



Reachout Trust is an international Christian ministry that equips the church, upholds evangelical 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 evangelical biblical truth.

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

Provide a complete service of advice 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.

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CELEBRATING 22 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Reachout Quarterly

Winter 2003/4

Issue 74

Be Prepared!

Any who were in the Boy Scouts will recognise the heading of this article. We were to do whatever was necessary to be prepared for any eventuality. It seems to me that this should be the reaction of the Christian Church today but so often, as Christians, we seem to be reactive rather than proactive.

Being ready indicates that a process has gone on to move you from a state where you were not ready to the place where you can face the new event with some amount of confidence. Maybe you find out that you are having an inspection in your workplace. You do not just sit and do nothing do you? The first thing you might do is panic and have a sense of foreboding - I am not ready for that!

However, after the shock you might start thinking about what might happen in such an inspection; what questions you might have to answer; what responsibilities they would expect you to have undertaken. Then from there you would realise that certain actions needed to be taken by you so that a measure of preparedness was reached and whatever time was necessary for you to reach that state of readiness would be found; even if it meant changing already planned events in your diary. Surely it should be no different within our Christian lives?

In our field we want to share the gospel with those of other faiths and beliefs but to do that we need to be ready. It is too late when they arrive on the doorstep. But have you ever spent any time answering these sorts of questions.

*What do I need to say so that they receive the truth of the Gospel? Please note **not** what do I want to say.*

Do I understand what I believe on the subject being discussed to the degree that I can explain it simply?

Do I know what questions to ask to make the person think about their faith?

Of course it is not possible to be ready for every group but again you can think ahead to be ready as far as possible. Ask yourself, which group am I most likely to meet? Who is active in my area? What do my neighbours or workmates believe? Make a priority list of the folks you are most likely to meet and then start with group number one. Prepare, write it down if necessary, refresh and renew as needed.

We can be ready if we are practical over the issues. First be aware of the areas you are not ready for. Next think what changes will have been made in my life when I am ready. Then break down into small steps the events that need to take place in your life to get

from not being prepared to being prepared.

A practical illustration of this would be knowing that the Jehovah's Witness was coming next week and you wanted to answer the question, "Is Jesus, God?" But at this point your mind is a complete blank.

You realise that you will be ready when you have a presentation to make no matter how simple or short it may be. So you begin to break down the steps that need to be taken as follows.

1. Find out what the Jehovah's Witness believes about who Jesus is and why. This, for example, could be achieved via Reachout's publications or website.
2. Find out what I as a Christian believe about Jesus and why. What Scriptures would I use to show this? You might use a good concordance or Christian book on the subject for this.
3. Do I understand it enough to present the subject simply? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for revelation and find some good illustrations.
4. Practice on a friend or write it down and review it so that you are ready for the big day.
5. Mission accomplished! ☐

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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Reachout Trust is looking for a volunteer with understanding of the media and the way it works. The hours per month would be up to the person and reasonable expenses for phone calls etc could be provided if agreed in advance.

The basic areas the job would cover are:

- Keeping up to date with current news and being aware of what comment Reachout Trust should be making. Also to have an awareness of events, such as Halloween or Watchtower Conventions that we should be making a statement about.
- Liaising with the 'officials' of the Trust so that you are aware of what Reachout Trust is doing, such as, seminars they are taking, book releases, new initiatives.
- Liaising with the 'officials' of the Trust so that you are aware of events that are happening, such as, Jehovah's Witness Conventions and Occult festivals.
- Drafting out any Press Releases relevant to the issues mentioned above and forwarding them to the 'officials' of the Trust for further action.
- Making personal contacts with those in the Media and keeping the name of Reachout Trust and the work they are engaged in before these folks.
- Seeking to arrange interviews and media appearances for 'officials' of the Trust.
- Being ready to assist with the production of other publications for church leaders etc and where possible make contact with these people.

Interested? Please send a brief CV together with a few outline plans of how you would tackle the job, to Doug Harris. Contact details on front page.

Doug's Diary

Confirmation has been received that Doug Harris will be involved in training at the following seminars.

Other sessions are in the process of being arranged and an updated list can be obtained either on the web site or by ringing Head Office for further details.

Those marked * may have a restricted attendance.

If there is not a venue near you but you feel that your area would benefit from a seminar, contact Head Office to talk about organising one.

JANUARY

- 13 Battersea
- 21 London City Mission *

FEBRUARY

- 5-7 CRE - EXETER
- 15 Central London
- 28 Walsall
- 29 West Bromwich

MARCH

- 16 Battersea
- 17 Sussex *
- 18 Sussex *

MAY

- 9 Lincoln
- 11-14 CRE - SANDOWN
- 18 Battersea

Boston Movement or not?

When Kip McKean resigned as the main leader of the Boston Movement, or International Churches of Christ (ICC) as they are better known here, towards the end of 2002, there was much speculation as to whether changes would take place in the movement or not.

Kip McKean had run the church with a rule of authority that in the end led to his downfall. He had taught that no one could be a leader if their children left the ICC and that's just what his daughter did.

Farah Stockman (fstockman@globe.com) reported in the Boston Globe in May this year,

"McKean let his children know that their successes were ammunition in his war for the Lord.

"I'm convinced,' McKean told followers in Washington, D.C., in 2000, 'that when a teen falls away [from the church] ... there are some sinful dynamics in that family, and that family, that mom and dad, need to repent.'

"But Olivia had just left for Harvard University, and she was already tasting the freedom of life away from home. For a while, she attended the Boston Church of Christ and even gave dynamic speeches to crowds of hundreds. Although the church paid for her discipler, a young woman from Los Angeles, to move to Cambridge with her to guide her spiritual growth, by January 2001, Olivia stopped coming to church and told her friends she no longer wanted to be a member.

"She finally just stood up and said, 'I'm sick of the whole thing; I'm leaving,'" said one former church leader who knew her personally. Her father 'was pretty brokenhearted.'

It was also McKean who preached that ICC was the only true church. Thousands had to be re-baptized into the ICC because even baptism by immersion in another church was not sufficient. Even members of the mainline Church of Christ that they had split from, let alone other churches, were not truly saved.

Such preaching has, over the years, taken its toll and it is estimated that currently there are 130,000 members worldwide, which is way down from the claimed high of 185,000.

The teachings and early developments of ICC are found in articles on the Reachout website. This article seeks to answer the question of whether recent events have made any meaningful changes and discover whether we are dealing with a different group today than we did when our first article was written.

RESIGNATION

An interesting issue arises from McKean's resignation letter. He begins,

"Truly the Lord has blessed his modern day movement as His gospel has produced true churches of disciples in nearly 170 nations over the past 23 years"

The phrase "true churches" and further on in the letter where he calls the movement, 'the Kingdom' shows that he still believes that this movement is the Lord's modern day movement to the exclusion of others.

The letter also indicates that he feels that he is personally at fault but that the movement as a whole needs little change to the way it has been going.

FORMER MEMBERS

However there are a number of former members who have written on the Reveal web site (www.reveal.org) who feel it is not enough. One man standing down does not alter the dominant leadership that has been the characteristic of this movement. Even though he has apologised for his attitude, have those on whose shoulders the work has fallen the same attitude as McKean?

Former member Keith Stump begins his article,

"The nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty" carries a warning that if someone puts himself in too high an exalted position, then when he stumbles, he may find that there is no way for him to recover. Over the years, it has been ap-

plied to many people and institutions. It now can be applied to Kip McKean, and, just possibly, to the ICC itself... What is evident is that Kip's interpretation of Christianity has such impossible standards that even he couldn't live up to them. He spent years denouncing certain things - denigrating leaders to whom such things happened - only to have those same things happen to him. Once this issue become known, Kip had such a self-imposed disgrace that there was no way for him to save face. He fell off the lofty perch that he created for himself, only to find that he couldn't regain his power. It is not clear to me whether his yes-men even tried to restore him. There has been speculation that the other top leaders wanted him gone because of his dictatorial nature - but I do not know whether that is true."

He goes on to show that over the years McKean has hurt many people and there has never been any specific apology for this. This seems to be a legacy that, if change is really to be effected, will need to be dealt with in true repentance.

For instance former member Kyle Degge on the Reveal Web Site writes:

"I charge the top leaders of the ICC Movement with:

- Mishandling and distorting ("twisting") the Scriptures and their meanings, with great consistency and persistence, to reinforce their biased doctrines.
- Systematically and deliberately misrepresenting themselves and many of their ends (i.e., goals and purposes) to both grassroots members and outsiders.
- Offering what's called "unconditional love" for a price (i.e., thorough compliance of the would-be "convert"), amounting, in net effect, to spiritual "prostitution."
- As a result of the practice of marketing this conditional

"love," painting and promoting a practical picture of God as a "Cosmic Pimp." (This is strong language, but they have done all they have done, including much abusive behavior, with the bold assertion that God has sent them out to do it. How would you express that in an "unvarnished" way?)

- Distorting many facts of their history to dishonestly inflate and embellish their all-important image (another name for this is revisionism, and most tyrants and scoundrels in history have practiced it).
- Damaging, or even destroying, the relationships of family, marriage, and friendship with shocking regularity.
- Maliciously attacking the character and reputation of any "critics" who dare to take persistent stands even to question them, not to mention oppose them.
- Maliciously denying the legitimacy and reality of other devoted Christians and churches.
- Generally exploiting and manipulating people in these ways on a consistent, worldwide basis. (In other words, they may not all be the same in degree, but they are in kind.) And finally,
- Refusing almost all repeated, sincere attempts, for many years, to establish reasonable dialogue re. "mistakes" that have supposedly been made (and continue to be made) by ICC leaders."

As far as moving forward it seems at the moment that it is business as usual. Within hours of the resignation the world sector leaders group that McKean was head of was disbanded and a new system where a "Unity Meeting" is held twice a year with representatives from each of the 9 sectors coming together for fellowship and planning.

The statement put out by the new leadership informed us,

"The responsibility of the Unity Meet-

ing and conference would be to make sure that we remain cooperative and unified while we continue the task of evangelizing our various sectors of the world."

In other words there would still be a central leadership from Los Angeles that would filter its way through to every ICC church worldwide.

Stump goes on in his article to show how the will and dominance of this leadership is even shown in the new statement of moving ahead.

"In that same announcement, I saw other forms of control being exerted. One of them I have discussed in 'Control Mechanisms in the ICC'. The technique is to repress discussion of existing problems (even to the point of 'disfellowshipping' and 'marking' those who bring the matters up). Only after a problem supposedly has been addressed and corrected, may the members discuss it... As evidence, let me cite the passages in the reorganization announcement geared to make it look like any problem is a matter of the past, to be forgiven and forgotten (he then goes on to cite 10 relevant passages)."

The problems are not confined to USA; Britain also is going through a major crisis as an open letter dated February 2003 from Henry Kriete shows. Kriete is still a member of ICC in Britain.

"As many of you know, in London we are in the midst of a spiritual upheaval. I would even call it a crisis or an unravelling. Please continue in your prayers for us. The London and UK churches have had an incredible history and as a movement we owe them much. Unfortunately, over the years, because of harshness and legalism and systemic problems I will soon identify, the churches have suffered dearly."

The future of the church is still clearly in the balance and the article by Christianity Today, June 2003 (www.Christianitytoday.com/ct/2003/06), which takes up the Kriete letter, seems to sum up the current situation.

"'Boston Movement' Apologizes Open letter prompts leaders of controversial church to promise reform. By John W. Kennedy - posted

06/04/2003

"A London leader's 39-page confessional open letter detailing abuses in the International Churches of Christ (ICOC) has further shaken a movement that has been controversial since its beginning 24 years ago. Whether the movement, an offshoot of the mainline Churches of Christ and known for its aggressive campus recruiting, is unravelling or reforming is hard to say.

"The February 2 letter followed the resignation of founder Kip McKean in November (CT, March 2003, p. 26). Evangelist Henry Kriete, an influential leader in the Boston Movement (the informal name of the ICOC) in six countries and ten churches, wrote the letter. Kriete said the ICOC's viability was at stake. He said leaders have engaged in financial mismanagement, legalism, dishonest statistical reporting, and abusive teachings, and have ignored critics."

Unravelling or reforming seems to be the question; we will need to wait to find out the answer. ☐

OH NO NOT HINN AGAIN!

I know that there will be a number of you that are horrified that we are producing another article on Benny Hinn. However, before you send me a scorching email or letter please could you read further.

This article has come about because after our last article on Benny Hinn we were sent a video tape. It included footage of a Crusade that Benny Hinn held in Denver and a recording of the television programme with Paul Crouch of TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network) discussing the meeting.

Please do understand that we are not on a witch hunt; nor are we anti spiritual gifts or anti miracles. We are not on a crusade simply to discredit Benny Hinn at all costs but we do believe that we need to check out the things that he says, especially as he claims to be under the anointing of God.

That, indeed, is the heart of the problem and one that all Christians must realise. If he was just saying this is what 'I think' or what 'I feel,' we may not agree but it would be his opinion. However, Hinn teaches that much of what he says, and indeed all that he says under the 'anointing', is what **God** says not what he says. This is, therefore, a serious matter and needs to be checked out.

It seems to us that as Christians we do not have an option as to whether we want to check it out or not; the Bible is clear about what we have to do.

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is

good." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11-21

Here we have it. Yes we are to encourage one another and we are to appreciate those that work for the Lord in our midst. However, at the same time we are to be ready to admonish them and, above all, "examine everything carefully." This is especially mentioned in the light of prophetic utterances. The outcome is that we are then to hold fast to that which is good; which obviously means that we have left behind that which is not good!

Where there are prophetic utterances - those words that are said to come from the Holy Spirit - we need to examine them in detail. We must not just ignore them but we must not, on the other hand, blindly accept them. Our responsibility is to check whether they are true and if they are to embrace them and be obedient to what God is saying. If the words are found out to be not of God then we are to reject them.

Whatever your feelings are concerning Benny Hinn, what are your feelings about God's Word here? Can someone who has given such clear false prophecies (see previous article) in the name of the Lord really be part of the 'good' that we are to hold on to?

I have to say that I was shocked by the video that I saw and so I reproduce some of the words below. Please will you test it out - are these words really coming from God as Hinn claims? If not then this is a serious case of fraud. Please will you examine these words carefully and see in your heart what the Holy Spirit witnesses to you.

The first section is Hinn live on stage at the Denver Crusade.

"....I place a curse on every man and every woman that would stretch his hand against this anointing, I curse that man who dares to speak a word against this ministry and any man and any woman that raises his or her hand in blessing towards this ministry I bless that man, I bless that home, I bless that family. Any man, any woman, any person that raises his tongue in blessings towards this work, raises his

tongue in blessing towards this anointing, raises his tongue in blessing towards this servant of the Lord, I bless them, I bless the work the work of your hand, I bless your life with this mighty power, I Bless your home with the divine protection, I bless your children with long life and I bless you with length of days, I bless you with health and healing, I bless with prosperity, I bless you with the very presence of Almighty God, I a servant bless you. In the name of the one I serve, I bless thy people this night in Denver.

Lift your hands and receive the blessing people, I rarely ever do what I am doing now, this is the Holy Ghost on me telling me to do this. I bless you; I bless your homes, your life, your future, your children. May every attack of Satan against you be destroyed, may every plan of hell be destroyed against you and every plan of God be established, in Jesus name. Amen. Amen.

Under this anointing, under this anointing the word I speak cannot fall to the ground, under this anointing every thing I say happens."

Please note these last words carefully. This means that everyone who questions Benny Hinn and his ministry is cursed. Everyone who checks out his teaching and shows that it is not according to mainstream Christian teaching is cursed. Yet this is the opposite of what the Scripture says, "examine everything carefully" and only hold fast that which is good. Who are we to believe, the Scripture or the 'anointed' utterance of Benny Hinn? And choosing both is not an option there.

The next extract is from the television studio conversation between Benny Hinn, Paul Crouch and his wife. Benny begins,

"I know this sounds strange, may be days I'll be sitting by myself and lose all contact with what's around me and not only dreams I'm seeing things that

(Continued on page 13)

WATCH THE OWER

2003/4

First, this issue, Les Tomkins, draws our attention to Colossians 3:24. This reads in the New World Translation,

“for YOU know that it is from Jehovah YOU will receive the due reward of the inheritance. SLAVE for the Master, Christ.”

However the NIV says,

“since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

The AV says similarly, with the ending, “...for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

The literal translation in the Watchtower’s Kingdom Interlinear (KIT) is similar, “... to the Lord Christ be YOU slaving”

As Les says, he was dumbfounded by the NWT “slave for the Master, Christ,” when it is not even the correct translation of the Greek. We do not slave for but we are slaves to!

The KIT also shows us that this is one of the places that they have translated *kyrios* (Lord) as Jehovah despite all the main manuscripts having Lord. The reason appears to be to hide the real meaning of this verse.

In the first part of the verse we would be told that it is from THE LORD that we would receive the reward and then the second part of the verse would show us that it is the LORD (*kyriou*) Christ that we serve. Clearly tying this whole verse in with Jesus and not Jehovah.

There are other verses too that underline this same problem, for instance Mark 5:19-20 reads in the NASB,

“... but He said to him, ‘Go home to your people and report to them what great things **the Lord** has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.’ And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things **Jesus** had done for him...” (emphasis added)

Here clearly ‘*kyrios*’ the Lord is equated with Jesus and not Jehovah in these verses. What makes this even more interesting is the way the New World Translation puts it,

“... but said to him: ‘Go home to your

relatives, and report to them all the things **Jehovah** has done for you and the mercy he had on you.’ And he went away and started to proclaim in the De-cap’o-lis all the things **Jesus** did for him...”

Luke, referring to this same incident , (8:39) gives the Watchtower Society even more problems,

“Return to your house and describe what great things **God** has done for you.’ So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things **Jesus** had done for him.” (emphasis added)

Interestingly in this case the New World Translation does not translate *theos* as Jehovah.

From Russia with love

Then we received the following from Vladimir Rumyantsev in Russia.

In The Watchtower 1 May 1998, pp.9-10, we read:

“Is this just a prophecy about ‘a nation’ of locusts, a locust swarm, invading Judah? No, there is more to it than that. At both Joel 1:6 and Revelation 9:7, *God’s people* are represented by locusts. The modern-day locust army is none other than the military force of Jehovah’s anointed locusts, now joined by some 5,600,000 of Jesus’ ‘other sheep.’ (John 10:16) Are you not glad to be part of this great throng of Jehovah’s worshipers?” (I talics in original)

When you read the context of Revelation 9:7 onwards you find that these ‘locusts’ have,

“... over them a king, the angel of the abyss. In Hebrew his name is Abaddon...” Revelation 9:11 NWT.

In the Society’s publication “*Revelation - Its Grand Climax at Hand*” they admit on p.148 that the meaning of Abaddon is “Destruction,” however they go on to say that Jesus is this Destroyer and the angel of the abyss. Can this really be?

When you go back to verse one you find that this one had “fallen from heaven.” Not descended but fallen and surely that can only refer to the angel Lucifer. In-

deed the whole of the chapter is more akin to Satan and his ways than Christ and His.

Easton’s Bible Dictionary says of Abaddon

“Destruction, the Hebrew name (equivalent to the Greek Apollyon, i.e., destroyer) of “the angel of the bottomless pit” (Rev_9:11). It is rendered “destruction” in Job_28:22; Job_31:12; Job_26:6; Pro_15:11; Pro_27:20. In the last three of these passages the Revised Version retains the word “Abaddon.” We may regard this word as a personification of the idea of destruction, or as sheol, the realm of the dead.”

This again shows us it is not referring to Jesus but to the realm that is of Satan.

In the International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia we read,

“a-bad´on (אבדון ‘abhdōn, “ruin,” “perdition,” “destruction”): Though “destruction” is commonly used in translating ‘abhdōn, the stem idea is intransitive rather than passive - the idea of perishing, going to ruin, being in a ruined state, rather than that of being ruined, being destroyed.

The word occurs six times in the Old Testament, always as a place name in the sense in which Sheol is a place name. It denotes, in certain aspects, the world of the dead as constructed in the Hebrew imagination. It is a common mistake to understand such expressions in a too mechanical way. Like ourselves, the men of the earlier ages had to use picture language when they spoke of the conditions that existed after death, however their picturing of the matter may have differed from ours. In three instances Abaddon is parallel with Sheol (Job_26:6; Pro_15:11; Pro_27:20). In one instance it is parallel with death, in one with the grave and in the remaining instance the parallel phrase is “root out all mine increase” (Job_28:22; Psa_88:11; Job_31:12). In this last passage the place idea comes nearer to

vanishing in an abstract conception than in the other passages.

Abaddon belongs to the realm of the mysterious. Only God understands it (Job_26:6; Pro_15:11). It is the world of the dead in its utterly dismal, destructive, dreadful aspect, not in those more cheerful aspects in which activities are conceived of as in progress there. In Abaddon there are no declarations of God's lovingkindness (Psa_88:11).

In a slight degree the Old Testament presentations personalize Abaddon. It is a synonym for insatiableness (Pro_27:20). It has possibilities of information mediate between those of "all living" and those of God (Job_28:22).

In the New Testament the word occurs once (Rev_9:11), the personalization becoming sharp. Abaddon is here not the world of the dead, but the angel who reigns over it. The Greek equivalent of his name is given as Apollyon. Under this name Bunyan presents him in the Pilgrim's Progress, and Christendom has doubtless been more interested in this presentation of the matter than in any other."

We believe that once again this shows that what the Watchtower Society have said, i.e. that its anointed followers have Satan as their king. A Freudian slip?

With the above causing me to look at the Revelation book I found some other interesting issues which I thought I would bring out.

On p.9 we are told that the mysteries locked up in the book of Revelation have longed baffled Bible Students but this book is different as they claim,

"... we firmly believe that the explanations set forth herein harmonize with the Bible in its entirety, showing how remarkable divine prophecy has been fulfilled in the world events of our catastrophic times."

Some claim indeed. However what seems amazing is that, as you read this book, you realize that so many of the prophecies are claimed to be specifically about the Watchtower Society! Amazing when you see the opening of chapter 1 which indicates that this is for all God's servants! Also this straight away would appear to be a contradiction of their claim to harmonise with all the Bible. What about,

"For you know this, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation." - 2 Peter 1:20.

We have already given one example of the locusts being the 'anointed remnant' what others can we look at?

The 7 trumpets mentioned in Revelation 8:6 onwards are likened on p.173 to 7 Annual Conventions of the Watchtower between 1922 and 1928. This seems to be a very small fulfilment to the Scriptures that deal with global issues!

The 'little scroll' of Revelation 10:9 was given to the Society in 1919.

Revelation 11:2 mentions a period of 42 months when the holy city will be trampled underfoot. It is very difficult to accept that the fulfilment of this took place in America from October 1914 until 1918!

There are many other examples too that show that the Watchtower Society are interpreting Scripture to 'confirm' their own history and have no desire to see the great and glorious truth that is there within God's Word.

Relationship

I received an email from a friend who was invited to attend the 'Memorial Meal' earlier in the year. It highlights something which I feel we need to major on with the Witnesses.

"I had an interesting meeting last week; a local Watchtower Elder invited me to the Memorial Meal, so I went. It was heart breaking as folks were just passing the bread and the cup, without partaking. In fact no one in the congregation did. The speaker had explained who could and made it clear that no one in the meeting qualified. One lady was going to partake but an elder told her not to!

After the meeting I spoke with a couple of people although I had an elder with me all the time. I spoke to the man who had given the talk and asked him if it was true what he said that Jesus is the mediator for just the 144,000. When he agreed I followed up with the comment that he therefore had no mediator. He was quite gob smacked that I asked him that."

The fact is that those who are in the 'great crowd' are not in the New Covenant and do not have Jesus as their mediator. Although they have not thought this through this means that they have no hope and the fact that they are forbidden

to take the bread and the wine only serves to reinforce this position.

They obviously cannot be in the Old Covenant because that has passed away and they believe that the New Covenant is made up of only 144,000 people, which means they have no covenant with God.

The word 'covenant' means 'contract'. Hebrews 7:22 tells us that Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant (better than the old that had to pass away - Hebrews 8:6ff) If there is no 'contract' there is no certainty, there is no assurance that they have an everlasting relationship with the Lord. Indeed, as can be seen from the above Scriptures, Jesus is the guarantee of the covenant and, therefore, not only do they have no covenant but they have no relationship with Jesus at all. God cannot accept them because they are not approaching Him on the basis that He has shown is essential. Of course, they think they have a second chance but even that means they would need a relationship at some point.

This is the tragic situation for those who are part of the 'great crowd'. God does not know them! They are not part of the New Covenant and so they can never be welcomed into God's Kingdom. It is not enough to have 'corporate' membership. The Bible clearly teaches that salvation is on an individual basis and that individual has to communicate with God and receive Him. Without a covenant there is no salvation and knowing someone else in that covenant is not sufficient.

There is no experiencing of the reality of the forgiveness in the shed blood of Jesus. If they knew the experience of that they would take the wine as a recognition. Not partaking of the wine means that there is no understanding of forgiveness.

This lack of relationship, and therefore lack of eternal future with the Lord, is shown further by the fact that they do not believe that Jesus is their mediator. Yet how can they stand before a holy God without someone 'in between'. Again we come to the tragic conclusion that as a member of the great crowd they have no hope for an eternal future.

Neither before they leave this earth nor after, as they believe, that they return in the millennium will the death of Jesus Christ be made experientially real to a Witness. Thus they have no hope of a future relationship.

Explain the negative but dwell on the positive of the relationship they can have as shown even in the NWT. ☐

TRUTH RESTORED - 37

BY MIKE & ANN THOMAS

IS OUR CHURCH BETTER THAN THEIR CHURCH?

What does the Christian Church have to offer a member of the Mormon Church? The glib, spiritual answer is the true gospel, salvation, a personal relationship with God, assurance, and so on. It is very easy to operate only on a spiritual level and think that making a commitment to Jesus will make everything right. But what happens when you compare “Pie in the sky when you die” with “Cake on a plate while you wait”? People respond more to what they can see and relate to *now* than to promises about a distant future.

Surveys have confirmed that people rarely join cults for doctrinal reasons. Mostly it is for psychological, social or emotional reasons. If you listen to a lot of Jehovah Witnesses’ testimonies, for example, you will frequently hear, something like “I was feeling very low after my mother died and when the Jehovah Witnesses called it was like the answer to a prayer.” Mormons are the same – because they knock so many doors, sooner or later they are going to meet someone who is bereaved and in need of comfort, or at a low point in their life and needing encouragement and support, or lonely and needing company.

Mormons also place great emphasis on friendship evangelism, and one of their recent Prophets coined the phrase “Every member a missionary.” So they go out of their way to make friends with neighbours, work colleagues, school mums etc., to begin to share the companionship they find in their Church.

One of the first things that people find so attractive about the Mormon Church is the friendliness. When you walk in the door everyone wants to shake your hand and make you feel welcome. When, at the age of 19, my job took me 300 miles across the country, I was not afraid to set out on my own – I simply contacted the local Mormon Bishop, and by the time I arrived I had transport to Church and help with finding accommodation. Once, when I found myself alone in a strange city, I went to the local Mormon Church

on Sunday morning and within minutes had three different invitations to dinner and a lift to the station the next day.

This aspect is not to be belittled – companionship and acceptance are very important. Today’s families no longer live close to one another, and the divorce rate is increasing. More and more couples are living together without marriage, and statistics show that these relationships are seven times more likely to fail than marriages. All these factors mean that often there is no extended family to turn to. Sometimes even your own immediate family is far away or does not keep in touch. There is no support system any more for young people starting out on their own, for young couples starting a family, or for older people who are divorced or widowed. People move often with their careers and lose touch with friends and neighbours.

This is why the emphasis on families is so attractive. A proper family, close-knit and supportive, is becoming a rarity these days. The Mormon Family Home Evening programme will strengthen you in keeping your own family together, and if you are single, you can meet with other singles and have your own Family Home Evening.

The Mormon Church believes that they should provide for all your needs – that members should not need to go to the world for social life and entertainment. Consequently regular social events are arranged, including dances, sports days, drama and music festivals. There are groups for young singles, older singles, as well as the youth and children’s work. There are priesthood meetings for the men, which include lessons on fatherhood and being a good husband as well as scripture and doctrine classes. The Relief Society is the oldest women’s organisation in the world, and includes a regular program of homemaking (cooking, sewing, crafts etc.) and childcare, as well as appreciation of the arts, along with the scripture and doctrine classes. Where else can people find support, information and encouragement at every stage of their lives, all ready and waiting for them when they walk in the

door?

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF LIFE?

Mormon missionaries may be guilty of not telling the whole truth about what they believe, but no one is baptised into the Mormon Church without some basic doctrinal teaching. Some people are honestly seeking God, others are looking for a purpose to life, and many have no spiritual interest at all until they are attracted by the warmth and friendliness and want to know what makes these people this way.

I recently read a book by Josh Moody, called *Authentic Spirituality*, in which he began by looking at the ‘mental background’ to the way people think about God today. In the past, God’s existence was accepted without question. During the Enlightenment in the 18th century, reason became king. Anything that could not be proved by reason and evidence was no longer accepted. The result of this was that the underlying attitude, the mental background, became that it is not possible to know God for certain. Even if we decide there is a God, it is not possible to know him intimately, only at a distance.

This attitude existed initially among the academics and great thinkers of the day. Right up until the twentieth century the majority of the common people still went to church all their lives as a matter of course. But today, this thinking has reached the common people. Despite a rise in spirituality, most people do not think that God can be known on a personal level, or that He has very specific characteristics. The New Age is everywhere, and religion, or spirituality is ‘pick and mix’, *with no thought of relating personally to God*.

The obvious result of this is a great freedom to believe whatever you like. You are only required to decide what is true for you, and as long as it doesn’t hurt anyone else, you are entitled to pursue it. What may be true for you may not be true for others, and ‘tolerance’ is the watchword.

What is less obvious, is that it creates a great uncertainty. Just as there are no longer anchors in our daily lives, of family and old friends, so there are no longer any absolutes in our spiritual lives. It may be very appealing to design your own spirituality, but what if there really is a true God and He is expecting things of you that you are unaware of? What if there is a power lying untapped that could make you feel less powerless and helpless?

So the contemporary world considers that knowledge of God is irrational and impossible, but knowledge itself is viable and useful. This is the crucial issue. It means that [the] characteristics of the world's attitude to religion are not ultimately going to be tackled satisfactorily until we have solved the basic problem of how to get knowledge of God. - Josh Moody, *Authentic Spirituality*, p. 31.

Even in the 19th century religion was proliferating. Denomination after denomination split into new factions, and new groups were appearing all the time – in the Christian Church as well as what we now recognise as cults.

Then, into the middle of all this comes Joseph Smith. A young man with a new message containing two great assurances: God is real, and He speaks today. The First Vision declared that God Himself had appeared to Joseph in physical form, so there could no longer be any doubt as to His existence or his form. The Restoration of the Church from Jesus' times, with a living Prophet at its head, guaranteed that mankind could know the mind of God without a doubt. What a lifeline! People are attracted to the certainty, in an area where the world says you cannot know.

And this applies to salvation too. The final thing I want to highlight that makes the Mormon Church attractive is legalism. As Christians, sold out on "grace not works", we find it hard to see the attraction of legalism. And believe me, having tried it as a Mormon for 18 years, I know how hard it is to live that way. But initially it looks very attractive. Here you are, a seeker after God, not knowing what He wants or how to please Him. Along comes someone with a list: go to church, read the scriptures, pray, obey the commandments, etc. Now life is simple – keep to the list and everything will be fine. You have security in knowing who God is and how to stay

right with Him, and a whole group of people to help you along the way. It is only later that you begin to find out how difficult it is to do some of these things in your own strength, and just how many commandments there are.

So what should the Christian Church do to 'compete' with these attractions? What this means for the Christian Church is two-fold: We need to be aware of what we are asking when we ask people to leave the Mormon Church, and we need to be aware of the competition we are up against.

ASKING PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE MORMON CHURCH

This is not simply a change of ideology, giving up one set of doctrines for another. Nor is it the more painful process of parting with friends and making new ones. If the Mormon Church has provided all their social activities, life is going to be very empty, and not only socially empty.

Almost every member has some sort of 'calling' – a job to do. Sometimes these are as simple as keeping the attendance register, or more important callings such as teaching or leading in a group. But all callings are treated very seriously, with prayer and interviews and the 'laying on of hands.' Thus everyone in the Church feels important, needed. As a new Christian, there is very little service they can render, as they have no experience. Consequently they can feel unwanted and useless. I was the Relief Society President around the time I left the Mormon Church, and was saved into a Christian Fellowship that didn't even have a ladies meeting. Suddenly my week was empty, and I had nothing to offer.

When I left the Mormon Church, I had been attending the same Ward for 13 years. People who had been close friends, whose children had grown up with mine, crossed the street when they saw me coming. Not from malice, they were just afraid to talk to me in case whatever made me leave rubbed off on them. My children were asking me "Why can't I play with my friends anymore?"

There is a great danger in the lack of follow-up in evangelism. Some people seem to think that once someone has made the prayer of commitment, that is all they need. Every new Christian needs discipleship – Jesus told us to go and make disciples (Matt.28:19-20), not con-

verts. 'Disciple' literally means 'pupil.' A disciple is someone who follows a teacher and learns to be like them. In this case the teacher is Jesus, but we cannot make an excuse. They need to be shown how to talk to Him and listen to Him, how to read the Bible and apply it in their lives, and they need role models among Christians.

Sometimes people join the Mormon Church because they have personal problems, and they think this will solve them. Often they come out with the same problems, and some new ones caused by the legalism etc which they lived under. We helped a married couple to leave the Mormon Church and two days later the husband turned up on my doorstep because his wife had thrown him out. She said that when they went to their Bishop with their marital problems she was told she should stay with the marriage because they had made covenants before God in the Temple. Now they no longer believed in those covenants, she no longer saw any point in staying together. Thankfully, they had help and resolved their problems and saved their marriage, but not until after they left the Mormon Church and worked through all the confusion.

FACING THE COMPETITION

Perhaps it is not right that we should 'compete' with the Mormon Church on their terms, but it is good to learn some lessons, wherever they come from. I once gave a seminar on "What does the Christian Church have to offer?" This challenged people to be more aware of the needs of those they are evangelising, whether from inside or outside the cults. For those who have no religious background and may not yet have seen the importance of God's grace in salvation, we have to be able to answer the question "Why should I join your church rather than theirs?" Where the Mormon Church is concerned, often their packaging is more attractive than ours.

There are very few issues of faith in the Mormon Church that are not already cut and dried. Members are not encouraged to think for themselves, but to 'toe the party line.' They also have answers for things which in truth are a mystery, and that we have to accept on faith, or which have very hard answers, whereas the Mormon Church has the sort of answers we would prefer to hear. For example, we all grieve for loved ones who died without accepting the gospel. Although we do not like to think about it, we know they missed their chance for salvation. But the

Mormon gospel teaches that in the three days between His death and resurrection, Jesus inaugurated missionary work among the dead. Everyone will have another chance in the next life, and when they see where they are they will be more likely to accept the gospel.

We need to bear things like this in mind when we are teaching Mormons and ex-Mormons the gospel. Being asked to accept certain things on faith, and needing to work some things out for yourself, is very hard for someone who has always believed what they were told. The first time I asked my Christian leaders what we believed about something and was told that it was an issue I needed to decide on for myself, I felt as if a great chasm had opened and I no longer had a sure footing. It is very scary! This needs careful handling.

On the other hand, of course, the fact that you can gain assurance of your salvation now, rather than work hard all your life and still never know whether it will be

enough, is an enormous advantage that no other faith can offer. The power of the Holy Spirit in our lives to guide, direct and transform us to the likeness of Christ (2 Cor.3:18) is another. These far outweigh the other things mentioned above – but we have to present them in a way that makes this clear. Paul stated that he considered all other things rubbish compared to what he found in Christ Jesus (Philip.3:8). Can you present the gospel so that others will feel the same way?

I suppose the summary of what is needed would be friendship and apologetics. If the person does not feel welcome and supported, they will not stay to learn the whole of the good news and how it works out in our lives. If you provide plenty of welcome and support but no teaching, it will be as if they joined a club, and they will receive no eternal benefit. Programmes have their place, but they are a stepping stone to the gospel. Those we attract by our programmes

must have someone to turn to with their questions. I know of a single mum who became a Christian through first attending the mothers and toddlers group at church. The welcome she received and the friends she made gave her the confidence to look further. But when she asked questions it was Jesus that we pointed her towards and apologetics that gave her answers. We must be careful not to give the impression that someone should join our church because our mothers and toddlers is better than someone else's.

These things do not spring fully formed from good intentions. They need planning and preparation. We have long taught that the time to consider what to say when a Mormon or Jehovah Witness knocks on your door is not when it happens, but well in advance. The same applies to evangelism and discipleship. What will you say to answer the question "Why should I join your church instead of theirs?" ☐

APOLOGETICS - 16

REINCARNATION

Introduction

Many people that we talk to today have a worldview that embraces reincarnation rather than resurrection. It is therefore necessary for us to both understand what we are talking about and know how to communicate sensibly with someone who has that worldview.

This subject might be more useful than you would at first imagine. For many I have found this a great way of making a 'reasoned defence' of how much more certain Christianity is that reincarnation. Many of those into occult and new age practices would also believe in at least a form of reincarnation and so a comparison can be made of hope for future life.

Karma and Reincarnation go hand in hand and so first we will give a basic definition of both terms.

KARMA - literally means, 'deeds or work.' What we say, what we do and even what we think all records as a rating of good or evil. This accumulation will determine the sort of life we will have in our next reincarnation.

REINCARNATION - literally means, 'to come again in the flesh.' Our being or

part of our being at death passes on into another body and another life.

Background

It is usually believed that reincarnation came from the East and this is predominately true, however there have been a number of influences from the West too.

This has resulted in a number of slightly different types of reincarnation, and means when you are talking about reincarnation you may need to define the term precisely. For instance, some believe your reincarnation can only be human whereas others that it can be human, animal, vegetable or mineral.

There is also the question as to where you actually 'go' when your reincarnations are over and you reach your final destination. Some would believe we are absorbed into God, others that we reach some form of God-consciousness and still others that we live in heaven.

However, with all of the differences there are some clear similarities that must be borne in mind when looking at reincarnation. These are well summed up by Dr. Norman L. Geisler,

Goal of perfection

Gradual evolutionary progression

Doctrine of 'second chance'

Doctrine of Karma

Survival of self

Multiple perishable bodies

Multiple worlds or realms - The Reincarnation Sensation, Norman L. Geisler & J. Yutaha Amorser, pp.35/36

These points are even true of those who would seek to bring reincarnation into Christianity. One example of this can be seen in the thinking of Michael Perry.

Is God not capable of tailoring our future to the needs of our present and the constraints that our past have put upon the personality which now describes us? Perhaps reincarnation is only necessary for some and not for all? - Psychic Studies: A Christian's View, Michael Perry, P.186

Modern Day

Belief in the concept of reincarnation is increasing. It was estimated by a Gallup poll in 1947 that although 49% of those asked believed in life after death only 3% of those believed in reincarnation. By 1969, the figure had increased to at least 25% of Europeans believing in reincarnation. Today that figure has risen

to around 33% of those believing in life after death accept some form of reincarnation.

In the West, the belief is usually a very respectable one without the possibility of returning in a future life as a rock or rabbit or even a carrot.

It is also on the surface a comfortable belief because it gives the opportunity of a second chance and of a 'heavenly' destination sometime within the next 1,000 lifetimes! Many too will claim that modern therapy techniques 'prove' reincarnation. Under some form of therapy, for instance, hypnosis subjects are made aware of a past life and this in turn will convince them that they are in a new reincarnation.

Please remember though that this is no proof of reincarnation, as indeed a number of the practitioners themselves agree. They do not know what is really happening but if it makes people feel better, they will use it. We, of course, should also remember that therapies such as hypnosis are themselves open to much abuse as they are opening up into the realms beyond the normal human field of understanding.

The fact remains that reincarnation has become a comfortable belief because it does not cause any disturbing thoughts about heaven or hell and how to ensure eternal life.

Presentation without the Bible

It may not be as comforting to those who believe if the facts are communicated clearly to them. There are a number of questions and suggestions you can bring to these folks even if they do not believe in God and the Bible. Some of these include:

At the end of Life 1 you will have committed more bad than good. The accounts will not balance and you will not be able to be released from the body into your 'eternal inheritance.' You have what could be called your karmic debt.

At some time later you start Life 2 with your original karmic debt. Try as you might you still do more bad than good and so what happens at the end of Life 2 - you have a bigger karmic debt.

Reincarnation is not an easy payment plan it is a hard taskmaster. You will never be able to balance the accounts no matter how many lives you lead. There is

no hope, just an endless round of lives going nowhere.

Once you have got to that point of showing just how hopeless the position is you can ask them how they would feel if someone came along and offered to pay off all their debts when they next died. How different they would feel about life; what certainty they would have; how they would begin to look forward to the future life knowing what was to come instead of simply hoping that this may be the one!

You have, of course, introduced the concept of redemption without at first mentioning sin or the cross etc. You can then, through your testimony, show that this is what has happened to you and from their you can also show that this is the Bible message. How much more certain than the 'hope' of reincarnation.

Reincarnation v the Bible

Then there are those who believe that reincarnation is taught in Scripture and try to harmonise reincarnation and the Bible.

For such some or all of the following should be noted:

Belief in reincarnation does away with eternal punishment. However, the Bible clearly teaches that although God wishes none to perish some will refuse the saving grace he offers. [2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 20:13-15]

The Bible shows that the only hope of salvation is to trust in the finished and completed work of Jesus Christ. Reincarnation feels it must add to this several hundred or thousand lifetimes full of striving. [John 14:6; Acts 4:10-12]

The Bible states that there is one life, one death and then we stand before the judgement seat of Christ. Reincarnation talks about multiple lives and deaths and no once and for all judgement. [Hebrews 9:27]

The Bible teaches the marvellous doctrine of justification - God pronouncing us righteous and treating us accordingly. Reincarnation gives no hope of justification; we will never be in such an intimate relationship with the living God. [Romans 5:1]

One of the key themes of scripture is the peace of knowing our sins forgiven. Reincarnation only ever offers the potential of counteracting the negative Karma with the positive Karma. Sin is never actually

dealt with and so there can be no dealing with the guilt of the past. [I John 1:8-9]

Grace similarly is neglected by reincarnation because we only receive what we 'deserve.' God would never 'lower' himself to pick us up and give us that which we do not deserve. The Bible however spells out the abundant grace of God again and again. [2 Corinthians 8:9]

In summary, we would have to say that the central theme of the Bible is that the Love of God wants to deal with the root problem (sin) in our lives so that we can know a life of contentment in the Lord. Reincarnation on the other hand will often do just the opposite because of the fear of upsetting the positive Karma the person might be receiving by suffering.

Fatalism, lack of concern for the suffering of others, and general inaction are often traced to the two doctrines of Karma and reincarnation. If one attempts to alleviate the burden of the sufferer, then the sufferer must endure greater hardship in the next life because she did not 'pay off' her prescribed karmic debt. And ironically, this interference with karmic law would then constitute a 'sin' and the would-be humanitarian would accumulate more karmic deposits. But if the reincarnationist does not interfere, that is, by not doing what he could do to prevent evil, he is doing an evil. Hence reincarnation becomes a service of what is evil, unjust, and inhumane. - Geisler & Amorer, p.109

Bible Verses

The following are the most commonly used verses from the Bible that will be used to prove that it teaches reincarnation.

Job 1:20,21 - Job was not talking about entering his mother's womb again and being born a second time in another life.

Actually scholars have found that the Hebrew word for "womb" (shammah) is used here in a figurative sense to depict the "earth" from which we came. This alludes to Genesis 3:19 where God curses Adam with physical death: - Geisler & Amorer, p.134.

Jeremiah 1:4,5 - this verse simply means that God knew Jeremiah after conception while he was in the womb. In other words prenatal but not pre-existent.

Matthew 17:11-13 - John the Baptist was the reincarnation of Elijah. On the surface this may seem a logical argument but there are a number of problems to it as pointed out by the following,

The first logical problem... is that it was impossible for John the Baptist (or anyone else) to be Elijah reincarnated, for Elijah never did "disincarnate" in the first place. The fact of the matter is that Elijah could never reincarnate because he never died... A second logical problem... The reincarnationist is hard pressed to explain how Elijah could have appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration if he, beforehand, had already reincarnated into John the Baptist... Several relevant texts pose problems... John the Baptist explicitly denied being Elijah. - Does the Bible Teach Reincarnation, Richard G Howe.

John 3:3 - Nicodemus's answer to Jesus shows that this is not referring to being born again physically. How could he enter his mother's womb again? The word literally means born 'from above' and this is shown when Jesus talks about being born of the Spirit.

John 8:58 - Jesus claimed to have existed before Abraham. The teaching of Scripture is that Jesus always existed, He was eternal. He was, therefore, before Abraham and has always been in existence since then. He did not live before Abraham, die and then come back as someone else later.

John 9:1-3 - the disciples asked if it was this man's sin that had caused him to be born blind. Hence, reincarnationists say, Jesus was referring to a previous life. Nothing here can be used to 'prove' reincarnation. There is life before birth, in the womb and as the disciples asked if it was the parents or the man it is the more logical meaning to draw from the text.

1 Corinthians 15:35-55 - the context is very clear, Paul is talking about resurrection not reincarnation.

Christ was the first real resurrection. When Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:20 that Christ is "the first fruits [aparche] of those who are asleep," he is suggesting both priority in time and superiority in status. Christ became the first of all who will one day come

back to life. Regarding the reincarnationist's attempt to harmonize reincarnation with the resurrection, we find that the nature of reincarnation is fundamentally different from the nature of resurrection. - Geisler & Amorer, p.149.

Galatians 1:15,16 - same as Jeremiah 1:4,5 above.

Galatians 6:7 - if we reap what we sow this must mean that there is karma and reincarnation. However, if you read the context of these verses Paul is clearly talking about one life, one death and one reward. There is no hint of another life to live to pay off the debts of this life.

Hebrews 7:3 - Jesus in his priesthood resembled Melchizedek, He was not the reincarnation of the person of Melchizedek.

James 3:6 - 'the course of our life,' can be translated 'wheel of beginnings' and as such reincarnationists say it shows the Bible teaches the subject. However, the context is about the power of the tongue and what it can begin not that a man will come back and have a new beginning.

Reaching Out

It is good to use two main principles of sharing when talking with someone who believes in reincarnation.

1. Ask questions to sow doubt
2. Share the truth in a way that will be understood

The type of questions you can ask, to make the reincarnationist think are:

If everyone is a reincarnation from a previous life why is the world population increasing and not decreasing?

The vast majority of people have no pre-life recall. How then can they break out of the karmic circle when at first they don't know what evil they have done and therefore they don't know what they should alter in their lives.

Since each soul should be progressively purified of evil through their many reincarnations why isn't the world becoming a better place to live in?

Why is there so much human misery in Eastern countries where karma and reincarnation have been accepted for years?

The Bible and its teachings have been shown to be true through archaeology, geology and many other sciences. Where is there any scientific proof for reincarnation?

In witnessing do not look for the opportunity to destroy the person but build a loving relationship and not a condemnatory hatred. Share the reality of the personal relationship that you have with God. Do not use 'evangelical jargon' but instead give a simple to understand presentation of the truth.

Concentrate especially on the debt that Jesus Christ paid. In reincarnation we are seeking to pay off our 'karmic debt' so that we can receive our 'heavenly reward.' However, are we told anywhere that we can pay off our karmic debt? Has anyone ever shown a way that man can go to do it himself? No, the only way that has ever been shown is through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ - He paid our debt.

One of Christ's seven last statements on the cross is recorded in John 19:30. It has been traditionally translated into English as, 'It is finished.' The Greek word which is found in the text was not fully understood until recent archaeological discoveries in the Middle East. It was discovered that the word which had been translated 'finished' was actually a common word in the first century that was stamped on a bill of sale when that bill was paid in full. Thus, modern commentators and translators agree that what Jesus cried from the cross should be translated, 'It has been paid in full.' - Morey, p. 50

Emphasise the grace of God. He does not wish man to strive; He wants man to rest in what He has done for us, why should we complicate things? Didn't He lovingly warn us that after one life, there is one death and then one judgement? We cannot move the goal posts that he has placed and so we should follow His sure way.

The number of our earthly lives is irrelevant to salvation, since God is completely unimpressed by our attempts to pay of a debt that He alone could and did pay on the cross of Jesus Christ. - Reincarnation v. Resurrection, John Snyder, p. 60

(Continued from page 5)

Oh no not Hinn again?!

are almost unbelievable. I'll be sitting at home and my vision will change, I would lose sight of what's in front of me and start seeing things, things that I'm not sure I understand, yet about what's coming to the move of the Spirit, but it is so glorious that it is beyond words, but I can tell you this. Can we just pray a second?

(Here Paul Crouch's voice comes in and throughout this piece when it happens you will find the words in *[italics]*)

[Please]

Master, help us as your people receive this, help me as your servant say it, yes, for your name sake. Amen.

This has nothing to do with our spirituality, nothing to do with praying more and fasting more. God in person said to me. (Editor's note - here that Benny Hinn claimed that this message came personally from God) If its prayer we'll all be on our knees, if its fasting we'll be all famished, we'll all be on our faces begging for this, its God's grace, its God's gift, it belongs to all of us. So I'm not praying any more than I have for 25 years and I'm not seeking the Lord and I haven't changed nothing. But here's first what I see for TBN.

(You will) even have people raised from the dead watching this network, people raised from the dead watching TBN. Programmes, just plain programmes, programmes that haven't done much when it comes to supernatural manifestations, teaching programmes, its not going to be a Benny Hinn thing, stretch your hands, its going to be your average teaching programme, your normal Christian programme that's blessing the church, it'll be such power on these programmes, people will be raised from the dead worldwide.

I'm telling you I see this in the Spirit, its going to be so awesome, Jesus I give you praise for this, that people around the world, maybe not so much in America, people around the world who will lose loved ones, will say to undertakers - "not yet I want to take my dead loved one and place him in front of that TV set for 24 hours," *[really]* I'm telling

you *[Jesus]* people will be, people I'm telling you I feel the anointing talking here -

(Note: Just what is Benny Hinn's definition of anointing then? Surely the way he uses the word here makes the Holy Spirit sound more like a familiar spirit than part of the God-head.)

- people are going to be cancelling funeral services and bringing their dead in their caskets, placing them before a television set waiting for God's power to come through and touch them.

[mercy]

Its going to happen time and time, so much its going to spread, you are going to hear it from Kenya to Mexico to Europe to South America, where people will be raised from the dead, so much so that the word will spread that if some dead person be put in front of this TV screen they will be raised from the dead, and they will be. By the thousands, you wait now the Lord just told me and I don't know whether this is true or not. As I'm saying this, the Lord said He gave that word many, many years ago.

[I have said that yes.]

Yet now I don't remember you saying that to me ever.

[No I didn't]

Well the Lord just said to me, I told them this already

[Yes the Lord spoke that to me at the very beginning of TBN and I didn't really understand and I had a dream]

Now you had a dream tell them about that a little

[It's just a dream that the dead will be raised up.]

Years ago?

[So it's on tape I said the years are coming.]

I see, I see quite something amusing, I see rows of caskets lining up in front of this TV set, and I see them bringing them closer to the TV set, and as people are coming closer I see actually loved ones picking up the hands of the dead and letting them touch the screen and people are getting raised as their hands are touching that

screen. With this programme, I'm not talking about my programme, programmes, plain programmes, but the glory of God will be so on TBN that there's going to be divine resurrection happening. And I do see people being raised from the dead here, but I see masses of them overseas.

[As a great sign and a wonder to the world]

As a sign to the world. Yea TBN will no longer be just a television network; it will be an extension of heaven to earth,

[My Jesus mercy]

The Lord, the Lord just said to me, I'm hearing myself say for the first time. TBN will not be only a Christian network, it will be an extension of heaven to the earth, an extension like a tube from heaven that the earth can look and say, "I'm looking at heaven I'm partaking of heaven, I'm getting connected to heaven through this TV tube."

[My Jesus]

If I can say it, it will be heaven's signal to the earth, it will be as though heaven is transmitting and earth is receiving through that set, so if you want to go to heaven, you want to see heaven, you want to taste heaven turn on that channel because you will.

[Hm hm hm]

And Paul, God will never allow, I give you that word in Denver, I'll remind you of it, God will never allow a thing to happen to TBN."

Please ask yourself are these words true? In the months and years since these words were given, have they come to pass?

Can a television station be an extension of heaven - Jesus said so, according to Benny Hinn.

Have people been raised from the dead in their thousands from touching the TV screen? God said it would happen according to Benny Hinn.

Please do check out the words of this man and ask yourself is this really the teaching of the Holy Spirit or a man? Let's get back to the true exposition of the Word of God. ☐

FEEDBACK

Thank you for the information you sent me about the freemasons. The information was sent some time ago - I have been very lax in sending this donation on to you. Your work, informing people about such organisations and cults is very important and helped to clarify in my own mind about what to do in my situation. I worked with social workers, the organisation I worked for has an Equal Opps Policy and when it was suggested in a team meeting that we have meetings in the freemason's lodge next door I said I would be unable to attend a meeting in that building. Although some fellow Christians have said they would have gone in the building and prayed, I felt unable to go over the doorway. I was informed by the manager that I was therefore excluding myself from meetings. So much for Equal Opps! Because of this and another problem at work I decided to leave. How many other people have to put up with this sort of treatment? I've just sold my house and am buying a smaller one (end of mortgage bills etc whoopee!!) I guess I've written all this to you to let you know how much your organisation is needed. The information I received helped me to make a decision based on facts and I was happy to make that decision. - S.T. - S.Yorks.

Thank so much once again for coming to the Bible College. I know how much the students appreciate your input at the end of the year. Just to encourage you Doug - your style is great and appeals to our students. Also I hope it begins to make connections with Reachout and their future ministry. - D.E.

I saw Doug on the "Kilroy" programme concerning witches and Praise God there were several Christians present on this morning's programme. We pray continually against Satanism and witchcraft because they have been a particularly deeply ingrained part of the area round here, as in most parts of the world. We know that God is good and that He has everything in His hands. Even so, the fervent prayer of a believer avails much. This is for encouragement, strength and boldness and wisdom in all that you do - B.A. - Cheshire.

A few weeks ago I contacted you and you sent me some information and a contact. I am just writing to let you know I have come back to the Lord. I have been part of the New Age, a Sai Baba devotee and a Baháí - I have just resigned from this. Thank you for your ministry. - B.W. - Norfolk.

I thank you for your inquiry about me. I am sorry that email has not been functional for all this while in my city.

I lived as a sinner up till 1996 when my sister with whom I was then living preached to me Christ and I gave my life over for His use. Five years later the Lord called me and gave me a vision to reach out to His people through research work.

I was working in a denomination until I met Pastor Samuelson of *Christ Body Outreach*; working for the reconciliation of the body of Christ. Since his vision is for the body of Christ and not a denomination I discovered that It easier through his ministry to freely research without bias.

I am now working as an agent under Christ Body Outreach to be able to reach the entire body of Christ.

In my research I discovered that the Jehovah's Witnesses are gaining ground in my city and country. Their expansion is so rapid that there is urgent need for the body of Christ to be made aware and to see how to reach out to those already trapped in this group.

Some ways we think to do this are;

- i) through tracts and books
- ii) Radio interviews in different cities,
- iii) training seminars in different denominations.
- iv) conferences.

Please would you consider helping us in every way possible. - P.S. - Republic of Cameroon.

(Editor - This is an example of probably 3 or 4 letters we receive every month asking for help in Africa and India. Please pray that the Lord will help us to be able to meet the needs that He wants us to.)

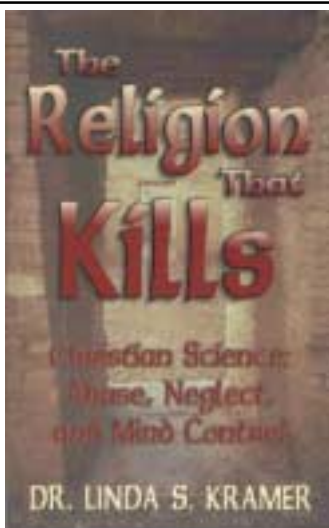
Thank you for your letter enquiring whether I still want to be on your mailing list. The short answer is : Yes !!

As a member of the chaplaincy team at our local NHS hospital with specific responsibility for visiting the psychiatric unit I found your information very helpful. It has also been of value to the other team members and the visiting team.

Could please send a Gift Aid form as I could make a contribution on behalf of the team that would allow you to have the tax benefit.

With prayer for the ministry of the Trust. - D.G. - Sussex.

(Editor - thank you to all who have responded positively and find the Quarterly helpful. For those with positive criticisms please see p.15.) ☐



The Religion that Kills by Dr Linda S. Kramer is a 265 page book explaining how Christian Scientists are trapped by a way of thinking which twists their perception of reality, teaches them to mistrust their senses, and short circuits their ability to make informed, reasoned decisions regarding health care. In short it shows clearly that they are under "mind control."

Linda was raised as a Christian Scientist for 30 years before she left for doctrinal reasons. She then spent many years seeking to break its emotional hold. This is her story and the revelation of the things she discovered.

To order this book send a cheque for £9.50 made payable to KM House to
Mrs K House 27a Seaward Avenue Southbourne Bournemouth BH6 3SJ

CHEERFUL GIVING

Since April 2000 it has been possible for us to reclaim any tax that you may have paid on the amount of your gifts to Reachout Trust no matter how small providing you instruct us to treat them as "Gift Aid Donations."

WHY SHOULD I DO THIS?

1. It is good stewardship – your gift is increased by over 20% without you giving anything extra.
2. It helps us to be able to plan the work ahead more effectively.
3. It enables us to accomplish many of the projects that we believe that the Lord would have us undertake.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

Consider whether you feel the Lord wants you to make a *regular donation—this is especially very helpful for us and we make special offers under our Action Pack scheme for such people* (ask for leaflet) - or a once-off gift. Fill in the form below and send it with the gift. We will receive it with great appreciation and do everything else that is necessary.

WHAT WILL YOU SPEND IT ON?

Obviously there are the normal overheads of the Trust – wages, rent, advertising etc. These costs are kept to a minimum. We then have a Reachout Development Plan, which is a priority list of what we would want to undertake in the next year. At present we are looking to **publish** further material. We are also completing the update of our **computer programme** that runs our database, invoicing etc and this will cost around £5,000. After this we will update our **information programme** and install it on a new computer making it more searchable.

If you are eligible please could we encourage you to complete the form below (you can photostat the page) by ticking the appropriate boxes, deleting the * inappropriate words and sending it with your gift to **REACHOUT TRUST 24 ORMOND ROAD RICHMOND SURREY TW10 6TH**. Do not worry if your circumstances might change in the future because you can withdraw this authority at any time by simply writing to us. Many thanks.

Authority to reclaim tax on a gift (Please complete in BLOCK LETTERS – Thank you.)

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I wish to make a one-off gift by cheque (enclosed)/my credit card * of £ _____ for Reachout Trust which along with any other gifts made by whatever means should be treated as Gift Aid donations on which tax can be reclaimed.

I enclose a gift/wish to make a gift via my credit card * of £ _____ for Reachout Trust which along with any future gifts made by whatever means should be treated as Gift Aid donations on which tax can be reclaimed. This is the first of a regular monthly/quarterly/yearly * gift which I wish to pay by cheque/standing order/credit card *

My credit card number is _____ expiry date _____

By signing this form I declare that I have paid an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the sum of 28p for every £1 given.

I further agree to inform you if my tax circumstances change or I wish to withdraw this agreement.

Signed _____ Date _____