

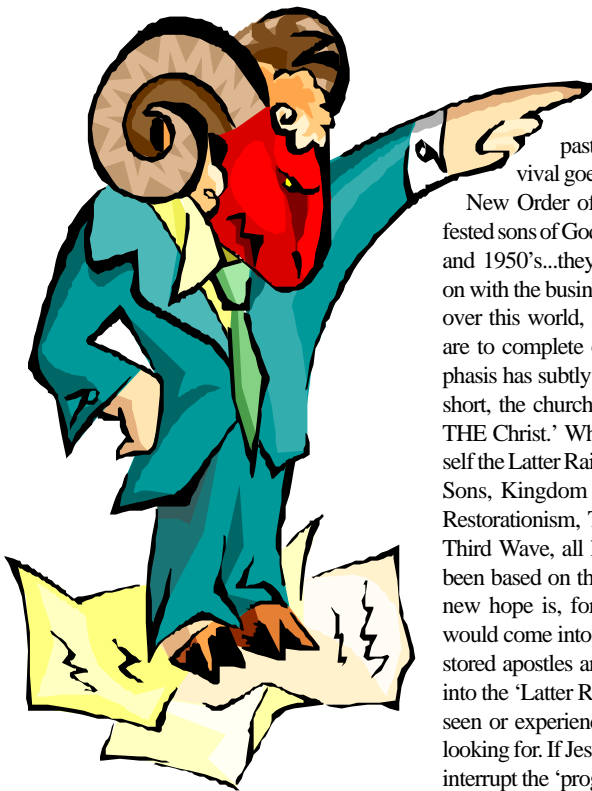


Sentinel

E-mail: kies@mweb.co.za

Volume 8 No 1

Strange Teachings in the Church



Much is being made of *revival* in this day and books on the subject have to a degree flooded the bookshops, especially as the so-called millennium was drawing nigh. Pictures are being painted of the revival of all revivals that lay ahead. We are now already a month or more into *this* new millennium and it is time to take a closer look at the current trends in the church and in the light of Scripture consider whether the Church can truly look forward to this expected greatest of all revivals. Where did it all begin and where do we find the roots of the "Toronto" and other related phenomena? Many of which today are being questioned seriously by concerned Pentecostal and Charismatic pastors.

One such Pentecostal pastor is Bill Randles. "This revival goes back to the now discredited New Order of the Latter Rain and Manifested sons of God movement of the late 1940's and 1950's...they believe that we should get on with the business of ruling and the reigning over this world, and in a very real sense, we are to complete our own salvation. The emphasis has subtly shifted from Christ to us...In short, the church either replaces Christ or 'is THE Christ.' Whether the movement calls itself the Latter Rain Movement, the Manifested Sons, Kingdom Now, Dominion Theology, Restorationism, The Faith Movement, or the Third Wave, all have either come to or have been based on this erroneous conclusion...the new hope is, for the time when the church would come into her own, be perfected by restored apostles and prophets and would enter into the 'Latter Rain,' the greatest revival ever seen or experienced. This is what people are looking for. If Jesus came back now, He would interrupt the 'progress' that the church is making. We are actually told that He can't come back yet anyway, for the Lord's coming back for a perfectly united and unblemished church. Could this laughing revival be the long awaited 'Great End Times Revival,' 'The Feast of Tabernacles,' or 'The Latter Rain?'" (Past Bill Randles; *Weighed and Found Wanting*, Kérugma Productions, p.5)

These are the hopes that have come to replace the centuries old former hope—*The Coming of Jesus!*

Wherever messages of this coming revival, the identifying of territorial evil spirits and their casting out and the claiming of such territories for Jesus, the serving of "the new wine" and the consequent drunkenness in the Spirit are preached people are found in their thousands. Good old Scripture preaching no longer attract the crowds! Over and over people are being told by the likes of Rodney Howard-Browne and others that they have to "experience God or the Holy Spirit by turning off their minds

and stepping over into the realm of the experiential or supernatural. Have Jesus as a friend, older brother or even that you should have a love-affair with Him" are not uncommon. People have truly found for themselves ministers who preach the nice things that tickle their ears and are turning away from sound doctrine to myths. (2 Tim 4:3-4)

Now Consider:

Those who refuse to let their intellectual capacities be turned off, drink of the "new wine", criticize these ministers' twisting of scriptures or question their messages are castigated or ridiculed by these pastors as unwilling to recognise that the Holy Spirit can move in strange ways. They are accused of legalism, narrow-mindedness and putting God in a box. To claim that God could do anything sounds fine, and certainly God is all-powerful, but would He do things outside of what He has revealed to us in His word? "It may be that the theoretical god of philosophers, the god who can 'do anything', might well make a person jerk or shake or 'pogo-jump'; the question is whether the God of the Bible, the one true God, would do these things. It is a question that can only be answered by responsible Bible interpretation, and not by the rather dangerous claim, 'God can do anything'." (Mark DJ Smith, *Testing the Fire*, St Matthew Publishing Ltd, 1996, p.57)

Any person who might dare to judge or criticise their messages, quite often unbiblical, are vehemently attacked and sometimes even consigned to hell by them wrenching the words from Scripture, "don't touch the anointed of God", completely out of its context. Does it make sense that they can attack, criticise and even judge those who are critical of their perverted messages, while at the same time they consider themselves as the untouchables who are above reproach? Were not the Bereans considered "more noble-minded" than the others? (Acts 17:11) BECAUSE they checked out Paul's message against Scripture, i.e., used

Continued on page 5



Sentinel is die lyfblad van *Kulte Inligting & Evangelisasie Sentrum* en word kwartaaliks gepubliseer om die gemeenskap in te lig en te waarsku teen misleiding, die ware Evangelie te verkondig en die Kerk bewus te maak van die gevare wat die dwaalleer van die kultes inhou. *Sentinel* is the mouthpiece of *Cult Information & Evangelization Center* and is published quarterly to inform and warn the community against deception, to spread the true Gospel and to alert the Church against the heresy of the cults.

Is 'n Interkerklike Evangelisasie en Uitreik-aksie van die Ned Geref Gemeente-EDLEEN

Is an Interdenominational Evangelization Outreach of the Dutch Reformed Church-EDLEEN

Skryfaanhalings, tensy anders vermeld, is uit die 1983 Afrikaanse Vertaling/Scripture quotations, unless stated otherwise, are from the NASB.

Disclaimer: The publication of any article does not mean that CIEC necessarily agrees with or condones all the viewpoints of the writer.

Redaksioneel/Editorial



A most hearty welcome to all of you who renewed your subscription to *Sentinel*. As you can see it now looks somewhat different. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading it from the front to the very last page.

It was quite a difficult task to put the articles together as there is just so much information available. I would have loved to share it all with you, but that would have meant sending each one of you a whole stack of books. I sincerely trust that what we have condensed in the articles will give you a good idea of what we have happening in the Church today. There is no doubt that strange and even frightening things are no longer cautious in showing their very ugly faces, albeit masked, even in what can be considered conservative Protestantism.

I believe that the new year will present even more challenges and tests to Christians than the last year. It is now more than ever before becoming a matter of "contend[ing] earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 3)

May God bless you richly with courage and words in standing up for His name and values in this humanistic world of today in which the New Age gods are increasingly being honoured in the place of the One True God.

PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS

Many of you will have taken note of this great event that took place in Cape Town early in December.

According to Sarel van der Merwe who went there with two other cameramen to put various "happenings" of this meet on video it was interesting to note the two main themes:

1. Religious unity and;
2. Religious harmony.

The other factor that really stood out was the many false christes that were either spoken of or were present at this event.

Wicca/witchcraft also featured very strongly.

Sarel now has the mammoth task of editing the many hours of video footage with the view of compiling shorter videos dealing with the various aspects of this gathering.

Anyone interested in obtaining some of this material when it becomes available are welcome to contact Sarel directly. His details are:-

Sarel van der Merwe
10 Havenga Avenue
FLORIDA PARK
South Africa
1701
Tel: 011-472-6964
Int: +27-11-472-6964
Mobile: 082-689-7603
Int: +27-82-689-7603

COMING EVENTS!!

If all goes well and with the Lord's blessing, the following major events are planned for this year:

- * Our first cult awareness camp in English: 12-14 May.
- * Afrikaanse Kamp: 18-20 Augustus.

Editors:

Japie Grobler (*Sentinel*).
Dr Henk Stoker & Rev Johan Botha
(Theological)

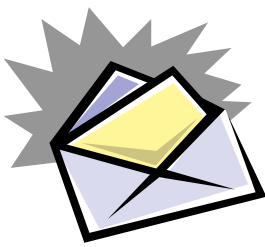
Address: P O Box 8009
EDLEEN
South Africa
1625
Tel/Fax: +27-11-976-3723
E-mail: kies@mweb.co.za or
sentinel@hotmail.com
Street Address: Ned Geref Kerk-Edleen
cnr. Amarillo & Ilex Rds
EDLEEN
Kempton Park

Donations: KIES/CIEC
Standard Bank
Midrand
Code 1155
Ac No: 20-247-350-3

Make cheques out to: KIES

Advies oor Kultes/Advice about Cults:

Algemeen/General
Dr Henk Stoker* Tel: 012-46-7525
E-mail: stoker@mweb.co.za
Japie Grobler* 011-976-3723
E-mail: kies@mweb.co.za
Brits Israelisme/British Israelism
Louis Kruger Tel: 012-345-3275
Jehova se Getuies/Jehovah's Witnesses
Christine Haarhoff* Tel: 012-661-8542
E-mail: ngrhk@mweb.co.za
Japie Grobler* (Sien bo/See above)
Dr Henk Stoker* (Sien bo/See above)
Nuwe/Ou Apostels/New Old Apostles
Japie Grobler*
Dr Henk Stoker*
Nicolene Coombes Tel: 012-664-6684
Psigiese Beheer/Mind Control
Dr Rienie Venter Tel: 012-661-8511
E-mail: ventema@alpha.unisa.ac.za
Uitleidingsberading/Exit Counselling
Dr Stephan Pretorius*
Tel: 012-542-4172
E-mail: pretosp@alpha.unisa.ac.za
New Age
Sarel vd Merwe Tel: 011-472-6964
Satanisme/Okkultisme
Satanism/Occultism
Ado Krige Tel: 012-329-1467
Vrymesselary/Freemasonry
Japie Grobler*
* Dui Bestuurslede aan/
* Indicates Board Members



Letters/Briewe

BORN AGAIN JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

Attached is our request to renew our subscription to 'Sentinel'. We place it on our notice board for a month and then in our library. Copies are made for those interested.

I have also asked for a copy to be sent to our Pretoria Church.

The seminary finds information contained in your publication of great value in our studies on cults and sects.

I am pleased to report that my husband, who was previously a staunch and very active Jehovah's Witness and then just a nominal Christian, is now showing strong evidence of being truly born again. Daily, as we study the word, he is able to point out the flaws in their teaching—and teachings of other sects—to others. He decided to stop attending JW meetings four years ago when he first spoke to you but it has taken years for him to rid himself of all their books and influence.

The information you sent me on the Old Apostolic Church was also instrumental in preventing a family from joining that organisation. God be with in your fight.

You have our prayers and deep appreciation.

Your sister in Christ

Margaret Thompson
Administrator
Wesleyan Evangelical Seminary
Brakpan

We truly feel small but very thankful when we receive a letter like this. It makes us realise that the Lord truly works in His own time. I am just glad we were instruments in His hand.

Ed.

UNMASKING OF FALSE PROPHETS

Thank you for your regular publication unmasking false prophets an subtle deception.

Please send me the tract 'Golden Rain and Gold Fillings.'

May you be filled with knowledge of God's will, receiving spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Joan Joubert
Plettenberg Bay

We are so dependent on the prayers and spiritual support of our readers, without which we will surely not be able to keep up the good fight.

Ed.

KOSBARE INLIGTING

Graag wil ek net baie dankie sê vir die inligting oor die International Church of Christ. Dit word werklik opreg waardeer.

Ek sal baie graag die *Sentinel* wil ontvang. Hier is baie kosbare inligting in. Seënwense met u werk.

Groete in Christus
Ds Jackie Gouws
Rustenburg

DANKIE VIR INLIGTING OOR BAHÁ'Í

Baie dankie vir die insiggewende artikel oor die Baha'í-kulte.

Babs
Middelburg

REQUEST FOR AN ENGLISH BIBLE

I hereby request an English Bible. I am a Christian boy of 25 years old by age. I request a Bible from you because I know that Bible is the word of God directed to my life. I passed std 10 in the year 1996. I was in need intending to run more further with education field as I promised it by myself. The condition I grew up at unfortunately is still very bad even today.

Sir please if you have some Gospel literatures for free to send it to me. I am in courtship. I am not working but I believe that my Heavenly Father will make away for me. Blessed are for those who give someone else. Ecclesiastes 11:1-5.

I will be glad when my request will be highly considered.

Tarimbani Ringeta Leonard
P O Box 2568
GIYANI
0826

We have sent you some tracts and also put your name on our mailing list; so you will regularly receive Sentinel.

Can someone assist with an English Bible? Please send directly to him. I am sure he will also appreciate other tracts—ours are all cult related.

Ed.

KON SENTINEL GOED GEBRUIK

Baie dankie vir die nuusbrieff wat ek ontvang. Kon dit gebruik by 'n geval van 'n vriendin met haar probleem van haar suster.

Die Here seën jou en almal daar met die werk wat julle doen tot uitbreiding van ons Koning se ryk hier op aarde.

Sanet
Dunnottar

Ons is elke keer baie dankbaar wanneer ons verneem dat Sentinel op een of ander manier kon help.

Red.

SIEN MET VERWAGTING UIT...

In *Sentinel no 9801* is daar 'n artikel *Dispensational Premillennialism Part II* van Edgar Bradley. Ek sien dat deel I in *Sentinel no 9702* is. Ek sal baie graag 'n afskrif daarvan wil hê, aangesien ek toe nog nie julle blaadjie ontvang het nie.

Kan julle dalk vir my iets meer vertel van Dr. Bahat Batarseh van Jordanië? Sien ingeslote blaadjie.

Baie dankie vir al die interessante en leersame artikels. Ek sien altyd met verwagting uit na die volgende *Sentinel*.

Ek bid julle baie seën toe op julle werk.
Mev CA Maartens
Bloemfontein

Wêreld in PERSPEKTIEF

- Leef ons in die laaste dae?
- Wat van Bybelse profesieë?
- Wat van Israel?
- En die huidige krisis in die Midde-Ooste?
- Gaan Jesus weer kom?
- En as Hy kom, wat dan?
- Is jy geneed as dit vandag sou wees?

Dr. Bahat Batarseh van Jordanië, teen besig met 'n sewende doktorsgraad, bring huidige wêreldgebeure in 'n nagter Bybelse perspektief.

'n Reedskap van **IBHOP!**

As jy geïnteresseerd is, kom haal dit.
As jy slaagpas is, kom verskei.

Sondag 8 Maart: 19h30: De Bohmer Skoolseel, Haldonsweg, Universitat.

Ma - Wo aand:
9 - 11 Maart: 19h00: Anglo American Lokaal (Brinkamer) UV Kampus.

"Kyk, Ek het alles vir julle voorskyn gesê."
(Markas 13:25)

Can anybody help with information about the above person? Who is he and how true is his theology?

Ed.

MENSE STEEK KWAAD

Baie dankie vir die inligting oor Vrymesselary en die baie bekende evangeliste.

Ek het dit vir ons Pastoor gewys, maar hy sê dit is mense wat wil kwaadsteek werk doen.

Gerda
Standerton

Dit is maar gewoonlik die argumente wat aangevoer word. Mense weier oor die algemeen om objektief na feitelike inligting te kyk en luister. Dalk help ons artikels in hierdie uitgawe verder in hierdie verband.

Red.

Somewhere Between Illusion and Reality

The parking lot blossomed with thousands of cars, yet it was still twenty minutes before 'show' time. A veritable army of people flocked through six entrances to the auditorium. P.T. Barnum's words came to mind: "*Never underestimate the gullibility of the public. There's a sucker born every minute.*"

Security led us past the crowd and through a private entrance to the auditorium. As promised, our seats were front row center. I could not help but feel conspicuous as people immediately began whispering and pointing in my direction. It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what they were thinking.

Surprisingly, I was also feeling uncomfortable at the stark contrast between my own hardened cynicism and the crowd's sense of expectancy. I was actually beginning to second-guess myself. Perhaps I was to skeptical. Why couldn't I be like everyone else and approach the evening the way they did?

All around me, people were buzzing with anticipation. Those who, like Chuck, had been to previous meetings were filling in newcomers about what they would soon be experiencing. A cacophony of sounds, splintered conversations, and random outbursts of laughter reverberated through the auditorium. I spotted a well-known local pastor across the aisle and marveled again at the apparent gullibility of so many seemingly intelligent and discerning people. Were they all just invincibly ignorant...or was it me?

Refrains of familiar chorusses broke down my resistance even further. The songs, interspersed with testimonials, seemed incredibly compelling. I glanced at my watch as the lights dimmed. Already the better part of an hour had flown by. The atmosphere was electric with expectation. It sounded amazingly like Charlton Heston delivering the commandments from Mount Sinai. "The best...the only...the unbelievable...the greatest..." I was amazed at the number of superlatives that were packed into the ninety-second introduction. The an-

nouncer paused dramatically. "And now, please join me in extending a warm welcome to..." The name was lost in an explosion of applause.

From the start, the crowd seemed like putty in his hands. I was amazed at his commanding presence as well as by the control he exerted over the audience. Even those who, like me, were there under protest seemed genuinely impressed. The skepticism etched on their faces grudgingly gave way to smiles. Soon some of them were even laughing robustly along with everyone else. As determined as I was not to let go, I could not help smiling a time to myself. There was no doubt about it. The laughter was downright infectious.

It wasn't long before the star of the evening began to call the more demonstrative people forward. The clamor for attention reached a fevered pitch as people strove desperately to get noticed. It was painfully obvious that the chosen few were willing to do whatever he commanded—no matter how outrageous. The pastor I had spotted earlier in the evening had thrown off all of his usual ministerial decorum and now whirled around on the stage, howling like a dog. Others stumbled through the auditorium as though in a drunken stupor. One woman, who had lost all sense of modesty, thrashed around on the floor in total abandon.

I was amazed at the power this guy seemed to hold over people. His enthusiasm and encouragement seemed to egg them on to new heights of absurdity. He merely pointed in their direction, and immediately they began to jerk spasmodically. At one point he blew into his microphone, and an entire row of people keeled over in an apparent supernatural faint. As he worked the crowd, laughter echoed eerily through the auditorium.

His mental and musical manipulation was choreographed to the very last detail. One moment he would tell us, "I wouldn't dupe you"; the next he provided empirical proof that he knew just how to push people's buttons. Like a master magician, he employed embedded commands to cause

even the most weary subjects to succumb to his control. Although he seemed to know every trick of the trade, he was particularly adept at using peer pressure to elicit desired responses from his willing subjects.

I was so entranced by his performance that I lost all track of time. As much as I hated to admit it, the evening's performance was among the most powerful I had ever witnessed.

By the time it was over, I was chomping at the bit to meet this guy up close and personal. After the last person exited the auditorium, we met backstage. He had shed his jacket and was mopping his face with a towel, still flushed from the exuberance of a successful performance. I impatiently endured the small talk and introductions. Impulsively, I blurted out, "Over the years I've been exposed to some of the best con men, illusionists, and religious charlatans around. I thought I'd seen it all, but tonight I experienced things I never even knew existed. I want to know how in the world you pulled this off!"

Although stunned by my bluntness, he recovered quickly. He methodically completed wiping his face then calmly handed the towel to his attendant. "I see your reputation doesn't do you justice," he began. "I can't remember when I've been approached more directly."

"Listen," I interrupted, "I have seen performers break the fourth wall. I've seen them used altered states of consciousness, peer pressure, expectations, and suggestion to great effect. But never before have I seen so many people completely mesmerized..."

Before I could finish my sentence, his broadening grin erupted into a chuckle. "That's high praise, coming from you. Truth is, however, there's nothing particularly supernatural about what I do. Quite frankly, I've done it so often it's becoming second nature to me. In fact, maybe that's why I'm always billed as," he gave a dramatic pause, and then his voice boomed, "Tony Angelo—the World's Greatest Stage Hypnotist!"

(With thanks to Hank Hanegraaff's *Counterfeit Revival*, Word Publishing, 1997, pp.5-8.)

Toronto: Continued from page 1

their intellect to study the Scriptures. Did they not **judge** Paul's preaching by comparing it to Scripture? Does not Paul give the Christian an instruction to use his intellect by being sober-minded ("gird up your mind") in matters of faith? (1 Pet 1:13) Are we not told to test or discern the spirits? (1 John 4:1-3) Do not accept the argument that these experiences and their fruit prove that the movement has been instigated and is being sustained by the Spirit of God. "[T]his is not what 'testing the spirits' is about. The test is neither about religious movements nor strange phenomena. It is about whether certain people who are apparently displaying manifestations of the Spirit, and who on that basis are seeking a place of influence in the Christian community, should be allowed to do what they want." (*Testing the Fire*, p.78) Another question we must seriously consider is: Did Jesus invite His followers to a love-affair or friendship with Him or even consider Him as their elder Brother or does He expect of us to confess Him as *the* Lord of our lives, go through Him to the Father and recognise Him as the only Name through Whom we may be saved? Such claims are not unanimous with those that are to be found in a relationship with a friend or a love-affair with someone!

The other important aspect to consider is: *Does the Bible speak of a great awakening or revival in the last days?* If this is so then these ministers and movements that preach this message are right and we should listen to what they have to say. BUT, should the Bible be quiet or almost quiet about such a possibility and really have an opposite message to believers then we should listen to the Bible, not so? The Bible is very clear: There will be a falling away in the last days—a great apostasy, deception and a universal revival of lying signs and wonders. As discouraging as it may seem we do not find the message that believers in Jesus Christ will dominate the world. As Bill Randles so aptly describes the perverted application of replacement theology: "*The only way to come to this erroneous conclusion is to use replacement theology, in which all the scriptures pertaining to Israel are reapplied to the church!*" (p.6) Prasch puts it in context for us: "...so, today a new version of Replacement Theology—which is not simply anti-Israel, but also anti-Jewish—is on the rise within evangelical Christianity, hard on the heels of Restoratianism and Kingdom Now theology." (James Jacob Prsch, *The Last Words of Jesus and Satan's Lies Today*, St Matthew Publishing Ltd, 1999, p.157) Check out any concordance and see how many scriptures you can find that refer to "revival" as opposed to how many there are that refer to a "falling away."

REFUSAL OR BLINDNESS?

Cult members refuse to acknowledge that their leaders/prophets have falsely prophesied, say the end of the world, like Jehovah's Witnesses or other failed prophesies like those of Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, for instance, and make it off as "mistakes". Sup-

porters of men like Howard-Browne, Hinn, Hagin, Copeland, Price, Cain, Capps, Crouch, Roberts, McCauly, Schuller, Savelle and others have this same "loyalty". They also refuse to look objectively at what these men have said and evade the issues by saying that people quote these men out of context. Instead, they will normally counter by saying that we have to look at the "good" these men have done—yes how many people have found Jesus through their ministry! The question is: "Did such persons find the real Jesus, or was it ANOTHER Jesus and ANOTHER spirit?" (2 Cor 11:4) Remember: Satan masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Cor 11:14) and that includes his apostles. (v.13) Larry Thomas indicates on p.25 of *No Laughing Matter* that it is acknowledged by Billy Graham's organisation "that only about three percent of those who make decisions at his crusades are still in churches a year later." The problem is clear: This is what you get when emotions are stirred up, as is often the practice in some churches, and people are led to make decisions based on their emotions—how they felt, totally or almost totally ignoring their intellect. By this we do not for one minute try to indicate that people cannot truly make a lasting commitment to Jesus at these meetings. However, it seems that these conversions are indeed rare. The other problem is that people become like addicts; they have to continually come back for another fix, and these fixes have to get stronger as time passes. No wonder that manifestations increase in weirdness—gold dust, teeth fillings and more. Wait for the day when "holy oil/water" or other stranger things are going to pop up somewhere at one or other meeting.

To accurately evaluate any movement we have to look at its origin. The Bible tells us that a good tree cannot produce bad fruit or vice versa. (Matt 7:18; Luke 6:43) Eve made the same mistake many people are making today: She looked at the fruit offered her by Satan and "saw that it was GOOD"! The origin of this deception though was rotten at the core. Each Christian has the responsibility to consider where the roots of "this tree" is to be found. We must not be blinded by the beautiful fruit we see at a distance, for when we go closer we might find a thorn tree on which thorns have been stuck the most beautiful fruit; at its core, the root, it remains a thorn tree.

However, "*by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned,*" (Matt 12:37) is a Biblical test we are justified in applying when we consider what these well-known men have said. After all, Jesus Christ Himself said that the people of His day were to ask the people what He said. (John 18:21) And does the Bible not command us to judge what the prophets speak? "*And let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.*" (1 Cor 14:29)

THE ROOTS:

It all started with a man John Wimber. In his life he was a gospel music writer, lecturer, author, pastor, evangelist and builder of the

Vineyard movement. His married life took a turn for the bad while as a businessman he excelled. Because of his deteriorating marriage he took the advice of a friend and went into the desert where he cried out to God for help. No sooner had he been back or his wife phoned telling him that she wanted to come back home. They then attended a Bible study group which was led by a Quaker. John's wife came to Christ. He later became the pastor of a Quaker church, which they later left and started his own Bible study group. He became a lecturer at Fuller Seminary. There he met C Peter Wagner, a professor, who had a profound influence on his life. Meanwhile the Bible study group quickly grew from 50 people to ±6,000 members and became known as the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Anaheim, California. From there it spread throughout the world as John Wimber and C Peter Wagner joined forces in promoting church growth seminars, spiritual warfare conferences, etc. Further influence came much later from a Vineyard pastor of St Louis, Randy Clark, who attended a service of Rodney Howard-Browne in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His life was changed by this encounter "and he wanted to share this new-found liberty and joy with others." (Larry Thomas, *No Laughing Matter*, Double Crown Publishing, 1995, p.91)

A significant change came about during a service on Mother's Day, 1981 at a church Wimber pastored. He invited a young man who had been a regular at their services to preach one night. This young man invited the Holy Spirit to come, which resulted in many people falling down, speaking in tongues, weeping, wailing etc. One boy, when asked, said it was like electricity going through him and that he could not move. Wimber had difficulty accepting all of this and the subsequent things that happened as coming from God. He spent the next day searching the Scriptures and church history to get confirmation that these events were from God, but failed to find any. To cut a long story short he eventually accepted that it was from God when a pastor friend of theirs in another town who had a mystical experience and phoned him as well as another man in a different town, said to them that he did not know why, but God told him to say "Its Me John!" Now it no longer mattered that he could not find any Biblical or historical basis for it. And so the foundation was laid: *Experience above Scripture*. Power evangelism was with the Church—the "Third Wave" was here! The first having been the Pentecostal Movement, the second the Charismatics. "...[E]vidently Wimber has accepted (like Copeland and others) the occult idea of an impersonal force of faith and grace that must 'manifest in our midst. Without this 'force' energizing it, doctrine is supposedly dead." (*Weighed and Found Wanting*, p.99. Brackets (...) added) Vineyard's 1980's audio tape series on demonization "unequivocally stated that such animal noises were evidence of demon possession." (*Testing the Fire*, p.45)

Continued on page 6

Toronto: Continued from page 5

Just a word on this “inviting of the Holy Spirit to come”-business. Did Christ not say that “the wind blows where it wishes.”? (John 3:8). Where in the Bible has the Christian been given the power to command the Holy Spirit? Gifts are NOT the Holy Spirit!

IMPARTATION:

The next step was that those pastors who wanted this gift had to go to the Airport Vineyard Church in Toronto to get it. This gets passed on by the laying on of hands (called “impartation”). Rodney Howard-Browne is one of these great passers-on. This is how he, for instance, does it: “[He] then began to work on the whole audience, rhythmically pacing up and down in front of the stage, using a strange tongue which was never interpreted. This gradually became a mantra which climaxed in a piercing high-pitched sound which he held for a long time. Watching the video with me was an African pastor and a former missionary. Both immediately said they recognised this as identical with the voodoo call used by witch doctors in summoning demons.” (Clifford Hill, PWM Team Ministries Newsletter, 28 November, 1994 as quoted by Stephen Sizer, www.banner.org.)

“Asian evangelist to the Hindus, Thomas Chakko, after viewing videos of Toronto featuring Rodney Howard-Browne and Kenneth Copeland, warned that such manifestations are identical to Kundalini Yoga and described the Toronto experience as eastern religion infiltrating western Christendom. Romany Gypsies who become Christians call Toronto manifestations ‘duckering’, something they describe as what they did before they were born again—using the occult to get money out of people.” (Prasch, p.200)

It is also worth taking note of two of the many examples quoted by world-renowned authority on the occult, Dr Kurt E. Koch: “Mark (not his name) was a Christian in a church that he thought was formal and dead. He went to a Pentecostal church, where hands were laid on him, and he was what they called ‘slain in the spirit.’ He was lying on the floor in a trance. When he came out of it, he was praising Jesus in a loud voice, and he continued praising Jesus. While attending the Pentecostal church, Mark also received the gift of tongues. The name of the spirit of the tongue was ‘Domenigaio.’ Here are some of the notes taken when this demon was cast out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. ‘Domenigaio, how many associates are with you in Mark?’ ‘I am alone.’ ‘When did you enter him?’ ‘When he was slain in the spirit.’ ‘Who sent you?’ ‘The devil, from the pit.’ ‘Do you acknowledge our authority over you in Christ Jesus our Lord?’ ‘I do.’ ‘What is your commission from Satan?’ ‘To deceive.’ ‘How?’ ‘In his love for the Lord Jesus; ruin his faith; have him follow Satan.’ ‘You were posing as the Holy Spirit, weren’t you?’ ‘Yes.’... The name ‘Jesus’ keeps coming into Mark’s mind, so we command in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that if, there is a demon in him

named Jesus, he come (sic!) forward and give his name. Answer, ‘Jesus.’ ‘What Jesus?’ ‘Jesus of the devil.’ ‘What is your work, what did Satan commission you to do?’ ‘To fool him; to steal the glory of God.’ ‘When did you enter into him?’ ‘When he was slain in the spirit.’

“Shirley came from a Christian family. As a young girl she came to faith in Christ, and a few years later joined a youth group called ‘Youth with a Mission.’ All the members of this group who belonged to a Pentecostal church, spoke in tongues—all that is, except Shirley...[she] prayed much for the gift of tongues. Then one day at a meeting of the Pentecostal church she went forward to the platform, holding her hands in the air. She received the gift of speaking in tongues. ‘Praise the Lord!’ everyone shouted in joy, ‘Shirley got the baptism of the Holy Spirit.’ Some time later she heard about demonic imitations of the gift of tongues. At the time she noticed that most of the members of the ‘Youth with a Mission’ group were falling away...This made her doubts increase. She agreed to let brother Birch test the spirit that was speaking in tongues according to 1 John 4:2. As Shirley was praying in tongues brother Birch asked, ‘You spirit speaking in tongues, do you confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh?’ After he had repeated the question, the demon cried out, ‘No! No!’ Thereupon brother Birch commanded it, in the name of Jesus Christ, to reveal its name. ‘Lucifer with three comrades,’ came the reply. ‘Saul, Demetrius, Judas.’ Then the voices cried out from the girl. ‘I hate you, I hate you.’ The girl at once jumped up and tried to strangle brother Birch. This man put himself under the protection of Jesus Christ (Luke 10:19) and bound the demons in the name of the Lord. Then he commanded them; ‘In the name of Jesus Christ, tell us when you entered this girl.’ ‘At that meeting of the Pentecostal church,’ they replied, ‘on August 17.’ ‘What do you intend to do with her?’ ‘We want to keep her back from the truth. That is why we took control of her tongue.’

“Several facts become evident from this story. Demons speak in the first person...Those who try to gain spiritual; gifts, e.g., the gift of speaking in tongues by force, come into the hands of other spirits...It sometimes happens that demons claim to be the Holy Spirit or Jesus. Thus they occasionally utter the name of Jesus. If one then commands them in the name of *Jesus Christ* to reveal themselves, they are forced to declare: ‘I am the unholy Jesus.’ Another [example is that they will declare] ‘I am the Jesus of Satan.’ The name *Jesus* is not restricted to Jesus Christ. (Col 4:11)” (Kurt E Koch, *Occult ABC*, Kregel Publications, 1999, pp.33, 209.)

Such deceived pastors now revel in this newly found mystical power. Like the touch of the Hindu guru people are now slain when touched on the forehead by these ministers. The “Toronto Blessing” is very similar to what goes on in some Hindu religious celebrations. Former Hindu, now Christian, Ram Gidoomal

says: “As a child when I was a Hindu, we went to a temple in Nairobi—where my family had emigrated. I have vivid memories of priests shaking incredibly violently. Some of them had very long hair, and I remember the scene of hair waving backwards and forwards. They performed demented dances—a little like the cosack style of dancing—shaking like men possessed...If you go around to Hindu temples, monuments and shrines, you will find this kind of possession. In the middle of a ceremony, someone will go into a frenzied trance. It’s just like you read about the prophets in parts of the Old Testament. The point I am trying to make is that these things happen outside the Church; so if someone says—when it happens in a church—that it must be of God, it doesn’t necessarily follow.” (Quoted in *Testing the Fire*, pp.135, 136) “[T]he majority of falling down cases in the ‘Toronto Blessing’ seem to lack the key feature of the biblical cases—namely, some sort of vision of God. Instead, the falling seems to be in some kind of ‘switched off’ state in which people ‘feel good’, ‘happy’ and so on. It is not my purpose to deny such experiences, only to point out that they are not the same as those found in the Bible. It is also significant that the majority of cases of falling down in the Bible are occasions where a person or persons are confronted by one greater than themselves (often God or an angel of God) and in response cast themselves down in fear and worship. There is no indication in these cases that God’s Spirit directly causes the falling down by doing strange things to their bodies...The general rule is that when, in the Bible, God does something with his people, it is first and foremost cognitive or physical.” (*Testing the Fire*, p.40)

Let us reflect for a moment on the touch on the forehead by the Hindu guru: “The most feared and revered deity in Hinduism is the goddess Kali (Durga), the wife of Shiva the destroyer. She is also known as Shakti, which means ‘force,’ and represents the impersonal force that occultism teaches runs the universe. The divine power-touch of the guru is called Shakti-pat. This is a term used for the touch (or near touch) of a guru’s hand to the worshipper’s forehead that produces supernatural effects...The supernatural effect of shakti through the guru’s touch may knock the worshipper to the floor or he may see a bright light and receive an experience of enlightenment or inner illumination, or have some other mystical or psychic experience.” (Quoted in *No Laughing Matter*, p.146) Similar phenomena can be found in Afro-Caribbean cults. Under the hands of witch doctors local indigenous people display similar manifestations.

Revelation 13:16 tells us that followers of the Beast shall receive a mark on their foreheads and in their right hands. Makes you think does it not? when you see that by far the majority of these evangelists touch people on the head with their right hands! For context read chapters 12-14. Note, it is the false prophet that causes people to worship the beast.

Continued on page 7

Toronto: Continued from page 6

Well-known Benny Hinn's power is so great that great numbers fall down when he merely blows on them or when he throws his jacket on them or hits them with it. You are seriously challenged to look at videos of these men or when you attend any of their services to sincerely ask yourself whether what you are seeing is truly from the Lord and whether He is genuinely honoured by it. A word of advice though: Make sure you take your Bible with so that you can check out that the message is not ripped out of its Biblical context. A good example being the Apostles at Pentecost: Kenneth Hagin and others twist the scripture when the Apostles spoke in tongues and some thought they were drunk, that they were in fact drunk—hence they force support for “getting drunk with new wine”. The context, however, is very clear; it was not so! Remember: Scripture explains Scripture!

EMOTIONAL CONTROL:

In many of these Pentecostal/Charismatic meetings the whole setting plays an important role for achieving the right atmosphere. The music, the lighting, the right timing for the appearance of the main speaker, peer pressure, all play a role in creating the right receptive frame of mind in the audience. It is important to note what “a renowned practitioner of the Occult”, Raymond Buckland, tells us about the power of words: “Words are, in themselves, a means to emotional control over persons and events. How effectively they control is dependent upon the speaker. It was a chant, or spell, that first brought to Man the feeling that he was able to exercise supernatural abilities with the minimum of danger to himself. The foundation of successful casting of spells lies in the power and mystery of ‘the word’. It is even believed that some words are in themselves so powerful that they are impossible to speak disparagingly. They may only be used on certain very special occasions...Another ingredient mentioned by some magicians is rhythm. Chants and spells should either rhyme or be repetitive with a heavy sonorous beat. This contributes to a gradually rising state of excitement within the chanter [speaker] him/herself, adding immeasurably to the power produced.” He then explains that a *mantra* has mysterious power. “The *mantra* can come about in several ways. It might be a single word, or a whole phrase, that has come from inspiration through meditation. Or it might be a carefully-plotted distillation, or reduction, from a large volume or holy book...In Transcendental Meditation a *mantra* is used to bring about a sense of well-being, relaxation, good health, etc.” (*The Magick of Chant-O-Matics*, Parker Publishing Co., Inc., 1978, pp.223, 225, 226).

Psychologists recognise six characteristics of an Altered State of Consciousness (ASC): 1.) Alterations in thinking; 2.) Altered sense of time; 3.) Loss of control; 4.) Changes in emotional expression; 5.) Body image changes and; 6.) Perceptual changes of hallucinations.

THE MEN AND THEIR WORDS:

Let us briefly look at what some of these men have said:

* Rodney Howard-Browne writes in *The Touch of God*, pp.13-14: “Nothing Jesus did was because He was the Son of God. The Bible says He laid His royal robes of Deity aside and when He walked on earth He did so as a Prophet under the Abrahamic Covenant.” (Quoted in *No Laughing Matter*, p.64) Numerous cults tell us that Jesus was only a prophet and nowhere does the Bible say Jesus “laid His royal robes of Deity aside”! Could this be an erroneous interpretation of Phil 2:6-7?

* In his *The Coming Revival* he writes on pp.6 and 8: “But I’d rather be in a church where the devil and the flesh are manifesting than in a church where nothing is happening because people are too afraid to manifest anything.” (Part of the quote in *No Laughing Matter*, p.66) How would you like to be in a church where the devil is manifesting; seriously now—answer for yourself! Do you honestly believe these are words that should come from a Christian’s mouth? What would you do if your pastor says this from the pulpit?

* Frederick Price: “Now this is a shocker! But God has to be given *permission* to work in this earth realm on behalf of man...Yes! *You are in control!* So, if man is in control, who no longer has it? God...When God gave Adam dominion. So, God cannot do anything in this earth unless we let Him. And the way *we let Him* or give Him permission is through prayer.” (Hank Hanegraaff: *Christianity in Crisis*, Harvest House Publishers, 1993, p.85)

* Kenneth Hagin: “Man...was created on terms of equality with God, and he could stand in God’s presence without any consciousness of inferiority...God has made us as much like Himself as possible...He made us the same class of being that He is Himself...Man lived in the realm of God. He lived on terms equal with God...[T]he believer is called *Christ...That’s who we are; we’re Christ!*” (*Christianity in Crisis*, p.108)

* Kenneth Copeland: “God’s reason for creating Adam was His desire to reproduce Himself...He was not a little like God. He was not almost like God. He was not subordinate to God even.” (p.108)

“I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the Bible actually is...The biggest one in the whole Bible is God...Now, the reason you don’t think of God as a failure is He never said He’s a failure. And you’re not a failure till you say you’re one.” (p.125)

* Morris Cerullo: “Did you know that from the beginning of time the whole purpose of God was to reproduce Himself?...Who are you? Come on, who are you? Come on, say it: ‘Sons of God!’ And what does work inside us, brother, is that manifestation of expression of all that God is and all that God has. And when we stand up here, brother, you’re not looking at Morris Cerullo; you’re looking at God. You’re looking at Jesus.” (p.109)

* Benny Hinn: Stating that he was going to be led by the Holy Spirit, said: “God came from heaven, became a man, made man into little gods, went back to heaven as a man. He faces the Father as a man. I face devils as the son of God...Quit your nonsense! What else are you? If you say, I am, you’re saying I’m part of Him, right? Is he God? Are you His offspring? Are you His children? You can’t be human! You can’t! You can’t! God didn’t give birth to flesh...You said, ‘Well, that’s heresy.’ No, that’s your crazy brain saying that.” (p.131)

“God came to earth and touched a piece of dust and turned it into a God. ...Are you a child of God? Then you’re divine! Are you a child of God? Then you’re not human.” “Now ladies and gentlemen, you are on the earth exactly what Jesus was on earth...As He is so am I, on earth. ...When you walk, Jesus is walking. When you talk, He’s talking. When you move, He’s moving.” (G Richard Fisher and Kurt M Goedelman with WE Nunnally, Stephen F Cannon and Paul R Blizard, *The Confusing World of Benny Hinn*, Personal Freedom Outreach, 1997, p.13)

Hinn is not only satisfied with “believers” being Gods or Christs but wants to give them “Jehovah” as a last name: “This new man inside of you is just like Jesus—has God’s last name. You people just missed what I said. The new man has God’s last name. For the Bible says about him, in Isaiah. ‘I have surnamed thee.’ You all have the same last name—you know that don’t you? You know what your last name is? Jehovah. So, I’m Benny Jehovah; Dick Jehovah; have the same Daddy.” (p.14)

Prasch says of Hinn after referring to his heretical teaching that ‘Job was a carnal man’, “either God’s Word is wrong, or Benny Hinn is wrong.” And “[t]he best that can be said is that Benny Hinn is a foolish babbler who should be silenced and called to repentance. If he did then he would lay down his ‘ministry’, submit to the authority of the Church and go and learn the Word of God before he tries to teach people things that he obviously does not know himself. Recently, in a theological examination of one of his book, Bible students at a Pentecostal college in Australia found eleven major doctrinal errors and heresies in only three pages!” (Prasch, p.175)

* Ray McCaully: “I believe that people have been misled long enough...The book of Genesis is a revelation of the redemption of man...it is very important that you understand what happened there, because if you don’t understand what happened there then you won’t understand why Jesus had to come...In verse seven we see that God took some dust and formed a physical body like His. He breathed into its nostrils and man became like Him. He was like God and he had the very divine nature of God in him...and man was created in the exact likeness of his Father...” (Audio tape L004, *Rhema a Cult? The Reason why!* By Mark Large, Preach the Word Ministries, P O Box 115, Underberg, 3257.)

Continued on page 8

Toronto: Continued from page 7

“One of the most apostate deceivers in the world today is without doubt South African money preacher Ray Macauley (sic!) who appears to teach that building the Tower of Babel is God’s model for Christian unity. McCauley (sic!) has published his own version of the Bible which totally redefines the teaching and meaning of the creation narrative in Genesis. He has also repeatedly imported the erroneous teaching of anti-Israel preacher Rick Godwin into South Africa.” (Prasch, p.212)

That man is “I Am” or “a Christ”, or even worse has the name “Jehovah”, are completely unbiblical and must be rejected as heresy, or am I wrong in understanding what these men say? “The exaltation of self, ‘I am a god’, or ‘I am divine’ is the Gnostic connection with the ‘New Age’ and ‘elitism’. Authors Travers and Jewel van der Merwe sums this heresy:

“The Principle of the Cosmic Christ = Pantheism (the existence of many gods—like Mormonism)...the real Christians are those who have recognized that the Cosmic Christ principle is verily and truly their own higher Self, and who strive to have that ‘brought to birth’ in them, so that even here and now they may act in the power of the supreme divine nature, even as the historical man Jesus is reputed to have done...The discovery of the Mystic Christ in you is being ‘born from above.’ This knowledge is of the utmost importance to human victory over the lower self. The imperishable secret of human life is the mystic Christ in all men, their hope of glory...Man is inherently divine—a ‘god’.” (*Strange Fire*, Conscience Press, 1995, pp.47, 48, Brackets (...) added.)

“Gnosticism was rampant in the Orient and eastern Mediterranean during the first centuries of Christianity and it is making a triumphant comeback today. In the ancient world, as today, it came in a multitude of forms, expressions, trends, fads, cults and strains, combined with a multitude of different religions and philosophies. But it all had the same essence—secret knowledge revealed through a cult figure. ‘You are God’ teaching and usually a dualistic view of reality which tries to mimic the biblical view as closely as possible, making it appear as part and parcel of the flesh/spirit conflict that the Bible actually does teach, but which is in fact completely different.” (Prasch, p.212)

Confirmation comes from New Ager, Professor Murdo Macdonald-Bayne who had a visit one night from a “mysterious Visitor” who told him that he will guide him to the truth. This *truth* he found under the guidance of the Tibetan monks in the Himalayas: “When you realize that there is only one Consciousness, one Intelligence, one Substance (God Infinite), and that you are an expression of God Infinite, you can say: ‘I and the Father are one’ —in body, in mind, in spirit. But when you accept separation, you usurp the authority of the great ‘I AM’ —God. When you usurp that authority you begin thinking imperfectly, and, by that same ‘I AM’ within you, you bring forth that

which is not perfect.” Through meditation you progress upwards: “As you progress further into the higher state, you are able to understand more of God...‘I see,’ the soul says, ‘I see,’ and reaches the glory of the consciousness of **the Christ, which permeates all of humanity.**”

(*The Higher Power You Can Use*, L.N. Fowler & Co Ltd, 1977, pp.19-20, 56. Emphasis ours)

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

One of the most important aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit is that He came to reveal Christ to us through the Word (the Bible) and to teach all truth. “His total purpose is to magnify Jesus Christ in you.” (Dr Joseph R Chambers, *The End Times & Victorious Living* (Newsletter), Vol 13, No 5, p.12) He did not come so that He can be summoned to do funny things in church meetings. “If you sense yourself becoming too taken up with the Holy Ghost instead of Jesus, then you best look to see where the danger has entered your life. The Holy Ghost will not allow Himself to become the focus. Foreign spirits masquerading as the Holy Spirit will seek glory and emphasis on themselves and their activity.” (Chambers, p.12) He came at Pentecost and is with the Church ever since. He convicts of sin and brings about the new birth. He receives prayer as part of the Triune God and offers our prayers to the Father. Let us consider for a brief moment the words of Mark Smith: “Consider the passage that is often quoted in support of the ‘Blessing’, Ezek 3:23: *I arose and went forth into the plain; and, lo, the glory of the Lord stood there, like the glory which I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face.*

“Here, the prophet Ezekiel is given an extraordinary vision of God in his glory, and he falls face down on the floor (presumably expressing his fear and awe at this incredible sight). Verse 24 tells us what happened next: ‘But the Spirit entered into me, and set me upon my feet; and spoke with me’ (the next verses tell us what the Spirit said). Notice the sequence: Ezekiel throws himself down, and the Spirit stands him up again (not literally, in my view, as though there is an invisible rope pulling him to his feet) and speaks to him.

“I believe that this points us in the direction of an important principle, which is found throughout the Bible: God, the Holy Spirit, is not one who casts us down, rather, he is one who (metaphorically) picks us up and sets us on our feet—see also Psalm 40. A responsible, serious reading of the Bible enables us to see that the Spirit does not embarrass or humiliate God’s children, but restores to us our dignity as human beings created by God (e.g. Eph 2:1-10). He does not make us appear like fools (except in our proclamation of the ‘foolishness’ of the cross); instead, he restores us to our right minds (Mk 5:15). The Holy Spirit always deals with the whole person; body, soul and spirit.

“It seems to me that the Holy Spirit portrayed in the Bible is not someone who takes our wills away from us, making us shake and jerk even if we do not want him to. Rather, he

is one who gives us the will to take responsibility for all we do, enabling us to do all things in love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control, which are the true fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). These are the marks of the Spirit-filled life which the Bible witnesses to, the kind of life that God by his Spirit enables us to live. I hope and pray that God will cause this fruit, and no other, to abound in his church.” (*Testing the Fire*, pp.186-187)

Paul addresses the order that must be tantamount at meetings of Christians when tongues are spoken and prophecies given in 1 Corinthians 12 and specifically mentions that an unbeliever or ungifted would **fall on his face and worship God** (v.25). It is very common knowledge that at gatherings where Toronto phenomena occur those that are slain without exception fall backwards, squirm around and then utter the most weird sounds that can range from the howling of wolves to the roaring of lions and any other noise imaginable. Truly now, does this sound like the Holy Spirit in action?

IN CLOSING:

A reporter wrote an article in the secular British newspaper, *The Daily Mail*, September 2, 1994, after attending a meeting of the Toronto Blessing manifestations and made this very important distinction between this *revival* and genuine ones of the past: “The difference between the present movement and the revivals of the 18th century is that the latter were characterized by powerful preaching, a strong sense of self loathing and of repentance, none of which is a feature of the Toronto Blessing or the Charismatic movement which it came from.” (Quoted in *Weighed and Found Wanting*, pp.11, 12)

A CHALLENGE:

“Something significant is happening and it has the potential to have a huge worldwide impact. This phenomena (sic!) won’t leave people neutral, for either they will love and appreciate it or distrust and criticize it. The time has come upon us, particularly we who are Charismatic/Pentecostal Christians, when we would be forced to decide what we actually believe. Unfortunately that kind of decision divides. It is hard to find fault with any experience which causes people to ‘love Jesus,’ be set free, or release the joy of the Lord. Those are the very things I have dedicated my life to. However, we cannot just look at a movement pragmatically and judge its validity solely on the basis of ‘results.’ We hear, ‘Well, it works, it made me love Jesus, it must be from God!’ Just because something ‘works’ it doesn’t mean that it is of God. In other words, the end doesn’t necessarily justify the means. We must look at the principles, the premises underlying any movement at all, in order to begin to make an objective evaluation. Remember, our Lord told us to *Judge all things and hold fast to that which is good.* Dare I be the ‘bad guy’ and challenge you to take another, critical look at the ‘Laughing Revival?’ (*Weighed and Found Wanting*, pp.13,14)
