

## 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

I recently read an article written by a Pastor who was exhorting all not to 'judge'. Romans chapter 14 and other Scriptures were *misused*, (referring to foods, days, Sabbaths, etc). Not one Scripture that tells us to judge was used!

In this ministry we *often* bear accusations ('judgements?') of pharisaism, blaspheming the Holy Spirit, or that we are too 'negative'. However, the most common is '*judge not that ye be not judged*', (Matt.7).

It is in these times we plead with God to give us more of His understanding, love, compassion, mercy and patience. Yet He continually turns us back to the task he has called us to - to '*earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints*' (Jude 3); to '*reprove them*' (Eph.5:11); to '*dispute*' for the truth, (Acts 9:29; 15:2,7; 17:17; 19:8,9); and to teach and '*rebuke with...doctrine*', (2Tim.4:2).

At the risk of repetition, the charge of Matthew 7 needs to be dealt with. I answer this charge with this question: Does not the Bible teach that '*the spiritual man judges all things*'? (1Cor.2:15), and to '*...judge righteous judgement*', (Jn.7:24)? My next question is: Do the above Scriptures contradict Matthew chapter 7? A 'yes' answer would mean the Bible is not inspired and inerrant. A 'no' answer should prompt us to go back to Matthew 7 and read it *in context*!

It could be seen that the verses following Matthew 7:1 might even tell us to *judge*, (by taking the beam out of our eye and then to *take* the mote out of another's eye)! The whole passage is not saying we should never judge but that we should not judge *hypocritically*, (see vs.5). Some use Matthew 7 and accuse us of not taking the '*beam*' out of our own eye. However, the very '*beams*' we are exposing, (eg. false teaching, false prophets, ecumenism, etc), are the ones that we have *already* separated from!

Is it right to judge? We are not to judge hypocritically (Matt.7:5); or concerning food or drink, keeping of days, or the Sabbath, (Rom.14:1-3; 1Cor.10:23-33; Col.2:16,17). I also personally believe we should not judge whether a person is born again. However, we are to '*judge righteous judgement*', (Jn.7:24). '*The spiritual man judges all things*', (1Cor.2:15). Jesus told a man '*you have rightly judged*', (Lk.7:43); and He told others to '*judge...what is right*', (Lk.12:57). John said to '*try*' ('*dokimazo*' - test, judge, discern) *the spirits*', (1Jn.4:1). Paul '*judged*' a man in the Corinthian church and appealed to this church to '*judge them that are within*', (1Cor.5:1-13). Do we ignore such Scriptures? Why are these never quoted by those who tell us not to judge? *One problem in the church today is that the church will not righteously judge!*

When I look at the way Luther, Wesley, Spurgeon and others defended the faith, I consider myself a *wimp* by comparison. When I see the way the martyrs of old went to be burned at the stake while exposing error and false teachers, I consider our ministry *tame* by comparison.

My response to much of what is being taught in churches today is to '*judge righteous judgement*'; to *protest*, not to change the church, but to keep the church from changing me! **Terry Arnold**

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### Church Request

A subscriber has requested help in finding a suitable church or fellowship in the area between Liverpool and Campbelltown, Sydney. If any readers know of sound fellowships within this area please contact this ministry.

## The Two Faces of Roman Catholicism

The Roman Church is rapidly gathering Protestant churches and other religions into her fold. *Resistance to this ecumenical movement grows weaker as the years roll on.* Why should there be any resistance if one thinks that Roman Catholicism is Biblical and therefore 'Christian'? Could the Reformation have been a mistake? Has Roman Catholic doctrine now changed?

Most of the Roman church's public relations with Protestant leaders and other religions is now loving and ecumenical. However, behind the public image, the Roman Catholic religion is fiercely protective of its traditions. This is especially evident when inroads are made by Evangelical churches into Roman Catholic communities. Over recent years the Pope has made several visits to Latin America in an effort to staunch the tide of conversions away from the Roman Catholic faith.

At a National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the USA the gulf between the Roman Catholic religion and *Sola Scriptura* Christianity was made clear. (The bracketed numbers are for reference later in this article):

*'This is a statement of concern to our Catholic brothers and sisters who may be attracted to Biblical fundamentalism without realising its serious weaknesses...Biblical fundamentalists are those who present the Bible, God's inspired Word, as the only necessary source for teaching about Christ and Christian living...According to fundamentalism, the Bible alone is sufficient. [1] There is no place for the universal [Catholic] church teaching - including its wisdom, its teachings, creeds and other doctrinal formulations, its liturgical and devotional traditions. There is simply no claim to a visible, audible living, teaching authority binding the individual or congregations. [2] A further characteristic of Biblical fundamentalism is that it tends to interpret the Bible as being always without error, or as literally true, in a way quite different to the Catholic Church's teaching on the inerrancy of the Bible. For some Biblical fundamentalists, inerrancy extends even to scientific and historical matters. [3] The Bible is presented without regard for its historical context and development...Catholics are taught to see the Bible as God's book - and also as a collection of books written under divine inspiration by many human beings. The Bible is true - and to discover its inspired truth we should study the patterns of thinking and writing used in ancient Biblical times...The Gospel comes to us through the spirit-guided Tradition of the Church and the inspired books. [4]...We look to both the official church's teaching and Scripture for guidance in addressing life's problems. It is the official teaching or magisterium that in a special way guides us in matters of belief and morality that have developed after the last word of Scripture was written...The basic characteristic of Biblical fundamentalism is that it eliminates from Christianity the [Catholic] Church as the Lord Jesus founded it...There is no vision of the church as our mother...*

*We believe that no Catholic properly catechised in the faith can long live the Christian life without those elements...the Eucharist and the other six sacraments...the veneration of the Blessed Mother and the saints [5]...It is important for every Catholic to realise that the Church produced the New Testament, not visa-versa. The Bible did not come down from Heaven, whole and intact, given by the Holy Spirit...The Catholic Church has authoritatively told us which books are inspired by the Holy Spirit and therefore canonical. The Bible, then, is the [Catholic] Church's book. ..Christ chose Peter and the other apostles as foundations of his Church, made Simon Peter its rock foundation [6]...Peter and*

*the other apostles have been succeeded by the Bishop of Rome...and that the flock of Christ still has, under Christ, a Universal Shepherd...We Catholics have the tools necessary to become Christians who know, love and live the Holy Bible. We have a well ordered lectionary...We have excellent translations (with notes) in the New American Bible and the Jerusalem Bible. We have other excellent translations with an Imprimatur\*...We need to educate - to re-educate - our people knowingly in the Bible so as to counteract the simplicities of Biblical Fundamentalism.'*

It should be clear that the term '*fundamentalism*' used above applies to *every* Christian who takes the Bible as their sole authority for faith and doctrine. The above extract is precisely what the Roman Catholic religion teaches and precisely why it is diametrically opposed to Evangelical Biblical Christianity! May the reader examine the points as referenced:

[1]- Yes, the Bible alone is and has proved to be sufficient for doctrine and faith. We know this by Scripture (2Tim.3:16) and by testimony!

[2]- On the contrary, there is a place for teaching authority in the church (Eph.4:11,12) but this authority is not above nor should it contradict the Word of God itself. Even God has limited Himself such that the Word is above his name, (Ps.138:2)!

[3]- Yes, we do consider the Bible inerrant in every area, even when it speaks of '*scientific and historical matters*'. The Bible has yet to be proven false in any area! Let the Bible speak for itself: '**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...**'(2Tim.3:16); '**Every Word of God is pure...**'(Pr.30:5,6). ...Does God lie? (Tit.1:2; Heb.6:18).

[4]- Tradition can be useful but it is not *infallible, inspired* and *inerrant*, as is the Bible. What do we do when Roman Catholic 'inspired' tradition contradicts the Bible? What do we do when tradition says we should pray to Mary but the Bible says there is only '**one mediator**', (1Tim.2:5)? What do we do when tradition says there is a *Purgatory* - a place between Heaven and Hell where we can have our sins purged, but the Bible says there is '**a great gulf** between and '**neither can they pass**', (Lk.16:26)? Did not Jesus purge our sins on the cross of Calvary? What do we do when tradition says Mary was sinless but the Bible says *all* are sinners (Rom.3:23) and that Mary needed a *saviour*, (Lk.1:47)!\*\* The Bible teaches that Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice *once* for all (Hebrews 7:27; 9:28; 10:10), but Roman tradition says that the priest sacrifices Christ *again* at every Catholic Mass. The Bible says that we are not to have, or bow down to, statues, (Ex.20:4-5), but Roman tradition has *deleted* the second commandment and says that images are permissible in churches.

[5]- Myself and millions of other saints down through the centuries are living proof that this statement is false! I was '*catechised*' in the best of Roman Catholic schools, yet many years ago was set free from the shackles of sacraments, works and religion, to live a *Christian* life. '**The truth shall make you free**', (Jn.8:32)!

[6] - Is not Jesus the *rock*? (1Cor.10:4; Rom.9:33; 1Pet.2:8).

In summary, the Roman Catholic Religion has not changed any of her doctrines but instead has *added* more every century. With one face this religion, through the ecumenical movement, woos evangelicals, but with the other remains defiantly apostate to the '**faith once delivered to the saints**', (Jude 3).

**Terry Arnold**

\* Approved by the Pope

\*\* For a list of traditions vs. the Bible see our tract '*RC Teaching - Bible Teaching*', or the book '*To Catholics Whom I Love*'.

## 'Trashed – Unread'?

In early October this year, quite unsolicited, I received an e-mail from one Andrew Evans, immediate past National Superintendent of *Assemblies of God in Australia*.

In this communication he made two accusations against the leader of an international discernment ministry known to us, (to whom I will refer as 'P').

Pastor Evans claimed that this man was a '*false prophet*' and an '*accuser of the Brethren*', (a title Biblically reserved for Satan). Naturally, I was immediately alarmed! Here was a respected leader of Australia's largest Pentecostal denomination voicing serious claims against someone with whom we have involved in our work from time to time. At no time had I heard "P" 'prophecy'. I e-mailed a reply, requesting urgent verification of these claims, stating my intention to separate from this man 'P' and his ministry if the claims of '*false prophet*' could be authenticated.

On 21st. October 1999, I received the following communication: '*Dear Mike, Your unsolicited e-mail from either you or any other of 'P's' supporters will be simply unread & trashed from now on as well as those from 'P', as has been my practice for years. For information about 'P's' inaccurate predications, tell him to look at all his own faxes for the evidence. Andrew.*'

Frustrated, I again contacted Andrew by return: '*My e-mail to you was not 'unsolicited'. You sent me a message and I was simply responding. Firstly, I am not a 'supporter' of any man or ministry. In your e-mail you made accusations against 'P' and I was merely endeavouring to gather proof from you to validate your claims. As sub-Editor of a Christian newsletter I was naturally interested in what you had to say and wanted to publish the matter - but wanted to verify with you for accuracy. It is a serious matter, in God's eyes, to make accusations against Brethren and it would pay to first check that they are true...you made the matter public, surely it is your responsibility...to show the 'proof' of your accusations?'*

The next day I received a reply from a Louise Armstrong at Paradise Community Church, South Australia: '*As Pastor Andrew's secretary, I will not be passing your e-mail onto Pastor Andrew as I have been instructed not to by the Eldership of the Church.*'

I continued to send requests for verification to Andrew and Louise, and even copied these to Brian Houston, (now National President, AOG-Australia & Australian Christian Churches). Over the next few days - all were returned '*trashed - unread*'.

In desperately trying to contact these men, I was only doing what they have often accused us, (and other discernment ministries), of 'not doing'.

With no proof forthcoming regarding the charge of '*false prophet*', I take the liberty of reminding our readers of the

following facts: During Andrew Evans term as National Superintendent of The Assemblies of God in Australia (1977-1997) he was responsible for introducing into this country, a virtual parade of 'false prophets' and heretics.

From all over the world, ministries teaching other gospels trouped to this denomination, opened their National Conventions, spoke to their elders, men, women and children, had them rolling in the aisles and clinging to outrageous prophecies regarding the future of their church and imminent 'revival'. A cast of characters too large to print here, were given an open door through which to bring their poisonous teachings on the Word-Faith, Healing, Visions et al, and literally millions of 'kingdom' dollars were siphoned off into the bulging coffers of these false prophets and teachers.

The most outrageous, however, to be feted during this time, was Pastor Benny Hinn, 'keynote speaker' at the AOG National Convention held in May of 1997. Now, here is a man who Pastor Evans should be calling a '*False Prophet*'!

This man, has a string of *unfulfilled prophecies* behind him! Space does not allow a full treatment of the Hinn Gospel and false teaching.\* Suffice to say that he has denied the full atonement on the cross and Christ's full earthly divinity.

Benny Hinn's 'christ' cannot save!

On an edition of his television programme '*This Is Your Day*' televised within Australia on 11th October 1999, Benny Hinn in a clear contradiction of Scripture, (Romans;12:14), said: '*I place a curse on every man and every woman that will stretch his hand against this anointing! I curse that man who dares to speak a word against this ministry!*'

An October 19th. 1999 TBN broadcast of '*Praise the Lord*' has Hinn claiming that the Lord had told him in a vision that dead people would be brought back to life when a family member would take the dead person's hand and touch the television screen when TBN was being aired!

Many ministries, including this one, have contacted both Andrew Evans and Brian Houston and desperately tried to bring their attention to what is being said by these people who they have openly endorsed and allowed to influence their congregations. We've done this in the prayerful hope that they will repent and inform their people of the terrible mistake they have made in giving credence to the ministries of such false teachers and false prophets

To date the only replies we have received from Andrew is: '*Trashed - unread*' and from Brian: '*Please remove me from your mailing list!*'

We urge again, as we have done in the past, that members of *Assemblies of God* in Australia begin to question their leaders about the direction in which they are taking them! Are they prepared to listen? **Mike Claydon**

\* For documentation see our July/99 edition of '*Diakriss*' and our paper '*Benny Hinn - A Closer Look*'.

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## **Man's Problem - God's Solution!**

**Problem:** '*...both Jews and Gentiles, they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one:...there is no fear of God before their eyes...what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no man be justified in His sight: For by the law is the knowledge of sin'*, (Rom.3:9-20)

**Solution:** '*But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested...even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all...that believe: for there is no difference. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God, to declare, I say, at this time His righteousness; that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus'*, (Rom.3:21-26)

## Howard-Browne's Failed Dream

Rodney Howard-Browne, the man largely responsible for the 'laughing revival' had a dream from God that Madison Square Garden would be filled with 100,000 people at his crusade. The average crowd however was between 3,000 and 4,000 each night.

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## Neo-Pentecostalism

'Dr. O. Talmadge Spence, founder and president of Foundations Bible College, grew up in Pentecostalism and observes (in May/June 'Straightway'): '...The greatest heresy the Pentecostals have ever espoused has been, first, the substitution of extant revelations for the Bible; and second, the exalting of 'speaking with tongues' as the hallmark for the highest spiritual evidences of Christian life...He adds: 'All of the present Pentecostal movements endorse and fellowship with both the Billy Graham ministry as well as Roman Catholicism.'

(Calvary Contender, July/99)

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## Baptist Union

Tim Costello, the president of the Baptist Union of Australia, recently spoke at a National Catholic Conference on evangelisation. He was greeted warmly by 3,000 Catholic priests, nuns, archbishops, and bishops. Rev. Costello said he was privileged to be in attendance. He congratulated the Catholic conference because 'they take the Gospel so seriously.' Costello was asked by an observer, 'Do you agree with all this ecumenism and co-operation in evangelism?' He answered, 'I certainly do and most Baptist ministers would agree with me.'

Tim Costello also spoke at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on July 14th. The *Catholic Leader* (25/7/99) wrote up his visit favourably, describing him as a 'social activist'.

Sources: *The Catholic leader* 25/7/99; 'Part II Jubilee': despatch@mail.cth.com.au

**Editors Comments:** If the Roman Catholic religion 'takes the Gospel so seriously' then why was I born again while teaching and therefore realising the errors in Catholic doctrine? Why do I bother to share the Gospel with countless Roman Catholics each year who have never heard it? Could it be that one side has 'a different Gospel'? How can 'most Baptist ministers...co-operate in evangelism' with a religious system that denies the imputed righteousness of Christ and many essential evangelical distinctions?

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## Tony Campolo

'[Tony] Campolo stands by his statement on 'The Charlie Rose Show' that 'I am not convinced that Jesus only lives in Christians.' (Ref: *Calvary Contender*, Oct/99)

**Editors Comments:** This dangerous man has been promoted by *Assembly Of God* and at various youth rallies. See our article, Dec/98.

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## The Extent Of The 'Toronto Blessing'

'There are documented accounts from 'Toronto Blessing' churches in England where women have had their genitals 'anointed' with oil by ministers, in fact, in one instance, one pastor was caught having intercourse with women so they could have an 'internal anointing' from him. Reports of 'holy orgasms', 'stripping' and other sexual acts in third wave churches have come out...'

(<http://www.netpc1.com/~ssimpson/crosspollination.html>)

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## Images?

'The National Catholic Reporter has launched a competition for images of Christ in a visual medium - painting, sculpture, photography...to celebrate the new millenium...Mr Farrell says he is not interested in bearded Jesus look alikes, but rather 'an image of Christ consistent with our times.'

(Weekly Telegraph, 24/8/99)

**Editors Comments:** The Roman Catholic Council of Trent stated: 'It is lawful to have images in the church and to give honour and worship unto them - images are put in churches that they may be worshipped.' However, Jesus said, 'God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth', (Jn.4:24) and 'let all be put to shame who serve carved images', (Ps.97:7; Dt.27:15). Which is correct - the Council of Trent or the Word of God? God has no visible form, for He is spirit and 'to whom, then, will you liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare Him unto?' (Is.40:18). God cannot make it clearer when He says, 'you shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,...(Ex.20:4).\*

The Roman Catholic religion has deleted the above second commandment (Ex.20:4,5; Dt.5:8,9) from the ten commandments in their catechisms and books, and split number ten into two separate commandments, thus maintaining ten commandments! When one considers the multi-million dollar industry created from the sale of images, it is not difficult to understand the reason for this deletion.

The early Christians had no images in their shrines, and early writers, (eg. Irenaeus, Clement, Origen, Cyprian, Athanasius, Jerome, etc), wrote strongly against images, statues, or any form of prayer or veneration to do with them. The Council of Constantinople unanimously decreed the removal of images and the abolition of image worship. However, over several hundred years, the cult of image worship began to grow and the Council of Nice re-established what the former Council had abolished! This Council also pronounced a curse on any who had concurred in the previous Council's decision!

\*Scriptures about idolatry are numerous: make no image of any kind - Ex.20:23,34:17; Lev.19:4,26:1; Dt.4:15-19; 5:8-10; 16:21-22,27:15; do not bow down to them - Ex.20:5 Lev.26:1...

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## Billy Graham & J.F. Kennedy Jr.

Graham said: '...He [JF Kennedy] was a searching Christian'. 'Graham [also] said that John Kennedy Sr. who was Roman Catholic, had a faith in God that was not as strong as his sons. 'I think JFK Jr. has a strong faith,'

(Challenge Weekly, Aug/99)

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## C.S. Lewis?

'Since his death Lewis' books have sold over 2 million copies per year. The 'Christianity Today' magazine of 7/9 listed some 'weaknesses': 'His hospitality towards baptismal regeneration, his non-innerrantist views on Biblical inspiration, his affirmation of 'purgatory' and possible salvation of unsaved people who have left the earth'. Martyn Lloyd Jones doubted whether Lewis was a Christian. Lewis is well received by Mormons...Lewis's theology is fatally flawed'. (*Calvary Contender*, 15/8/98)

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**Don't judge a thing by the way it looks to you, but by the way it looks to God through His Word.**

## The Healing Of Jean Neil - 'Something To Shout About?'

In an article printed in an Australian Christian magazine, this ministry made a brief reference to modern day 'healers' and their lack of evidence for claimed healings of organic diseases. A reader, in response, wrote: '*Dear Bro. Terry Arnold, you are stepping on dangerous ground criticising Reinhard Bonnke...My spirit was deeply grieved when you categorised Reinhard Bonnke in the class of the others...to class Reinhard Bonnke as evidence is not true.*

*If you would take the challenge to view the video of Jean Neil's Miracle, ['Something to shout about - the documentation of a miracle'], who was documented and videod in an England hospital as a vegetable by her family, and showed the connection at Reinhard Bonnke's Crusade, then her life two years afterwards, you will have tears in your eyes as you witness the miracle. Yes, Terry, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Having witnessed true miracles in a leprosy colony in India and at our crusades, I know He still heals. You see Terry, healing is gradual and a miracle is instant healing, which God does for only one reason - to bring people to Himself...Terry, God wants to show Himself strong and alive to a lost and dying generation. Sure there are frauds in the body of Christ, but Reinard Bonnke is not one of them. To say so would be very dangerous ground. Perhaps you may consider viewing our video...*

*...Please do not categorise Reinhard Bonnke with fraudulent claims. He is God's servant. [A] man who God uses to bring literally millions of Africans to Himself, does not make fraudulent claims. Having viewed his video in Africa, the miracles are real or 100,000 to 150,000 people would not turn up.*

*My brother, lift your eyes above the man on the platform and recognise the creatures of God he [Bonnke] serves...The reason why today you will not find many miracles in Western countries is because of religious ideas of God's healing power, and unbelief. Jesus could not do miracles in his home town because of their unbelief. May your faith rise brother, so God can use you in the healing power of Jesus....*

*...Reinhard Bonnke fasts 40 days to move in the realm he does before his crusades to release God's power...God will not move through religious, theological people but men and women of faith. Roman 14:4. I would be happy to discuss this further with you, if you are willing to listen'.*

This ministry attempted to contact the writer above and obtain the video but with no success.

We make it clear to the reader of this article that there are several false assertions in the above letter.

Firstly, *We do believe God heals*. However, in all instances in which we have examined the claims of healings of organic diseases by leading Charismatic/faith healers, we have found them to be either fraudulent or non-miraculous.

Secondly, Biblical miraculous healing was not 'gradual' but instant and *immediate*. In the Gospel of Matthew alone it is clear that Jesus healed 'all', (Matt. 23:24; 8:16; 10:1,8; 12:15; 14:36; etc.), 'every sickness', and all that came to him were immediately and *completely* healed, (12:13; 20:34) - whether they had faith or not!

Thirdly, the miracles are not proven real on the basis that 100,000 people were present. Was Adolph Hitler right because this many people showed up?

Fourthly, what is so wrong with 'theological people'? Was not Paul theological in the true sense of the word? If not, then why did he continually teach *doctrine* in his writings?

Finally, the use of Romans 14:4 is *misused*. The passage teaches not to judge in matters of *food* and '*doubtful disputations*'.

This ministry managed to obtain elsewhere a copy of the video '*Something To Shout About*'. The video is a very popular tool used by *Christ For All Nations* (CFN) ministries, and is perhaps the best documented 'healing' in modern times. It is difficult to view this video and not be impressed with the testimonies and evidence from doctors and from Jean Neil herself. *It was simply the most convincing documentation of a miraculous healing of an organic disease we had ever seen!*

As confirmation, we contacted a ministry in England who sent a research paper by a Christian doctor - Doctor May, who investigates alleged miraculous healings. The following are excerpts from his paper:

*'...I invited readers of the Southampton Evangelical alliance Quarterly Bulletin to submit claims to miraculous healing to me for investigation and comment on. By far the most striking of the responses received was a video recording of what was presented as the miraculous healing of Mrs Jean Neil at a meeting led by the German evangelist, Mr. Reinhard Bonnke. The video which is entitled 'Something To Shout About - The Documentation Of A Miracle' shows Mrs Neil attending the meeting in a wheel chair. Mr Bonnke laid his hands on her after which she stood and to the astonishment of the assembled crowd, ran around the auditorium and appeared completely healed of what she described as a spinal injury. The video went on to show a written report from an orthopaedic surgeon, and an interview with her GP...Mr Bonnke concludes the video by claiming her healing is 'an outright miracle.'*

**The claim:** (From the video cover) '*Mrs Jean Neil...was a hopeless case - spinal injury, Angina Pectoris, a hip out of joint and one leg two inches shorter...She underwent 14 operations, spent 4 years in hospital, suffered 3 heart attacks, and was treated with traction and plaster jackets. Mrs Neil was confined to a wheelchair, used 3 respirators, applied heart patches and took 24 tablets daily..now she has a brand new story.'*

**Findings:** *Mrs Neil could not have been more helpful...She claims to have been healed of seven diseases: a short leg, an out of joint hip, a spinal injury, heart disease, a Hiatus Hernia, Bronchitis and poor vision.*

**1. Short leg:** *The orthopaedic report from Dr...makes no references to differences in her leg lengths. Legs are notoriously difficult to measure...there is no mention of such x-rays or suggestion of a...problem with her legs...*

**2. Hip out of Joint:** *Mr. [A Doctor] reports that an x-ray taken on 23 Dec. 1987 (3 months before her healing) showed that her hips appeared 'quite normal'.*

**3. Spinal injury:** *Of the 14 operations, 4 were on her spine...The 4 years spent in hospital...she had 10 admissions in about a year for chest infections...The spinal operations included removal of her Coccyx in the 1960's, removal of a prolapsed disc in 1973, a Laminectomy in 1975, and a further disc removal in 1981...Since that time it seems that she walked with a stick until January 1987 when she again developed low back pain which persisted until her healing 15 months later in March 1988. It was mainly during that 15 months period that she made use of a wheelchair. According to her GP's referral letter to the orthopaedic surgeon, dated 23 Sept, 1987, 'She remains in some pain, has to use two walking sticks to get around, or a wheelchair for longer distances.'...It does not appear at any stage that she was confined to a wheelchair.*

...In Sept. 1988, 6 months after her healing, she was reassessed by the orthopaedic surgeon. [Only] Two paragraphs of this 3 paragraph report were shown on the video. The first paragraph...reported that 'she has a full range of completely painless spinal movement.' The third paragraph which was not shown reads: 'x-rays have been repeated today and these conform that there is absolutely no change from the x-rays taken prior to this evangelical healing.'

Clearly she had improved dramatically subjectively, but there was no objective evidence of any change in the condition of her spine.'

**4. Heart disease:** Mrs Neil believes she has had 3 heart attacks...writing 6 months before her healing her GP stated that her chest pains 'after vigorous investigations were felt not to be cardiac in origin.'

**5. Hiatus Hernia:** Mrs Neil reports that about 8 years ago she had an x-ray which showed her to have an Hiatus Hernia. This has not been repeated since...

**6. Bronchitis:**...The treatment given for suspected Angina (which she didn't actually have) caused her 'Bronchitis' which settled when the treatment was withdrawn.

**7. Poor vision:** Apparently her vision deteriorated seriously while she was taking another anti-anginal drug...her vision subsequently improved dramatically after she discontinued the drug, but she does continue to need spectacles.

**Conclusion:**...The claims made on the video [1st edition]...seem to be seriously incorrect and misleading...The case of Mrs. Neil illustrates many of the problems that are uncovered in the search for truth in claims of miraculous healing...On one hand...the amazing improvement in her sense of well being and enjoyment of life...the nature of her disabilities was not easy to evaluate...This is nearly always the case with back pain in particular....other conditions...no less than four may have been wholly or in part...caused by treatment...The doctors...report...is difficult to excuse.

...The video...showed deaf people who were watching sign language...Is it something in the nature of God that causes Him to be concerned about short legs and back pains while seeming to ignore the blind, the deaf, the paralysed and the dead? Did they not have enough faith? And why do the Gospels record Jesus healing exactly such conditions, those which never seem to be healed today?

(A copy of this report was sent to Mr. Bonnke with a request to withdraw the video)

...That is not to say that He [God] cannot heal secondary cancer, Downes Syndrome or a club foot, but it is to say that such a change in the very nature of things is not His normal way of working. And if I have not been able through wide enquiries over a long period to find one such example that withstands scrutiny, such healings must anyway be very rare indeed.' (Underlining ours)

(Dr. Peter May is a Christian GP in Southampton, Eng.).

The above report highlights how even the best and most convincing evidence of a healing can be anything but miraculous. Yet today there is a flood of such stories, seemingly to convince the unsaved (or Christians?) that Jesus is real.

In a recent edition of 'Outreach' - a Christian Outreach publication (July/Aug/99), a testimony was given of a healing of a 32 year old man from the Solomon Islands. The story relates how this man suffered much pain in his legs and took 'pain killers, had x-rays and blood tests. The results always came up negative.'...'Blood tests couldn't pick it up; it wasn't in the blood. Early x-rays had no chance because the holes in the bones were so tiny...' (Underlining ours)

This man was called out by the pastor at a meeting: 'There is a man with holes in his bones...your legs are paralysed!...your left leg you can't walk...there are holes in the bones from your knees to your hip...'

The man was apparently completely healed that night. The report goes on to say: 'The doctors were stunned. Five x-rays every two weeks for ten weeks showed a complete healing.'

The obvious question is: *How can it be a complete miraculous healing and x-rays after the event be negative when the x-rays and tests showed nothing wrong in the first place?*

The examples shown in the above articles highlight a fact found in many investigations of modern healings - *an incorrect initial diagnosis.*

Another sad fact is that in many cases after the 'healing' the medical condition *returns*. Many have *died* as a result of false healings from faith healers such as Benny Hinn. (1)

Charles Trombley, a 'healing evangelist', wrote a best selling book in 1974 titled, 'Kicked Out Of The Kingdom' about his expulsion from the Jehovah Witnesses because he believed his son was healed. The book includes many stories of miraculous healings including his son's accident. Trombley writes of how his son had cheated death. Trombley had been reading Kenyon's book, 'Jesus the Healer' and he decided to 'stand on Gods Word regardless of the circumstances'. He began to speak to his son: 'Jesus has healed you', and apparently God healed his son 'completely'.

However, the Sarasota Hospital in Florida has issued a statement that the boy was in fact readmitted another four times for further treatment and survived because of the operation. (2) This brings us to question the other claimed healings in this book. If the book has one lie or gross exaggeration then what of this author's credibility? As a young Christian I was greatly influenced by such books. Added to this, the author, Kenyon, that Trombley refers to, taught heretical teachings from the cult of *Christian Science*. In modern times Word-Faith teachers such as Hagin and Copeland have plagiarised word for word and re-taught these same works.

One author writes: 'It is not enough to claim that certain undiagnosed diseases have been 'cured' while the sufferer was in a highly emotional condition which so often characterises 'healing campaigns' today. Such cases of 'healing' should be sent to the local doctor for a certificate even as Christ sent the leper to the priest. My youngest sister and her husband worked for fifteen years among the lepers of India. Never, throughout that period did a 'Pentecostalist' venture to demonstrate the reality of his claim to share in the commission of Matthew, and so far as we have knowledge no healing campaign has ever been organised by Pentecostalists among lepers. We ask 'why'? And the answer is evident...the raising of the dead is also included in these gifts, but there is no accredited instance where such a power has been possessed or exercised.' (3)

Sadly, when we in this ministry have investigated healing claims, the *delusion* of the modern healing and signs and wonders movement becomes more frightening. The major signs and wonders leaders have failed to produce real evidence for their claims of healing of organic diseases.

Jesus' offer in the cross of Calvary has no emphasis in healing but rather in the deliverance from the horrific consequences of *sin*. The offer is not the redemption of our bodies in this life (Rom.8:23; Eph.1:14), but *eternal life* through the imputed (credited) righteousness of Christ. **Terry Arnold**

(1) See 'Signs & Wonders - Exposed' No.3 (video) for photographs, etc. (2) Source: 'New Life', 3/6/99, P.11 (3) 'An Alphabetical Analysis' - section on 'healing'.

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Mr. Terry, As a born again Christian I am amazed as to your constant judgement of many Christian organisations. Where is your fruit, to me it's all rotten. The Bible says to exhort one another daily and not to devour each other. If you really believe you are sent from God to pull people like Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Jerry Saville and Jesse Duplantis down then you are the one who is very much deceived. You are blinded yourself. I find it amazing that all those faith preachers are only getting bigger and more blessed and not once do I hear them rubbish any minister of God. They love God and are a blessing to the body of Christ. You seem so caught up in every little mistake that ministers make yet you never give honour. King David was a very anointed king of God and he could have very well killed King Saul, but he said I will not touch God's anointed. He recognised that God had anointed him as king and he was God's to deal with. As a minister of God you should recognise the anointing on Kenneth Copeland and all the others and realise that you are touching God by rubbing these men, and your ministry will not grow. Realise you are not perfect and I am sure there are plenty of things that we could judge you over. But we will not. We pray for that blindfold and that mind blinding spirit to be gone off your life and pray that then you will prosper in all you do. (Mrs. S.W. Brisbane, Qld)

Ps. Please do not send any rubbish on any minister as I will not read it but put it in the rubbish where it belongs. Amen.

Pss. Question: How do we recognise a Christian. Answer: 'By their fruits' - love joy peace, etc. Loving people, helping people, encouraging each other...

**Editors reply:** Dear S. Our files are full of letters from countless people who have been devastated, abused, yet rescued from false teaching, cults and false prophets. Many of them have suffered at the very hands of the false teachers you have named.

Yes, the Bible does say to 'exhort one another'. However, look up the word 'exhort' in the New Testament and we find some other interesting Scriptures!: 'And with many other words did He testify and exhort, saying, save yourself from this untoward generation'. (Acts 2:40); 'Now we exhort you brethren, warn them that are unruly...', (1Thess.5:14); 'Preach the Word, be instant in season, out

of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves, teachers, having itchy ears. And they shall turn their ears from the truth...' , (2Tim.4:2,3) ; '...that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers....teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves even a prophet of their own...liars, evil beasts...rebuke them sharply...' , (Tit.1:9-12); '...exhort and rebuke...' , (Tit.2:15); '...exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints...for their are certain men crept in unawares...' , (Jude 1:3,4).

I am not 'sent from God' to pull down anyone but I am required to 'contend for the faith', to 'reprove (expose)', 'to rebuke', etc. Not all may be called to do this openly in ministry. We grieve over people like yourself who are ignoring documented and irrefutable facts! All of the teachers you have named are false teachers - that is debatable; but some are false prophets - that is undeniable. If we are wrong about these men being false prophets, I beg you to show me from the documentation, tapes, books, etc, that prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are false prophets. If we are wrong please show us where! These men have not just made 'mistakes' (we all make mistakes); these men are false prophets! The test for this is easily and well defined in the Bible, (Dt.18:20-22). We challenge you to do a Christian and Scriptural service and show us where we are wrong in our evidence. I enclose the documentation, (July newsletter P.5,6). We can back this up with video and audio tapes. This material has never been refuted! The Bible has no truck with false prophecy.

As for your remarks on the 'anointing', I enclose an article (April/99) that I hope will bring you to Scripture on this word, (see 1Jn.2:28).

Also your use of the Scripture 'by their fruits' is actually for false prophets, not Christians! (Matt. 15,16 - also see article Nov./edition)

For your information, the ministry has been and is growing rapidly and 'prospering' with much fruit. Praise the Lord! Yours in truth,

Dear Terry,

...thankyou for the good articles and info which are very useful. But the manifestation of an unbalanced attitude is so real - Let me quote you. 'Demonology gone mad' - 'Manifestations and extra-Biblical teaching on demons now so prevalent in AOG churches.' Your bias is showing everywhere? How come you only mention AOG? Maybe you are possessed with a hidden agenda to 'expose' AOG? How many AOG meetings have you been in - don't fib. It is evident you haven't been in many around here. Let me enlighten. The following are AOG churches ...who have never been involved in 1. Extra Biblical teaching on any subject, let alone 2. Demon chasing 3. Toronto 4. Signs and wonders movement 5. Prosperity 6. Faith Movement, ect, ect, ect (sic)...Not a bad list just for this area - all AOG. Be a man (spiritual) and apologise in your next newsletter. Yours in His kingdom and balance, (Sth. Qld. AOG pastor)

**Editors comments:** The article in question (Aug/99, P.4) was a direct quote from the Sunday Telegraph. My comments were: 'such reports are not uncommon. The

practice of spiritual drunkenness, manifestations and extra Biblical teaching on demons, now so prevalent in churches such as AOG...' We did not at all mention 'Toronto', 'prosperity' or the 'Faith Movement'.

I have been in countless AOG meetings and God forbid that I should 'fib'. However, I have been separated from such events for some years. We stand by this above statement when one considers AOG churches across Australia.

The reason why we often mention AOG is because most of our mail from confused, hurt and abused people - are those in, or coming out of, AOG churches! Yours...

[Although this AOG pastor is supportive of much of this newsletter and has in the past opposed the 'Toronto Blessing', it is rather strange that he endorses the 'Pensacola Revival' which has signs and wonders, manifestations, extra-biblical teaching, false prophecies and false healings. Added to this, several people who have left this church, pastored by the above writer, have testified to us that the church is in fact practising some of the above errors.]

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear TA Ministries...I've been blessed heaps by your ministry. Keep it up. I've tried preaching some of it to my congregation here and they don't want to know it, re: false teachers, Rome, etc. But you guys are a blessing. Keep up the great work...' (Pastor in WA)

To: Terry Arnold, I want to thank you for the great magazine 'Diakrisis'...It is so informative and full of useful information. All Christians should get hold of this magazine to inform them what is going on in the church!

...After studying the supposed Charismatic gifts and reading what the Bible has to say about it, I went to a 'Holy Fire' meeting put on by the local AOG church. (Which has since broken up due to the pastor taking about half the congregation over to America to 'study' more in depth the 'renewal' movement)...after singing about four choruses for over 45 minutes the message started. The speaker rattled on for about another 45 minutes and then started to 'slay people in the spirit' (which spirit I ask?)...They also said that God is moving in a great time of 'revival' and that we will miss out if we are not 'with it'. I thought that the Word of God talks about 'apostasy' in the 'last days', not revival. (D.M.)

Dear Bro. Arnold,...Thankyou for sending us 'Diakrises'. I really appreciate the articles which tell us what is happening in Australia and overseas. It is a must that a pastor be updated on current events, especially if we know what the book of Revelation has to say about the coming of Christ for his church. Keep up your good work. (M.V. Currens Hill, NSW)

### \*\*\*New Video\*\*\*

TA Ministries has put together, in one video, three messages from the US 1999 'Ex-Catholics For Christ' conference. The following four messages need to be heard by every Catholic, but also by every Bible believing Christian.

Message 1: A stirring testimony by ex- RC priest, Richard Bennett, and his reaction to the 'Evangelicals and Catholics Together' (ECT) document.

Message 2: 'Evangelicals and Catholics Divided In Doctrine?' by M. Gendron - very informative.

Message 3: 'Sola Scriptura vs. Roman Authority' by Durel

Message 4: 'A Call to Faithfulness In a day of Apostasy' by Dave Hunt - a hard hitting look at the state of the church today.

These four messages are good outreach material and packed with information. A must for every Christian who is a lover of truth and wanting to be informed. Price is \$9.50 + postage.

### Praise Points

Thank the Lord for several recent conversions from false teaching. Thank the Lord for His provision for this ministry!

### Prayer Points

Due to computer failure we are faced with having to purchase new equipment. Pray for the Lord's continued provision.

Dear Terry, My sister sent me a copy of 'Diakrisis'. I live on the Gold Coast and am seeing the effects the Charismatic movement is having on churches. Even those claiming to be non-Charismatic have adapted the practice of loud music which dominates over singing. The beat is worldly, and the people clap their hands 'worshipping the Lord' and can hardly contain themselves - when the floor show is over I notice they contain themselves when it comes to making guests feel welcome. The reason for going to church escapes many...Take the rock music out of today's churches, and my guess is many will leave!...The 'Promise Keepers' or 'Alpha' teaching which in part contradicts God's Word is being embraced by many churches, they will no doubt pay the price for not taking heed to reprove such, (2Tim.4:2,3). The deceiver is certainly at work and those he uses to take the truth and mix it with a lie are deceiving even the elect. I am praying the Lord will lead me to a church that worships Him in truth, otherwise I may have to worship at home with my children, rather than compromise. We are no doubt in the last days, when itching ears have an abundance of disobedient churches to attend. (Name withheld)

### Lake Maroon Family Camp'99 (Near Boona, Qld.)

**When:** Dec. 17-20 (Frid. 2pm - Mon. lunch)

**Guest speakers:** Terry Arnold (Sun. 8.15am Family service); Eric Russel (Frid. & Sat. 7pm); Geoff Vines (Sat. 8am)

**Other Activities:** Testimonies, video night, water skiing; jet skiing; speed boat rides; tube rides; swimming; canoeing; fishing; climbing; hiking...and more. Bring non-Christian friends.

**Cost:** Adults: Full w/end \$42; 2 days \$32; or \$25 per day. Students reduced prices. Pre-schoolers free.

**Registration forms and further details:** Contact Peter & Carol Bice, (07)32004841 PO Box 358 Corinda, 4075, Qld.

### \*\*E-mail Posting Facilities\*\*

In the past we have experienced some problems with mailing the newsletter by e-mail. We now have, and are continuing to reconstruct, a new website and new e-mail posting facilities. If you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail please contact Mike Claydon at:

**mbc@terriganet.net.au**

Please visit our website at:

**<http://www.satcom.net.au/taministries>**

Any enquiries concerning the website contact the webmaster at:  
**tara7@mpx.com.au**

### Terry's Itinerary

**Dec.17-20** Lake Maroon Family Camp '99 (Near Boona, Qld.) See advert. above. (07)32004841 Mob.0411594585

**Jan.2nd.** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. Ph.41289375

**Jan.10th.** 10am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld.

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