

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Reachout Quarterly

Spring 1998

Issue 51

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 in the light of 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 unassigned articles are the responsibility of Doug Harris, Director of Reachout Trust.

Other articles may not necessarily represent the Trustees' belief in every small detail.

Requests to reprint articles, in any form, must be made in writing to the Richmond Office.

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Year Of Increase

I am sorry that this newsletter is out later than it should be, there were a number of computer and man-hour problems (the lack of them!) at the time the editing took place. The ability to cope with all demands is certainly an increasing problem as the following extract from our annual report shows. We do need some regular extra help at the office - up to 4 days a week. Our problem is that we cannot pay for the help but would you pray if there are those that could help us in this vital work.

Since the beginning of 1997, we have been encouraged by the level of financial income. Receipts have improved greatly and although part of this was due to the gift to purchase a van for Reachout 2000 there is still a significant increase in donations. We were however disappointed to see that the sale of resources dropped by £3,500. We hope that this will increase in the next financial year

We are now reaping the ben-

efits of the management review undertaken by John White. We estimate than in the year ending 31 December 1997 we reached at a minimum, through all our activities, some 71,000 people, which is an increase of approximately 60% over 1996. We will now be taking an in-depth look at our 'management structure' in the field and how we can become more efficient.

Our pages on the Worldwide Web, the super information highway on the Internet, were completely updated in the early part of 1997 and Joel Harris is now working on an even better presentation. We also registered our own domain name in December 1997 - reachouttrust.org - and this will further help our exposure to the world.

The increase in the number of letters and telephone calls we receive continues to increase and this is now over 12,000 per annum. Part of this increase would be due to the distribution of the videos for 'Sunrise' but also our regular slot on London's Christian Premier Radio has helped. Every Wednesday at 6:25 p.m. we have a spot entitled 'Cult Watch'. Once a month this takes the form of

a live 'phone-in' and we often notice the increase in calls the next day. Along with the programme, we are regularly advertising on the station too.

In the final analysis we measure the real success of the work by the numbers that we know are set free from the cults, occult and new age each year as a result, directly or indirectly, of the services of Reachout Charitable Trust. This in the end is our reason for being and we are encouraged by the number of testimonies we receive at the office to the usefulness of our work.

As the report shows the number of enquiries we deal with and the number of people we contact have both increased sharply. Whereas we have taken about the same number of seminars, appearances on the media have increased and this all takes extra time.

This year will also see the need to spend time in improving the 'structure' of the work so that we can be more efficient and to completely revise 'Awake! to the Watchtower' which is at present out of print.

We do want to express our sincere thanks to all of you

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Convention Report

The third weekend in November saw us returning to the Action centre at Kidderminster for our thirteenth annual convention. Whereas we were slightly smaller than the year before the quality was in no way diminished even if the quantity was. We would even go as far to say that judging by the comments received afterwards many found the weekend to be a blessing, encouragement and a change in attitude or depth in their Christian Life.

Every year in the run up to the weekend Derek and I wonder if all the work is worth it and every journey home on the Sunday afternoon has us agreeing that it most certainly is.

You might wonder what makes the weekend so 'successful'. Is it the workshops and seminars? Is it the fellowship? Is it the prayer? Is it the food? The answer is probably yes, yes. Yes! In other words, it is the combination of all these and other things. We do not have long and exciting times of praise and yet we meet with the Lord through the lives of the people we fellowship with. We do not spend hours in prayer but we realise that there will be those that will be praying for those they meet the whole year round. In summary I guess we would say that we meet with the Lord and we meet with His people and therefore we come away refreshed and challenged.

There is no doubt that because of this variety people come away with differing views of what was best for them. One of the things that blesses those of us in the leadership of Reachout is the dedication and commitment of so many in the field. People we have only ever spoken to on the telephone we finally meet. To those that have supported us, we have a chance to say thank you and input into their lives. For others, there are many other reasons.

No doubt, the variety and depth of teaching is one of the things that many enjoy. This year this included a workshop from Tom Poulson on 'Deliverance'. For some that attended it was more than just a mental assessment of the situation, they found the Lord meeting them in a special way too. Tom and his wife were then available for the rest of the week-

end for personal counselling. We have appreciated the link with Tom over the past couple of years and both he and his wife have already committed themselves to be there next year. Tom wants to branch out a little and talk on the Book of Revelation next year! Be warned!

Other regular speakers included Mike and Ann Thomas who always give great value! Mike also shared with us on the Saturday evening about the outreach at the opening of the Mormon Temple. This obviously has stirred a number and we have had good response in support of that. Mike is also a Trustee and does much work behind the scenes for the whole work of the Trust; we certainly appreciate both of them.

I (Doug) also as a regular speaker take a variety of seminars but we had new speakers this year too, Robin Evans on Buddhism and it was a great joy to have former Jehovah's Witness, Larry Grant with us.

What is so good is that none of the speakers stay aloof but are always available to talk and help further throughout the weekend. There are also many other folks with experiences in their lives that can help and encourage others and each year we have testimonies of people meeting those who could help them with the 'very thing they needed'.

Space prevents us from going into detail on all the other plusses of the weekend but there are one or two that are worthy of mention.

Frank and Pauline Croucher who are regular supporters of the work presented us with a Braille copy of Awake! To the Watchtower! This is in the office and anyone who feels that a blind or partially sighted person would benefit from reading it we would gladly lend it. All we would want would be the courier charges for the two big boxes to be covered (£6+VAT).

Gordon and Jennifer Ames were there with their variety of stock to sell for the work in Romania and it was encouraging to hear what God is doing there. We

could be holding a convention there within a year or so!

Finally, I want to acknowledge that Brian Gale provided the photos accompanying this article.

I trust that this small glimpse of the 1997 Convention has wetted your appetite and that you will be looking towards being with us in 1998. The Time - 20-22 November: The Place, The Action Centre Cleobury Mortimer near Kidderminster. It is never too early to book ask for the forms now from Head Office.

(end of article)

(Continued from page 1)

LEADER

that are involved with us and that help to make the work of Reachout a 'success'. If you are not at present actively involved but feel that this is something you could do please contact us, as we do need to see the 'Reachout Family' increase in the coming year.

(end of article)

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 please ring Head Office for further details. Those marked * may have a restricted attendance.

If there is not one near you but you feel that your area would benefit from one, why not talk with us about organising it. Contact Head Office for our information leaflet on seminars.

APRIL

- 4-12 **SPRING HARVEST**
- 28 Enfield
- 29 **PREMIER RADIO PHONE-IN**

MAY

- 7 Staines
- 16 Dorset
- 19-22 **CRE SANDOWN PARK**
- 29 **PREMIER RADIO PHONE-IN**

JUNE

- 1 Oasis Frontline *
- 4 Staines
- 13 **TRAINING DAY WARLEY**
- 14 Warley
- 15 Oasis Frontline *
- 19-29 Scotland

JULY

- 2 Staines
- 11 East London

Help!

As mentioned above we do need regular help in the Richmond office for general work. We need up to 4 days to be covered but that could be made up by two different people.

The job will be full of variety and will bring a sense of fulfilment in your Christian Life.

What is important is that you feel the Lord is calling you to the work and that you can be regularly there. Please pray if this is for you

(Continued from page 11)

BAHAI

World Government.
Protection of cultural diversity.

SCRIPTURES

We use the Writings of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi (the Guardian of the Faith), though the latter are not regarded as "Scripture." There are over 100 volumes of Bahá'u'lláh's Writings of which the Kitáb-I-Aqdas (the Most Holy Book) is regarded as the "mother book" of our

religion. - Letter from the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Skye and Lochalsh

SHARING JESUS

As we have already shown the Bahá'ís believe that God is hidden and He is only revealed through His Manifestations. They believe that Bahá'u'lláh is the Manifestation for this age and so only by being a Bahá'í and following the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh can you know God. However, everything is always relative and so ask them how they know what they believe today is sufficient for salvation. Has God moved on with a further Manifestation that they have missed?

As also shown they will accept the Gospels to the degree they want to and this can be used in presenting Jesus. There are clear differences between the teachings of Bahá'í and the truth of the Word of God, especially as recorded in the Gospels.

When presenting the truth of Jesus highlight the following areas.

Compare the Gospel message of Jesus sin dealt with, friendship with God, power to live the Christian life with the writings of Bahá'u'lláh. Do they really think they can obey the laws by themselves?

Other points that can be used are:

The deity of Christ and the resurrection of Christ. Both are clearly documented. Can Jesus tell a lie? If He can maybe, He was not speaking the truth, as they understand it, in John 16. If however we can rely on His words then He is God and He rose from the dead.

Use good apologetics to show that the Bible is reliable.

The above is a précis of the full notes available on the Bahai's. See the 'offers' leaflet for further details.

COMPLIMENTARY MEDICINE

Andrew Harrison

Christianity and Christian healing in comparison with Complementary Medicines/Therapies.

Often I need to give advice to Christians regarding Alternative Therapies and Complementary Medicines. The issue of importance is not so much whether it 'works' or whether it is scientifically based, but whether there is a spiritual dimension and if so, what is it?

The Bible speaks of miracles that bring glory to God and those that do not. Just as God manifests supernatural power out of perfect love, so the Devil and evil spirits manifest supernatural power to deceive people, whether by destruction, manipulation or even 'healing'. Nowhere does the Bible speak of a neutral spiritual force that can be used for healing, so we need to decide whether the spiritual aspect of these therapies is from God, the Devil or whether the manifestations are purely psychological. Does it all depend upon the patient, practitioner or the therapy/medicine?

INTERVIEWS

While writing this article, I interviewed eight practitioners in detail but spoke to approximately thirteen in all. In addition to this, I interviewed three Christian Ministers picked at random from the local area. A copy of this article has been sent to all people interviewed for their scrutiny. Those interviewed were questioned on their personal (spiritual/religious) views and on the therapy/medicine/healing that they practise.

Most practitioners were very helpful and were keen to answer the questions fully, for which I am grateful. I could see they were committed to their work and were not only doing it for a living, but they were convinced of the benefits of the therapies/medicines. They genuinely sought to improve the well being of the individual holistically, that is physically, emotionally and spiritually. Most, if not all, saw their practise as being complementary to help gained through medical science, the Church and counsellors etc. Homoeopathy, however, seems to have high claims regarding physical cures in both humans and animals although they admit there is no known reason why the medicines work.

Several practitioners referred to impurities within Western medicines and there being too much emphasis placed upon the physical only. Most acknowledged their greatest effect being upon the emotional and spiritual healing thereby often helping or healing a physical condition.

The medicines/therapies practised by the eight interviewed were:

Curative Hypnosis, Herbalism, Rebirthing, Shiatsu, Aromatherapy, Spiritual Healing, Counselling, Homoeopathy, Yoga, Acupuncture, Remedial Massage

As far as the spiritual aspect of the healing is concerned, there were a variety of personal views, all of which affected their mode of treatment. The one exception was a practitioner of Remedial Massage who had no particular deep spiritual beliefs and since Remedial Massage itself, as far as training and expected practise are concerned, is purely a physical therapy - there was no spiritual input. For the remaining seven, the common thread was the life force or a similar concept.

When some were questioned specifically on the definition of life force, I discovered it was quite a grey area, most admitting they did not really know what it was and even as to whether it was a physical or spiritual energy in its composition. Most associated it with God himself in one way or another but this God was not always seen as the personal God that Christians know. The emphasis is upon it being a 'natural' rather than a neutral (neither good nor evil) force. Belief in the existence of this force seems to the seven to be obvious and common sense. There seemed to be no doubt as to its existence and it was assumed to be a healing energy. This to me is the crux of the matter.

CHRISTIANS

Out of the seven, five considered themselves confidently to be Christians. Out of this five I could only consider one to be evangelical, that is believing the Gospel as written and acknowledging that we are saved only by faith in Christ's death on the cross. The remain-

ing four all seemed to believe in a spiritual process as equivalent to becoming a Christian, as opposed to a point of repentance at which time the person has passed from death to life and been regenerated and reborn in an instant. The four seem to believe in a continuing spiritual development towards God after death rather than the simple assurance of equality and purity and sinlessness through Jesus' total atonement of our sins upon the cross, and therefore at the instant of death, entering into heaven in all its fullness.

Out of the five, three objected to the umbrella term 'New Age' and considered New Age beliefs to be mumbo jumbo. Between them, the same feelings were expressed towards Tarot cards, palmistry, crystal therapy, Reiki and the pendulum (dowsing).

From the eight, five believed in the biblical concept of sin as far as its definition is concerned at least and these had some concept of punishment after death. The remaining three believed in some form of reincarnation. All believed in the existence of Jesus and considered him to be important in one way or another (the deity of Christ was not thoroughly examined and neither were their beliefs in regard to God's free gift of eternal life through Jesus' death on the cross discussed in depth).

Out of the seven with definite spiritual beliefs, at least five practise or have practised other AT/CM's. All eight have had direct experience of AT/CM's in some way.

Although this research is very localised and small, I feel it is representative of the situation in England. It has raised many issues to my mind, such as:

1. Since all these therapies (except Remedial Massage on its own) are holistic (body, mind **and** spirit), then should Christians accept them as readily as they do conventional ones?
2. What is spiritual healing biblically speaking and how does it compare? What is the life force?
3. Do results always indicate that the spiritual energies are good? Could they

be dangerous?

4. If people are physically and emotionally healed does it really matter what the spiritual energy is?

5. Are the beliefs or the spiritual energies present within the practitioners a factor in the healing at all?

6. Should we be more concerned about the practitioner rather than the actual medicines and applications?

7. Are the tools of the trade perfectly safe spiritually speaking and helpful physically and emotionally?

OUTLINE OF PRACTICES

This is based on the information gained through the local research.

Remedial Massage

This is physiologically beneficial which can help a person's state of mind due to better health. The blood circulation is seen as the healing factor whereas if a practitioner believed in the life force it would also be expected to give a better flow of this spiritual energy bringing spiritual and emotional healing too.

A case history is taken of a purely medical nature, but where a practitioner of holistic health is involved, other aspects may feature, such as,

Counselling in the sense of listening to problems (no advice is given);

There may be sensations in the practitioner's hands as the life force works, e.g., hot, cold or 'electric';

Practitioner would pick up physical and emotional stress impressions, e.g., vibrations, waves or colours;

Massaging is seen as communicating love without words

Acupuncture

The origins are ancient Chinese

Discussing problems and symptoms

Examination of the pulse and the tongue. The latter is a recent diagnostic procedure but the colour, coating and thickness of coating all show aspects of body energy. For instance it is believed that psychiatric breakdown such as schizophrenia is shown on the tongue.

Forming of diagnosis

Put needles in and then check pulse for feedback

Counselling

Yin and yang is to do with, for example, high/low blood pressure. Both high and low are necessary but one must not predominate. Energy flows through 12 main healing channels in the body.

Yoga

Yoga has Hindu origins. Properly done, there are 8 teachings for the whole life.

It is union of your inner spirit with your deity and you are taught to look into yourself to control anger and be more peaceful etc.

Start with breathing to help control emotions and close off senses using mantra or prayer to draw into self - into inner spirit

Homoeopathy

Started by Hanaman from Germany - a Doctor and Chemist (1755-1843)

Every Homoeopath believes in the healing life of nature, that is, the life force/vital force, but these medicines were developed by accident in some ways. They are based upon 'like cures like'. There is a strong belief in the sins and illnesses of the ancestors producing various skin conditions or weaknesses in the system (including things such as asthma or too much catarrh) behind the manufacture of some of the medicines. These particular medicines are believed to be very effective, although it is not necessary to accept these philosophies.

There is a depth in Homoeopathy that is not just physical. No one knows how it works, one idea being that the water contains a memory/energy from the diluted substance. The more diluted the substance the more potent it becomes. In addition to the dilution, the act of shaking or banging the substance is essential during the manufacture.

An in depth case history is taken - not just medical. This usually takes at least one and half-hours. A chart is sometimes used to match symptoms. The practitioner may spend four hours in private studying the case history and then the medicine is prescribed. If an emergency has occurred, 'Emergency' is looked up in the repertory and then relevant sub-headings such as, 'inflamed'; 'incised wound' etc.

A leaflet published by The Society of Homoeopaths says that,

Homoeopathy is a complete system of medicine; physical, emotional, mental and spiritual illnesses are intimately linked and treated together; it is likely that electro-magnetism has something to do with the cures; a homoeopathic remedy activates the body's self healing powers; it is not so much the chemical balance of the body that is affected, but the body's energy.

Thus self-healing power is the same as the chi (in China) prana (in India) and the vital force (in Europe), but the society is not certain exactly what heals the disease. Nevertheless, prescribing the treatment for yourself may not be successful.

In the 'Boots' pamphlet 'Homoeopathic Medicines,' we read,

the idea that the medicine only works psychologically has been disproved.

The pamphlet does not refer to it being 'holistic' and the spiritual aspect is not mentioned. There is a reference to the body's 'natural healing energies' but with no definition.

There are remedies sold by 'Boots' for fears, terror, self-hatred, resentment, loneliness, pride, self-centredness, impatience and jealousy. Nearing the spiritual aspect they have medicines to help to make life changing decisions, for instance, Scleranthus for 'uncertainty, indecision' and Wild Oat for 'uncertainty as to correct path in life'.

To be continued in the next Quarterly

WATCH THE OWER

NUMBERS

After the number of Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain fell last year we waited with great anticipation for the figures published in the 1 January 1998 Watchtower. We were not disappointed when we saw that the figures again fell, this time by a full 1%. Again, we must stress that we should not be complacent because there are still nearly a quarter of a million people interested in the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and we need to share the truth with them.

Worldwide the increase is 3.6% over the previous year but Europe overall is falling in numbers whereas areas such as Albania, Bangladesh, Belarus and Bosnia & Herzegovina bring hefty increases.

The breakdown for some European countries with a negative growth rate is:

Belgium -1%	Denmark -1%
France -2%	Germany 0%
Gibraltar -6%	Liechtenstein -9%
Netherlands -1%	Norway -2%
Sweden -1%	Switzerland -1%

Italy however, goes against the trend with +2%. The trend though is obvious; developing countries are welcoming the Watchtower with open arms whereas many of the countries that they have been in for years are rejecting them. Let us continue to make the facts known with love and compassion and be ready to help the many that are obviously leaving.

The Governing Body of the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society need to give some explanation to this. Phil Mawson made the following comments about the article in the Watchtower, 1 January 1998, accompanying the year's figures.

It is obvious that the Governing Body is aware of various currents within the organisation responsible for the general downward trend and negative figures etc. But in all this the rank and file Jehovah's Witness is urged to "strive to rejoice and cultivate a joyful spirit" (p.6).

Wow! That's really encouraging! Joy is a fruit of the Spirit you can not strive for it or manufacture it, you either have it or you don't (Galatians 5:22.) Forces said to be responsible for the prevalent 'spirit' within the organisation are:

Satan, p.6.

The world, pp.7&8.

A Sceptical attitude, p.7.

Disillusioned or tired of waiting for Armageddon, p.9.

Apostates, pp.10, 11.

Personality problems, p.11.

Entertainment and Leisure, p.11.

Vicious, false propaganda and legal action, p.14.

Every excuse possible except the one that they could never admit to, they are not God's organisation and they do not know the Holy Spirit leading them into all truth.

As a side issue the number of those that attended the Memorial Meal (the once a year Passover meal where they pass the bread and wine) worldwide was 14,322,296 compared with the previous year of 12,921,933. However, those who are part of the 144,000 who can partake were 8,795 compared with 8,757 from the year previous. This increase of 38 needs to be explained for two reasons. First, because this group of people are quite old and we must expect a significant number dying each year. Second, even more revealing, as the following quote shows this number was actually finalised in 1935 and there is no way they can increase.

To start with, those who responded to the preaching of these anointed Christians also became spiritual Israelites, the remaining ones of the 144,000, with a heavenly hope. (Revelation 12:17) However, particularly in the 1930's, another group became noticeable. These were identified with the "other sheep"... In 1934 other sheep were encouraged to submit to water

baptism. In 1935 they were identified with the "great crowd" of Revelation chapter 7. - The Watchtower.

This information needs explanation but the Watchtower merely quotes referring to the joy of God's people have found,

They have thrilled to see the gathering of the remaining ones of Jesus' brothers, and they rejoice to realize that the final sealing of the remaining ones of the 144,000 is well along. The Watchtower, 1 January 1998, p.6.

Not only is this a clear contradiction of what has been said in the past but it is also open-ended. The 144,000 are not now finalised they are only 'well along'! Ask the next Witness that calls to explain this clear contradiction and change in the 'prophetic' teaching of the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society.

ISSUE OF BLOOD

For those of you who have been following the past few issues of The Quarterly, you will be aware of the story we have been following concerning the comments on blood made by the 'Liberal Elders'. Men who obviously saw that the blood doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses could not be supported either morally or scripturally. You also got an insight into the mentality of a cult member by the fact that knowing this was wrong they still stayed within Jehovah's organisation'. In fact, they went as far as to say, although not exactly in these words, that this matter was so important and because Jehovah had not dealt with it, they needed to!

The latest now is that there have been further changes to the site. The pages can now be reached via

<http://www.visiworld.com/starter/newlight/index.htm>.

The first page is still under construction but it informs you that it is the Official site of The Associated Jehovah's Witnesses for Reform on Blood and it contains the following information:

The purpose of this site is to provide other Jehovah's Witnesses with some

very important information regarding the use of blood and blood fractions. Those in the media, legal and medical professions will also find this site helpful. This material has been prepared by the Associated Jehovah's Witnesses for Reform on Blood some members of which are serving as Elders and Hospital Liaison Committee members in various congregations and branch facilities throughout the world.

The Watchtower Society will likely be forced to abandon its blood doctrine in the near future. This is a life and death issue for millions of Jehovah's Witnesses. We are in contact with the leadership in an attempt to mediate an end to the ban on the remaining blood products that Witnesses must presently refuse. We will post updates on this site. In the meantime, you should fully educate yourself on the issues so that you can intervene where necessary and appropriate to save lives and avoid blood guilt.

Then under important announcement we read the following very interesting statement:

We inform our readers, that beginning today, December 16, 1997, and for sixty days, we will not add any new information to the content to this website, and we will stop our work of mailing information on the blood issue to other elders, H.L.C. members, doctors, medical personnel and hospitals, as has been done up to now.

We have instructed a Law Firm in The United States to send a petition to the Watchtower Society in order to change it's official policy on the blood issue, according to a reasonable schedule, as has been done in the past with vaccinations, organ transplants, and haemophiliac treatments.

In exchange, we have offered to close down the websites that are directed and supported by active Witnesses, and not file the class action lawsuit against the Society. We take these steps as a gesture of good faith, and in an effort to avoid the embarrassment and cost of litigation that the Society will incur.

We ask all those working on the reform effort to support this undertaking, and hope that with your prayers and ours, Jehovah will enlighten the Governing Body in it's consideration of the blood

issue as a matter of conscience.

We will post an announcement regarding the outcome of this effort on February 16, 1998.

We will obviously watch event and report further next Quarterly.

THE TRUE LORD

The Watchtower Bible & Tract Society has many problems with Malachi 3:1 because it says that the true Lord will come to His temple. The fulfilment of that is obviously in the Lord Jesus coming and the Watchtower would not deny that. Their problem is that they say that the phrase translated 'true Lord' only refers to Jehovah. Obviously Jesus being called Jehovah is not possible for the Society and they must find an answer. The explanation is found in The Watchtower, 15 June 1987.

After having mentioned one messenger, Malachi indicated that "the true Lord" would come to "His temple" accompanied by another, a different messenger, "the messenger of the covenant." p.12.

But wait, Malachi 3:1 does not mention two distinct persons,

And suddenly there will come to His temple the true Lord, whom you are seeking, and the messenger of the covenant in whom you are delighting. - NWT

This is one and the same person. How can we be so sure? The verse ends,

Look! He will certainly come, Jehovah of armies has said.

First note that 'He' not 'they' will come and also note that Jehovah says that He will come not I will come.

The Watchtower Bible & Tract Society has to stand on its head yet again to try and persuade their readers that the Bible means what they teach and not what God plainly said.

However, this explanation gets even worse because having said that Jehovah and Jesus are coming to the Temple, they then say,

"The true Lord" Jehovah did not come personally to the literal temple in Jerusalem. (1 Kings 8:27) He came representatively, that is, by means of his "messenger of the covenant," Jesus Christ, who came in Jehovah's name

and with the backing of God's holy spirit. - p.12.

Right, now we know – only one person came to the temple, Jesus Christ, who is called the true Lord, the name reserved for Jehovah. Reach out lovingly to these folks and show them what their Bible actually says and not what they have been told that it says.

HOPE ON A HOAX

In The Watchtower, May 15 1997, p.11 we read,

Today, our faith too is strengthened by what the three apostles saw.

Just what are the Society referring to? The experience the apostles had on the Mount of Transfiguration. So, our faith can be strengthened today as we consider this great event. However, nowhere in the article does the Society refer to the fact that they do not believe Moses and Elijah were there! Faith it seems on a hoax!

(end of article)

TRUTH RESTORED - 14

by Mike & Ann Thomas

Stop Press

The Mormon temple in Preston will be dedicated in a series of ceremonies from Sunday 7 June to Tuesday 9 June and only 'temple worthy' members will be invited. Temple work will begin officially on 10 June and the temple will be closed to the public. Between Saturday 16 May and Saturday 30 May, inclusive, the temple will be open to the public between 9.00am and 5.00pm (2.00pm Mondays). Of course, no one will be allowed to just wander about but there will be guided tours that, by official accounts, will take some time and be quite thorough.

The Mormon temple and Europe

1998 is the year of the temple. Perhaps some will already have heard enough through the newsletter, at convention, and in personal contact, about Mormons and their temple building. For many this is not their 'area of expertise' - some would say not what they feel 'called to', although we should be aware that we are 'called' to go into **the entire** world. As we explained at our annual convention, there is a danger of appearing to say, "my cult is bigger than your cult". However, it is not just the organisation but the occasion that should be grabbing our attention. Let us remind ourselves of what we are talking about.

For four years the Mormon Church has been building, at a cost estimated at some £50 million, the second largest Mormon temple in the world right here in the UK. It is the UK's second temple and is sited alongside buildings that will accommodate a stake (regional) centre, two wards (local congregations), a missionary training centre, a reception and family history centre, and facilities for non-Mormon visitors. This facility will be much more than just another temple for church members to attend. It will serve as a launch pad for increased Mormon activity across the UK. We are already receiving unconfirmed reports of hundreds of extra missionaries being drafted in to capitalise on this significant development. Why? Because this coun-

try has the longest history of Mormonism, the strongest support for Mormonism, and the largest population of Mormons in Europe. Half Europe's 380,000 Mormons are found in the UK. A closer look at the church in Europe will reveal the significance of the UK church to European growth. A recent interview with the Mormon Church's Europe West Area Presidency revealed the following:

While the church in Germany goes back to the middle of the 19th century it did not 'catch on' in France until the 1960's, and was not allowed into Italy until 1965 where it was not granted legal status until 1993. Missionary work began in Spain in 1968 and in Portugal as recently as 1974. The church in many parts of Europe is a relatively recent development. One major reason for this is the strength of religious tradition which people are reluctant to relinquish, especially in the south where there is a strong tradition of the Christian church as a national institution.

Significantly, the perceived solutions to the problem include community service, social integration, good publicity driven by such events as visits by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and temple open houses. There is also a high target for member retention and full involvement of all new converts. The interview ends with the declaration

It is clear that the greatest times of the Church in Europe still lie ahead.¹

In a year when Britain is governed, for the first time in twenty five years by a pro-European party, and when that government will take up the European presidency, the Mormon Church will be seeking to be strongly identified with the history, culture and spiritual/social stability of the nation. The advantages are obvious and the message is clear - Britain and Mormonism have a bright future in Europe.

Origins

At the beginning of such a significant year, let us remind ourselves of how

this all came about. Joseph Smith founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1830. He claimed that God had commissioned him, in a vision, to 'restore' the true church, which had been lost soon after the first century in what Mormons call the great apostasy. In a later vision, an angel revealed the location of a hidden record kept by the ancient inhabitants of America. Written on gold plates, it told of Christ's visit to America after his resurrection to speak to his 'other sheep' (Jn.10:16). These gold plates were 'translated' and became the Book of Mormon, which is regarded as scripture and, it is claimed, contains the restored gospel.

Although Mormons use the Bible, they regard it as unreliable and corrupted by apostate Christendom. Joseph Smith declared that the Book of Mormon is,

the most correct of any book on earth...and a man would get nearer God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.²

Today's Mormons, however, get their doctrines from 'living prophets', the successors of Joseph Smith, and much of what they believe and practice is just as foreign to the Book of Mormon as it is to the Bible because Mormonism has evolved.

In a series of visions and revelations Joseph Smith developed his religion, teaching the plurality of gods and a pre-mortal existence for man. Claiming that God is an exalted man and men can become gods; introducing polygamy; instituting baptism of the living for the dead, based on 1 Cor.15:29; and preaching that there are degrees of glory in heaven. None of these are found in the Book of Mormon. Indeed some are explicitly condemned e.g. plural marriage. Out of this flurry of activity was developed the Mormon temple rituals, also foreign to the Book of Mormon.

The Mormon Church of today, with its vast wealth, clean-cut image, international reputation and complex and con-

fusing theological structure would hardly be recognisable to the earliest Mormons. Those who rejected, and were rejected by, the society around them would not know what has come to be called 'The American religion'. The image of the Osmonds has so fully replaced the image of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young in the public perception of Mormonism. Perhaps they would feel betrayed because the Mormon Church of today fully embraces the system they once vowed to overcome. To achieve this metamorphosis the church has *had to* evolve. Where polygamy was once a requirement for exaltation, its practice is now grounds for excommunication. Where Brigham Young taught for fifty years that Adam was God, teaching this doctrine today also brings excommunication.

The church generally is enjoying incredible growth. It took 117 years for the membership to reach one million. In the fifty years since 1947 membership world-wide has grown to 10 million - this milestone was reached in November 1997. In 1991 membership was 8 million, in 1994 it was 9 million and in 1997 10 million. That is a million new members every three years. During 1996, the most recent year for which figures are available, there were 321,385 convert baptisms worldwide. There are now more members outside the US than inside. As a corporation, the church is reported to be worth \$30 billion, with an income from tithes alone estimated to be approaching \$15 million a day.³

Despite the many peculiar features that still mark out Mormonism as a cult, the church enjoys a growing respectability. This year the Southern Baptist Convention will meet in Salt Lake City, the capital of Mormonism. While many plan to witness to the locals, former US President Jimmy Carter has condemned what he sees as the scandal of "Christians proselytising Christians", condemning such behaviour as "Pharisaical".⁴ Such an attitude is increasingly common and the result of a concerted effort by the Mormon Church to appear more main stream. Their more bizarre doctrines and practices are either discontinued, such as polygamy, or played down in an effort to gain acceptance.

Theirs, however, is still the 'other gospel' spoken of by Paul (Gal.1:8),

even down to the 'angel' who brought it. Nowhere is this more apparent than in what most Christians would see as the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Where the Bible clearly teaches that God is not a man (1Sam.15:29) but Spirit (John 4:24) and unchangeable (Mal.3:6) Mormons teach that,

God himself was once as we are now and is an exalted man⁵

And that He

has a body of flesh and bones.⁶

Where Jesus claimed equal status with God (John 5:18) and is spoken of as God's "one and only Son" (1 John 4:9) Mormons teach that Jesus is only "a god", the firstborn son of God and brother of Lucifer, God's second born.⁷ Where the Bible teaches that there is only one God (Isa.44:8) Mormons believe that there are many gods and that men can become gods.⁸

Whilst the Bible shows man in a fallen state, subject to sin and death (Rom.5:12;7:14-24) Mormons,

refuse to believe...that the biblical account of the fall of man records the corruption of human nature.⁹

Whilst the biblical atonement is complete, dealing with inherited corruption and personal sin (1 John 1:7) Mormon atonement is only partial for,

there [are] certain sins...that place the transgressor beyond the power of the atonement...Their only hope is to have their own blood shed to atone...¹⁰

Of course all cults teach a gospel of salvation by works and, whilst the Bible shows eternal life to be a free gift from God (Rom.6:23;4:4-5) Mormons teach that,

all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the [Mormon] gospel.¹¹

Finally, then, Mormons do not know the assurance promised by Jesus (John 5:24), or the justification and peace taught by Paul (Rom.5:1-2;8:1). They await the judgement of their works, resigned to the prospect of being compromised and condemned by the failure that we all know and that comes through trying to please God in our own strength.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the

end it leads to death. - Prov.14:12.

The Trek West

Sesquicentennial is a word that Mormons have been practising pronouncing for some years now. It denotes a 150th anniversary and there have been a few of these milestones in recent years. For example, 1980 saw the sesquicentennial of the founding (restoration?) of the church. More recently, 1997 saw the sesquicentennial of the trek from Nauvoo to Salt Lake City under the leadership of Brigham Young. Every month church publications, notably the Ensign, have highlighted the historical events marked by that month - a sort of 'this month in history'. It is a remarkable story, even without the gloss put on it by church headquarters. More remarkable is the fact that the BBC's *Everyman* programme once again gave almost totally uncritical coverage to the church as it followed a special re-enactment of the journey, following the fortunes of two British converts who made the trek west with thousands of other latter-day pioneers. Produced in collaboration with KBYU (the BYU gives it away as a broadcasting arm of Brigham Young University) it was clearly a human-interest story, ignoring in the main the peculiar religious teachings of the Mormon Church. Sadly, what was presented as historical data did more to promote the cherished and abiding myths of Mormonism than tell the true story.

Tellingly, the commentary acknowledged that whilst Mormonism, until recently, has endured a history of bad press, the PR department of the Mormon Church has worked hard to change that. Nowhere is this more clearly evidenced than in this programme in which Mormon 'history' was represented almost unchallenged. It was the Mormon story as only Mormons could, or would, tell it. Replete with references to persecution, oppression, suffering and relentless pursuit from state to state by wicked 'gentiles', it told of a people who sought only to practice their sincerely held beliefs peacefully and free from persecution. Whilst those beliefs were acknowledged as perhaps a little unorthodox (a brief list recited towards the very end of the programme did not begin to represent how far from orthodoxy they really stand), nevertheless they were firmly portrayed in the tradition of persecuted minorities throughout history. Misunder-

stood, misrepresented, ill treated, courageous and determined but harmless. There was even a comparison between Brigham Young and Moses, Mormons and Israelites. This was Mormon propaganda at its best.

So long as people believe the *Everyman* version "All is well, all is well." However it is an account that is less than candid and for 're-enactment' perhaps you should read 'rewriting'. We need to invite people to consider the facts the Mormon Church will not readily tell. As they prepare to dedicate their second UK temple near Preston, it is imperative that the full story should be told.

Christmas - When Joseph was born

Yes, you read it correctly. The lead article in the December 1997 Ensign magazine, written by Mormon Church President Gordon B Hinckley, began:

This is the season for giving and a time for gratitude. We remember with appreciation the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, which is celebrated this same month of December, two days before Christmas.

The piece goes on,

How great indeed is our debt to him (We are still speaking of Joseph)...We stand in reverence before him. He is the great prophet of this dispensation. He stands at the head of this great and mighty work which is spreading across the earth. He is our prophet, our revelator, our seer, our friend. Let us not forget him. Let not his memory be forgotten in the celebration of Christmas. God be thanked for Joseph Smith.¹²

The article, entitled *A Season for Gratitude*, does go on to speak at length of the birth of Jesus and reads like a typical Christmas message, quoting extensively from the bible, especially John and Isaiah. He wrote all the things you might expect your pastor to say on a Christmas morning, although anyone who knows Mormonism will immediately recognise that behind the familiar phrases and references to "God the Father" and "Jesus the Son" is quite a different gospel. The Father spoken of is an exalted man who, by definition is finite. The Son is not God but merely "the firstborn son of God in the spirit," his brother, and God's "second born" being Lucifer.

To the discerning, what really gives it away is the assertion that Jesus

taught us the way, the truth, and the life. He gave the keys through which we may go on to immortality and eternal life.

Of course one of the fundamental characteristics that marks out Jesus from any other religious leader in history is his claim that

I AM the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

All others, from Buddha to Mohammed to Joseph Smith, claimed to know the way and show the way. Only Jesus claimed to be the way. Only Jesus was the embodiment of truth. Only Jesus was "the life," or had life in himself. Lets look at who Jesus is according to scripture.

Who is this Jesus?

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. - John 5:21-23

Only one who has life can give life. John's gospel declares that "in him was life" (John 1:4) and it is significant that Jesus, speaking of his death, said,

The reason the Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. - John 10:17-18

Who but God could have such complete authority over life and death?

Moreover, the Father judges no-one, but has **entrusted all judgement to the Son,**

The bible clearly speaks of God as "the judge of all the earth" who will "judge the world in righteousness" (Ps.94:2;96:13). Only one with equal authority and status with God the Father could judge one who was God himself.

That all may **honour the Son just as they honour the Father...**

God, we are told, is a jealous God. He will not share his glory with anyone. Only one who is God could be worthy

of equal honour with God. And what honour are we to give God? "Hallowed be thy name!"

Jesus is Immanuel, God with us!

¹ Ensign Magazine, Dec.1997, pp.66-67

² Joseph Smith, History of the Church 4:461

³ Time Magazine, Aug.4, 1997

⁴ Reported in Mormonism Researched, First Quarter, 1998

⁵ Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.345

⁶ Doctrine and Covenants 130:22

⁷ Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, vol.1, p.18

Milton R Hunter, The Gospel Through the Ages, 1945, p.15

⁸ Doctrine and Covenants 132:20,37

⁹ Mormon apostle Hugh B Brown, General Conference, 1964

¹⁰ Joseph Fielding Smith *ibid.*, p. 135

¹¹ Mormon 3rd article of faith

¹² Ensign Magazine, Dec.1997pp.2-5

(end of article)

THE BAHAI

Siyyid 'Alí Muḥammád born in 1819 became known as "The Báb," or, the Gate. He declared, on 23 May 1844, that he was the forerunner of the Promised One from God. He named Mirza Husayn 'Alí, Bahá'u'lláh ('The Glory of God') and in 1863, Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Messenger of God for this age and the Promised One of all religions.

HISTORY

Bahá'u'lláh suffered 40 years of exile and imprisonment, having been accused of plotting against the Shah. He was exiled from Iran to Akká near Haifa, Israel, where he died in 1892, aged 75. Today the Qiblih (point of adoration) is Bahá'u'lláh's shrine near Akká and all are encouraged to make at least one pilgrimage to it.

Bahá'u'lláh appointed His eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, 'The Servant of Bahá', as the Interpreter of His teachings and the Centre of His Covenant with all mankind. On his death, in 1921, leadership passed to Abdu'l-Bahá's grandson, Shoghi Effendi. Today Bahá'ís have a Universal House of Justice on Mt. Carmel, which is the modern World Centre of the Faith. It was first elected in 1963 and since then at five-yearly intervals. Democratic institutions are elected annually at national and local level. There are such assemblies in over 125 countries.

On the local level, a nine-member team is elected to serve as a Local Spiritual Assembly. Although officials are not able to give exact figures, a conservative estimate is that there are over five million followers in more than 160 countries.

The Bahá'ís anticipate that out of the chaos of a possible global catastrophe a new 'Golden Age' will dawn. It will be the Bahá'ís who will be prepared to offer a unique method of administration to the peoples of this new order.

At present they evangelise vigorously through home groups (fireside chats) and teachers (called pioneers) going out to new areas to fulfil their Founder's instructions. They meet once every 19

days for worship and consultation but many groups also hold gatherings that are more frequent as well as the annual Fast that ends on their New Year's Day.

Bahá'ís believe that their faith is one of the world religions. They teach that all other world religions are from God. Jesus is seen as one of the Manifestations of God and although each major religion is part of the ultimate Truth, no human being will ever know the whole of God's revelation as it is beyond our comprehension.

BELIEFS

GOD

The attributes of God are revealed to mankind but the very essence of God will always be unknowable.

To every discerning and illuminated heart it is evident that God, the Unknowable Essence, the Divine Being, is immensely exalted beyond every human attribute, such as corporeal existence, ascent and descent, egress and regress. - Gleanings From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p.113.

EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE

Everything is relative and therefore everything is changing. The revealed truth for this millennium may not apply to the next. This means that there can be a change in the social teachings of the past should it become necessary.

MANY PROPHETS

Many Prophets are accepted by the Bahá'ís including Abraham, Moses, Krishna, Zoroaster, Buddha, Christ and Mohammed. These Messengers are one in spirit, but Bahá'u'lláh is regarded as being the Manifestation of God for this day.

THE CHRIST

Bahá'ís believe that the spiritual truth of Christ was built on by Mohammed and, in turn, by Bahá'u'lláh. As Saint Paul gave new meaning to many passages in the Old Testament, so the Bahá'ís believe that Bahá'u'lláh brought a new interpretation to the words of Christ recorded in the Gospels.

As so many groups they will happily believe the opposite if it suits them and it does when they want to show that Christ actually foretold the coming of Bahá'u'lláh.

The fact that Christ was not God in the flesh can be seen from the clear statement,

God cannot incarnate Himself - Gleanings From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p.113.

FAITH OR WORKS

It is clear from the following quotation that salvation is a matter of works as well as grace.

The first duty prescribed by God for His servants is the recognition of Him Who is the Dayspring of His Revelation and the Fountain of His laws, Who representeth the Godhead in both the Kingdom of His Cause and the world of creation. Whoso achieveth this duty hath attained unto all good; and whoso is deprived thereof hath gone astray, though he be the author of every righteous deed. It behoveth everyone who reacheth this most sublime station, this summit of transcendent glory, to observe every ordinance of Him Who is the Desire of the world. These twin duties are inseparable. Neither is acceptable without the other. - Bahá'u'lláh: The Kitáb-i-Aqdas, p. 19

TEACHINGS

Oneness of God.

Oneness of all religion.

Oneness of humankind - we are all brothers and sister in the same human family.

Elimination of prejudice of all kinds.

Individual search after truth.

Universal auxiliary language - all know along with mother tongue.

Equality of men and women.

Universal education.

Harmony of science and religion - both are aspects of truth and cannot contradict each other.

Elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty.

(Continued on page 3)

FREEMASONRY & SYMBOLISM

Paul Johnson

This article is continued from The Quarterly No.50.

All Seeing Eye

This symbol is well known outside of masonry as well as inside, so we must be careful what we attribute to it. It is Masonic writer Bernard E. Jones again who helps us to see where it comes from. He says the alchemists introduced the all Seeing Eye into masonry. The Egyptians used it to remind them of Osiris, and is therefore a very old symbol. In Egypt, it was a reminder that the gods they believed in were all seeing and knowing. This is a remarkable resemblance to the meaning of the symbol in masonry. Jones admits the symbol does not come from Christianity and Masonic historian Henry Coil says that the all Seeing Eye will reward masons according to their merits. In an attempt to make it acceptable to Christians, a bible reference is given, Proverbs 15:3 - 'The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.' First, the eyes of the Lord are plural not singular, God is not a Cyclops. Second, no one should use just one verse to try to justify a belief. Whatever masons may say, the god of all Seeing Eye is not the God of the bible. God does not reward according to merit, but to accepting Jesus as saviour, otherwise some would boast.

Triangle

The triangle is another well-known symbol, and not just in masonry, but it is a significant emblem in a large number of Masonic degrees. The Egyptians appear again at this point; they expressed the origin of all things by the triangle. The Ancient Egyptians hold more than a little interest for masons and there are a good many Egyptian influences on masonry. Jones considered it meant trinity to the Christian and there is no problem with that, but that is no proof of meaning the same to the mason. The triangle in masonry usually has another emblem on the inside, such as an eye or a point with a circle around the triangle. These all have slightly different meanings, but all have deistic meanings. I found no reference to a triune God of the bible mentioned by

any Masonic writer, but that is no surprise as they do not believe in a monotheistic God. So then, the question is what god does the triangle represent?

Salem Cross

This symbol is unknown by any of the lower degrees because it is only used by the thirtieth degree upwards. It has various forms depending on the level attained; for example, it has three bars across in the thirty-third degree, but only two in the degree below. The cross of Salem has been called, 'Cross of Baphomet', and this should make us want to ask the question, 'Who or what is Baphomet?' The answer will not be very reassuring for the mason. Baphomet is the name given to the 'Goat of Mendes' the satanic god, which the occultist Eliphas Levi portrayed in a well-known picture. This 'goat' is the same idol attributed to the Templars, so it therefore interesting to note that this symbol only comes into use in the Templars degrees.

I, personally asked the librarian at Grand Lodge, John Hamill what it stood for, he gave the answer, 'oh, nothing much,' this is of course an unacceptable answer. I then phoned Fred Smyth (Grand Lodge supplied the number) who had written the book, Brethren in Chivalry, a book about the Templar degrees, he said to me, 'It is only reference to the Templars, nothing else.' Another unacceptable answer when you consider the level to which these two men have attained to. When you consider the fact that all symbols represent something and this symbol is in a high degree, it does make one wonder what it is they are hiding?

The Letter G

The letter G is one of the more obvious symbols inside the lodge. Macoy in his encyclopaedia called it, 'one of the most sacred symbols, a symbol of deity.' The G is placed over the lodge master's head in the east and it is meant to represent God or geometry. This is where the argument rages within masonry, which one does it represent? The letter G did not ever represent God until

the late Eighteenth century, though it was a feature of lodges earlier. Hutchinson in his book, 'Spirit of Masonry' (pub. 1775) thought G was both God and geometry! Dr. William Wynn Westcott, a mason of renown and probably a Kabbalist said that the interpretation of G as God was foolish. Harry Carr, perhaps the greatest of Masonic writers, saw G as geometry as the foundation of all knowledge; he also recognised that G had come to mean God, Grand Geomatrixian of the Universe. Perhaps the most significant comment on the letter G is from Mackey, he said, 'It is to be regretted that the letter G, as a symbol, was ever admitted into Masonic system.'

Why would a staunch mason say such a thing? What could possibly be behind the letter G to make one mason regret its inclusion into the craft? To candidates coming into the lodge in their first few visits, may well be left with the impression that the master of the lodge is in fact representing God and therefore is to be obeyed at all times. The bible says you cannot serve two masters, which will you choose, Masonry or Jesus?

Hexagram

The six pointed star, known to most people as either the Star of David or Star of Solomon. There is no bible reference to any such thing. The Zionist organisation adopted it as a symbol for flag of Israel in 1897. This is quite some time after its use in masonry. The Masonic authors as usual cannot agree on its meaning, Gould said it was a sign of the Eternal Creator, whilst Mackey thought it was a talisman. It is Bernard Jones we must turn to if we want to find any substantial views on this particular symbol. He says it had a host of meanings, but definitely it came from Alchemy and is chiefly known in Royal Arch Masonry, but he then goes on to say nothing of its meaning. He does say though, that it is also used in astrology, occultism and magic, none of which is compatible with Christianity. The other thing worth noting is the dualistic background to this symbol, it has been used

(Continued from page 12)

FREEMASONRY

to represent male and female, fire and water and in China, it is a symbol of Yin Yang. To the Christian mason it must make alarm ring, because these interpretations of this symbol go against God. If the mason says it does not mean any of those things, he will have to prove it by showing exactly what the hexagram does stand for.

Chequerboard

A well-known sight around the world is this symbol; many floors have this arrangement. For the mason however, it must mean something more significant, since all symbols have meaning. It is used on the temple floor and referred to as mosaic pavement. Again, we find that the meaning is shrouded in mystery as no one person can come up with definitive explanation. The outcome leaves us with the impression that it is again dualistic. For example, Jones says it symbolises the chequered life of man, Coil says it represents a life made up of good and evil and the Masonic Record publication, Enquire Within suggest it shows the joys and sorrows of life. W. Kirk McNulty sees it as completely dualistic, to him it is two sides of everything, black/white, active/passive, and easy/difficult, which together create the whole. To believe that everything is two sided and therefore eventually even is extremely naive. Some people clearly have an easier time of things than others and in our own lives we will see that things don't always balance out as we might like them to.

Jesus made it quite clear to his disciples that life wasn't always fair, but that God would judge according to what each has been given.

Conclusion

Symbols have been used by man since the dawn of time and no-one is suggesting that symbols in and of themselves are sinister, nor the people that use them, but it is different when the symbol in question is not explained or a reason for using it given. Freemasonry says it is opening its door to any who want to see what goes on and they will have to answer some questions on the use of symbols in lodge, if they want to satisfy people.

Freemasons use symbolism more than most and it is interesting that they do not

use any symbols that has not been used before and in fact most of the symbols have been used for occult purposes and this must cause for concern. What are we to make of the many occultists that have influenced masonry? It would seem that they have much more influence than the 'Christian' element. What of the dualism? Even Masonic writers can see its there, this is considerably difficult for the true Christian, because of its roots in false religion.

Freemasons in general probably have no idea that the symbols they use are rooted in pagan and occult backgrounds. To these I say, 'Don't just believe me, go and look for yourself and ask questions of those in the know and see if they satisfy you with good, clear, concise answers to some of the questions I have set out here.' Masons are encouraged to search after the truth, so encourage them to seek after the truth, which I believe is found in Jesus Christ. May each of you who seek the truth, find it.

(end of article)

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your excellent literature - it is a really powerful set of tools to combat often subtle (and not so subtle) doctrinal errors given by the cults. When I first became a Christian I was almost lost to the JW's - they are so convincing! I asked many people about the JW's but none have been able to really penetrate their false gospel like you ministry has. the JW teachings really 'dogged' me for a very long time - namely the deity of Christ - but now I really know who He is I can grow up as a Christian. Thank you all very much and may God continue to bless your powerful and truthful ministry. - MN - W.Midlands.



I am bro. Tiberiu Emeric Pop from the Baptist Church of Petrosani, Romania. I dare to brother you because I saw your address in an Operation World which I recently received. I am a Bible teacher for adults in my church and Director of Education at Fountain Life Missions for Eastern Europe. I am a student in Theology at Emmanuel Bible Institute. I'd like to ask you send me whatever you can afford to send (free of charge as I have no job and no salary) in English about the following subjects...

This is the type of letter we regularly get from Europe, Africa, India etc. Please pray that we will be able to cope with the demands from these ones.

(end of article)



Will you please update my record and continue to send me the Reachout Quarterly. I have recently had my name removed from the records of the Mormon Church. This has been as a result of my own instincts, supported by your newsletter and being put in touch with Mike Thomas. I cannot thank you enough but would like to continue to have the newsletter as I look forward to it and the continuing support it provides. I have enclosed an order for your book 'Mormonism: A Gold Plated Religion.' - DE - Somerset

In the NEWS

produced by the Royal Homoeopathic Hospital they found no convincing evidence of clinical benefit for homoeopathy. - BMJ, Vol.314, 17 May 1997.

BOGUS ALTERNATIVE

The following is an extract from an article by Dr Peter May, entitled 'How Hebridean peat bogs prove that homeopathy is bogus.'

For 200 years, enthusiasts have been trying to persuade the medical establishment that the weaker a homeopathic solution is, the stronger will be its effects. My experience of whisky tells me this must be nonsense. Of course, they retort that the jury is still out. Well, 200 years is a long time for any jury, and I am confident this jury will never return with a positive verdict. Samuel Hahneman's original idea is interesting enough, that a substance which causes certain symptoms can be used to treat those symptoms. Neither is it logically outrageous to suppose that one would need to use it in dilute solution. The absurdity comes when they contend - and they do that for best effect, it needs to be diluted to such an extent that there is not a single molecule of the substance left in the solution. In fact, the dilutions they use would mean that you would need a volume as great as the North Sea to find such a molecule... How do they think it works? They don't know. They talk speculatively about 'water polymers' arying the memory of the substance long after the ingredient has been finally excluded. This idea has no credibility in science or indeed in common sense. If it were true, water would be overwhelmed by such memories. The water that comes out of a tap may indeed be fresh, but it is not newly created. Each molecule has been around for a very long time. It may have previously passed through the body of Julius Caesar and a great many people since. What a lot of history to remember... They claim that shaking the solution makes it even more potent, and this must of course be done in a particular way. The madness continues. Having prepared your solution with its water polymers, you can then put a drop of it on to a sugar pill. Having dried onto the tablet, it is still supposed to have retained its memory of the original substance even though the water has evapo-

rated... Homeopaths claim over a hundred trials have shown positive results. The trouble is that most of those trials have been poorly designed and are seriously flawed while the best have not been successfully repeated. To demonstrate success in a clinical trial, certain exacting criteria must be employed and the trial must be repeatable. It is not good enough for one set of researchers to get a positive result... It raises the question in my mind whether pharmacists who are trained in the science of chemistry should be selling homeopathic remedies in their shops. What sort of message does that give the public? Just because people want to buy it, does not mean they should sacrifice their professional integrity. - Church of England Newspaper, Friday July 25, 1997

Another piece on homeopathy appeared in the British Medical Journal. In part it read,

A London health authority has decided to stop paying for homoeopathic treatment because there is not enough evidence to support its use. Lambeth, Southwark, and Lewisham Health Authority has been referring more than 500 patients a year to the Royal Homoeopathic Hospital in London. The authority says that the money it spent last year on complementary treatments would have allowed 100 patients to have hip replacements. Public health doctors at the health authority carried out a review of the published scientific literature on homoeopathy as part of a general move towards purchasing only evidence based medicine. Dr Caroline Mawer, senior registrar in public health medicine, said that although a meta-analysis published in the BMJ (1991;302:316-21) generally supported homoeopathy, the authors said that many of the studies were methodologically poor. She said that when she and her colleagues examined the original research as well as more recent research



LAVEY DIES

The following was published on Saturday, November 8 1997, in the San Jose Mercury News

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Anton Szandor LaVey, who founded the Church of Satan and played the devil in the movie "Rosemary's Baby;" has died, but his daughter and a longtime companion promised Friday that his work and the church will live on.

"We will continue in his footsteps to do as he directed to keep the Church of Satan going and keep it strong" daughter Karla LaVey said.

LaVey, 67, died of pulmonary edema Oct. 29 at St. Mary's hospital after years of heart problems.

Born in Chicago, LaVey was a man of many interests. He worked over the years as a lion trainer, professional organizer, crime photographer, artist, hypnotist and psychic. But he was always drawn to the unexplored and unexplained, family members said.

He founded the Church of Satan in 1966 and made national headlines the next year for performing a satanic wedding, then baptizing his first daughter in the Church of Satan.

But LaVey's brand of satanism was not about evil or animal and child sacrifice, family members said. It was more about rational free-thinking and disdain for the hypocrisy he believed corrupted Christianity. The satanic images were simply convenient symbols intended to provoke a strong reaction and force thought.

He preached living for the day, instead of for an afterlife that nobody can prove exists, they said. He did not believe in the devil as an anthropomorphic being with horns and a tail, but rather as a Jungian archetype conjured up by mankind.

"My father was considered by some as



the world's most dangerous man, but he would never hurt a living thing," Karla LaVey said. "My father loved animals and children."

"He wasn't what people would perceive him to be," said his grandson, Stanton LaVey, 19, of San Mateo. "He was a sweet and caring, highly intelligent individual. This guy was cooler than most friends of mine."

Still, LaVey played the image to the hilt. He was often seen walking around the neighborhood, bald head gleaming, black cape flapping behind him. For years, he kept a lion and a tarantula as pets, and he spent hours each day playing eerie organ music that could be heard on the sidewalk outside his home.

The family home, a late 1800s Victorian hidden behind a chain-link and barbed-wire fence, is painted black throughout with red ceilings, pentagrams and satanic statuettes. Daggers and skulls hang on the walls next to a coffin with a plastic owl perched on top.

LaVey stopped holding meetings at the home in the 1970s, but continued a high-profile existence, appearing on hundreds of talk shows and entertainment programs. He eventually became known as "The Black Pope" and acted as a consultant on "Rosemary's Baby," where he played the part of the devil.

He wrote five books, including "The Satanic Bible," "The Satanic Witch" and "The Satanic Rituals," of which there are more than 1 million copies in print combined. Each has been translated into nearly every major language. His final book, "Satan Speaks," is scheduled for release next spring.

LaVey suffered heart failure in 1990 and in his final years, rarely left home.

Along the way, he went through some difficult financial and family times, his estranged daughter, Zeena LaVey said. He declared bankruptcy in the 1980s after splitting with her mother. Zeena LaVey eventually split from the church, too, and began to question much of who her father claimed to be.

"I began to see that it had really been started as a lark, a practical joke," she said. "I felt that he had betrayed something that he had started - opened a Pandora's box that snowballed and got away from him. That he basically was

tampering with things he did not totally understand. That he was betraying the very forces he claimed to be in league with."

LaVey is survived by two daughters, Karla LaVey and Zeena LaVey; a son, Xerxes LaVey, born to companion Blanche Barton; and a grandson, Stanton LaVey.



A CODED BIBLE?

With all the excitement that the book 'The Bible Code' has caused the following article from the Jerusalem Post 5 June 1997, makes very interesting reading.

Israeli scientists whose computerized studies of the Torah were used by an American journalist to claim the Torah predicted Yitzhak Rabin's assassination before it occurred and warns of a disastrous nuclear war in 2000 or 2006, yesterday dissociated themselves from the journalist's book and declared that the Bible codes cannot be used to predict the future.

Prof. Eliahu Rips, a Hebrew University mathematician and computer expert, and physicist Doron Witztum, called a press conference to state their views about *The Bible Code*, a bestseller by Michael Drosnin that has made headlines around the world.

The two said they do not have any immediate plans to sue Drosnin, but did not rule it out.

Rips said that he had met with Drosnin, a former reporter for *The Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*, but had not done joint work with him and did not support his claims that Bible codes could be used to predict events.

"All attempts to extract messages from Torah codes or to make predictions based on them are futile and of no value. This is not only my own opinion, but that of every scientist who has been involved in serious codes research," Rips declared.

"The only conclusion that can be drawn from the scientific research regarding the Torah codes is that they exist and that they're not a mere coinci-

dence."

Rips took all the words in the Torah, deleted the spaces between them and turned them into a single continuous strand of 304,805 letters. Then, working with Witztum, he used a computerized searching tool and a skip code, called equidistant letter sequences, to find names and phrases... Drosnin, who has written a biography of the late eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes, read articles on the subject written by the Israeli scientists and collected information delivered in various lectures.

He then did his own computer searches and claimed that through the Torah codes, he was able to predict, for example, the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. In the opening pages of his book, he recounts that he sent a letter of warning to Rabin a year before he was killed... Witztum and Rips objected to Drosnin's making the Bible into a kind of "crystal ball," and demonstrated that Drosnin's technique could also be used to "predict the assassination of Winston Churchill," an event that never occurred.

"The credibility of serious codes research will be compromised by amateurs whose 'discoveries' are scientifically meaningless," said Witztum, "and people will exploit the Torah to present all kinds of counterfeit proofs by finding 'hidden messages' that bolster their ideology."

But the two, who are both religious, said they do believe that Torah codes research is serious and could both confirm historical events and prove that no human being could have written the Torah, but if misused could he manipulated to prove almost anything.

(end of article)

WITNESSING TO THE CULTS - 4

This article is based on *Open The Door, Kingsway 1996*, and *Don't Close The Door, Reachout Trust, 1991*

[A special offer to purchase these two books will be found in the enclosed leaflet.]

Know our Enemy

I have had many Christians question this aspect of our teaching. We do not need to know the enemy we only need to know about the Lord! If you mean we are not to exalt or glorify the enemy, I am totally in agreement. However, we must consider that God, in the Bible, has taken the trouble to reveal certain aspects of the enemy and therefore this much He wants us to know.

On two occasions in the New Testament we are encouraged not to be unaware of the schemes of the Devil.

... in order that no advantage is taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:11

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:10,11

All members of the cults are of course blinded and deceived by Satan although in themselves are not necessarily devilish. We need to be aware of what the devil is doing and how he is doing it so that we can have the advantage in 'battle'.

In any battle, intelligence is vital. That is why so much money is spent on reconnaissance aircraft and spy satellites. We too should not 'go blind' but know a little about the group we are dealing with and what we are likely to face.

There are probably two main reasons that we need to know these facts. First, so we can understand his tactics and not be out manoeuvred. Second, so that we can be safe in what we are doing and not open ourselves up to His attacks but

'abide in Christ'.

When we first meet the cultist, they are blinded; we put it like this in *Open the Door*,

We must never forget that we are in a battle with our spiritual enemy, not with the person we are talking to. This means that the warfare should be undertaken in the spiritual realms and not with the people concerned. The condition of the cultists we are dealing with is aptly expressed by 2 Corinthians 4:4, '... the god of this world has blinded the minds ...' If we are to see them released, then the battle of the mind has to be won. - Open the Door, p.83.

The more we understand about how and why the person you are dealing with is bound the more use we will be in helping them to get free.

In the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10, the helper understood immediately the needs of the wounded man and gave emergency help by pouring in the oil and the wine. We need an understanding of the wounds the enemy has given the cult member so we can give such emergency help. It did not end there though; he took him to the innkeeper and guaranteed to provide all that was necessary until he was whole. What a lesson for us! Know what the enemy has done and do not be satisfied with 'patching up' but be ready to pay the price and so the person is made completely whole in Christ.

Be aware that the enemy is a liar and a cheat. He will not easily let go of the mind but also realise the absolute supremacy of Christ. The enemy will seek to discourage and wear us down so that we will not follow through with the reaching of the cult member. Maybe it will be the fourth or the fortieth time that they have questioned or let us down but in the natural we all have a breaking point. Be aware what God wants us to do in the situation; encourage yourself in Him.

When Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20)

knew that they were surrounded by the enemy that in all probability could destroy them, although afraid, he sought the Lord. While doing that, God reminded him of several things and the first being that God is all-supreme and reigns in heaven and earth. That put a very different complexion on the matter.

... once we have the solid ground of the word of God under our feet we can be strong. We need to go back to the beginning. The foundation for our position as we seek to help those who have been blinded by Satan is found in Genesis 1:1; 'In the beginning God ...' No one else was there, no other heavenly creation and certainly no earthly creation. God was there alone! I often say that one of the greatest helps in spiritual warfare is to picture a totally blank piece of paper with just one word written at the top, God... He is the only one who is omnipresent, everywhere, all the time. He is the only who knows everything.. Some Christians want to give these attributes to Satan but his position is seen when we read Psalm 148:1-6; God created all heavenly things, including the angels.. God is clearly more powerful than Satan ever was.. As Christians we are stronger because Satan is subject to Christ. James 4:7 puts it in a nutshell.. 'Submit yourselves . to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you'.The promise of God's word is that as I am subject to Christ in my life the devil must flee as I resist him... If this is reality to us then we can approach the cults not with fear and trepidation but with that humble assurance of who we are in Christ. - Open the Door, p.68/69.

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