



# Sentinel

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Volume 8 No 4

# OCCULTISM IN EDUCATION

DR IRMHILD HORN



"THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS IS TO CHANGE THE THOUGHTS, FEELINGS AND ACTIONS OF STUDENTS." (PROF BENJAMIN BLOOM, CALLED 'THE FATHER OF OUTCOME BASED EDUCATION.')

stance to his psychological theories. The use of occult techniques in education are therefore in line with the present psychological thrust in educational theory which has relegated

knowledge transfer and character formation to minor positions and instead emphasises holistic, harmonious development, and popular psychotherapeutic exercises are regarded as a means to such development. Such exercises, it is claimed, help children to achieve a balance between intellectual and affective, conscious and unconscious, verbal and nonverbal, and among physical, emotional, mental and spiritual processes, which will in turn relieve stress and boost self esteem, belief in own abilities and achievement. The intention to help children is laudable, but the use of occult techniques is, to say the least, questionable.

Eastern meditation requires an empty, passive mind which means that the mind's rational, critical faculties are inactive. Such a state of mind usually results in an altered state of consciousness. Altered states

of consciousness are an essential part of pagan/heathen religious rituals and the aim is insight into and integral

union with the divine and spiritual world. Even if the pagan spiritual end is denied, an altered states of consciousness

## INTRODUCTION

Occultism refers to a concentration on pagan/heathen beliefs and superstitions and subjects such as hypnotism, mind power, astrology, divination (fortune telling), extrasensory perception and a multitude of similar topics. Such topics have traditionally been regarded by Westerners as of doubtful intellectual responsibility. However, since the 1970s occult ideas have gradually dispersed themselves throughout Western culture. In education occult ideas are presented as alternative learning methods. In the past these methods were mainly restricted to various extracurricular learning and motivational courses, but they are now establishing themselves as acceptable classroom practice.

## OCCULT ELEMENTS IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING METHODS

The occult elements in alternative learning methods are mystical and magical techniques such as Eastern meditation, eg. yoga and transcendental meditation (TM), occult visualisation (also called creative visualisation, guided imagery, path-working or shamanic visualisation) and the stimulation of supposed energy points in the body. Occult techniques are well established in psychotherapy due to the Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung (1875-1965) who admitted that Eastern and ancient Gnostic ideas gave sub-

"Education is thus a most powerful ally of Humanism and every...public school is a school of Humanism. What can the theistic Sunday schools, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching." (CF Potter, *Humanism, A New Religion*, 1930 as quoted in *Johanna Michaelsen, Like Lambs to the Slaughter*, Harvest House Publishers, 1989: 17)

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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

*Skrifaaanhalings, 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 LOOK BACK & AHEAD

Once again we stand at the close of yet another year and as we look back over the year 2000 we can only be very thankful to our Lord, Jesus Christ, for His blessings and guidance so generously poured out on this ministry. Your support is also highly appreciated. At times we certainly experienced some difficult times when we really had to scrape the barrel, but then again this might have been the Lord's way of showing us to keep our eyes on Him and not lose faith in what He called us to do—reach out to those who are deceived by the cults—the more prominent ones being Jehovah's Witnesses and the International Churches of Christ. Many people were helped with information about a variety of cults. Dr Rienie Venter counselled a number of cult members, some of them successfully. We just continue to receive letters from all over expressing people's appreciation for what **KIES/CIEC** is doing and praying for this ministry. The few radio talks we featured in were well-received and resulted in inquiries of a diverse nature. It is interesting to note how the Lord is pointing us in other directions as well: The heresy that is slowly creeping into the church and the occult that more and more of our youth are getting involved with. Harry Potter, Pokémon, the coming Digimon and other things shall most certainly receive attention in the new year.

The Lord also poured out His blessings on us as a family. Our son-in-law (a chef) who has been in out of jobs has now found a job with a very large concern as their in-house chef. This experience has certainly brought them closer to God as a family, for which we are so thankful. Our own son is now in the last month or so of his final practical exposure with a group of medical clinics as their in-house clinical engineer and will be officially appointed in that position on January 1. The Lord has certainly showed us that those who rely on Him will not be disappointed. Through all this we really experienced that He has His own time table.

And so we have to consider the year 2001.

I take this opportunity of wishing you a most blessed year, with lots of opportunities to reach out to lost and seeking souls. As we enter the holiday season, whatever your view of Christmas may be, may we truly remember that God the Father at some stage in time past, reached out His hand of love to a lost world to send His only-begotten and unique Son, Jesus Christ to be born of a virgin, to suffer and die for each and every person on this earth so that we can have salvation in His name. Let us specifically rejoice in His resurrection and show to the world that we worship a living Redeemer and that we are ready for His return every moment of the New Year!

### HAPPENINGS:

The major happening to look forward to in 2001 is our **annual cult awareness camp**. This will mainly be in Afrikaans again and being our fifth promises to be a great event. **The dates: 10-12 August!** Please help now with the promotion of this not-to-be-missed event.

We have also thought that it became time for us to present some weekend courses in various centers in our country and the following centers have been earmarked:

- \* George: 23-25 February.
- \* Bloemfontein: 4-6 May.
- \* Klerksdorp: 8-10 June.
- \* Uppington: 14-16 September.
- \* Nelspruit: 26-28 October.

People in these areas who are willing to help with the finding of venues and the organizing and marketing of these events are welcome to contact me.

### MALAWI PROJECT:

We were approached by the Secretary General of the Presbyterian Church in Malawi to go there and equip pastors and church members how to more specifically deal with the Jehovah's Witnesses. This cult is flooding the country and causing great concern for the churches.

To do what is needed to require approximately R30,000.00. We wrote to the 1200 NGK congregations in SA but so far very few responded and we are far short of this target. Please pray for guidance so that we will do the right things and for the financing of this project!

\*\*\*\*\*

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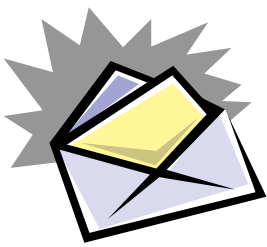
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Vrymesselary/Freemasonry

Japie Grobler\*

\* Dui Bestuurslede aan/

\* Indicates Board Members



# Letters/Briewe

## REQUEST FOR BIBLES

We are a local ministry and we oversee 162 churches in Malawi and Mozambique countries and work is growing.

During our gospel outreach we found that the major problem in the most remotest areas is lack of native bibles—people have no bibles to conduct their main Sunday service.

The native bible is sold at RSA R20.14 and be bought from:

Malawi Bible Society  
P O Box 740  
Blantyre

I will be so grateful if you will be able to help us, even to buy one or two native Chichewa bibles. You can send the funds to our forwarding agent or send a bank draft direct to us.

Our agent is:

Sister Anna Gerber  
Buffelsfontein KK5  
17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Waimel  
Port Elizabeth  
6070

M Bimbu  
Christian Resource Ministries  
P O Box 60083  
NDIRANDE  
Blantyre  
Malawi

“A Ministry based on: Child Evangelism; Witnessing Christ among Muslims; Gospel Outreach Ministry to the most Remotest Areas; Spiritual and Gospel Literature Distribution.”

*If you can help with bibles or funds please do so directly.*

Ed

## ON FIRE:

This is to keep in touch, explore ways and strategies on how we can serve in close partnership with you.

I am a born-again ordained Pastor. We serve the Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Blantyre with over 850 members. Our vision and goals are in obedience to the Great Commission to reach the poor unreached, persecuted and oppressed for Jesus Christ.

We are on fire for radical revival, intercession and raising God's Army in Malawi and neighbouring states in Africa. Some of our needs for urgent prayer are Gospel literature, audios, videos, books and Bibles.

Our account #1417258, Ginnyery Corner Branch, Commercial Bank of Malawi, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi.

Be assured of our prayers and support.

Humpfreys F. Zgambo  
P O Bag 477  
CHICHIRI  
Blantyre 3  
Malawi

Fax: +(265)-62-3193

*We will forward some literature which you may copy freely. Your name has also been added to our mailing list so you will receive this newsletter regularly.*

Ed

## REQUEST FROM PRISON

I am a Christian but not a pastor or reverend but a study leader in religious inside the prison. I do have some certificates, these certificates I founded them on correspondence courses. In am also a church-goer (every Sunday).

I am very actively on spiritual and biblical truth as I want to see the light. I would like you to help with anything that based on the bible. I am the messenger now I want to perform my duty before it is too late, as the wise servant. Please you can send me some copies or any free correspondence course based on bible only. I hate only some who speak evil of things that he or she do not understand/knew, the thing is inside your heart. I am saying because all this it is written. I am a prisoner in flesh but not spiritually. I don't know whether my God is testing for me my salvation but I know he loves me. I've say "Yes" to Jesus Christ and "no" to sin. I am the diligent seeker and believer of God's word.

PZ Joko 98499045  
Dept of Correctional Services  
Groenpunt Max Prison (P.2)  
Private Bag X060  
VEREENIGING  
1930

*I will be writing to you personally and have forwarded a copy of your letter to someone who will make contact regarding the bible based correspondence course.*

Ed

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I saw your ad in a "Today" magazine. I counsel girls in a Crisis Pregnancy Centre and many of them are New/Old Apostolic etc.

What are their beliefs on abortion, sanctity of life, etc. do you have any info that can help?

Jaqui Brill, Uitenhage

*We are forwarding some information. Unfortunately it is at this time only available in Afrikaans, which we trust will not be a problem.*

*We are not sure what viewpoints the New and Old Apostolic churches have on the sanctity of life and abortion. I have approached someone a the SAPD who is researching the rape and related crises who will try and find out more about these questions.*

Ed

## MOENIE STRAND NIE!

Duisende dankies vir die insiggewende artikels wat ek so gereeld van u ontvang. Ek sal nie wil hê dat **KIES** moet strand nie, aangesien die artikels vir my van onskatbare waarde is. Dit verruim en verryk my geestelike lewe en voer my telkens na die Bybel.

Mense kom na my toe om hulp en raad en ek kan hulle oortuigend help met die waardevolle inligting uit **Sentinel**, wat ek van u ontvang.

Dit het my geloof versterk in God. Ek kyk nou met ander oë na my eggenoot, wat vasgevang is in die Jehowa Getuies kultus. Ek glo vas dat God hom daar sal verlos, want by Hom is niks onmoontlik nie.

Ek sal maandeliks 'n bydrae maak d.m.v., 'n stoporder.

Hou vol met die goeie werk!

Gods rykste seën op u arbeid.

Lydia  
Komaggas

*Dankie vir die mooi en bemoedigende woorde. Ons bid verseker vir jou en dat jou man sal loskom uit die Wagtoring-greep.*

Ed

## A WONDERFUL JOB!

You are doing a wonderful job. I wish you to succeed any time in this.

I've read about all those sects and I was terrified.

In my country, Romania, we don't have so many because the orthodox church is very strong. However, after the revolution of 1989, when the communism was stopped, some occidental sects came here and many poor people (especially Gipsy) have entered inside because they use to give money to new adepts! But this is not representative of us!

The articles about Freemasonry are very interesting.

I would like to read more about Gnosis. Do you know some sites?

Thank you again. I really appreciate what you did for me.

God bless you  
Sincerely  
Tamara

*(Jewel!!! If you can help with the gno-sis request, please E-mail me for her ad)*

# A NEW REFORMATION



## CONFRONTATION AND CHALLENGE

Over the last few months we took note of various controversial statements by some theologians that in essence pose a fresh challenge to the faith of Christians. What these theologians said was scooped up by the media for its sensational value. The words of those theologians who spoke out against it did not receive the same prominence and we can only surmise that it was because it lacked the same kind of sensation—after all, *sensation* sells newspapers and magazines. The following are not new, however, in modern times with so many new ideas, inventions and new discoveries they may very well be the straw that breaks the weak faith of the wavering believer. These concepts, usually phrased as doubt-inducing questions<sup>1</sup> are:

- \* Who is the historical Jesus?
- \* Was Jesus really raised from the dead?
- \* Did Jesus really say what is recorded in the Bible?
- \* Is the Bible the infallible word of God or is it only a record of how people in those days experienced the things that occurred?

These pose a direct challenge to what believers have always confessed since the apostles: Belief in the resurrection and the Bible as the infallible Word of God. But alas what do we find? When the paths of most Christians are crossed by cult members and they try to defend the faith they grope in vain at those vaguely remembered verses they may have once learned in catechism. Their arguments are then normally so easily countered by these cult members. Then it becomes so easy for those *Christians* to fall for the well-structured arguments of the cult members who seem to know the Bible so well. The result is that the *Christian's* confession at confirmation or whatever is so easily forgotten and with a few simple words he “resigns” from his present church to join the cult. In the light of these confusing statements that came from within the church what is the Christian supposed to do?

## UNITY IN THE BODY:

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one

body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they *were* all one member, where *would* the body *be*? But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’; nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable *parts* have greater modesty, but our representable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (1 Cor 12:12-27, NKJV)

There is a lesson to learn from this Scripture. Do we really function like the Body of Christ? Do we really show sincere interest and concern for our brothers and sisters? Do we really and earnestly pray for them? It is only when we are truly united that we will be truly blessed.

## THE “I-CULT”

But alas—what do find in this day and age? To most people the person he is so concerned about is himself. As long as I am OK then let the other one look after himself. Is this not the old deception of Satan; “man will become as gods”? With all the modern technology at our disposal and promises of many more astounding inventions and developments in the many

different areas of every day life, man stands on the frontier of becoming more of a force to be reckoned with. Amidst all these technological advances man truly believes that he has become his own saviour. Yet despite these mind boggling inventions there still are a great many people on this planet who do not have the bare essentials to make a humane living. Caught between these two worlds we find those who are trying to bring a Gospel of hope. On the one side there are those in the modern world who live under the false hope that they have made it who find it very difficult to believe that *the* Saviour was born into this world some 2 000 years ago in a stable. In stark contrast to this there are those who would rather die because it is so very difficult to continue to exist that they cannot accept this message of hope that is contained in a Child who became a Man only to die a lonely despised death on a cross. With death everywhere around them how can there be hope in a resurrected Christ unless something is done about their material needs?

## THE CHALLENGE:

Amidst these two diverging worlds the faith of Christians is not only challenged by the New Age philosophy and the many cults but even from within the body. Not only do we find the subtle infiltration of the occult in the Church but the very foundation of the Christian faith is challenged from within. Christians will have to ask themselves what do they really believe about:

- \* Jesus Christ;
- \* His death on the cross;
- \* His resurrection;
- \* His ascension to heaven;
- \* His second coming;
- \* Life after death;
- \* God’s grace against works;
- \* The Bible

Questions concerning the above were the very things that started the Reformation when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the church doors in Wittenberg on 31 October 1517.

But now certain modern theologians say, “Not only is the Bible not so straight forward, but it was written by people who only wrote down what they saw and heard in their time. The New Testament was writ-

<sup>1</sup> Notice how Satan questioned the truth of God’s word when he tempted Eve in the Garden, in exactly the same way as these modern theologians question God.

ten so long after the events we cannot be sure that the things really happened as recorded. It is highly unlikely that Jesus really performed the miracles that are recorded. He did not rise from the dead, but His body was most probably left on the cross for wild animals. So, to really understand Scripture we need someone to interpret it for us—the priest! The church has the sole insight and right to do that.” What happened to: “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...”? (John 14:26; 16:13, *NKJV*) The Bible contains many good moral lessons the many different scribes give us and a person can only benefit by following these lessons—the life of Jesus being the perfect example to follow. What must we make of the following: “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”? (2 Peter 1:20, *NKJV*) Or, “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...”? (Heb 1:1-2, *NKJV*)

If these theologians are right then God is misleading us. Then He did not speak through His Son and neither does He do so today through His Holy Spirit or His word. Then the Bible cannot be trusted and only becomes another one of the many ancient writings of wisdom. Then we can also not believe, “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17, *NKJV*) And so one of the foundation stones of the Reformation is removed: **Sola Scriptura — Scripture Alone!**

### **SOLA CHRISTI:**

Before we can briefly look at **Christ Alone** let us establish a foundation first. “[Christ] Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth.” (1 Peter 2:22, *NKJV*) This Jesus who could not lie said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6, *NKJV*) According to Him not ALL ROADS lead to God! This was accepted by the writer of the book of Acts: “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12, *NKJV*) This same Jesus said of His resurrection: “‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up

in three days?’ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.” (John 2:19-22, *NKJV*) This awesome statement only became clear to them when none other than the risen Christ connected the prophecies of the Old Testament with what happened and of which they were witnesses. (Luke 24:13-49)

Paul gets to the heart of the Gospel in 1 Cor 15:1-8: “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: 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 by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.” (1 Cor 15:1-8, *NKJV*) Note how Paul relies on an Old Testament requirement, on the words of two or three witnesses a case is justified. Then in verse 9 he refers to what happened to himself on the Damascus road. His encounter with the risen Jesus turns him from ardent persecutor (Saul) to passionate preacher (Paul) of this new gospel. (Acts 9 and further) Now he fears not even the devil. The inhuman torture of the Romans with their lions, wild animals and gladiators did not stop him, the other apostles and believers of this faith. Not even the inquisition of the medieval times of the Roman Catholic system with their white-hot torture irons, boiling tar, torture benches and fiery stakes could stop those who confessed their faith in this risen Christ, but they died singing songs of praises to Him while being consumed by flames. Is it possible they endured all of this in vain? And what about the many lives that are drastically changed every day when lost souls find salvation in Jesus name? No wonder we read: “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if

Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.” (1 Cor 15:12-18, *NKJV*) Either the Bible is right or those who profess that Jesus’ body was left for wild animals and He did not rise from the dead but is only the wishful thinking of a few of His miserable followers of the time are right. Both cannot be right! If these people are right then even God is a deceiver because He sent His angels to be false witnesses of the resurrection to the women and disciples and again forty days later of Jesus’ ascension. (Matt 28:2; Mark 16:5-7; Luke 24:3-8; Acts 1:10-11)

### **SOLA GRATIA:**

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.” (Rom 3:19-28) “There is none righteous, no, not one...There is none who does good, no, not one.” (Rom 3:10,12) No man can find favour with God through works, good deeds or some other ritual. It is so very clear in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Eph 2:8-9)

**Faith Alone**, indeed!

### **THE ROCK:**

Jesus is indeed the Rock over which many will stumble and fall. The foundation stone on which the apostles built the Church in the first century. We cannot do otherwise, but continue to build on this Jesus who will come again, simply because He promised that He will.

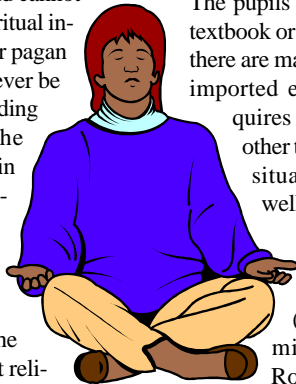
### **THE QUESTION:**

Is it possible that the Church could be facing a New Reformation? If so then now is the time for those who have the gift of discernment to stand up and take a stand!

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**Education: Continued from page 1**

is still contrary to God's will. First, like drunkenness and drug abuse, it is an attempt to escape from reality, which God controls, to a 'reality' which the self controls. Second, denial of the pagan spiritual aim is futile - an empty, passive mind cannot help but be receptive to spiritual invasion. Eastern or any other pagan meditation can therefore never be separated from the undergirding religious aim, despite the claim, also made by certain Christians, that it can be implemented in a religiously neutral manner to relieve stress and to promote an unimpeded flow of energy through body and mind. The latter idea is in any case not religiously neutral, but derives from Eastern pantheism which posits the existence of a universal flow of divine, life-giving energy (called *chi* in Taoism, *ki* in Buddhism and *prana* in Hinduism) and the existence of energy points (meridians) in the body which must be stimulated to improve the flow of energy. This belief undergirds educational kinesiology (brain gym) which is recommended as educational method in Curriculum 2005.



Another occult technique that features strongly in alternative learning methods is visualisation. Occult visualisation is not the ordinary activity of the imagination. There are two types of occult visualisation. The first type is creative visualisation which attempts to effect the achievement of a goal. The goal is visualised and usually accompanied with affirmations about the self and own abilities. The underlying belief is that of mind power: 'I can do anything if I think and believe I can do it.' This type of visualisation is popularly called positive thinking. Philippians 4:13 is often used to support it, which is of course without any justification; Paul was referring to the power that the Lord Jesus gives to His followers to endure tribulation and suffering. What positive thinking comes down to is in fact nothing other than an attempt to magically influence and manipulate reality through thought and speech.

The other type of occult visualisation involves fantasy journeys. In a state of deep relaxation mental imagery is either allowed to impose itself arbitrarily on the mind or constructed in accordance with a proffered path. The aim of occultists and shamans is to induce an altered, purportedly higher, state of consciousness (a mystical experience) in order to enter the spirit world, to take command of the spirits and to thereby attain supernatural, godlike powers.

Classroom fantasy journeys are usually in accordance with a proffered path and called guided imagery. The teacher first

places the pupils in a state of relaxed passivity which by its very nature shuts down the pupils' rational, critical faculties and can pitch them into an altered state of consciousness.

The pupils then follow a script, given in a textbook or one read aloud by the teacher—there are many scripts available in local and imported educational books—which requires the pupils to imagine, among other things, meetings with guides and situations that induce feelings of well-being, personal empowerment, inner unity and/or oneness with all that is. This is the same technique that occult magicians (Kabbalists, medieval alchemists, Renaissance magicians, Rosicrucians, Freemasons, etc.) call visionary magic and which they use to try to awaken and develop supernatural powers.

Children are encouraged to draw *mandalas* of which the handbook for Grade 7 learners, *On Your Own Two Feet, Discovering Life Skills* states: "Hang the mandalas around the classroom. Whenever you feel sad or doubtful about yourself, look at your mandala and remind yourself of the beauty within you." How does this rhyme with, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." (Matt 15:19) "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the man." (Mark 7:21-23) "For the good that I would do, I do not; but the evil which I would not do, that I do. I find then a law that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." (Rom 7:19,21) "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none that understandeth; there is none that seeketh after God. They have all gone from the way; they have together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.' For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God..." (Rom 3:10-12,23) More about mandalas later.

The occult nature of the techniques that form the core of alternative learning methods is concealed in a garb of psychological, quasi-scientific terminology and, furthermore, attached to scientific findings. However, no mention is made that a shift has occurred from scientifically testable hypotheses to untestable conjecture. A top educa-

"TRANSPERSONAL EXPERIENCE AIMS FOR A NEW KIND OF LEARNER AND A NEW KIND OF SOCIETY. BEYOND SELF-ACCEPTANCE, IT PROMOTES SELF-TRANSCENDENCE."

NEW AGER, MARILYN FERGUSON, *THE AQUARIAN CONSPIRACY*, PALADIN, 1985:315

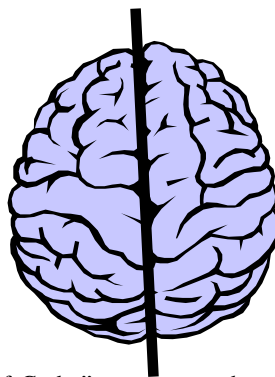
tion official in the USA sums it up: "...we no longer see the teaching of facts and information as

the primary function of education...Building a new kind of people must be part of the curriculum." (*John A. Stormer, None Dare Call it Education, Liberty Bell Press, 1999:xvi*). The occult techniques are also intermingled with commonsense truths. Such commonsense truths are presented in up-to-date buzz terminology which creates the impression of new and profound insight.

A mixture of truth and falsehood is typical of the ways of the world and Satan. The elements of truth serve to obscure and conceal the false and evil elements and facilitate uncritical acceptance of worldly and/or demonic wares. I personally believe that many of the propounders of alternative learning methods have themselves been deceived by the mixture of truth and falsehood and believe that these methods will really help children. Parents should therefore not approach the teachers who use these methods in an accusing and aggressive manner. Instead, they should point out and explain the speculative, unscientific nature as well as the very real spiritual and psychological dangers of these methods (discussed further on in this article). If the teacher is a Christian, parents should also discuss with him/her the pagan and occult nature of these methods.

### THE SPECULATIVE, UNSCIENTIFIC NATURE OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING METHODS

Scientific support for alternative learning methods is mainly sought in the left-right brain theory. Medical research with



brain damaged and split-brain patients did reveal that the two brain hemispheres have different, specialised functions. However, the popular version that ascribes virtually unlimited potential to the right hemisphere is pure speculation. Medical research revealed only the following:

- \* The left hemisphere of the brain controls the right side of the body and the right hemisphere controls the left side of the body.
- \* The left hemisphere is specialised for verbal material while the right hemisphere is specialised for visual-spatial material.
- \* The left hemisphere is specialised for analytic (whole to parts) processing while the right hemisphere is specialised for integrative (parts to whole) processing.

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These findings support only one conclusion regarding teaching and learning, viz. that verbal instruction should be supplemented with visual and concrete material. This is, however, an educational principle that is in fact a commonsense truth, and it was recognised and applied long before the specialised functions of the two brain hemispheres were discovered.

Popular ideas, eg. that the left brain is the seat of hard, cold rationality while the right brain is the seat of creativity and wise intuition, are unwarranted conjectures which one neurological researcher describes as ‘speculative leaps that owe more to imagination than logic.’

The idea that women are right brain dominant while men are left brain dominant is also an idea that does not hold up on further examination. The following trends are well documented:

- \* girls generally develop language skills at an earlier age than boys
- \* three times more boys than girls experience reading problems
- \* adolescents and adult males generally outperform females on tests of visual-spatial reasoning

Another pervasive, but wrong, idea is the classification of left brain-right brain dichotomies. This classification has no scientific grounding whatsoever, and it is in fact in accordance with the yin-yang teaching in the Eastern religions of Taoism and Tantrism.

According to this teaching the whole of reality divides into polar opposites (male-female, light-dark, good-evil, etc.) which complement each other and when integrated form a harmonious whole. The properties of the yin-pole, viz. intuition, emotion, creativity, warmth, restfulness, etc., are ascribed to the right brain and the properties of the yang-pole, viz. rationality, logic, aggression, etc., are ascribed to the left brain.

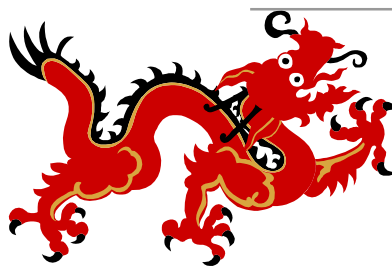
On the basis of the above classification the claim is made that Westerners rely too heavily on the left brain and have subsequently not used nor developed the right brain. The remedy to this situation is believed to lie in meditation and visualisation which, by blanketing out the rational, logical left brain, will release the vast amount of intuitive, creative potential in the right brain. This vast potential is, however, only wishful thinking. First, anthropologists have found that members of less technologically advanced cultures show greater right brain activity, i.e. these persons’ thought processes are more visual-spatial than verbal and ana-

lytic. Second, it is a historic fact that humanity’s vast amount of scientific and technological knowledge was discovered in the Christian West. It is therefore ironic that pagan religious techniques are now propagated as being the secret key to success in the contemporary scientific and technological society and economy.

Meditation and visualisation are, however, not only regarded as means to better achievement, They are also used to deal with stress. Yogi and occult magicians testify that yoga and fantasy journeys induce feelings of peace and tranquillity. They feel that they are transported to a higher and better world. It appears therefore that yoga, visualisation and other meditative techniques can be experienced as psychologically empowering. There are, however, decisive dangers attached which shall now be discussed.

**THE SPIRITUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DANGERS OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING METHODS**

The first danger of alternative learning methods is that of demonic contact. Carl Jung, who popularised visualisation as psychotherapy, recognised that grotesque and frightening forces may appear and he warned therefore that visualisation should not be done with children. A demon can, however, also appear as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14), and the visionary then believes he has contacted a benign and wise inner spiritual guide. Contact with an inner guide—a wise being within who gives guidance and support—is one of the aims of practising visualisation in the classroom. Take heed from the experience of an ex-new ager: “One night, while in the Ascension Chamber ( a special room in the house), my spirit roamed 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 that 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.” (Randall A. Baer, *Inside the New Age Nightmare*, Huntington House, Inc., 1989:55)

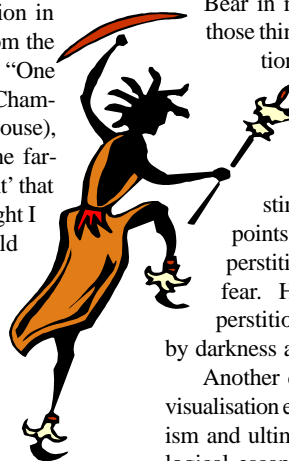
Scripted fantasy journeys also carry the risk of indoctrination, both intentional and unintentional. Such use of the imagination is a very powerful way of participating and affirming the religious traditions and/or lifestyles and values of other people. This danger is heightened when role play is also used. Role play, which is also rapidly gaining popularity as learning method and is recommended in Curriculum 2005, is not an occult technique, but it is a highly effective tool for bringing about understanding of and identification with the values, beliefs and lifestyles of other people. Once again we need to take note of what happened in the USA—they have progressed farther down the road than we have: “Behavior modification is a significant part of restructuring our schools. School children will be trained to be ‘politically correct,’ to be unbiased, to understand diversity, to accept ‘alternative lifestyles...’ (Henry Hyde, Chairman of the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee as quoted in *Stormer*:xvi) As part of the experiential children are encouraged to research other cultures, even partake—roleplay—other cultural activities. The rain dance serves as an example. This process decreases or desensitizes children for the cultural values they are brought up with.

Bear in mind that culture includes all those things handed down from generation to generation, religion being one important aspect.

A return to superstition and irrationality is another risk. Superstitions such as the stimulation of imaginary energy points may appear innocent, but superstition leads ultimately to a life of fear. History shows clearly that superstitious cultures are characterised by darkness and fear.

Another danger is that meditation and visualisation encourage psychological escapism and ultimately schizophrenia. Psychological escapism is actively taught. There are various fantasy scripts in educational books that require children to construct a safe imaginary place to which they are to escape for solace in times of unhappiness and stress. This is highly irresponsible;

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when faced with acute emotional trauma the person, as child or as adult, can lose all contact with reality and retreat wholly into his/her own fantasy world, in other words the person becomes schizophrenic.

The ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy must be learnt. Young children have trouble in separating reality from what goes on inside their heads. Young children believe that their thoughts can influence the external world. The propagation of positive thinking serves therefore to fixate people on the immature cognitive level of very young children, and the concomitant inability to clearly differentiate between thought and reality also renders people vulnerable to schizophrenia.

Even yogis and occult magicians warn that meditation and visualisation are risky practices which may precipitate mental derangement. Jung writes in his autobiography that there were many times that his fantasy journeys brought him to the brink of insanity and that he had to force his mind back to rationality and sanity.

Delusions of grandeur and the development of a narcissistic, self-glorifying personality is another psychological pitfall of visualisation. Many visualisation exercises recommended for the classroom promote a concentrated focus on the self and own abilities and inner power and wisdom. The primary purpose of positive thinking is the promotion of self esteem which is regarded as the key to achievement and emotional stability. The unpleasant truth, however, is that it encourages pride and arrogant exaltation of strengths, talents and abilities. A major theme of the Bible is the inordinate danger of human pride. The Bible gives a multitude of examples—the tower of Babel, Pharaoh’s insolent presumption of his own strength, the Israelite kings’ presumptuous reliance on their own military power and that of political allies, the parable of the prosperous farmer whose feelings of omnipotence overlooked his own mortality, and many more—that illustrate that the cause of self-promotion can ultimately function as the instrument of personal collapse.

Positive thinking aimed at the self is ultimately a philosophy of despair. Its facile optimism gives no comfort to tormented souls and it includes no efficacious provision for the forgiveness of sins. It causes unnecessary anguish and guilt because it implicitly teaches that one’s negative thoughts have contributed to one’s

own or another person’s setbacks in life. It also leads people to unrealistic, inflated self-expectations and ultimately desperate disappointment when the person discovers that he/she is not as talented and capable as he/she thinks.

Positive thinking can also blunt and subvert moral conscience towards other people’s problems.

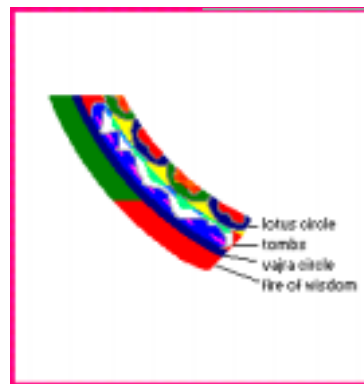
Teaching a child whose mother is dying of cancer or a child who is physically and mentally abused or a child who works so very hard yet still fails to achieve high marks that his/her thoughts can change things is cruel and immoral. Such children need real support in their real suffering, not a (false) belief in the magical efficacy of thought.

**THE MANDALA**

The mandala is a symmetrical figure and is described by Tibetan Buddhism as, “an imaginary palace that is used during meditation. Each object in the palace has significance, representing some aspect of wisdom or reminding the meditator of some guiding principle. Tradition (culture!) dictates the shapes, sizes and colors of these objects.”

“Mandala is Sanskrit for circle, polygon, community, connection. [It] is a symbol of man or woman in the world, a support for the meditating person. The Mandala is often illustrated as a palace with four gates (example), facing the four corners of the Earth. The Mandala shown here is connected with the

Buddha Vajrasattva, who symbolises the original crystalline purity. The symbol of Buddha lives in the centre, surrounded by eight Buddhas for meditation—symbolic deities: four male and four female. These figures, facing the corners of the earth form together a lotus blossom with eight petals, resting on a bed of jewels. In the next place are the walls of the palace with gates toward the four corners of the earth. The gates are guarded by four angry doorkeepers. Before the meditating person arrives at the gates, he must, however, pass the four outer circles; the purifying fire of wisdom, the varja circle, the circle with the eight tombs, the



lotus circle. [The] four circles, symbolising enlightenment, which the meditating person must gain, before he can enter the illuminated palace [are], **fire of wisdom**: the outermost circle consists of purifying fire; **varja circle**: the diamond circle expresses strength and fearlessness; **tombs**: there are eight

tombs, which symbolise the eight states of consciousness (seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, the body, thinking, the I, and basic consciousness), which a person must go beyond; **lotus circle**: expresses the open state of devotion, that is necessary to enter the palace.

“Mandalas are used for initiation, meditation and rites of magical character to bring the practitioner into a mystical union with a chosen deity representing Buddhahood and the absolute.” (*Buddhism Art and Faith, Edited by W Zwalf:123,133*)

We are also told that: “As for the centre [of the mandala], that is essence. As for the circumference, that is grasping, thus grasping the essence. This essence is the ‘heart’ of the Buddha. In his enlightened form, the Buddha is no longer in this world. As one of his epithets indicates, the Buddha is *tathagata*, or ‘thus-gone,’ and in the absence of his physical body, the mandala represents his ‘body of enlightenment.’”

“Never; anywhere in the Holy Bible will you find God giving civil government any authority to rear or direct the rearing of children...God told parents, not government, to ‘train up’ their children.”  
*Laura Rogers, Missouri mother and researcher, as quoted in Berit Kjos, Brave New Schools, Harvest House, 1995:185*

**CONCLUSION**

As Christians we must protect our children from alternative learning methods. Such methods are not learning methods but an introduction to pagan religious rituals. We must teach our children to apply biblical principles for stress relief and emotional stability and to cope with their schoolwork. We must teach them that the true and lasting path to stress relief and emotional stability lies in the biblical command to prayerfully honour and praise God and to count one’s blessings (1 Thess 5:16-18). These bring forth both gratitude and courageous acceptance of that which cannot be changed and lead therefore to true inner peace. With regard to their schoolwork, we must teach our children biblical virtues—responsibility, conscientiousness, perseverance, humility and self-discipline. These virtues cannot guarantee success in our earthly activities, but they are in accordance with God’s will and are therefore the character traits that the followers of Christ Jesus must strive towards.

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