh Day Adventism? I can send you a copy if you allow me. I can also again send you clear accurate quotes of false prophecies and plagiarism by Ellen G. White. The indwelling Holy Spirit does not lead and guide into error and lies, but rather into truth and this is what 'makes us free'...

Dear sirs, the phrase 'the baptism with fire' occurs in connection with the 'Baptism with the spirit'. Is this another baptism for believers as Pentecostals say, or 'judgement'?

Advisory comment (Mike Claydon): The 'Baptism with the spirit' is mentioned 4 times - Matt.3:11; Lk.3:16; Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5. Only in the first two cases is the word 'fire' mentioned: '...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire'. But in the second two the 'fire' is missing from the Greek text...because the first two cases were speaking to the pharisees in judgement!

A look at the verses following also prove the point of judgement: 'Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire'. These

'Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, The now famous 'Transformations' video by George Otis Jr. depicted four cities around the world that were supposed to have been transformed by the power of God, after certain church groups supposedly stormed the gates of Hell and pulled down the demon forces residing over those cities...these churches were Word of Faith churches or churches that have taken up the un-Biblical teachings of C. Peter Wagner and Co. To the undiscerning and those who have been caught up in all the false revivals over the last few years, the video is convincing and people are swallowing the miraculous claims. In fact, they are now queuing to purchase 'Transformations II'.

But to those who believe that the enemy of our souls is perpetrating a great hoax upon the unsuspecting, gullible and sleepy, professing Christians, the claims made in the video need to be tested and tried in the light of Truth.

Some groups have done research into the claims of George Otis and have found many of the claims are exaggerations or outright lies. I have posted some articles on my website which show this to be so. ['Apostles, Prophets and Transformations': <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~rseaborn/apostles.html>]. However, recently I found the website of a group called the 'Emergence Response and Research Institute', (<http://www.emergency.com/colbwarn.htm>) which gave a running news report of happenings in Columbia over the last two years or so. From the 'Transformations' video you would know that Cali, Columbia, is one of the cities that God, in response to the prayers of the Word of Faith churches, has supposedly miraculously transformed. The video depicts Cali as a peaceful city of churches, where crime and violence are but a dim memory and where multitudes have converted to Christ. But what are the facts?

A number of items in the above Website are about Cali. Bombings, kidnapping and murders are still rampant. The jails were also supposed to have been empty. But what does the quote below suggest?: 'Saying he's 'tired of seeing his policemen die,' Colombia's top police official and an important U.S ally in the war on drugs announced Tuesday that he was resigning. Five years after making history by dismantling the Cali cocaine cartel, General Rosso Jose Serrano said Colombia's battle against drugs, kidnapping and guerrilla violence has claimed too many lives'.

Is that a testimony to the transforming power of God?

These people, such as George Otis, are bringing a reproach to the name of our God. Our God doesn't vacillate between victory and defeat!

God bless you as you continue to stand for Truth and honest reporting. Yours in Christ - (H.S., Cairns, Qld).

verses are missing entirely from Mark and Acts.

If one searches out the word 'fire' in Scripture they will find it refers to judgement - as in the literal fires of Hell; punishment; or of trials and judgements to purify the believers life and works. Even the 'cloven tongues' of fire that sat upon the disciples at Pentecost (Acts 2), arguably were a fulfilment of judgement upon the Jews.

In Luke chapter 12 verse 49 Jesus explicitly talks about Himself being the person that brings fire upon the earth and then goes on to talk of His own 'Baptism'...being a reference to his death...He then goes on to say that this fire He speaks of is one of judgement as people will be set against each other! ...Yet tragically Pentecostals have promoted 'Catch the Fire' Conferences! Mike Claydon

Your Comments and Questions

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

Editors Request

This year we have had at least two people unscrupulously distribute portions of material from this newsletter out of context to various people. No credit or references were given. One person gave a false impression to his readers of our doctrinal position on *sin*. Our front page states clearly: 'Articles in this newsletter may be copied or reproduced provided it is in context and proper credit and references are given'. We ask our readers to honour this request. We thank those who have kindly contacted us first to advise us they wish to copy articles. We welcome fair distribution and copying. **Terry Arnold**

(The following letter is written by a Charismatic medical doctor formerly used by a prominent Pastor/Evangelist in Australia to record and testify of 'healings'. The evangelist eventually fell in repeated open sexual sin.)

Dear Terry, Your articles are most interesting. I remember tracing a woman reported in a Kathryn Kuhlman book as having been healed of multiple sclerosis. I found her address in Tasmania and made a special aeroplane flight from Melbourne to see her. When she answered the door and I started querying her she said she was back in her wheelchair, did not want to talk to anyone and shut the door in my face.

Also, I queried a lady who was publicly reported to have been healed of Multiple Sclerosis. After the meeting at which her healing was reported I started questioning her on facts. She said 'Do you want to destroy my faith?', and stopped talking to me. Another time I started querying a child whose healing from Leukaemia was widely promoted as a sign of the worth of an evangelist's power in prayer. The child had received excellent orthodox medical treatment which was producing the same good results without the patients attending a healing meeting. As I questioned the mother the mother became embarrassed and cut me short.

*On the other hand, my sister's warts did go away soon after a minister encouraged her to have faith and I did stop spraining my ankle after a Methodist minister prayed for my ankle one day. Also when I panic about some pain and pray, the panic eases and I either get a good idea of what is wrong so I can treat it or the simple relief of panic eases the pain...it does seem to me that God does heal through modern medicine...**(Name withheld at editors discretion)***

*Dear Terry...we at [church named] continue to support you...as you continue to strive for our Lord and Saviour...spreading the word in all truth. We thank our Lord that there are people like you who preach the Gospel and never waiver...**(Byron Bay, NSW)***

Praise Points

- Praise God for a most successful Sydney trip with many unsaved hearing the Gospel and several people in false systems hearing truth and requesting materials.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Victorian trip in November. Pray for truth to be spoken in love and for the edification of the saints.

Dear Terry...it is enlightening & refreshing to see you continually teaching the truth as contained in God's Word and exposing the increasing false teaching...However, your newsletter is probably being willingly received by those people who are NOT being deceived by the 'signs & wonders movement' and cults, etc; yet not so readily by those who HAVE been deceived into believing the false teachings of those religious 'leaders'...(who seem to require vast sums of money from followers for them to continue their ministry).

*It would be good if there was some way you could get 'Diakrisis' into the hands of those who are being deceived...if each of your readers were to **pass on the newsletter** to a friend who is caught up in such movements or errors...they may see their deception and return to Scripture alone.*

*Could you... encourage your readers to do so? Keep up the wonderful work...may the Lord prosper your ministry. God bless, **(G.O., Hervey Bay, Qld)***

Editors Comment: We do already have large numbers on the mailing list who although still caught up in these false movements continue to request the newsletter...Many are questioning! However, this is a drop in the ocean in comparison to the multitudes being deceived. However, the newsletter is also a teaching resource for the discerning saints - to teach, inform and equip. Nevertheless, we encourage readers to pass the newsletters or articles on. Be prepared for opposition...yet truth will stand by itself.

Terry's Itinerary

Sept.13, 20th ('Theology') **Oct.11th,18th, 25th** 7pm ('Charismatic/Pentecostal Movement') - MEC Bible college, Hervey Bay, Qld. Ph.(07)41282622

Sept.23rd 10am&6pm Heritage Baptist, Bundaberg (07)41282622

Oct.7th 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ Ph.0411489472

Oct.14th 10am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ

Oct. 21st 9.45am Howard Baptist Ph.41294292

Oct.21st 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ Ph.0411489472

Nov.2nd-4th Oak Flats Church Camp - Woolongong, NSW

Victorian Itinerary

Nov.5-13 Bethel Baptist, Mt Pleasant/Lavington Baptist, Albury Ph.57541784/(02)60215860

Nov.14th Cobram Ph.(03)58722840

Nov.15-18 Rose City Baptist, Benalla Ph.57625220

Nov.18-21 Golden City Baptist, Bendigo Ph. 54496368

Nov.22-25 Ferntree Gully Baptist, Melbourne Ph. 97299208

Nov. 25-28 Casey Baptist, Clyde Ph. 59985114

Nov.29-Dec.2nd Calvary Baptist, Melbourne Ph.97285778

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