



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

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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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Sub-Editors Comments

'Thank you for your interest in 'The Call'. You are certainly very welcome at The Call. Unity is the key to God moving on the day. So please come, we would love that! We have people from every denomination and on the morning we are asking for spiritual tolerance for everyone to understand that prayer comes from the heart and that's what counts. We look forward to standing with you for our nation'. This, in reply to a request from a charismatic Roman Catholic youth leader to have his group attend the Call Australia event in Sydney Australia during October 2004.

Said Matt Madigan 40 Day Fast Coordinator for Call Australia, *'The Lord has put a vision in my heart and I know into the hearts of many who call Australia home and long for a day in which we see breakthrough for the kingdom of God in this nation. The vision is that through partnering with God in Prayer and Fasting during the 40 days leading up to the 'Call Australia' event on the 2nd of October, 2004, we would see a harvest of souls like never before and the heart of this nation would be turned back to Christ. The call is to all Christians of Australia that they would partner in these 40 days to see historic change happen. There are three phases and many ways you can get involved during these 40 Days. The Call Australia Revolution began on October 2nd, 2004 at the Sydney Show grounds. The reason why I say 'began' is because The Call was and is much more than a prayer event on one single day! It is a movement of the Holy Spirit that is sweeping Australia and the world in the form of a call to change history through prayer & fasting. As you probably realize The Call National Day of Prayer was held one week before our national elections. What an honour to be able to pray with and for Senator Ron Boswell, as well as Pastor Ashley Evans, representing The Family First party and a person representing Rev Fred Nile. You know the results of The Election - God certainly answered our prayers according to 1Timothy 2:1-3. I truly believe that God intervened in our nation because of our prayers'. (www.thecallaustralia.com)*

Phase one of this project began August 24th with a call for participants to download a 40 day prayer and fasting diary from the CTA website. Phase two required daily attendance at a Sydney venue to participate in *'Corporate Warfare and Prayerwalking'*. Phase three commenced September 27th and was billed as a *'nightly 'Week of Fire''* meetings at Phil Pringle's Christian City Church at Oxford Falls, Mt. Annan Christian Life Centre, and Brian Houston's Hillsong Church.

Putting aside for a moment the blatant ecumenism of these events, the question should be asked as to whether the church should be involved in national politics at all? Of course, there is absolutely nothing untoward about an individual Christian entering the political arena and we pray for those that do. But surely the Protestant church-at-large should not be shifting it's focus to Canberra?

It is not that the agenda of these churches is too radical; rather it is not radical enough! They greatly underestimate the depth of the problem. We

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Sub-editors Comments (continued)

cannot 'Christianise' this nation. The nature of sin guarantees that. Neither are we called to try! Did Jesus, Peter or Paul ever try to organize believers into a voting bloc to 'Christianise' any geo-political structure? Culture can and will be positively influenced when its participants become disciples of Christ. And that, with the scriptural Gospel preached, is entirely a work of God.

The moral declension in Australian society will not be solved by getting the right people into state and federal parliament, the senate, or the high court. Society will not change until people change. And the only way that people can be changed is by the sovereign power of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Consequently, proclaiming that gospel in the power of the Spirit is the task to which churches must

give themselves. This constitutes the only great commission which we have received from Jesus Christ.

The very heart of the problem is spiritual. As long as Christians overlook this and thereby fail to understand the implication therein, they will continue their misguided efforts to reshape the societal landscape.

It is past time for the churches to abandon political activism and to return to the teaching of Biblical Truth - to fulfil their mandate by striving for reformation and revival.

Further, God will never bless the operation of any event that welcomes the false gospel of Roman Catholicism into its midst. 'Spiritual Tolerance' is the scourge of the Church today and Jesus quite explicitly informs us as to what He intends to do with those that practice it.

Mike Claydon

Book Review

'The God Who Justifies' by James White

I have read many books on the subject of the doctrine of Justification. It is one doctrine that has thrilled me, blessed me, given great security, and stirred me to teach it with a passion. But this book '*The God Who Justifies*', like no other book, defines and crystallises all I have read and learned.

The doctrine of Justification by faith alone through the imputed righteousness of Christ has been one of the defining doctrines that separates Christianity from all other religions. The day I first grasped the meaning of imputation - the crediting of the righteousness of God to my account and the crediting of my sin to His account - was the day I vowed to seek the kingdom of God with a new zeal. I simply revel in this glorious doctrine and love to teach it. There are many good books on this subject but very few hold the place this book does. It is one of those few books I refer to time and time again.

James White is well known for his apologetical ministry which refutes the errors of liberalism, modernism, Catholicism and many other 'isms'. As with most authors I have read I do not agree with every view White holds to in other areas; but on the subject of Justification he is most able to bring out the old doctrine of Justification as taught clearly in Scripture. The doctrine of Justification by faith alone through the imputed righteousness of Christ was a doctrine taught by the apostles, the church fathers and restored at the Reformation. God seems to peculiarly bless this one doctrine throughout history. It is a doctrine that has been the impetus behind many great revivals and awakenings.

This classic work is a comprehensive study. White goes back to the early church, to the fathers of the faith, to the Puritans, Jonathan Edwards and the Reformers. He traces their writings down through the centuries. Some of the old Confessions of Faith, such as the Baptist London Confession of Faith, are referred to as examples of where this doctrine has been accepted as the norm in history.

Several passages including whole chapters of Romans are exegeted, expounded and explained in depth. White is very proficient in the original Hebrew and Greek and this is referred to often in teaching certain passages. Some readers

will find some parts, especially some footnotes, difficult and technical but every reader should be able to, or attempt to, digest most of the meat that is in this book. For the most part it is simply explained.

The doctrine is first shown in the book of Genesis and followed through to the end of the Bible. The focus is always brought back to the person and the substitutionary work of Christ. Various interpretations of the doctrine are discussed as well as the errors of 'infused righteousness' as in Roman Catholic doctrine. White addresses James chapter two and other apparent contradictions as well as passages used by false religions and the cults.

The crux of the doctrine of Justification is the doctrine of *imputation* which is discussed at length. *It is this doctrine that was at the very heart of the Reformation* and one which the Roman Catholic church countered with a vengeance. It simply destroys salvation by any works added to faith and strikes at the very heart of Arminian doctrine. There are several chapters of exegesis and defences for this truth. Passages in Romans are dealt with at length. White brings to the mind of the reader the very reason and necessity for an understanding of this doctrine - the sin of man and his inability to save himself. *This doctrine is simply at the very heart of the Gospel.*

This is a scholarly work and the footnotes and bibliography are quite extensive. Many readers might be turned away from delving into such a book but it should be one doctrine that needs to be understood and applied by every Christian. From personal experience I have seen this doctrine help transform the lives of many Christians and increase a desire to study.

This book is a must for the library of those who preach and teach and for those who want to be enamoured with a sound foundation on a doctrine that runs the length of the Bible. Great assurance of salvation is to be had from a study of this truth.

The hardcopy book is priced very reasonably considering the amount of valuable information contained in 400 pages. It is now available from this ministry (\$29.50 + postage).

Terry Arnold

Rick Warren and the 'Purpose Driven' Books

Rick Warren is pastor of the Saddleback Church in California and author of such best-selling books as 'The Purpose Driven Church' and 'The Purpose Driven Life'.

'The Purpose Driven Church':

Warren is well known for developing the 'Church Growth Movement' which uses marketing strategies including 'seeker sensitive' services that use techniques to attract the unchurched. In 'The Purpose Driven Church' Warren urges the churches to adopt contemporary music including Rock Music and to use business motivational techniques in order to fill the pews. This book majors in pragmatic methods and clearly sees *growth as fruit*. If it works and numbers are evident, then it must be good. One author wrote: '*It is hard not to be impressed by this book; it is inspiring, challenging and full of practical ideas for ministry and evangelism. Yet it is interesting to again find that the use of the Bible in it is almost universally poor*'. ('Briefing', 7/99)

In the book and seminars, Warren cleverly sets up 'strawmen'. For example, he says: '*...we are loud. We are really really loud on a weekend service...I say, we're not gonna turn it down...baby boomers want to feel the music, not just hear it...why should every church have the same music?...People can find that God loves variety!*' The 'straw man' erected is that we all might want to have the same music and that God may not be keen on variety. The *error* is that we give the unsaved what appeals to their flesh. As in all his books, Warren flogs the strawman: '*...to insist that all good music came from music 200 years ago is thinly veiled racism...it's cultural elitism saying that all the good music was written 200 years ago...Now for 2,000 years the Holy Spirit has used all kinds of music. And to insist that one particular style of music is more sacred than the other, there is a word for that - its called idolatry*'. But has the Holy Spirit really '*used all kinds of music*'? The issue is not 18th Century hymns but rather - can music which gives a response in the flesh, be used in church? '*Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit*', (Gal.5:16-26). Are we not to worship God in the '*beauty of holiness*'? (1Chr.16:29); and not be conformed to the world, (Rom.12:2)?

'The Purpose Driven Life':

The '*Purpose Driven Life*' and the '*Forty Days of Purpose*' programmes are based on Warren's premise (P.9,10) that '*Today the average life span is 25,550 days...don't you think it would be wise use of time to set aside 40 of those days to figure out what God wants you to do with the rest of them? The Bible is clear that God considers 40 days a spiritual significant time period. Whenever God wanted to prepare someone for his purposes, he took 40 days: Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain. Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mt. Sinai. The spies were transformed by 40 days in the promised land. David was transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge. Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal. The entire city of Ninevah was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change. Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness. The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after the resurrection. The next 40 days will change your life...*'

But how many readers will test such claims?: '*Noah's life*

was transformed by 40 days of rain'?: There is absolutely nothing in Genesis to support this statement! The flood was more than 40 days, (Gen.7:24). Where was Noah's life 'transformed' by the 40 days of rain?

'*Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai*'?: Moses was arguably 'transformed' at Mt. Sinai but not in those 40 days! It was actually during his first encounter with God before he returned to Egypt. Moses spent 80 days on the Mount the second time.

'*The spies were transformed by 40 days*'?: Ten of the spies came back fearful! Only two were arguably 'transformed'.

'*David was transformed*'?: David was there for more like 40 minutes than 40 days! The Israelites were 'transformed' into fearful wrecks!

'*Elijah was transformed...40 days of strength from a single meal*'?: Elijah had two meals. He was hardly 'transformed' when he ran from Jezebel.

'*Ninevah was transformed*'?: Arguably true?

'*Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness*'?: Where was Jesus '*empowered*'? He was hungry and returned from the wilderness 'in the power of the spirit', (Lk.4:14).

'*The disciples were transformed*'?: Arguably they were 'transformed' after Jesus ascension.

Warren starts with a premise, then goes to Scripture to find supporting verses. But if the reader accepts Warren's premise ('*WHenever God wants to prepare someone for his purposes, he took 40 days*')...then what about Abraham, Job, Isaac, Jacob, Samuel, Paul - *were they 'transformed' by 40 days also*? What about the generation of Israel that were dead after 40 years in wilderness?

The material in much of Warren's books is good and basic. There is nothing wrong in encouraging people to set aside 40 days but *why misinterpret scripture*, (2Tim.2:15)? Warren's material has become popular because of *the way it is put*. There are many 'strawmen' and much extra-Biblical thinking which 'tickles the ears' of people. The popularity of Rick Warren's teaching says much about the state of the Church!

The Root of the Problem:

Warren's exegesis of scripture is deceptive. An example of this is a sermon by Warren: '*What the Bible Says About the Role of Women*'. In Genesis 3:16 Warren exchanges the word '*rule*' for '*dominate*'; he says Lydia in Acts 16 '*hosted a church in her home*'; Chloe (1Cor.1:11) was a '*small group leader*'; Phebe (Rom.16:1) was a '*leader in the church*'. All these claims cannot be derived by exegesis of the texts. Warren turns 1Timothy 3:11 completely on its head and says: '*it sounds like the wives of deacons should have these qualifications [for a deaconess]*'. Yet the passage is clearly referring to *qualifications for husbands*! Warren later flatly contradicts himself when he says 'women cannot be elders'! Yet the qualification of '*husband of one wife*' is the *same wording* for both elders and deacons! Amazingly he then says '*There were obviously women leaders in the church...*' But this premise has been derived at by *speculation and false interpretation*!

A helpful booklet is: '*An Analysis of Rick Warren's 'The Purpose Driven Life'*', (can be ordered from this ministry \$2.90 postage included). Critiques can also be found at: <http://www.biblebb.com/files/pdl.htm> **Terry Arnold**

Source: '*The Purpose Driven Claim*' by Don Veinot & Pastor

'Free Australia' Tract

The secretary of the 'Free Australia Movement' has written to several churches in Australia enclosing a tract/pamphlet on the effect and infiltration of Islam in politics, society and religion in Australia. The pamphlet calls for an educated response concerning the beliefs, customs and methods of Islam. It is a patriotic call to recognise the influence of Islam in our society and religion.

The pamphlet has statistics and references from the Koran as to what Islam teaches concerning Christians. Readers can obtain the publication by writing to: 'Free Australia Movement', PO Box 9091 Wyee, 2259, NSW.

New Ecumenical Merger

'Fifteen Australian churches have signed a historic 'covenant of co-operation' under which they will recognise each others baptism and ministries - and even share their clergy...Australia's Catholic ecumenical leader, Townsville Bishop Michael Putney, said:... 'This is a very significant ecumenical event in Australian church history'.

The churches are members of the National Council of churches in Australia. They comprise the Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, Lutheran and Congregationalist churches, the Churches of Christ, Quakers, Salvation Army and seven Orthodox churches...not every church signed every section of the covenant, such as inter-communion...the Catholics and Orthodox churches do not allow people not baptised into their churches to take the Sacrament...eight churches agreed to pursue common mission and ministry...all 15 agreed to join in common, prayer and to seek a more visible expression of unity' (Sydney Morning Herald, July 26th, 2004)

Editors Comment: The ecumenical movement, once opposed by many, continues to drag the majority of Christians and denominations into its web. It is a movement compromising the truth; setting aside important doctrinal and Gospel differences for the sake of unity. But unity must be built on truth, (Jn.17). 'Light cannot fellowship with darkness', (Eph.5:11; 2Cor.6:14). The effect of this movement is the watering down of the Gospel. The hypocrisy of this knows no bounds considering the Roman Catholic religion condemns and curses those who teach justification by faith alone through the imputed righteousness of Christ. The Bible calls for separation from error particularly when it is 'another gospel, another Jesus and another spirit', (2Cor.11:4).

The Pope and Devotion to Mary

'In a message to Brazil on the Centenary of Coronation of Our Lady Aparecida Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 9, 2004 John Paul II encouraged pastors...devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary will lead to an encounter with God. The Pope gave this instruction in a message sent to Archbishop Raymundo Damasceno Assis of the National Shrine of Aparecida, and to the other bishops, priests, religious and laity of Brazil, on the occasion of the centenary of the coronation of Our Lady Aparecida as queen and patroness of that country. The message, published today by the Vatican press office, was read Wednesday during the solemn Mass at the shrine...The Holy Father addressed the bishops...to emphasize the importance of 'assuming with a real pastoral spirit the very ancient Marian devotion of your people.'...

John Paul II encouraged pastors to help the Brazilian faithful 'to live their Marian devotion as a clear and courageous testimony of the love of Christ...' 'This devotion will help to consolidate the bonds of communion with pastors of the [Roman Catholic] Church of Christ, addressing the disintegration of the faith, so many times fomented by the proselytism of [Protestant] sects', the Pope said.

This Marian devotion of Brazilians dates back to 1717, when three fishermen found in their nets a broken terracotta figure of the Virgin of the Conception, of just 36 centimeters...One of the fishermen took the image home and placed it on a small altar. A few years later an oratory was established. On May 5, 1743, a church began to be built. It was inaugurated on July 26, 1745, in which the Blessed Virgin was venerated under the name Our Lady Aparecida...The Blessed Virgin is portrayed as dark, and dressed in a thick embroidered mantle, her hands on her chest in a praying position. Pope Pius X crowned Our Lady Aparecida queen of Brazil in 1904. On July 4, 1980, when visiting the shrine, John Paul II entrusted Brazil to Mary.

('Apostasy Alert', Sept.10/2004)

Editors Comments: The Bible says God is a 'jealous God' and He will not share his glory with anyone or anything else. He hates idolatry. God's Word says there is only one saviour, (Jn.14:6; Acts 4:12) and Jesus is the 'one mediator between man and God', (1Tim.2:5).

The increasing Marian devotion by the Pope should further warn ecumenical believers that they can have nothing to do with such a religion.

Ministry Watchdog Calls For TBN To Submit To Investigation

'A North Carolina group that monitors the finances of more than 500 Christian non-profit is calling for the founders of the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) to step aside while a panel of Christian leaders investigates its finances. MinistryWatch.com, a division of Wall Watchers, has issued a 'Donor Alert' regarding TBN. The alert, which asks donors to consider withholding contributions to TBN, comes on the heels of a series of articles in the Los Angeles Times focusing on the network's finances and the luxurious lifestyles of TBN founders Paul and Jan Crouch. According to those articles, the Crouches receive combined annual salaries of more than \$750,000 ('considerably higher than the average for executive pay for nonprofits', MinistryWatch says), and the ministry

holds more than \$230 million in U.S. Treasury bonds and more than \$30 million in cash reserves. Michael Barrick with MinistryWatch wonders why the network continues to solicit donations. 'TBN presently has cash in short-term investments and long-term investments of about \$280 million dollars, yet continue to ask for more money?' he asks. A TBN press statement, dated September 22, 2004, explains that 'because the nature and demands of [the network's] growth create large capital and long-term contract cost demands, extensive cash reserves must be maintained.'...TBN is watched by more than five million households in the U.S. alone each week.

(Agape Press)

George Mueller

George Mueller was born September 1805 in Kroppenstaedt in Prussia. His name is legendary amongst those who have lived 'by faith' and practised that in their ministries.

As a child, George had money and gifts showered upon him by his father. He became a master at deception, falsifying the account books in how he spent his fathers money. When he was caught he would invent ingenious excuses and became an habitual thief and cheat. '*Before I was 10 years old I had repeatedly stolen government money which was entrusted to my father and forced him to make up the losses*'. (1) This led to a trap being set and he was caught red handed. '*Though I was punished on this and other occasions, yet I do not remember that anytime...it made any other impression upon me than to make me think how I might do the thing the next time more cleverly*'. (2) George continued to skilfully collect money from his fathers debtors and used this to commit fraud, spending large sums of this money.

His father wanted him to become a clergy man and sent him at age 11 to a classical Cathedral school at Halberstadt to be prepared for university and ministry. But George '*indulged in sinful practices which were my favourite pastimes*'. (3) At age 14 his mother died while George was in a drunken stupor.

The next year he was 'confirmed' as a Christian in the Lutheran church. But stealing, lies and alcoholism still dominated his life. At age 16 he was finally arrested for leaving a hotel without paying his bills. He went to jail as a thief, swindler and drunkard. His father obtained his release by paying the debt and the fine, but banned him from living at home. George then travelled to Nordhausen and went to Halle University. Although he was still studying for the Christian ministry, in his 300 reference books there was no Bible.

By age 20 he took up acting so he could master the art of deception further. Soon after, he was accepted as a candidate for Holy Orders in the Lutheran church and given permission to preach, yet he had rarely been to church or a Gospel service. He stated: '*Deep in my heart, I longed to renounce this wretched life, I did not enjoy it, and I had sense enough to see that one day it would ruin me completely. Still I felt no sorrow about offending God*'. (4)

In 1825 a Christian friend invited him to a house meeting. The group, led by a Mr. Wagner, sang, prayed, read the scriptures and listened to the reading of a printed sermon. George was impressed by their praying and a great joy and peace came over him as he listened, yet he experienced no conviction or repentance. But, as he was to say later: '*He began a work of grace in me*'. George burned a crude book he was about to publish and began to read the scriptures, pray and attend church services. He was ridiculed by former friends but soon discovered the truth of John 3:16 and claimed to be Born Again by the Spirit of God.

The next year at age 21 he read accounts of missionary endeavours which stirred him greatly. But then he fell in love with a young Christian girl in the fellowship meeting he was attending. His love for the Lord grew cold. Fortunately he realised what was happening to him and he broke the relationship off. Peace and joy flooded back into his life and he set himself to the Lord's work again.

George was now sitting under Dr. Tholuck's teaching at Halle University. He asked his father's permission to join a Missionary society. His father was enraged, instead expecting

him to become a clergyman and look after him in retirement. From that day on Muller resigned to trust the Lord for all his financial needs. Soon after he was hired by Charles Hodge to be a German tutor. The pay was good and George later wrote: '*thus did the Lord richly make up to me the little which I had relinquished for His sake*'. (5) Still determined to be on the mission field, George applied to the *Berlin Missionary Society* but was refused because he lacked his fathers consent. George then went to prayer with a childlike faith.

In 1826 he preached his first sermon. Because he did not know how to prepare a sermon, he borrowed one. To his surprise at the end of the service he was asked to preach again in the afternoon. George, not knowing what to do, prayed for help. He attempted to expound Matthew Chapter 5 without notes and claimed a great assistance from the Holy Spirit. He returned home vowing this would be the way he would always preach. Biographies testify that Muller was '*to rank throughout his life among the simplest and most scriptural of preachers*'. (6) It was at this time he lodged for a short time at the Orphanage houses built by A.H. Franke.

In 1827 he again applied for missionary service with the *Continental Society of Britain* but the war between the Turks and Russians closed the door yet again. The *London Missionary society (LMS)* then asked him to be a probationary student for six months in their mission to the Jews. But as a Prussian he was bound to serve three years in the army when his university studies were finished. He was yet again refused from missionary service on these grounds. George then fell ill and when he recovered he presented himself to the army doctors for a medical. They declared him unfit for Military duties. And so he went to London in 1829 and commenced with *LMS*. He studied hard including learning the Hebrew language and memorising much of the Old Testament. During this time he heard of someone who had gone to the mission field entirely 'by faith'.

The same year he became ill again and it was during this time he realised his conversion had been shallow. Through searching the Scriptures and much reading he received understanding of the doctrine of Justification by God for His sins. He began to pray over every detail of his life and committed everything to the Lord. He recuperated from illness in Teignmouth and he studied the Scriptures more deeply. He wrote: '*God showed me that His Word alone is our standard of judgement in spiritual things...*' (7)

Three books influenced George - The Testimony of A.H. Franke - '*Life of Faith*'; the second, a biography of John Newton; the third, the Journal of George Whitefield. Whitefield's works lead to a far greater earnestness in preaching and soul winning. '*George Whitefield's life drove home the truth that God alone could create in him a holy earnestness to win souls and qualify him for such divine work by imparting a compassion for the lost that should become an absorbing passion for their salvation.*' (8)

He returned to London with renewed energy and started a Bible study with his fellow students 6-8am each morning. He also prayed during the night, sometimes till 2am in the morning. (9)

Because he disagreed with the methods of *LMS* in sending people to the mission field, he started his own work to the Jews where he was. He put it to the *LMS* that he would continue to work for them if he could work without a salary

and go when and where the Lord might direct. His terms were unacceptable to LMS and on good terms his ties with them were terminated.

In 1830 Mueller was invited to replace a minister at Ebenezer Chapel in Teignmouth and reluctantly he began with a congregation of about eighteen people. Some did not like his accent or his down to earth sermons. But sinners were converted. His sermons were prepared without notes and after waiting on the lord. It was here he met the Scottish Hebraist Henry Craik who he would work with for much of his future life.

George continued never to receive a salary and asked no one for money. He believed in never borrowing or incurring debt. He instituted a gift box at the rear of the church rather than have people hand him money. In George's mind there would be no risk of *'sinful pride or false humility'*. (10)

In October, 1830 he married Mary Groves, the sister of a friend. One year later she gave birth to a still born child and almost died. George was convicted that he had not rejoiced about the prospect of being a parent but had secretly resented the fact. He was to never make the same mistake again.

Mueller's journals record many occasions when their needs were stretched to the limit and money came at the last hour. To his critics he replied: *'Rather than causing anxiety, living by faith in God alone keeps my heart in perfect peace.'*(11)

In 1832 he received a letter from Henry Craik who had moved to Bristol. Craik invited Mueller to come and help. After much prayer Mueller and Craik formed a pastoral team in two chapels in Bristol which was the infant brethren denomination of those days. The Lord blessed the work, crowds overflowed and people were converted. For eight years the two churches saw revival.

Within a year of being in Bristol Mueller saw the needs of poor children wandering the streets. He gathered them together at 8am each morning, gave them bread, read the scriptures and taught them to read. As the numbers grew local residents complained about the beggars hanging around the shops and homes and the work was temporarily abandoned.

In 1834 Mueller and Craik established an institute called *'The Scriptural knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad'*. The purpose was to establish day schools, Sunday schools and adult schools; to circulate the scriptures; and to aid Missionary efforts worldwide. Two days after establishing the institute Mueller wrote: *'Today we have only one shilling left - only one shilling between two preachers and their families. There were no patrons, no committees, and no membership'*. (12) During the first seven months of the institution some 482 Bibles and 520 New Testaments were circulated, as well as monies being given to Missions.

In December 1835 he announced his desire to establish an orphan house in Bristol. He asked the Lord for a building, one thousand pounds and people to run the orphanage. His primary reason for the orphanage was to show the faithfulness of God. The first gifts of furniture and money arrived within weeks, even though they were not asked for. Two couples offered their services and requested no salaries be given. But George suddenly realised he had not asked for the orphans to come! In humiliation he went before the lord again and the next day the first applicant arrived. In April 1836 the first house was opened with 26 children. By November a second house was opened and by April the next year a third house with 60. The Institute also prospered with thousands of copies of Bibles and texts being distributed.

Mueller believed that *'four hours of work after an hour of prayer would accomplish more than five hours of work without prayer'*. (13) He taught that to know God's will one first got his heart in a state that it had no will of its own in regard to the matter. Secondly, he sought the will of the Spirit through the Word of God. He was adamant that the spirit and the word must be combined and that if one looked to the Spirit without the word they would lay themselves open to great delusions. Thirdly, Mueller took into account providential circumstances. Lastly, he asked the Lord to reveal his will in prayer and if he had a peace after two or three petitions, he would proceed accordingly. Mueller stated at the end of his life that he had made great mistakes only when he favoured the counsel of men over the Word.

Mueller suffered from time to time from a mysterious illness in his head and it caused him to miss services, to be at times irritable and unable to pray. But it was in these times that God showed him truths about his own character.

In 1832 his wife Mary gave birth to a daughter, Lydia, then in 1834 a son, Elijah, who died that year. In 1838 she gave birth to another still born and for some time her own life hung in the balance.

In 1838 there was a financial crisis at the orphanages. It drove Mueller to prayer with greater intensity. As he meditated on Hebrews 13:8 he rested in the fact that *'Jesus in his love and power has hitherto supplied me with what I have needed for the Orphans, and in the same unchangeable love and power He will provide with what I may need for the future. A flow of joy came into my soul...About one minute later a letter was brought to me, enclosing a bill for twenty pounds'*. (14) From then on that year the money came in like Manna from heaven, by the day and the hour as they needed it. *'Often money had to be prayed in before breakfast could be eaten or the evening meal finished'*. (15) On November 10th. he wrote: *'All seemed to be dark at the beginning of this day. But the lord has enabled us to meet all financial demands. One more week has ended, and we have been able to supply the needs of ninety seven people in the Orphan houses, without going into debt'*. (16)

Mueller advocated five principles in prayer: 1. Entire dependance on the mediation of The Lord Jesus Christ as the only ground for any blessing. 2. Separation from all known sin, or the Lord would not hear us. 3. Faith in God's word. 4. Ask according to His will with right motives. 5. Waiting on God with patience.

In 1845 the houses were overcrowded and neighbours were complaining of the noise. Mueller began to pray about building a new and larger Orphanage outside the city. That year he received a gift of 1,000 pounds, the largest single donation to that time. This was followed by another donation of the same amount. Mueller purchased seven acres and would not commence the work on the buildings till all the money was in. On January 25th, 1847 being slightly short of the goal, he went to prayer. One hour later 2,000 pounds arrived. Over 11,000 pounds had flowed in, enough to start construction. The building was completed in 1849 and by 1850 housed 275 children and 33 helpers. Mueller then began to think of housing 1,000 children. He asked the Lord for 35,000 pounds before any work could commence. Funds immediately began to come in and in 1857 a second house opened. In 1862 a third house opened and the numbers of Orphans increased to 1,500. By 1870 a fourth and fifth house brought the number of children to 2,000. There was remarkable

good health amongst the orphans despite the diseases of the day.

The spiritual conversion of the orphans was a high priority. In 1860 Mueller wrote of a revival amongst the children in which 200 orphans had trusted Christ for their salvation. Many became Christian workers and pastors in later life.

In 1870 Mueller's wife died. Mueller spoke glowingly of his wife and her work with the orphans. His loneliness caused him to re-marry in 1871 to Susanna Sanger, a friend of 25 years and one who shared his vision.

Mueller then began to travel and preach all over the world. He was motivated by the worldwide need for the Gospel to be preached, the need for assurance to believers, the need for teaching of scripture, the need to promote separation from the world, and the urgency of the second coming of Christ. He did 17 missionary tours after 1875. His visit to Rome depressed him as he saw the city given over to papal idolatries.

Mueller was proficient in many languages including Latin, Greek and Hebrew. At age 87 he had preached in 42 countries to over 3 million people. By the late 1800's his distribution of Bibles and tracts had totalled over 4 million copies. 44,000 pounds was needed annually to maintain the work.

At age 93 Mueller preached his last sermon on March 6th

1898. On the next Thursday morning at 7am, after his usual cup of tea, he slipped quietly home to his Lord. There was a worldwide outpouring of grief. Unwitnessed before by Bristol, tens of thousands of people lined the streets for the funeral.

His own personal estate amounted to a mere 169 pounds. But he once said 'My aim never was, how much I could obtain, but rather how much I could give.' (17)

The work started by Mueller survives to this day. (18)

Terry Arnold

Source: 'George Mueller - A Biography' by John Dunn, New Creation Teaching Ministry

(1) 'Autobiography of George Mueller', Whitaker House, 1984, P.10 (2) 'George Mueller - Man of Faith and Miracles', Basil Miller, Bethany House, P.6 (3) 'Autobiography of George Mueller', Whitaker House, 1984, P.10 (4) Ibid P.13 (5) 'George Mueller - Man of Faith and Miracles', Basil Miller, Bethany House, P.17 (6) 'George Mueller of Bristol', Dr. A.T. Pierson; Pickering & Inglis, P.45 (7) Ibid P.26 (8) Ibid P.138 (9) Ibid P.58 (10) 'George Mueller of Bristol', Dr. A.T. Pierson; Pickering & Inglis, P.70 (11) 'Autobiography of George Mueller', Whitaker House, 1984, P.41 (12) 'George Mueller - Man of Faith and Miracles', Basil Miller, Bethany House, P.39 (13) Ibid P.49 (14) Ibid P.53 (15) Ibid P.56 (16) 'Autobiography of George Mueller', Whitaker House, 1984, P.104 (17) 'George Mueller of Bristol', Dr. A.T. Pierson; Pickering & Inglis, P.299 (18) F.F. Bruce, 1998 Internet Article

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

Dear Sir, I went to the Dave Hunt meetings in Queensland. Dave is very good on prophecy...but instead he started off with some misinformation on John Calvin that bore no relevance to his advertised subject.

Regarding Calvin: He said Calvin taught that Adam had no choice; then God told Adam not to take of the tree; then He forced Adam to sin and then punished Adam for the sin that He made him commit, as well as the whole human race. I don't recall Calvin teaching that. Then Hunt said 'how sick is that, of course the whole human race has the ability to choose salvation if they want to'. He used not ONE scrap of scripture to prove this and to be polite he misinformed the audience about Calvin for the first 20 minutes. Then he went on to speak on the Jews and Prophecy which was very interesting and I couldn't fault...

I then went to the evening meetings which were most interesting...I will attempt to quote from the evening diatribe on Calvin: He read from Matthew 24:13 'But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved'. About this Hunt said he was once a 'one point Calvinist' and believed in the 'perseverance of the saints'. But he realized that Calvin taught 'a keeping of your salvation by works' and that you 'only persevere by maintaining good works'. Now this to

me, as I have checked it, seems to be the exact opposite to what Calvin and the historic 'Calvinists' such as Whitefield, Spurgeon, Bunyan, Newton, etc actually taught! There is a book I once read by a 'Calvinist', D.E.Spencer, called 'Tulip', which actually gives a lot of verses proving eternal security for the person who has believed.

Also, Hunt...appears to some as anti-Pentecostal/Charismatic...but I have since found out he markets his books through, and speaks with, Pentecostal speakers.

It is a pity he is so keen on airing his views on a subject he apparently knows little of, i.e. historic 'Calvinism'. On the whole I was not over impressed and kept my 'love offering' in my pocket.

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors comments: This is one of many letters and calls we have received on this subject, all with the same consensus. Our comment in September/October 2004 P.11 gives many evidences of Dave's false teaching on this subject. Also see our writings on Arminianism/Calvinism/Hypercalvinism, July/Aug 2004 and other reviews in May/June 2004; Jan/feb/2003. We are not lauding 'Calvinism' here but simply attempting to show clearly the misinformation and untruths being currently promoted.

Dear Terry & Mike, ...I have been concerned how fast the 'family first' political party which seems to have started with Andrew Evans (ex head of Assembly of God (AOG) in Australia) when he went into the senate in SA. Now it is going into the other states drawing good family caring Australians into its web, bringing church and state together. I am sure caring Australians would be interested in your views on this and the damage and danger it would bring and what they can do to make a stand against. Praying for you all

(Name requested deleted because of threat from AOG.)

...AOG does have a past history of taking a Christian to court (see Sept/96; Nov/96; March/97).

Sub-Editors Comment: Since Andrew Evans, former leader of AOG in Australia, gained a senate seat, it was inevitable that the AOG would make a major move into political life. It is not surprising that they are now striving for national political power, (see editorial this edition).

Andrew Evans, John Lewis and Brian Houston are found opposing God today in so many areas...doctrine, worship, music, prophecy...etc. Mike Claydon

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

Anonymous Mail

We in this ministry occasionally receive mail and books sent anonymously. We are already hard pressed to read all the incoming mail and anonymous or unsolicited letters or publications cannot be read.

Dear Terry, I cannot thank you enough for the materials you have sent me. I have been wanting a copy of your book 'To Catholics Whom I Love' since a friend lent me her copy last year. I feel such a passion to minister to my Catholic relatives and friends to let them know of the truth of Jesus. I pray that your ministry continues to reach out to our lost brothers and sisters in the Lord...

(A.M., NSW)

Dear Terry,...you recently preached at...[church in Adelaide]. We greatly appreciated learning about your ministry in defending the faith. We hold to the Bible as our final authority and feel a oneness with you as you seek to maintain the purity of the doctrine of God's holy word. Thankyou for your ministry to us and we look forward to receiving your newsletter regularly.

Dear Terry, We do enjoy the articles and comments. In your recent issue we enjoyed the article 'Evangelism - Puritan or Modern?' So appropriate when we see what is happening in a lot of churches today, the way they evangelise. Also your articles on the life of John Bunyan and to see how he suffered and was faithful to the 'true word of God'. May God bless your ministry and keep on with your work for Him,

(J.&& N. P. Vict.)

Praise Points

- Praise the Lord for His provision.
- Thank the Lord for the fellowship and dedication of the voluntary workers and supporters in this ministry.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the many contacts we are helping and ministering to on a daily basis through the materials in this ministry. Pray for wisdom and discernment in what we send out.
- Pray for readers to understand clearly what is written in this newsletter and not to make judgements about the character of the editors but to make righteous judgements concerning the teaching, (Jn.7:24).

*Dear Terry, Mike, Keep up the good work. My wife and I ever look forward to each issue as they arrive. Some months ago we needed to withdraw from our own church which was...being led down that 'Hillsong' path in the area of music and worship, (that was not the only reason). The Lord led us to another church much nearer home, where the Pastor is a strong Sovereign Grace man in his preaching, but will not have a bar of the Hillsong approach to Worship which I firmly believe is man-centred and carnal. That Majestic vision of God which promotes a Holy fear, is rarely found these days in so called Evangelical churches. It is causing much heartache and division in once 'faithful' churches. Every Blessing. **(A.R., Sydney)***

Dear Terry, I enclose two sheets from the 'Spirit Filled Bible'. The errors may be obvious...

Editors comments: On P.1998 in the section 'Spiritual Answers' the question is asked 'How do I receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38,39)'. The section gives six things for one to 'do' to 'receive this blessing'. The whole passage confuses the *filling* by the Spirit with the *Baptism with the Spirit* and is a hotchpotch of misused scriptures. Some of the scriptures bear no relevance to the Baptism with the Spirit whatsoever. 'Tongues' is also connected with this in typical Pentecostal teaching. No reference is made to the fact that in Acts 2 the 'tongues' were *known understood languages* in contrast to the *unknown ecstatic utterances* in the modern tongues movement. Readers might be left to assume that the tongues of Acts 2 and other places are the same as the unknown ecstatic utterances of today.

Rather than here refute all the six points in this 'Bible', readers are referred to our book 'Tongues & The Baptism with the Spirit' which gives a detailed appendix dealing with the 'Baptism with the Spirit' as it is in Scripture and was for 1,900 years, before the Pentecostal movement introduced *new teaching* at the turn of the 20th Century. Alternatively, see *Diakrisis* article Aug/Sept/2000.

Dear Terry, keep up the good work. Unfortunately two extremes are increasingly apparent in the modern church - Legalism/Worldliness

(D.S., Toowoomba, Qld)

Terry's Itinerary

Nov/Dec - Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. Ph. 0411489472

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