

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, about a year ago I rang you in such a desperate state of depression as to be considering suicide...Thankyou for your prayers and the CD you sent on 'Depression'...It is excellent teaching which I have and will continue to share with others...I cannot express how much I appreciate your ministry except to say, once again, thank you, God bless you.

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

New PDF Colour

We are experimenting with colours in the e-mail version of the newsletter.

If you wish to receive *Diakrisis* by e-mail please advise us. This will assist us in distribution and alleviate costs. The e-mail newsletter is distributed earlier (up to 1 week) before the hardcopy. (A link to download Acrobat Reader is provided with the e-mail if needed). You can then print in the same format as the previously mailed hardcopy (and with colour if you wish).

Prayer/Praise Points

- Terry and Beth will be travelling for the first time to Western Australia in September. Pray for an itinerary to be concluded and the opportunity to meet subscribers and new churches.

- Praise the Lord for several donations towards the printing costs, computer equipment and printing the 'Eternal Questions' booklet. We have now been able to upgrade our equipment. Terry is now looking to the Lord for funds to publish and print a new book on evangelism this year.

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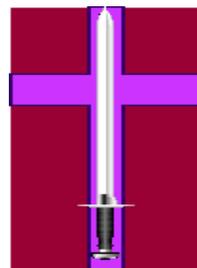
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'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil', (Heb.5:14)

Newsletter of **TA Ministries** Vol.3, No.22

July/August 2011

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

Editor: Terry Arnold (MABS; Dip. Bib.&Min., Dip. Teaching)

The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

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

Articles in this newsletter may be copied or reproduced provided it is in context and proper credit and references are given. We encourage distribution of this newsletter that others might be taught, informed and equipped.

This Newsletter is distributed bi-monthly *free* of charge. The cost to this ministry is approximately \$20.00 per subscriber annually. Any donation to help with these expenses is received with gratitude.

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New DVD Resource

This ministry now has DVD copies of the 'Holy Spirit Seminar' conducted by Terry Arnold in Adelaide in April, 2011.

The topics were:

The Holy Spirit (the person and work)
The Baptism with the Spirit & the Filling by the Spirit
The History of the Pentecostal Movement

'Tongues'

Healing, the Gifts; Which Gospel?...

Two packaged DVD's with notes.
Total Price: \$15.90, postage included

Editor's Comments

This year Harold Camping of *Family Radio* (USA) predicted the 'Rapture' would occur on May 21st. (His first attempt predicted Sept.6th,1994). His method was similar to that used by William Miller to forecast Christ's return in 1844. (False prophetess Ellen G. White covered up this failure with a new 'Shut Door' theory claiming Jesus had returned 'spiritually'. And so began the Seventh Day Adventist movement). The similarities between the two men are striking. They both attempted to use mathematics to arrive at a date for the coming of Christ. They both predicted the arrival of a comet. Camping maintained that in 2011, 7,000 years have passed since Genesis 1 (despite the different calendars and uncertainties in them). When their prophecies failed both men announced the event occurred 'spiritually', not 'literally'. (Camping now says a more 'literal' fulfillment is October 21, 2011).

It was a tragedy for those who sold everything and followed Camping, as it was for those who followed Miller, and for the multitude who follow Ellen G. White and her Seventh Day Adventist movement today.

Are not the Scriptures clear? **'Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes'** (Matt.25:13). Is this not plain enough? One of the issues surrounding this latest failed prediction is *interpretation*. Increasingly people fail to interpret Scripture in a literal sense when it makes no sense any other way. What is needed today is teaching on the *rules of interpretation*, not just in colleges but *in churches!* (See *'Some Thoughts on Hermeneutics'*, *Diakrisis* May/June/2008). Pastors and elders need to teach and equip their people with interpretation skills and encourage a healthy fear of going beyond what is written.

Yet there is another angle to the Camping phenomena. The appearance of such false prophets is actually confirmation that we are nearing the end of the church age. The Bible clearly predicts that **'false Christ's and false prophets'** will arise as Christ's return nears (Matt.24:11,24). Arguably, there is an increasing number of people claiming to be the Messiah or predicting dates for the end of the world. (Currently in our own area in Queensland we have a person making headlines by claiming to be 'Jesus Christ' along with his partner 'Mary Magdelene'). Other signs are noted in Luke 21 and Matthew 24 which speak of **'wars and rumours of wars'** (Israel's very existence now constantly threatens world war); **'famines, and pestilence and earthquakes'**; and **'signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring...'**

Other passages state the end will be **'like the days of Noah and Lot'** with violence, bloodshed, lawlessness, homosexuality rampant in every sector of society (Lk.17:26-28; Gen.6&19), a worsening of selfishness and rebellion (2Tim.3:1-5,13), and a large scale falling away from **'the faith once delivered'** (1Tim.4:1; 2Tim.4:3,4; 2Thess.2:3).

Another tragedy of Harold Camping and his ilk is that it further weakens the strength of Biblical truth in the minds of the unbelieving. However, for the believer it should solidify the veracity of the texts dealing with the endtimes and confirm that we are living in the days prior to the return of our Lord for His Church. These media stunts can be seen as signals that we are to continue to **'watch'** and **'not be deceived'** (Matt.24:4; Mk.13:33-37). Are you ready, looking and **'watching'** as Scripture commands (Matt.25:13; Mk.13:33; 1Thess.5:6)?

Terry Arnold

Western Australia Itinerary

Terry will be speaking in a church in Perth in September (see itinerary below). There is opportunity for another church to have Terry during the week or on a second weekend that is free. Contact Terry.

Terry's Itinerary

July 30th (Sat) 7pm Corinda Brethren Assembly, **Brisbane** Ph.(07)37256458

July 31st (Sun) 9.30am Corinda Brethren Assembly, **Brisbane** Ph.(07)37256458

August 20th (Sat) 7am Family breakfast, Highfields Baptist, **Toowoomba** Ph.46967007

August 20th (Sat) Harristown Assembly, **Toowoomba** 4 pm & 6pm Ph.47135494 or 0428953305

Aug.21st (Sun) 9.30am Highfields Baptist, **Toowoomba**, Qld Ph.46967007

Aug.21st (Sun) 6pm Harristown Assembly, **Toowoomba** Ph.47135494 or 0428953305

Western Australia (Sept.17-25th)

September 18th (Sun) 10am & 6.30pm Perth Free Presbyterian church, Padbury, **Perth** Ph.(08)93073812

The rest of this WA itinerary to be advised (one weekend, Sept.25th, is still available).

Barry Horner's Itinerary

Barry Horner is the author of 'Future Israel', was a former Australian Baptist pastor and now resides in Arizona, USA. (He is also an authority on 'Pilgrims Progress' and John Bunyan). 'Future Israel' focuses on the biblical, theological and historical reality of Israel. It challenges Reformed eschatological assumptions that are rooted in replacement/supersessionist theology. The book (395 pages) is recommended by John Macarthur and Walter Kaiser. We highly recommend it as a reference book, a scholarly work of the history of Augustinian/replacement theology, as well as showing surprising connections between this and anti-semitism. The book is available from our ministry (\$21.95 + postage).

Barry's Australian (July/August) Victoria/NSW/Queensland itinerary can be obtained by contacting TA Ministries.

Website Comments (www.taministries.net)

It was a great blessing to attend one of Terry's meetings in Tasmania a few years ago. A major benefit and staggering contribution was finding out more about trying to help religious people, especially Catholics...and what would be a sensible approach to help them...Since then I have referred to Terry's book 'To Catholics I love'. This is an encouragement and helpful resource. After meeting Terry, I have tried to be a reasonable workman where it comes to Bible study. Praise God there are people such as your team who care enough for Christians who are being lead astray because of false teaching. Sound doctrine and accountable teachers are a refreshment and they counteract so much confusion.

You have a challenging article on the website 'How Do You think?' ['Diakrisis' July/2006 or on website in 'Articles' section under 'Bible Principles/Interpretation']. I wholeheartedly agree with your guidelines there. Human wisdom is subservient to Biblical teaching, not the other way round...

Your Comments and Questions

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and a town *close* to the Biblical Corinthian church). Other scattered references to unknown tongues can be found in the mystic religions of Osiris, Mithra, Eleusinian, Dionysian and the Orphic cults. Celcus reported ecstatic utterances among the Gnostics in AD180. Mohammed (founder of Islam) found it difficult to return to intelligible speech after his ecstatic experiences. Unknown tongues are also found in Mohammedanism from Persia; the Tibetan monks; Buddhist and Shinto Priests; in Hinduism; and in many other eastern religions. Psychiatrists report the same in mental illnesses such as Schizophrenia. In all these cases the references are to ecstatic speech producing 'babble' or unknown 'tongues'.

I also have on file a mention of unknown tongues with Australian aborigines several decades ago. The experience introduced by Charismatic white people actually interfered with a local revival and was rejected by the aborigine Christian leaders, who cited the unknown 'tongues' as pagan and similar to their past chantings. A lengthy quote of unknown tongues with Aborigines is cited in our book *'Tongues and the Baptism with the Spirit'*, P.57.

How is one to know if it is not pagan, demonic or gibberish unless it is the same as in Acts 2 - someone knew the 'tongues' as known foreign *understood* languages!

Dear Brother, my name is...I wrote to you about 5 or 6 years ago...concerning the Word Faith movement. I have continually enjoyed 'Diakrisis' all these years. Unfortunately I am still incarcerated (in prison) going on 21 years now, but I feel like I'm in the centre of the Lord's will for me and I am continually blessed every day. I pray that the Lord is blessing you with such a blessing that you cannot even contain it!...God bless the works of your hands and every word that you speak, all to the praise of His awesome glory, Your brother in his service...

(From USA; Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Dear Terry, over the years I have had difficulty understanding the 'Baptism with the Spirit'...but I discovered your DVD (on U-Tube) on this...At last it all makes sense. Even though there are many good men with different explanations, the clincher for me was the Word of God regarding the chronology of this Baptism as well as 'the promise'. It could not happen until Jesus went to glory, hence the Acts 2 'promise of the Father'...I had been confused somewhat by Martyn Lloyd Jones and others whose explanations sidetracked me. Notwithstanding my own laziness to just get into the Word of God and wrestle and pray. Your DVD restored my sanity. It was a clear and plain explanation as well as exhorting Christians to hold fast to the Word of God on the truth Jesus said about the Holy Spirit not being given until He went to be with the Father. That cracked everything wide open! Hallelujah. I am so thrilled. At last I get it!

(B.S., NSW)

The Muslim Dilemma

'We are told again and again by 'experts' and 'talking heads' that Islam is the religion of peace, and that the vast majority of Muslims just want to live in peace. Although this unqualified assertion may be true, it is entirely irrelevant. It is meaningless fluff, meant to make us feel better, and meant to somehow diminish the spectra of fanatics rampaging across the globe in the name of Islam.

The fact is that the fanatics rule Islam at this moment in history...It is the fanatics who march...It is the fanatics who wage any one of 50 shooting wars worldwide...It is the fanatics who systematically slaughter Christian or tribal groups throughout Africa and are gradually taking over the entire continent in an Islamic wave...It is the fanatics who bomb, behead, murder or honor-kill...It is the fanatics who take over mosque after mosque...It is the fanatics who zealously spread the stoning and hanging of rape victims and homosexuals...It is the fanatics who teach their young to kill and to become suicide bombers.

The hard quantifiable fact is that the peaceful majority, the 'silent majority', is cowed and extraneous. Communist Russia was comprised of Russians who just wanted to live in peace, yet the Russian Communists were responsible for the murder of about 20 million people. The peaceful majority were irrelevant.

China's huge population was peaceful as well, but Chinese Communists managed to kill a staggering 70 million people.

The average Japanese individual prior to World War II was not a war mongering sadist. Yet, Japan murdered and slaughtered its way across South East Asia in an orgy of killing that included the systematic murder of 12 million Chinese civilians; most killed by sword, shovel and bayonet.

And who can forget Rwanda which collapsed into butchery. Could it not be said that the majority of Rwandans were 'peace loving'? History lessons are often incredibly simple and blunt, yet for all our powers of reason we often miss the most basic and uncomplicated of points: Peace-loving Muslims have been made irrelevant by their silence. Peace-loving Muslims will become our enemy if they don't speak up, because...they will awaken one day and find that the fanatics own them, and the end of their world will have begun.

Peace-loving Germans, Japanese, Chinese, Russians, Rwandans, Serbs, Afghans, Iraqis, Palestinians, Somalis, Nigerians, Algerians and many others have died because the peaceful majority did not speak up until it was too late.

As for us who watch it all unfold, we must pay attention to the only group that counts; the fanatics who threaten our way of life'.

(Dr. Emanuel Tanay, MD Wayne State University, Ann Arbor, Michigan)

Evolution or Creation?

Fish > Amphibians...Missing!: 'Although this transition [from fish to amphibians] doubtless occurred over a period of millions of years, there is no known fossil record of these stages'.

(Evolutionist, K.Adler)

Roman Catholicism & Ecumenism

At the end of an audience with Patriarch Raphael I of Iraq... 'the Pope bowed to the Muslim holy book the Qu'ran presented to him by the delegation and kissed it as a sign of respect'. (www.deceptioninthechurch.com)

'Those also can attain to everlasting life who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or His church yet sincerely seek God, and moved by grace, strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience'. [Reader see Rom.4:4,5; Eph.2:8,9; Gal.2:16]

'This proclamation (of the Gospel) is relevant also for immense sections of the human race who profess non Christian religions...' (Vatican II) [See Acts 4:12]

1986 October: Ecumenical prayer meeting in Assisi, Italy. Islam was one of the religions among spiritualists, snake charmers, etc.

1991 (Hamdard Islamicus): Pope greets Muslims as 'To my beloved Muslim brothers and sisters'.

1992 May 18: Pope declares Moslems and Christians worship the same God.

('Christian News')

Christians, Jews and Muslims to Share Pulpits

Churches across the United States will be opening up their pulpits to clergy from the Jewish and Muslim faiths...on June 26...clergy will take to the different pulpits to read from their own scriptures. Father Pat Earl, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Charlotte, North Carolina, told the Catholic News Service it was a 'good thing for the church' to 'publicly recognise the existence of Islam'...The Rev. C. Welton Gaddy, president of the Interfaith Alliance: 'We're calling upon congregations to say by means of their actions, 'We come from different traditions, hold different beliefs and engage in different rituals in our churches, mosques and synagogues, have different beliefs yet emphasise religious freedom and search for answers to life's questions through our respective faiths'.

(Christian Post, Thu, Jun. 02, 2011; Apostasy Alert 4th June 2011)

The Ecumenical Church

Churches in 500 cities will unite behind an annual national ad campaign this fall that aims to bring Americans 'back into' a relationship with Jesus Christ. In its fifth year, Ecumenical 'The Alpha Invitation' campaign brings churches across denominational lines to invite people to a dinner where they will be introduced to the Alpha course, a 10-week practical introduction to the Christian faith that answers questions about God's existence, people's purpose in life, and who Jesus is... 'The main purpose of the Alpha Invitation is to make more disciples of Jesus Christ but it is also leading to greater church unity in hundreds of cities and communities across America', said Gerard Long, executive director of Alpha USA...Alpha USA helps churches, including Roman Catholicism, Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventism, create a welcoming environment where people are free to make up their own minds about the teachings of Jesus Christ...'

(Apostasy Alert 4th June, 2011)

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Qs.2 In regards to 1Cor.14:4 - why do Pentecostal/Charismatics say their personal 'tongues' edifies self, yet you say 'no gift edifies self'?

Editor's Reply: The verse in question is: '**He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself; but he that prophesies edifies the church**'

The unknown 'tongue' here is being contrasted with 'prophesies'. (This is a common style in Paul's writings). The former edifies self, the latter edifies the church. The contrast here cannot be understated or avoided. Many Christians read one half of this verse to the exclusion of the other half. Paul does not commend this unknown 'tongue', but rather *contrasts* it with something better.

The fact of self edification cannot be ignored, but the context of 1Cor.14 is strongly *against* self edification throughout the entire chapter! *No gift is for self but rather for the body of Christ!* The gifts were given to profit all in the body of believers (1Cor.12:7). Nowhere do the Scriptures promote self edification. If the self edification in 1Cor.14:4 is commended then it contradicts a host of other Scriptures! '**We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let everyone of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not Himself...**' (Rom.15:1-2). We are rather to '**edify one another**' (1Thess.4:11).

Many use this verse 4 for the concept of 'private tongues' or a 'prayer language'. This is actually new to the 20th Century (popularised by Oral Roberts and Word-Faith teachers). Why would Paul teach a private unknown tongue, a 'prayer language' or self edification, when he dissuades this in the church throughout the entire 1Corinthians 14?

Qs.3 Are there modern instances of miraculous speaking in foreign languages?

Editor's Reply: There are numerous 'stories' but there are no documented instances that I know of. Some I did track down in early years and found they were gross exaggerations or fabrications. There was one account within the Wesley Methodist missions but I could not obtain any evidence. If there are such real cases they would be sovereign *miracles* by God for His purposes and would still oppose the ecstatic *unknown* tongues of today.

Qs.4 Can you give examples of pagans speaking in unknown tongues in the past or present day?

Editor's Reply: The secular history of 'unknown' tongues accounts are documented in my book '*Tongues and the Baptism With the Spirit*', P.7-9. Here is a sample: Virgil describes the Sibylline priestess on the island of Delos speaking in ecstatic utterances and being 'interpreted' by a pagan priest or prophet. The early writer, Plato, cites examples of unknown tongues with pagan prophetesses in Delphi and priestesses at Dodona. Other authors mention the pagan female seers at Delphi and that 'interpreters' were in attendance to explain the incoherent utterances. (It is noteworthy that *Delphi* was a centre of pagan rituals

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Personal 'Prophecies'?

Dear Terry, recently we had an 'exercise' in church...People got together in pairs, one person was to think of a person to give a 'prophecy' to...Someone wrote out this 'prophecy' for me from God: 'You are very special to me, I know you intimately ever since you were born. Do not be afraid of me. I will be with you till you come home to me. Be as a little child; put your hand in mine; walk run and laugh with me, I love you, Pappa Dad' ...

Editors Comment: The way I would respond to this 'prophecy' is to tell the person who gave you the prophecy that you don't need this because the Word of God *already tells you the things in the prophecy!* (eg. Tit.2:14; 1Pet.2:9; Ps.139:13; Jn.14:27; Mk.6:50; Lk.12:4; Heb.13:5; Mk.14:36; Rom.8:15; Gal.4:6). Tell them you would rather hear from **'The more sure word of prophecy' which is the 'prophecy of THE Scripture'**! (2Pet.1:19,20). I would also warn them they are adding to the Word of God and God will judge and even curse those who do so. It's that serious! I would feed these people articles (we can supply). It might make you unpopular and even separated, yet some might listen?

The following Scriptures are also relevant: 2Pet.1:19,20; 2Tim.3:16,17; Rev.22:18,19; Jn.12:48.

Questions From Holy Spirit Seminar (Adelaide 2011)

Qs.1 Would those 'baptised into John' in Acts 19 have been Old Testament saints if they were never baptised into the Spirit?

Editors Reply: There will be differing views on this and here are my brief thoughts for further study. Acts 19 must be seen as part of the *historical sequence* of events in which the Holy Spirit comes to various groups of people for the first time to indwell permanently - to the Jews in Acts 2, the Samaritans in Acts 8, the Gentiles in Acts 10, and now a distant group of believers in John the Baptist.

John was sent to **'make straight the path'** for the arrival of Israel's Messiah. He offered a **'baptism of repentance'** (Mk.1:4; LK.3:3; Acts 13:24; 19:4). He offered the Jews a cleansing remission for past sin (Israel was deeply apostate and pagan religions abounded at this time).

Old Testament saints were forgiven but *not cleared*. They had remission but *not redemption*. They received redemption when Christ took them out of paradise at His resurrection. God *never* forgives sins on the basis of water. Those that were baptised by John would later need to have faith to believe in Christ. Old Testament saints all believed that a Messiah was to come. They were saved by faith in Christ just as we were. Until the day of Pentecost no one was permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but many had been saved by their faith in God's provision of a Messiah for Israel. Christ preached the Gospel of the Kingdom to the Jews.

The Emergent Church Movement

Though in the late 1990's the *Emergent Church Movement* may have started out with good intentions, it has come to symbolise a blatant apostate religion that has usurped and is now replacing authentic Christianity in theological institutions, denominations, and local churches world-wide.

The *Emergent Church Movement* takes its name from the idea that the culture has changed, and a new church should emerge in response.

I define Emergent as:

- * Experience over Reason
- * Spirituality over Doctrine and Absolutes
- * Images over Words
- * Feelings over Truth
- * Earthly Justice over Salvation
- * Social Action over Eternity

To the Post-modern-Emergent follower *truth is relative*, secondary, unattainable, and *those who hold to absolutes are viewed as arrogant*. Though this may remind some of a definition for liberalism, make no mistake - the *Emergent Church* is far more than that and is much more closely aligned to pagan, New Age spirituality than to Biblical Christianity.

There is no soft or diplomatic way to portray it other than to say that *Emergent Christianity really isn't Christianity at all*. It is a new religion which has extracted much of the terminology and trimmings of Christianity but is thoroughly void of the doctrines, beliefs, and saving power of the Gospel, its God, and its Christ. This is the reason why wherever I go, whether on radio, television, or in public meetings, I have been repeating the challenge for *Emergent* leaders to *come clean and just admit that what they are advocating isn't Christianity* and that what they are teaching is instead a hybrid New Age philosophy. Regardless of their insistence, this hybrid is in *no way just a revived version of our faith which has been lost for centuries*, until they rode onto the scene to rescue it...Biblically-aware Christians will correctly call it *cultic, aberrant and demonic*.

Where Emergent Meets the New Age:

Numerous Emergent authors and leaders now claim a renewal of the practice of 'Labyrinths' is actually a return to authentic Christianity!

One ingredient of the glue that cements *Emergent* to the New Age is *their common infatuation with the green movement*. Having been a card carrying New Ager (if they carried cards...) I can tell you that *hyper-environmentalism* and *the notion of saving the planet from mankind is the end game of both movements*. Though well-intentioned but misguided, some of these folks still ought to know better. Those who have been sucked into the *Emergent* mess may have read the Scriptures which clearly teach that God actually created the planet for man and not vice-versa but, like the crux of *Emergent* leaders, they seek to question or just flatly deny what the Bible states on this. Several generations have been taught to believe the earth worshipping model as

fact - regardless of how much reliable science or little Bible one can cite for their position. So, in the latest round of *reconditioning* the post-modern mind in this area, numerous heretics have taken to simply abandoning the authority of the Bible in context and are now busy re-defining Christianity as a socialist, pagan religion who's stated goal is to revere planet Earth.

I personally heard arguably the most heralded *Emergent* leader, *Brian McLaren*, tell an audience in Nampa, Idaho that the word 'salvation' was actually about we humans saving the planet and that Jesus' use of the phrase 'the world' was actually referring to the earth and not to lost humanity. (McLaren clearly states the same on pages 65-66 of his book 'A Generous Orthodoxy'.)

Close behind is their insistence to make up their own rules and do their own thing at all costs. To these folks (and the majority of post-modern thinkers) truth is *simply situational*. Absolute truths are rejected and an 'anything goes' theology reigns. In fact, one could quite correctly say that the only absolute that *Emergent* and New Age followers agree on is that *there is no absolute truth*. For those intent on abandoning absolutes, that verges on being dogmatic and absolute doesn't it?

This is how so many 'Christians' could be brought into accepting the next commonality between *Emergent* and New Age...Through *contemplative prayer* and practice, *Emergent* followers are being introduced to *experiential mysticism* too. Numerous authors and leaders now claim a renewal to labyrinths, incense, chanting, meditation and the like *is actually a return to authentic Christianity*.

All experience now appears to be acceptable, and without the sure leading of the Scriptures to rely on what is holy, is being confused or cast aside for what is actually demonic by post-modern *seekers*. The popularity and acceptance of the Hindu practice of Yoga is a prime example of just how far removed from Biblical Christianity some leaders and churches have moved.

I compare numerous quotes from *Emergent* leaders and New Age authors. This illustrates the *likenesses of the two religious systems*...

To illustrate how New Age and *Emergent* thinking and beliefs closely align I want to quote from an extensive interview given by *Rev. Duke Tufty* to the *Kansas City Star* June 13, 1998. Tufty is the leader of a recognised New Age cult (*The Unity School of Christianity*). He was pastor of Unity Temple on the Plaza (Kansas City, MO) from 1991 until his election to become Chairman of the Board of Unity.

On the identity of God Tufty stated, 'You are an expression of God Spirit...of the oneness that exists with you and God...(life is) an experience of the oneness that exists with you and God'.

Author, speaker and *Emergent* 'Christian Futurist', Leonard Sweet, writes about *Contemplative Spirituality* and the need for Christians to find the 'Christ Consciousness'. Leonard Sweet says 'New Light embodiment means to be 'in connection' and 'in formation' with other Christians...The church is fundamentally one being, one person, a communion whose cells are connected to one another within the information network called the Christ consciousness'. (*Quantum Spirituality*, P.122). He continues, '(There) are the traceable connections that exist between ourselves and others or objects, and the underlying holism of the universe...Transcendent state of consciousness' (P.234). Translation: We are all

...On your website you are still selling false DVD's of healings and raising from the dead. One gives an account of a Nigerian Pentecostal pastor, Daniel Ekechukwu, being raised from the dead at a Bonnke crusade in Nigeria. The Bonnke story is that a pastor called 'Eku' had a motor vehicle accident and with chest injuries left the nearest hospital for another against the advice of the physicians, and then 'died' but was 'revived' at a Reinhard Bonnke meeting. Eku was pronounced dead on a stethoscopic and ocular response examination only. There was no autopsy report documenting postmortem. There are conflicting accounts concerning the time the patient was dead, which vary from 42 hours to 3 days...and why did the Federal hospital (the second one they went to) not issue a death certificate? Instead a death certificate was issued at St. Eunice clinic signed by a Dr Josse Anuebusisa, a physician who is a family friend of the pastor's uncle...and how could Eku's wife claim to have spoken to him during this journey if he was 'dead'? Why did they rush him to the third medical facility, St. Eunice, if he was 'dead'? There was no autopsy report, no coroner's report, no recorded time of death and no police accident report. Pastor Ekechukwu claims that hell had a 'welcome sign' and that the rich man's prayer of Luke 16:19-31 was answered and he was sent back to warn people to repent and believe. This contradicts the direct teaching of Jesus that even if someone did return from the dead, such people would not believe. In Scripture God refuses to answer this prayer yet with Eku God does the opposite? Pastor Ekechukwu's wife said 'the anointing' was so powerful at Reinhard Bonnke's preaching that she would receive her husband back from the dead. However, Pastor Ekechukwu said that Mr Bonnke was not even present, having already left (www.letusreason.org).

In more recent years at a *Hillsong Conference* in Sydney, Bonnke 'promised married couples who were barren that they would be holding their own baby in their arms in nine months time. He promised cures for cancer, for people with damage to their spines, and those suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. He asked us to stand and place our hands on the parts of the body where we were sick or on the top of our own heads, and promised that we were healed and that our life spans were returned to normal. The fact that he himself wore glasses at all times before, during and after these sessions, seemed to matter little to him or the audience' ('The Briefing', Jan/2007, P.13).

In regards to the healing of Jean Neil - there were several doctors in England who did the research on this event and this 'healing' (see our *Diakrisis* Dec/99). We have published the facts surrounding the investigation by the doctor in England and also done our own research into Reinhard Bonnke. I suggest you look into our article and show me where it is in error in any degree. The information was sent to Reinhard in early days. He did nothing about it. Your organisation continues to sell such videos of false miracles and healings.

You are the one who does more 'harm to the kingdom of God' by printing and selling false healings. We are told to '**earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints**' (Jude 3). We are told to expose false prophets and teachers.

Siegfried, defamation is telling untruths about Reinhard. I suggest you show me where we are in error in our research...I await your reply.

Terry Arnold, for *Diakrisis* (Australia)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Reinhard Bonnke

[The following e-mail was sent to our ministry after we had sent some material exposing Reinhard Bonnke to a subscriber. The material is referenced in the editor's reply below and can be viewed in the *Diakrisis* 2002 March/April and 1999 December (re: The Healing of Jean Neil) or on our website (www.taministries.net) under articles/healing/healing of Jean Neil]

Dear Terry, Before publishing any accusations or defamations, I would strongly recommend that you research and get your facts. Otherwise you do more harm to the kingdom of God than good. Thanks and regards,

(Rev. Siegfried Tomazsewski, Continental European Director *Christ For All Nations*)

Editors Reply: Dear Siegfried, the material [concerning Reinhard Bonnke] has been published by our ministry and many others for years...My answer to you is the same as it was some years before when you wrote similarly to me...I am happy to supply you with the information. Are you interested?

Here are some snippets of what we have written over the years before we get to the false claims of the healing of Jean Neil [the article in question].

On the 6th October, 1999, 14 people were crushed to death in Nigeria when they attempted to rush the stage to try to touch Bonnke (*New Life*, Nov/99). The parents of one of the dead, a little baby girl, tried unsuccessfully to get the body to Bonnke hoping he would 'raise her from the dead'. The family then did the next best thing and laid the body on Bonnke's Mercedes Benz in the hope of the baby coming back to life. Apparently, they were putting their faith in the 'anointing' of the faith healer, Reinhard Bonnke. Bonnke was sued in Nigeria for the deaths of people crushed in the human stampede. *None of the those killed were raised from the dead.* Theophilus Osagiede, brother of one of the victims, had a massive 60 million Niara litigation against Bonnke and his organizers.

Many other ministries and the media have exposed Reinhard Bonnke. Anthony Thomas, who wrote and directed the TV documentary 'Miracles', believed Bonnke is popular in Africa because he taps into their old religious superstitions. 'Bonnke is [like] the 'voodoo priest', casting spells on his enemies and summoning up good and evil spirits as he dances to the beat of the drum', said Thomas.

Jesus Christ warned his believers to **'take heed that no man deceive you...For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect'** (Matt.24:4,24). The word '**Christs**' is literally '**anointed ones**'. Bonnke and his ministry claim a special 'anointing'.

At some of his 'crusades' he has shouted '**All of Nigeria is going to heaven!**' and promised '**all of Nigeria will be healed**'. He regularly promises the blind will see and the paralysed will walk. He once told a crowd to begin shouting '**Alleluia!**' until the Holy Spirit entered their bodies. '**You are going to speak in new tongues - a language you have never learned**' (*Calvary Contender*, 2/2001).

'one' with the Universe! (Note that Sweet was the featured speaker at Rick Warren's Saddleback Church 'Wired' Small Groups Conferences in February and May, 2008, held at Saddleback in California and in Atlanta, GA.)

Continuing with Tufty's interview in the KC Star, Unity's leader commented on the reality of sin. '*Contrary to some religious beliefs, you were not born a sinner, and there is no need for you to be reconciled with God, for you are not separated from or in disfavour with God*'.

Popular Emergent leader Rob Bell told a crowd in Grand Prairie, Texas, that '*repentance is not turning from sin. It is a 'celebration' of life in Christ*'. He further stated that anyone who tells you that you need to repent is *not talking about Christianity*, (The god's Aren't Angry Tour, Nov. 16, 2007).

Tufty was asked about the authority of the Bible: '*The Bible is a very holy and sacred book...one can make the Bible say anything she or he wants it to...An accurate guideline to assist you in your interpretation is to ask yourself (for the meaning)...*' Bell says '(This is) *part of the problem with continually insisting that one of the absolutes of the Christian faith must be a belief that 'Scripture alone' is our guide. It sounds nice, but it is not true...When people say that all we need is the Bible, it is simply not true*', (Velvet Elvis, P.68). Tufty was asked about the relationship of Unity with other holy books. He stated, '*There are many holy books like the Bhagavad Gita, Tao, Koran, Torah and Dhammapada that provide similar direction and inspiration for life. Each holy book provides a uniquely different spiritual path, but all paths move in the same direction and have an identical destination*'. (Please note that there couldn't be a more pointed endorsement of classic universalism than that.)

I and others have carefully documented that Paul Young, author of the wildly popular Christian book '*The Shack*', not only introduced a form of universalism known as *Universal Reconciliation* into his manuscript but that he penned a 103 page paper defending this belief several years ago. However, Young is certainly not the only leader being heralded by some Christians.

Emergent Brian McLaren wrote about the need to make converts in his book '*A Generous Orthodoxy*'. He said '*I don't believe making disciples must equal making adherents to the Christian religion. It may be advisable in many (if not all?) circumstances to help people become followers of Jesus and remain within their Buddhist, Hindu, or Jewish contexts. This will be hard, you say, and I agree. But frankly, it's not at all easy to be a follower of Jesus in many 'Christian' religious contexts, either*' (P.293).

Continuing this theme, what does Unity teach about sin and salvation, heaven and hell? On the Unity website (www.unityonline.org) we read '*Sin is our separation from God, the Good, in consciousness. Salvation is now - not something that occurs after death...Heaven and hell are states of consciousness, not geographical locations. We make our own heaven or hell here and now by our thoughts, words, and deeds*'.

McLaren states: '*The church has been preoccupied with the question, 'What happens to your soul after you die?' As if the reason for Jesus coming can be summed up in, 'Jesus is trying to help get more souls into heaven, as opposed to hell, after they die.'* ...*I don't think that the entire message and life of Jesus can be boiled down to that bottom line*', (July, 2005, PBS special on the Emerging Church). On Hell,

Brian McLaren says, ‘For many Christians, their faith is primarily about what happens to people after they die. That distracts them from seeking justice and living in a compassionate way while we’re still alive in this life. We need to go back and take another look at Jesus’ teachings about hell. For so many people, the conventional teaching about hell makes God seem vicious. That’s not something we should let stand’, (Beliefnet Interview Online).

Again from the Unity website, does Unity believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ? ‘Yes, Unity teaches that the spirit of God lived in Jesus, just as it lives in every person. Every person has the potential to express the perfection of Christ as Jesus did, by being more Christlike in everyday life’.

To see how many modern *Emergents* think on this we need to look to Henri Nouwen, a source quoted over and over by *Emergent* mystics and an author who, in a 1994 survey of 3,400 U.S. Protestant Leaders, ranked 2nd only to Billy Graham in influence. Nouwen wrote, ‘The God who dwells in our inner sanctuary is the same as the one who dwells in the inner sanctuary of each human being’, (Here and Now, P.22). Henri Nouwen also wrote ‘Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God’. In Nouwen’s last book (1998) he said ‘Today I personally believe that while Jesus came to open the door to God’s house, all human beings can walk through that door, whether they know about Jesus or not. Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God’, (Sabbatical Journey, P.51).

These are just a few of the many similarities between New Age and *Emergent* thought and practice. When one compares authentic Christianity to these philosophies little similarity is found other than just the use of particular words or phrases which thinking Christians understand, and that *Emergents* and New Agers have radically changed the definitions of.

The most troubling aspect of the question ‘is your church New Age, *Emergent*, or *Christian*?’ is that we should even need to ask such a question. However, the tragic fact is that today countless churches and even entire denominations have slowly moved from Christianity to *Emergent* and even some into what can only be called New Age.

Wise Bible believers will vigilantly watch, evaluate, test, and warn if, and when, we see *Emergent* or New Age come masquerading under the guise of being ‘*Christian*’.

(Excerpted from article by Roger Oakland. Cited in Australian *Apostasy Alert*)

Your Comments and Questions

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

G’day Terry, I spent time this week reading your website articles on 1. Doctrines of Grace 2. Evangelism methods 3. Which gospel? 4. Baptism. I have been spreading the Gospel for years at a Baptist care centre...it is an infinite source of lost souls. Several folk have listened, admitted their sins but later fallen away...I have become acutely aware no matter how well or how much I preach truth it is not in me to change their heart. I was pondering my incompetence when by providence I came across the above mentioned articles...The answers were all in the Scriptures. My job is to give the message; God’s job is to call and choose. Thanks again for your diligent and continuous study that I might have a small insight into the Word.

(M.H., Sth. Aust.)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Christian ‘Pacifism’?

Terry, what do you think of a Christian being a ‘pacifist’?...ie. if you were walking down the street with your wife and someone attacked you or your wife and you basically don’t retaliate. You might stand between the offender and your wife but you don’t lift a finger against them...Personally I would disarm him and protect myself and wife. I am to protect and provide for my family...Is this not a Biblical principle?

Editors Reply: Nowhere in Scripture is ‘pacifism’ portrayed. ‘Turning the other cheek’ is not ‘pacifism’. It is simply not retaliating when we are insulted (a slap on the right cheek was a gross insult). This has nothing to do with not defending ourselves, family and friends from threat. If Christians had declared themselves ‘pacifists’ in the last world war where would we be now? God is a God of War - He is a warrior God. From Genesis to Revelation God is portrayed as a God who brings war to those who touch Israel, His people or who ignore His Word. How can anyone read Isaiah, Daniel, Zechariah, Matthew and Revelation without coming to the conclusion that God is a warrior God? He uses Israel as His warclub. He killed millions whilst protecting Israel. David said that God ‘*trained his hands for war*’. And God was very angry with the Jews when they didn’t utterly destroy the inhabitants of Canaan.

This is not just Old Testament, because He will do so again in the end times. *Jesus is God and He never changes*. We see Him coming to Meggido with His robes drenched in blood. There are literally pages of text demonstrating that God is *not* a ‘pacifist’ and that the Bible does not teach ‘Pacifism’. Jesus cleansed the temple with a nasty whip. This does not look too ‘*pacifist*’ to me? He was defending His Father’s honour and His ‘*HOUSE*!’ (Matt.21:13) Many people would have gone away that day injured and would have borne those scars for the rest of their born days!

Christians are free to be ‘pacifists’ if they choose to. But that does not match up well with the God that is in the Bible. Jesus said He did ‘not come to bring peace but a sword!’ (Matt.10:34). I would feel like an ‘infidel’ if I did not protect my family. It is possible that some ‘pacifists’ may use the Bible and even Christ Himself as an excuse for a measure of cowardliness?

There is another serious application from all this. I consider that the reason why we have a church that is rapidly falling away today is because they are too ‘pacifist’! Most Christians today are limp-wristed wimps who will not defend the faith by taking a stand and speaking out against liberalism, the ecumenists, Roman Catholicism, etc. The pacifist type people then consider us ‘unloving’ if we do so. But to me it is loving to fight with the Word of God for *God’s* church, *His* people and *His* doctrine, as the Scriptures command us to do. Spiritual discernment sometimes requires Christians to take a stand and speak out *in defense* against the same things that the Reformers and church leaders did so in centuries past. That ‘contending’ will not easily sit with a ‘pacifist’ attitude. Arguably, the problem with the church today is it is too ‘pacifist’!