



Diakrisis

A Ministry of Teaching

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

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

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter. We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

This newsletter is distributed free of charge. However, because we are a faith ministry, we welcome donations of approx. \$15 per year to cover the cost of production.

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Contents

P.1 - Editors Comments; Persistence.

P.2 - *Father Dennis You Did the Right Thing*; From Mothers Milk- to Metho- to Jesus; Benny Hinn Video.

P.3 - Falling (Slaying) in the spirit; *Youth Alive*.

P.4 - Responses to Mail-out conducted in May; Your Comments and Questions; Terry's Itinerary; Prayer Points; Subscription Form.

Editors Comments

We apologise for the delay in distributing this newsletter, (due to a computer breakdown and time away from home). The ministry and the newsletter mailing list continues to expand. Such expansion will require more prayer, more labourers, and more finances. We look to the Lord to supply every need.

In the following issues, as promised, we have printed some of the replies to our May mail-out. We are thankful that several pastors have responded favourably and requested literature and a subscription to this newsletter.

The recent ministry trip to Nth. Qld. was a blessing to me and I believe the Lord did some valuable work in my heart, and in the lives of many of the saints in the areas visited. I was greatly encouraged to see and hear from many people who have come out of false teaching and extremes and excesses, and into sound Bible based churches. Many of these have grown and matured in the Lord and have a fresh peace, zeal and joy. It is encouragement to us to have played perhaps a small part in informing and equipping some of God's people.

On the other side of the coin, I met others who have left churches with damaged and bitter hearts, some refusing to trust any other fellowship. In particular, the fruit from the 'Toronto Blessing' is now being increasingly laid bare. The incidence of demonic behaviour, depression and illnesses can no longer be discounted. I personally know of marriage breakdowns, including Pastors and their wives. Large numbers of churches have been split and several ministries such as 'Toronto Blessing Helplines' have been set up as a result of calls for help. Philip Foster, a minister in England, writes: '*...there are many in the churches currently suffering trauma in silence: how can they speak 'against the spirit' by saying He has damaged them? Yet they are damaged. I am already aware of three deaths following involvement in Toronto meetings, and there are many more badly damaged people out there...an article 'The New Wine Hangover?'**...which was written a year on from their first experiences of Toronto...It speaks of 'considerable less excitement' and raises the question, 'Did we somehow miss the blessing?'. It describes the work as 'being tougher' and tells of 'severe depression, marriage difficulties, and loneliness'...**

The good news is that in many parts of the world the tide is turning! Many are beginning to see that something is very wrong with the current signs and wonders movement. The bad fruit in some cases has taken time to show itself and it is becoming obvious to many that a good tree cannot produce bad fruit, (Matt.17:18). God warns that we should not cast His Words behind us, (Ps.50:16-19), and we are to '*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them*', (Eph.5:11). Speaking the truth necessitates refuting error! This fact runs all the way through the New Testament.

I exhort and urge readers to systematically keep the discipline of daily reading and studying the Bible with a mind that is *open* to truth. Let us be lovers of truth, (2Thess.2:10,11). **Terry Arnold**

* 'Jesus Life' Magazine, of the Jesus Fellowship/Jesus Army, No.33, 3rd. Quarter, 1995.

** 'Signs and Wonders Movement - Exposed' by Haville, Hand, Foster & Glover, P.76.

Persistence

'Keep about your work - that God has given you. Do not flinch because the lion roars; do not stop to stone the devils 'dogs'; do not fool away your time chasing the devils 'rabbits'. Do your work. But see to it that nothing hinders you from fulfilling the work that God has given you.

Keep at your work. Let your aim be as steady as a star. You may be assaulted, wronged, insulted, slandered, wounded and rejected. You may be abused by foes, forsaken by friends, and despised and rejected of men. But see to it, with steadfast determination, with unfaltering zeal, that you pursue the great purpose of your life and object of your being until at last you can say, 'I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do'. (Author unknown)

'Father Denis, You Did the Right Thing'

So begins the 'Man with a mission' column written by Denis Madigan in the Sydney Sunday Telegraph, 1/12/96. If any current writings reflect the Roman Catholic stance on salvation better than this man's I would be surprised! On the above date, the column was devoted to letters written to him regarding his advice given to a Muslim in Baghdad, who had contacted him, (published in a previous article), stating that he was looking into the possibility of converting to Christianity. Father Madigan had said: *'The student said he wanted to embrace Christianity for economic and social reasons; I encouraged him to remain as he is, given the status of his country'*. He followed up in later columns by publishing letters of criticism received about his response. He now prints letters received, condoning his words of advice to this man, implying therefore that he *'did the right thing'*! Some examples will suffice to show the spiritual confusion this man and the organisation he represents, are causing in the Australian community:

From Jean: *'I was stunned by the letters you received from so-called Christians. You did the right thing. I was pleased you followed your heart, Father.'*

From a Bronte reader: *'Your reply to the young Muslim was a paragon of wisdom, compassion and tolerance. I bet God would say to you; 'Aw Madigan, forget those religious racists. It takes all kinds to make the world and the same goes for Heaven!'*

From Charmaine: *'Your advice to the young Muslim was right. The Koran is a beautiful book, and it talks about believers (in God), and unbelievers. So the believers are anyone who believes in and follows God. That would include Christians, Muslims, Jews and most religions. We all basically pray to the same God. Fr. Madigan had compassion for this young man and put more value on his young life than on religious diversions. He has a wonderful understanding of God's love and compassion.'*

Melanie: *'I'm a Christian who for twenty years has had contact with Muslims. One of Sydney's Muslim leaders, after seeing a Christian youth help programme in Parramatta, explained 'truly this is Islam''.*

From a 'Christian': *'You gave the right advice to the Islamic student, suited to the situation and occasion. If only Christians went to Heaven - and good ones at that - they'd be far and few between and it would mean God had failed. But I see God as perfect and not one soul would be lost. No religion can claim 'soul' rights to heaven.'; Ananda: 'Christianity is not the only way; it is a beautiful way, as other religions can also be. All paths eventually lead back to the one God that all religions worship; Norma: 'Your advice to the young student was sensible. Am I going to Hell because I don't give my life to Jesus? These people scare me with such talk!'*

Obviously, the writers of these letters are entitled to their opinions, but what of the man who week in, week out, purports to be a spokesman for Christianity? Surely he has obligations to the truth. At the base of his column is a feature entitled *'Today's text'*. The scripture printed for this edition was a section of Matthew 24, carefully *omitting* verse four which surely speaks of Father Madigan and his ilk. **Mike Claydon.**

From Mothers Milk - To Metho - To Jesus!

(The following is a testimony by a friend who I believe to be a 'trophy of Grace'. We have personally helped disciple this man and can testify to the miracle of God in his life. The author is penniless and suffers from poor health, with an expected short life span. His desire is that we print this testimony into a tract, to be distributed so that others might be saved. If you would like to help financially towards this work, please send donations to 'Mathie Testimony fund', C/O TA Ministries, PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, 4655, Qld. Australia).

I came from a happy family, went to Sunday school where I believe the seed of the Gospel was planted. I had a great fear of the dark and was very shy at school. I joined the Boys Scouts which helped me somewhat and later I became a Queens Scout. I started work as a mechanical draftsman and began drinking to give me extra confidence with work and to meet girls. During this stage I met my wife, was promoted to sales engineer, had my daughter born, and built my first house - but all depended on my drinking. After 7 years I was retrenched and the company closed. I got a new job selling hospital equipment, which involved living away in motels and being drunk every night for free. After three and a half years ill health started, with stomach ulcers and chest problems from smoking. I resigned, sold up, and moved to Qld. for a 'healthier lifestyle'.

However, the warmer climate only gave me an excuse to drink more alcohol. I went back selling equipment and built a new house on 5 acres. Illness then increased. Drinking became more important than my wife, daughter or my work. I lost count of the number of times I was in and out of hospital. Worst of all was not knowing how I got there. I resigned my job again and took up full time drinking. My wife then divorced me and I lost my precious child and any finances I had left. I was now destitute, living in caravan parks and often waking up in police lock-ups. I then lost my car license for life, because of drink driving.

I decided that travel was the answer, but instead spent increasing time in more hospitals and more time in prisons crying out for help. I once was so desperate I stuck a fishing knife right through my arm. By this stage the hospital didn't want to know me and the police were tired of locking me up. I started sleeping out and drinking metho because it was cheap. It took three Grand Mal Seizures before I knew I was dying. I wanted to see my daughter before I died but I must have looked a terrible sight.

When I was sick I would ask God for help. When I was well I would drink again, and then get sick again. Life was a constant merry-go-round. I went to a few churches but felt looked down upon, the unclean drunken grime that I was.

In 1996 I Collapsed again with another seizure outside my caravan. However, God in His mercy had provided me with Christian neighbours who took me to hospital. These Christians were in fact running a small group for drug and alcohol addicted people. They asked me about my past Christianity and then took me to the present. The problem was that I had become spiritually 'dead'. Alcohol had become my god. I then gave my life back to the Lord Jesus Christ. I was welcomed at a local church, a loving and praying church that didn't look down on me.

At the time I write this, I have been completely sober for over 12 months, but thats not as important as having Jesus Christ as my Saviour and guide. It is only by God's grace that I am alive, certainly not by years of me trying to kill myself. Even my daughter, ex- wife, parents, police and hospital staff Australia wide are pleased. After 24 years of hell, the seed that was planted at Sunday school, through Gods grace, has kept me alive - even if only to write this testimony! I wish you God-speed on your journey through life. Thank you Jesus. Derek Mathie, Hervey Bay, Qld. (This testimony, when produced in tract form, will include a short salvation message. Please send donations to TA Ministries so that this tract can be printed and distributed.)

*****Benny Hinn Video*****

A video titled *'Benny Hinn expose'* is available from Mareno Dal Bello, 15 Aberdeen St, Reservoir, 3073. This short TV documentary (only 9 mins.) shows the financial and spiritual charlatanism of this TV evangelist. Cost: \$5 plus postage.

Falling (Slaying) in the spirit

'Slaying in the spirit' is a phenomenon whereby people are overcome and usually fall backwards to the ground by a force said to be the Holy Spirit. One of the earliest references to this phenomena dates back to 1770 when a Father Gassner would perform exorcisms on demon possessed people. During this ritual he would say '*..may I be given the sign of supernatural magic; I admonish this thing in the name of Jesus*'. The person would then fall in a trance and spasms would follow. Later a German physician, Mesmer, considered to be the father of hypnotism, modified this technique to what is now called 'hypnotism'. One thing is certain - the name 'slaying in the spirit' is not a term that supporters of this phenomenon would want, considering the nearest reference to this in the Bible is when Ananias and Sapphira were struck *dead* by God for lying to the Holy Spirit!

Manifestations have three sources: divine, human (or psychological), and demonic. There is no doubt that many of the supporters of this phenomena see the roots of this phenomena in the past revivals meetings, where people did fall to the ground. These were called 'faintings'. The fact is that this was not a common thing and it was also under the influence of some of the most powerful preaching in history. John Wesley, George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards wrote of people falling on their *faces in repentance* and crying out to God for mercy and *salvation* from their *sins*. This is a far cry from the falling *backwards* into altered states of consciousness, (ASC). Today's 'falling in the spirit' is not under the preaching of the Word but rather from laying on of hands. Many of the revivalists also stated clearly that even many of the 'faintings' were demonic or fleshly activity.

Today's phenomena of 'falling in the spirit' can also be seen in hypnotism and the New Age. The dangers of hypnotism should not be doubted. Anything bypassing the mind must bring caution. Some have died from the effects of hypnotism.* In scripture when any one healed, laid hands on, or prayed for people, (Matt. 19:13-15 and including Pentecost-Acts 2), there is *no* mention of people falling down.

Of all the scriptures where people fell to the ground, there is only *one* where people fell *backwards* - this is when the *enemies* of Jesus met Him at Gesthemene! In every other scripture, (Dan.8:16-18; 10:7-11; Ezek.1:28; 2:1,2; 3:22-24; 2Chr. 5:13,14; Matt. 17:5-7; Rev. 1;17-19; Jn.18:3-6; Acts 9:4; Acts 26:12-16), there is *no* evidence that any fell backwards. In six out of these eleven scriptures it clearly states that people fell *forwards* on their faces. It must also be remembered that these accounts were *rare* accounts of *direct* confrontation with God, Jesus, or an angel! The reactions were a human reaction to a divine encounter. Most were immediately told to *stand up!* There was also no human agent *mediating* and no '*catchers*' as we see in churches today. They fell *forwards* and often with a *fear* for their lives! It was also not an *expected* event but a *sovereign* act of God. Much of the 'falling in the spirit' experience in churches today is surely a fleshly counterfeit of Biblical and historical events. **Terry Arnold** (Adapted from '*Finding the Balance*' by author). Recommended: '*Toronto Blessing - Slaying in the spirit*' by N. Mikhael. * '*Finding the balance*' by author.

Youth Alive

In January 24th.-27th. 1997, Parramatta stadium was the venue for a '*Wonderfest 97 party*' and the '*Countdown 2000 Youth Alive* concert. The literature advertised '*rides*' like the '*awesome demon*'. Each day there were three stages with bands playing continuously. The brochures stated: '*So have some rides, then take a break and catch up on your favourite band...for all you rages that party till you drop...every minute of Wonderfest is unreal fun...Wonderfest 97 is three days of fun, music, rides and to top it off encounters with God that will change your life*'.

Although *Youth Alive* is basically run by Assemblies of God (AOG), *Wonderfest* was sponsored by the following churches: Anglican, Uniting, AOG, Baptist, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist, Wesley Mission, and a host of other organisations. The question must be asked - what is the *Seventh Day Adventist* doing on the list? This group is considered by counter-cult ministries to be a cult and most SDA's are far from evangelical.

Some readers will dislike my following comments. However, I speak as having had some past experience with *Youth Alive* meetings. The methods used to get '*decisions*', in my opinion, are questionable. I have found, and am convinced, that the 'backsliding' rate from these meetings is high. Although *Youth Alive* is worked autonomously and the style varies from area to area, certain characteristics are common. The loud music, the worldliness, and the hype, are characteristic of most meetings that I have seen, (as agreed by many AOG pastors). The last *Youth Alive* meeting I attended some years ago featured strobe lights, smoke billowing from the stage, and very loud music. The song leader with his dress, earrings, and hairstyle, looked more like a TV pop star than a Christian Youth leader. Before salvation I attended many worldly discos. At this *Youth Alive* meeting, had I not known that this was a 'Christian' meeting, I would have thought I was back in a disco! The atmosphere was the same.

In 1995 Tozer wrote, '*Religious entertainment is in many places rapidly crowding out the serious things of God. Many churches these days have become little more than poor theatres*'. Paul put no emphasis on worldly methods but on the power of the message itself, (1Cor.2:1,4; 1Thess.2:3-5).

Many churches are now also accepting music that is called '*heavy metal*' - a fierce and rebellious form of worldly music, well known and documented for its adverse, demonic and suicidal affects on teenagers. *Youth Alive* uses 'Christian Rock' bands as well as secular entertainment to promote the Gospel. Can rock music ever be Christian? Surely the two terms are in opposition, since the roots are opposed to each other. Rock was born in rebellion and the fruit is 'sex, drugs and rock'n roll', as is clearly seen from its history.

Even so, I am not against all 'charismatic' or lively music, such as choruses with sound doctrinal lyrics. However, when the rhythm dominates the music, when the noise level is so loud as to drown out voices, (is God deaf?), and when it becomes sensual, fleshly, repetitive (hypnotic) and *worldly*, then the line between flesh and spirit has surely been crossed. Yes, *Youth Alive* will bring in the numbers and many will make 'decisions'. However, results do not always prove truth! Our music and our youth meetings should be *distinct* from rock music and the ways of the world. They should be holy and uncompromised in standards..

Some years ago the Christians in the Soviet Union issued a plea to the west: '*...freedom is bringing another great harm to our churches. This damage is coming from Christians who are sending rock music and evangelists accompanied by rock bands...We are embarrassed by this image of Christianity...We abhor all Christian Rock music...it is true that rock music attracts people to church but not to Godly living...do not desecrate our teenagers with it. Even the unbelievers recognise it is unholy music and they cannot understand how American Christians can be so much like the world. We call this music from hell*.*'

Why is the church seeking to ape the world? The answer is because meetings like *Youth Alive* often appeal to the *flesh* and thus honour more the world than the Lord. Let us ask the question - does it glorify the Lord Jesus Christ? Why does the world increasingly love the music being played in many churches today? Why are many Christian singers recently making it big time on the world's music charts and being signed up to the world's best secular record companies? Has the world come into the church to take the church into the world? **Terry Arnold** *Peters & Rychuk, Unregistered Union of churches, Moscow, 11/91.

Responses to 'Mail-out' Conducted in May.

(This mail-out consisted of an open letter and papers on the 'Toronto Blessing'; (see 'Diakrisis' 9/96), the 'Word Faith' (see 3/97) and Benny Hinn, (see 4/97). These papers were included in the above newsletters and are available from TA Ministries.

To TA Ministries: *Please delete [our] church from your data file when sending your material. Right at this time, I believe that the Spirit would say and remind what Jesus said, 'You search the scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life, and they are which testify of Me. Yet you will not come to Me, that you might have life. And by 'A new commandment', Jesus, each other and the world would know if we truly are disciples. It seems you love your exposing, but I can't hear love.*

And John answered and said, 'Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbade him. Forbid him not; for he that is not against us is for us.' Don't be one of the 'Sons of thunder' not knowing what spirit you are of. I hear your courage and sincerity, but I don't like the mixture. (Pastor from Ingham, Qld.)

Editors reply: *Dear... We do not have you on our 'data file' as the mail-out you received was a one-off venture in an attempt to convince you and many other pastors of serious errors that have crept into...that they once stood against. We have the support of several discerning...pastors who had already taken a stand on these things years before.*

I hear your message about love and I am sorry that this love did not come through in the material...It is out of love and concern for you and the truth that I sent you the material. I find it interesting that you did not attend to one item of anything that was sent. If we are wrong or in error we would love to be shown. However, if we are right in our facts, then the situation is perhaps serious for those that ignore the truth.

Jesus also said that those that preach 'another Gospel' will be accursed. If we are accepting those that are teaching another Gospel then indeed I would fear the consequences.

Your reference to the 'sons of thunder'...The spirit that I am of is the Spirit that causes me to love the Lord Jesus Christ and especially His truth, as it is in the Word of God. That Spirit causes me to 'earnestly contend for the faith'. If we are not lovers of truth we will be deluded as the scriptures say. If there is any untruth in our articles, I beg you please show me...As for the 'mixture'...my Bible tells me that a mixture ('leaven') is dangerous and must be purged out, (1Cor.5:6-8). Leaven is a symbol of error, (1Cor.5:6-8; Gal.5:9) and false doctrine, (Matt.13:33; 16:6-12; Mk.8:15; Lk.12:1; 13:21). Are you purging out the 'leaven' of the 'Toronto Blessing', Word-Faith, and Benny Hinn teaching, etc.?

I again urge you to address the issues in our material as the Bereans would do...I do appreciate your reply and that you took the time to (I hope) read the material. I pray that both of us will be led into more truth from this exchange. God bless you and may He grant you souls for your labour. Yours in Christ.

To TA Ministries: *Please do not forward any further info to...or [to] Pastor...It costs you money and takes my time. Many thanks and God bless. (Pastor in Wagga, NSW)*

To TA Ministries: *We do not appreciate this literature. Please do not send it to us in the future. (Pastor in Toowoomba,*

'And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove (expose) them', (Eph.5:11)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry & friends at Diakrisis, Congratulations and blessings to you all in Christ Jesus. Thankyou for your paper on the Word-Faith teachings, it was very clarifying. I passed it on to a dear [friend] in Christ who is spiritually wounded after being involved with this teaching for 25 years and is still struggling with assurance of salvation.

So much of what they teach is based on feelings that when going through bad times they don't 'feel' saved. I am glad to say that your paper has helped immensely in clearing up wrong teachings compared to scripture. Thankyou. Thankyou. When talking to...after receiving the paper her comments were astonishing...For so long what she was taught was of man not God, but praise be to God, by His Spirit...is faithful to Him that saved her, Christ Jesus. Being encouraged greatly by your paper, both her and husband wish to receive your newsletter. Thankyou. I wish to encourage you all again in your ministry of God's precious Word...Our friends...are having trouble finding a 'Bible only' based church... (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry, I believe you are walking with God in your ministry. You can be assured of our prayers. (R.A., Nambour, Qld)

Dear Terry, I have recently commenced attending ...[I previously] attended a Pentecostal church for approx. 18 months which fully embraced the 'Toronto Blessing' as it is called.

My time there was one of much conflict and I never really felt I had gained any relationship with anyone. In fact I felt rejection, and was more angry with myself for feeling like this. I know we all have many stories to tell and what we saw and suffered, but I feel more inclined to seek just how this movement of people who have accepted salvation could have been drawn to this deception, and I am not yet fully awake.

I am not content to point a finger and ..run to the other side for protection. I believe a deeper prayful insight is required to know how to pray for them. I have some theories myself but I pray the Lord will fully reveal to me the reason why I was there and went through this, believing it was the Lord Himself who put me there.

Your newsletter may help me to see further and I do pray that in the more excellent way of Love I may be able to help some. With Christ's love, (E.S., Lavington, NSW.)

Terry's Itinerary

July 6th 6.30 pm. Fraser Coast Baptist, Hervey Bay, Qld.

July 13th. 9.45 am. Howard Baptist, Qld. Ph. (071)294292

July 19th. Sat. 10am. Faith Baptist, Gladstone, Qld. **Seminar on general evangelism and witnessing, including the cults.** Ph. (079) 781307

July 20th. am. & pm. Faith Baptist, Gladstone, (079)781307

July 21st. am. Faith Christian College, Ph. (079)781307

July 21st. pm. Faith Baptist Church: Talk on 'Roman Catholicism & Evangelism', followed by video.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for our support in prayer, labour and finance to increase, so as to accommodate the rapid growth in the ministry.

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