



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)*

Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.1, No.25.

March 1998

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Guest Editor's Comments by Mike Claydon

The danger of this hour is a closed mind. We all have a 'frame of reference' by which we judge, test, and evaluate within. This 'frame' is powerfully shaped in the Christian mind by our knowledge of, and understanding of, the Word of God - which is now complete.

If we fail to utilise the Word of God as our final mesh through which we sift incoming information, we will be prone to a dearth of discernment, which invariably leads to full blown deception. The great protector from this deception is to receive a '*love of truth*' from the Holy Spirit of God, through the Scriptures.

It frightens me to see Christians today who will simply not study and examine two sides of an issue. Do we accept what one politician says, without hearing from the opposition counterpart? To not do so would be considered by any thinking Christian as foolishness. Yet this is the very problem that is causing polarisation in the church today!

The '*delusion*' of 2Thessalonians 2:9-11 is about people believing 'a' lie *because* they forsook the '*love of truth*'. How does this occur? It comes in the context of '*lying signs and wonders*', (vs.9). We are warned that '*false christs* (Greek:: '*anointed ones*'!), *and false apostles shall show great signs and wonders...if it were possible they shall deceive the very elect*', (Matt.24:24), and that '*An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign*', (Matt.12:39). These '*lying signs and wonders*' are upon us now.

Most evangelicals are prepared to accept as false, those manifestations within Catholicism, but refuse to discern the manifestations occurring in their own assemblies! Is this not hypocrisy? On the other hand, many Charismatics/Pentecostals accept the shared signs and wonders both within and without Catholicism as 'all of God'. This is being confirmed by leaders such as Benny Hinn and Rodney Howard-Browne. The latter recently held a meeting in a packed Roman Catholic Cathedral!

To '*receive a love of truth*' one must welcome it as one warmly greets an honoured guest. The Greek derivatives for the word translated '*received*' in the text show that it is not a technical reception, but an act engaging full emotional support. Those that have '*received*' this '*love of truth*' will discern and discard false doctrines, demonic influences, and unbiblical and extra Biblical teaching, which is so prevalent today. They will not tolerate those leaders who now base their creed on visions and God 'doing a new thing'. They will not accommodate the false ecumenism of today's evangelists who bask in the world's accolades, allowing false religious organisations to be a part of their 'crusades', and allow their 'converts' to be delivered into the systems of antichrist.

Incorporated in this '*lie*' is the error that people will believe that something is from God when in fact it is not; and that the Holy Spirit is at work when it is rather unclean spirits; and the occult will enter the church under 'a work of God'. It is happening before our very eyes today!

Today there is a new meaning to 'Tolerance' - a new shade of deceptive 'grey'. Leaders who now openly compromise truth are accepted and lauded. The cry is: '*Oh but they're preaching the Gospel!*' Question is: if they are preaching the Gospel than why do the false religions so readily accept it? Is that Gospel clear enough to divide between truth and error? No! Satanic religion today is using Christian terminology! As Paul did, we must also explain what Christianity is *not*!

God has promised that He *will* send delusion as judgement upon those that refuse the truth - He is doing this today. I challenge readers to study to show yourselves approved as one able to rightly divide the Word of truth from deception - proof the mind for the major battle looming ahead! **Mike Claydon**

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Evangelicals and Catholics Together (ECT) - What is the Real Issue?

A new document released, titled '*The Gift of Salvation*', has been issued following the controversial '*Evangelical and Catholics Together*' (ECT) document. This latest document has become like an 'ECT2' document and is signed by many that signed the first ECT document, including such high profile names as Bill Bright and J.Packer. The ECT document was an agreement between Catholics and Evangelicals to work and minister together and not to evangelise each other. The document essentially watered down the doctrine of justification by faith alone, without works, through Christ alone, (see *Diakrisis* 4/97).

Some believe this latest document is similar to the '*Regensburgh Articles*', which in the time of Luther tried to marry the two opposing Catholic and Protestant positions on justification. Luther rejected these articles because they failed to plainly state that the Christian is right and acceptable in the sight of God *solely* because of the *imputed* righteousness of *Christ alone*. Although this latest document states that no one can be saved by their own merit and only by grace alone, this was *not* the argument nor the difference between the two sides at the time of the Reformation. Both sides did and still do agree on *grace alone*! The sticking point and the huge chasm between is the Reformation and Biblical truth that only because of the *imputed righteousness* of Christ alone could a sinner be brought to saving grace. Luther saw this as the key issue, as did most of the reformers.

The problem with ECT and now the document called '*The Gift of Salvation*' is *not what they do say but rather what they do not say*! This is also the problem with many '*Statements of Faith*' issued today by various churches and ministries. Many such 'statements' are so bare and weak that people having beliefs that are blatantly cultish and heretical could well be accepted as members into the church. For example, I have personally seen people who did not believe in such doctrines as the eternity of Hell admitted as members to churches because the 'statement of faith' barely mentioned Hell, let alone its eternity. So it is with the ECT and now the ECT2 document, '*The Gift of Salvation*'. These documents may accept the slogans of the Reformation, (such as '*grace alone*' and even '*faith alone*'), but not the *content* or the real meaning of such.

The real issue is the *imputation* of Christ's righteousness to the believer. It is the righteousness of Christ that saves us, apart from ourselves. This is not the righteousness that is *inside* us by the work of the Holy Spirit (sanctification), but the *outside legal and forensic declaration* (imputation) of the righteousness of Christ, (Rom.4:11,22,23,24). God imputed to Jesus our sin and imputed to us His righteousness. The truth of the Gospel which includes this crucial imputation, is that Christ has *already done a finished work for us and removed the debt of our sin by paying our account, legally declaring us justified by faith*. We can never reach Him unless the Holy Ghost draws us and Christ's righteousness is imputed to our sorry and sick account! If imputation is not addressed in these documents then they are empty and shallow veneers of a false unity. The Reformation was fought, and won or lost, over this issue of imputation!

'*Promise Keepers*' have now removed a statement on *Sola Fida* to compromise with the Catholics, no doubt especially after advice from the Roman Catholic, Mike Timmis, who is on the *Promise Keepers* board. Similarly, this latest ECT2 document fails to address the issue of what was really meant by *Sola Fida*, which must include the issue of imputation!

Added to the above, these ECT documents also do not address the many works of Roman Catholicism that are *added* to the Gospel. What about the false teachings of Baptismal Regeneration, Transubstantiation, the sacraments as a means of grace, Purgatory, Indulgences, Marian devotion and mediatorship, praying to the dead, and the blasphemy of the 'Mass'? The ECT documents do recognise the differences here but conveniently push these aside as matters for '*further discussions*'. These Roman Catholic works in fact make a mockery of the doctrine of imputation. This is why the Vatican II can accept that an atheist could be saved by leading a morally good life.

Sola Fida means by faith alone without works and by Christ alone, *and* unashamedly involves the doctrine of *imputation*. Why is it that evangelicals are agreeing to these documents now and not before? The reason is that which this newsletter has been warning of for two years - evangelical theology is now closer to Catholicism than ever before! There has been a massive shift towards a Catholic type sanctification theology, which has been furthered by the neo-Pentecostal 'impartation' movement. The lines of the Biblical theology of imputation have been blurred. The Pope once told the Bishops in North America: '*The objective is to diffuse ever more the evangelical message*' and to help '*knock down the walls of separation between man and man, nation and nation*'. I believe our forefathers from the Reformation would never agree to such documents as ECT or '*The Gift of Salvation*'!

The Cambridge Declaration sums things well: '*We reaffirm that justification is by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone. In justification Christ's righteousness is imputed to us as the only possible satisfaction of God's perfect justice. We deny that justification rests on any merit to be found in us, or upon the grounds of an infusion of Christ's righteousness in us, or that an institution claiming to be a church that denies or condemns Sola Fida can be recognised as a legitimate church*'. Let the reader note how this statement affirms and also *refutes* - something many of the world's leading evangelists do not do! God's truth of justification has been reduced to a thin razor edge of the divide. On one side is the truth of imputation. On the other side is the error of a Catholic sanctification along with its cousin, the Pentecostal impartation movement. **Terry Arnold**

Ex-Catholics for Christ Conference

The *Berean Call*, (Jan.98) reports on the 1997 '*Ex-Catholics For Christ Conference*': '*This unprecedented conference brought together 20 evangelicals (including former nuns and priests) with great expertise in Biblically evaluating Roman Catholicism. The heart of the conference was learning how to share with Catholics the good news of the Gospel of salvation, but there emerged a most shocking revelation: there was a unanimous concern that leading Evangelicals are clearly compromising the Gospel to accommodate the Roman Catholic church*'.

The Mercy of God

'I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed

The Koran and the Bible

The Bible is 66 books written by 40 different prophets and apostles in 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek), on 3 continents (Africa, Asia and Europe), over 1500 years. The Koran is one book, written by one author, in one language, in one geographic area, over 23 years.

Holiness

When we are justified, God also gives us sanctification as a work of the Holy Spirit. If He justifies us He will sanctify us. '*But He has given to us the responsibility of doing the walking; He does not do that for us*'. ('*The Pursuit of Holiness*' by Jerry Bridges, P.14)

A Liturgy of Repentance, Solidarity & Commitment

Said Most Reverend Harry Goodhew, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney in his Presidential Address to Synod, late 1997: *'I begin this session of our synod by celebrating the activity of God in our midst, affirming for ourselves and for the world about us that God certainly has a meaningful place in this world of ours. External sources take pleasure in portraying the church as an institution in decline. Internationally some chant a litany of woe. Both are wrong... We are also known for our fidelity to the Scriptures, and to the God and Saviour who has revealed Himself in Christ. We have inherited a tradition of Gospel preaching which offers all who hear a clear exposition of the scriptural doctrine of salvation through faith only and an invitation to respond. We will let this go at our peril.'*

On Wednesday 10th. December, 1997 this same man attended a *'Liturgy of Repentance, Solidarity & Commitment'* held at the Roman Catholic St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. He was in the company of: Cardinal Edward Clancy (Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney), and leaders of the Antiochian Orthodox Church, Religious Society of Friends, Uniting Church NSW Synod, NSW Ecumenical Council, assorted Anglican Bishops representing diverse dioceses, Armenian Apostolic Church, Churches of Christ, Lutheran Church of Australia, Greek Orthodox Church, the Salvation Army, and priests representing other Roman Catholic dioceses. Also represented was the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Parramatta.

The service of liturgy commenced with a *'Smoking of Cathedral'*. The printed order of service explains this, thus: *'The smoking ceremony represents: settling of one's spirit, healing of one's spirit, purification - healing, symbolic of births, deaths, funerals, illnesses, marriages. As the bird is symbolic of the release of the spirit, so is the smoking ritual.'*

This was followed by a *'welcome to land/place'* and was extended by *'the custodians of the land'*.

The remainder of the meeting was filled with a mixture of Christian and pagan worship, prayer and story telling. Prayer was offered to the *'Spirit God, creator of all...you gave to us this mother earth to share...'* Church representatives came forward and apologised to *'our indigenous brothers and sisters for the dispossession of the land, removal of children from their families, loss of culture, language and spirituality'*. As symbols of reconciliation, coloured ribbons were to be distributed. The concluding hymn contained the line *'people of the ancient dreamtime, they who found this country first, ask with those the later comers, will our dream be blessed or cursed?'*

It is simply staggering that a church leader of the calibre of Archbishop Goodhew, could, in the space of a single year, state that the church he heads is known for it's fidelity to scriptural truth and then participate in a gathering at a Roman Catholic Cathedral to address a deity foreign to Biblical revelation, and stand at that meeting with those who have pronounced a curse upon all who believe that salvation is by faith alone! Not to mention endorsement of the sentiment that the introduction of Christianity to Australia, has some way robbed Aborigines of a valid *'spirituality'*!

Within his address he bemoans the fact that there are *'low levels of young attenders - that the percentage in the diocese is older than that in the wider community'*.

Perhaps if he ceased from sending such mixed signals, and contradictory statements into the community, the savvy young people of today would be treating his institution with less contempt than they obviously are at present.

This episode has done nothing other than tear down the name of Christ and subject the true church to ridicule.

Mike Claydon, 29/1/98

What Are the Manifestations of the Holy Ghost?

Apart from a few and extra ordinary manifestations throughout scriptures, the manifestations of the Holy Ghost are the Fruit of the Spirit! This may seem too simple for many experiential Christians today. However, the scriptures are clear: the fruit of the spirit is ***'Love, Joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance [self control]'***. The word 'fruit' is singular. We are supposed to have all the fruit, not selected pieces of it to the denial of other pieces! How can we have love or joy yet no self control?

Further, if we go beyond and try and duplicate the extra ordinary and rare things that happened to the prophets and the apostles we tend to go beyond scripture and foster a disorder. There is nothing wrong with human emotions in any of the above fruit but they must be done in decency and in order. The fruit of the spirit is available for every believer who yields to the Holy Spirit within. Let us not ***'grieve the Holy Spirit'***.

Terry Arnold

Heaven, Hell & Logic

'How can a God of love send a man to Hell?', someone asked John Seddon. *'I will ask you another question, by way of reply...How can a God of righteousness take a sinner and rejector to Heaven?'*

A Catholic and the Bible

'Dr. Linacer, a distinguished physician and a Roman Catholic living at the time of Henry VIII, when he first read the New Testament exclaimed: 'Either this book is not true or we are not Christians.' (The Two Babels' P.129)

Separate From the World

Throughout the Old Testament God rebuked Israel for partaking of and spiritually mixing with Egypt or the surrounding nations. Egypt is a type of the world which God continually called the Israelites and now calls us to be separated from. In Jeremiah 42:18 God said: ***'..so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach...'***

God calls us to be separate from the ways of the world. We are in the world but we are not a part of it. The church of today has suffered two calamities in apostasy: they have firstly diluted the Word, and secondly perverted it to suit their own worldly influences. The world has come into the church to take the church into the world. God forbid this in our own lives!

The good news is that throughout the Old Testament God kept a remnant for Himself who were faithful to His Word and were unspotted by the World. God does not have to do this! Such is the mercy and grace of the living God! **Terry Arnold**

Which God?

Mark Dever, Pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, spoke of an experience in chairing a doctoral seminar at an evangelical seminary. *'One of the students in that seminar waxed eloquent for about ten minutes about what he liked to think God was like'*. When the student finished talking, Dever told him, *'Thankyou for telling us so much about yourself.'* (Internet)

'Civilised man has learnt how to fly, but he has lost the art of walking with God.'

'...Evangelical churches are filling up across the nation, with more than 400 people cramming into one particular church in London every night, because of a prophecy that Diana's death was a sign from God.

On May 16th, more than three months before Diana's tragic car accident, a 45 year old woman in Sheffield, in the north of England, received what she believed was the Word from God...I felt God say to me: 'I'm at work in the heart and spirit of the people of this nation. I am doing a work which at the moment is very, very unseen. But it is happening quicker than you think. And as a sign, this shall be a sign, that there will be a day very soon when the whole nation will mourn. And the whole nation will put flowers in their cities.' [She] told a few members of the Walkley Baptist Church...church leaders told her to keep it to herself until it was clear what the message meant.

...[Later] with the news of Diana's death she stood before the congregation and recounted the story, including the parts she says she hadn't told anyone before. The 'Diana prophecy' then began to spread...thousands of pamphlets explaining the prophecy were printed and distributed in churches.

The centre of the 'prophecy' movement has been the Pioneer people, an Orthodox Evangelical Church...which also has a strong following in Australia.' (Sat. Herald, 13/12/97)

Pope and 'Co-redemptrix Doctrine'

It is expected that before the year 2,000 the Pope will pronounce the doctrine of Mary - Co-redemptrix with Christ. Recently the Pope said: 'Mary intensely and mysteriously unites her life with Christ's sorrowful mission: She was to become her son's faithful co-worker for the salvation of the human race'. (Evangelical Times Aug. 1997)

Editors note: Compare this with 1Tim.2:5; Heb.12:24; Eph.2:18; 1Jn.2:1; Ps.62:5; Acts 4:12; etc)! The Pope has already referred to Mary as 'co-redemptrix' several times in his weekly addresses. Several organisations around the world are collecting millions of signatures to pressure the Pope to announce this doctrine. One of the supporters of this doctrine was Mother Teresa. The signatures also includes names of Protestants and 'Evangelicals'. Let us trust in Jesus *only* for our redemption, (1Tim.2:5).

TV evangelist Benny Hinn who lives in a \$1 million house on a golf course in Florida, drives an \$80,000 BMW, and has an income of \$800,000 minimum per year, came to Brisbane in January. Because of the huge response to Hinn, the Benny Hinn Australian National Headquarters will move from Perth to Brisbane. However, the media and various church leaders were more vocal in criticism than usual. The *Sunday Sun* (25/1/98) reported: '...many seemed in a trance...preacher Hinn knows how to incite responses...he received a tremendous ovation when he thundered: 'Satan is losing all over the world and losing so rapidly he doesn't know what to do with himself'..he hinted that he was somehow involved in getting the Pope to Cuba.'

A Presbyterian minister warned, 'Jesus Christ didn't heal for self promotion, it wasn't like 'come along and see a miracle and then believe in God'...I have concern when someone promotes themselves and their ministry around the issue of healing'. Hinn collected so much money that it was taken away in an Armagaurd van. In the *Sunday Mail* (1/2/98), Terry Sweetman wrote: 'and why does the Lord send these Charismatics crusaders to Australia to remove unsightly growths from our back pockets?'

The *Sunday Mail* (8/2/98) reported: 'While Hinn thrives in Australia, in the US he is shrouded in controversy. Some say his miracles are fraud and his church a massive tax free cash bonanza funded by the sick. Hinn, for example, claimed to cure the heart condition of champion boxer Evander Holyfield. But in December 1994, Holyfield's doctor admitted cardiologists had wrongly diagnosed the heart problem. Another case involved 39 year old Joyce Vaughan who immediately gave up her chemotherapy after appearing on stage with Hinn. She died soon after. Hinn also claimed his father was Mayor of Jaffa, Israel. But research in Israel showed this was not true...'

Why is that many churches can support this man when he has already been exposed as a false teacher, false prophet and a false miracle worker, by the American media and church groups? Why is it that the secular media is a step ahead of the church in this matter? I challenge Christians to read our paper 'Benny Hinn - A Close Look', and obtain the video 'Signs & Wonders - Exposed' (Part 1), and distribute the material so that many might be released from deception! **Terry Arnold**

The 'Anointing'

Peculiar among the language of todays signs & wonders enthusiasts are phrases such as: 'the anointing'; 'the anointing was strong'; 'touch not the anointed'. TV Evangelist Benny Hinn has repeatedly warned people not to touch the 'anointing' on his life.

In the Old Testament, material things (eg. temple furniture), or people (eg. kings), were anointed or set apart for ministry purposes, often by the symbolic but physical act of smearing on of oil. Even Lucifer was the '**anointed Cherub**'! The phrase '**touch not the Lords anointed**', (eg. 1Chron.16:22), which is falsely used by many leaders for their own purposes, is an Old Testament reference to the prophets, (especially Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), or to the king of Israel.

The New Testament continues the use of the word 'anointing' as a physical smearing of oil but also speaks of Jesus as having a special 'anointing'. There is no references to any other persons having a special 'anointing', and after the arrival of the Holy Spirit the Bible says we are *all* 'anointed', (1Jn.2:27)!

The signs and wonders leaders of today frequently are advertised as 'anointed' ones, or as having a special 'anointing'. Matthew 24:24 says: '**For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders...**' The Greek word 'Christ' means 'anointed one'. Those claiming special 'anointing' or seen as 'anointed ones', may literally be the '**false Christs**', (Greek: 'anointed ones')! There is only one Christ or specially '**anointed one**' - the Lord Jesus Christ. True anointing comes from Christ as the head of the church, and it flows over the body to all who have received His Spirit. We all have the anointing!: '**But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you...**' (1Jn.2:27). I challenge readers to find one single NT scripture that teaches the 'anointing' as anything more than this!

Added to this is the false teaching of *imparting* 'the anointing' through the laying on of hands. New Age cult groups do exactly this! Deceased New Age guru, Bhagwhan Rajneesh, would pass the 'wine' along by a single touch to the head whereby the recipient would fall to the ground in a trance-like ecstasy. The laying on of hands was never meant to pass the Holy Spirit or the 'anointing'. The Holy Spirit cannot be doled out, dissected, or *imparted* in any way! This can only be done as a sovereign act of God *at salvation*, by His choosing, to the repentant sinner as an act of grace through faith. Any subsequent filling is not an impartation from outside, but an inward increase of *control* by the Holy Spirit as we yield to Him, (Eph.5:18). Much of the teaching on and the use of the word 'anointing' is extra Biblical, false, and dangerous, especially when used with the current physical impartation practices. Let us not '**go beyond the Word of the Lord**'. (Nu 22:18)! **Terry Arnold**

'Evangelicals & Catholics Together Document (ECT)' \$9.50

This is perhaps the best teaching video I have seen on the doctrines of Justification, faith alone, grace alone, etc. Three church leaders, MacArthur, Kennedy and RC Sproul, discuss and answer questions from a large assembly of people who came to hear these men teach on reformation truths. The sessions are hosted by John Ankerberg.

The differences between Catholicism and Biblical beliefs are made crystal clear. The teaching on justification by faith alone is particularly some of the best and clearest I have ever seen. I finished watching this tape with an excitement in my spirit and a desire to see this tape distributed that many might understand better the glorious provision of the grace of God. I urge readers to watch and study this tape. It is foundational teaching that we must be grounded in. This tape should be considered by pastors to be mandatory teaching for young Christians, but also as a refresher for all ages. **Terry Arnold**

'Drunk in the spirit Conference'?

The Toronto Airport Christian fellowship recently held their 'Have Another Drink - Never a Sober Moment' conference.

What does the Word of God say?: '**...I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury... (Is. 63:6)... Thus saith the Lord, Behold I will fill all the inhabitants of this land... with drunkenness. And I will dash then one against another... I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them, (Jer. 13:13,14).**

At a camp meeting '97 at the Maxwell Convention Centre, Copeland stressed that *'the message of salvation through Jesus also includes worldly prosperity, as well as peace of mind and physical healing'*. Yet the Biblical example of many saints is and was suffering.

Alpha & Catholics

An increasing number of Roman Catholics are using the Alpha course. (See our Jan. edition for article on Alpha program). As reported in the 'Alpha News' (July/Aug 1997), a recent Alpha conference was held specifically for Catholics and was supported by Catholic Bishops and Cardinals. In the same newspaper several testimonies were cited such as:

'On the Holy Spirit day, I laughed and cried for about two hours...' 'I felt the presence of Jesus - afterwards, I laughed for ages and was really relaxed.'

The report went on to speak of Catholics becoming 'Christian' through the Alpha Course. All the testimonies showed they stayed in the Catholic Church.

Another article stated that Alpha courses were now being conducted in pubs.

Catholic 'Leaven'

'The only voices that can teach us the way to true and lasting peace are the voices of Jesus Christ, His blessed mother Mary and the Vicar of Christ [the Pope] on earth.' (Ave Maria - A Catholic magazine)

The Probability of Prophecies

Many false prophets of our day have a 50% accuracy and some New Age prophets have approached 80% accuracy. However, the Bible has hundreds of prophecies and *none* have ever been disproved. Many prophecies have dozens of details within each prophecy fulfilled to the letter. Each detail of a prophecy doubles the chances of the prediction not coming to pass. For example, a prophecy with one detail has one chance in two of fulfilment - it will either be fulfilled or not fulfilled. A prediction with two details has one chance in four of coming to pass. This shows the 'impossibility' of some of the lengthy prophecies in the Bible that have come to pass. Some prophecies in Isaiah have more than twenty details fulfilled. A prophecy with ten details has a chance of 1 in 1,024. A prophecy of twenty details has a chance of 1 in 1,048,576. One of the proofs of the Bible is surely its divine accuracy in prophecies.

Evangelical Charismatics Issue Plea

A few years ago the *Centre for Contemporary Ministry* was set up in England by Charismatics who were concerned about the massive shift in the Charismatic and Pentecostal churches across the world. The statements were issued by church leaders and stated in part: *'It is our belief that a number of errors have crept into the Charismatic Movement. For example, Replacement theology has not only robbed us of our Hebraic roots, but has denied a place for Israel in the end time purposes of God. Closely linked with Replacement Theology is dominion Theology and the false eschatological hope of the church ruling the nations before the return of Christ. The result is that God's people are unprepared to cope with the threat from the New Age Movement, the new world government and the spirit of the antichrist. The Charismatic movement has been influenced by the Latter Rain Movement and the manifest Sons of God with their emphasis on a super breed of Christians being produced to prepare the way for the return of Christ. The Kansas city prophets were clearly part of this thinking, but many Charismatic leaders failed to discern them as false prophets. This in turn paved the way for the Toronto experience and its unbiblical phenomena.*

There are other areas of false teaching such as the Prosperity Doctrine and some aspects of Spiritual Warfare, in particular certain practices concerning 'territorial spirits' and 'taking cities for God'. Power evangelism has over emphasised the importance of 'signs and wonders' to the detriment of the clear preaching of the Gospel. We have often brought the preaching of the Gospel into the area of entertainment rather than seeking the conviction of sin and calling for repentance. The emphasis on signs and wonders has also brought about a naivety among Gods' people, causing them to believe that anything supernatural or unusual must be of God. This again prepared the way for the uncritical acceptance of the Toronto experience...in the matter of the work and the gifts of the Holy Spirit...such a wrong emphasis led to elevating spiritual experience above the Word of God...We ask all our brothers and sisters in the Charismatic Movement to join with us in seeking the Lord afresh in humility and repentance...We therefore, call upon our brethren to:

- 1. Restore the primacy of God's Word. We believe the scriptures alone are the supreme source of authority on matters of faith and practice...*
- 2. Restore a Biblical doctrine of salvation. The preaching of the Gospel must include a clear call to repentance and justification by faith alone...*
- 3. Restore objectivity to our faith. So much of what is encouraged today is subjective experience and practice which is not tested at the bar of Scripture.*
- 4. Restore truth instead of error. Some of the teaching in Charismatic churches has been based on so called revelational teaching (extra-Biblical) or even on false prophecies...*
- 5. Restore true unity. There has been an overemphasis on unity to the detriment of truth. True unity can only be based on truth. ...*
- 6. Restore a sense of the holiness of God...This call, therefore is not a call to return to dead formalism...'* (Taken from 'Prophecy today', Vol.13, No.5; Statement by 10 leaders in conjunction with all those who attended the meetings between 1994 and 1996 in South Yorkshire, England)

Billy Graham Speaks

On January 21, 1997, Larry King interviewed Billy Graham on his program, 'Larry King - Live':

King: 'What do you think of the other [churches]...like Mormonism, Catholicism, other faiths within the Christian concept?'

Graham: 'Oh, I think I have a wonderful fellowship with all of them..'

King: 'You're comfortable with Salt Lake City [Mormon headquarters]. You comfortable with the Vatican?'

Graham: 'I am very comfortable with the Vatican. I have been to see the Pope several times...In fact the night - the day that he was inaugurated, and made Pope, I was preaching in his Cathedral in Krakow. I was his guest...[and] when he was over here...in Columbia, South Carolina...he invited me on the platform to speak with him. I would give one talk, and he would give the other...but I was two-thirds of the way to China...'

King: 'You like this Pope?'

Graham: 'I like him very much...he and I agree on almost everything.'

King: 'Are you...are you comfortable with Judaism?'

Graham: 'Very comfortable...In New York, they have had me in the rabbinical council to...talk with them and Rabbi Tannenbaum, who I was a great friend...he gave me more advice and more council, and I depended on him constantly, theologically and spiritually in every way...'

King: 'Mr Graham, if you had thirty seconds during the half time at the Superbowl, what would you tell the audience?'

Graham: 'I would tell them to...think about another game...the game of life, and to be sure they're on God's side, that God loves them and God is interested in them, and they can pray to God, and He answers their prayers.'

Promise Keepers Broke

The Ecumenical Promise Keepers organisation is nearly broke. They will soon lay off its workforce and over 345 people will lose jobs. (Daily Telegraph, Sydney, 20/2/98)

NIV Apostasy

In the May 1997 Diakrisis P.2 we documented a few passages out of the hundreds of deletions in many of the modern Bible versions. Some of these do affect salvation passages and are found in the majority of manuscripts but because many of the modern Bible versions select from a minority of and highly debatable manuscripts, several passages have been deleted.

Now NIV is marketing a new 'Gender Neutral' Bible called 'New International Readers Version' (NIRV) which is marketed as an 'Inclusive Language Edition'. This would mean little to most Christians unless one looks at certain texts. For example, 'Adam' or 'man' is changed to 'human beings' in Gen.1:26 and 1Tim 2:5. (Article: 'NIV Insanity', 'The End-Times and Victorious Living', Vol.11, No 3)

Benny Hinn: Visions, Necromancy...the Occult

Benny Hinn continues to tell stories of amazing visions and contact with the dead. At the Blairsdale Arena, Honolulu, on 28/2/97, Hinn said of Jesus: 'Whenever I talk to him I see him. I can tell you what he wears, I can tell you what colour he has on...often most times I see him blue,...and under it would be a white garment...a white and a scarlet garment...And often when I see him, I know whether he is pleased with me or displeased with me. There's been times when I see him with a smile. Other times I've seen him with a very serious look. Other times...like a mist around his face...I said, 'Lord show me my future.' Actually I had a vision. I saw myself as an old man with white hair...and my girls...old thirties...I said 'How long will I live?' He told me. He said, 'sixty nine, if you take care of yourself, seventy three.'...He [Elijah] was about six feet two...[an] old man...Had a beard. White-like Novelties jacket. Glistening white beard.. His face was somewhat thin. But very bold! Eyes - crystal blue ...He looked like a priest...I said, 'Lord who is this man I see?'...The Lord said, 'Elijah, the prophet!'...That happened days before the anointing on my life doubled...I've not just seen angels; I've seen saints...The Lord gave me a vision of Kathryn Kuhlman...suddenly I heard Kathryn's voice and suddenly there she was, its crystal clear...she said, 'Ask! We're waiting for you to ask!'...A week later the anointing hit my life....Somebody is about to talk to me again...'

The Bible warns us not to contact the dead, (Dt.18:10,11; Is.8:19,20). We already have an intercessor (Rom.8:27, 34; Heb.7:25), and one mediator. (1Tim.3:5; Heb.12:24). Christians be warned of such evil, and discern extra Biblical visions.

Earthquakes Multiplying?

Years Amount

Earthquakes between 3.0 to 3.9 on the Richter scale	
1890-1899	1
1900-1910	3
1910-1930	4
1930-1940	5
1940-1970	13
1970-1980	56
1980-1989	310
1990-1996	747

Years Amount

Earthquakes between 4.0 to 4.9 on the Richter scale	
1987-1989	6190
1993-1996	17612

Years Amount

Total earthquakes over 3.0 on the Richter scale	
1987-1989	12254
1993-1996	24918

Years Amount

Earthquakes over 6.0 on the Richter scale	
1987-1996	100810

(Information from web site: <http://www.neic.cr.usgs.gov/>)

Vintage Preaching

'To your shame, and to the confusion of your nakedness, shall you that have despised the Saviour be made a spectacle of the justice of God forever. It is right it should be so, justice rightly demands it. Sin made the Saviour suffer an agony, shall it not make you suffer? Moreover, in addition to your sin, you have rejected the Saviour; you have said, 'He shall not be my trust and confidence'. Voluntarily, presumptuously, and against your own conscience you have refused eternal life; and if you die rejecting mercy, what came of it but first your sin, and secondly, your unbelief shall condemn you to misery without limit or end. Let Gethesmane warn you, let its groans, and tears, and bloody sweat admonish you. Repent of sin, and believe in Jesus. May His Spirit enable you, for Jesus sake. Amen.' (Spurgeon's sermon 'The Agony of Gethsemane', from '12 Sermons on the Passion and Death of Christ'. P.115)

The Price of Separation and Holiness

'When you begin to serve God, and for his sake endeavour to benefit your fellow mortals, do not expect any reward from men, except to be misunderstood, suspected and abused. The best men in the world are usually the worse spoken of. An evil world cannot speak well of holy lives.' (Spurgeon's sermon: 'The Crown of Thorns', from '12 Sermons on the Passion and Death of Christ'. P.100).

Church Controlled Schools - Beware! (A Testimony)

(The following is an extract from a testimony by a Qld. pastor. Any emphasis in the original)

'On Friday 11th of July, 1997 the lives of many families who had children attending the Caloundra Christian Community school were thrown into turmoil. In the morning I received a call from my daughter to come to the school because she had to remove herself from her year 11 English class.

Not knowing what to expect, my wife and I arrived at the school and could see immediately what was taking place. Little children were shaking and jerking, and some were extremely emotional, and this was just in the carpark. You guessed it, the 'Toronto Blessing' had arrived at the school.

My daughter informed me that at the morning chapel service the 'Toronto Blessing' was released or imparted to children in the school both at the primary and secondary level. My daughter further notified me that she had removed herself from her English class which had been her second lesson following Chapel service. The English teacher, rather than teaching English, began giving the students instructions on why the Toronto Blessing was Biblical, (to date even the pastor of Caloundra Baptist[Union] Church, Ken Kilah, has been unable to give a Biblical basis). She was instructing the students in how to receive the 'blessing' and also as to what negative things may happen to the students that did not 'enter into' the flow, or was it a 'river'? The teacher would not even debate the issue with those in the class, including my daughter, on why this 'blessing' may not be a blessing but rather a judgement from God.

*At the same time as we arrived at the school the pastor of a local Independent Baptist Church and also an elder for the Brethren Church arrived. Together we spoke with the principal Peter Victor Gordon who then called on Pastor Kilah. When both men were pressed to give a Biblical reason for why they believed this blessing to be of God, by opening the Bible and instructing us, they both refused. In fact when the principal was asked for an answer, he said he knew of no scripture, but his pastor (Kilah) said it was Biblical so that settled it with him. **This, coming from the principal who was responsible for the well being of our children**, was astonishing and remarkable to say the least.*

*We had three separate meetings with the school to try to resolve the matter simply by not promoting the 'manifestations' in the school, which they refused to do. Don't forget that this is a '**community**' school with students not only coming from Caloundra Baptist Church, but also from various churches all over the coast. Again, all we asked of them was not to promote the manifestations in the school. Pastor flatly refused to do this even though there is absolutely no scripture to condone this '**blessing**' in the Bible...The truth from God's holy Word is that any form of drunkenness is forbidden and that spiritual drunkenness is a '**judgement**', not a '**blessing**' from our Lord.*

*Pastor Kilah then further exploited the school and the children affected by this 'blessing' by parading them on national television, on radio, and in newspapers, just to promote the '**false anointing**'. Remember, just as there are those that physically abuse children there are those that spiritually abuse! The result of all this was that some thirty to forty students were removed by their parents from the school - some 12% of the school role.*

*I believe initially it was difficult for those innocent students having to adjust at new schools after having been forced out of a school many had once been able to call their '**home**'. But most students have now adjusted with the majority of them actually performing academically better than ever before.*

In conclusion, parents be warned! Our children are our responsibility. The Bible does not teach that it is the role of a school, or a church, to 'train up our children'...The Biblical model for any Christian school should always be one that is controlled by Christian parents and one where the teachers, administration staff and principal, are answerable to the parents. Why? The Bible teaches that God holds parents responsible for the well being of their children and no one else. You must be very careful when a school is controlled by a single church, or as in our case, by the pastor of the church. ('Raise the Standard', Jan/Feb., 1998)

Editors note: I have had some experience in schools where the church or the pastor controls the principal or the school. I can vouch for the problems therein. The other point to make is that this sad series of events, the media exposure, and the poor witness to the world, have not ended. There have arisen numerous and documented claims of sexual immorality and adultery in this church mentioned above. The church has had several divisions and leaders have been asked to leave. Similarly there are other cases of the 'Toronto Blessing' being followed by sexual immorality, marriage break-ups, and fleshly divisions in various churches.

A Resolution

Jonathan Edwards, one of the great preachers of early American history, used to make resolutions. One of his was, '*Resolved never to do anything which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life*'. ('The Pursuit of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges, P.96)

Real Vs. Counterfeit

The Mormon Jesus: A created being; the first spirit child of Elohim and one of his wives. He is the spirit brother of Lucifer, the devil.

The Bible Jesus: He is the eternal God manifested in the flesh, and the one that created all things.

Family Connections Ministries

FCM is run by Ron & Kathy Aubrey of Nambour, Qld., Australia. It is a ministry to street children in the 'third world' countries like Guatemala in Central America.

On any given night there are 5,000 homeless children in Guatemala. The ministry vision statement is to '*reach out with love in obedience to God, in order to rescue abandoned, unloved and abused street children, and families in extreme poverty around the world, then through programmes of compassion, education and encouragement, develop in them hope for the future...and a passion for Jesus Christ...*' This statement includes making known the Word of God.

FMC needs prayer and financial supporters. Today with so many spurious religions and secular organisations running relief agencies, (although many do good works), there are few real 'Christian' relief agencies. FCM do not have paid staff as all are volunteers. Most of any donations will go to the needy. We are exhorted to help the poor, (Pr.21:13; 22:9; 28:27). This is pure religion, (James 1:27), and Christianity in action, (1Jn.3:17,18).

Those that wish to know more about this ministry or would like to donate to a very worthy cause, please contact Ron Aubrey at PO Box 1180 Nambour Qld 4560 Ph (07)54467784 fax (07)54467734 mobile 0412292938

Dear Terry...It is so depressing to see and hear what is happening around us. I can see why none of the prophets (from the Word of God) went around laughing!...I thank God He pulled me out of [A Pentecostal church]...that...system.

My husband has a colleague friend assigned as a software consultant in the US Air force base in Florida, near Pensacola. [He] said there were a large number of UFO sightings being reported by local residents there...thought it might spark some interest from you...

I keep praying for God to show us where to go. I miss the fellowship...I have prayed to God for new friends in the faith (the true faith), as I sometimes feel so alone..I hunger for the Word to share with others...Terry my heart is so full of sadness...I know the path is narrow...As children of God we should not be stressed...so I'm the problem. Why can't I 'be anxious for nothing'...I am clinging onto God so much I feel my heart is breaking with all that's going on around us. People just seem to be asleep. The last thing you need is a letter like this, Terry. I'm sorry but at least I've told someone.

I pray God will continue to give you strength to carry on the good work you are doing. (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors comments: Many private but serious concerns have been deleted from this letter. This letter is typical of the mail and calls we regularly receive from Christians who are wondering 'what on earth is happening to our churches?' The devastation that has been caused by the Word-Faith, Toronto, and Pensacola movements, is simply not widely known nor cared about by many involved. In England, where deaths and tragedy have been documented, there are 'help-lines' and 'crisis centres' now operating for the support of victims.

I have mixed reactions to letters such as the above. On one hand I am angry that the leaders and advocates of such movements will not pay attention to our pleas to examine the above fruit, or take heed of mounting information exposing these unscriptural excesses. On the other hand, as one who has experienced and been broken by the pain and consequences of false teaching, I weep for the people in distress. Please pray earnestly for the above person and others who are in the wilderness of brokenness and often re-thinking their whole foundations. The best is yet to come!

Praise Points

- Praise God for a recent increase in literature orders and newsletter subscriptions. This has caused us to seek printers to print the newsletters each month. Praise God we have secured a very reasonable quote from local printers to do the job.

- Thank the Lord for two people who have volunteered two days per week to this ministry. This should ease the work load. Please pray for these volunteers.

- Praise God for a friend who has offered to put the newsletter free on the internet each month.

Prayer Points

- We are now on the internet. The exercise proved to be very costly in upgrading computer equipment. Please pray for continued book orders and subscriptions to cover the cost.

Dear Terry and family,...enjoyed the Sept. 'Diakrisis' - keep up the good work and be encouraged that you are in our prayers...Very sad about Diana, Princess of Wales, but just imagine what would have happened in the UK if God had allowed her to live and marry a Muslim. To marry him she would have had to convert to Islam and many would have followed her. Our God is still in control, Praise the Lord. Let us hope that she had time to call on the name of the Lord in the car. We don't know now but we will find out one day. Very sad for her two boys, but let's hope that this will shake up a few people over in the UK and turn them back to the Lord.

Islam is on the march over there and only because of the apostasy in the churches. We've seen this first hand when we lived there, but it's much worse now. Even members of the royal family have gone over to the Catholic Church. Remember Diana and the Ephesians in Acts 19 'whom the whole world worshipped'. Yours in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, God bless, Love (R.&A.F., Atherton, Qld)

Dear Terry, For some time now we have appreciated your ministry. It is like a breath of fresh air and lets us know we are not nuts when we have watched every principle we were taught overturned and swept around us. Thirty years ago we were saved and brought up under good old fashioned Bible believing pastors in AOG New Life and Elim in N.Z.

We have watched the disintegration of all these systems including those here in Australia. We have just spent a month in NZ after an 8 yr. absence and were appalled and broken hearted at what we saw. Men and women we grew up with in the Lord going back 25 yrs. who were leaders and (seemingly) strong men absolutely infatuated with these new waves and into levitation during church services. They even told us they don't know the Word and have no knowledge of end time events, even though Barry Smith ministers regularly through the country. The big issue in the mainline churches was church union and the ordaining of Gay preachers, (sick sick sick).

...Please press on with the job you are doing. We are on the winning side. Stand firm. Preach holiness and good old fashioned truth...We knew Frank Houston well before he came to Sydney. We only pray that his son will respond to the truth.

Yours in the Lord, (I&B.T. Townsville, Qld.)

*****New*****

'Women In Church' - booklet by Terry Arnold.

Subjects: 'Should Women Cover Their Heads in Church?' 'How Should Christian Women Dress?' Price: \$1.50 + post

Terry's Itinerary

Sydney trip April/May - If you are interested in having Terry speak, for ministry appointments please ring Mike Claydon (who is now doing the itinerary) on (02)96892635 Mobile 0414689200 The itinerary will be printed in April newsletter
March 1st. 9.45am. Howard Baptist, Qld. (071) 294292
March 1st. 6.30pm. Hervey Bay Church of Christ Ph. (07)41289375 ('Evangelism and Witnessing')
March 8th. 6.30pm. Hervey Bay Church of Christ ('Evangelism & Witnessing' cont.)

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