

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.
- Praise the Lord for U.S.A. accreditation gained for future 2015 new courses (Diploma and Bachelors). Please pray for the Master students and their work with assignments due, as well as new students coming into the course.

Subscription Form

I am interested in receiving the *free* monthly TA Ministries newsletter 'Diakrisis' by Send this form to:
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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)

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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.

Contents

- P.2,3 Editor's Comment
- P.4 Rick Warren, Roman Catholic Mystics and Pope Francis
- P.5 Belgians Flock to Glowing Virgin Mary Statue; Gay Bishop Divorces Partner
- P.6,7 'Strange Fire' Review
- P.8-12 Where was the Gospel at Easter?
- P.13,14 Hypocrisy of Modern Faith Healing
- P.15 The Dead Raised?; Houston and Islam
- P.16 What About Those Who Never Hear
- P.17,18 Request Church; Adventist Deception
- P.19 Questions & Comments
- P.20 Masters Course

'Strange Fire' book

This book by John MacArthur is a most devastating and concise critique of the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement. This is a must for all Christians to discern what is being taught about the Holy Spirit today. The book is a powerful trumpet call back to the 'faith once delivered'. (See review P.6) Special hard copy edition is available for \$26 (this includes postage)

Editor's Comment

It continues to amaze me as to the increasing variety of gospels and their hybrids available today. My conclusion is that many of our religious leaders either do not know or understand the true Gospel, or they are '*ashamed of the gospel*' (Rom.1:16). The church is filling up with tares and false converts because of these gospels. It is no wonder modern evangelism has an 80-90% fall away rate when the plethora of new gospels are compared to the real thing...

There is the Arminian gospel of man - man is placed at the centre. It is about what man can do in conversion. He must will to be saved, he must decide for Jesus. Various inventions such as 'altar calls' are employed to have him make a 'decision'. ('Altar calls' were never used by church leaders and evangelists until invented by Charles Finney in the 19th century). A 'sinner's prayer' often gives people a false sense of security. Yet the Bible clearly states that man cannot be saved by any of his own energies or his will (Jn.1:12,13); God chooses and seeks man (Eph.1:4,5; Lk.19:10; 2Thess.2:13); and unsaved man does not seek or choose God (Rom.3:11). The Arminian gospel places man in a position to *do* something. Yet the true Gospel is not what man can *do* in conversion but what God has already *done* in Christ Jesus for helpless sinners in satisfying God's judgement upon their sin.

There is the love gospel - God loves everyone and is waiting for them to choose Him. Certainly '*God is love*' as in 1John 4:8,16, but the passage is speaking *to believers* having God's love and for one another. The Gospel is not about 'God loves you' but about the death, burial and resurrection of *Christ for our sins!* Today 'God loves you' is typically the first presentation of the Gospel. Yet none of the great and effective evangelists of old began their Gospel messages with 'God loves you'. Rather, they *first* laid out the plight of man in sin and in breaking God's law. So too did the apostle Paul when he wrote of '*the wrath of God...against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men*' (Rom.1:18). The 'love gospel' ignores the fact that '*God is angry with the wicked every day*' (Ps.7:11) and that He will *send 'many'* people to Hell who think they are Christians, yet who do not '*know*' him by faith and repentance (Matt.7:21-23). God is simply not at peace with the unsaved! The love of God without His justice and judgement is a false gospel (Heb.9:27; Jn.9:39; Rom.2:1-5; 5:16-21; 2Pet.3:7). This gospel does not present sin and the consequences thereof. Beginning a Gospel presentation with '*God loves you*' often detracts from the 'offense' of the cross (Gal.5:11-20). It thwarts the very reason why man needs to be saved - because of his sin nature!

There is the health gospel - God wants to heal every believer if only they

Terry's Itinerary

July/August (most Sundays) 9.30am Hervey Bay Bible Church, Qld Ph.0411489472 www.herveybaybiblechurch.org

August 18th-30th Masters program, Pacific Bible Institute, Hervey Bay, Qld.

Website Comments

Sir, repent of your sins publishing such rubbish about Smith Wigglesworth's beliefs (<http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Smith-Wigglesworth-The-Facts-v3.5.pdf>)...*I'm Pentecostal and proud...I walked into the right church and got Born Again speaking in tongues in 1985...today I'm in a big church of 5,000 in Victoria, Australia. No tongues are allowed in worship on the platform in case we upset the unbeliever. The Holy Spirit thus can't move in the Church because the Pastor is so afraid of upsetting people. Christians can be sick with a spirit of cancer in them and need deliverance. All sickness is from Satan, not God...*

Editor's reply: ...I am happy to repent if you can show me exactly what I have to repent of? What exactly is it in the article that is in need of repentance? No fact in that article has ever been refuted.

I am an ex Pentecostal and not 'proud' of it, yet God used it for good. I spoke in unknown tongues before I was saved. I was not Born Again.

The Holy Spirit does not 'move' in any church but from *within* each person who is Born Again. The Spirit is not outside of us but working within (indwelling) us. When we received the Spirit of Christ we received every heavenly blessing (Eph. 1:3). *We do not need more of the Holy Spirit, He needs more of us!*

There is no '*spirit of cancer*' in the Bible. All sickness does not come from Satan but from the Adamic sin and curse. Our 'deliverance' is from sin, not sickness. The redemption of our bodies is future (Rom.8:23) to those who have received the Lord Jesus Christ in salvation.

I notice you have not one scripture to convince me of any of your ideas. I urge you to examine the faith you have by scripture. Examine the false stories by Pentecostals of healings with Smith Wigglesworth and the like faith healers. The end times will have many 'lying' signs and wonders (Matt.12:39; 24:24; Mk.13:22; 2Thess.2:9; Rev.13:13).

Reader's further reply: *Sorry for what I said of you. I don't know your heart...I suffer 5 stage parkinsons...Only God can heal me. I have been a Christian 28 years...the Devil has been after me since I was 6 yrs. old in England. I was steeped in Witchcraft...God doesn't want me dead, his will is to heal. The devil comes to destroy us...If you are wrong God will let you know...*

(C.M. E-mail)

worship to Sunday'. The 4th commandment was given specifically *'to Israel'* (Ex.31:12-17; Dt.5:2,3). It was a specific 'sign' of the *Mosaic Covenant*. (Other covenants had their own signs - see the *'Gospel Covenant Charts'* - <http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Gospel-Covenants-charts.pdf>). The Sabbath is NOT the sign of the new covenant and is NOT repeated in the New Testament. We are no longer under the Mosaic covenant. Every man 'chooses his own day' (Rom.14:5,6). We are not to judge people in the Sabbaths (Col.2:16). Sunday worship is also NOT Sabbath keeping, as 'Sabbath' means REST, not 'worship'. We are not and cannot be saved by the law or the keeping of it (Rom.3:20,28). The Adventist gospel is 'another gospel' mentioned in Galatians and Corinthians.

3. Yes, it was the Roman church that gradually adopted images into the church. The edict of Constantine was a precursor for a church being secularised and more pagan. (See our book *'To Catholics Whom I love'* and articles on the Sabbath on our website under Adventism).

4. The SDA religion was co-founded by a false prophet, Ellen G. White (See 'Ellen G. White quotes - <http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Ellen.G.White-quotes-v1.5.pdf>). This lady made false prophecies and plagiarised much material from other authors and called it her own and as revelations from God. The book *'The White Lie'* by Walter Rea is a devastating exposure of the extent of this. (I have copies of some pages to show).

5. Nowhere in the Bible is it taught that any Sabbath is a 'seal'. Exodus 20:8-11 is not the *'only place where you find God's seal'* as the book states. No 'seal' is mentioned in this passage! A quick study on the word 'seal' shows: The 'seal' in the OT was a 'sealing' of an important document or from a king (1Kngs 21:8; Esther 8:8; Jer.32:34); the sealing of covenants (Neh.9:38); or to 'close' something up (Song of Solomons 8:6; Is.8:16; Dan.9:24; 12:4). In the NT it is the Holy Spirit (Jn.3:33); Righteousness in salvation (Rom.4:11); the proof that something is true (1Cor.9:2; 2Tim.2:19); or the opening of judgements or pronouncements (Rev.6,7,8, etc). The 'seal' is NOT the Sabbath. This teaching is a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit, invented by Ellen G. White.

The 'Mark of the Beast' is not Sunday worship or anything to do with the Sabbath. This is new teaching invented by Adventists and Ellen White. The Mark of the Beast in Revelation does not mention the Sabbath.

Adventists put a yoke of fear and the Law upon people and holds them in unnecessary bondage. It's a works based law keeping gospel which keeps people under the law and in a Mosaic covenant - which had a beginning and an end (Gal.3:16-19)! *'Christ is the end of that Law'* (Rom.10:4).

have enough faith. But the Bible has no sure healing of bodies until the resurrection (Rom.8:23). The true Gospel never speaks about healing except the healing of sin. Jesus did not die on the cross for our healing of bodies but for our healing of sin. *The healing gospel adds to the doctrine of the atonement*. It also places emphasis on what man can get from God. The true Gospel is about what Christ did for us in a substitutionary bloody sacrifice to appease the wrath of a holy and righteous God upon sin.

Some use the scripture *'by his stripes you were healed'* (1Pet.2:24). But the passage says *'bore our sins'*, not *'our sicknesses'*. This is also a quote from Isaiah Ch.53 which specifically speaks of the *healing of sins* - *'He was wounded for our transgressions...bruised for our iniquities...with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all...for the transgression of my people was he stricken...he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors'* (Is.53).

There is the prosperity gospel - God wants everyone to be rich and is waiting for your 'seed giving' so that He can bless you with money and wealth. The richer you are the more you can help others. Prosperity becomes a sign of blessing from God. But *in reality it is the preachers who get rich from the money fleeced from their listeners!* This is a new gospel introduced by greedy Pentecostal preachers in the 20th century and now to a market driven church.

The true Gospel never has any mention of wealth or prosperity. The word 'prosperity' is mentioned only a few times in Scripture and it primarily has to do with the soul, not money (3Jn.1:2). The word 'prosper' literally means *'easy to travel through; to prosper ones journey, to give success'*. The prosperity gospel turns people to self rather than *Christ crucified*.

There is the success/purpose/potential gospel - God has a plan, a destiny, a purpose for *your* life. Yet the Gospel is not about *our* life but about the *death* of Jesus! 'Hillsong' and other Pentecostal/Charismatic groups fill their many sermons with, and urge us to, *'achieve His purpose for our lives'*. Yet the gospel only implies a 'destiny' of Heaven or Hell, life or death - and that depending on belief or unbelief. Any 'destiny' implied in the Gospel is *eternal*, not earthly.

There is the social and environmental gospel - These gospels call for social action to change social and environmental problems. But such agendas have *nothing* to do with *who Jesus is* and *what He did* for our sin.

Today these gospels create many spiritual junkies who have little idea of the necessity of, and the cost involved in, the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Bring the Gospel back!

Terry Arnold

Rick Warren, Roman Catholic Mystics and Pope Francis



In an April 2014 interview on EWTN [EWTN is a global, Catholic Television, Catholic Radio, and Catholic News Network] Rick Warren was questioned by interviewer Raymond Arroyo. The comments by Rick Warren in response to Arroyo's questions were stunning. There is no room for doubt: Warren's march towards ecumenical unity with Rome is becoming clearer and bolder...

The interview opened with the following question from Arroyo: 'The Purpose Driven Life is the best-selling book in the world - 36 million plus copies. It's been translated more than any book except the Bible. What is the key to that success? Why were so many people touched by that book and continue to be?'

Warren's response...confirmed that Roman Catholic mystics and their writings have been a strong influence on him personally and his ministry...

Warren responded: 'One of the things I did before I wrote the book was, I'd ask the question - How do you write a book that lasts 500 years? For instance, Imitation of Christ by Thomas Kempis, Practising the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence...The Desert Fathers, St. John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila. All of these great, classic devotional works...I just realised that in order to be timeless you have to be eternal'.

These authors and the books mentioned by Warren...books written by Roman Catholic mystics, are the works of humans who are fallible and easily misled by the fallen spiritual dimension.

...Arroyo then asked: 'What is your secret to reaching people every day, every week, not only in your writings but when they speak to you? What is it? What is this communication gift...because a lot of preachers would like to know'.

Rick Warren: '...Well, the main thing is love always reaches people. Authenticity, humility. Pope Francis is the perfect example of this...He is doing everything right...people will listen to what we say if they like what they see. And as our new Pope he was very, very symbolic in...his first Mass with people with AIDS...kissing of the deformed man...loving the children. This authenticity, this humility, the caring for the poor, this is what the whole world expects us Christians to do...There was a headline here in Orange County - and I love the headline. It said, if you love Pope Francis, you'll love Jesus. That was the headline! I showed it to a group of priests I was speaking to a while back'.

So here's my question: What part of the Reformation that separated the 'separated brethren' from Rome does Rick Warren not understand? Has he now publicly declared that the 'Purpose Driven' way is an ecumenical way on the road to Rome?

(Excerpted from 'Understand The Times International', 22 April 2014)

Your Comments and Questions

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Request For a Church in Victoria

Dear Terry...I was just wondering if you know of any Church close to me that is trying to be faithful. I live in Epping, Victoria. I am so worn out with these false teachers. I am tired of confronting teachers with blatantly obvious false doctrines. I want to be with people who are prepared to sit together and discuss their understanding of the Word. People that are not so high minded to admit when their understanding is not in line with the word. Yes I do keep myself open to correction. I myself am a casualty of the Church of Christ. I received a hand posted note in my letter box on a Sunday saying the doors were now shut to our little group. Contact and assistance promised but never occurred. God Bless you all...

(Name withheld)

Adventist Deception

Dear Terry, Thankyou for your faithful ministry over many years to God's people through 'Diakrisis' and for standing on God's word against false teaching. Your 'Diakrisis' teaching has saved me from many perils over many years of God's providence in your writings, for which I thank and praise the Lord for. Many times through daily prayer from God's Word and 'Diakrisis' he has strengthened me with his promises (Ps.116) which he hears and answers in our times of need...

I received a book called 'National Sunday Law' which disturbed me. Which church is it from?...[A list of questions from the book followed]

Editor's reply: (I have mentioned articles that can be found on our website - www.taministries.net). The 'National Sunday Law' is a publication put out by Seventh Day Adventists. Adventists are deceitful in hiding their identity. The book is full of errors put forward by the Adventist church. Despite being corrected in their history, they continue to put forth old lies.

1. The Catholic church did *not* change any Sabbath day to Sunday. Sunday was *already kept* by the early church since the 1st century. The evidence is overwhelming (see our article 'Saturday or Sunday?' - <http://www.taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Saturday-or-Sunday-v2.0.pdf>). It was Constantine who ratified Sunday as a worship day. The Catholic church as we know it today, was barely in existence when Constantine ruled.

2. Satan 'has not 'caused us to break God's 4th commandment of Saturday

Continued next page >

Your Comments and Questions

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What About Those Who Never Hear The Gospel?

[Editor's replies in bold and brackets] Terry, does everyone in their lifetime get that chance/opportunity to hear the true gospel? If so what about those people in the other countries during the time of Christ and after his death...like the native Aborigines...Inca's (Peru) and other remote countries in the world.

[There are many in history who have never heard the gospel. The Amazonian Indians for centuries never heard the gospel or of Jesus Christ. No one can be saved unless they hear and understand the Gospel (Jn.10:9; 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Although there are degrees of punishment for sin and unbelief in Hell, people are in Hell not because they did not hear the gospel or did not have any 'opportunity', but rather because they are sinners by nature and 'already condemned' (Jn.3:18,19). No one can enter Heaven unless they receive a another righteousness, not their own (Phil.3:9; Rom.4; Matt.5:20)]

I personally don't believe that you can die without ever hearing the gospel because I don't believe you can stand in front of God on Judgment Day and say you never heard anything?

[Yet it is a fact that there are people who have never heard. There are people in Fiji I have met (Hindus) who had never heard the Gospel]

...If the Aborigines & Inca's from Peru can make sacrifices to their gods then the gospel would've been able to reach them as well.

[But it did *not* reach many of them. I know missionaries who have gone into previously *unreached* tribes where the people had NEVER before heard the Gospel.

Some people attempt to use Romans ch.1 to have man judged by '*what light they have been given*' and somehow they still get to Heaven? But this is a modern invention. Romans chapter 1 read in full is actually stating the opposite - none will escape judgement, there is no excuse for any, and all are under the wrath of God. Romans 1 actually does not excuse man, but sets out a relentless testimony leaving 'all without any excuse' for judgement.

You must put aside your logic and emotion on this issue and not claim God to be 'unfair'. *No one deserves heaven*. All are sinners and deserve Hell. Just be thankful you heard the Gospel and understood the truth! This revelation should increase our view of Grace and the Mercy of God as well as instill in us an increased desire to spread the Gospel.

I have a sermon (free) on this that may help, titled '*What About Those Who Have Never Heard the Gospel?*'

Belgians Flock to Glowing Virgin Mary Statue



A statue of the Virgin Mary is drawing thousands of people to the town of Jalhay in southern Belgium. Hundreds of people have been flocking to a house...to catch a glimpse of a small statue of the Virgin Mary that reportedly glows in the dark...

Retired Daniel Le Floch discovered that the old plaster statuette which has stood in his kitchen for the past 15 years, suddenly starting 'giving off light' '...The Virgin wants it that way', he said.

...On Wednesday 500 people visited the house...to witness what is being referred to as 'the mysterious glowing Virgin'...some of those visiting the statue claim to have been cured of a skin condition.

The statue, about 30 centimetres in height, represents the 'Virgin of Banneux', from the name of a nearby village where in 1933 a young girl was said to have witnessed an appearance by the Virgin. The town has since become a pilgrim destination in largely Roman Catholic Belgium...'

(AFP, March 14; Apostasy Alert, March, 2014)

Editor's comment: The picture shows the Pope's love of the Marian idols. The Pope openly teaches Mary as a co-mediator and co-redemptrix. There are literally hundreds of these claimed Marian signs and wonders around the world each year. Signs and wonders are claimed in the Catholic, Orthodox and other religions, as well as the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement. But how do we tell which is demonic, which is fraud and which might be real? Our book '*To Catholics Whom I Love*' has an appendix of some famous Catholic miracles and parts of the transcripts involved. The test is to compare the transcripts and the signs, with Scripture. The Bible also clearly states that the signs and wonders movement in the end will be '*lying*' and false (Matt.12:39; 24:24; Mk.13:22; 2Thess.2:9; Rev.13:13). The Pentecostal/Charismatic and ecumenical movements have opened the door wide to this movement. *The fruit of these movements has been to move people further away from the Bible as the all sufficient Word of God.*

Gay Bishop Divorces From Partner



Gene Robinson...the first openly gay elected as a bishop in a major Christian organisation, announced he is divorcing Mark, his partner of 25 years...'*I do know that I too have to move forward without knowing whether the steps I am taking are in the right or wrong direction...And I need to be an active participant in my own destiny*', he said.

(Christian Post; 05 May 2014; Apostasy Alert May/2014)

Editor's Comment: This is the same Bishop who last year on Q&A TV in Australia spoke of *lifelong fidelity and commitment* in 'marriage'.

'Strange Fire' by John MacArthur - a Review



The book 'Strange Fire' by John MacArthur has created quite a storm in evangelical circles. It is a book detailing the rise of the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement *and its fruit*. I found it compulsive reading. It is a trumpet call for the modern church to consider the fruit of modern day teachings on the Holy Spirit.

The book begins with some bold statements: *'The results of the Charismatic takeover has been devastating. In recent history, no other movement has done more to damage the cause of the gospel, to distort the truth, and to smother the articulation of sound doctrine. Charismatic theology has turned the evangelical church into a cesspool of error and a breeding ground for false teachers. It has warped genuine worship through unbridled emotionalism, polluted prayer with private gibberish, contaminated true spirituality with unbridled mysticism, and corrupted faith by turning it into a creative force for speaking worldly desires into existence. By elevating the authority of experience over the authority of scripture, the Charismatic Movement has destroyed the church's immune system - uncritically granting free access to every imaginable form of heretical teaching and practise'*. (P.XVI)

This statement might seem harsh but the book goes on to systematically prove every charge laid. Certainly the fruit of this movement is for all to see: *'Those who have had a charismatic experience have been baptised with the Spirit, they say - and that supernaturally empowers obedience, fosters holiness, and produces the fruit of the Spirit. If their claims are true, Charismatics ought to be producing leaders renowned for christlikeness rather than flamboyance. Moral failures, financial chicanery, and public scandals would be comparatively rare in the movement. But Charismatics dominate the list of celebrities, pastors and tele-evangelists who have brought disgrace on the name of Christ over the past three decades...Wikipedia identified fifty well known, publicly disgraced church leaders...at least thirty five of those listed are from Pentecostal and Charismatic backgrounds...'* (P.6)

The book details the growth of the Prosperity and Health gospels now prevalent in the movement. *'Nearly half of American Christians, in any denomination, and roughly two-thirds of American Pentecostals now embrace the basic premise of the prosperity gospel: God wants you to be happy, healthy, and rich'* (P.15) *'Over 90% of Pentecostals and Charismatics in Nigeria, South Africa, India and the Philippines believe that 'God will grant material prosperity to all believers who have enough faith'*. (P.58,59)

Lest there be some who might say they do not accept the prosperity/health gospels or who call themselves 'classical Pentecostals', the book challenges the very roots of the Pentecostal teaching as it was first introduced in the 20th Century. The Baptism with the spirit as a subsequent experience to salvation and the 'evidence of tongues' is put into doctrinal and historical context.

Your Comments and Questions

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

The Dead Raised?

Hi Brother Terry, what do you think of this man Benjamin coming back from the dead and someone seeing the afterlife... (<http://www.hope1032.com.au/stories/inspirational%20stories/raised-from-the-dead#.UVNw4g9AorF.gmail>)

Editor's Reply: Every time we have investigated these stories they have been exposed as frauds or non events. This testimony is already being exposed and interviews are now being taken off the internet by himself. There are serious questions about his story that do not match truth. There are dozens of these people doing the rounds of telling their 'stories'.

When I have investigated these stories I have found the person was often not dead but comatosed. Rare cases may make it to the morgue. (Most of the stories in the Timor revival were attributed to states of coma). Also you will notice that many of these stories come from India, South America or in this case Malaysia - places hard to track down for forensic evidence. We have been stonewalled many times trying to get medical evidence. I no longer investigate these stories - I grew tired of the shams and the frauds.

But more importantly, if you check out the stories in contrast to scripture you will always see discrepancies. The devil is subtle and loves to put forward extra biblical material as 'evidence'.

We have articles on this - available on our website in the 'Pentecostal/Charismatism' section: *'Raising the Dead'* (<http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Raising-the-dead-v2.0.pdf>) and *'Visions-Dreams-Near Death'* (<http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Visions-dreams-near-death-v2.0.pdf>).

Houston and Islam

Hi Terry,...You might want to alert your readers to what Brian Houston recently said in a conference to pastors about Islam...using liberal language that Jesus has the 'inclusive arms of a loving God'. Our articles contrast this with the biblical truth that God is exclusive. (<http://hillsongchurchwatch.com/2014/03/17/brian-houston-the-muslim-and-you-we-actually-serve-the-same-god/>)

Houston: *'Do you know - take it all the way back into the Old Testament and the Muslim and you, we actually serve the same God. Allah to a Muslim, to us Abba Father God. And of course through history, those views have changed greatly. But let's make sure that we view God through the eyes of Jesus, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the beauty of a Saviour, the loving open inclusive arms of a loving God. And that way we'll lead out of that and you'll be purposeful about your leadership and you'll draw people just like the Lord Jesus always does through the power of the Holy Spirit'*. [Brian Houston, Hillsong TV // Living For The Master's Well Done, Pt.1 with Brian Houston: 11:52, Published Jan 5, 2014]

(C3 Church Watch; & Hillsong Church Watch)

high profile Pentecostal leaders who have suffered and died from diseases not healed. Yet the healing emphasis continues: *'We will pray on Sunday night for all those needing healing, and for all of you who've asked us to pray for loved ones. Yes we shall. Healing, in Jesus name'*. Meanwhile Darlene remains without any healing of cancer.

I believe in divine miraculous sovereign healing. But *I believe in divine healing, not healers*. I have yet to see any man on planet earth who has anything even remotely near what Jesus or the apostles had with the gift of healings. The healing claims today are a sham, counterfeit and fraudulent. Let the reader test this by reading every healing in the first gospel. The words are clear - Jesus healed *'all'* (Matt. 23:24; 8:16; 10:1,8; 12:15; 14:36; etc.); and *'every sickness'*. All that came to him were *completely* healed (12:13; 20:34). Jesus healed *'all'* whether they had faith or not! (Lk.17:11-19; Matt.8:1,14; 12:10; 13:58). Added to this, many healings were to do with organic diseases which cannot be healed by psychosomatic means.

More important is the *purpose of these signs* which is almost totally ignored today by Pentecostal teachers. The signs were to *'prove'* that Jesus is *'the Christ'* (ie. the Messiah - Jn.20:30,31; Acts 2:22; Lk.7:21,22). In the book of Acts and in the epistles we read of *'signs of an apostle'* (2Cor.12:12). These signs were *'at the hands of the apostles'* and not done by other believers (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 8:13). Again, all and *'everyone'* were healed and with no failures (Acts 5:16).

I issue a challenge to the faith healers - leave the healing meetings that frequent my town and come to the hospital when I visit the sick people, and heal them from cancer and other incurable diseases. Come with me to the emergency wards and heal the accident victims and those with broken limbs. Heal some of my older church goers of blindness and deafness. (Perhaps you could heal yourselves of having to wear glasses?). Come with me to the Paraplegics and cerebral palsy victims. Heal just one Down's Syndrome child. Come with me to the next funeral in our church and raise the dead. *They are the signs and wonders that Jesus and the apostles did without any failures!*

This article is not about whether the gifts have ceased or not. The issue is this - the *gift of healings* is simply not evident in today's Charismatic/Pentecostal movement. When leaders such as Darleen Zschech and others are not healed, why is it that the doctrines of faith healing continue on unabated? The hypocrisy of the huge divide between what is taught and reality seems to be lost on many gullible Christians. God, for His purposes, does not necessarily want everyone to be physically healed (Lk.4:25-27). Even before the book of Acts closed many were not healed (Phil.2:27; 2Tim.4:20; 1Tim.5:23; 2Cor.12:9).

The gospel of physical healing is a false gospel and offers false hope. *It brings hypocrisy*. It is an addition to the vital doctrine of the atonement.

Terry Arnold

* <http://www.mychristiandaily.com/index.php/feature/10670-darlene-zschech-ends-chemo-starts-worshipping-again#sthash.56nM1S1D.dpuf>

There is a concise section on miracles and healing - the gifts in the early church and the gifts as touted today.

There is a section on the unknown tongues movement and how it was begun with the likes of Charles Parham. The amazing facts of its inception are little known today by Pentecostals. Pentecostals should be utterly shocked if they knew the real history of how it began. The question of what happened with the gift of tongues in the first century is shown with important quotes by the church fathers. The purpose and the practise of the gift is also explained. What exactly was *'tongues'*? There is much confusion on this today.

The book puts the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement to several tests from Jonathan Edwards great treatise on *'revival'*. Does the movement exalt the true Christ? The movement is shown to be spirit centred rather than Christ centred. Does the movement oppose worldliness? Does the movement point people to the scriptures? Much is said here about extra biblical revelations. Does the movement elevate truth? Does it produce love for God and others?

There are also many interesting quotes by Charles Spurgeon.

Other questions answered are: Are there apostles amongst us, or is this sudden appearance of *'apostles'* a 21st century phenomena? What did the church fathers believe about this?

Benny Hinn gets a special mention. His healings and prophecies are put to the test. Many other false teachers in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement are tested: *'According to 2Peter and Jude, they are dry wells, fruitless trees, raging waves, wandering stars, brute beasts, hideous stains, vomit eating dogs, mud loving pigs, and ravening wolves'* (P.130)

The conclusion of the book is to challenge the reader as to *the effect this movement has had on the Gospel*. There is also a final trumpet call to action. The ridiculous and sensational claims of Charismatic leaders and TV preachers need to be challenged.

The book also has some appendixes, one being a treatise on the issue of *'continuist'* versus the *'cessationist'* positions in regard to the gifts. There is much thought provoking material here.

This is no ordinary book. It is not for those who do not want to be challenged or who do not love the truth. The language is at times strong but everything is backed with scripture and evidence. (There are nearly 50 pages of references and quotes alone. Some of these notes alone make interesting reading). The research is obviously extensive. I have read no other book on the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement that is as extensive, orderly and yet concise in its message. It is a must for every reference library. All Christians should read this book and be aware of the teachings of this movement and its effect on the Gospel. Then pass it on to make others aware of the fruit of the movement.

Terry Arnold

(A special hardcopy edition is available for \$26 - this includes postage)

Where was the Gospel at Easter?

Each year I download the Christmas and Easter messages from Australian church leaders. As in other issues of 'Diakrisis' we have shown the apostate slide of denominational leaders into social and political works based gospels.

The following are the 2014 Easter messages from Australian church leaders. Our purpose is to encourage readers to discern, teach what is the true Gospel, and to urge us all to keep the Gospel pure.

Editor's comments in bold.

National Council of Churches in Australia (Reverend Tara Curlewis)

Easter is running into the unexpected. 'The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there...Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed' (John 20:4,5,8)

The first century events that are recalled at Easter are filled with people being met by the unexpected. Jesus repeatedly surprised people with the unexpected, talking to the outcast and healing the sick. These events started to open people's eyes to see Jesus as one who transforms situations. Then when he raised his friend Lazarus to life it pointed to what was to come. That first Easter morning as the disciples went to the tomb to grieve for their friend they ran up the path into the unexpected. The grave clothes lay there and Jesus was not. Today we also encounter the unexpected, yet as people of faith we know how often that leads to situations being transformed. Easter reminds us that when all hope appears lost the unexpected happens.

An ancient Easter prayer of the church says; 'You destroyed death by the Cross, you opened Paradise to the Thief, the Myrrh-bearers' lament you transformed, and ordered your Apostles to proclaim, that you had risen, Christ our God, granting to the world your great mercy'.

This Easter, run with Peter and John welcoming the unexpected. Easter tells the good news that Jesus is not dead but he is risen!...

'Easter is running into the unexpected...situations being transformed...This Easter run with Peter and John welcoming the unexpected'? - But will this get me to Heaven? Why is Jesus 'not dead but he is risen'? The 'ancient eastern prayer' is the closest this message gets to the Biblical Gospel. (It is actually a dismissal prayer ('Apolytikia') in the Eastern Orthodox church). This is a gospel with no sin and no reason why I need Christ to have risen from the dead. It will save no one because no one can be saved unless they know what they are saved from.

The Hypocrisy of Modern Faith Healing

Six months ago, former Hillsong Church worship pastor Darlene Zschech announced that she had breast cancer and would undergo chemotherapy.

Zschech recently announced she has officially finished her last round of Chemo and says hallelujah is the best word to describe how she feels about it. But the battle isn't over. She has started six weeks of radiation. '*I shall be glowing from the inside out*', she writes. '*And then that's it. Never again*'. '*On the days where I have felt I cannot do it anymore, I literally have felt the strength of people praying for me*', she wrote on her blog. * '*The power of the Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen has been beyond what I have ever experienced before...I cry easily, not necessarily sad tears, but tears all the same...I think the tears have taken the place of words for the time being. This too shall pass. One day the words to define this season will come. And I pray they bring hope to all who hear...*

...Even though I unashamedly begged for God to heal me before treatment' she says, '*He said to me that as I walked through He would never leave me. This is the truth for all of us today, no matter what you may be facing, even if God feels far away, our loving Father will never leave us or forsake us. I take great pleasure in knowing this beyond a shadow of a doubt. He is with me. He is with you*'.

Zschech said she was excited about leading worship at church again. '*Even if it's a bit rough and ready, leading people to the courts of our God is my greatest honor. I simply cannot wait!*' she says. '*His presence truly is heaven. We will pray on Sunday night for all those needing healing, and for all of you who've asked us to pray for loved ones. Yes we shall. Healing, in Jesus name*'.

What are we to make of all this? We would not want Darleen to suffer any more than is necessary, but this is a church which teaches and has prominent speakers who teach the Word Faith doctrines which include the gospels of healing and prosperity. If you have enough faith you will be healed.

What seems to be the blind spot missed by these churches and their leaders is *the divide between what they teach and what actually happens*. The prosperity teachers themselves get rich and the people give away their monies. The faith healers come and go, many with cancers and diseases not cured. When cancer strikes as in this case, there is a whitewash of doctrines taught. '*Begging God to heal me before treatment*' is *not* what is taught in the healing doctrines of the modern Pentecostal movement. According to Pentecostal teaching Healing is supposed to be provided for in this life in the atonement...God wants to heal...if there is enough 'faith'?

Every year in Pentecostal churches people are struck down with cancer and diseases not cured. But in so many cases these are passed over and the emphasis on the gift of healing remains. In the last decade there have been a number of

cloth of suffering, judgement and death, bursting through the other side - taking with Him, the thread. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is united to Him and takes the same path and...are raised with Him. Easter Sunday is not just an example of new life. It is the pattern, the prototype, the power for cosmic resurrection.

This illustration of ‘resurrection’ is interesting, but *HOW* exactly do I join in on the ‘thread’ of this ‘cosmic resurrection’? *WHY* do I need to be ‘united to him by faith’? Could it be because of sin against a holy God?

Lutheran Church of Australia (Rev’d Dr Michael P. Semmler)

...churches and service clubs are active in matters of peace and wellbeing, locally and internationally. Where health and education are high on the agenda...then good comes. For Christians, however, there is a unique reason to live and hope beyond dreams, aspirations and wishful thinking. At the very core of life, not subjected to proof, the weight of probability, belief or unbelief, is the action of God in Christ, celebrated in the event we now call Easter.

Easter morning began as a dreadful start to a day. Hopes had been dashed with the demise of the touted ‘messiah’, the saviour of the world, the glimmer of hope at least for a small band of followers. Death had its way and there was no coming back. And then the inconceivable. ‘He is risen’...

Nothing has changed history like Christ risen from the dead..there is real hope. The death barrier is broken. Those who die of starvation, disease...who lie lifeless in ditches after a tragic road accident, have hope beyond this life.

Across the world in worship...the message will be heard and celebrated. ‘It’s good to be alive’, takes on a whole new meaning. We now have the blessing to rise with Christ when our time comes. That is why he did it.

Luther would be sickened by this message of universalism! This gospel speaks of ‘belief or unbelief’ and ‘those who die of starvation, disease or...road accident, have hope beyond this life’. If this is the case then what do I do with the scriptures that teach ‘many’ are going down the ‘broad road’ to destruction and ‘few’ go down the ‘narrow road to life’? (Matt.7:13,14) How can it be that the ‘death barrier is broken’ for all those who die of ‘starvation, disease or...a tragic road accident’? Are they all on the ‘narrow road’? If this is the case then the Gospel has no use.

Again and again in these Easter messages we are left with the question: *WHY? Why* the death and resurrection? The reason for the Gospel of a death and resurrection is not shown. No one can be saved by these messages! God commands that we preach the gospel.

Bring the Gospel back!

Terry Arnold

Catholic Church in Australia (Archbishop Denis J Hart)

My dear Friends, with the approach of Easter there is time for reflection, for family and for each other. On Good Friday, Easter remains an inspiring hope. At Easter, that hope is turned into reality.

We...are made for God, for hope and for love. Jesus’ rising from the dead shows us that for the Christian death is not the end. Our capacity for life opens out into what God can make us and helps us to overcome the sorrow and limitations of daily living, to know that we live for God and for each other.

As Pope Francis recently reminded us we are all on a journey, walking in the light of the Lord; we are invited to build up the family of the Church and to make our public confession of Christ crucified the motivation of all that we do on our journey. We walk in the presence of the Lord with his cross. By making this the centre of our lives we will go forward together. May this Easter bring you a surety and hope that God is with you, that his love encircles you and that he is leading you on your journey. May the risen Lord be with you always.

This is typical Catholic language which begs definition. What does it mean ‘hope is turned into reality...life opens out into what God can make us’...‘our public confession of Christ crucified’...to ‘walk in the presence of the Lord with his cross’? What exactly is my ‘journey’? How do I know ‘God is with me’ and that he is ‘leading’ me? What of my sin?

Anglican Church of Australia (The Most Rev’d Dr Phillip Aspinall)

The Easter story of life and death is not...an out-dated message...a fairytale...The reality of a man in his prime who gave up his life for others finds brutal echoes in funerals I’ve led for Australian diggers - themselves honourable, brave men, also in their prime - who gave up their lives for others.

On our streets, too, life and death wage war...battles are endured by the homeless, the poor, the sick. Sometimes people are supported into new and safe lives...sometimes death comes, despite efforts of doctors, nurses and welfare professionals...Church hostels reach out to people with HIV/AIDS...

Several decades of abuse scandals have shattered victims and marred the genuine good done by so many faith communities. In tackling these crimes, we have seen the death of denial and the slow rebirth of proper responses, including mandatory reporting to police.

The Easter message of life’s triumph over death is as real today as it was in Jesus’ time. We see again and again the darkness of struggle and pain, injury, loss and challenge, is not the end. Easter is for us all...it begins in love.

Those dead in war are ‘echoes’ of Christ’s death? Yet, here is the

difference: *'For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us'* (Rom.5:7,8).

The *'battles'* and deaths of the *'homeless...poor...sick...people living with HIV/AIDS'* are because of Adam's sin. This is *WHY* there was a resurrection - that Christ be our hope in defeating sin and death. Christ was *'delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification'* (Rom.4:25).

This *'Easter message of life's triumph over death'* is useless unless Reverend Aspinall can tell us *why* there is death and *why* Jesus rose?

Australian Baptist (Rev. Keith Jobberns)

'The Hope of Easter: David Malouf's interesting article on 'Contentment' (The Age March 12 2013), brings a perspective on the world's current pandemic of anxiety and depression. He maintains that with space exploration in the 1970's, human beings who previously felt connected to a small village or suburban community, now had an image from space of living on a small and fragile planet. He said, 'The experience made us to feel small'.

The awareness of 'smallness' in people tends to extrapolate into vulnerability and fear and with good cause. Most of us experience negative emotional responses to the plethora of human and environmental abuse that floods our media, and whether it gears us into angry social action or immobilises us with powerless depression, we are impacted...The family, cultural, financial and military, bulwarks we once counted on to keep us safe and content are under threat of change and extinction. Where then is the hope we need to keep on?

As Easter approaches the Christian world celebrates the life of Jesus who understood the human need for hope. Every time He healed a disabled or dying person, He restored hope. His life of wisdom and goodness gave a glimpse...that life could be different if there was an alignment with His values.

Jesus Christ's life and self-sacrificing death as a ransom for fallen humanity allowed mankind to have renewed relationship with God. Then when He conquered death in the resurrection He gave amazing hope to those who witnessed and heard about it. There was hope for a new meaningful way of living, hope for a connection with a loving God and hope for an amazing life beyond the horror of the grave...there is an antidote and it comes in the form of knowing and believing that Jesus stepped into this small planet to transform our lives because of His profound love for all of us'.

Finally we have one Easter message that has something close to the Gospel! The problems of 'family, cultural, financial are all the effects of sinful humanity, described in this account rather as 'fallen humanity'. But what exactly is 'fallen humanity' without a mention of sin?

Continued next page >

'...knowing and believing that Jesus stepped into this small planet to transform our lives because of His profound love for all of us' - this phrase minimises the Gospel that Jesus died as a sacrifice to satisfy God's wrath upon man's sin. The Gospel is also not about 'an alignment with His values'?

Uniting Church in Australia (Rev. Professor Andrew Dutney)

Because Christ is risen, we need never give up on the pursuit of justice and peace...In this or that particular struggle we persevere in hope and joy, assured that Christ, the risen crucified One, lives and reigns.

It is 1700 years since the Edict of Milan extended toleration to Christians...this Easter I am especially conscious of Christian communities marginalised, discriminated against or suffering from injustice...of churches in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Pacific and diaspora communities here in Australia. I remember too the pain of our sisters and brothers among the First Peoples of Australia and their continuing search for justice and reconciliation.

...Join me in praying for these communities this Easter, and in reaffirming a commitment to work with them for the justice, peace and reconciliation promised in the resurrection of Jesus. For 'he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead...in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross'. (Col.1:18-20)

This is the typical social gospel from the Uniting Church. The Gospel is not about the 'pursuit of justice and peace...for the 'marginalised, discriminated against'...'our sisters and brothers among the First Peoples of Australia and their continuing search for justice and reconciliation'. 'Justice, peace and reconciliation' are NOT 'promised in the resurrection of Jesus' for these people, unless they believe! There is also no Gospel here of why there had to be a death and resurrection, and no mention of sin.

Presbyterian Church of Australia (The Right Reverend David Jones)

Just before he died Jesus said...I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds' (Jn.12:24). Jesus is the Seed who falls dead into the ground, but rises up new to produce MANY seeds. His death and resurrection is the pattern and prototype and power for MANY resurrections. Jesus is the Head of a new creation. He takes the old humanity down into the grave and He rises as Head of a new humanity.

Put another way - Jesus is like the needle going through the thick black