



Sentinel

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Special Edition

Wow! IT RAINS GOLD!



very sure of that. During the service (rather performance) no one was allowed to go near the stage as the aisles were blocked by security personnel. This also made us wonder—but alas! There was gold around, or there would be, as this is what people came to see—and see they did! So, naturally he did not want a stampede as people by nature would be inclined to try and grab some gold in the hope of striking the mother lode.

What was forgotten is that no person who is not a jeweller or in possession of a digger's licence can possess gold dust or gold in raw or

any form, other than jewelry, ornaments or coins—in other words processed gold. But wait a minute, you say. This is different! The Holy Spirit is making it rain freely on God's people or at least from the hair of this very special lady. We are told that He is giving it as a sign and wonder in these last days to convince people to come to Him. It really blows the mind as reports state that the dust received in this fashion from the treasure chests of heaven is 24 carat pure gold. Great televangelists in the USA likened it to cracks that appeared in heaven and the dust of the streets of the purest gold are now raining through these cracks on the people here on earth. Overseas newspapers tell us that some people see the cause as that of "the white horse

Jesus is coming back on pawing the streets of gold in heaven with impatience and the gold is raining down." (Richmond Times Dispatch, USA, August 22 1999)

We experienced difficulty in controlling our eagerness to obtain some of this gold. Pastor Wolmarans did not disappoint the many people who came to see all of this for themselves. After all they heard so much about it and now here they were experiencing this wonderful blessing—and we were also part of it. How fortunate one can be? People were offered a photograph of this blessed lady with some gold dust secured to the back of each photograph with a piece of Scotchtape. At R10.00 each we wondered whether we were getting a bargain or not. But that after all was not important as this was straight from heaven and no money in the world could buy such a wonderful gift, even if you had to fork out some money for it. It made sense that

For some time now the media has been reporting about this phenomenon which has been appearing mainly in Charismatic meetings. People told of having seen it with their own eyes, some even testify of this dust coming down on them. Others tell of teeth fillings which have miraculously been replaced with gold fillings. All these reports called for a personal investigation.

The opportunity came on 21 April when Silvania Machado (photo) appeared at Pastor Theo Wolmarans' Harvest Family Church.

When we got there we wondered why the security was so strict. No cameras were allowed and his security personnel made



they had to at least cover the expenses of the photographs—these were not free from heaven. In exchange for R10.00 we also were blessed with a wonderful photograph, and sure enough there it was; a few tiny specks of this most treasured gold stuck to the back with a piece of Scotchtape, which

Continued on page 6



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

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.

Redaksioneel/Editorial

WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!

Our annual Cult Awareness Camp in Afrikaans came and went the weekend of 18-20 August. It was attended by about 50 people. Some came from afar as Maputo and Bloemfontein. It was very encouraging to see so many young people there. Among those who attended were some first timers, but there were also those who have attended from the first one in 1997. Next year, God willing, we will be in our fifth year for these camps and aim to make it the BIG ONE! Your help is, therefore, solicited to help us make it so. If you know of anyone who attended the first one, alert them now to this planned great event and ask them to contact us, or better still, send us their particulars so that we can put their names on the mailing list and so keep them up to date as far as this great event is concerned. If you know of somebody that you think might want to receive *Sentinel* then let us know about him/her, please.

Once again we experienced the emotions with those ex-cult members who witnessed to us of their experiences and how the Lord saved them from the delusion of the various cults they were caught up in. It was most touching to hear the testimony of a whole Portuguese family who came free from the Jehovah's Witnesses. We can only rejoice with them in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who said that if He set us free we are truly free. But then there was the heartbreak of a Grandmother who has eight children trapped in the Houy-cult of Volksrust. Pray with us that they will also be freed and that we will be blessed to hear their testimonies next year during the weekend of 10-12 August. Yes! This is the tentative date!

ABOUT THIS EDITION

You will notice this is a special edition and may wonder why. The reason being that the two topics we deal with in this edition were of such importance to us that we thought of naming it a *Special Edition* and still publish the normal No 4 in the last quarter of 2000.

We hope that you will find the articles about the two ladies, Sylvania Machado,

Wow! It Rains Gold! and the centrespread about Vassula Ryden, *Love Peace and Unity*, informative and of value.

As far as *Wow! It Rains Gold!* is concerned. We faxed the article to Pastor Theo Wolmarans of the church where this phenomenon took place to give him an opportunity to respond or criticise the article with the undertaking of publishing his response in this issue. The lack thereof by the time of going to press indicates that his response is still forthcoming. We are sorry this happened. Maybe it will appear in the next issue? We are trying this new format. **Please let me know what you think!!!!**

THANK YOU!!!

We thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts who made donations since the last issue to ensure the continued publication of *Sentinel*. Our coffers were really empty and we were wondering whether the next issue was ever going to see the light, and here it is! Thank you so much, especially to those who regularly donate on a monthly basis. This is the ideal and is so much "lighter" on our purses. A regular contribution of just R20.00 per month is so much easier to give, and it would be wonderful if every reader could do that. But please don't take it out of your regular tithing at your church!

While on the subject of the publication of *Sentinel* let me remind you once again that *Sentinel* is published mainly in English for the sake of our overseas readers. I thank all of our local readers, the majority being Afrikaans, for their understanding.

TWO GREAT BOOKS

The proofreading of a book by Kittie Pienaar which deals with the deception and in depth discussion of the Catechism of the Old Apostolic Church of Africa is nearly completed. It will then be published and will be available through *KIES/CIEC*. This is a not to be missed book and the only one of its kind. She wrote it because her daughter joined this cult and the Lord laid it on her heart to inform others.

For those who really want to discuss the subject of the Trinity from a different perspective—that of the Holy Spirit—with Jehovah's Witnesses a great book and aid is available from us under the title, *The Holy Spirit, Power or Person*. *****

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Japie Grobler*

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* Indicates Board Members

We thought it a good idea to list below the *Sentinels* that are still available as back issues since we started to publish this newsletter and their respective contents so that you may order any copies you may require. Next year we will make these plus all the issues of this year available in bound form. So watch *Sentinel* for this announcement.

Publication:	Brief Description of the Articles:
No 9304	“Wat is ‘n Kulte?” - Bespreek die kenmerke van kultes. “Christian Creeds vs The Cults.” - Deals with the development of the Christian Creeds. “Reach out to the Cult Member.” - Briefly deals with the issue of Mind Control. “Nuwe & Ou Apostel Kerke.” - Behandel hierdie twee groepe.
No 9402	“Which is the Truth.” Is the truth contained in writings such as <i>The Book of Mormon</i> , <i>The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ</i> , <i>The Watchtower</i> , <i>Science and Health</i> and others? “Die Jehovah se Getuies.” “Christian Creeds vs The Cults.” (Part 2)
No 9403	“William Marrion Branham & The ‘Message’ Believers.” “The Boston Church of Christ.” “Augustine on Grace.” A continuation of the Creeds of Christianity. “1914 Future Shock Revealed.” Reveals the looming change in the 1914 doctrine of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society—This happened as exposed before the changes were announced.
No 9404	“Cults, The Apocalypse and Control Over Followers.” Find out how cults manipulate and control followers through fear. “Die Nuwe Era.” Kort artikel oor die New Age. “Reincarnation.”
No 9501	“Kruis of Folterpaal.” Ontbloot die siening van die Jehova se Getuies dat Jesus Christus aan ‘n regop paal met Sy hande bokant Sy kop gehang het. “The Resurrection.”
No 9502	“1914 — Fact or Fallacy of Jehovah’s Witnesses.” Discusses the Watch Tower’s doctrine of 1914. “To Bless Or Not To...(ronto)....???” Looks at the Toronto Blessing phenomenon.
No 9503	“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Part 1).” “Scientology — A Religion or Science Fiction?”
No 9503A	“Witnessing to Mormons (Part 2).” “Die Heilige Gees.”
No 9504	“‘n Ander Evangelie.” - Is daar ander evangelies? Wat leer bekende predikers soos Hinn, Copeland en andere? “The Other Jesus.” Compares the false jesuses with the Biblical Jesus.
No 9701	“The New Age Movement.” “Horoscope or Horrorscope?”
No 9702	“Dispensational Premillennialism (Part 1)” “Jehovah se Getuies en Joh 1:1.” “The Shady Tactics of the Cults.” Read how the cults make use of doubtful tactics to influence people.
No 9703	“What Happened to Jesus?” Where was Jesus from His 12 th year until His baptism? “A Prophet Among Us?” Written by ex-Bloomberg cult members.
No 9704	“Marks of a Cult”, and “Mind Control in the Cults.”
No 9801	“The Largest Cult in the World.” Looks at the Roman Catholic Church. “Dispensational Premillennialism (Part 2).”
No 9802	“Is the Church a Cult?” Find out whether the church is a cult. “Armageddon — Super Grip.” The fear instilled by the cults get followers to perform. “The INs and OUTs of the Cult Process.” Find out how this works.
No 9803	“The Jehovah’s Bible Translation.” Can it be trusted? Find out. “The Watch Tower’s Scholarly Abilities.” Were their translators able to make a good translation from the original Bible languages?
No 9804	“A False Prophet Exposed.” Exposes the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society as a false prophet. Written by an Ex-JW.
No 9901	“Freemasonry: Ancient Delusion of Modern Man (Part 1)” “The Collective.” - Find out how and why people are drawn into specific groups.
No 9902	“Freemasonry and Christianity (Part 2).” “When Your Child Joins a Cult.” - What to do and not to do.
No 9903	“The Sea of Subjectivity.” People are subjectively manipulated. “The Subtle Influence of the Cults.”
No 9904	“The Bahá’í Faith.” “False Apostles.”
Volume 8 No 1	This is the first new one for 2000. “Strange Teachings in the Church.” Exposes the false teachings that are subtly infiltrating the Church. “Somewhere Between Illusion and Reality.” A brief discussion of the world of the illusionist and how this is applied in the church.
Volume 8 No 2	“Angel Appearances and Visits.” Are these real or what? “The Resurrection” - A brief look at the resurrection of Jesus.” “Dreams and Visions.” Does God still speak in this way?

Copies can be ordered from us at R2.00 per copy.



LOVE, PEACE AND UNITY

A recent visit by Vassula Ryden (photo), who claims to receive messages directly from the Lord Jesus, was advertised as follows on a poster:

VISIT OF JESUS TROUGH HIS MESSENGER VASSULA RYDEN

I come in your country to leave you a sign of my great love. I come, I your king, like a beggar in rags and barefoot, to ask you to make peace with me and ask you a little bit of love. Out of my boundless mercy, I bend all the way to take you out of your lethargy and your darkness so that you may taste MY GREAT LOVE FOR YOU.

In the light of this it was imperative to hear more from her. The opportunity presented itself when a special appearance was held at the Catholic church hall in Braamfontein on Friday 21st July in addition to the scheduled public appearance at the Standard Bank Arena on the 22nd.

She claims that these conversations with Jesus have been going on for ±15 years now. They take the form of dictation she receives from Jesus, God the Father as well as the Holy Spirit, not to mention Michael and

Daniel the archangels. These Messages have been published in a series of books titled, *True Life in God*. Vassula holds a special place with the Lord: "My lamb, the world hated Me as it hates you now, but it is only the world and this will wear away! Come, remain near Me and My Mother who loves you...I will be your sole Repose, your sole Companion; in the betrayals, your sole Friend. I will be your sole Source of Knowledge, instructing you the depths of Our mysteries...I have created you to be My weapon against the Destroyer (I thought the Bible says that Jesus is the One who will destroy the Destroyer!) who renders many of My people blind; you will have nothing to fear since I am with you..." (*True Life in God, Volume VI:13,16,31*, hereafter *TLG, VI*) One such message appeared on the poster quoted from above. These are Jesus' messages through her to the church. If this is true, we certainly have to pay careful attention to these. On the other hand if these messages fail the Biblical test we have to reject them and expose Vassula as a false messenger, teacher and prophetess. (We will deal with how she receives the messages later.) But wait a minute there is an answer against this: "Member of the Eastern House [Greek Orthodox], daughter of this House, false witnesses have risen against you but put your hope in Me...Even after your death, your body will still keep prophesying..." (*TLG, VI:38,51*)

From the poster it appears that this Jesus is really begging people to listen to Him.

To crown this we have the Almighty pictured in rags! How different from the apostle John's vision of the risen and ascended Jesus Christ sitting at the right hand of God the Father. Revelation 1:12-18 give us an entirely different picture. John fell at His feet as if dead. How is it possible that this Creator, King and Ruler of the entire universe, Who now sits in unapproachable light (1 Tim 6:16) and to Whom all the heavenly creatures, including the elders, bow down in never-ending worship begs humans to make peace with Him in His discourse with Vassula? How is it possible that He can say "I bend all the way to you..." Was this not fully and finally done on the cross of Calvary? He who said that He is the Light of the world and His followers are like lamps on lampstands who must let their lights shine in the world, offers to "take you out of your lethargy and your great darkness" to taste His great love, according to this poster. What went wrong with Christ being in the believer?

Surely, this must be another Jesus talking with her. Could it be the same Jesus that spoke with Helen Schucman who penned down *A Course In Miracles*, also claiming to have received the text of it from a certain Jesus? Vassula's Jesus appears to her, sits with her, even accompanies her to a club where she was having coffee with her friends. She says that He suddenly makes His appearances. Consider for a moment: "...spirits claim to be extraterrestrials...various gods of ancient or modern cultures (or God Himself), Jesus Christ, ascended masters, 'group beings,' angels and nature spirits. By doing this, they know they will spark the interest of people they are contacting." (*John Ankerberg & John Weldon, The Facts on Spirit Guides, Harvest House Publishers, 1988:16*) Humans fell down on their faces in fear and trembling before the pre-incarnate Son of God in Old Testament times when He appeared to them as the Angel. The great prophet Isaiah trembled when he was given a vision of the Lord on His throne in Isaiah 6, and we have already seen the apostle John's reaction when he saw the risen Son of God in all His post-incarnate glory in Revelation 1.

The question asked of Vassula was, "How do we know whether Helen or she conversed with the right Jesus?" Especially when we consider that Helen started to receive her dictation some 15 to 20 years before Vassula's. Neither she nor any of the other persons who accompanied her could answer this question satisfactorily! Yes the Bible tells us about a false Jesus — 2 Cor 11:3-4. But we need to look further.....

During her talk she explained how in, her first vision, God showed her three iron bars. These bars represented the three churches, Catholic, Orthodox and Protes-

Continued on page 5

Vassula: Continued from page 4

tant. He further stated that it was His wish that these three should become one. Their proud heads must bow and unite under one head. This she saw as the tops of these three bars bending down and coming together in love and peace. Unity was impossible as long as there was pride and an unwillingness to ignore the differences. The clear instruction was—back to the church and the sacraments—and there was no doubt which church! Union must come under the pope of Rome. A grave warning comes through the Messages: “You [non-Catholics] are displeased with the one who sits on Peter’s Chair [the pope] and who reminds you constantly to keep My rules holy, since they are sacred; you are displeased at his calls of ecclesia’s Tradition and of living daily a Eucharistic life...” (TLG, VI:9) A move in this direction was made by the Anglicans when, during 1999, they agreed that the pope was the head of the Christian church. It is interesting to remember that the world also views the pope as speaking for all Christians. How can this possibly be since there is such a great divide between Catholicism and Protestantism?

BOOKS IMPORTANT:

In the beginning she was asked to visit Spain and Italy quite often. But this has changed, the Lord asked her not to go to these countries anymore as she has given such a lot. These countries now have the books and they must just live the messages. It was important for her to go to the countries where the Messages were not so well known and her books were not promoted enough. Such countries must also be given the chance to hear and read the Messages and so be given the opportunity to know what the Lord is asking of them, “the lay people, the clergy, the church.” The books contain many teachings and prophecies. They teach about the Holy Spirit—who He is and what He does. One important prophecy she received was that Russia would become the leading Christian country in the world and will glorify God the most. How this was possible she did not know, but claimed that the Lord showed her this very clearly.

DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES

IGNORED:

Three years after the Lord spoke with her for the first time He asked her whether she would like to learn the Rosary. Being Greek orthodox this was strange to her, but as the Lord asked her to do so “for His sake” she could not refuse. “How can you refuse the Lord?” she stated to the audience. So she set about learning the Rosary with help from someone and found it to be such a powerful prayer, which the devil hates because of its simplicity. Archangel Michael confirms this: “Ah, Vassula, never cease praying the Rosary; never cease asking Me for

My intercession...” (TLG, VI:19) Hunt quotes from a tract, *The Rosary, Your Key to Heaven*: “The Rosary is a means of salvation, because a true child of Mary is never lost and one who says the Rosary daily is truly Mary’s child...Mary is our all-powerful Advocate and she can obtain from the Heart of Her Divine Son whatever is good for her children...No one is beyond redemption if he but turns to Mary Immaculate.” (Dave Hunt, *A Woman Rides the Beast, Harvest House Publishers, 1994:446-447*) This was such an important step for her to take to ensure acceptance by Catholics. No wonder they are among the churches that invite her the most to speak.

Another call from the Lord she received was that the “House of the West must turn her eyes to the East and get her hope from the East.” “Vassula, I need sacrifices to bring the Two Sisters [Catholics and Orthodox] together!” (TLG, VI:11) A move was made in this direction when a miracle, as she called it, was organised in Israel some time ago. Among the 54 countries that were present were 65 clergy, 12 churches, consisting of Baptist, Anglican, Lutheran, Coptic etc. They prayed together for twelve days and had one heart and one mind. At this gathering the Metropolitan (Vassilis, second after the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and head of this church in Jerusalem) invited all of those present, i.e., 450 people, to share the Eucharist in the Sepulchre of St Thomas. She asked the priest whether he really wanted to give the Eucharist to everyone, including non-Catholics. His response was that he did not want to be a block when people wanted to receive Jesus. “My church is My body which fills the whole of creation; and the Life of My Church is My Holy Eucharist, the Way to eternal life.” (TLG, VI:35) Later after this event Jesus spoke to her and said that He was very pleased with this, the sharing of the cup broke down the politics and divisions. “Every effort, every step forward, done for unity is blessed thrice from the Father, Myself and the Holy Spirit—let this be known and tell everyone to work and pray for unity...” (TLG, VI:10)

To find out whether this was really the Jesus of the Bible who condoned this sharing of the Eucharist, we have to consider its meaning and then weigh it up against the Biblical perspective. Under the heading, “At The Offertory” when the priest says, “Accept, O eternal Father, this offering which is here made to Thee by Thy minister, in the name of us all here present, and of Thy whole Church. It is as yet only bread and wine, but by the miracle of Thy power and grace, IT WILL SHORTLY BECOME THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THY BELOVED SON. He is our high-priest and HE IS OUR VICTIM.” Then under the heading: “After the Elevation” (when the priest shows the wafer to the congregation) “It is now, O

Lord, with grateful hearts we call to mind the sacred mysteries of Thy passion and death, of Thy resurrection and ascension. Here is Thy body that was broken; here is Thy blood that was shed for us, of which these exterior signs are but the figures, and YET IN REALITY CONTAIN THE SUBSTANCE. IT IS NOW WE TRULY OFFER THEE, O LORD, that pure and holy Victim...” (My Confirmation Prayer Book — A Complete Manual of Catholic Devotions, Edited by Rev. JM Lelen, Ph.D, Catholic Book Publishing Co, New York, 1952:57,68, Capitals ours.) It is very clear from this that in the Eucharist the bread (wafer) and wine literally become the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Many other quotations from this Manual can be given to confirm this. How non-Catholics could partake in this unbiblical practice remains a puzzle! It is not only the literal turning of the bread into the body and the wine into the blood of our Lord by the priest that we strongly object to but also the perpetual sacrifice of Jesus Christ in this ritual on every Catholic altar by every priest every time this sacrament is celebrated. Vassula’s Jesus is in agreement with this: “...never substitute His Perpetual Sacrifice, not even for all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour.” (TLG, VI, 1996:3) How is it that the Bible has a different message? Did Jesus not offer Himself as a perfect sacrifice once for all time? (Please check out Hebrews 9:25-28 and 10:10-12) Surely, if the Jesus who spoke to Vassula was very pleased with what happened in St Thomas and dictated the above to her, He can never be the Biblical Jesus and 2 Cor 11:14 should then sound the alarm bells.

After this Jerusalem gathering she had an interview with Cardinal Cassidy in Rome who also stated how important it was that leaders should bend in humility and love. Unity was important. As we have seen earlier this unity must be under the pope. No wonder in a very recent religious news bulletin we were told that Cardinal Cassidy said that Protestants only have a partial truth. The full truth can only be found in the sacraments of the Catholic church. Hence, the message through Vassula’s Jesus—back to the Church and the Sacraments!

Her guardian angel (who’s face suddenly one day she saw within), Daniel: “I, Dan, bless you. Sign of Unity, remain faithful to the Lord; grow in Him and in no one else—alone Yahweh is good. Pray to be fortified so that in the Lord you may draw your strength to revive the House and accomplish your mission.” (TLG, VI:20)

THE BASICS OF THE MESSAGES:

Having attended Vassula’s appearances as well as watching the videos afterwards and having read the thin Volume VI of *True Life in God*, the following main themes stand out strongly in all of these:

Continued on page 8

we were assured was the genuine stuff, even though it came from an earlier appearance of Silvania. We could now also share this most wonderful sign of the Holy Spirit with others, especially non-believers, as this was what it was all about, or so we were led to believe. On the back of the photograph, in typical cult-like fashion, they quote Acts 19:11-12 and completely out of its context try to apply these words to these signs and wonders: "God did extraordinary miracles through Paul so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick and their illnesses were cured and evil spirits left them."

When we first saw Silvania on the stage we were impressed by the oversized man's coat she was wearing—this can be seen on the photograph—but we thought, give her the benefit of the doubt about what she might have been hiding beneath that coat. We could not help thinking about a well-known evangelist/healer of some years ago who was exposed for making use of a small earpiece through which his wife communicated with him. In this way he was informed about people in the audience and their specific ailments.

When it was announced that that night was not the night for holy oil to flow from her hands we thought we had made a mistake when we spotted what appeared like a nozzle or pipe of some sort in one of the sleeves. We then decided that it was necessary to get the gold dust we received, and which was sold to many eager people, analysed in a laboratory to verify its authenticity and forever waylay our skepticism. The answers would be found in an electron microscope analysis of the gold dust specks. This was done at Engineering Services, Trans Works, Pretoria by Iver Viljoen.

Figure 1 gives us the physical appearance of these very tiny specks enlarged 177 times. It is clear from this that these specks are rectangular pieces which were cut from some or other material, probably with a machine of some sort. Is it possible that the angels use machines in heaven?

This test does not tell us what type of material these tiny specks were, so another test was necessary.

In figure 2 we have the graph of the material/s subjected to the electron microprobe analysis. For the more technically inclined this test requires the sample being affixed to a carbon background which represents the darker colour in fig 1. The carbon shows up as the high peak on the

FIG 1.

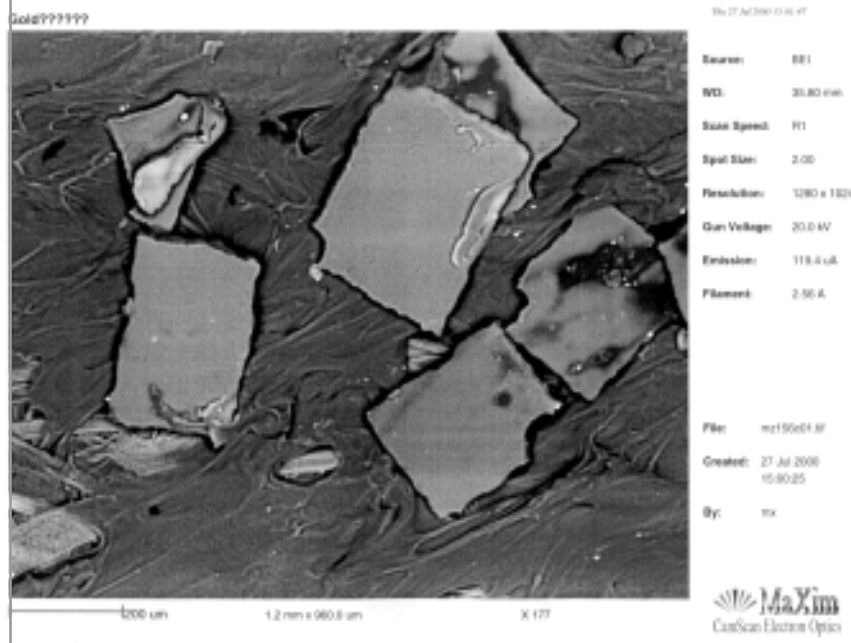
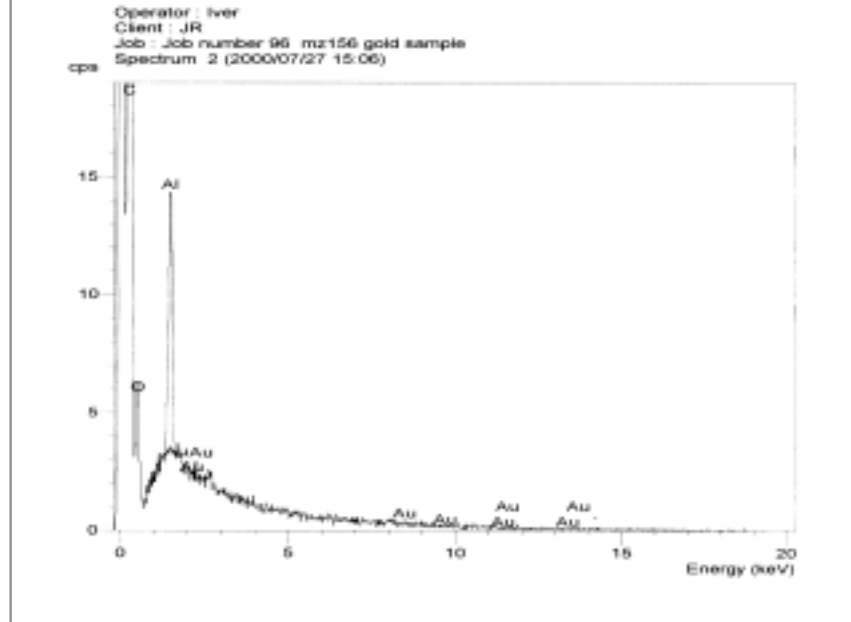


FIG 2.



left marked "C". The "O" peak is oxygen. The "gold dust" sample tested reflects a high content of aluminium ("Al") with some traces of gold ("Au"). If the sample tested were genuine gold it would have shown up as much higher peaks on 10-15 keV (kilo electron Volts) on the horizontal scale as "Au". It can adamantly be stated that this is not gold! The closest description in layman's terms is that this material is "anodised aluminium foil." But alas, supporters of this phenomenon state: "...if this is a substance created miraculously, if it's created supernaturally, then you're subjecting it to manmade instruments in a lab and comparing it to substances we know of in the Periodic Table. It might not be anything we've ever seen before. It's more like manna from heaven." (Debbie Kedrick

member of Calvary Chapel as quoted in Richmond Times Dispatch, August 22, 1999) I ask you! — Just think this through for a minute.

Pentecostal evangelist and very much in the middle of this *gold rush*, Ruth Ward Heflin, author of books like *Glory, River Glory* and *Revival Glory* and Pastor at this church says "[she] does [not] worry about being proved a fake, providing a small bag of glittering dust [to the reporter] for testing purposes. While some dust tests as gold, she explains, this batch is probably plastic film (which it appears to be) [reporter's comments of test results]. 'Whatever it is, we know it's from God.'" (Wall

Continued on page 7

Gold: Continued from page 6

Street Journal, March 30, 2000) Who stands a chance against this kind of illogical logic? Nevertheless, who is deceiving who here? God?

Before we consider this from a Biblical perspective we need to ask ourselves who this lady is?

WHO IS SILVANIA MACHADO?

According to information on the Internet (<http://www.revivalglory.org>) Silvania comes from Brazil and was cured of various forms of cancer, some say five, others four, but the Dispatch article states three—liver, bone and leukemia. The cure came after a decade of suffering with “green bile emanat[ing] from her orifices and pores.” A friend of theirs suggested to her husband, Luis, that he should take her to an evangelical church so that people could pray for her. This Catholic was asked by the minister whether she would “give Jesus 30 days to change [her] life.” Her reply was that she has been sick for 12 years so 30 days more would be nothing. They prayed for her on a Friday early in April 1995 and three more times thereafter. Monday was a very difficult day, “she begged death to cease her suffering” and on Tuesday morning her husband noticed her “skin looked different.” It was not green any longer and a few days later the doctor said she was cured.

Later during a prayer vigil the time came for the first sign given through her. As oil dripped from her hands she asked her pastor what it was as she was holding them up. Some time later at another prayer vigil tiny flecks of a shining material appeared on her skin. And so for the first time gold dust made its appearance from somewhere to settle on her. Now she became “famous” and requests for her to appear at services increased. She tells of an incident when a metal detector at one airport was triggered by the gold dust on her face as she did not have time to shower after a service but had to rush to the airport. Is it really possible that a small amount of metal like that on her face could trigger it? How many passengers pass through with more gold on their persons in the form of jewelry without triggering the detectors? Is it possible these detectors are set to pick up *unearthly substances*? Another thought: Would it not be a good idea to put a filter in the shower or showers and accumulate the gold dust, sell it and give the money to the church? After all, don’t you think that would be the right thing to do?—God gave it, so use it for the work in His Kingdom. Makes you really wonder when we consider Pastor Heflin’s

words, “[the gold] comes through your skin and sits on you...you see it sparkles, it recedes and then comes out again with perspiration. It just keeps reproducing.” (Richmond Times Dispatch)

Should not Christians put their trust in the Lord? (Ps 73:28; Eph 6:10) Not in signs and wonders or false prophetesses (Ezech 13:17).

The oil that replaced the bile and now comes out of her pores serves a good purpose though. She fills a vial with the oil that oozes from her skin which she then uses to anoint people with, lay hands on them and cure them of all kinds of ailments.

THE BIBLE AND GOLD:

We find the word “gold” in numerous places in the Bible. What was noticed though was that three main themes emerged: 1.) Gold was used to honour God in His temple and various coverings and ornaments. 2.) Given as payment to kings mainly. 3.) Used to make idols which were then worshipped. From these many references no reference could be found where gold was given as a sign of the presence of God or a special blessing through the Holy Spirit. It might be worthwhile to heed Job’s words, “If I have made gold my hope, And have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence...This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judges; For I should have denied the God that is above.” (Job 31:24)

TAKE HEED!

“Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.” (Proverbs 8:10)

Either these gold dust and oil phenomena are from the righteous One or the Evil One! Either it is a clear warning from God, or they are lying signs and wonders immediately preceding the Antichrist! (1 John 2:1, 13 to 5:20-21 and 2 Thess 2:9-11) What will be next? Could it be feathers (Ps 91, KJV)?

QUESTIONS TO PONDER ON:

In these very last days each one of us must ask ourselves this:

1. Is our faith not more precious than gold? (1 Peter 1:5-9)
2. Were we redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold, or with the precious blood of the Lamb without blemish? (1 Peter 1:18-21)
3. When the Bible speaks about the second coming of Messiah—Jesus Christ, it says that the second coming would be preceded by the workings of Satan

manifesting in powerful works, signs and wonders that could even deceive the elect (Matt 24). Are people today not being led by such people to worship The Golden Calf? (Ex 32: 18-20) Hence gold powder/dust—gold teeth after drinking! Where does this new wine come from? (Isaiah 29:9-14). It does not stop here.

Other well-known televangelists, like Benny Hinn, Morris Cerullo, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland and Rodney Howard-Browne, to name a few, lead thousands of people astray with their unbiblical teachings of man being G[g]od or their disguised calling on Satan their master while supposedly speaking in tongues. If you do not believe this, video material can be supplied so that you can see and hear it for yourself.

SATAN, GREAT COPYCAT!

Satan, who knows Scripture backward far more so than man, can and does counterfeit almost all of God’s miracles. The emulation of acts and wonders like in Egypt, prior to Israel’s release from bondage, serves as an example. (Ex 7-8. See also 2 Cor 11:2-20)

Please note that virtually all of these so-called new moves of the Spirit are literally in the flesh and bound to earth. (Things seen). Those who profess this phenomenon invariably bypass the Cross to get to a man made heaven. (Gal 6:14; 5:16.) The message of the Cross is eternal! (Rev 14:6; 1 Cor 1:18) “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Heb 11:1) (i.e. faith in things everlasting).

This latest phenomenon warns us afresh about the various other types of occurrences of the past. Through such signs and wonders Christians are called up to earnestly seek God’s will in prayer for the truth about things like, the Toronto Blessing, Pensacola, Kingdom Now, Holy Spirit conferences, Evangelicals and Catholics together I & II.

May the Lord truly bless us as we earnestly seek His face in these matters.

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (Gal 6:14) Also see Psalm 19:9-10; Acts 17:29 and Rev 3:17-19.

Continued on page 8

Vassula: Continued from page 5

1. The call for unity.
2. A return to the Catholic Church and the mysteries found only in her sacraments.
3. The veneration of Mary, as the Mother of God and the proper adoration of her as co-Mediatrix.
4. Salvation comes through penance, fasting, praying the Rosary, the sacraments—especially the Eucharist, etc., all but the Name of Jesus.

We have already dealt with 1., and 2., and will now listen to her and the call through her to honour Mary.

MARY APPARITIONS:

For many years now there have been various appearances of Mary around the world. The more familiar ones were at Fatima, Medjugorje, Guadalupe and Lourdes but there were many more at just about every corner in the world. These appearances are as important to her as they are to all Catholics, who go out of their way to visit some of the thousands of shrines erected in honour of Mary's appearances. According to her the *Blessed Mother* calls people back to her Son. To really find out whether this is so we need more space to consider some of these calls from Mary, which unfortunately we do not have. Therefore, let what Dave Hunt, who made in depth studies of these appearances, says suffice: "The apparitions consistently preach the coming world religion of Antichrist: All religions are basically the same and must come together for peace. Offering an ecumenical gospel that can be 'accepted by Catholic, Protestant, Moslem or Jew,' 'Mary' declares: 'Everyone worships God in his own way with peace in their hearts.' So says Our Lady of Mejugorje...where visionaries claim the Virgin has been appearing daily for the past 13 years..." (Hunt:454)

The honour that is bestowed upon Mary goes beyond the wildest dreams. "Time magazine comments that 'according to modern Popes' Mary is 'Queen of the Universe, Queen of Heaven, Seat of Wisdom...' In the pope's September 1993 speech in Lithuania, he spoke of Mary as 'Mother of the Church, Queen of the Apostles [and] dwelling place of the Trinity.' He told priests and aspirants [as well as religious men and women] 'to look to Mary...who is venerated at [various shrines] to which I will go on pilgrimage...To Mary I entrust all of you...' Such blasphemy is repeated in the most recited Catholic prayer, the Rosary. It concludes with this final petition: "*Hail, holy Queen [of heaven], Mother of Mercy! our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping, in this valley of tears. Turn, then most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,*

Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary." (Hunt:439) How important Mary is, is reiterated by the Messages: "Today, man, open your heart, then all the mysteries that appeared to you fathomless will be revealed to you by My Divine Light thrice Holy, and you will understand who the Woman adorned with the sun is; then, your whole being will be lifted and your heart will be exulted and in rapture when your eyes will be unveiled to see the Blessed Heart of blessed hearts, the Most Holy of saints, the Incomparable Heart, burning with unlimited love, a fire alight and so bright; then, My friend, you will understand what Virtue is, and how in this Virtuous Virginal Heart, I, God, became God-Man—you will see the Mother of your Saviour, Mother of the prophets, Mother of the disciples, Mother of charisms, Mother of Triumph, Mother of unlimited graces, Mother of unequalled Redemption, Heart of the Vineyard of the True Vine, the Path to the Path that leads everyone to Me, the Gate wide open to heaven for everyone to enter and have everlasting life...Creation, this Great Sign in heaven, the Woman adorned with the Sun that holds the demons the demons paralysed with fear, this Great Sign that illuminates the heavens terrifying the Darkness is none other than My Mother. In contrast I raised this Most Holy Virgin to be for all of you a Pillar of blazing fire by night to guide your step, and by day a Sun to illuminate your dreadful gloom." (TLG, VI:55,57) When all these blasphemies are considered seriously could it really have been the Biblical Jesus not to mention the Father and the Holy Spirit who dictated these Messages to Vassula or that Jesus could have asked her to learn the Rosary "for his sake"? Only Satan himself could sit behind this deception. Surely anything that draws the attention away from Jesus onto someone or something else can only have its origins with him, the same as in the Garden of Eden.

But wait, a grave warning is given: "Humble your spirit, humble it even more now and abstain from making faces when it comes to entreat Her intercession—who tells you that I shall not listen to Her? Has your Mother not interceded in Cana? These signs were performed so that your spirit may understand what your spirit rejects today—this sign was meant for all ages to come. The woman adorned with the sun, adorned with My Holy Spirit thrice Holy, and who fills the world, ranks as Mother of God. Come, My daughter, do your best and I shall do the rest." (TLG, VI:44-45)

It is not the object of this article to put the Catholic heresy on the person of Mary in its proper perspective. Let it suffice to say that there is no Biblical foundation for her eternal virginity, immaculate conception, sinless nature or worst of all, the name through whom we must go to Jesus or the Father. Neither do we find salvation in her

or have to pray to her for the forgiveness of sins. This is nothing but idolatry and strictly forbidden by the Word of God! Every Catholic, including the pope will have to give account to God of their action of bowing down before idols most of all that of Mary. Satan must be laughing all the way for having succeeded in conning just about a billion people of the world. And Vassula's Messages succeed in pushing them further over the edge.

TIME FOR DICTATION:

Now that we have had some idea of what is contained in these Messages given to the world through Vassula the time has arrived for us to hear how this process worked.

According to her this started out some 15 years ago when suddenly one day she heard this voice and saw Jesus next to her. These appearances became regular occurrences. She started to write down what she asked of Him and what He told her. Amazing: All these dictations were in English—not her mother tongue, mind you! She often had to refer to the dictionary to find out what some words meant. Why does Acts 2:8 come to mind? She claims that she was not in ecstasy and never has been. She was not beyond herself or in an altered state of consciousness. Her taking down the dictation was like in the case of automatic writing where an outside force takes over the hand of the person and writes through him/her. Sometimes she could feel an ever-so-light touch on her hand to help her, but she was fully aware of what was happening. She tells of times when the Lord would stop dictation just in time for her to go and fetch her son at school or to prevent something from burning in the oven, and then continue the dictation where they had stopped.

She claims that at least five leading hand writing specialists have examined her notes of the Messages and all concluded that it was not automatic writing. One of the most recent was a Franciscan exorcist, Father Khurti (unsure of spelling) who calls it "sacred writing", whatever that means! It certainly is not surprising that she refers to "experts" who are all of Catholic conviction.

Helen Schucman of *A Course in Miracles*-fame also claims that "the dictation was not a form of automatic writing and she was in no special altered state." (*An Introduction to A Course in Miracles, Miracle Distribution Center, 1987:15*) It says of itself: "The Course is therefore a concrete, verbal record of what the Holy Spirit does in every relationship and in every mind that asks Him in: He takes it by the hand and leads it on a course, away from pain and the turmoil of the past to the peace of God within." (:15) The message of *A Course* is remarkably similar to the basic content of Vassula's Messages—love, peace and unity! The question therefore, still remains—WHO IS RIGHT?
