



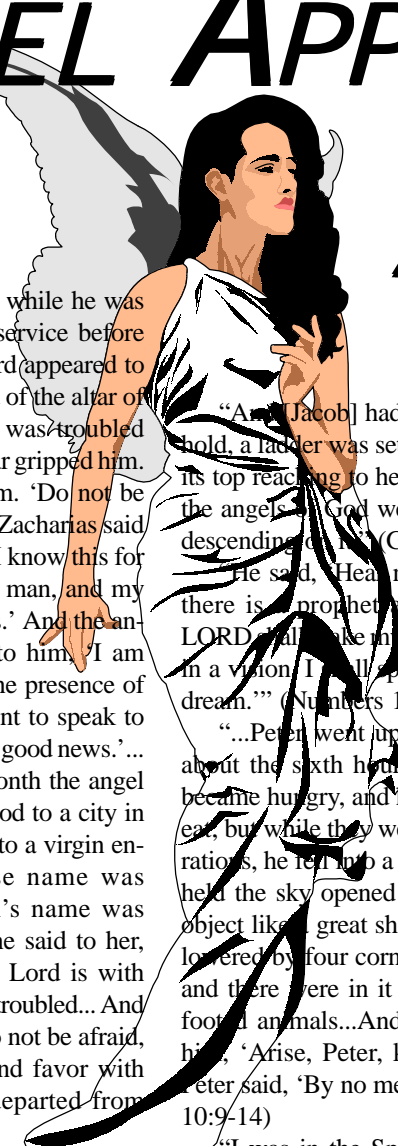
Sentinel

E-mail: kies@mweb.co.za

Website: http://geocities.com/kies_ciec

Volume 8 No 2

ANGEL APPEARANCES AND VISITS



"Now it came about, while he was performing his priestly service before God...an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him. 'Do not be afraid, Zacharias...'. And Zacharias said to the angel, 'How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.' And the angel answered and said to him, 'I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news.' ...

"Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, 'Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was greatly troubled... And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God... And the angel departed from her.'" (Luke 1:8-19)

"Now the Lord appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre... And when he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him... Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off... Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was standing before the Lord... the Lord departed;... Now two angels came to Sodom that evening as Lot was sitting at the gate of Sodom..." (Gen 18:1-2:1)

"And [Jacob] had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it." (Gen 28:12)

He said, 'Hear now my words: For there is a prophet among you, I the LORD shall make myself known to him in a vision, I shall speak with him in a dream.'" (Numbers 12:6)

"...Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry, and he was desiring to eat, but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; and he beheld the sky opened up, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals... And a voice came to him, 'Arise, Peter, kill and eat!' But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord...' (Acts 10:9-14)

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet... And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me..." (Rev 1:10-12)

These are but a few of the many examples recorded in the Bible of angelic appearances, dreams and visions. The question we have to deal with is, *do these things still occur today, and if they do, how do we know they are from God?*

WHO ARE THE ANGELS?

The word "angel" means "messenger". This host of spirit creatures was created by

God possibly even before the creation of the heavens and the earth. We know from the Biblical record that a very important angel rebelled against God and took a host of followers with him. This angel is known as Satan and his spirit followers are the fallen angels called demons. Apparently various ranks exist in the spirit world among the unfallen angels and the demons which indicate that some have more power and authority than others. It is also clear that angels are very powerful beings—a case in point being the removal of the stone that covered Jesus' tomb. The record indicates that the angel just casually flipped it out of the way and calculations by some people indicate the mass of this stone around 4,000 kilogrammes. It is possible that unfallen angels retained this power.

ANGELS IN THE WORLD TODAY:

"Sally a woman who attends my church, could not restrain her tears as she poured out her heart to Pastor Dave. After a series of medical tests, Sally's doctor had called to inform her that the baby she was expecting would be born with Down's syndrome. Pastor Dave shared Sally's grief at the news. He vowed to help Sally and her husband, Jim, in any way he could.

"The following day Pastor Dave decided to send Sally and Jim a postcard with a word of encouragement. On the card, Dave assured them of how much God loved them and their soon-to-be-born little baby.

"The postcard ended up being delivered to a wrong address several miles from Sally and Jim's house. Sue—who lived at the house the card was mistakenly delivered to—decided to take the postcard to Sally personally.

Continued on page 6



Sentinel is die tydskrif 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

Skrifaanhalinge, 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



SO MANY CONFUSED, YET SEARCHING PEOPLE!

I attended the "2000 Festival of Mind, Body & Spirit", one of the many New Age exhibitions that are staged annually, on the weekend of (15 & 16 April).

They were all there: *Astrology to Zen*—you make the choice where to find "salvation", "inner healing", "becoming one with the universal cosmos" "finding the christ within" or "god realization".

Each practitioner explains with great zeal how the path to whatever is available through their method or how the right balance of the energy in your body can be attained through their system. "No this is not Reiki but the techniques are somewhat similar, however, your imbalances can be corrected so much quicker with our system", or "Kundalini yoga gets you to a higher state in a much shorter period than Hatha yoga—but don't tell them that", are but some of the statements that were made.

For a "show special of R40.00 for 30 minutes you could have an "Indian Head Massage", whatever that is! And what do find—and elderly woman sitting down gladly for this, while somewhere else two elderly gentlemen are "having their auras tickled". At the Feng Shui stall the Master is received with great admiration and even adoration when he arrives for

his talk about the subject. A Feng Shui teacher explains that with a specific instrument which contains a compass the energy fields running through your house are read and then with the placement of certain objects in specific spots the correct balance may be obtained. Even water running under your house in natural veins or a dripping tap could cause a specific type of imbalance and if not corrected, would result in certain types of ailments. A specific type of mirror when placed at entrances would reflect bad or negative energy. AND people believe all this nonsense. This teacher told how all the Southern Sun hotels are built and placed and the decor arranged based on Feng Shui. Even casinos are designed accordingly. For instance the gambling machines are placed in the south, the area of negative energy. Now you know

why so many people loose thousands.

A witch informs us how Wicca is the fastest growing religion in the west. She is honest when she states that anything not Christian can be seen as Paganism and answers positively to the question whether Paganism can be understood to represent anything to do with the honouring and worship of the earth spirits.

A practitioner of Shamanism (i.e. what a Red Indian witch doctor practices), with the help of a few supporters,

works up rhythm with drums, sticks and whatever. The "shaman" explains how we all have the music of nature within us. We heard it in our mothers' womb, her heartbeat, and how at birth this was disrupted. Shamanism puts us in touch with our deeper self again and by lying down we can draw the energy from mother earth. Two toddlers with their parents form part of his group and are exposed to this. Now what kind of foundation is laid at this tender age? I ask you!

The Subtle Deception
What do the cults teach
How do you win them for Christ

Jehovah's Witnesses
Mormons
New/Old Apostles
New Age
Weekend Camp
12-14 May
Bookings Close 5 May
Enquiries: Japie Grobler
Tel/Fax: 011-976-3723
E-mail: kies@mweb.co.za

Editors:

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

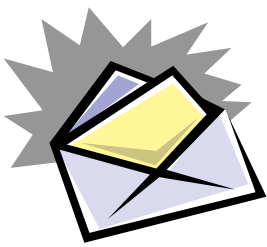
Address: P O Box 8009
EDLEEN
South Africa
1625
Tel/Fax: +27-11-976-3723
E-mail: kies@mweb.co.za or
sentinel@hotmail.com
Street Address: Ned Geref Kerk-Edleen
cnr. Amarillo & Ilex Rds
EDLEEN
Kempton Park

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: ngrhkh@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
Satanism/Occultism
Ado Krige Tel: 012-329-1467
E-mail: ado@intekom.co.za
Vrymesselary/Freemasonry
Japie Grobler*
* Dui Bestuurslede aan/
* Indicates Board Members



Letters/Briewe

VERY DISAPPOINTED

It was with great disappointment that I received your newsletter (Sentinel, Vol 8, No 1).

I address this mail to you because you are listed as the editor and therefore the editorial content is determined by you.

The bible clearly says touch not my anointed and do my prophets no harm.

You have attempted to discredit men whom I consider to be true men of God, and I have been in their meetings and know the positive effect they have had on my life.

I would consider these men to be my brothers and an attack against them is an attack against me, and therefore am unable to continue receiving your newsletter and future E-mails.

I trust that the Holy Spirit will reveal His plan to you for the future of your work, and pray that you will fulfil His purpose and not some religious agenda.

It is a sad day when Christians cannot be united. How is the world at large supposed to begin to understand true tolerance and unity if it cannot be found in the church.

Greg Kruyer
Pastor

EXCELLENT ARTICLE

Thank you for the excellent article on the dangerous teachings of the Word of Faith Movement. I was a member of Rhema for seven years after becoming a Christian. Many of their teachings are very similar in nature to teachings I received while a member of the Theosophical Society (an occult group), prior to my conversion. Many ministers now rightly refer to this movement as the Mystical "Christian" Movement. One Charismatic minister said the following: "The god of the Word of Faith Movement is not the God of the Bible." I couldn't agree more. Keep up the good work!

Past Hadley Toweel
Sandton

ARTICLE INFORMATIVE

I assume that you were responsible for printing the article on the Bah'í Faith, N.L. #9904. If so I would like to say thank you and well done for bringing the Faith to the attention of what I hope thousands of beautiful people. The more the Faith is brought

to the attention of the general public the more it will move to centre stage and out of obscurity in S.A.

Your article was well presented and informative, and quite accurate except in the following areas.

- 1.) The Bah'í Faith sprang from the Babi religion and not Islam.
- 2.) We do not believe that the manifestations (messiahs) are God incarnate. God forbid.
- 3.) Abdu'l Bahá was not a prophet but the perfect exemplar (sic!) and interpreter of the law of Bah'ú'lláh.
- 4.) Abdu'l Bahá did not emigrate to America but went on a teaching trip to meet with the faithful there.
- 5.) Walter Martin is far from knowledgeable on the Faith. eg., Confucius and Lao Tse Tung were most certainly not manifestations.

All the same thank you again for the wonderful article. God bless.

Hope you publish more on the Faith.
(as a p.s.)

Warmest Bah'í Love
Daryl Allais.
Lombardy East

Walter Martin (now deceased) is recognised world-wide as an authority on religions and his works are held in great esteem by many other authorities on the same subject matter. To quote from his work: "As Christianity almost since its inception has had its heretics and heresies within its fold, so Islam was destined to experience the same fragmenting forces. Mírzá' Ali Muhammed, alias the 'Bab,' thus became one of the sorest thorns in the flesh of Islamic orthodoxy; so much so, that he was murdered by Islamic fanatics in 1850 at the age of 31. He derived much of his early encouragement and support from a small Islamic sect in Iran, and was a prominent teacher among them for six years prior to his death.

The implications that Bahá'u'lláh was considered a prophet is very clear from Bahá'í Publishing Trust's book, Release the Sun, 1971, pp.193-210. George Townshend in his book, Christ and Bahá'u'lláh, George Ronald, Oxford, 1957, p.87 states very clearly that Abdu'l-Bahá was appointed by Bahá'u'lláh in his written will as his successor "and with this successorship joined powers to which no successor of any earlier Prophet had attained and which give 'Abdu'l-Bahá a position altogether unique in religious history. Bahá'u'lláh designated Him as the Centre and pivot of His peerless Covenant; as the perfect mirror of His life, to exemplify His teachings; as the unerring interpreter of His Word; as the embodiment of every Bahá'í ideal and virtue. Bahá'u'lláh called Him the Mystery of God and wrote further of Him, 'a Word hath, as a token of Our grace, gone forth from the Most Great tablet—a Word which God hath adorned with the ornament of His own self, and made it sovereign over the earth and all that is therein, and a sign of His greatness and power among its people...Render thanks unto God, O people,

for His appearance; for verily He is the most great Favour unto you, the most perfect bounty upon you; and through Him every mouldering bone is quickened." If this description does not make Abdu'l-Bahá perfect, a prophet and incarnation and someone who can give life (the words: "through Him every mouldering bone is quickened" certainly convey this idea), then I do not know! Some Answered questions in the index in the back of the book refers the reader to "manifestations" when the word "prophet" is looked up. Under "manifestations", names like Abraham, Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and Buddha are listed. Again the implication is clear—Abdu'l-Bahá being the sole appointed successor of Bahá'u'lláh who is listed under this index forces one to come to the conclusion that Abdu'l-Bahá is considered a prophet and the following might then also apply to him. It also becomes clear from the above that Bahá'u'lláh is seen as a divine incarnation. That he said of himself that he was God must also be accepted as Ruth A. Tucker quotes from various sources in her book, Another Gospel, Academie Books, 1989, pp.288-289.

*You are correct, Abdu'l Bahá did not emigrate to America. The source I consulted was that it was the faith that "emigrated" and it was strengthened by Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to America.
Ed.*

KAN NIE BEKOSTIG!

Ek kan nie bekostig dat my naam van die poslys afgehaal word nie. *Sentinel* is die één nuusbrief wat ek van voor tot agter lees elke keer as ek een kry. Wat is die inskrywingsfooi, ek sal graag wil bydra.

Ds Bertie de Nysschen
Birchleigh

Dankie. Sulke woorde gee ons nuwe moed. Sentinel het nie 'n vaste inskrywingsfooi nie. Vrywillige donasies hou dit aan die gang. (Writer says, don't take my name off, it is the ONE newsletter I always read from cover to cover.)

Ed.

KULTEKAMP

Die jaarlikse kamp in Afrikaans vind gedurende die naweek van 18-20 Augustus plaas. Dit word weer by die Baptiste Konferensie Sentrum aangebied, dieselfde plek waar dit verlede jaar plaasgevind het.

Die program sal baie moontlik dieselfde as die Engelse kamp wees. Ons gaan bietjie konsentreer op die okkultiese invloede wat besig is om subtiel die kerk te infiltrer. Aandag sal ook aan die International/Johannesburg Church of Christ, een van die bedrywigste kultes in ons land, sowel as Hindoeïsme en Boeddhisme en die New Age gegee word. Ons is dankbaar dat ons met Piet Smit kon reël om die deel oor Hindoeïsme aan te bied. Piet is al vir meer as 30 jaar betrokke by sending aan die Hindoes.

Bespreek dus jou plek vroegetydig vir hierdie, wat ons glo, weereens 'n besondere naweek gaan wees.

THE WAYNE RODGERS STORY

From *Free Minds Journal*, Vol 19, No 1, Jan/Mar 2000. By permission of Wayne Rodgers.

Freedom of thought is a right that many people take for granted. There are many people who believe they have freedom of thought, but are mistaken. I was one of those. My name is Wayne Rogers. I was raised in the religious organization known as Jehovah's Witnesses governed by the Watchtower Society. As I sit down to write the story, I have just finished reading some passages from the February 22nd 1999 issue of *Awake* magazine. In it are some powerful statements in support of free thought and inquiry. Consider these quotes:

"Francis bacon, a seventeenth century English philosopher, essayist, jurist, and statesman, advised searchers for truth to weigh and consider. And an early U.S. president, Thomas Jefferson, said: reason and free inquiry are the only effectual agents against error....They are the natural enemies of error. So if we are genuinely searching for truth, we will 'weigh and consider' and pursue 'reason and free inquiry'." "Identifying why such an approach is vital, British scientist Sir Hermann Bondi noted: 'Since at most one faith can be true, it follows that human beings are extremely liable to believe firmly and honestly in the field of revealed religion. One would have expected this obvious fact to lead to some humility, to some thought that however deep one's faith, one may conceivably be mistaken'."

Sadly, my experience tells me that these noble ideals are given lip service, but freedom of inquiry is denied to members of Jehovah's Witnesses.

I was raised as a Jehovah's Witness since 1966, the son of an elder. I was convinced all my life that I was in God's organization where there existed true freedom in Christ and brotherly love. I was baptized in 1983 at an international convention at the Oakland coliseum. I married a fellow believer in 1987 and strived to let Bible principles guide our marriage for 12 years. I served as a Ministerial Servant in the Highland Oaks/Pleasanton congregation where I was given many responsibilities and occasionally auxiliary pioneered in support of the Watchtower's preaching work.

Slowly over the years, I began to develop a different view on blood transfusions than the official policy. Many points of scriptural research and personal experience molded my viewpoint. Studies in bible based literature such as "The Greatest Man" book, impressed upon me the contrast between Jesus' love of people, and the strict, oppressive rule-keeping of the

religious leaders of the time. I noticed how Christ approved of setting aside certain restrictions in the Law Covenant when human life or suffering was on the line, much to the dismay of the Pharisees. I noticed that even the Law covenant given by God had certain exemptions so as not to be a danger to the life and well-being of its adherents. For instance, on the issue of the command to abstain from eating blood, the "Insight on the Scriptures" makes this observation: "At Deuteronomy 14:21 allowance was made for selling to an alien resident or a foreigner an animal that had died of itself or that had been torn by a beast. Thus, a distinction was made between the blood of such animals and that of animals that a person slaughtered for food". I learned that the scriptures allowed a Jew to eat of the unbled flesh of an animal not slaughtered by human hands if necessary, with no penalties other than a requirement to perform a ritual bathing. Thus, while a starving Jew might not desire to feed on the unbled flesh of a dead animal, such was allowed if necessary. The Levitical priestly class, who had all of their food supplied by the citizens, were restricted from eating such unbled animals.

I recall back in 1981 when one of my best friends was suffering from kidney failure. He may have been among the first of Jehovah's Witnesses to get on the list for an organ transplant. (His story can be found in the Nov 22, '96 *Awake*- article entitled "Its only temporary") The WTS had JUST changed their ruling on the matter, and my friend and his family had decided that it would not violate their consciences. I recall that I had no thought, whatsoever that he was a "cannibal" that sustained his life by feeding on human flesh, although the WTS had taught this up until then. I am firmly convinced that JWs would not be viewing blood transplants as a serious sin if the WTS had not been vilifying the procedure for so many years.

But, being a loyal Witness who wanted to do the right thing, I suppressed my thoughts on the matter of blood transfusions, and conformed to the WTS policies. I hoped that eventually there would come to be "new light" on the matter, the same as there was on organ transplants. When the Durable Power Of Attorney forms were starting to be promoted by the WTS, I was concerned about the implications of handing over my health decisions to someone else. I procrastinated on signing this form, even though my wife kept pushing me to do so.

In late '98, my wife became more insistent that we sign the DPA forms, and had also started ordering things like "no-blood" keychains. I could not hold back any longer. I broke down and told her that I did not agree with the WTS views on blood. Needless to say, my wife was stunned! She then stopped me and refused to hear any reasons WHY I disagreed. I started a renewed effort to find information that I could share with her to explain my position. I went to the local hospital library to find information on blood fractions. In the medical journal database I found references to the AJWRB (Associated Jehovah's Witnesses for Reform on Blood). Intrigued, I visited their website. I had always tried to avoid what I thought were "apostate sites" before, but I could not view AJWRB as apostate. I was ecstatic that there were other JWs who felt the same as me on this issue! I read it all in amazement and found that I had already arrived at many of the conclusions presented. I sent Liberal Elder an E-mail expressing my support for the work that he was doing, and to send some information to a Circuit Overseer I knew. My wife found the letter I had sent on my computer, printed it out, and gave it to my elders. I was called in to a judicial hearing for the first time in my life.

Looking back, I guess I was rather naïve, and thought that my elders were there to help me. I quickly realized that that wasn't the case. The first order of business at the hearings was to make sure I had brought no recording devices. I thought this was strange that if the purpose were to protect MY privacy, why would I bring one? It became apparent that these hearings were more for interrogation than for helping the individual. It all boiled down to the question of whether I accepted that all of the current understandings of the WTS were "food at the proper time" from the "faithful and discreet slave". I pleaded that I could not agree to that idea, given the changeable nature of WTS doctrine. How could the ban on organ transplants be viewed as truth from God, only to be dropped later? I told them that I believed that this teaching was nothing more than someone's personal opinion that got put into the WT for millions of trusting people to view as "absolute truth". Incredibly, one of the elders actually said that blood transfusions were really a conscience matter anyway!

Amazingly, the Bible was not opened until after a decision was made. They used

the Bible to try to accuse me of being a man trying to cause divisions. I protested that I had not been spreading my views around the congregation, indeed, the elders admitted that they did not feel that I was even trying to push my views on THEM. They replied that I could not be allowed to be in the congregation if in my mind I was supporting the AJWRB. They read some quotes from the elder's manual that if a brother persists in believing something contrary to the current teachings of the organization, then he has committed apostasy, even if he does not spread his views publicly. They told me that I was a spiritually dead branch that needed to be cut off. At the previous meeting with them, at my request for what I could do to show my repentance, they had suggested that I cancel my internet service provider, which I did immediately. I now reminded them that I had "cut off what was making me stumble", to which I was told: "well, now we are cutting you off". I was sentenced to be disfellowshipped.

I went home that night in a daze to tell my wife of the outcome. We were not expecting the worst to happen. I was given a week to appeal the decision, and finally decided I would. My wife was furious, and felt that an appeal was like slapping the elders in the face. But I knew that I could not let this happen to me without trying to do something to prevent it. The circuit

overseer then handpicked three more elders from other cities.

Again, I was asked at the appeal hearing if I had any recording devices, which I did not. Again, I did not try to be argumentative, as I instinctively knew that if I argued with them I would be viewed as unrepentant. I did present some of my case that other doctrines had been changed in the past, and that we should follow the Bible over the words of men. They told me that in order to have unity, witnesses could not interpret the Bible for themselves. I asked them if they believed that the ban on organ transplants was from God, or from man's opinion. They replied that they were not there to change my mind, and I wasn't there to change theirs. Disheartened, I realized that my fate was sealed even before they dismissed us to make their decision. I was pronounced disfellowshipped on Jan 11, 1999 on the basis that my beliefs "separate me from Jehovah's Witnesses".

My wife immediately distanced herself from me, and treated me with great distrust and suspicion. She refused to even hear the reasons why I had taken my stand. She told me that she could not stop viewing me as an enemy of God. She met with the elders without my presence, and would not tell me what counsel was given to her, for fear, she said, that I would just use it against the Society. She decided to leave

me and obtain a separation. I was not allowed to reason with her. If I even brought out the Bible, she would run from the house with her hands over her ears.

In March, the stress finally overcame me, and I wound up in the hospital for a week with a severely painful case of meningitis and shingles. My parents finally came to see me. My mother immediately started condemning me, that I was "worse than an adulterer", and demon-possessed, and "brainwashed by apostates". She said that if my father had done what I did, she would leave him too. My father has admitted to me that he has noticed a "totalitarian" element in the Organization, and that he has had doubts himself, but "you don't go and tell the elders!". Since then I have been cut off from my family and all my life-long friends, who believe they have no choice but to shun me.

Yes, this account portrays the sad results of myself and countless others who would dare to use "reason and free inquiry" within the Watchtower organization. Yet, even worse than the thousands of broken families, is the needless deaths of thousands of trusting Jehovah's Witnesses who have loyally followed the deceptive medical policies of the Watchtower Society.

Sincerely,
Wayne M. Rogers
waynbo@pacbell.net

THE RESURRECTION

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." (1 Cor 15:1-8, KJV)

The Christian faith has something no other faith in the world has—a **risen Saviour!** In Him we rejoice and also look forward to our own resurrection when we shall be like Him (Phil 3:21) and with Him forever (1 Thes 4:17).

That it was possible for someone to rise

from the dead certainly is a contentious point. It is something that cannot be proven but has to be believed on the basis of the writings we have at our disposal. The Bible is perhaps the most complete record of this compelling event in history.

Paul who lived in the time of this great event of Jesus' resurrection refers to it in no uncertain terms. He states that our faith lies and falls on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead! If this was not so, then we believe in vain—then all roads lead to the same end, and we can find God, whoever He may be, through whatever means appeal to our fancy. Let us now consider a few important points from the quotation above:

* He states the Gospel is, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, a gospel that does not include these aspects must be a false gospel. Important to note that His death, the shedding of His blood, paid for our sins.

* Paul also applies an Old Testament principle: Calling on witnesses to confirm this event. He even says to the people of his time that they could ask those who were still alive

(1 Cor 15:6) despite the others he mentions.

* He includes himself as one of these witnesses. But we know that Paul never met Jesus in real life, yet he states that he appeared to him (v.8). The record shows that this happened on the Damascus road (Acts 9). Paul not only saw the risen Christ, but also the ascended Christ. This brought about a major turnaround in his life—from fanatical persecutor of this new faith to fervent proclaimer of this life saving Gospel.

BODILY RESURRECTION:

Jesus foretold of His resurrection (John 2:19-21). Note that verse 21 says that He would raise His body.

He came out of the grave in a body of flesh and bone. This was not a spiritual resurrection as Jehovah's Witnesses for instance would have it, or a metaphysical one as New Agers would have it, but a bodily resurrection!

Scripture backs this up. Even Jesus' disciples doubted the women who were the first witnesses of His resurrection. Jesus alleviated these doubts when He invited them to touch Him and to eliminate any further doubts he even ate food to prove it. (Luke 24:36-48; John 20:25-27).

Angels: Continued from page 1

“When Sally opened the door, Sue said, ‘This card from your Pastor was delivered to my house by mistake. I wanted to come by and deliver the card personally because, I too, have a child with Down’s syndrome and I want to help you through this if you’ll let me. God has shown me so much that I would like to share with you.’

“Did the God of all comfort send one of His angels to ‘reroute’ the mail to Sue’s house? We can’t know for sure, but it seems a good possibility. While the world would tell us that this was just a freak accident, I see the supernatural at work here.

“Angels are real. Angels are alive. And, though we rarely perceive it, angels are very much with us here on planet earth....

“In recent years many believers have spoken of actual encounters with angels. And many of these reports come from quite reliable sources, having a ring of authenticity.” (Ron Rhodes, *Angels Among Us*, Harvest House Publishers, 1994, pp.15-16)

Not only does Ron Rhodes cite many more examples of what seems to be angelic encounters in this book but many South Africans also know of someone who has had some or other encounter that cannot be explained rationally. We, however, need to tread carefully in this area and not get carried away by people who are out to teach us to find our own guardian angel through some or other method that can be learned.

ANGELMANIA:

The television series *Touched by an Angel* and various movies over the years have added to this awareness and in some instances even caused what can be termed agelmania. We read in *Time* magazine December 1993:

“In the past years [angels] have lodged in the popular imagination, celestial celebrities trailing clouds of glory as they come. There are angel-only boutiques, angel newsletters, angel seminars, angels on *Sonya Live*. A TIME poll indicates that most Americans believe in angels. Harvard Divinity School has a course on angels; Boston College has two. Bookstores have had to establish angel sections. In the most celebrated play on Broadway, Tony Kushner’s Pulitzer-prize-winning *Angels in America*, a divine messenger ministers to a man with AIDS. In *Publishers Weekly’s* religious bestseller list, five of 10 paperback books are about angels.”

“*Newsweek* magazine, in similar tone, asserted in late 1993 that ‘angels are appearing everywhere in America.’ The article noted that ‘those who see angels, talk to them, and put others in touch with them are prized guests on television and radio talk shows. Need inspiration? There are angel workshops that will assist you in identifying early angel experiences or unleashing your ‘inner angel.’ Tired of your old spirit

guide? New Age channelers will connect you with Michael the Archangel. Have trouble recognizing the angels among us? Join an angel focus group.” (Rhodes, pp.26-27) This leads us to...

MAKING CONTACT WITH ANGELS:

When the Biblical records are considered it is pretty clear that not one of the appearances of angels to mortals was the result of human intervention. Angels always appeared to man on command of God, their Creator and “usually as ordinary human beings, even touching and conversing with witnesses who are in normal consciousness.” (Dave Hunt, *Occult Invasion of the Church*, Harvest House Publishers, 1998, p.384) It was always to convey a message from God or to perform some function God wanted. It would, therefore, be safe to conclude that when man succeeds in causing an angel to appear or even when he meets his own guardian angel this was achieved through suspect means—methods that “involve mysticism and various forms of occultism... When people depart from the objective truth recorded in God’s Word—the Bible—and replace it with mystical intuition, the door is wide open for new ideas to come from ‘the other side’. What about occultism? Alma Daniel, Timothy Wyllie, and Andrew Ramer—in their book *Ask Your Angels*... say that techniques used to contact angels include Eastern meditation, visualization, breath control, exercises with chakras (alleged energy centers in the body), tuning into angel frequencies, channeling and divination.” (Rhodes, pp.37-38) These are all methods that are forbidden in God’s Word: “‘When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord... For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so.’” (Deut 18:9-14) It can have disastrous effects (1 Chron 10:13). Islam and Mormonism specifically sprang from angel visitations which are condemned by God (Gal 1:6-9). Now let us briefly deal with some of the methods:

1. Channeling: Channelling is also known as spiritism or mediumship (practiced as seances), which as we have seen are forbidden by God. Nevertheless, “Alma Daniel, Timothy Wyllie, and Andrew Ramer say channeling is one of the best means for making angel contact...Once you tune into the angels, you may find yourself

receiving...voices of guides, extraterrestrials, and nature spirits...Other New Agers claim the ability to act as a channel so you can communicate with your guardian angel.” (Rhodes, p.39)

2. Meditation: “Angels are always on call, and meditation is one of the best ways by which we can commune with them...” According to Jane Howard as quoted by Rhodes, p.41. Advice to this effect comes from Terry Lynn as quoted in Rhodes (p.41): “Let your attention focus on angels. At this point you may want to use the word *angel* as a form of mantra, [a word that is mystically chanted over and over again thus creating an altered state of consciousness]. Allow the word to take you wherever it will...feel yourself lifted and surrounded by white light. Ask the angels to lift you into heaven so that you can meet them.” (Brackets in original)

It is important to note that there is a difference between Eastern meditation and Christian meditation: The Christian meditates on God’s Word—he thinks it over and through with objective contemplation and deep reflection. Eastern meditation involves the emptying of the mind and waiting for... And this is where the danger lies! Meditation forms the heartbeat of all the different methods or paths as it brings about the desired trance-like state or altered state of consciousness. Alice Baily puts it so clearly in her, *The Externalization of the Hierarchy*, p.17, “[T]he emphasis in all esoteric (hidden; secret meanings reserved for a select few) schools is necessarily, and rightly laid upon meditation.” (Constance E. Cumbey, *The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow*, Bantam Publishers, 1991, p.55)

3. New Age Visualization: “[I]n a typical workshop the conventional techniques of ‘guided meditation’ to silence the mind and unlock the imagination [is used]. Once they’d settled into their [the students] personal sacred spaces, [they] were invited to listen for messages. In your mind’s eye see a bridge appear before you—a bridge of light. Get up and walk across the bridge that leads you into the angelic realm. Don’t be just a spectator and see yourself walking across the bridge—actually *feel* and *imagine* it as you get up and walk. Focus your awareness on walking across the bridge and, if you need to, say to yourself, ‘I am walking across the bridge with my Guardian Angel.’ Once on the other side of the bridge acknowledge that you have crossed over into the angelic realm.” (Rhodes, p.43)

To the Christian there is danger in such forms of visualization. He realises that his senses, especially his imagination, has been tainted by sin. Guided imagery or visualization can induce altered states of consciousness with extremely dangerous consequences. Any altered state of consciousness makes a person vulnerable to demonic influence, even possession.

Angels: Continued from page 6

4. New Age Crystals: Even crystals, especially so-called cherubic crystals can be used to make contact with angels. "A cherubic crystal is one that you have activated in meditation and which has been charged by the Cherubim: 'Once you have selected the crystal, hold it between the palms of your hands. Ask out loud for the wisdom vibration emanated by the Cherubim to flow through your hands so that the stone will become charged with the Cherubim's vibration. Prepare the crystal once in this manner and you will never have to do it again.' Jane Howard as quoted by *Rhodes, p.43* also says: 'she can feel [the crystal] become warm as it is being 'charged' and 'blessed' by angels.'" In contrast, let us listen to an ex-New Ager, now Christian, who has been called to a higher duty:

"One night while in the Ascension Chamber [a special room in his house and meditating with crystals under a pyramid structure], my spirit was roaming some of the farthest reaches of 'heavenly light' that I had ever perceived. That night I had an experience that would change my life forever.

"During this experience I was surrounded by a virtually overwhelming luminosity—it was as if I was looking straight into the sun. Waves of bliss radiated through my spirit. I was totally captivated by the power.

"Suddenly another force stepped in. It took me by complete surprise. In the twinkling of an eye, it was like a supernatural hand had taken me behind the scenes of the experience I was having. I was taken behind the outer covering of the dazzling luminosity and there saw something that left me literally shaking for a full week.

"What I saw was the face of devouring darkness! Behind the glittering outer facade of beauty lay a massively powerful, wildly churning face of absolute hatred and unspeakable abominations—the face of demons filled with the power of Satan.

"For a moment that seemed like an eternity, I realized that I was in major league trouble, for this devouring force was now closing in on me.

"In absolute, stark terror I felt powerless to stop what appeared to be inevitable doom. Horror filled me like a consuming flame.

"Then, miraculously, the same supernatural hand as before delivered from the jaws of this consuming darkness, and hours later, I found myself waking up the next morning in the Ascension Chamber. It felt like I had a peaceful night's sleep...What I didn't know at the time was that it was JESUS who had intervened by His greater grace into my life...

"What I knew at the time was that I had made some serious errors in my New Age

involvements. I also knew that if those errors were not corrected that I might face the same horrific experience again. And quite possibly the next time I wouldn't get away.

"An openness to reconsider my New Age involvements arose in me out of desperate need. This openness would help me, over the following months, to find a Way, a Truth and a Life that I had never known before—Jesus Christ." (*Randall N. Baer, Inside the New Age Nightmare, Huntington House Inc., 1989, pp.55-56*)

5. Astral Travel or Projection: These words also signify Out-of-Body-Experiences. "[It] involves the body remaining stationary while one's soul or spirit allegedly leaves the body and travels around to different locations—even (so occultists claim) into outer space. Occultists often speak of a thin gray cord that remains connected between one's soul and the body." (*Ron Rhodes, Alien Obsession, Harvest House Publishers, 1998, p.121*)

Others believe, and it makes more sense, that these so-called-out-of-body-experiences are nothing else than demons planting images in the mind/brain of the person, while in an altered state of consciousness, so that he believes his soul had in fact left his body and was roaming the outer reaches of the universe. When one bears in mind that a person is dead when his soul leaves his body it does not rhyme that he could live through an experience like this anyway.

DEMONS MASQUERADING AS ANGELS:

"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness..." (2 Cor 11:14)

"...[A]ngels should be ignored because not all angels are good. People need to know this today more than ever before. The Bible reveals the number of evil angels is very large (Rev 12:3-4,7-9); one out of every three may be malicious (Rev 12:4).

"For most people the idea of an evil angel is a self-contradictory, like dry water or cold heat. Aren't all angels good? Given their numbers and influence, if we don't take time to consider at least the possibility of evil angels, any of us may suffer for it." (*John Ankerberg & John Weldon, Encyclopedia of New Age Beliefs, Harvest House Publishers, 1996, pp.27-28*) To find out we need to listen to the message of these modern-day angels.

Satan, being the chief fallen-angel, deceived Eve and this ancient old lie of his (Gen 3:1-5) is still being preached by his subordinates, the demons, or evil spirits. Man is still being led to believe that:

- * He is inherently divine, in fact that he is God and must just aspire to it.
- * He is the Christ; all is part of this cos-

mic "Christ principle" and he must just learn to realise it. Jesus Christ is not *The Christ*, he merely aquired the "Christ Principle".

- * He did not die on the cross, did not pay for the sins of the world and was neither resurrected.
- * Sin does not exist.
- * Hell does not exist.
- * Heaven does not exist.
- * God is all and in all.

These are just a few of their deceptions. Another important aspect being their manifestations as UFO's and extraterrestrials and the various experiences, like abductions for instance, that go along with it. We do not have the space to go into this now, but suffice it to say that sufficient scientific research in this area exists to prove this. French UFO investigator, Jaques Vallee a non-Christian says: "...there may be a link between UFO and 'occult' phenomena." (*Rhodes, Alien, p.122*)

Lenny Goldberg tells his story: "When it came time to write the book (a specific New Age book revealed to him earlier)...the 'highest spirit'...entered me to begin dictation. His name was 'the christ'...Over time...the voices of my invisible 'friends' became...threatening that I would stop their communication if I did not obey their increasing demands...The 'miracles' that were taking place in my life assured me that I must perservere." Then Lenny was told that he was ready to take the next step: "I was to join them where they were—in heaven", I asked. 'Wouldn't I have to be dead to go there?' The spirit answered affirmatively and offered some creative suggestions as to how to kill myself. At this I fell on my knees in tears and pleaded that there might be some other way that I could serve God and remain with my family...then I did something that as a Jew I'd never done before. Somewhere I had heard that Jesus...could help...I found myself praying to this unknown Jesus, '...please show me how I can live and serve God...' Suddenly I heard a different voice telling me...that the spirit I was channeling was Satan...! I felt confused, scared, angry, and dirty. I called for my 'guardian angel' who had told me he would always protect me. And he said, 'Yes, I am Satan. Certainly you knew all along that you were serving me.'" (*Dave Hunt, p.389*)

SOME ASSURANCE:

"[W]e must acknowledge that even though a Christian cannot be possessed, he can still be *oppressed* or *influenced* by demonic powers. But the oppression or influence is *external* to the Christian, not internal. The demons seek to work from outside the Christian to hinder him; they do not work from within him." (*Rhodes, Angels, p.206*). Your protection lies in being fully clothed in the *Armour of God* (Eph 6:11-18).

DREAMS

PROF. R MARÉ

AND VISIONS

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH DREAMS:

This is a very important question seeing that God, in Biblical times, did give certain revelations through dreams and visions!

Dreams of believers that come to mind are: Jacob's in Gen 28:12 when he saw a ladder reaching into heaven; or that of Joseph when his brothers' sheafs bowed before his (Gen 37:5-7) and others in verse 9 or when he was in jail in Egypt. Then we have the dream of Daniel (Dan 1:17) or in the beginning of the New Testament, Joseph's dream (Mat 1:20).

There are Scriptures that state God did indeed speak through dreams (Num 12:6). But with Moses He spoke mouth to mouth. (v.7)

We also read of revelations by God to pagans through dreams. The dreams of pharaoh's chief baker and chief cup bearer serves as a good example (Gen 40:5) They did not understand the dreams and Joseph had to interpret it for them (vv.8,12-13). So did the pharaoh also had a dream which his magicians could not interpret (41:1-8). Joseph also interpreted it for him (vv.15-36).

In Judges 7:13 we read of a Median soldier that had a dream of a loaf of bread that rolled over their tent and flattened it. They saw this as an indication from God that their whole camp was going to fall in the hands of Gideon.

One of the most well-known dreams certainly is that of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 2:1) and its interpretation by Daniel (vv.28-45) We note a very important development here: The king wanted his sorcerers, magicians and conjurers to tell him his dream as well as give the interpretation thereof. The esotericists were speechless and powerless. They just could not do it! (vv.2-11) Daniel, however, tells the king that there is a living God who reveals mysteries, because to Him nothing is hidden. (vv.27-28)

In the New Testament (Mat 2:12) we read that God warned the wise men who came to bring homage to the newborn Jesus not to go back to king Herod.

GOD DOES NOT SPEAK THROUGH DREAMS:

We have another situation in 1 Sam 28:15 where we hear king Saul say that God did not answer him through a dream or a prophet. An important lesson is to be learned here: What did Saul do? When he did not get an answer from God he became impatient and did what so many people do—run to the nearest fortuneteller, palmreader, witchdoctor, shaman, sangoma, or some other psychic, and so they do exactly what God forbids. (Deut 18:9-14; Lev 26,31; 20:6; Jer 27:9-10) Actually, God makes fun of them and challenges those that listen to them! (Isaiah 47:12-15)

Then we see that Job is scared by dreams and visions. (Job 7:14) It seems to indicate that we should be very careful about the meanings we attach to dreams and visions.

A WARNING!

The Bible also gives us an important warning against dreams and people who claim to be able to interpret dreams. (Jer 23:27-28,32) We know that there are those who make a living out of the interpretation of dreams as well as other ways they claim enable them to see into the future. God says their dreams are nothing but straw (v.28).

O! How do such practioners mislead even Christians when they claim, even in programmes on the radio, that being clairvoyant is a gift of God. For once in your life try and bring this together: How can God, who cannot lie, forbid these practices on the one hand yet on the other bestow such gifts on certain chosen individuals?

AN IMPORTANT LESSON:

We need to take note that there is an important lesson to be learned in all of this. Not every dream of every person, even believers, is a revelation from God. He did sometimes reveal things through dreams, but then it was exclusively to serve His own purpose and to reveal His will.

BUT NOW!

God willed that His written Word became reality. He no longer speaks to believers through the Urim and Thummim or have need of prophets to give specific revelations. His revelation is complete in His Son Jesus Christ, who declared His Father fully to believers. We now have Moses and the Prophets—we have the complete Bible. It is no longer necessary for an angel to appear to us or for us to run after one or other modern-day prophet, of which there are many today. We have the Bible. We are to study it daily and listen to what God has to say for us through it. This is where we will find God's will for us. The message is: Become true Bereans. Search the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11) It is the word of God that directs our lives, not dreams, prophecies or visions!

Nowhere do we read that the Apostles relied on dreams or visions to reveal God's will to the people. Their message was the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Nowhere in Scripture do we find the *command* that we are to rely on dreams or visions or have these interpreted to find God's will for us. No, the contrary is rather true.

We are not to be superstitious and expect voices from heaven, dreams or visions as ways for God to communicate with us. These are exactly the things that the heathens and occultists rely on. Christians have the Bible—it is the full Canon and contains everything we need to know—nothing needs to be added.
