



## A Ministry of Teaching

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

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

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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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### Contents

**P.1** - Editors Comment  
**P.2** - Pentecostal Defences  
**P.3** - A Very Present Danger; Christadelphianism; The Quakers  
**P.4** - Quotable - Error/Truth; *Willow Creek* & Women Pastors; The *Power Team*; Pentecostalism in Russia; The Pope & Marian Devotion; Campolo, Palau Spoke for Schuller; Benny Hinn - Four Die in Kenya  
**P.5,6** - Healing  
**P.7** - Your Comments & Questions  
**P.8** - Your Comments & Questions; Newsletter e-mail Format; Terry's Itinerary; Praise & Prayer Points

### Editors Comment

In twelve years of this ministry and five years of this newsletter and travelling the length of Australia to independent, denominational and home churches, I see that the state of the church has deteriorated significantly. Something that increasingly concerns me is the plight of numerous souls who have been hurt, shipwrecked or displaced and not found in fellowship in sound local churches.

Although we are the *ekklesia* - the called out ones from sin, the world and the false ecumenical church; nevertheless we are not called out of fellowship. The expression of *ekklesia* is seen clearly in the *local Assembly*. There were hundreds of local churches in the New Testament. Many were 'home churches' although Christians also left their homes and met together corporately, (1Cor.11:20).

The purpose of the local church is to glorify God, (Eph.3:21). Christ is the head of her and we are the living and interacting parts. In giving glory to the head our *ultimate priority* is to *worship* Him in Spirit and Truth. The local church must be God centred and not man centred, not what people desire but what God demands. It was never *primarily* designed as a place to cater for the 'felt needs' of the people or for the unsaved. It is not a theatre where people go to watch what happens and it is never a place of entertainment.

Evangelism is *not* the primary purpose of the Local church. However, as we '*fellowship*', worship God and teach '*the apostles doctrine*', the Lord will '*add to the church daily such as should be saved*', (Acts 2:42). When these commands are fulfilled the saints will respond in the work of evangelism and discipleship. The result of all this is *edification*... '*let all things be done unto edification*', (1Cor.14:26).

A doctrinally sound local church is a God given tool to assist in the edification, sanctification and maturity of a Christian. It is often the only place where we can be in submission to Godly appointed and qualified elders (Heb.13:17; 1Pet.5:1-5) and in submission one to another, (Eph.5:21; 1Pet.5:5), as the Scriptures command. Being teachable often involves *submission* and *accountability*. Yet one of the hallmarks of wolves, legalists and others who would cause division is a lack of submission to elders and one to another.

Today many Christians also go from one church to another looking for the perfect church and sinless Christians. Others become 'fringe dwellers', never committing themselves. However, the Local church is not a gallery where we exhibit the finest of Christians; it is rather a school where we educate and encourage imperfect Christians.

A common response to all the above is: 'but all churches are off the track'. This premise is not only unscriptural but may well be an excuse for a lack of commitment to God's people (the body of Christ), and one to another. God has *always* kept a faithful *remnant*. He said the Gates of Hell will not prevail against the church, (Matt.16:18). The early Christians were simply not *lone rangers* but part of a fellowship of believers.

Some today may have valid excuses for a lack of commitment to a local fellowship. Some may need time to recover doctrinally from false teaching, or emotionally from spiritual abuse. However, the heart of the Lord is to '*...consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*', (Heb.10:24,25).

Terry Arnold

## Pentecostal Defences

We have noticed that some Pentecostal ministries are using particular methods to defend their extra-biblical teaching of unknown 'tongues' and the Pentecostal 'Baptism with the Spirit'. Even the historical roots of the movement are now being whitewashed.

Some of these ministries we have much in common with as they have well exposed the 'Toronto Blessing', the Pensacola 'revival' and many errors in the signs and wonders movement. However, with one voice they are sounding the alarm, but with another voice they are ignoring the extra-biblical teachings and historic roots of their own movement.

Recent material by these ministries states that their tongues today are a valid known languages after all, and not necessarily unknown or ecstatic utterances; they stretch the three historical cases of tongues (Acts 2,10,19) to 4 or 5 by including Paul's mention in the book of Corinthians; and they say the tongues can still be 'heavenly languages' yet without any references to Scripture to prove this. In regard to the 'Baptism with the Spirit' the orthodox historical view of salvation is rejected for teaching that denies Scripture and history.

Most surprising of all is the whitewash of the roots of the Pentecostal movement itself. Some are now bypassing the Topeka and Azusa St. beginnings in the early Twentieth Century\* and attempting to place their roots in the holiness movement of the century before.

Firstly, on the subject of tongues: Pentecostals today generally do *not* see their tongues as a valid known earthly human language, (as it was at Acts 2). It is not too difficult to test today's tongues movement linguistically and show that it is not the *glossais* of Acts 2 - known earthly human languages. The words 'language' and 'tongue' in verses 6 and 8 are the same Greek word 'dialecto' meaning known earthly human dialects. There have been rare undocumented reports and stories that someone has spoken in a real language not understood by the speaker but understood by the hearers as was the case at Acts 2. However, these reports have as much credibility as the reports of raisings from the dead - nil. The fact remains - today's tongues spoken in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement are the same as they were at its inception in 1901 at Topeka, USA\* - unknown and a counterfeit of Acts 2. As for today's tongues being 'heavenly languages' - this is totally devoid of Scriptural support and an invention of the mid twentieth century.

In Matthew 6:7 Jesus spoke against babbling like pagans. The Greek word used in '**vain repetition**' is '*battalogo*' which means to '*utter in an incoherently or meaninglessly repetitious manner*', (*Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*); '*a making of sounds suggestive of speech but lacking the meaning, content, intelligibility, and articulateness of normal adult human speech*', (*Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms*). Would this not describe much of unknown tongues today?

There are only 3 (not 4 or 5) historic actual cases of speaking in tongues in the New Testament. They are Acts 2,10 and 19. Other references in the Epistles to tongues are *doctrinal* references but not historical recorded instances.

Secondly, on the subject of the Pentecostal 'Baptism with the Spirit': The book of Acts is an historic book which records the acts of the Holy Spirit. It clearly gives the *chronological* transition of the '*promise*' of the Holy Spirit *Himself*, (not a Pentecostal '*Baptism with the Spirit*'), coming to various groups of people and *indwelling* them for the *first* time - to the Jews in Acts 2, the Samaritans in Acts 8, the Gentiles in Acts 10, and to disciples of John the Baptist in Acts 19. These groups of people had *never* received the indwelling of the Holy

Spirit before these events because the Holy Spirit could not come to earth to *indwell* until Jesus ascended and was glorified, (Jn.16:7). These events were unique operations of the Holy Spirit. This coming of the '*promise*' (Lk.24:29; Acts 1:4) was the *person* of the Holy Spirit, not any second experience. This '*promise*' of the 'Baptism with the Spirit' is historically documented in the book of Acts as the receiving of the indwelling Holy Spirit *at conversion* - to '*as many as the Lord our God shall call*' and '*through faith...to them that believe*', (Gal.3:14,22). Thereafter '*the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call*', (Acts 2:39).

The Pentecostal 'subsequent' experience is simply *not* found in the early church Fathers writings but was made 'doctrine' at the turn of the twentieth century!

Thirdly, this brings us to the question of the *roots* of the movement: Although there were *isolated* instances of unknown tongues down through the centuries, they were arguably all amongst Roman Catholics, mystics, pagan cultures or heretical and extreme Protestant groups. Although some extremes of the 19th Century sanctification/holiness movement became the seedbed for the Pentecostal movement, the fact is that the Pentecostal denominations are clearly rooted in the Azusa St 'revival' of Los Angeles (1906); and the experience of unknown tongues with the 'Baptism with the Spirit' is rooted in the Topeka, Kansas experience (1901).

At Topeka, Charles Parham exhorted his 34 students to receive the same experience as at Acts 2. He expected *Zenoglossalia* - known foreign languages for missionary purposes. It was later that he realised they had received a counterfeit unknown ecstatic utterances which he subsequently *denounced* at Azusa St as '*babble*'. The book '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' by James Goff Jnr., a Pentecostal who was the grandson of a co-worker of Parham, is a devastating historical documentation of this 1901 deception that began the unknown tongues of the Pentecostal movement. Goff writes: '*It was Parham who first formulated the theological definition of Pentecostalism by linking tongues with the Holy Spirit baptism...Parham was the recognised Pentecostal leader in the Midwest before and during the Azusa St. beginnings...He organised the first interstate Pentecostal meetings, and he issued the first ministerial credentials...Parham can chronologically be labelled founder.*'\*\*

Parham utterly denied Azusa St. was the work of the Holy Spirit. To his death he considered the tongues of the day a counterfeit. *It was from this movement that the Pentecostal churches of today have come.* The historical facts are irrefutable.

The reason why some Pentecostals seek to distance themselves from the roots of Parham, the 1901 Topeka experience and the Azusa St church, is because of the homosexual scandal, heresies and the sordid history of Parham and Azusa St.\*

When discerning any movement, Scripture is the sword we must use to dissect. The historical roots are exposed, and it cannot bear good fruit. This is becoming more evident as the years pass. We urge our readers not to be swayed by those who would write against such things. '**Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?**' (James 3:11)

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

\* See our papers '*Pentecostal/Tongues Roots - The Amazing Facts*' and '*The Other Side of Azusa St*'. For a more in depth and well researched treatment see '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' by Goff Jnr. - available from this ministry - \$29.50

\*\*P.11-15 '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' by Goff Jnr.

## A Very Present Danger

Whether we now live in the 'Laodicean' church age or not is debatable. However, that city's similarity to the 'True Church' in the western world today is striking!

She lay in southwest Phrygia, in the Roman province of Asia - now Asiatic Turkey. This was an extremely prosperous commercial centre known for banking, exchange and merchandising, and thriving under Roman rule. When devastated by an earthquake in A.D. 60 her enormous wealth enabled the city fathers to dispense with offered aid from Nero.

The populace was among the wealthiest in the entire empire. In addition to monetary commerce, a large manufacturing industry produced clothing and woollen carpets. A state of the art medical centre was also established there specialising in ophthalmology.

The Gospel probably reached Laodicea at an early date, perhaps while Paul was at Ephesus (Acts 19:10), or through Epaphras (Col.4: 12-13). The Lord Jesus alludes to the character and circumstances of the city in Revelation 3:14-22. In these verses this church, living without persecution, is not accused of immorality, idolatry or open apostasy. No, the terrible condemnation pronounced over her is due to *pride* and *self-satisfaction*. The claim of the Laodiceans is not merely that they need nothing, but that their wealth, moral as well as material, is entirely due to *their own efforts*. Their real condition is shown to be one of poverty, in spite of their money, nakedness in the face of abundant clothing, and blindness though they had many physicians!

The Remnant Church alive today in Australasia, North America and Europe that has resisted apostasy, false doctrines, teachers and prophets for at least the last fifty years now finds herself largely under the same judgment - and could be facing the last great test of the Church Age.

We have entered a period of prosperity as never before experienced in human history. The western world is booming. To be sure we have our 'slow-downs', interest rate and currency fluctuations, but the overall trend is ever onward and upward!

The seduction of the world and all its enticements now come live into our lounge rooms nightly by way of global satellite television, and our struggle to maintain a clean mind and a pure heart becomes more difficult each day. Gone are the simple days of having a home that was a haven from Paganism, Monetarism, and the daily accumulation of wealth. The technical wizardry of today's worldwide communications has seen to that.

The danger now for God's true people is plainly before us. Seduction, leisure, and a striving after the 'good life' now so readily available to all. We may hear our Lord's name used all day as a curse, people scorn our belief, and bureaucrats endeavour to restrict our spiritual freedoms - but persecuted we are not...nor are we excluded from the wealth generating systems. Many of us function at high levels within these, unaware of the deceptive dangers therein.

As the world plunges into what they see as a new age of prosperity and peace we must continually look back to Laodicea and our Lord's words to her - and beware of the reality of what the coming years will bring.

Remember, although the nauseating condition of the Laodicean church had not quenched Christ's love for them, His words were meant to lead them to repentance. The Laodiceans had closed their doors in self sufficient deception and left their Real Provider outside!

We are in peril of doing just that in these days.

**Mike Claydon**

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### Christadelphianism

Christadelphianism came into being about 1848 and was founded by John Thomas. The movement began after the formation of the Mormons but prior to the Jehovah Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists.

John Thomas formed the group after refusing discipline by the 'Cambellites' for his strange doctrines. (Alexander Cambell was the founder of this group and later made a false prophecy of Jesus Christ coming in 1866 and died in that same year!). Thomas refused discipline and drew some believers away with him. Thomas himself made a false prophecy of Christ's return for 1862 and his successor made a false prophecy for 1884. He also agreed with the false prophet Ellen G. White when she set the date for the Lords return in 1844. (Ellen G. White is one of the founders of the Seventh Day Adventist movement which considers her writings inspired).

The history is relevant when one considers that the cults formed during this period hold to similar teachings. Christadelphians believe God is not three persons; Jesus was not deity; and the Holy Spirit not a person. They do not believe in a literal Devil but rather to an abstract view of sin or lawlessness. To be saved one must believe the Christadelphian Gospel and be baptised by total immersion with the Christadelphians and at no younger age than 13. The commandments of Christ must be obeyed for salvation.

Unlike Jehovah Witnesses, Christadelphians will more readily discuss and read literature defending the true faith. However, the indoctrination and mindset is severe.

The Christadelphian movement is not supported by the Scriptures nor the early church fathers. It is simply not *'the faith once delivered to the saints'*, (Jude 3). **Terry Arnold**

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### The Quakers

The Quakers were founded in Europe by George Fox (1624-1691) who migrated to America. At 19 he believed he received revelations in which a voice from God told him to be directed by Christ alone. He believed everyone should be guided by their 'inner light' which would come in a calm state while they waited, often preceded by a shaking or 'quaking'.

In 1647 he preached his doctrines openly and against formalised religion. He was convicted and jailed on several charges by the government of the day. In 1650 he warned a judge *'to tremble at the Word of the Lord'*. The judge called him and his followers 'Quakers'.

The Quakers were well known for their humanitarian activities. They observe no sacraments and when they meet they have periods of silence while waiting for the Lord to speak to them. They believe something of God exists in everyone and this is the 'Christ within'.

In 1827 the Quakers suffered a schism which set off other breakaways. A Lee Anne brought the shakers sect to America. She was part of an offshoot of the English Quakers who began to believe in visions and that Christ's second coming had been fulfilled in her. People called her 'Mother Anne'. She claimed to have the gift of tongues and the ability to work miracles. Many called them 'shakers'. In 1774 she established the first 'shaker' settlement in America.

Today quakers are mostly in America and small in numbers. Its leaders, including Fox and Lee Anne, made the same mistake many cult leaders have made - a departure from the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*. Modern day Charismatic/Pentecostal 'revivals' (eg. Toronto and Pensacola) feature similar experiences as did the Quakers and the Shakers. **Terry Arnold**

## Quotable - Error/Truth

*'I have come to the conviction that Martin Luther made a mistake. He should never have left the Roman Catholic church...It is time for Catholics and non Catholics to come together as one in the spirit and one in the Lord.'*

(Paul Crouch TBN, 17/10/99)

*'From a biblical perspective, nothing impacting the church today, other than possibly the influence of psychology, is more detrimental to Evangelicals understanding, application and proclamation of the Gospel that saves souls than is their increasing acceptance of the Catholic Gospel.'*

(Berean Call, Oct/99)

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## Willow Creek & Women Pastors

Bill Hybels' Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago years ago decided *'...it would support women in any position of leadership - teacher, preacher, elder'.*

*The church's theological guru and founding elder, Wheaton College professor Gilbert Bilezikian, argues that 'secular socialization regarding sex roles, whereby men are cut out for certain tasks and women for others, has no place in a Christian community', (13/11 CT). The church has garnered criticism because it requires that a potential member be able to 'joyfully sit under the teaching of women teachers' and 'joyfully submit to the leadership of women in various leadership positions at Willow Creek before joining'. A female elder said, *'...if you can't embrace this teaching, practically speaking, you'd probably be happier at some other church...'* (Calvary Contender, 10/2000)*

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## The 'Power Team'

*'The Power Team' is experiencing problems. More than a dozen members of the group, whose muscular members demonstrate feats of strength at evangelistic events, have left since its founder, John Jacobs, divorced his wife, according to the Dallas Morning News...The former members have started their own strength evangelism group, 'Team Impact'. Such groups grab the attention of audiences, then talk about how Jesus Christ has changed their lives. Numerous audience members, including many young people, have made decisions to become Christians as a result... 'I repent and apologize for the sin of divorce to the body of Christ,' Jacobs said, citing irreconcilable differences with his wife of 16 years, Ruthanne. The divorce was finalized this summer, according to Charisma magazine. Jacobs said that he has been in counselling for five years and 'there was nothing I could do' to avoid the break-up. He has stepped down from regular preaching for nine months'. (Religion Today, 9/2000)*

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## Pentecostalism in Russia

*'Russia tried to shut down two churches, claiming they were hypnotizing people. Authorities tried to revoke the registration of Kostroma Christian Centre and Grace Church, both northwest of Moscow, claiming their members were being mesmerized during services, according to Keston News Service... Government officials said that a video taken during a service with visiting Western Christian workers shows members of Kostroma Christian Centre being hypnotized. Church officials denied that, saying Pentecostal teaching forbids hypnotism...A court ruled that the tape could not be admitted as evidence and ordered the church's registration reinstated...A case involving Grace Church also was dismissed. The government's chief psychiatrist said that a video purportedly showing members being hypnotized did not provide enough evidence. Both churches are considering legal redress for the charges.' (Religion Today, 10/2000)*

## The Pope & Marian Devotion

*'...As a young, boy, Karol Wojtyla...would pray daily to Mary...As a teenager he dedicated his life to her during a visit to the Marian shrine at Jasna Gora in central Poland. As a theologian, he wrote about Mary as a mother figure who could unite all people. As a bishop, he chose as his motto, 'Totus tuus sum Maria,' - Latin for 'I am completely yours, Mary.' When elected pope in 1978, he spoke of Mary in his first speech, saying he had accepted the office of the papacy in a spirit of humility to Christ and in 'complete trust in his most holy mother, the Madonna.' As Pope, he dedicated the world to Mary...*

*After he was shot and seriously wounded May 13, 1981 - the feast of Our Lady of Fatima - he thanked Mary for having guided the bullet and saved his life...he has consistently highlighted Mary's role in the history of salvation... 'When put to the test, every believer and every Christian community find support and comfort in the Blessed Virgin'...In 1995...he might be preparing to name Mary 'Co-redemptrix' (Co-Redeemer)...For the Pope, Mary's role is that of cooperator to the one Redeemer...[his] papal crest bears a giant 'M' for Mary.' (Louisville Archdiocesan paper, 25/5/2000)*

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## Campolo, Palau Spoke For Schuller

Tony Campolo, in a plenary address at the 30th annual 'Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership,' urged attendees to realize that their role as leaders is to 'declare the kingdom of God' and to 'build the kingdom' through transformation of society, (3-4/00 'Foundation'). He mocked pastors who teach that society is deteriorating and waxing worse and worse [Reader see 2Tim.3:13]. Bill Hybels and Luis Palau also spoke at Schuller's meeting. 'Foundation' comments: *'Dr. Luis Palau provided an Evangelical presence that served to answer the critics who would point out the ecumenical, liberal tenor of the Institute program.'* Billy Graham has spoken highly of...Schuller.

**Editors Comments:** (see *Diakrisis* Feb/98 article on Robert Schuller). Schuller says there is no need for repentance, dying to self or conviction of sin, but rather a need for self-esteem; that Jesus suffered the cross to sanctify His self-esteem and bore the cross to sanctify our self-esteem. Schuller says: *'The cross will sanctify the ego trip'; 'Jesus never called a person a sinner.'* (Cp. Matt.23; Mk.1:15; Jn.8:11; 1Tim.1:15; Rom.5:8); *'What is Hell? It is the loss of pride that naturally follows separation from God.'*; *'A person is in hell when he has lost his self-esteem.'*...

Schuller's TV show 'Hour of Power' has hosted New Agers, cultists and occultists. On ecumenism he says: *'It's time for Protestants to go to the shepherd [the Pope] and say 'what do we have to do to come home?''* Schuller is basically a universalist as is Tony Campolo. He does not believe that Christ is the only way to Heaven: *'The Christ spirit dwells in every human being whether the person knows it or not.'*

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## Benny Hinn - Four Die In Kenya

*'Four people died in Kenya, April 30 while waiting for visiting American evangelist Benny Hinn to heal them. They had been allowed to leave a hospital to attend a two-day 'Miracle Crusade' in Nairobi led by Hinn (11/5 Ala. Bapt.). They had hoped for a cure, but died before Hinn could pray for them. Others suffered serious injuries when they fell out of trees they had climbed in order to better see the charismatic evangelist. Dr. Jerry Falwell paid tribute to and endorsed false prophet Hinn at Hinn's 25th ministry celebration last December.'* (Calvary Contender, 10/2000)

## Healing

The twentieth Century has seen an epidemic in the teaching of, and the claims for gifts of miraculous healing. The Pentecostal/Charismatic movement claims gifts of healing are for today. Yet the general teaching and historic documentation of the early Church Fathers and down through the centuries has always been that the gift of healings tapered off after Jesus and His disciples. Have the gifts of healing returned?

One truth is certain - the Scriptures show clearly that these gifts were to *prove the Messiahship* of Jesus Christ and the *credentials of the apostles*: ***'And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God...'***, (Jn.20:30,31); ***'...Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you...'***, (Acts 2:22).

When John the Baptist asked the disciples for proof of the Messiahship of Christ, Jesus said to His disciples: ***'Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached'***. (Lk.7:21-22);

The verses below make interesting reading when one considers the Greek tenses and moods of the verbs used. The Greek uses the *aorist indicative* - which means a *definite* time in the *past*. The action is specific at a set point in time past rather than continuous: ***'Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds'***, (2Cor.12:12); ***'How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?'***, (Heb.2:3,4).

If the sign gifts were to authenticate the Messiahship of Jesus then do we need these gifts today?...But some would say that healing is promised in the atonement. However, the Bible reveals that it is the *resurrection* body that is in the atonement, (Eph.1:14; Rom.8:23; 1Cor.15:53-55; Job19:26). The work of the cross did *not* atone for the *mortal* body in this life. Any healing today is a direct and sovereign work of grace apart from the finished work of the cross.

1Peter 2:24 is often used for proof of healing in the atonement. This passage comes from Isaiah 53:5 where the prophet was talking about spiritual healing to Israel. Almost all the references to healing in the Old Testament are *spiritual* healing. The word 'salvation' is closely related to the word 'healing'. The Old Testament offerings were not for sickness but for *sin*, (Lev.16:3). The healing referred to in 1Peter 2:24,25 is clearly *spiritual* - the *forgiveness of sins*. The passage says ***'bore our sins'***, not our 'sicknesses'. On the cross Jesus did not bear our diseases but rather our *sin*. This has been the teaching of the church for 1900 years until the 20th Century when healing ministries were spawned within the Pentecostal movement!

Some use Matthew 8:16, 17: ***'...took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses'*** which is a reference to Isaiah 53:4. This was spoken 3 years before the cross and the verse claims that Isaiah was fulfilled there and then. This Scripture refers to the earthly public ministry of Jesus as verse 16 clearly shows. Even if we were to accept this Scripture as bodily healing in the atonement it must still be *future*, (see Rom.8:23). In 2Corinthians 12:9 Paul glories in his physical ***'infirmities'*** which were *not healed*. This word is in fact the same Greek word as in Matthew

8:17. In agreement with Paul, Spurgeon once said: *'Venture to say the greatest gift God can give us is health, with the exception of sickness. Sickness has frequently been of more use to the saints of God than health has.'*

Aside from the above debates, *there is another litmus test*. Simply compare the claimed miraculous 'healings' of today with those of the time of Christ and the apostles. 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.); and ***'every sickness'*** that came to him were *completely* healed, (12:13; 20:34;). Jesus healed ***'all'*** whether they had faith or not! (Lk.17:11-19; Matt.8:1,14; 12:10; 13:58). Added to this, many healings were to do with *organic diseases* which cannot be healed psychosomatically.

A *functional disease* is one in which an organ does not function properly. Functional diseases change the function of the tissue but not its structure and can be affected by the mind. An *organic disease* is one in which the organ is diseased, maimed, or even defunct. Diabetes, Downs Syndrome, infections, heart attacks, gallstones, cancers, broken bones and congenital deformities are all included as organic diseases. A functional disease might be a sore arm; an organic disease might be a withered arm or no arm at all. Today's 'healings' are more to do with functional diseases. Even then only *some* are 'healed' and often 'partially' with the symptoms returning in a few days. These 'failures' are simply not *instant, complete* and 100% successful as in the true *gift* of healings. No one has ever been raised from the dead (modern healers give funeral parlours and cemeteries a wide berth) or healed of incurable diseases such as AIDS or Downs Syndrome! Downs Syndrome is a good test for those claiming to have the *gift* of healing. It cannot be healed psychosomatically.

*We must be honest with ourselves and admit that no one today possess the gift of healings as Jesus and the Apostles did!* Divine healing is *the sovereign act of God in which he intervenes to heal the body without the use of human skills or means*. That counts out the faith healers of today; but does not throw out the possibility of the sovereign miraculous healing of God. *I believe in sovereign divine healing rather than divine healers.*

Today Christians are also being sold stories of the amazing miraculous healings of the late Kathryn Kuhlman, Smith Wigglesworth and others. A Dr. Nolen who worked alongside Kathryn Kuhlman wrote: *'...Mrs Kuhlman left the stage and the audience left the auditorium...All the desperately ill patients who had been in wheelchairs were still in wheelchairs. In fact, the man with the kidney cancer in his spine and hip, the man who I helped to the auditorium and who had his borrowed wheelchair brought to the stage and shown to the audience when he had claimed a cure, was now back in the wheelchair...As I stood in the corridor watching the hopeless faces leave, seeing the tears of the parents as they pushed their crippled children to the elevators, I wished Miss Kuhlman had been with me,...I wondered whether she sincerely felt that the joy of those 'cured' of bursitis and arthritis compensated for the anguish of those left with their withered legs, their imbecilic children, their cancers of the liver. I wondered if she really knew what damage she was doing...'*

Dr Nolen went on to explain that physicians as well as Charismatic healers can influence a patient and cure symptoms of disease by suggestion as this affects the automatic nervous system. Science has proven that sugar pills or 'placebos' will alleviate symptoms of sick people if the person is told they are pills that will cure them. Even after being told that the pills were

only sugar, scientists have discovered that some still get benefits from the placebos *afterwards*. Psychosomatic faith affects the adrenal cortex and can boost the immune system. The mind is a powerful machine that may convince a person of 'truth' when it is programmed to accept a placebo of lies. Yet despite all this, placebos will *not* cure organic diseases such as Downs Syndrome.

Dr. Nolen continues: '*Search the literature, as I have, and you will find no documented cures by healers of gallstones, heart disease, cancer or any other serious organic disease. Certainly, you'll find patients temporarily relieved of their upset stomachs, their chest pains, their breathing problems...*'

Dr Nolen had Miss Kuhlman herself send him a list of the cancer victims she had seen 'cured', and he discovered: '*I wrote to all the cancer victims on her list - eight in all - and the only one who offered cooperation was a man who claimed he had been cured of prostate cancer by Miss Kuhlman. He sent me a complete report of his case. Prostatic cancer is frequently very responsive to hormone therapy. This man had had extensive treatment with surgery, radiation and hormones...Anyone who read his report, layman or doctor, would see immediately that it is impossible to tell which kind of treatment had actually done most to prolong his life. If Miss Kuhlman had to rely on this case to prove that the Holy Spirit 'cured' cancer through her, she would be in very desperate straits.*' (1)

Dr. Nolen did further follow up work on eighty two cases of Kathryn Kuhlman's healings, using names she supplied. Of the eighty two, only twenty three responded and were interviewed. Nolen's conclusion at the end of the entire investigation was that *not one* of the so-called healings were legitimate. Subsequent to this, *not one* faith healer anywhere gave him a single case of a medically confirmed healing.

The reports of healings and miracles from Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947) are even more amazing, (see our article in '*Diakrisis*', Jan/Feb/2000: '*Smith Wigglesworth - The Facts*'). Most of what is written of Wigglesworth is typical of the healing claims today - *unsubstantiated stories*. The late Lester Summeral is responsible for many of the stories of the feats of Wigglesworth. Summeral recounts Wigglesworth punching corpses until restored to life or repeatedly punching cancer tumour victims until they died and then raising them from the dead. *Not one account of the raisings from the dead was ever authentically documented for proof*. Summeral himself was exposed by the media for fraud for his '*Feed The Hungry*' campaign and falsely prophesied that Jesus spoke to him that he would see the return of Jesus before the end of 1999. When Summeral died before this date he instantly became a false prophet.

Despite all the wild unsubstantiated healing claims, Wigglesworth's daughter, who assisted at his meetings, was never healed of deafness. Wigglesworth also suffered for years with gallstones and later with Sciatica. He prophesied a mighty restoration of the gifts of the Spirit and revival *before the end of the twentieth Century*.

Today the claims continue. This ministry has investigated what is believed by many to be the *best* 'documented' healing of modern times - the healing of Jean Neil which was captured on video at a Reinhard Bonnke crusade. This 'healing' was investigated by a Christian doctor (who believed in healing) and he proved it to be a tragedy of misdiagnosis and false documentation, (see '*Diakrisis*', Dec/2000). Although Bonnke was asked to take the Video off the market, it is still being sold today.

Likewise, Hinn, Hill and Kilpatrick (Pensacola), Cerullo,

Bonnke and the late John Wimber were all challenged to produce *one* single authentic and documented case of an organic healing. *None* were verified as miraculous.

In England a Dr. May, a Christian who does believe that God heals, challenged prominent faith healer Morris Cerrullo to produce one case of healing. With great difficulty Dr. May eventually received cases from Cerullo. On examination there was nothing to substantiate the claims.

Many (including children) have *died* because of false healing claims to do with Benny Hinn, Cerullo and others. Many stop taking pills for a life threatening situation, believing they are healed by 'Word of Faith' teaching espoused by popular TV evangelists today, only to die soon after. (2)

The fact is our bodies are not now saved, for that redemption is *future*, (Rom.8:23). The source of sickness is not entirely Satan as many teach. It was not Satan who decreed that sorrow, death and pain should be the wages of sin. That was God's doing, (Gen. 3:3). The sources of sicknesses are from God, (Ex.15:26 Dt.28) and from Satan, (Lk.13 Matt.4:24), but ultimately God is in sovereign control.

One author has boldly issued a challenge that exemplifies the farce of the claims that the gift of healings are in existence today: '*I here put a challenge to all those who lay claim to a personal ongoing 'healing ministry' today: Don't just tarry in your tent meetings waiting for all those poor people to line up in front of you. Instead, go out into the casualty departments of your local hospitals on a Saturday night and bring instantaneous organic healing to the battered and broken victims of the brawls and accidents that present themselves here for treatment. Then nip up to the surgical wards and lay your hands on the amputees and hopeless cases, so that their truncated limbs and diseased entrails will be returned to them. When those places have been emptied, find your local 'institute for the blind' and bring some colour into their lives for the first time with your remarkable healing powers. Then buzz over to the offices of the 'spastic society' and get them to take you out to their many training centres, where you can restore those withered limbs on the spot...make that Downs Syndrome melt away from those little faces...take a taxi across to the local mortuary and bring some of it's frigid occupants out with you for a breath of fresh air...While we're on the subject, isn't it about time you discarded those eye glasses?...Why wait? For those are the kinds of healings which the Lord Jesus and the Apostles carried out in the course of their ministry, (eg. Lk.22:50,51; Mk.3:1-5; Lk.8:43,44; Jn.9: 1-11; 11:43,44)...Do not make the false claim you are doing the works of Jesus...*' (3)

God, for His purposes, does not necessarily want everyone to be physically healed, (Lk.4:25-27). The gospel of physical healing is a false gospel and offers false hope. It is an *addition* to the vital doctrine of the atonement. It confuses and adds to the message of the Gospel of grace that comes from the work of Jesus on the cross for our *sins*.

One author says: '*If Christians believe the unsubstantiated claims of present day Charismatic leaders they will believe anything! If they believe the ludicrous and extravagant yarns of extrovert, spiritually deluded showmen, how will they stand against the lying wonders to be unleashed by the Devil during the final apostasy?*' (4)

**Terry Arnold**

(1) '*Healing: A Doctor in Search of a Miracle*' by Dr. William Nolen (2) '*Signs and Wonders - Exposed*' videos (Parts 1,2 & especially Part 3) - document the deaths and devastation caused by Benny Hinn and other faith healers. (3) Alan Morrison, England (4) '*The Charismatic Phenomenon*' by Masters & Whitcomb, P.68



## Your Comments and Questions

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

### [Editors comments in bold and brackets]

Dear Terry,...your knowledge of the Scriptures is limited and your experience does not match your knowledge...[I'm working on it every day!]. You base your accusations against false prophets on the OT and on Deuteronomy. There are no OT prophets today. [So here are some NT Scriptures for False Prophets - 2Pet.2:1; 1Jn.4:1; Matt.7&24]...Regarding Dave Wilkerson: For 30 years he has printed prophecy that has not come true. That does not make him a false prophet. [Then what is a false prophet and why do we have the term in the Bible at all?]. He is a Godly preacher. He edifies [I agree but what has that got to do with false prophecy?]. You should know that your knowledge and experience in the Scriptures and ministry do not in any way begin to compare with that of Wilkerson. [I would never dispute this]. Therefore your judgements are inadequate...Have you ever experienced His presence? [Yes]...One regrets the 'Spanish Inquisition and Jesuit' style of your writing. Does it not call for repentance on your part?...We Pentecostals...obey the Scriptures by seeking to teach the truth...

Regarding Kenneth Hagin...his teachings based on Kenyon are undoubtedly heretical. Yet many people have found blessing in his writings just as we Pentecostals have found blessings in the writings of other denominations and they never hold to the whole truth. [Does the Bible not say to separate from heretics?]. Regarding Kenneth Copeland...He is a teacher of heresy...Creflo Dollar...Benny Hinn. According to 2Peter 2:1 he is a false teacher. He speaks truth but he brings in 'destructive heresies'...he ministers...a false experience...such error! Despite all this it cannot be denied he is a man of God. [Since when do we call a 'heretic' a 'man of God'?]. One sees the spirit of Christ in all of them. [I see heresy and warn the sheep who will listen!]. Look at Peter - Paul 'withstood him to his face.' Then there is James. Wrong teachers and apostles were sent by him to Galatia...Regarding

Dear sirs, 'I am Word of Faith person. Since you are a word of doubt ministry, let me enlighten you what the word Gospel means - 'good news'. Stop putting [vulgar word used] on God's people. All you do is slander well known men & women of God. No, they are not perfect, but are you? Thank God we are saved by grace and not by being perfect.

Your ministry team have sown a lot of bad seed over the years. God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man sows that and that only will he reap...

I see a lot of good ministries here in Brisbane helping the poor, doing exactly what Jesus would do and yet you still find fault. Well, its not really a shock I suppose because Jesus had His greatest opposition from the religious pharisees. I see you as a bunch of religious nuts hell bent on trying to undo the works of God but you won't stop it...Wake up to your dumb religious ways...whether you like to or not you are tools of Satan, unanointed religious nuts going nowhere fast. From a person who has a problem with cults like yourself.

(anonymous letter)

Editors comment: - The good news of the Gospel is only received by those who understand the bad news first - that we are sinners under the wrath of God.

- We are adamantly opposed to perfectionism also.

- The only minister in Brisbane we have exposed in a previous issue is one false prophet. This false prophet and false teacher undeniably does many good works.

Reinhard Bonnke...We saw many miracles. [His best documented miracle of all time was exposed as not miraculous - See 'Diakrisis' Dec/99]. His manager of 71/2 years told us that throughout Africa 80% of the converts from heathendom to Christ in the last 20 years have come through his ministry. They number millions. [Even if this were true, do we ignore the deception?]. Should you not be rejoicing, despite errors?...

If speaking in tongues is from the Holy Spirit should you not fear that saying 'it is of the devil' might be classed by God as blasphemy? [I have never said this]...Only a person who knows the value and experience of praying in other tongues could conduct a seminar on the subject. [I have experienced it all!]

...I can testify to the dead being brought back to life, to cancers having disappeared, to the blind seeing, to the deaf hearing, to the lame walking. [I can testify to every investigated claim of such as non miraculous. There are no documented cases of raising from the dead. However, for the record I believe in divine healing, but I do not believe in divine healers]. I must say however the majority of people prayed for do not get healed...There are preachers with gifts of healing and miracles. No gift to one person is ever for a hundred percent usage and success. [Then it is not the healing gifts of the first century and in Scripture! They were instant, complete and with no failures]...

Although revival is not mentioned in the NT...what about the revivals under Wesley, Whitefield...these are matters of facts that cannot be denied. [I do believe in these revivals but I do not believe in a worldwide end-time revival because it is opposed to Scripture]. May God 'restore' to you the knowledge and experience that they enjoyed in the early church. (In Christ, Rev. D.F., Qld.) [The Lord 'restored' me some years ago when I came out of false teaching. Do we not have 'every spiritual blessing', Eph.1:3?].

Dear brothers, Thanks so much for all the Godly literature and truths contained in 'Diakrisis'. This one [Oct/Nov], particularly, blessed me ABUNDANTLY.

...I really appreciated Mike's article 'A Paradigm Shift' because I fellowship with Christians who hold a certain Messianic Jew up high on a pedestal. I have heard him preach...and say that the Word of God was written for Jews and cannot be interpreted correctly by non Jews. This concerned me...as I knew that the Holy Spirit is my teacher and will bring me to Jesus and His truth...Another thing that upset me was I feel this man borders on verbal abuse, which hurts the cause of Christ. I commend him for pointing out evil workers, false prophets such as the 'jacket waver' in his \$5,000 suits, etc. but I feel he steps over the line and then verbally abuses. I can't find in Scripture where the Apostles used verbal abuse.

Praise the Lord for Terry coming to Victoria! Hallelujah! Thanks again for contending earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. Love & prayers, I do value the 'Diakrisis' magazine...(L.H., Victoria)

### Belief & Practise

'I am far from thinking that doctrinal knowledge is of secondary importance. I believe it to be one of the first things needed in the Christian life - to know the truth and then to practice it'. Spurgeon, 'Holy Spirit Power', P.59

## Your Comments and Questions

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

*I am helping a person come out of false teaching...where can I get information on a Joyce Meyer...one other thing, do you know what the meaning of 'pleading the blood'...? A Lot of Pentecostal/Charismatic people use this phrase.*

**Editors reply: The Nov/99 'Diakrisis' featured an article on Joyce Meyer...**

**The practice of 'Pleading The Blood' is the unscriptural asking for the 'blood' of Christ to 'cover' something being prayed for. The 'blood' of Christ however, is not available in this fashion to us today. It is not in His physical blood that 'power' resides, but in His once for all sacrificial (shedding of blood) death. There is no remission of sins without the shedding of innocent blood but it is the sacrificial death of Christ in substitution for our own that appeases God. Death and the blood are synonymous when taking atonement into account. There is simply no Scripture for 'pleading the blood'. This practice is similar to Pentecostals asking for the Holy Spirit to come a second time when He has already come to earth at Pentecost and now fills us continuously from within and abides in us.**

**The history of this 'pleading the blood' is not historical, orthodox or of the early church Fathers, but a rather recent invention of the Charismatic/Pentecostal movement in the Twentieth century.**

*Dear Terry, We are writing to let you know how much joy you brought to us after we heard you speak at...I have spent all the past week just wanting to spend it on my face with the awesome power of God...I have never ever felt like that after hearing someone talk...all week I have been reading the Bible and been into the Word more than ever...hearing you speak made me realise that I have that hunger that you spoke about...thank you also for the time that you took with us on that day... (D.S., Nowra, NSW)*

### **\*\*Newsletter E-mail Format\*\***

*Diakrisis* is now available to our readers by e-mail in Acrobat pdf format. A link to download Acrobat reader is provided with the e-mail. This is an easy to read format similar to the hard copy presentation. If you presently receive the newsletter by hard copy and have e-mail facilities you may like to consider receiving the newsletter by e-mail. This will assist us in distribution and in costs. E-mail us at: [tam@satcom.net.au](mailto:tam@satcom.net.au)

### **Praise Points**

- Praise God for a fruitful Victorian trip.
- Praise the Lord for the supply of much needed voluntary secretarial help for Terry this year.

### **Prayer Points**

- As the work load has increased, please pray for strength and support for the workers in this ministry; a laptop computer may be of great benefit to Terry in preparing the newsletter while away from home. Pray for provision.

*Dear Terry, Thanks for the latest [July] 'Diakrisis', and particularly for the article about 'Sola Scriptura'...I have become Chairman of a nondenominational Christian School with a wide representation of churches in our school community, and am concerned that, as with the wider church, there has been a watering down of the Biblical view of the authority of Scripture over time - not, in our case, through any direct attacks (such as the Signs and Wonders movement), but by a diminishing awareness of what the original view actually is...when I came to do some reading about it, I found little to help me, despite a reasonable personal library of Evangelical books...Therein, perhaps, lies another part of the problem. Evangelicals have not taught and argued for 'Sola Scriptura' nearly enough. I think this is partly because they know it will bring them into conflict with just about everyone (Catholics, Charismatics/Pentecostals, liberals, etc). And too many of us Evangelicals shy away too easily from the conflict that will inevitably come when we take a stand for the truth - especially when the conflict is from other 'Christians'.*

*Two books I know of proved helpful to me on the theme of Sola Scriptura: Matthias Media's 'Guidance and the Voice of God', and a section of Calvin's Institutes with the fascinating title: 'Fanatics, Abandoning Scripture and Flying Over to Revelation, Cast Down All the Principles of Godliness'. Calvin was not one to water down his language to minimise conflict, as is evident by this quote: 'For of late, certain giddy men have arisen who, with great haughtiness exalting the teaching office of the Spirit, despise all reading and laugh at the simplicity of those who, as they express it, still follow the dead and killing letter...by a heinous sacrilege these rascals tear apart those things which the prophet joined together [ie. Word and Spirit] with an inviolable bond.' Or this: 'What say these fanatics, swollen with pride, who consider this [ie. revelation/prophecy] the one excellent illumination when, carelessly forsaking and bidding farewell to God's Word, they, no less confidently than boldly, seize upon whatever they may have conceived while snoring?' (Perhaps these days we should change 'snoring' to 'laughing'?!) A few more Calvins who are willing to speak out, take a stand, and call a spade a spade, certainly would not go astray amongst our church leadership and teachers. (Perhaps a few more Terry Arnolds!) It is not just a matter of 'dry doctrine'. Sola Scriptura is a tremendously liberating doctrine for Christians in working out their Christian lives, and in the whole subject of 'guidance' and 'finding God's will'...*

**Editors Comments: I have not read the books above but I do recommend the book 'Sola Scriptura' written by various authors - Sproul, Armstrong, Beeke...**

### **Terry's Itinerary**

**Jan.28th** 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld. Ph.41294292

**Jan.28th** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ: ('Healing')

**Feb.4th** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld (07)41284201

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