

Your Comments and Questions

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

Masters Course at Pacific Bible Institute 2014

The Masters course will again be conducted in Hervey Bay in August 2014. The **NEW DATES** are **August 18-29th**. The students will come back to do another 2 subjects of the 4 year programme. There are some vacancies available for new students to apply. Subjects this year are expected to be Evangelism/Leadership and New Testament.

This 4 year U.S. accredited Masters degree course involves two weeks lectures in Hervey Bay each August. Costs are administration and accommodation only. A free information pack can be sent on request.

By faith the college raises the funds to help lecturers travel costs, accommodation and any students who may have a financial need. Any donations towards these costs would be greatly appreciated.

Prayer and Praise Points

- Praise the Lord we have produced our first 'Diakrisis TV' video for U-tube. The first segment (10 minute video) of a series on the Gospel will be available on our website and on U-tube. (We still are in need of some advice in the editing of these videos. Please pray).
- Please pray for the Master students and their work with assignments due soon, as well as new students coming into the course.

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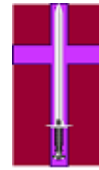
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Diakrisis (Australia)

'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)

PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld. Australia, 4655.
E-mail: taministries@bigpond.com Ph. 0411489472
Website: taministries.net

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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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DVD on Pentecostal/Charismatism

Recently the editor listened to two sermons by Justin Peters ('Strange Fire' Conference, U.S.A.) on the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement. These detailed (with examples) the teachings of the Prosperity/health gospels and Word-Faith teaching, all now widespread in this movement. These are two compelling and concise messages. We urge readers to watch this DVD, copy and pass it on!

Available with a donation for postage.

Editor's Comment

There is no doubt that the Inspiration and Inerrancy of scripture is increasingly under attack today. Many authors, preachers and college lecturers are questioning passages of scripture as to whether they are true to the originals. In the past we have written extensively on this issue and with an article recently titled *'The Battle for the Bible - Has God Preserved His Word?'* (*'Diakrisis'* Nov/Dec 2012).

But today there is a more subtle attack in which the writers thereof still claim to believe in 'Inspiration' yet deny its power to speak to the modern culture of the day. They say the Bible in some places does not speak to the culture of our day because it is different to the culture the original writer experienced. Hence issues such as women in ministry now become somewhat a cultural issue whereby we must adapt to a changed culture. Similarly with same sex marriage - we must change our thinking to adapt to a new culture that now increasingly accepts homosexuality as loving and natural.

It is amazing that such authors do not realise that the author of the Bible knew full well the culture of the day in contrast to the culture of the future! Christ's ministry was not focused on changing any culture. It was intent on changing the culture of the heart! If the culture of the heart is changed it will speak to, and perhaps even change, the culture of the day. But the intention of God's word is primarily not to change any culture but to change the sinful heart which manifests itself in *every* culture.

The Pharisees had their own culture of religion. They attempted to trap Jesus between two cultures when they questioned him about being lawful to Caesar and yet being true to the religion of God. *But Jesus did not change his teachings for any culture.* He simply said *'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's'* (Matt.22:15-22). Jesus did not come to change laws or culture, but with a spiritual mission to regenerate sinful hearts (Jn.3).

Culture does not speak to or dictate what we believe in scripture; rather scripture speaks to the culture. In such issues of women in ministry, same sex marriage and homosexuality, *the Bible has an inspired standard which transcends culture.* We are not to be conformed to any system of this world, be it culture, philosophy or otherwise (Rom.12:2a); but we are to be *'transformed by the renewing of your mind'* (Rom.12:2b).

In the last issue of *Diakrisis* (March/April 2014) we refuted an article by a Queensland Churches of Christ writer and leader who bemoaned the fact that *'cultural boundaries still exist'* in the 'lack' of women ministers. Apart from scriptures ripped from their moorings, many secular examples were given to encourage readers to accept women ministers in teaching, pastoring and preaching. The writer stated *'In many parts of the New Testament world, male-female relationships were very different from Jewish society and the early*

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Terry, the article 'Churches of Christ on Women in Ministry' (Diakrisis, March/April/2014) deserves praise and acknowledgment. It is so clear to those who are prepared to accept God's word as inspired...Glad to hear things are continuing in the Hervey Bay Bible Church and that you have bigger premises. God bless you and the efforts each one is putting in.

(G.E., Gympie, Qld)

Brethren, Loved by God, called with a Holy calling. I was sent the church newsletter from Hervey Bay Bible Church [Diakrisis March/April, P.1]. I'm green with Godly jealousy. How gracious the Lord has been to His people to give them settlement so soon after horrendous days and massive losses they as a church incurred in being ejected. This is testimony to the amazing goodness of our God to His people. The new facility looks marvellous and the description in the Newsletter sounds like a people who in a manner of speaking are on the terraces of the hills looking down at Canaan (much to be hopeful for). Yet we know even such blessings from the Lord pale in hope of what should be revealed when we all get Home. But still we celebrate the blessings of God to His people and thank Him that He answers prayer. One would love to be part of such a cohesive people. The time for consolidation is quickly passing and the work for the Lord and in that community stares you all. Sleeves will have to be rolled, socks pulled up, belts tightened, hands dirtied and in the armour of the Lord go forth to make Him known. I love the Spirit galvanizing God's people at Hervey Bay Bible Church. We pray the word of the Lord will prosper and be honored in the Land of Oz. In Christ Alone - the head of the church...

(Pastor E.A, Africa)

I have just received the March/April newsletter, thank you kindly. You are often in my prayers. I look at aspects of the newsletter and share them with the youth group that I help to run. I'm glad you have separated from the Churches of Christ. I know it has come at a cost, but now you know what truly drives them! It's staggering. Thanks again for your commitment to truth. God Bless.

(D.P., Sydney)

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- *Has God Preserved His Word?*; *Diakrisis* Nov/Dec(2012), I give many proofs of Inspiration and Inerrancy. Even 2Timothy 3:16 should be enough? The sad thing is that when you read the word of God, you will *not* always be able to believe it if it has possible ‘contradictions’. This mindset causes some people to abandon the faith entirely...But I know my God, my Lord and I trust His faithfulness in the Preservation and Inspiration of the Word. He is well able to ‘keep’ it.

...The college has done damage to you...I would venture to say that you were taught ‘exegetical principles’ but without the faith in, and foundation of, full Inspiration and Inerrancy? This leads people to speculating about ‘contradictions’. I can only warn you that you are heading down a spiral of unbelief and my experience with such Bible college students is that it ends in a dead intellectual faith or ‘shipwreck’. I experienced this in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement which also had a ‘limited’ view on scripture. The mindset and faith in which you approach the text is critical to what you will discover beyond any ‘exegetical principles’.

From an African Pastor:

Praise His name...I cannot sleep tonight without telling you of the wonderful things the Lord continues to do for us here...Early this evening a lady student wept so bitterly as we expounded the matter of effectual calling and the New Birth. You see...[she] was a Muslim who ‘sought Christ’ because she was told she could be healed...and thought herself saved and even joined Christian ministry. Today she heard that God only calls His people by the word of Truth and as we explained the signs of the new birth...which must indicate a soul’s awareness of her need for salvation, [she] has discovered she was not saved (and this was quite painful for her)...We spent three hours together and I showed her the way to be made right with God. The lady has been inconsolable this day and I hope she will find comfort when and only when she has a new heart. Praise God for the glorious work of His Spirit, there are those times when...the blessed Spirit has taken over and calls His own effectually. We rejoice that we can see these things and enjoin you to rejoice in what Our Lord is doing here...Praise His name, praise His name...

Dear Terry, I have found the two books by you ‘Foundations for Evangelism’ and ‘Calvinism/Arminianism - Out of the Maze’ to be most helpful, informative and above all they cleared up a lot of confused muddy waters. I wish to circulate them...

(G.R. Vict.)

church’. But what do we do when today’s culture contradicts early culture? More importantly, what do we do when today’s culture contradicts scripture? Which is higher? What did Noah do when the culture around him was mocking and refuting him? Did he stop building the Ark? Did he stop obeying God? Did he say ‘*well, we must look at the culture and adapt*’?

The modern church is sadly reflecting the liberal and feminist culture of our day. The reason for the rule of male leadership in churches goes back to *Genesis* and *creation* (1Tim.2:12-14) and *crosses all cultural arguments* that people would raise up against the word of God being inspired for today.

Is it any wonder that we have a social gospel in churches today when ministers cower before the culture of our society? The Gospel has never been popular with any culture! It never will be. ‘*It is foolishness to those who are perishing*’ in any and every culture (1Cor.1:18)!

We are entering days when the hardness of society is becoming open and aggressive. Cultural arguments are subtly attacking the heart of the doctrines of Inspiration and the all sufficiency of scripture. Yet writers (like the one mentioned above) still claim they ‘believe in Inspiration’. But it’s an inspiration that has been stripped of its meaning and power. It is a faithless doctrine if it bows in any way to culture. It also demeans the very author of the Bible. This is the author who spoke creation into being and is omniscient! Are we to say that He did not foresee different cultures and how even a majority of society in the end might favour women ministers, same sex marriage and homosexuality? Does He bow to secular arguments and the majority consensus?

Some may wonder why I have lumped in same sex and homosexuality with the women in ministry issue. If cultural or secular arguments are used for one then they should be used for all these issues. If we adapt scripture or change our interpretation to suit the culture of the day then why not the same for homosexuality and same sex marriage?

There is a more serious side to this issue. There is a greater judgement for ministers who minimise God’s word (James 3:1). Yet the ‘*terror of the Lord*’ that Paul experienced seems not to affect many ministers today (2Cor.5:11)? Paul, after rebuking and correcting a carnal Corinthian church, stated: ‘*If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha*’. ‘*Anathema*’ is the Greek word meaning ‘*cursed*’. The Aramaic ‘*Maranatha*’ refers to the surety of the coming of the Lord and judgement (Jude 14,15). How can we say we ‘love’ the Lord and yet adapt His word to suit ‘culture’?

Scripture is inspired, inerrant and all sufficient. The ‘*husband of one wife*’ (1Tim.3:2; Tit.1:6) has not now changed to ‘the wife of one husband’ because of culture. It’s an absolute that culture does not appreciate. Likewise, same sex marriage and homosexuality are still condemned in the Old Testament as an ‘*abomination*’ (Lev.18:22) and in the New Testament as *unnatural* (Rom.1:26,27) with the result of ‘*eternal fire*’ (Jude 7; 1Cor.6:9,10).

Dare we challenge the author by adapting to a sinful ‘culture’?

Terry Arnold

Megachurch Pastor Yonggi Cho Convicted of Embezzling \$12M - Sentenced to Three Years Prison

78-year-old pastor of the world's largest Pentecostal Assemblies of God church (750,000 membership in Seoul, South Korea) convicted of embezzling \$12 million told his congregation that he has '*learned that 'an individual shouldn't possess anything'*'. Cho added that he hopes that God forgives him for his actions.

Cho was *sentenced to three years in prison* (on probation) after he was convicted of directing officials to *buy stocks from his son at four times the market price*. The church subsequently lost U.S. \$12 million. Cho was *also convicted of tax evasion*. Cho's son, Hee-jun, was also sentenced to *three years in prison for participating in his father's embezzlement scheme*.

Former elder, Ha Sang-ok, said in November: '*Over the past 14 years, I have met with Reverend Cho many times to try to persuade him to repent...but the corruption continued...I had no choice but to disclose it to the outside world*'.

Cho has taught, '*We must rethink our misguided thoughts considering material wealth as being equated with sin*'. '*We must drive out our subconsciously rooted thoughts of poverty, condemnation and despair...If our thoughts are filled with poverty and despair, God cannot bless us with material blessing*'.

Cho's salvation occurred when he '*met Jesus in a vision one night*' while he was fasting and was *baptised in the Holy Spirit*.

Cho's eldest son *has been married four times and has been involved in sexual scandals with national personalities*. In addition, he has *served prison time for investment scams and embezzlement*. Twelve years ago, this son purposely defrauded the church in excess of another \$12 million in a stock-related scheme.

(Apostasy Alert; Sources: various; 27 February 2014)

Editor's comment: We first exposed Yonggi Cho in 1997 and reminded readers of his false prophecies. We received mail criticising us for exposing a man who had built the largest church in the world.

On the 12/1/86 at Paradise Assembly of God church, Adelaide, Sth Australia, Yonggi Cho made the following prophecy and repeated it in the evening service: '*...God has spoken to my heart - you are going to grow [to] 10,000 in less than 3 years...you should give more offering...get ready for God's outpouring of his Spirit..God [also] wants me to have 1 million members by 1990. The same Holy Spirit spoke to me very clearly when I was sitting on this platform: 'Son, this church will grow to the number of 10,000 in less than three years'...because my ear is very finely tuned to the Holy Spirit...*'

The Paradise church decreased in numbers and Cho's church did not reach 1 million. What does the Bible say about false prophets? (Read Dt.18:20-22; Matt.7:15; 24:11,24; 1Jn.4:1).

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1Chr.21 & 2Sam.24 - a Contradiction?

The following is from a Bible College graduate who by his own admission 'lost his faith' while at college (where lecturers entertained somewhat liberal and speculative thinking in the doctrines of Inspiration and Inerrancy).

His views in *italics*; Editor's replies in **bold** and brackets.

1Chr.21:1 '*And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel*'

2Sam.24:1 '*And again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah*'.

...The contradiction is that these texts are almost identical in wording, except for one major difference - in one God incites David, in the other Satan incites David...You cannot deduce on an exegetical basis that what this really means is that God used Satan to incite David. That's not what the texts say...

[God does not 'incite' people to do evil - that would be impossible - it is quite obvious that the texts do not differ - in that God controls what Satan does - so, either way He either hinders or allows - but ultimately His purposes are fulfilled just as He determines. One text says Satan 'provoked'; the other says God 'moved'. This is in full harmony with many scriptures which teach that God has Satan do what best suits God Himself]

You may be able to argue this on theological grounds. But if the texts are exegeted correctly, the contradiction remains. [Exegesis is not done in a vacuum of just purely exegetical 'principles'. Good exegesis is done with sound 'theology' backing it up. There is no contradiction once you apply the truth of God's character as elsewhere stated clearly. Also, Biblical writers often dismissed other causes and stated things as though God is doing the action, since He is sovereign. God could not tempt David, He allowed Satan to influence him. It is also not 100% clear as to why God was angry with Israel. Most commentators admit this. This 'silence' does not mean a contradiction unless you are speculating in exegesis. I approach any text knowing that God does NOT contradict Himself and that His word is preserved infallible. We must not approach the text with a view to a possible contradiction which sets us up for finding one...]

Where does the Bible claim to be inerrant? I think this [full inspiration] is an assumption conservatives make, but as far as I can tell the Bible never claims this about itself. [God Himself claims to be so...and He is the ultimate author of His Word? If there can be found but one factual error (not an error of translation) in the 66 books of the Bible then it can no longer claim to be the Word of God. He alone is infallible. In my article on 'The Battle for the Bible

Mail on the article 'The Day Our Church Was Evicted'

We are still receiving much mail from this article [*Diakrisis* Jan/Feb/2014].

Dear Terry, having grown up in the Churches of Christ and never holding to the teaching of Baptismal Regeneration and parting with them over 20 years ago, we are interested in receiving your booklet 'The Churches of Christ 'Restoration Movement' and Campbellism'...It's reassuring that there are those who still hold to the truth. Keep up the good work.

(C.M., Qld.)

Terry...we are now pastoring a small Church in...Tasmania and with a radio ministry, having left the Hobart city Church of Christ over 1 year ago...What a sad indictment on that which calls itself God's Church. Are we not in the end days? We should continue to preach Christ on the Cross and Him crucified for sin and not allow people to creep in unnoticed...

(D.B., Tas.)

Dear Terry, it was sad to hear what you have been through with Churches of Christ. We left the Churches of Christ [Queensland] some years ago when women began leading...we just could not see it getting any better. Praise the Lord the Hervey Bay Bible Church is growing. Love in Jesus.

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Dear Terry,...we confessed faith in Christ...in Churches of Christ (CofC)...and were baptised into Christ by immersion...but later with wider teachings we realised that grace alone through faith was the central doctrine to hold fast...We served Christ in Irian Jaya Indonesia for years...Although the Churches of Christ are weak in doctrine and have no clear teaching focus towards salvation by grace through faith alone, (as you have well pointed out in the booklet 'The Churches of Christ 'Restoration Movement' and Campbellism'), there are still some faithful men and churches amongst them...I think you acknowledge that in the fact that you were an elder in an affiliated CofC for 16 years...

I commend your zeal and love of the Lord to get the warnings out...Your situation with the CofC seems to be an ungodly unedifying 'fait accompli' by the Queensland CofC. I am on your side in the condemnation of their actions...I am confident our great God is going to bless and use you mightily...

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

New 'Eco' gospel?



Priestfield Parish Church in Edinburgh is the 300th church in Scotland to register as an *eco-congregation*. The Reverend Sally Foster Fulton is the convenor of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council. The first *eco-congregation* in Scotland was established in 2001 and since then it has grown steadily, embracing...all the main Christian denominations.

'A small but symbolic act is 'WWF earth hour', this year on 29 March, when over 100 churches across Scotland will be turning off their lights for an hour to draw attention to the risks of climate change'. 'We can draw strength and hope from all these actions and the faith that underpins them...'

The *eco-congregation* movement is part of a growing engagement with environmental concerns... 'Creation Care' and green theology in the churches. ('Ekklesia', 22 January 2014 and cited in *Apostasy Alert*, Feb/2014)

Editor's comment: The Gospel of Jesus dying for sin?...Forget it - we have an entire planet to renovate! Welcome to the 'eco gospel'.

Pope Affirms that Mass is Real and Same Sacrifice Again



Pope Francis (February 10 homily): 'It is a real participation in Jesus' presence'. 'When we celebrate the Mass...it is not a representation...it is the Last Supper itself'. 'The presence of the Lord is real, truly real...[It] is to really live once more the Passion and the redeeming Death of the Lord...' 'It is a theophany: the Lord is made present on the altar to be offered to the Father for the salvation of the world'. Representations, he said, are things like nativity scenes or even praying the Stations of the Cross, but the Mass 'is a real commemoration' in which 'God approaches and is with us, and we participate in the mystery of the Redemption'.

(Vatican City, Feb.10 (CNA/EWTN News); cited in *Apostasy Alert*, Feb/2014)

Editor's comment: Why enact something that God says was 'finished'? The Bible forbids a renewal of this sacrifice. The very word of God says it is but an 'open shame' to do this (Heb.6:6), because 'He has suffered...once...to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself...So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many' (Heb.9:26-28), 'through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all' (10:10).

The harlot ecumenical church is depicted in Revelation as 'arrayed in purple and scarlet color...having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication...drunken with the blood of the saints, and...martyrs...' (Rev.17:4-9)

Another Pentecostal Snake Handler Dead



'A Kentucky pastor who starred in a reality show about snake-handling in church has died of a snakebite. Jamie Coats died after refusing to be treated, Middleborough police said. On 'Snake Salvation', the ardent Pentecostal believer said that he believed that a passage in the Bible suggests poisonous snakebites will not harm believers as long as they are anointed by God'.

(CNN; AnneClaire Stapleton contributed to this report; cited in *Apostasy Alert*, Feb/2014)

Editor's Comment: There have been several deaths in recent years. In July 2007 we reported a snake handling pastor's death and that his father had died years before him. Snake handling comes out of a Pentecostal tradition that seeks evidence of a subsequent 'Baptism with the Spirit'. The scripture used is Mark 16:17,18: *'He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover'.*

Who is the passage addressed to? A look back at verse 14 tells us clearly: *'Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen'.* The reference is clearly to 'the eleven' - the Apostles. In verse 17 the phrase 'them that believe' is referring to those who did believe, not those who would believe at that time or in the future.

All the 'signs' here, except one, were actually fulfilled. The demonic deliverance and healings were fulfilled many times (eg. Acts 5:14-16); the 'Tongues' were fulfilled in Acts ch.2,10 and 19; and the handling of snakes was fulfilled in Acts 28:3-6. But what about the 'drinking of poison'? The phrase here is *'and IF they drink any deadly thing'*. The 'if' is a crasis (contraction) of two conjunctions 'and' and 'if'. It is literally a *hypothetical* ('and if'). This miracle could well have occurred amongst the disciples. However, no record is given or needs to be given.

Interestingly, many Christians cite this passage for doctrines of healing, yet ignore the snake handling? Regardless, Mark 16 is simply not for the present, nor for all Christians. Such signs have already served their purpose - *to prove the Messiahship of Jesus and the credentials of His disciples* (Is.61:1; 35:5,6 cp. Lk.7:18-22; Jn.20:30,31; Acts 2:22; 2Cor.12:12). We now have a closed canon of Scripture. We are warned that the signs and wonders in the end time will be 'lying', false - counterfeit (Matt.12:39;24:24; Mk.13:22; 2Thess.2:9; Rev.13:13).

...and in this case of snake handling, they are deadly!

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Hi Terry,...If a person speaks in tongues are they saved with the Holy Spirit? Or are they demon possessed? I meet a lot of people in the Charismatic movement and who believe in speaking in tongues. When I question them they get quite aggressive and demand that you 'must' speak in tongues to receive the 'gift'. They just don't believe that the Holy Spirit is there to give you the power to witness to people and lead them to Christ...they want more!

(L.C., Sydney)

Editor's reply: I spoke in unknown tongues before (as a Catholic Charismatic), and after I was saved (as a Pentecostal). A person can 'speak in tongues' and still be saved. Mostly it is a *learned experience* or a *habit copied* by seeing and hearing others. I have yet to meet a person who has not learned it in some way by being exposed to the practise in what they see, hear or are taught. Some people dispute this but when I have questioned them on their background, churches, etc, it usually is evident that there is some exposure to the practise. However, there have been reports of demonic tongues, and people possessed may speak in unknown tongues...

Unknown tongues is a counterfeit which can be proved by reading Acts ch.2. In every case in scripture (only 3 - Acts ch.2,10,19) where someone spoke in tongues they were *known* languages (dialects). The Greek word used in Acts 2 for languages is '*dialektos*' - ethnic *dialects*. That *same Greek word* is also translated '*tongues*' (Acts 1:19; 2:8; 21:40; 22:2; 26:14).

Tongues in every case was *understood*. In Acts 2 they were heard to be '*speaking the wonderful works of God*' (2:11) ...and in acts 10 they '*magnified God*'. There was *no translation* because the languages were *understood*. They were *KNOWN* languages in *every case*. Acts 2:9-11 gives you a precisely ordered list of geographical areas for these *dialects*.

The *unknown* tongues today is simply a counterfeit of Acts 2. It began in 1901 in Topeka with a lady called Agnus Ozeman (see our articles on this on our website and in our book 'Tongues'). The founder of the tongues movement (Charles Parham) later admitted that the Topeka and Azusa St phenomena were counterfeit of Acts 2.

Mostly today it is a *fleshly* counterfeit. But I cannot say that *some* is not demonic. But the truth is found in the 3 cases where someone spoke in tongues (Acts 2,9 &10). They were real languages - known ethnic dialects ('*dialektos*'). The counterfeit tongues movement today is relatively new, being little more than 100 years old. The book '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' documents the history of this new movement. Our book '*Tongues & the Baptism With the Spirit*' also adds necessary teaching on this subject.

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The African Dilemma

(This from an African pastor/teacher/Bible college principle)

'Saints of God, if a proper assessment of 2013 and the years gone behind us would be done, it would show a church fallen in disgrace, an offshoot of the world she purports to change. Genuine souls have much to weep over and far less to celebrate. Much like in Ezra 3:10-12 when the new temple had been rebuilt. Mixed shouts were heard in the camp; some wept bitterly and others went crazy with joy. The young ones celebrated what in their eyes was a revival of lost fortunes of the temple and religion; for them it was time for revival. The older folks wept in contradistinction. They had seen the first temple and its glory, they had known the Shekinah Glory in that temple, and the ark of God's covenant had been in that temple. Now what glittered before their eyes was a mere shell - a forsaken house an ikabod without God's glory.

Times have changed but the script appears the same for us today, many celebrate these days as days of great revival, churches are filling up, crusades rake in thousands to the 'faith' and young people can be heard shouting for joy and many will be thanking God for harvests brought in during 2013, and for big buildings erected and projects completed in 'the name of God'. But some of us see a different view. We see a church wallowing in the miasma of confusion and heresy, steeped in pride and hedonism; tightly gripped in a fatal embrace of the anti-Christ, a church enthralled by the spirit of the age, clasped in the vice of self delusion and teetering precariously on the precipice of catastrophe, dancing with Satan in the Holy places - we see a church which has long lost her power and credibility - the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the message of the cross.

How religion has fallen short of the Glory of God! How we cry even now 'wilt thou not revive us again; that thy people may rejoice in thee?' (Ps.85:6).

These are mediocre times...and we pray for the raising of men like John Wycliffe and Hulse and the Luthers, the Puritans...and the great Anglican divines...animated by the preaching of Whitefield, both in the conformist and the non-conformist stables, men who would speak truth to power and dare to upset the establishments of their day.

Beloved of God, I think what ails our Gospel calling is the timid manner in which we speak God's truth. I know we live in an age of political correctness and the so called 'tolerance', which in my view have always been a veneer for cowardice and for avoiding the cross in favor of the crown and applause of men. May this new year 2014 come with that rarest of blessings - courage to stand up for the cross of Christ. These my folks are days of battle, some have seen the issues and others are still blissful in slumber.

May the Lord bless our efforts in the Gospel enterprise...

A Gospel of Gobbledegook

The following is the gospel message as printed on the website of the Churches of Christ *Stirling Theological college* and in recent Queensland Churches of Christ magazines:



'A terrible bind and a paradoxical possibility'

At the centre of Christian faith there is a unique and crucial paradox: to relinquish one's life for Christ and the gospel is to receive it. This is impossible without life to which the gospel gives testimony - life that is even now surpassing death.

Humanity everywhere is caught in a terrible bind. Because we are created in the image of God, we want to be generous; yet in mortal fragility, we are anxious in seeking to stave-off a looming horizon of death.

One impetus, generosity, is invariably stymied by the other, anxiety.

This is not an issue of blame but recognition of a dilemma loaded with individual guilt and social tension. If death exceeds life, then the machinations of anxiety will ultimately displace generosity.

If life exceeds death, then sustained generosity can surpass anxiety and its debilitating effects.

A crucial gospel paradox - to lose life so as to find it - offers a unique possibility to people everywhere living within a terrible bind.

We risk this unnerving gospel paradox by trusting the testimony of Christ, crucified and risen, as the source of possibilities that separate to mortal anxiety - and this, wholly in the midst of humanity'.

Stirling Theological College.

Editor's comment: Does one need a degree from Stirling to understand this gobbledegook? How can anyone be saved by this gospel? The Gospel is not 'to receive' one's life. The Gospel is Christ crucified, His substitutionary work for our sins to satisfy God's just penalty for sin. And whose 'life...now surpassing death' are we talking about here? The 'terrible bind' spoken of is called 'sin' in the Gospel. And exactly what is meant by 'generosity...stymied by...anxiety'. Mans heart is not 'generous', it is depraved in it's nature and his heart is wicked (Eph.2:1-10; Jer.17:9). It's not 'anxiety' that is the problem, it's the sin nature which causes such problems. What is this 'possibility' spoken of but another word for the need for repentance from sin? What is meant by the 'risk' in trusting Christ? True faith and repentance brings a sure salvation with nil 'risk' (Jn.6:39,40).

Why does Churches of Christ have a gospel with such psychobabble? Could it be because their gospel includes 'steps' to salvation including baptism and with no surety of keeping salvation? (See our booklet 'The Churches of Christ 'Restoration Movement' and Campbellism').

Shock Letter from Michael Wurmbbrand - Voice of the Martyrs

[Excerpt only - full copy available on request]

Dear sisters and brethren in Christ:

This sad letter you are reading comes from Michael Wurmbbrand, the son of the late Rev. Richard Wurmbbrand, who spent fourteen years in the communist prisons of Romania, author of the book 'Tortured For Christ', a book of valiant Christian testimony under communist persecution that has been translated in over 85 languages. My parents died in 2000-2001, and I am now 74 years old.

Against my express request NOT TO DO SO, the mission Voice of the Martyrs of Bartlesville (VOM), Oklahoma, USA...continue to use Richard Wurmbbrand, Sabina Wurmbbrand, my parents' persona, pictures, writings and books, my persona also to obtain your donations!

Tom White, the past Voice of the Martyrs Chairman for more than 20-years, committed suicide in April, 2012, only two to three hours after an accusation of child molestation (pedophilia) of a 10-years old girl was formally filed by her parents with the local police, and while the Bartlesville, OK. police were searching to arrest him...Tom White had a \$140,000+, plus perks, yearly salary and very substantial travel and expense accounts...The police chief and the former mayor of the town of Bartlesville, OK. were personally serving on the Board of Directors of Voice of the Martyrs...

I asked in writing of the Voice of the Martyrs Board of Directors for an independent investigation, to be undertaken from outside of VOM...Being the son of Richard Wurmbbrand, a person of my background and position could have more inside information than I can discuss publicly. I asked therefore for an independent investigation!

...I wrote to the entire Voice of the Martyrs Board of Directors:... 'In a Christian spirit of love and faith, if you want to continue using the names, persona and copyrights of my parents...Please allow and pay for an independent 'blue ribbon' commission...to investigate...all Tom White's travel points, contacts and especially financial expenditures to establish and put to rest any suspicions re. child molestation...If you do not intend to accept the above request, the other decision I ask you to take is not to use the name Wurmbbrand any more'.



...My letter now for more than a year, has not been answered!...Without my knowledge, without my permission, a very laudatory biography of mine was written, printed and distributed to tens of thousands of American children...Donors should be aware that: Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) spent \$28 million dollars - not on the mission field but to build its own

headquarters...To my knowledge, the previous headquarters of VOM in the same town cost in the neighborhood of about \$90,000!...This was done in secret, until the buildings were erected. Neither I nor the donors were told of

named for the Virgin Mary. Yet both are not in any proclamation *for Australia*.

Christians are duped far too easily. The prophecy of the 'Great Southland of the Holy Spirit' has been embellished and twisted over many years. Australia was first settled for the purpose of a penal settlement 'at the ends of the earth'. It was never founded with any 'prophecy'. This is just another Pentecostal fantasy. The Holy Spirit of God is omnipresent - and He did not have any special affiliation with this criminal outpost named 'Australia'. He is in fact saving people *out of* the evil morass that is in this country.

There may have been Christians who brought certain Christian principals to Australia after the first fleet more than a century and a half later, but are we really a 'Christian' nation? The statistics show otherwise. A small but *decreasing* proportion claim to be Born Again (about 3%), and a small proportion attend church (about 10% - yes, its dropping too). That figure also includes Roman Catholics, high Anglicans and other groups who differ widely from 'Protestant' or Biblical groups.

Despite history refuting the 'Great Southland of the Holy Spirit' and with it God's special prophetic blessing for Australia, it is Christians who make sure that the myth lives on.

Australia does not need prophecies and myths to see any revival of hearts in Australia. It needs the Gospel! It needs men and women, preachers, pastors, evangelists and Christians alike to bring the Gospel back. For it has almost been lost. It is most certainly not found in Quiros's proclamations. Nor is it found in the Pentecostals of this land who poison it with prosperity, healing, success and other sugar coated counterfeit gospels.

The Bible, the word of God, is expressly clear that there will be no worldwide end time revival, but rather an apostasy from the faith. The last days will be evil like the days of Noah and Lot (Lk.17:26,28). They will be characterised by a 'departing from the faith' and 'doctrines of devils' (1Tim.4:1). The Bible calls this apostasy the 'falling away' (2Thess.2:3). There will be false Christs and signs and wonders (2Thess.2:9,10) and ever increasing deception and iniquity (2Tim.3:13; Matt.24:11,12,24).

We do not need to be hyping people up with a 'prophecy' based on a fable which never was for Australia! Rather than such myths, bring the Gospel back!

Terry Arnold

(1) <http://www.chr.org.au/VOL1/Volume%201%20chapter1%20part%201.html>

(2) <http://www.signposts.org.au/2005/09/04/the-great-south-land/#comments>.

(3) See article: 'Will there be a world revival?' <http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Will-there-be-a-World-Revival-v1.5.pdf>

de Quiros...was one of the flowers of the Catholic reformation, part of that movement of religious idealism and of missionary fervour which strengthened the church after the disasters of Luther and Calvin...He began to believe that he had been singled out by God as the vessel through whom the inhabitants of 'terra australis' would be received into the true church, and that 'terra australis' would be Australia del Espiritu Santo - a land dedicated to the Holy Spirit...he was anxious to win the race against the Protestants to the Indies and the south seas, to confound those powers of false doctrine...They sailed west till they reached a harbour in the New Hebrides, which Quiros in the first flush of the excitement named Australia del Espiritu Santo...[and] with the errors in measuring longitude...' (1)

When Quiros landed and took possession of the islands, to the surprise of his men, he promptly set up a group called the 'Knights of the Holy Order'. After the proclamations were made Pedro Quiros was nearly killed in a mutiny aboard his ship when the crew rebelled. They saw him as a religious fanatic.

Quiros's second in command, Luis Vaez de Torres, set off soon after and sailed along the southern edge of New Guinea, not realising that below was the great 'southland' they had missed. The strait between became known as 'Torres Strait'. Had they succeeded in their search for the real 'Southland', Australia might have become a predominantly Roman Catholic, Spanish speaking nation, as many of the nations were in South America.

The myth lives on

It is obvious that Pedro Quiros would have hated the idea of the modern day Protestant or Pentecostal 'prophecies' concerning Australia as a nation of God's special blessing. Yet, despite the navigational errors and Quiros bumping into the wrong island, Hillsong published and perpetuated a song 'The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit'. The author, Geoff Bullock, later admitted it was an 'ignorant' song. (2) Interestingly, Hillsong in perpetuating this myth *takes out the Virgin Mary* from the Quiros's proclamation.

It should shock some that *this proclamation had nothing to do with the Australia or the Holy Spirit*. Quiros discovered Venuatu, not Australia. He simply did not claim Australia for the Jesus Christ of the Bible. And the real Jesus does not share his glory with any of the other deities in the proclamations, neither the king, the Roman Catholic church, St. Francis, John of God or the 'vicar of Christ...His holiness' - the Pope. The Roman Catholic church had a lot more to do with this than the Pentecostals would like to admit. And the Holy Spirit barely gets a mention, if at all.

Later Roman Catholics confused all this further by stating the country was

such grandiose projects.

...A repeat offender 3rd degree felon, who as of 2013 was STILL UNDER A-10-YEARS CONVICTION SENTENCE AS AN EMBEZZLER was named the Voice of the Martyrs Vice President. Tens of thousands of dollars out of contributions for supposed missionary work were extended as a loan to him to pay back some of what he stole and escape parole supervision...

...Voice of the Martyrs had agreed reluctantly in 2001 to help about 100 believers who were imprisoned 5-10 years for their faith in communist prisons in Romania, currently destitute in their 80s and 90s, with less than \$1 (yes, one dollar) a month...

...After I brought all of these facts to light, I was asked also to keep quiet, not to rock the boat...as if my requesting a proper investigation regarding suspected pedophilia among 'Christian missionaries' would be some joke.

VOM...advertised about 2,000 copies of 'Tortured For Christ', my father's book...with a preface by, and having right in the middle, a portrait of Tom White, the past chairman who had committed suicide after the police-filed accusation of suspected pedophilia.

...What about 'missionary outreach' to poor 'persecuted Christians'? Voice of the Martyrs, with its opulent (\$28 million) headquarter built out of your sacrificial contributions, makes a mockery of the sacrifice of persecuted Christians like my parents...My parents died with a good name. I do not want to allow VOM to use my parents' good name, to raise money under false pretenses. I wrote the VOM directors: 'If you enjoy, for motivations of your own, to wallow in the mire of suspected pedophilia, go ahead. If you do not want to accept an independent investigation and complete transparency of your dealings, I beg you do not use my father's long years of suffering in communist prisons and the intense suffering of his whole family to raise money from naive donors'.

...If you are a minister, I can only beg you to share this letter with your congregation...How can 'Christian missionaries' in a good Christian conscience even indulge to build themselves an opulent \$28,000,000 headquarter from your donations, while withholding help to persecuted Christians in far away lands badly in need of your donations? Love of money is the root of all evil. A way to stop evil is to stop financing it...My parents' Christian life-vision has been misused by Voice of the Martyrs...God Bless,

Michael Wurmbbrand

PO Box 5161 Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email: appeal@wurmbbrandmichael.com.
Contact Information for VOM: Ph.(877)337-0302 PO Box 443 Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443



The previous *Voice of the Martyrs* building, now for sale for \$1,600,000 in Bartlesville, OK, USA.

The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit - the Myth

The wrong Island

During the middle ages explorers believed in a great southland to the South Pole called by many 'Terra Australis Incognita' ('the unknown southland'). In 1606 the Portuguese and Roman Catholic explorer Pedro Fernandez de Quiros thought he had discovered this great 'southland' when he came to what is now known as Vanuatu. He called it the 'Great Southland of the Holy Spirit'. Quiros died thinking he had discovered the great southland to the pole. But he never made it to what is now called 'Australia', let alone discovered it.

Pentecostals are fond of quoting *part* of Quiros's declaration to teach a great end time revival in Australia. Col Stringer of 'Great Southland Ministries' uses the following selective excerpt: '*Let the heavens, the earth, the waters with all their creatures, and those present, witness that I, Captain Pedro Ferdinand de Quiros...in the name of Jesus Christ...hoist this emblem of the holy cross on which His person was crucified and whereon He gave His life for the ransom and remedy of all the human race...on this day of Pentecost, 14th May...I take possession of all this part of the south as far as the pole in the name of Jesus...which from now on shall be called the southern land of the Holy Ghost...and this always and forever...and to the end that to all natives, in all the said lands, the holy and sacred evangel may be preached zealously and openly*'.

The real proclamation

Like Col Stringer, many today cite this *small excerpt* of Quiros's words, and as 'prophecy'. However, these words were actually a very small portion of a much larger proclamation. Such proclamations were common and were done in 'possession' when new lands were discovered. The 'Australia' (a deliberate misspelling) was in honour of Austria and of King Philip's wife Margaret.

The whole proclamation is too long to print here. The following are excerpts: '*Be witnesses the heavens and the earth, and the sea with all its inhabitants, and those who are present, that I, the Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, in these parts which up to the present time have been unknown, raise and plant in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the eternal Father, and of the Holy Virgin Mary, true God and man, this sign of the Holy Cross, on which His most holy body was crucified, and where He gave His life as a ransom for the whole human race*'. [Six further 'possessions' were then read]...

Possession in the name of the most Holy Trinity... '*I am, and have come with authority from the Supreme Roman Pontiff, Clement VIII, and by order of the King, Don Philip III, King of Spain ... in the name of the most Holy Trinity, take*

possession of all the islands and lands that I have newly discovered, and desire to discover, as far as the South Pole'.

Possession in the name of the Catholic Church: '*I take possession of all these, the said lands, in the name of Jesus Christ, saviour of all men...and in the name of His mother the most Holy Virgin Mother of Loreto, and St. Peter and St. Paul, and of all the holy apostles and disciples, and...the universal Vicar of Christ, the Roman Pontiff, and in the name of the whole Catholic Church...*

Possession in the name of St. Francis and his Order: '*I take possession of all the said lands in the name of my father, St. Francis, and of all his religion and professors of it, and...the name of the Father Commissary, Friars..., all four priests...by order of His Holiness and of His Majesty, and of their Commissary General and Provincial of the province of the Twelve Apostles of Peru...*'

Possession in the name of John of God and his Order: '*I take possession...in the name of John of God, and of all the professed brothers of his Order...*'

Possession in the name of the Order of the Holy Ghost: '*I take possession...by the right that His Holiness and His Majesty granted...for all the Knights that are in these parts of the Order of the Holy Ghost...*'

Possession in the name of His Majesty: '*Finally, I take possession of this bay, named the Bay of St. Philip and St. James...its port named Santa Cruz, and of the site on which is to be founded the city of New Jerusalem, in latitude 15 degrees 10', and of all the lands...which I sighted and am going to sight, and of all this region of the south as far as the Pole, which from this time shall be called La Australia del Espiritu Santo...in the name of the King, Don Philip...*'

When the proclamations were finished all cried out: '*Long live the King of Spain, Don Philip III, our Lord!*' Then the attendees entered a makeshift church which Quiros named '*Our Lady of Loreto*'. Three Masses were said with the sacrament of Roman Catholic communion. Flags were raised and guns saluted.

Who Was Pedro Quiros?

With three ships, 300 crew and soldiers, Quiros left South America in December 1605. Many historians believe Quiros was of Jewish descent. When he discovered one of the northern islands now known as Vanuatu he called it the 'New Jerusalem'. Quiros was sponsored by Pope Clement VIII and King Philip. His aim was to spread the Pope's religion and possess land for the king.

Australian historian, Manning Clark, described Quiros: '*Pedro Ferdandez*