



Reachout Quarterly

Autumn 1996

Issue 45

Reachout Trust is an international Christian ministry that upholds biblical truth and builds bridges to people in the cults, occult and new age. We aim to:

Examine and reconcile with the Christian gospel the beliefs and spirituality of people within the cults, occult, new age and all not upholding biblical truth.

Train and equip Christians to explain the Christian gospel in a relevant way.

Provide a complete service of counselling and help to all enquirers.

Present the Christian gospel.

Work with organisations who will help achieve these aims.

A detailed information pack that shows how you can be involved in this ministry is available from head office.

All editorials and unassigned articles are the work of Doug Harris, Director of Reachout Trust.

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Is It Worth It?

I decided a long time ago that if you want to be popular or if you want to hold 'mega-meetings' you do not enter this sort of ministry. However at the same time you do not go out of your way to make enemies. Still, there are those that react and it is not always easy to deal with the vehement outcry of those who see only their point of view and are not willing to consider it any other way. At such times, and there have been a number recently, you ask yourself, is it really worth it?

One of the areas we receive most flack over is when we highlight the false doctrine of the word/faith movement and other Christian groups that teach non-biblical doctrine. It would be easier to ignore such groups and as Trustees we have considered long this vexing question. Our conclusion is that we cannot ignore them and that it is part of our brief to deal with all who hold non-biblical teaching.

We are not setting ourselves up as perfect and all others wrong. We are not claiming to be the police force of the church. In a spirit of humility we ask, is what is being taught Scriptural? We are aware that there needs to be a difference in the way that we handle cults and these groups. One of our Trustees, Mike Thomas, puts it like this,

"Our work, then, takes us mainly to those who are outside the church of Christ. When it comes to those problems that inevitably arise inside the church our approach needs to be different to the one we adopt in approaching 'the cults'. The primary difference is in the fact that in the church we are dealing with fellow Christians. We must be careful that we act with a view to maintaining Christian unity."

The question surely is not whether a teaching is popular or not, nor whether it is being taught by a 'big name'. It must be whether it is Biblical - this in the end is the only test. Tragically today we are discov-

ering more and more Christians who are living their lives from experience and not from the Word of God. I am not against experiences but when they are taking the place of the sound and continuous exposition of God's Word there will be problems.

Paul clearly underlined this when speaking for the last time to the elders at Ephesus

For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God - Acts 20:27

I wonder if today we are declaring one aspect of the purpose over and over again and not allowing God's people to receive the 'whole purpose of God' One other thought on this that Paul reminds me of, he did not seem to mind when his teaching was checked out,

. . . examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so - Acts 17:11.

Would that all of us would

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This is the concluding part of the article from the Summer Newsletter on the teachings of Ulf Ekman.

HEALING

Ulf loves to write about how Jesus wants to heal everyone from no matter what disease or problem they may have. Yet oddly enough, he says that you may have to wait for up to fifteen years for your healing to manifest!

Ulf tells the story of a baby that was healed through the prayer of ". . . a particular woman evangelist who is mightily used by the Lord." According to Ulf, during the four months after the woman's prayer, "Fingers grew and nails began to grow on the fingers . . . there was a perfect arm and hand, complete with fingers and nails. Hallelujah!" (G-24-5)

No names of people are given nor the place or date on which it occurred.

When He heals you, He raises you up and enables you to serve him better than you could when you were sick. Don't ever accept the devil's lie which says that you are able to serve the Lord better by being sick! That is not true. God can certainly use you while you are sick, but He can do so much more when you are healed. (G-12)

How can we be sure that God really does want to heal everyone? By looking at the life of Jesus and seeing who He is. We need to ask the Holy Spirit for a revelation of who Jesus is and what He does; a revelation of the amazing amount of love, compassion and power that flows through His person. (G-15)

If you're not healed, does this mean that Jesus doesn't love you as much as someone else? Or is it a lack of faith? Or both? Or perhaps you have to wait for the manifestation of your healing. Ulf's theology can put a lot of unnecessary blame and guilt on the believer.

There is no clear Scripture which says that God wants to heal all people. In 1 Tim. 5:23 Paul says to Timothy,

Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

Examples can also be found in Phil. 2:25-30 and 2 Tim. 4:20. What about the sufferings of Paul (Acts 9:16; 2 Co. 4:7-12; 12:7-10 and Gal. 4:13-14)?

Ulf continues to go directly against the Bible when he makes this categoric statement,

However, it [sickness] is a form of oppression from the enemy, and not something God puts on us for our discipline or advancement in holiness. (A-52)

Yet Deuteronomy 8:5, Hebrews 12:4-11, and James 1:2-4 all clearly talk about discipline and do not rule out it being via sickness.

He [God] heals with instant miracles as well as with miracles that happen over a period of time. It may take years for the healing to become fully manifested, but the manifestation will come! (G-6-7)

Those prophets who tell you that God is trying to teach you something through your sickness will never be able to give you what your heart truly longs for. It may take five, ten or even fifteen years, to receive the manifestation of your healing but what does that matter? (G-16)

This is a clear cop-out by Ulf. If Jesus wants to heal you and you have the faith to be healed, then why should you have to wait up to fifteen years for it to take place? Clearly, if Jesus wants to heal you and you do have the faith to be healed, then this should ALWAYS result in immediate healing. The only time this wouldn't be true, is if Jesus doesn't want to heal you at that time, which is precisely the point. God is sovereign and He knows better. He knows better

if you should be healed, and if so, when that healing should occur, and how.

In his book *Signs and Wonders*, Dr. Norman Geisler writes that,

Another characteristic of miracles is that the results were always immediate. There is no [biblical] account of a healing which occurred over a period of days or even hours. (I-152)

CONTRADICTIONS

Ulf has several contradictions in his writings. One of them has to do with the issue of money and when to and not to spend it. Compare the first quotation,

Some people believe, for example, that it is all right to write a check hoping that the money to cover it will come in time. We are not talking about such foolishness. (C-67)

With the following,

Every time you wonder if you can afford it, you are asking your checkbook for permission. If God says yes and your checkbook says no, do it anyway. (C-117)

. . . we do what we believe God has told us to do, even if we do not have the finances immediately available. (C-68)

Of course, we should not be careless or wasteful [with our money]. (C-91)

MIS-USE OF BIBLE

Finally, even basic and well-known Scripture gets ignored by Ulf. Consider the following statement,

. . . we have all heard teaching which says . . . "Everything works together for good" . . . This sort of teaching brings grief to the heart of God! (B-104)

Yet Romans 8:28, inspired by God, shows that this flatly isn't true. It reads,

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, let's compare what the Apostle Paul wrote about Jesus and what Ulf writes about Him.

Paul talked about Jesus and knowing Him. That was his ultimate in life (1 Cor. 2:2 and Phil. 3:7-11). This is what we were created for. To know God, love Him and serve Him (Mark 12:28-30 and Eph. 2:10). All of Paul's focus was on Jesus. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus (Heb. 12:2). Where is Ulf's? It's on Jesus, but mainly for what He can give to the believer. And this is not for the experience of knowing Him, but for the experience of receiving material and physical blessings. Paul emphasises Jesus not for what He can give us materially, but for who He is.

Paul warned Timothy of people who would fall for false teachings in 2 Tim. 4:3-5,

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather round them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

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- *All of Ulf Ekman's materials are published by Word of Life Publications, Uppsala, Sweden.*

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Dave Kelso of Word of Life Ministries UK Ltd based in Larbet Stirlingshire Scotland and Philip Ronson of Word of Life, Oldham both wish us to make clear that their organisations do not have any connection with Ulf Ekman's Word of Life.

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(Continued from page 1)

LEADER

have such an attitude in what we share today and not feel that we can never listen to constructive criticism. Yes, is the answer to many of you that ask the question, is Reachout prepared to act like this too. And by the way, yes is the answer to the original question, it is worth it.

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Doug's Diary

Doug Harris will be involved in training at the following seminars. Others may have also been added since publication. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings please ring Head Office for further details. Those marked * may have a restricted attendance.

If there is not a meeting advertised near you but you feel that your area would benefit from one why not talk with us about organising it. Contact Head Office our information leaflet on seminars, including subjects covered, costs, etc.

SEPTEMBER

18 Potters Bar
25-30 N.Ireland

OCTOBER

1-2 N.Ireland
11 York
12-13 Preston
17-27 Ireland - North & South

NOVEMBER

3 Bromley
4 New Malden
8 Lowestoft
11-13 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EVANGELICALS
16 MacDuff, Banff
17-18 Paisley
19 Glasgow
20 Broxburn, W.Loathian
22-24 ANNUAL CONVENTION
30 Chelmsford

DECEMBER

8 Dorking

Don't miss Reachout's Annual Convention at Kidderminster - November 22-24. Full details in enclosed brochure.

A CHRISTIAN'S VIEW OF HYPNOSIS -Part

by James Cussen

Continued from Newsletter 44 - Spring/Summer 1996.

DISTORTION OF REALITY

It is through distortion of reality that stage hypnotists get their laughs. A favourite trick of the hypnotist is to give a hypnotised person an onion and then to tell him that when he opens his eyes he will find that he is holding a juicy delicious apple. When, under prompting from the hypnotist, he bites into the onion, he will actually experience biting into an apple. Only when brought out of the hypnotic trance does the unfortunate victim realise that he has been munching an onion. It is not only the sense of taste that the hypnotist can alter, all the senses are open to distortion. Consider the sense of sight. People under hypnosis may be given the suggestion that they can see something which, in reality is not there. In most cases, depending on the depth of trance, whatever the hypnotist suggests will be experienced by the subject. For example, a hypnotist may say to his volunteers that they will only see any objects that he may pick up and carry around the stage. The hypnotist through the distortion of vision, makes himself invisible and it is the way volunteers react to these induced hallucinations that audiences find so amusing.

What the foregoing makes very clear is that for a person under hypnosis reality can so easily evaporate, at the whim of the hypnotist what is real may in an instant become unreal, and what is true may in an instant become veiled.

PHYSICAL DANGER

We move now from distortion to danger. A hypnotised person's reaction to a suggestion may place that person in physical danger. Invariably, whenever I used the 'invisible man stunt' people would dash about the stage in terror. I remember vividly one occasion when someone came close to being badly injured. As usual I suggested to the hypnotised volunteers that I would be invisible. I then picked up a glass of orange juice and

one person seeing the glass floating through the air, staggered to the back of the stage and toppled over the edge. He fell backwards about four feet, landing on top of a couple of ladders and a few bits of scaffolding. Fortunately for him, and for me, he did no more than graze his arms. Things, however, could have turned out differently, he could so easily have broken his neck! The newspapers have recently reported a case in which a woman received a £20,000 out of court settlement after breaking her leg during a stage show. It is alleged that while under hypnosis the woman asked if she could go the toilet. The hypnotist told her to take the shortest route, which she did and walked straight off the front of the stage.

The woman in this case did not sue the hypnotist because he was uninsured, as, I suspect, are a number of hypnotists. It is easy enough to obtain public liability cover but the problem arises in that this cover does not normally extend to injury suffered whilst under hypnosis. This is bad news if a hypnotised person suffers a physical injury. Let the volunteer beware!

LACK

Insurance is not the only thing a hypnotist may lack, he may also lack experience. I recall securing my first booking, I wanted to 'have a go' at doing a show, but of course, without a track record, people would not be too keen to let me try things out on their premises. I managed to overcome that obstacle by going along to Swansea University and asked to speak to the person responsible for entertainment. I told her that I was a seasoned hypnotist and that I would do her a favour by giving Swansea University a special cut price show - providing, of course that she could fit me in. Within a few moments, I was booked to appear at the college. The point is this, my experience of hypnosis amounted to no more than reading a few books and practising on one or two friends. I had never given a public performance in my life, and

wasn't even sure that the show would work. Yet, with very little difficulty, I passed myself off as an experienced hypnotist.

I am not being sensationalist by saying that if the hypnotist is inexperienced, people's lives could be at risk after the show. Just imagine that during a show, the hypnotist tells his subjects that whenever they hear a certain piece of music they will fall soundly asleep. At the end of the performance the hypnotist fails to erase this suggestion and one of them jumps into his car and turns on the radio. Ten minutes later as he is driving down the motorway, that piece of music is played on his radio. Within moments he will be soundly asleep . . . for ever!

HYPNOTHERAPY

A person is not only at risk from the stage hypnotist but also the hypnotherapist. I recall reading, a couple of years ago, about a hypnotherapist who was jailed for sexually assaulting one of his patients. A woman came to him regularly and during her treatment the hypnotherapist had been sexually assaulting her. The aftermath of such abuse, of course, goes beyond the physical, the mind will also be deeply affected. This leads us to our next consideration, psychological danger.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DANGER

The Daily Telegraph in a recent feature on stage hypnosis reported the view of consultant psychiatrist, Dr Prem Misra:

Nausea, tiredness, fits, blackouts, depression, anxiety and exacerbation of serious mental illness may be suffered by people who have been hypnotised on stage It (state hypnosis) could do lasting emotional and physical damage

The report goes on to say that the doctor has asked the Scottish Office to curb the activities of stage hypnotists follow-

ing a disturbing rise in the number of his patients.

Some of the cases that Dr Misra cites, include - a man would go into 'spontaneous trances' and perform a striptease whenever someone clapped their hands; another became addicted to eating Spanish onions, and, as a result lost his girlfriend and most of his friends; and, an eighteen year old girl who was so addicted to being hypnotised on stage, she made three hundred appearances and eventually became suicidal.

In a late night commons debate, other adverse psychological effects suffered by people as a result of hypnosis were cited by Labour MP for Lancashire West, Mr Colin Pickthall. These included: violent headaches, uncontrollable anger, panic attacks, and sleeping disorders.

Another case reported in the *Daily Telegraph* concerns a man in his twenties who complained of feeling unwell after being hypnotised at a theatre in High Wycombe by television hypnotist Paul McKenna. The man was referred to a psychiatric unit for four weeks. The paper goes on to quote his MP, Mr Colin Pickthall,

Nine months later his condition has deteriorated severely and he thinks himself as eight years old and he behaves like an eight year old. He has to be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Then there is the case of a woman who died shortly after being told that she would wake up as 10,000 volts was shot through her chair. Apparently the woman had a fear of electricity and after waking up she complained of feeling dizzy. Five hours later she was dead. Although the inquest found that this woman's death was accidental, the Home Office pathologist is reported in *The Independent* as saying,

it was hard not to believe there was a link [between hypnosis and her death]

On the other side of the coin of course, it could be argued that if used for medical purposes, hypnosis can be beneficial. It is being used in dentistry for tooth extractions and fillings. It is used in

midwifery to help relax the mother and to help her cope with the pain of childbirth. Many hypnotherapists claim that through hypnosis it is possible to help people stop smoking or lose weight; or help them to overcome certain problems such as stammering or lack of confidence. And it is not just in the field of medicine where hypnosis is gaining popularity. Sportsmen and women are turning to it to enhance their performances. Hypnosis is being put to use increasingly in the fields of athletics, golf and boxing. Frank Bruno, for example, is quite open about his employment of a hypnotist to help him and Nigel Benn, after knocking out an opponent, confessed to using a hypnotist to help him.

It is easy enough maybe to see the folly of stage hypnosis, harder perhaps to see the folly of hypnosis when used to man's benefit, be it for a better performance on the sports field or for the improvement of his health. After all, who could argue with using hypnosis to relieve pain or to help someone to give up smoking? To tackle these questions we must turn to the Bible.

SPIRITUAL DANGER

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Trance states are by no means a modern phenomena. Ever since ancient civilisations began to keep records, there has been almost without fail some mention of trance states. Babylonian or Persian cuneiform clay inscriptions mention them, Egyptian hieroglyphic writing on papyrus mention them, and ancient Greek, Chinese and Indian writings all record the use of the trance state in bringing healing. [See *Hypnotism Investigated*, A.D. Bambridge, p.59.] God's attitude to these trance states can be gleaned from His instructions to His people, Israel, as recorded in Deuteronomy 18:9-11. The NIV puts it like this,

When you enter the land the Lord God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft or casts spells, or who is medium or spiritist or who

consults the dead.

The King James Bible, speaks of 'a charmer,' referring to one who charms. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, this means to 'bewitch, influence (ad) by magic. . . ' According to Bambridge the Hebrew words used to convey the meaning of charmer are *chober chaber* or 'charmors of magic.' He goes on to say that,

"haber' . . . generally implies a joining or uniting . . . Some Hebrew wordbooks enlarge on this by citing the ancient practice of tying magic knots or tying up a person with magic. So the Hebrew word *chaber* conveys a sense of agreement between the charmed and the charmer. [Ibid, p.62]

Whatever else may be possible through hypnosis, it is impossible to hypnotise a person unless that person first of all consents to be hypnotised, there needs to be a sense of agreement between hypnotist and subject. The Bible does not actually refer to the word hypnosis, which is familiar to us today. However,

the Hebrew word 'chaber' can' be literally translated into hypnosis . . . the concept involved in gaining control over someone after a false sleep is produced, is very much contained within the word. [Ibid.]

to be continued in the next Quarterly.

WATCH THE OWER

Who Will Survive Armageddon by R. Crompton

A common feature of much argument directed against Jehovah's Witnesses is the skeleton from Charles Taze Russell's cupboard. Because most Witnesses are not well informed about the history of their movement, such a tactic when applied judiciously, can be very effective. However, having just read *The Watchtower*, 15 April 1995, I think an opposite tactic might be useful once in a while. There are some beliefs which Russell held that today's Society is considerably worse for having discarded. Take the question, what happens to unbelievers at Armageddon? Russell believed one thing, today's Society believes another.

The question is dealt with in the above Watchtower in an article, *The Day That Burn Like a Furnace*. My reaction to that article was anger and revulsion. I was so upset by it that I could not sleep properly that night. There was nothing new in it merely the expression of what has been part of the Society's doctrine for many years. But it was a clear statement of one of their worst beliefs.

Happy are those whose name Jehovah chooses to write in his book of remembrance. But what of those who fail to qualify for that privilege? Whether they are rulers or simply common people, how will they fare if they treat the proclaimers of God's Kingdom and their message with disdain? - *The Watchtower*, 15 April 1995. p. 20.

Russell's response to this question was clear enough. The overwhelming majority of humanity would be judged according to their deeds after Armageddon, during the thousand-year day of judgement.

No others than the Lord's favoured 'little flock' (i.e. those belonging to the 144,000

- Revelation 7:4 - who are to rule with Christ in heaven) have as yet sufficient light to incur the final penalty, the second death. - *The Divine Plan of the Ages*, C.T.Russell, p.145.

In Russell's teachings, it was institutions of Church and State that were to be destroyed at Armageddon, not people. It was under the leadership of Russell's successor, Joseph Rutherford, that a harsher view of Armageddon was adopted. All must now make their response prior to Armageddon and none who fail to join the Witnesses can expect to be spared.

God's executioner slays all except those who bear the mark in the forehead . . . This part of the prophecy (Ezekiel 9:7) shows a great slaying work being done and those who are themselves on the side of the Devil and his organization shall be destroyed . . . It is the Jonadab class [i.e. those Witnesses who do not belong to the 'little flock.'] who are marked in the forehead that obey the Lord and are spared and protected by the Lord during Armageddon. - Riches, J.F. Rutherford, p. 98.)

In effect, Rutherford proclaimed divine judgement on all humanity outside his own movement and consigned all to Death Row to await execution at Armageddon. Only those who become Jehovah's Witnesses can be reprieved. This has remained Watchtower doctrine ever since, even if most Witnesses are embarrassed to admit it publicly.

The Watchtower of 15 April 1995 changes nothing but I think it should be used as an opportunity to confront the Witnesses with the repugnant nature of their attitude to human society. They cannot claim that their preaching shows a compassionate attitude towards people heading for disaster. It shows a smug satisfaction with their own worthiness. Consider the following:

In that day of accounting, young children . . . will be dealt with justly accord-

ing to Jehovah's assessment of their roots, their parents, who have oversight of these children. Wicked parents will have no posterity to perpetuate their wicked ways. - *The Watchtower*, 15 April 1995, p.22.

This would be bad enough if wickedness was understood in the same sense that most people understand it. But when you consider that it is a term embracing all apart from Jehovah's Witnesses, this teaching can be seen for the revolting blasphemy that it is. Even Russell never plumbed such depths. To the Witnesses I say, would you not rather be preaching Russell's doctrine on this question? Better still, what about the scriptural doctrine.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me. - John 14:6

It is how one responds to Jesus, not the organisation, that counts. As for the children,

They were bringing children to him that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.' - Mark 10:13,14.

On a personal note, let me explain why I found this Watchtower article particularly distressing. I have a seven year old son and as I write this I can hear him playing happily with his grandmother. What he doesn't realise is that he has two grandmothers. My mother is a Witness who will have nothing to do with me or my wife or my little boy. That she should be encouraged by anonymous men in Brooklyn to believe that her own grandson is to be destroyed at Armageddon so as not to be able to perpetuate my wickedness is just appalling.

OCCULT OVERVIEWS

We have discovered that some Jehovah's Witnesses are still distributing the

small booklet, *The Word - who is He?* first published in 1962. What should be brought to the attention of your next caller is that on page 5 they are still advocating the reader to check Greber's spiritualist bible.

Continuing on the theme of the occult this is part of what Witnesses read in 1903,

We seriously question all the claims of Astrology; yet the following - from whatever source the suggestions come, even though of the adversary himself - seem remarkably true to our expectations based upon the Word of the Lord. For this reason alone we present them here . . . Jupiter must also transfer his allegiance from the grasping Saturn to the newly discovered factor that stands for universal brotherhood; namely, Uranus. When Uranus and Jupiter meet in the humane sign of Aquarius in 1914, the long promised era will have made a fair start in the work of setting man free to work out his own salvation, and will ensure the ultimate realization of dreams and ideals of all poets and sages in history. *Zion's Watch Tower*, 1 May 1903, p.3184.

FEW REMAIN

Last Passover in Britain 220,1228 persons attended the Memorial Meal but only 339 took the bread and the wine. Therefore Britain only has 339 of the anointed heavenly class left and when they die what will happen in Britain? It conversely shows that nearly a quarter of a million people are interested in the WBTS.

LOYAL TO NO AVAIL

A Jehovah's Witness who died after refusing a blood transfusion following a car accident has been denied a funeral by local religious leaders. Relatives of Eira Younger, aged 64, of Horsforth, Leeds, who had followed the religion since childhood, were told that her funeral could not take place at the local Kingdom Hall because she had not been to church often enough. - *Evening Telegraph*, 25 January 1996.

RIGHT IT'S WRONG

In 1929, at a time when laws of various governments were beginning to forbid

things that God commands or demand things that God's laws forbid, it was felt that the higher powers must be Jehovah God and Jesus Christ. This was the understanding Jehovah's servants had during the crucial period before and during World War II and on into the Cold War, with its balance of terror and its military preparedness. Looking back, it must be said that this view of things, exalting as it did the supremacy of Jehovah and his Christ, helped God's people to maintain an uncompromisingly neutral stand throughout this difficult period. *The Watchtower*, 1 May 1996, p.14.

The article goes on to show that this is an unbiblical view not accepted now but even though it was an error God used it. Using this logic you can claim any false doctrine is okay because it must be good in some way.

This same *Watchtower*, pp.15-20, reverses the policy of being involved in national service under civil administration. Many have suffered for their faith because they have refused to be engaged in such service in place of clear military service. Now it becomes a matter of conscience. I wonder if the conscience of the Governing Body is affected by the many lives that have had to suffer in the past waiting for 'God's change of plans'.

OFFSHOOTS DYING

The following report on the Watchtower Society's offshoots appeared in the Bible Study Monthly the magazine of one such group, The Bible Students.

Our [Bible Students] own annual head count of classes and brethren makes gloomy reading so far as the UK is concerned. We are down to seven organised class meetings with a total normal attendance of 75. Total number of brethren nominally associated together is 200 plus 50 of the Layman's Home Missionary Movement [LHMM] who still keep themselves largely aloof although becoming less rigid. Compared with our 246 classes and 4,500 brethren in the independent 'breakaway' movement here in 1931, there seems to have been a slide. Between 1903 and 1925 so many came in; most of these came to the end of the way between 1950 and 1970. The elders at the London tabernacle

told we teenagers in the 1910's that we lads would see this happen - they were right. However, have you noticed that there is a marked increase in interest in the Truth in the eastern sector . . . there are 5000 brethren in Poland, most LHMM, and a similar number in the Ukraine. I read of a LHMM convention in Siberia, of all places, of 800. They believe that the high Calling was closed to new entrants in 1918 and that the last ones passed into heavenly glory by 1954 and that these today will see the Millennium inaugurated and hail it with enthusiasm. Their official expectation is that everything seems running strictly according to plan (except the dates) and that Brother Russell will be shown to have been not very far wrong . . . Unfortunately, an increasing proportion of the Bible Student population is accepting the idea of a personal holy ghost, the trinity, speaking with tongues, and miracle healing. [Sounds interesting - ED] As far as the work of the Bible Fellowship Union, we note an increasing interest on the part of the Christian public in our message. Eighty percent of our UK readership is not of the Bible Student fellowship . . . There is one Salvation Army major who takes a quantity of literature to distribute among his entire congregation; a Baptist church puts six copies of each issue of the *Monthly* on its church bookstall . . . a Pentecostal theological seminary places a copy of each issue in its library.

(end of article)

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TRUTH RESTORED - 8

by Mike & Ann Thomas

CHURCH GROWTH

The following is taken from an address given by Mormon President Gordon B. Hinckley on Sunday 21 Jan 1996 in the Tabernacle on Temple Square.

I feel tremendous enthusiasm for this work. It is growing in a marvellous and wonderful way. It is spreading over the earth in a miraculous manner. Fifty years ago approximately half of the membership of the Church lived in Utah. Today only 17 percent live in Utah, and yet we have more Latter-day Saints in Utah than we have ever had. The work has taken root in more than 150 nations, territories, and political entities . . . A million new members are added to the rolls of the Church each three and a half years. ¹

Church membership at the end of 1995 stood at 9,340,898.² This puts the church well on target to reach its declared goal of 10 million members by the turn of the millennium. With 48,631 missionaries in full time service³ who can doubt it? Furthermore the Mormon Church can no longer be regarded as a peculiarly American religion. Figures released earlier this year, and published in the Times, show that there are more Mormons outside America than in.⁴ The same source shows that the Church has grown thirtyfold in thirty years IN THE UK, with membership topping 170,000. This has put them on a level with Pentecostals and shows them fast catching up with Baptists whose UK membership is 240,000.

A MAJOR WORLD RELIGION

One sociologist has projected that based on past growth in membership, Church membership will reach 265 million by the end of 2080. He writes:

We are observing an extraordinarily rare event. After a hiatus of fourteen hundred years, in our time a new world faith seems to be stirring.⁵

In other words we are probably witnessing the emergence onto the world scene

of the first major world religion since Islam. The Times newspaper article quoted earlier stated that,

For those who do not object to the Church's theological provenance, the Mormons are seen as an increasingly attractive option in a world of material uncertainties.

Why are we emphasising these statistics? Because of the complacency of the Christian church regarding the threat of Mormonism is little short of desperate. We need to wake up and realise that this is no longer just another cult but a truly awesome threat to the spiritual health of our nation. Let's put it another way: three and a half years from now there will be at least a million new Mormons in the world. How many of those will be people whom we know and love? What are we going to do about it? Don't let another day pass without resolving to tell your friends and leaders about the work of Reachout Trust. Organise a seminar in your church and plan to get informed. Contact us directly or through Head Office and we will be glad to come and help. Remember for evil to triumph it only requires that good men do nothing.

TEMPLE UPDATE

The work on the Preston Temple continues apace. Earlier this year we became aware that people in the area were unsure of the full extent of the project and what facilities were planned. The following is taken from a file we have kept of various church cuttings and announcements.

The Preston Temple will be the Church's fifty fourth temple including nine proposed or under construction. The groundbreaking for the Preston Temple took place on 12 June 1994 with more than 10,500 British Church members in attendance. When the London temple opened in 1958 Church membership in Britain was 6,500. Today it is over 170,000.

The temple complex will include a missionary training centre. There will also be a Stake centre with facilities for two wards and extensive accommodation facilities for temple staff and visitors. A reception area will include a family history centre and temple clothing distribution centre. This will prove a major springboard for growth in the UK and across Europe as more home-grown missionaries are encouraged to train both at Preston and London, and as British "Saints" come increasingly to regard the Church as a British phenomenon.

A MAJOR IMPACT

In October 1992, the London Temple was re-dedicated after being refurbished. To get an idea of what to expect in Preston look at what happened at the London Temple re-dedication. Over a nine day period the Church held an "open house" and people were invited to visit and tour the temple before the re-dedication ceremony shut its doors on all but the most faithful.

Between 6-8 October the contractors were invited and special events were held for local dignitaries. Almost five hundred officials, including the mayor, local councillors, the local MP, heads of public services and media executives, along with local businessmen were invited to a special viewing of the Temple. One special visitor was Lord Howe. Each received a copy of specially bound Church literature.

Between 8-14 the general public and church members were invited to tour the temple and 55,223 people made the visit. All were treated to a presentation on what the Church believes and the purpose of Mormon temples. All were encouraged to take away literature and to investigate further the message of the "restored" gospel.

We emphasise this was simply a re-dedication of an existing building. The Preston Temple is a much more important event and many will be stunned by

the numbers who attend, the dignitaries who will want to be seen associating with it, and the media attention it will draw. Now is the time to write to officials on all levels, especially those who claim to own the name of Jesus, and challenge them to stand against this deception in our midst. Now is also the time to tell friends and neighbours about Jesus. If we do not bring them the truth, who will?

CHURCH HISTORICAL SITE

Next year will be the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Latter-day Saint pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley. Numerous historical sites have been restored and developed to mark the historic trek west. In a recent interview leaders of the Church's Historic Sites Committee explained why the Church devotes resources to such projects; to help Church members understand their heritage, strengthen their faith, and interest others in the Mormon gospel.

Mormons certainly have a rich heritage and reason to be proud of the courage and tenacity of their forebears in the faith. There is a significant omission, however, in the catalogue of historic sites that may be visited. These are the sites of places mentioned in the Book of Mormon. There is not one site to which the Mormons can point and say here is Book of Mormon history preserved for us today. For a Church that lays such store by history and record keeping this is a startling omission.

Whilst Christians can view numerous Biblical places dating back over 3,000 years, Book of Mormon history, which dates to as recently as 400 AD - just 1400 years ago - has nothing comparable. Despite periodic disclaimers from official Church sources missionaries in the field still claim that their story is backed by archaeological evidence and books are still published offering "irrefutable archaeological proof" that the Book of Mormon is genuine. Don't be taken in. Ur of the Chaldees (a city that was already ancient in 2000 BC), family home of Abraham, has been identified. Zarahemla, which is described in the Book of Mormon as being "covered with buildings, and the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea" (322 AD)⁶ has never been found.

I HAVE A QUESTION

Mormons claim to have continuing revelation through a living prophet for their Church. What does this mean and should it be something that Christians should expect from their leaders?

There is a common belief amongst Mormons that Christians do not believe in continuing revelation. This is not true. All Christians believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit revealing and testifying of Jesus. It is only by revelation that we become Christians, and it is by revelation that we grow as Christians.

What Mormons mean is the making of new scripture. Essential to Mormon thinking is the belief that the heavens have been opened once more, and that God, through his servants the Prophets, directs and guides the affairs of his people. Because Mormonism claims to have begun with fresh revelation from God Mormons delude themselves into thinking that this is still the case. However over 99% of so-called modern revelation was given within the first thirty years of Mormon history from the first vision in 1820 to section 136, given to Brigham Young in 1847.

Since then there have been two declarations - one announcing a change in doctrine regarding polygamy and the other a change regarding Negroes and the priesthood. These are only announcements that revelations had been received, and therefore not scripture. After that time the revelation to Joseph Smith known as section 137 and given in 1836, and the revelation to Joseph Fielding Smith given in 1918 were added. Where is the modern revelation of the Mormon church?

MEN LIKE OURSELVES

Particularly instructional are the events surrounding the Salt Lake City bombings of 1985. They occurred as part of a plot by an historical document forger to defraud the church by pretending to find early Mormon documents. He was largely successful in his fraud and dealt with people at the top of the church, including the current prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley. Clearly these men failed to discern that they were being conned. Particularly embarrassing is the fact

that, at the time of the discovery of the fraud, they were about to purchase "ancient documents" that were found afterwards to have been in the church's possession all along. If it were not for the bombings, and the subsequent disclosure of a forgery plot, they would have certainly bought them. These men were clearly no more capable of supernatural judgement than the next man. Where is the modern revelation in the Mormon church?

Christian leaders act and speak as they are inspired. Christians everywhere can have the revealed knowledge of Jesus Christ and can know His will for their lives. This is revelation and does not have to be written down. God's written word is complete. We can know from what is written everything necessary for the building of the Christian life and it is the Holy Spirit who reveals our daily course to us as we submit to his ministry. Completed scriptures, inspired leaders, and personal ministry of the Spirit, that is what Christians have and despite claims to the contrary, Mormons have no more to offer.

NOTES:

1. Ensign Magazine June 1996 p 2
2. Church Statistical Report 1995
3. *ibid.*
4. The Times Feb 26 1996
5. Rodney Stark, "Modernization and Mormon Growth", quoted in Ensign August 1995 p 8.
6. Mormon 1:6

(end of article)

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPIRITUAL HEALERS

Who are the National Federation of Spiritual Healers [NFSH]? What power are they working under? Is the healing they offer Christian? These are vital questions that need answering.

While researching this article I was struck by the lack of information on them, even though they have been allowed to use their healing powers in many NHS hospitals since 1965. I also discovered that Spiritual Healing seems to be a grey area for many Christians. Unfortunately some confuse it with Christian healing or even believe that it is okay as all healing must surely come from God!

HEALTH SHOW

Before we explain things in detail I would like to relate a personal experience that persuaded me that this group is not Christian based. A few years ago my daughter and I went to a Health show at Olympia. We were astounded that among all the healthy-type stands were numerous new age practices on offer such as, astrology, colour therapy, crystals, aromatherapy, etc. We went upstairs so that we could literally 'pray over' what was happening and pray for protection for all vulnerable and naive people. At this point we noticed the NFSH stand and immediately we both felt the need to walk around the stand and pray. We didn't know what to pray and we were too embarrassed to pray out loud and so we walked around quietly proclaiming the name of Jesus.

All the healers on the stand were engrossed with their patients so there was no way they would notice us. Suddenly one of the healers stopped and looked straight at us although there was a crowd of people around. There was no need for words because by the evil stare we knew we had interrupted his flow of healing. The evidence was clear to us, if the healing was interrupted when praying in the name of Jesus, what power was being used for the healing?

Many people say that they do not care who does the healing as long as they get

healed. Yet there is clear guidance within the Bible [Deuteronomy 18:11 & Leviticus 19:31] of the dangers of consulting spiritists and mediums. But it appears that these are the people that are mainly recruited by the NFSH to be their healers. There are only two sources of supernatural power in this world, one is good and the other is evil. Satan does not mind using his limited powers to heal bodies if he can condemn souls.

FOUNDATION

The NFSH's own literature records that it is a registered charity with at present some 7,000 registered Spiritual Healers in Great Britain. They do not always charge for their services but they do expect a voluntary donation. The movement was founded in 1955 by Gordon Turner and Harry Edwards. They saw a need to have an organisation that would win public respect and credibility for the way it was organised because until then people had worked as individuals. Some 'healers', by their bizarre methods, had brought the whole area into disrepute. We are not given the details of these methods but apparently one of the less bizarre methods was going into a trance.

COMPARISON

With this background let's compare the difference between Spiritual healing and Christian healing. The potential 'spiritual healer' does not have to be religious or 'good' in anyway whatsoever. In fact in one of their books on healing it infers that being religious can impeded your healing powers! To take this to the extreme, a mass-murderer or a devil worshipper could be a healer.

They also say that no faith is necessary for the healing work. Compare this with the many times scripture records Jesus saying that 'your faith has made you well'.

The NFSH do not encourage praying aloud because they claim it creates barriers, perhaps triggering off theological

arguments in the patients mind. On the other hand Christians speak out their prayer in the name of the Lord and our faith is directed to Jesus the healer.

The NFSH claim that sometimes it is right to withhold or postpone treatment and also pick and choose who they treat, so as to make the best use of their time. Jesus healed all who came to Him and never apologised that He had fulfilled His healing quota for the week! As Christians we are encouraged to pray for all regardless how we feel because Jesus is the healer.

A potential healer for the NFSH has to spend at least a year learning with a qualified healer. Seminars and various courses are all part of the training and a three day course could set you back £195. In the Christian realm too there are courses to help but the qualification does not come from the courses, the youngest Christian can pray in the name of Jesus.

A knowledge of anatomy and physiology is necessary too according to the NFSH. This is in case you lay hands on the patient in the wrong area for their condition and the wrong part gets healed! Christians know that it is Jesus that does the healing and He knows our bodies better than we do ourselves, after all He created them! It doesn't matter then if you hold the hand of the patient when they need healing in the foot, Jesus knows.

Many of the healers in the NFSH are involved in New Age therapies and so much of their philosophy is based on the belief that 'man' is in control and 'man' is his own divine source of healing. In one of their leaflets they state that although they see the source of healing as divine, they respect the rights of each individual to their own interpretation of the source. As Christians we are totally reliant on Jesus and Him alone for healing.

In a list of helpful hints to a potential healer it tells them not to worry about failing to heal someone, as even Jesus

spent all night with a difficult patient! Strange, but I have not come across that one in my Bible. But even more astonishing is the hint about praying. They state that it is good to pray before the patient comes, but that they should not pray demanding prayers because they leak the energy and so make prayer ineffectual. I might add that they do not seem to define who they pray to but an ex NFSH member tells me it was mainly to their Spirit Guide. Sometimes they would call on the name of Jesus as well, but only as a symbol of goodness, not healing power.

What is most worrying though is the leaflets they issue about themselves. These mention God, Jesus and accredit the healing to a divine source. This would seem to give the Federation credibility to some Christians and would definitely make it seem okay to many non-Christians. Again we are back to the old chestnut, who cares how I am healed as long as I am!

WHO HEALS?

A further question arises if the NFSH is

wrong, how can people appear to be healed if the agent involved is demonic? The answer is that the healing serves to bring the person deeper under the demonic control or influence.

We should also add that there is evidence to show that this type of healing does not last, especially when the person seeks salvation and becomes a Christian, the illness seems to return. A clear indication that healing was not from Jesus. The Bible also warns us that there will be counterfeit miracles [2 Thessalonians 2:9 & Mark 13:22]. As Christians we need to be secure in our theology of healing. Healing is one of the benefits of the Cross and true healing comes via the Cross, in the name of Jesus. If it comes any other way we should have nothing to do with it.

Tragically there are Christian churches that allow Spiritual Healers to hold meetings and people attending believe it is from God. The majority of people involved in the NFSH are genuine and want to see people healed but unfortunately they have been misguided by the 'god of this world', Satan. They need

our prayers that their eyes will be opened and they will come to know the true healer. We also need to sound a warning to any who are thinking of getting involved either has a healer or asking for healing.

(end of article)

Your Letters

I am concerned that some of your articles in recent newsletters may actually be potentially doing more harm than good. In particular I'm referring to articles relating to the 'on-going' so called Toronto Blessing and also the 'Word of Life Church' in Sweden with Ulf Ekman's various book quotations. Referring to your quotes from Ulf Ekman's literature, I observe with grave concern that you claim he doesn't believe or teach that Jesus is God. I disagree with this and think that you ought to re-check and make sure you're not just grasping at certain things he has said and used these small samples to suggest more than he says. (See 2 Tim.2:14). I have had the opportunity of picking up one of Ulf's books, and from that book it is clear that he believes 'Jesus Christ has come in the flesh' (1 John 4:2) thereby qualifying Him as a man as well as believing Him to be the God Eternal (John 1:1 & 1 John 5:20). Yes - some of

the things that Ulf teaches may be questionable; I've yet to find the perfect church with faultless teaching. But we aren't called to bring our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ into disrepute in such a public manner, but rather in a spirit of love and humility . . . seek to correct them if they are clearly wrong. I . . . do hope you do not find my comments offensive . . . May the Lord continue to minister to many through the various helpful articles. Mark Taylor - Suffolk.

ED: Some of the points raised are answered in our leader article. As Ulf has made the statements we listed in last issue in print at best his understanding of Jesus is confused. We also believe that as these errors have been printed widely abroad a public correction to put a different point of view is necessary.



I have just read the article headed Freemasonry and Religion by Paul

Johnson in your Newsletter 44. The Catholic Church, has over the past two centuries spoken out against Freemasonry. At least nine Popes have condemned this organisation and, so, Catholics are not allowed to be members of a Masonic Lodge.

Paul says that in the past several popes have condemned Freemasonry but today Canon 2335 puts the onus on an individual's conscience rather than Catholic authority.



On 23 - 24 March 1996 the Scottish Alternative Health Exhibition was held in Edinburgh. Among the 120 plus stalls booked at £150 for the weekend were Buddhist meditation, Astrology, Brahma Kumans, Tarot, Clairvoyance, Spiritual Healers etc.

I have toyed with the idea of attending for sometime and so I paid my £3.00 and joined the many hundreds already inside.

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MARTIAL ARTS - THE KI TO LIFE

by Tom Poulson

Having recently spent some time with an ex. Samurai and teacher of the Martial Arts in Poland, it got me thinking again about the 'breath' of God that is in all mankind. We find in Numbers 16 v 22 Moses and Aaron crying out,

**O God, God of the spirits
of all mankind**

One of the first things we read in the Bible about the creation and makeup of human beings is that our bodies were made from the dust of the earth, our spirit (God's breath) gives us life and that the combination of the two gives each person their own individuality referred to as their soul, heart or mind.

Most of man's time on earth is given to looking after and maintaining his body but many people throughout the world and mankind's history have tried to find the key to life, spiritual life. Now I know it's a play on words but in Martial Arts the key to understanding its basic philosophy and power source is 'Ki' (pronounced key) and spelt in a variety

of ways!

Different spiritualities often refer to the 'seat of emotions' or the 'power base' inside them as coming from the 'belly' and have similar stories to tell about particular experiences and feelings that seem to emanate from the stomach, not the rumblings of hunger!

Our human spirit which emanates from God and will return to Him at death is given to us in order that we may know God, who is Spirit, and have a spiritual relationship with Him both now, through Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and then forever after we physically die, or in case I get picked up on this point, when Jesus returns for His bride.

Having said all that, it leaves man open to receive spiritual input from God or Satan. Man is already 'fallen' and a sinner in God's eyes however nice he or she may appear to family, friends or neighbours, so when seeking for power, knowledge, healing or contacts in the

realm of the supernatural then our human spirit is open to a vast array of deceptive thoughts, feelings and experiences.

The 'world view' behind Martial Arts is based on and in: Taoism, Hinduism, Zen Meditation and Buddhism. The philosophy underlying all these is one of seeking to 'yoke' or join the human spirit to the 'universal spirit' and so become one with the whole of nature or creation! It's a combination of the big lie - "You shall be as God" or rather as in many instances "be God".

God's initiatives are challenged by a Satanic response in this life. That is why God has given us His Spirit and Word so that we may test all things to see whether they're of God. (Col.2:3) Jesus "the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God's wisdom".

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(Continued from page 11)

LETTERS

The air was heavy with the smell of incense and aromatherapy oils etc. and it wasn't long before I could feel demonic power of varying intensities in some areas of the halls.

I had it in mind to attend at least two of the lectures to see what was on offer and how it was presented. Crystal therapy sounded fairly innocuous so I sat in the second back row of a well filled ante-room of 60-70 people. It became quickly apparent that my definition of "fairly innocuous" needed to be redefined. I lasted about 3 minutes before I left the hall! The speaker asked us to raise one hand in the air to tap into the "universal energy" and with the other hand pass it on to our neighbour. The speaker called down love and peace and asked us to blow away anxiety and stress. The "love and peace" did come but it was not like the love and peace which comes from the Lord.

I know that all these things are subjective, but the demonic love and peace had a forcefulness about it, yet it was still love and peace. In one sense I was pleased to be able to recognise it as the counterfeit, but on the other hand I found it so repulsive that I left the room before anything happened.

I was in the exhibition for about an hour and a half praying in tongues silently all of the time. Demonic power emanated from some of the stall holders. The Spirit in me recognised the counterfeit in others as I am sure some of them knew to whom I belong. Some of the stall holders looked demonised. I avoided eye contact with these persons, deliberately.

I left with a mixture of emotions, and that there are so many sheep without a shepherd trying to drink from broken cisterns. Sad that the counterfeit was so much more of an appeal than the "Real Thing". Sad that there was unity in the diversity of occult practices but that

Christians are unable to lay aside their differences and by mutual love demonstrate to all that we are Jesus disciples.

My sadness was mingled with anger and a sense of helplessness which could only bring me back to the Word of God and Jesus Himself. - June Simpson-Fife.

(end of article)