



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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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.

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Editors Comments

'Contending for the faith', (Jude 3) is often seen as outreach activity to those who are in error. However, to contend for truth we must *live in truth*. This means *we must hear truth, read truth, and speak truth as exemplified by holy lives*. The disciples in Acts 1:8 were told to '**be witnesses**' where they were, before outreaching to others. Similarly, in contending for the faith, we must *be* witnesses in truth and sound doctrine. It is imperative that we regularly 'examine ourselves to make sure we are in *the* faith', (2Cor.13:5; 2Pet.1:10). With the help of the Holy Spirit we need to be constantly studying the Word and doctrine, that we will be sound in truth and thus not '*swayed by every wind of doctrine*', (Eph.4:14).

With the above in mind we can then reach out to others and contend for the faith. There are two ways I find effective. In *verbal contact* with someone who I believe to be in error, as led by the Spirit, I will ask them *questions*. For example, to do with false teaching on signs and wonders and the 'anointing', I will ask questions such as: Will signs and wonders be a part of the end time 'delusion'? (2Thess.2; Matt.24:24) Is it evil to seek after signs and wonders? (Matt.12:39) Why is it that in the Bible, end-time signs and wonders are always '*lying*' or false? Can you show me in the New Testament where the 'anointing' is imparted, passed on, or increased? (cp.1Jn.2:27,28)...What does the Bible say? Many today simply cannot answer these questions, or will not, because it spotlights their error or lack of knowledge.

At this point I will ask them to read material defending the Biblical position and showing current errors to do with the topic. *Literature is a vital tool*. The aim is to break mind-sets and to encourage a frame of reference with the filter being *Scripture alone*. If the person cannot answer the questions put to them and will not read and study further, then it is pointless at that time to continue. A closed mind is a frightful thing and those who will not '**receive the love of truth**' will be deluded, (2Thess.2:10,11). I believe we are seeing this today like never before in '*Christians*'! The current wave of the signs and wonders movement is deceiving many, yet this is *exactly* what the Scriptures forecast! (Matt.24:24; 2Thess.2)

This newsletter is published to inform, equip and encourage Christians to know what questions to ask and to have the answers necessary (Col.4:6; 1Pet.3:15), to change minds and reveal truth. Jesus was an expert at asking the right questions. Many were silenced and could not answer lest they incriminate themselves, (Matt.22:45,46; Mk.11:29,30; Lk.14:6). May we '**study to show thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the Word of truth**', (2Tim.2:15). Terry Arnold

Church Requests

Subscribers from Deer Park, Vict, 3023, and the lower Blue Mountains, Sydney, have requested help in finding suitable churches or fellowships. If any readers know of sound fellowships in or near these areas please contact this ministry.

Visits to Victoria & Sydney

Ministry visits by Terry Arnold to Victoria (May) and Sydney (Aug/Sept), are planned this year. Those fellowships wishing to be involved please contact Terry 0412668649 or the following people: Vict: Ray Levick Ph.(03)97202408 or Noel Dunn (03)94624136; Sydney: Mike Claydon Ph.(02)43857337 E-mail: mbc@terrigal.net.au

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The Alpha Course

The *Alpha* course is a British program begun by the Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) Church in West London, a Charismatic church well known for its promotion of the 'Toronto Blessing' phenomena. The *Alpha* program is designed to reach unbelievers and is run by most denominations and supported by many Roman Catholic parishes. The pastor of HTB, Nicky Gumbel, is a skilful communicator. In 1997 over 500,000 people completed the course and the numbers grow yearly.

Alpha involves 15 talks over ten weeks usually with the use of videos. Non Christians may also be employed as helpers in this programme.(1) Sessions are often preceded by supper.

Churches are accepting this programme because many believe it is 'relevant' and people can hear the Gospel without feeling 'threatened': *'The course is fun and unthreatening - just like our Lord Himself!'* (2)...*'Stripping the Gospel down to its bare essentials, it makes Christianity accessible to men and women of today's culture.'* (3) What has the Gospel been 'stripped' of? What is missing that makes it 'unthreatening'?

The first few lessons are basic presentations of who Jesus is and why He died. The deity of Christ and the resurrection are well presented and illustrated. Week 5 skilfully defends the inspiration of the Bible but adds: *'God also speaks to people directly by His Spirit: through prophecy, dreams, visions, and through other people.'* (4) Gumbel adds that God also guides us through 'dreams' and 'prophecy'.(5)

Alpha presents sin in a strange light. The emphasis is on how sin 'messes up our lives'.(6) The focus is on 'we'. 'We' are losing and 'we' have our lives in a sin mess. One author, referring to the *Alpha* course, writes: *'Christ dies to rescue us from the consequences of our sin and to save us from our lost, confused and dark world. Christ comes to remedy our fears...'* (7) The *Alpha* Gospel is arguably man-centred, not God centred. God is presented as a God of Love and not a God of wrath also, (Jn. 3:36); the depth of Sin is under-played; and we feel sorry for ourselves instead of ashamed of ourselves.

In lessons 8-11 participants are encouraged to go on a 'weekend away' where teaching on the Holy Spirit is given. On this weekend subjects who are encouraged to be filled with the Spirit as a second experience and are told: *'Sometimes, when people are filled, they shake like a leaf in the wind. Others find themselves breathing deeply as if almost physically breathing in the Spirit...Physical heat sometimes accompanies the filling of the Spirit and people experience it in their hands or some other part of their bodies. One person described a feeling of 'glowing all over'. Another said she experiences 'liquid heat'. Still another described 'burning in my arms when I was not hot.'* (8) One person says of this experience, *'...I couldn't control what was happening to me. I didn't want to control it. ...'* (9) Yet in reality the Jews were 'cut to the heart' (Acts 2:37), not 'tingling all over'!

Speaking in unknown tongues is also taught: *'Ask God to fill you with the Spirit and to give you the gift of tongues. Go on seeking Him until you find. Go on knocking until the door opens. Seek God with all your heart. Open your mouth and start to praise God in any language but English or any other language known to you. Believe that what you receive is from God. Don't let anyone tell you that you made it up...'* (10) Rather, the participants of the *Alpha* Course should ask: what were the 'tongues' of Acts 2:8-11 - unknown or known languages?

Gumbel relates some bizarre experiences to do with the 'Toronto Blessing' phenomena and claims it to be of the Holy Spirit.(11) He says: *'I believe it is no coincidence that the present movement of the Holy Spirit ["Toronto Blessing"] has come at the same time as the explosion of the Alpha*

courses...the two go together.' (12) In section 4, Gumbel promotes laughter and spiritual drunkenness. He says: *'that's what we're seeing today...people getting drunk - not with wine...come to the party where you can get drunk on God...I was at a party like that last night...it was a party thrown by the Holy Spirit...the church is meant to be a party.'* Compare this with Scriptures on *spiritual drunkenness*, where God speaks of *judgement* on His people!: *'...they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes...'*, (Is.29:9,10); *'...they shall roar together like lions' whelps...and I will make them drunken...I will bring them down...'*, (Jer.51:37-40). The Bible never speaks for spiritual or alcoholic drunkenness but always against it! The theology of the Holy Spirit in the *Alpha* course is *heresy!*

Added to this are other inconsistencies. Gumbel quotes false prophet John Wimber and references are made to secular psychologists as witnesses for the defence of the Gospel.

Alpha is also openly ecumenical and promotes unity between the Roman Catholic faith and the Protestant faith. The course itself claims: *'The Alpha course is...adaptable across tradition and denominations...I know of its uses in Catholic...churches.'* (13) In talk 8 Gumbel teaches that the differences between Protestants and Catholics are *'totally insignificant compared to the things that unite us...we need to unite around the death of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus. ...'* Gumbel either does not know Catholic doctrine or he has whitewashed the differences! Catholicism does not believe that the sacrifice of Jesus was *finished* but that it is to be a *continuing* sacrifice of the Mass each Sunday, (in defiance of Hebrews 9:25,26; 10:10-18; Jn.19:30). The death and resurrection have different benefits to Catholics and Protestants. Roman Catholicism *curse*s anyone who teaches that we are justified by faith alone without works, (Eph.2:8,9; Rom.3:5). Increasingly, Roman Catholic Cardinals and Bishops support *Alpha* and spokesmen say: *'...But it [Alpha] doesn't contain anything that is contrary to Catholic doctrine.'* (14) Thus the testimonies presented in the *Alpha* publications have the recipients remaining in the Roman Catholic system.

In summary, *Alpha* starts off by preaching the Gospel but as the course progresses some of the sessions detail heretical and dangerous experiences of the Toronto Blessing (TB). Added to this, the testimonies and the teaching by *Alpha* lack mention of repentance, the cross, and conviction of sin. One person stated: *'...I prayed a prayer of commitment..it was like a bench mark...I asked Jesus to forgive me and to come in and to take over my life. I didn't feel anything. It was no big deal and I went back to work.'* (15) It is a fact that after week three the course assumes people are already Christians.(16)

Alpha is easy believism and another Gospel, and it will produce many false conversions as is already well documented in the ecumenical movement today. *Alpha* is ecumenical and blurs the lines between Catholicism and Biblical Christianity. It promotes controversial and new extra-Biblical experiences, (eg. the 'Toronto Blessing'). The above *mixtures* can only dilute the Gospel. **Terry Arnold**

(1) Gumbel, 1997a,P.0 (2) *Alpha News*, Feb/97, P.29 (3) *Alpha News*, April/95 P.2 (4) Gumbel, 1997b, P.75 (5) Gumbel, 1997b, P.112-113 (6) Gumbel, 1997b, P.45 (7) *'Falling Short - the Alpha Course Examined'* by Chris Hand (8) Gumbel, 1997b, P.156... (9) *Alpha News* April/94, P.9. (10) Gumbel, 1997b, P.167 (11) Video 3, Talk No.9 (12) *'The Spirit and Evangelism'*, *Renewal*, May/95, P.15 (13) *Alpha Training Manual*; P.63-68, Video 5, Talk 14 (14) *Alpha News*, July/97, P.1 (15) *'Falling Short-the Alpha Course Examined'* by Chris Hand., P.71 (16) Eg. *'How can I be sure of my faith?'*

The Church Growth Movement and Willow Creek

In general, Christian congregations in the western world are struggling to maintain numbers. Yet why is it that churches of 2,000+ are now flourishing? The answer is in the modern *Church Growth Movement*. In the USA there are now over 400 mega churches. Yet less than 20 years ago only a handful existed. These mega churches usually offer a smorgasbord of personal services including weight loss programs, sports, dance classes, parenting classes for singles. These programmes create 'cells' within the church which help hold the congregation together.

Another form of mega churches are market driven 'user-friendly' or 'seeker' type churches. The headquarters for this model is Bill Hybels *Willows Creek Community Church* at South Barrington, near Chicago, Illinois. It has achieved world wide attention for it's reported success in achieving many 'decisions' for Christ and in reaching unchurched people. Founded in 1975 largely through the vision and work of Hybels, the church has a weekly attendance of around 20,000. It employs 213 full time and 145 part time workers plus some 5,000 volunteers. The sheer size and the complexity of the enterprise has guaranteed that it would gain attention around the world. The fellowship now offers various supports and ministries to the wider church such as in numerous seminars. Their typical seminar brochures read thus:

What does it take to be the 'light of the world' in a world such as ours? What does it mean to blaze such a message of hope in to the darkness of unbelief? How do you fulfill Christ's charge to go into all the world and make disciples when you're hesitant to even invite your neighbour to church?'

The basic premise of this ministry is to make the Gospel 'user friendly' and therefore it is found necessary to conduct 'church' in such a way that the 'unchurched' would not feel uncomfortable if invited to attend. These times are called 'seeker services'.

The manner in which this ministry is conducted is influenced by Hybels's philosophy. Converted in his late teens, his life has been active, energetic and fast paced. A key event took place when he invited a non-church goer to a 'traditional' church service with disastrous results that led him to conclude that *'the typical traditional church is no place for the unchurched'*.

Research polls show that the western world is seeking a deity that handles their consumer driven needs! The seeker service format was built from answers to a survey of *unbelievers* as to what they would find acceptable in a church service, if they bothered to attend. Their 'felt needs' were addressed and now a typical service has high quality music, professionally executed dramatic presentations, and topical sermons on felt needs and issues of the day.

It all sounds so right and good, but is it? Should drama be a principal method for the communication of the Gospel? It was never presented this way in Apostolic times despite the rich tapestry of theatre then available. 1Corinthians 1:21 is explicit. *'...It pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe'*. The Gospel was *preached* not acted out.

An over-emphasis on music in the Willows model arguably creates a festive type entertainment atmosphere. Many 'seeker' type churches also use 'Christian rock' music. The idea is to promote good impressions on attendees. However, the results invariably produce questionable 'decisions' for Christ on the back of a diluted Gospel. Making 'decisions' by these methods was never part of the teaching of the Apostles and has been demonstrably responsible for thousands of false conversions over the last century.

Willow Creek makes far too many concessions to unbelievers by presenting a Gospel which fails to portray the truth of the wrath of God upon sin and unbelief, and an understanding that leads to repentance and asking of mercy!

The Lord's Day was traditionally a day when God's people assembled to worship. We were created primarily to worship God, not to be fulfilled or have felt needs met by Him. It is a grave mistake to attempt to impress unbelievers into the Kingdom of God through entertaining their comforts. Any 'gospel' mixed with this may well bear false or no fruit. Such converts may conclude that they are Christians because they share the ethics of the loving group of people who invited them to 'church'.

It may also come as no surprise to learn that *Willow Creek* supports the ecumenical *Promise Keepers* organisation and shows a complete lack of discernment in the choice of advisors. One such person is Robert Schuller whose outright heresies (see *Diakrisis* Feb/98) stretch credulity too far; the other is Jack Hayford, a leading light in *Promise Keepers* and an avid supporter of Benny Hinn and the Pope.

In summary, a caution - although evangelisation is of prime concern to the believer, we must ensure that we are presenting the true Gospel and the true Jesus, and that we make clear the total depravity of man and his need of a Saviour. Investigations of the *Willow Creek* phenomena reveals a great lack of these essentials in what they present.

Much of the modern Church Growth Movement tends to minimise the *offense* of the Gospel and the cross, (Gal.5:11; 1Cor.1:21), by tailoring the message to suit the whims and the comforts of the unsaved. While it is not necessary to cling to programmes of the past, the Gospel must be preached without compromise or mixture.

Mike Claydon

For Tough Times

'Behold I go forward but He is not there; and backward but I cannot perceive Him; on the left hand where He doth work, but I cannot behold Him: He hideth Himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him: But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held His steps, His way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the Words of His mouth more than my necessary food. But He is one mind and who can turn Him? And what His soul desireth, even that He doeth. For He performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with Him', (Job 23:8-14).

Pope's Tour Plan

Pope John Paul II has accepted an invitation from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to travel to Bethlehem to mark the new Millennium. *'I very much hope to be there with you'* the Pontiff told Arafat during a 20 minute meeting, a Vatican spokesman said.

The Pope has repeatedly said he wishes to tour the Holy Land in the year 2000. An invitation has also been issued by the Israeli government. His meeting with the Pontiff was Mr Arafat's seventh since 1982.

A Vatican spokesman said the pair also discussed the situation in the Middle East, notably the state of the peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. (*Sun. Telegraph* 21/2/99)

****New Video!****

Signs & Wonders - Exposed III \$29.90

Nothing like this has ever been seen on video before! On this programme you will see:

- Leading Charismatic figures using occult techniques in church services.
- Experts on music, medicine, illusions and theology reveal the hidden truths that well known signs & wonders workers use.
- Benny Hinn caught on film fabricating stories of miracles!



This is an in depth expose into music and the ministry of the signs and wonders movement. Anyone who has ever been to a healing crusade needs to watch this shocking and compelling evidence. This video might well remove the blinkers from many eyes. This is the most professional video of the series of Signs and Wonders videos already available.

Holiness

'Sow a thought, reap an act;

Sow an act, reap a habit;

Sow a habit, reap a character.'

('The Pursuit of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges, P.118)

Quotable

'Christianity is not a religion of personal preference. Gospel truth is not revealed in Holy Scripture like food in a cafeteria as a series of options from which you choose what you like. The Gospel of the grace of God cannot be received in bits and pieces, any more than Christ can be received as Saviour but not as Lord. Believers are not people who reject the Truth, but people who bow to and love the Truth.'

'The Grace Bulletin' Nov/97 P.7

Anglican Head Is Off To Rome

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, who is the spiritual head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, is expected to visit Pope John Paul II in Rome in March this year. Dr Carey is due to visit Rome to open the expanded Anglican centre.

His advisor on ecumenical affairs, Canon Richard Marsh has indicated it is too early to say whether it will be a substantive agenda.

However, he expects the millennium celebrations and the third world debt will be discussed.

At a news conference it was suggested to Canon Marsh that the matter of the millennium celebrations and the third world debt were important but they did not advance Christian unity. Canon Marsh replied, *'I beg to differ. Working on these issues is a way of putting it all together'*.

He went on to say that a leader's meeting for the world wide Roman Catholic and Anglican communities was scheduled for the year 2000 in Canada.

A document known as the *'common declaration'* was issued for a previous meeting between the Pope and Dr. Carey in 1996.

The plan for a leaders meeting in Canada follows recognition in the common declaration that without agreement on authority in the church, *'we shall not reach the full visible unity to which we are both committed.'*

National Atheist's Day: April 1st

'The fool has said in his heart, there is no God...',
(Psalm 14:1)

'Who will rise up for me against the evil doers? Or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?'
(Ps.94:16)

Today's Gospel?

'Listen to today's typical Gospel presentation. You will hear sinners entreated with such phrases as 'accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour'; 'ask Jesus into your heart'; 'invite Christ into your life'; or 'make a decision for Christ'. You may be so accustomed to hearing those phrases that it will surprise you to learn that none of them is based on Biblical terminology. They are the products of a diluted Gospel. It is not the Gospel according to Jesus.'

The Gospel Jesus proclaimed was a call to discipleship, a call to follow him in submissive obedience, not just a plea to make a decision or pray a prayer.'

('The Gospel According to Jesus' by MacArthur, P.27)

'The Manic Depressive Church'

They call it the 'Toronto Blessing'

I must admit it kept me guessing

To roar like a lion was manhood restored

In a meeting like this you'd never be bored

With trembling and jerking known as 'Toronto Twitch'

They look like they have a terrible itch

Cock-a-doodle-doo is a wake up call

And others bounce right off the wall

As the young girl danced around the totem pole

The warrior spirit would now take control

If your feet became hot

You should preach on the spot

Falling on the floor and lying supine

Is said to be Holy Ghost power divine

Staggering in a drunken fashion

Crying and weeping and showing much passion

All sorts of strange movements and dancing of course

There even are some who sound like the horse

Howling like wolves and barking like dogs

snorting like bulls and grunting like hogs

Pogo jumpers I now perceive

Please excuse me I am taking my leave

I go out this door and into the next

Try Pensacola your sure to be blessed

Repent is the call of the men of the hour

Who claim to be moving in this new awesome power

Better put tissues under the seat

All of these sinners are crying a treat

He throws out his leaves, says you'll shrivel and die

If your heart is so hard that you can't even cry

Now he runs up and down with the axe in his hand

And warned you'll be chopped down right where you stand

The same one's go forth night after night

They must seem to me have a terrible plight

I doubt if you're saved the poor things are told

No wonder they think they are out in the cold

Enough of this nonsense I said to myself

I'll take the good book and sit on the shelf.

Annette Winnett, Qld.

***The only difference between a sinner and a saint is:
the grace of God***

Book Review - 'The Anointing' by Benny Hinn

This book printed in 1992 and reprinted in 1997 has sold millions of copies and features a stunning array of new teaching never heard of in over 1,900 years. Page after page I waited for a definition of what this mystical 'anointing' is.

The book begins with some credible statements but quickly falls into extraordinary stories of Hinn's personal supernatural encounters with God. These are used as proof of his theology on the 'anointing'.

Throughout the book Hinn writes about the 'presence' as necessary *before* the 'anointing' can come and that the presence is necessary to combat demons and diseases. *No Scripture* is given to prove this. The 'presence' and the 'anointing' are terms continually used interchangeably. The intended message is one of *power* for the supernatural.

In Chapter two Hinn says '*God came into my room so strong...a cloud of glory came into that building...it was heavy - so heavy that you couldn't move...whoosh! God's presence and power swept through the auditorium*'. In following chapters Hinn often recounts God speaking to him personally and audibly: '*That's part of the price, Benny. Are you willing to pay the price for the anointing?...Pay the price and I will give it to you.*'

In chapter 3 Hinn asks God: '*God please don't ever take your anointing from me*'. Hinn says that the anointing should come 'upon' a Christian's life. He goes on to say that at the transfiguration (Matt 17), the cloud that settles on Peter, James and John, was *the Holy Spirit*. He then equates this with the Old Testament cloud in the tabernacle, (Ex.40:34). Hinn says that this cloud, the cloud that received Jesus into Heaven and the cloud that He will return in, *is the Holy Spirit*. Nowhere is this taught in the Bible, nor has it ever been taught by the church down through the ages!

Hinn echoes the cry of today's experience driven Christians - that he was beforehand starved and dry of spiritual light and desperately seeking *something more*. This led him to seek communication with the Holy Spirit *directly* and He writes: The Holy Spirit was suddenly '*present in my room!*'

Hinn talks of his childhood and that his father '*was the mayor of Jaffa*' and that Hinn had a '*severe stutter*'. Both these have been proven to be lies by Christian researchers and Hinn has been forced to change some of his many stories of earlier years in later editions of this book. The same chapter is full of wild stories of people's reactions to the 'anointing' that was in *Benny Hinn*. Hinn says that God warned him of the tremendous power that was *especially* given to him.

In chapter 4 Hinn says that until he had the 'anointing' his prayer life '*was that of a normal average Christian*'. The stage is now set for the reader to think he is only '*average*'.

The 'anointing' seems to come and go in waves. Hinn says: '*there it (the 'anointing') was...the more time you remain in the presence of God, the more that presence will rub off on you. The thicker it will get...*' In chapter 5 Hinn continues: '*I moved my hand toward the fellow's face and instantly the anointing of the Holy Spirit came...He wobbled and went down...He was healed*'.

In chapter 6 Hinn recounts many of the techniques he learnt from his mentor Kathryn Kulman and how he has *copied* them. One of the lessons Hinn learnt from Kulman was that the Holy Spirit and the anointing comes '*when you're quiet*'. Again and again Hinn recounts stories of the 'anointing' coming: '*then it happened*'...'*whoosh! Something filled the air. I felt a strong electrical charge...virtually no one was standing but me...I grasped the pulpit tightly, and heard the voice of God...I left you standing to see it.*'

In chapter 7 Benny finally gets to answer the question that everyone wants to know, (if you believe what he writes): '*What is the anointing? It is the power of God...the presence of God the Holy Spirit leads to the anointing of the Spirit which is the power of God and the power of God brings forth the manifestation of the presence*'. Hinn then goes on to attempt to prove this with Acts 1:8: '*You shall receive power - the anointing, the spiritual gifts - after the Holy Ghost - the presence, the person, the fruit - comes upon you...The power of God comes upon you, as a gift*'.

The above quote to any Christian who has read this verse will be seen for what it is - a terrorist act upon Scripture! The power here is not for the 'anointing' but to '*be witnesses*', as the rest of the verse clearly shows. The Holy Spirit also does not come '*upon*' Christians after salvation in the New Testament! The reference in Acts is a one-off event where the Holy Spirit came to the church. From the transitional events in Acts Chapters 2,8,10 and 19 when the Holy Spirit came to indwell men and women, from here on the believers were *indwelt!* However, Hinn continually refers back to the *Old Testament* for proof of his teaching. He has to do this because it is not New Testament doctrine!

Hinn then goes on to teach typical Word-Faith (hyper-faith) teaching: '*The voice of God is heard in his presence, and this enables you under the anointing to speak your words that produce results.*'

In chapter 8 Hinn says '*You must have it (the anointing)*' otherwise '*there will be no salvations, no healings, no binding of devils. The power is essential.*' The result is that the gullible reader is left with no option but to seek after this elusive 'anointing' or be left '*an average Christian!*' Hinn then goes on to say: '*the anointing increases...obey and it increases. Disobey [presumably Hinn's formula], and it decreases*'. Hinn then says that '*the anointing is dependant upon my words. God will not move unless I say it.*' Again Hinn tells stories of presumably amazing healings and miracles if one follows his theory and gets '*it*'. *The problem is Hinn does not have one single documented healing of an organic disease to his credit. Even his best four 'healings' have been shown to be false by Christian researchers.*

By chapter 9 I was quite stunned, not by the stories but by the lack of Scripture, or Scripture ripped completely out of context. Up to this chapter Hinn's theory rests almost solely on Acts 2, but then he reveals a whole new extra-Biblical teaching on the '*three anointings*' - the '*lepers anointing*', the '*priestly anointing*', and the '*kingly anointing*'. The '*lepers anointing*' is supposedly the salvation experience, the '*priestly anointing*' is the '*presence*' and the '*kingly anointing*' is a superior and special anointing difficult to obtain. Hinn says that an increase in anointing comes at crusades and again he goes on to quote healings and miracles at his crusades and that when he steps on to the platform a '*heavier or thicker anointing falls*'. He also says the Holy Spirit *told him* to '*blow*' on people.

In chapter 10 Hinn quotes again Old Testament Scriptures in attempting to prove the 'anointing' but also that this anointing can be *imparted* from one to another, a teaching nowhere to be found in Scripture but common in the occult!

By this time I was growing weary of some of the poorest exegesis I had ever seen in one book. But then I got really annoyed when Hinn began to quote the great revivalist Jonathan Edwards and that the same 'anointing' was with him! Anyone who has studied Edwards works would know that Edwards would have considered Hinn's teaching outright *heresy!*

In chapter 12 to re-inforce the teaching of this special 'anointing' Hinn revises his teaching that '*the presence of God*

is the vehicle that brings the power'. He quotes more of what God has said *audibly and directly to him personally*. He says: *'I've gone on the platform in a healing service so anointed that one would have thought I'd been praying and reading the Bible all day...Only the anointing will heal all hearts of men and women - that's what the Bible says'*. Yet, no Scriptures are given!

Added to this, Hinn states that there will be a world wide revival, (again no Scriptures given). Hinn also believes that one day every believer will be permanently healed and healthy and the devil will be totally absent from the body of Christ - concepts foreign to Scripture.

In chapter 15 Hinn says that the anointing is like oil and it *'can drain out'* and that we must guard against *'holes'* and keep the oil *'thick'*. He says, *'Is your vessel cracked? Does it leak?...It's important to your spiritual being and growth that you are fed by other servants of God on a regular basis'*. This is one of the keys to Hinn's ministry - a reliance on tapping into *his* resources or to those who have this special 'anointing'. Hinn says this anointing is *'tangible'* and that it will rub off on our lives if we associate with certain people. This is the heresy of *'heavy shepherding'* which plagued Christianity some decades ago, and caused many Christians to look to and come under the control of 'anointed shepherds' instead of God.

Just when I thought Hinn could not give any more extra Biblical teaching he launches into the *'double portion'* special anointing. Of course he quotes Elijah and Elisha - again from the Old Testament. Hinn's step one and two are to equate us, the readers, with either Elijah or Elisha. The rest is simply

1+1=3. However, nowhere in Scripture does Elijah pass on any 'anointing' to Elisha! Hinn *substitutes* the word *'spirit'* for 'anointing' and whitewashes the fact that Christians today are already *indwelt* by the Holy Spirit and do not have the Holy Spirit come *'upon'* them ever again!

This book by Hinn evolves a whole new systematic theology on the Holy Spirit and the 'anointing' unheard of in previous centuries. Nowhere in the New Testament is such an 'anointing' taught as Hinn espouses! One is left to either believe his incredible extra-Biblical stories of miraculous personal encounters as true and evidence for this 'anointing', or discern it as foreign to Scripture. There should be no other choice.

The outright untruths and exaggerations in this book have already been well exposed by various Christian ministries, (see *'Benny Hinn - A Closer Look'* by TA Ministries). This mythical 'anointing' Hinn speaks of is simply that - *mythical*, for it is not to be found in Scripture. The New Testament only speaks of *'the same anointing'* that we *'have received'* from *'Him'* which abides *'in'* us, (1Jn.2:27). Nothing more than this is taught in the New Testament! The anointing coming *'upon'* people that Hinn speaks of is simply not for believers today. It is an Old Testament experience now replaced by the *indwelling* Holy Spirit!

The writer of this article has no choice but to warn readers who will *'receive the love of the truth'*, (2Thess.2:9-11). This man and his books are *dangerous*! Hinn's teaching is false and a tragedy to the historical orthodox Biblical teaching on the nature and work of the Holy Spirit. **Terry Arnold**

The 'Anointing' - Real and Counterfeit

Today the word 'anointing' is on everyone's lips. Phrases such as *'the anointing was strong'* are common. What does this word mean and what does the Bible say of it?

In the Old Testament the word *anoint*, *anointing* or *anointed* is used in the following ways:

1. (A) Consecration or separation of objects or people: Objects, (such as temple furniture, Gen.31:13; Ex.29:21; Lev.8:10; Ex.30:22; 40:9), were set aside and *'anointed'* with special oil and never to be used for any other purposes. (B) Priests were also set aside for religious services and anointed with oil, (Ex.28:41; 29:1; 30:30). (C) Kings were set aside for office, (Judg.9:7-15; 1Sam.9:16). (D) Prophets were also set aside and anointed for the office of prophet, (1Kngs. 19:16; Is.61:1). All these people did not seek any anointing but were specially chosen *by God*.

2. As an act of greeting or hospitality: In Bible times the Custom in some lands saw people physically anoint themselves with oil as a means of washing or refreshing themselves from the dusty and difficult climate of the Middle East.

3. For burial: Olive oil was applied to the dying or to the dead.

The New Testament occasionally continues the use of the word 'anoint' to mean the physical smearing of oil. Apart from this the only other references are to Jesus Christ as being specially anointed as our high priest, (Lk.4:17; Acts 10:37; Heb.1:9), or to Christians as *all* having the *same* anointing of the *Holy Spirit*, (1Jn.2:27). No human has any more anointing than anyone else! There are simply *no degrees* of anointings in the New Testament!

Despite the above, Signs and Wonders teachers state: *'...the anointing increases. He gives you a little and watches you. Then He gives you more'**, and that there are degrees such as a *'leper's anointing'* a *'priestly anointing'* and a *'kingly anointing'*.** Signs and Wonders leaders also make much of a *'double portion anointing'*. However the Scripture referred to is usually misquoted! In 2Kings 2:9 Elisha asks for a *'double portion of thy [Elijahs] spirit'*. The Hebrew word for

'double' means *'to repeat, do again'*. Elisha did not receive a double portion *'anointing'*.

The New Testament 'anointing' is a *sealing* (2Cor.1:21,22) of the Holy Spirit given *only by God Himself!* The problem with the current use of the word 'anointing' is that Signs and Wonders leaders are equating the word with *power* which is simply not New Testament teaching. Some use Acts 1:8 *'You will receive power when the Holy Ghost comes on you...'* The conclusion that many draw from this is: 1. The Holy Spirit anoints 2. The Holy Spirit gives power to the believer 3. therefore *anointing equals power*. This is 1+1=3 theology - a thinking common among the cults. The problem is that the anointing is simply not the power of the Holy Spirit in the true sense of the word.

Anointing is more equal to position than to power and is synonymous with the Holy Spirit Himself. *We are either anointed (have the Holy Spirit) or we do not!* We are anointed as priests (Rev.1:6; 5:10), and Christ is and was specially anointed as high priest. All Christians since Pentecost *have been* anointed (past tense): *'But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you...'*, (1Jn.2:27). *There is not one single New Testament Scripture that teaches the 'anointing' as anything more than this!*

Another danger in today's false teaching of 'anointing' is that it is being supposedly *imparted* by laying on of hands or that 'it' comes from outside to inside the person. This is not only unscriptural but plain *occultist!* It has been said that *'impartation is one of the first steps to occultism. It requires an intermediary.'* David Koresh and Jim Jones knew this well before they led over 1,000 people to their deaths. *The real anointing is not an 'it' that can be given or taken away by man!* The Holy Spirit cannot be imparted in such a fashion! New Age gurus are doing the same imparting and occultic transference of spirits! May we not go *'beyond the Word of the Lord'*! (Nu.22:18) **Terry Arnold**

* *'The Anointing'* by Benny Hinn, P.81 ** Ibid, P.94

A Dialogue Between a Counsellor And a 'Convert'

(This is the testimony of a man who went forward as a 'convert' at a Franklin Graham Crusade)

'We at 'Soldiers of Christ' ministry had a deep conviction to try and make aware, or warn people about whom they might receive counselling from if they went forward for counselling at a Billy Graham Crusade. I am a former Catholic and later delivered out of the neo-Pentecostal and false signs and wonders movement. I never heard or knew of ministries such as TA Ministries when I was delivered many years ago as a saved person but God sent people such as Terry Arnold to open my eyes. I urge all readers to take note of an event which took place at a Franklin Graham crusade...

We thank God for those who were truly saved at this campaign as a result of hearing the message from God's Word and having faith in Christ alone and not by the merits of the speaker...My concern was that people going forward for genuine counselling might receive wrong counsel and be sent back to apostate churches who teach a false gospel of Christ...I put my concern to the test and went forward for counselling...Please note: I played on the counsellors ignorance to assume things of me that he did not know.

Counsellor: *Have you received Jesus in your heart as Lord and Saviour yet?*

Me: *Yes, I used to be a practising Roman Catholic, but I suppose now I am a non-practising Catholic in the Pope's eyes.*

Counsellor: *Praise the Lord brother, you are born again. Do you have any questions...?*

Me: *...What denomination are you?*

Counsellor: *...I am a pastor of an Apostolic Church in...*

Me: *Is that...Pentecostal or Charismatic - where people speak in tongues?*

Counsellor: *Yes, I speak in tongues, it's a gift from God, we call it the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.*

Me: *Do all Christians have this same gift?*

Counsellor: *No, but it is special power, and evidence that a person has received the Holy Spirit.*

Me: *But I don't speak in tongues, does this mean that I have not got the Holy Spirit?*

Counsellor: *Not exactly. If you have received Jesus into your heart, you are saved, but if you want to have power in your life, you can ask God for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.*

Me: *Does not the Bible teach that when people accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour the Holy Spirit lives within them and gives them power immediately as sons of God? Are you saying that there is an elite class of Christians being the powerful, and second class Christians being the powerless?*

Counsellor: *No, but some Christians just grieve the Holy Spirit and resist His power in their lives.*

...Me: *...I was a Roman Catholic...I believe it would be*

wrong and sinful if I went back and partook of another Mass...If I have trusted Jesus' one and only sacrifice on the cross for my sins. I may not know God's Word like you, but I at least know in Hebrews chapter 10 God says the priests every day offer up sacrifices which can never take away sins and where sins are forgiven there is no need of any more sacrifices. For a Roman Catholic this means no more Masses ever again.

Counsellor: *I don't go along with all Catholic doctrine but I don't see the harm in your going back to the Mass and worshipping Jesus in the Catholic Church. I am good friends with some Spirit filled nuns and from time to time we have fellowship at their Mass. They even let me have the host at their Holy Communion service.*

Me: *Do these spirit filled nuns still pray to Mary believing she is sinless like Christ?; that she is their mediator? Do they confess their sins to a sinful priest trusting he will absolve their sins? Do they trust in dead saints for power and protection; pray to statues?; address the priest and Pope as 'Holy Father', and take the Pope as sole authority on earth and the Church as sole interpreter of God's Word?*

Counsellor: *Yes, they still have faith in all those Catholic doctrines...but these nuns are more than normal Catholics, they have the Holy Spirit.*

Me: *I am a little confused here...in 2Cor.6:11-18 God commands true believers not to unite or partake with unbelievers...[Catholics] don't trust Christ and His death alone for salvation, but rather still trust the lies and false doctrines of this pagan religion?*

Counsellor: *They [the nuns] have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit like me.*

Me: *You mean...even though these nuns openly tell you that they honour Mary as their sinless mediator... believe that the Mass takes away their sins, pray to dead saints for protection, worship before idols...confess their sins to a sinful priest...and because they had an experience of tongues, you accept them as being Spirit filled Christians?*

Counsellor: *Yes, that's right, and I want to warn you not to be so judgemental towards other Christians, as I find your attitude is heading this way, regarding your sisters, these Spirit filled nuns.*

Me: *...You have done nothing to lead me away from it [Roman Catholicism], but done everything to try and send me back to what Jesus describes as 'the mother of harlots'...*

...I signed the crusade 'decision' card with my name and address. Until this day I have not been followed up by any further counselling.

In His name, (P.B., Soldiers of Christ Ministry, Qld.)

Spurgeon On The Roman Catholic Mass

'What, then, will we say of those who come forward and pretend that they perpetually present the body of Christ in the unbloody sacrifice of the Mass? We say that no profane jest from the lip of Voltaire ever had even the slightest degree of God-defiant blasphemy in it compared with the hideous insult of this horrible pretence. It is infernal. There can be nothing more intolerable than that notion, for our Lord Jesus Christ has offered Himself for sin once, and once for all; and he who

dares to think of offering Him again, insults Him by acting as if that once were not enough. There would be no language of abhorrence too strong if the performers and attendants at the Mass really knew what is implied in their professed act and deed. In the judgement of Christian charity we may earnestly pray, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do', (Lk.23:34).

Charles Spurgeon

Your Comments and Questions

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

To TA Ministries: '...I am a grandmother...[have] known the Lord most of my life...and in an AOG church for 15 years..attended [AOG Bible College]...About a year ago now I went to meetings at the AOG in...People were laughing so loud you could not hear the pastor speak and most of the time he was not with it anyway, so the Word of God was never preached...so I then went a couple of times to...but with great sadness I could see the spirit of deception there also with the blind leading the blind.

So now have pulled out of churches and have a small group joining together...and found the Lord is blessing us with extra people...people are bewildered at what is going on in churches today...God bless you in your work for him, Yours in Christ, (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry,...I just want to share with you a few things that have happened to confirm the need for us to push on in this 'warning ministry' and to encourage you to keep going...

One [unsaved] lady approached me...told me of an incident with her child...she was concerned because he had not come home [from AOG church]. She walked into the building to see all the kids laying on the floor, laughing, jerking, etc. She saw that they were in 'a trance' and she was very frightened, worried and angry - one girl was lying on the floor and her blouse was up and her bra showing...because of all the squirming about...She looked up and saw three men looking down...she went to the police about it...How are we going to break through with these Christian leaders who are in total deception?...many are not living by faith but by feelings...Jesus Christ; the cross; His righteousness; His doing, dying - they are not hearing about this and this is scary!

We not only have to bring down this false gospel but hopefully give them some truth, that they will see the difference...these leaders are feeding poison to the sheep... We even find people who come out of these churches because they see the deception, and end up in house groups, but still don't have a proper foundation in the Word and many are not saved. They need teachers, true shepherds to bring them to the true Gospel and yet they are trying to teach others.

Prayer is our only answer as God must open the eyes and send the shepherds. We hope by giving out material 'exposing' and 'building up' in the truth that God will bring the increase. Keep up the good work, (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Praise Points

- Praise God He has kept us out of debt and met the increasing needs of a growing ministry. Thankyou to all those who support us and may God bless you and your prayers.

Prayer Points

- TA Ministries has grown to the point of needing a person to do secretarial and administrative work. This will take the ever increasing workload off Terry. Please pray earnestly for support finances to do this.

Dear Mr. Arnold,...Thankyou and your team for the wonderfully informative newsletter 'Diakrisis'. It's been a source we continually draw from for news on whats happening within the church. Yours in Him, (K&H.W.)

Dear Terry, In answer to the letter sent by the lady in the March newsletter:

Dear sister in Christ, I wish to encourage you in your stand for the truth of the Gospel to be preached. I myself came out of the AOG after 20 years for the same reason you left and know how difficult your standing up for the truth has cost you. If in need of companionship and prayer, just ask Terry to put you in contact with others who are making a stand. Your sister in Christ, (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear sir,...We look forward to receive 'Diakrisis' every month and read it from cover to cover. Please keep up this newsletter and may God continue to bless you, (J.& M.P. Barnawartha, Vict.)

Dear Terry, Thankyou so much for your excellent newsletters...in Canberra, the Pentecostal/Charismatic churches are all interlinked by computer called the 'Canberra Christian Network'...all of whom have embraced the TB, 'Pepsicola' and ecumenism. Some Baptists, some Roman Catholics and Anglican are in the network.

The spiritual situation in Canberra is abysmal...Islamic temples...Hinduism is on the increase in this city...In His grip, (S.K. Canberra)

Dear Terry, I just read this months 'Diakrisis'. Well done. It is very informative and a real blessing to us...God bless all at 'Diakrisis', (P.B., NSW)

Website - New Address

Our website is now again accessible. We have a new address: <http://www.satcom.net.au/taministries>

Terry's Itinerary

Fellowship groups wishing to be included in the Vict. or Sydney itineraries please contact Terry or the numbers on Page 1.
March 28th 11am & 2pm Wondai Baptist, Qld. Ph. (07)41685223
April 4th. 11am & 6.45pm; 9.45am Sunday School: Grace Baptist Church, Malanda, Qld. (High School) Ph. (07)40966657
April 5th. & 12th. 7pm Ravenshoe, (home church) (07)40966657
April 9th. (7pm - two sessions) Crosswell Hall, (at Cairns State High School), Qld. Ph.(07)40514213
April 11th 10am Mareeba New Testament Baptist, (07)40927351
April: 21st, 22nd 7pm Seminar series on 'Tongues' at Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. Ph. (07)41289375
April 25th 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535
May 2nd 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535
May: Victoria (tentative) See page 1 for contact numbers.

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