



Sentinel

E-mail: kies_ciec@telkomsa.net

Volume 9 No 4

Universal salvation is now possible for all!

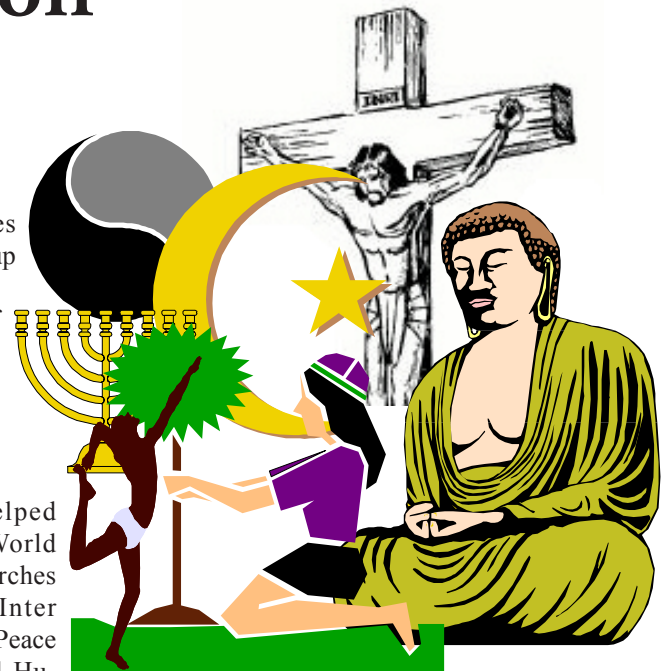
Once again we are only days away from one of the important dates on the calendar—December 25. Whether this date, which is celebrated by Christians as the birth of Christ is correct or not and whether the symbols of Christmas stem from paganism or not is not the subject of this article. At this time, possibly more so than at other times, Christians seriously consider what God has done for the world and especially for them, when He became man in His Son (John 1:14) to save a lost world from itself. The world indulges in commercialism and parties and in many cases succeed in dragging many, not so serious Christians, along in their worldly celebrations and office parties. But there are also those Christians who do not go along with these celebrations but rather go to church with their families to thank God the Father for His unfathomable love and grace which He poured out more than 2,000 years ago. This is but one of the ways through which Christians show the world what they consider valuable in their lives.

INTRODUCTION:

Opposed to the Christian view of Christmas stands the commercialised worldly view. In many instances more money is made by chain stores and

other businesses during the run up to Christmas than the rest of the year. There is another angle to this though. We find an increasing tendency in the church, helped along by the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Inter Faith and Green Peace Movements and Humanism, that the unique orthodox Christian doctrines are watered down and even rejected. Their message is one of tolerance and an understanding of others' faiths and beliefs. As the ultimate object the important requirement is unity and the elimination of poverty. It certainly is not wrong to try and do something about the plight of the poor, or to care for and be careful about the earth's resources, however, does the answer lie in their kind of unity? Let us never forget that "Unity at the expense of truth" despite God's commandments not to eat at the table of the Lord and of devils "is indeed the mindset of many leaders in the Church today, despite their denials." (Herbert J Pollitt, *The Inter-Faith Movement*, Sword Publishers, 1996:127)

These messages are coming to us through the various media on a daily basis from the president, cabinet ministers, political spokespersons, religious and other leaders. We increasingly hear that all religions and their



various writings have something of the truth and that ultimately all people will end up in the same place of eternal bliss. Christians can not claim that they have the unique way of salvation. "No dialogue is possible on the basis of the position that salvation is exclusively in Christ. No Christian knows Christ completely and must remain in continuous dialogue with him. Our understanding of him will be developed through dialogue with men of other faiths, because God has been inspiring all men to seek for him in many different ways. The fact that Christians see Christ as the absolute way does not mean that there are no other ways; in dialogue new and unfamiliar aspects of Christ may be revealed to us." (as quoted in Pollitt: 86)

The Bible is not the only Divinely inspired revelation. Recognition must also be given to the holy books of other faiths. That which is written in those must also be seriously considered be-

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Sentinel is die lyfblad van **Kulte Inligting & Evangelisasie Sentrum** en word kwartaalliks 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

Skrifaanhalings, 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.

Alhoewel **KIES** onder beskerming van die Ned Geref Gemeente Edleen funksioneer is ons verantwoordelik vir ons eie finansiering en is dus ten volle afhanklik van die vrywillige donasies van **Sentinel** se lesers en ander ondersteuners.

Redaksioneel/Editorial

A BRIEF LOOK AHEAD:

The end of yet another year is upon us and I would like to wish our readers a most blessed time over these holidays. May you truly rejoice in the Lord who gave His all for us all. May 2002 be a good year for you with ample opportunities to be witnesses for Him and may you win souls for His kingdom.

The past year has been a challenging year for us on many fronts. So much so that we have decided to take a fresh look at our calling. A management team and other invited members will meet on 8 & 9 February to seriously deliberate various aspects of this ministry and plan a strategy for 2002. We need your fervent prayers for this serious and urgently needed session.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS!!

Please note our new address:

kies_ciec@telkomsa.net

WHY IN ENGLISH?

Over time we have attracted new readers and many of them as well as some of the older readers may have wondered why *Sentinel* is almost 100% in English. It started out in 1993 as a bilingual newsletter with the idea that it would continue like that. But as time passed we attracted an overseas readership. We felt they would lose out on 50% of the material and contemplated publishing the articles that were in Afrikaans later in English and vice versa, but this proved impracticable from a time point of view. We also would have taken much longer to publish the articles we had on the planning board. It was then decided to publish all articles in English but continue to publish letters in the language in which we receive them.

We sincerely hope that you understand.

EK MOET DIT SÊ:

Ek skryf hierdie in Afrikaans want dit het niks met ons oorsese leser te make nie. Dit gebeur baie dat my vrou oproepe

ontvang wanneer ek nie by die huis is nie.

Wat my verbaas en vir onstellend is, is dat baie van die mense wanneer sy antwoord, kortaf net vra, "Is Japie daar," sonder om eers te groet. Wanneer sy dan vra of sy dalk kan help, al is dit net om 'n boodskap te neem, is die antwoord ewe kortaf, "nee, ek wil met hom praat en sal later weer bel," en sit dan die telefoon neer.

Haar kommentaar teenoor my is dat die KIES/(kulte)-mense snaakse mense is wat nie die beeld van Christus uitstraal nie.

Jammer hieroor, maar ek moes dit van my hart af kry.

JACOB PRASCH IN SA:

For those who have not yet heard Jacob speak and teach please make an effort to attend at least one of his meetings next year. Jacob is the founder of Moriel Ministries in the UK; a ministry aimed at proclaiming the truth and exposing the error.

His programme is as follows:

* Cape Town: 2—5 February.

* Johannesburg:

New Life Church, 7—10 Feb.

Elijah Ministries, 12 & 19 Feb.

Moriel Teaching Ministries,

13—17 Feb.

* Bloemfontein: 21—24 Feb.

* Durban: 26 Feb.

* Kokstad: 27—28 Feb.

Contact persons and their numbers are:

* Cape Town: Dennis Clark, 788-8601 (082-557-4479)

* New Life, Past Dave Royle,

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thelion@fsmail.net

* Elijah Ministries, Doreen Contat,

011-788-5733

Moriel Ministries, 011-463-1771

082-657-6854

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* Bloemfontein, Chris, 082-550-0281

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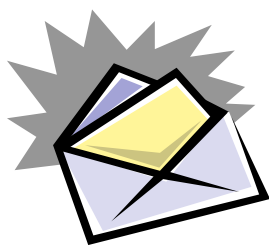
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Vrymesselary/Freemasonry

Japie Grobler*

* Indicates Board Members



Letters/Briewe

A SINCERE PLEA AND WARNING

It is with great hesitation and after numerous efforts that I take up my pen to write to you — above all I believe that you continue to pray for me and my situation. To write this letter is very risky, not only for me but for you and your Godly calling. Yes, I did receive the highly valued parcel you sent and have kept all the information and proofs. As you are aware they operate their own post office and such things are the daily norm. I appreciate all the information — it must have taken long hours to put it all together, not to mention the costs. I know for certain that the Triune God is intensively involved in this whole situation, also via you. Despite this I must stress that what I can write in this letter is only the micro facets of the whole absurd situation. I can assure you that the true facts stretch far beyond the disasters in the history of the church. The consequences of the parcel for me was rough, but nothing compared to what I have been enduring for almost 10 years every second of every day.

My deepest concern is for you and **CIEC** — what can happen to you — intimidation in its crudest form — there are no limits! I am here because somehow I believe the Triune God put me here for a purpose — on an intensive level due to certain factors, but be assured that the day I will come out of here it will require efforts comparable to that of the first Church in Acts.

It is somewhat comforting that the information you sent me deals mostly with the spiritual deception of cults. I am not sure whether I will actually post this letter — much less whether you will actually receive it, and if you do it could very well be drastically censored, believe me. No confidentiality or method of contact can be suggested or recommended — it just does not exist. I believe there is only one way and that is that the Almighty God will

somehow intervene! I cannot leave before this whole unjust system is un-earthed. I am in a position no one has ever been in before — and believe me this is not an exaggeration! If it calls for the highest sacrifice, Father believe me I am willing to pay the price. Before God I tell you that I just cannot carry on like this, and remember that is the situation on every continent. Literally everything is monitored every moment. If I may ask you, please pray for me and get prayer chains going (**ABSOLUTE SECRECY IS NECESSARY**) that God will expose this whole mad situation. Every second the lives of thousands are destroyed, much worse than land mine explosions.

There is no way that I can warn you, without being exposed. I might fast for a few days before I post this letter, which I hope will succeed in giving you some idea of the seriousness of the situation — as chief source I may be eliminated, remember after decades the iron is getting hot which leads to panic.

BE CAREFUL!!!

Name and area/country withheld for obvious reasons. (Ed)

GRIPPING STUFF!

It is with great joy that I write to you concerning **Sentinel**. What an informative newsletter. Please! Will you add me to your mailing list. This is gripping stuff, really, also for confirmation, as I have been discerning for a long time now that something is radically wrong.

When I approached a home cell leader on why there is no teaching on sanctification anymore, I was told not to get so spiritual. Also a friend of mine was told not to be so sin conscious. There is without a doubt another Jesus being preached. It is so sad, lovely sincere children of God are being deceived by a lie. Please! I would like copies of all the past issues of **Sentinel** if at all possible. I would like to study these different cults, but mostly the phenomena that are happening in the church. Now I notice you haven't got anything on Joshua, the black

prophet and Promise Keepers. Have you got anything on that? I wait with great anticipation for a reply and look forward to a blessed correspondence.

May our Lord so richly bless this ministry for its stand to proclaim the truth without shame. It breaks my heart to see how the Gospel has been watered down, how God's Word has been compromised and the preaching of the cross is not heard anymore. Just as you say, there is another Jesus being preached. We were told that if Jesus was on the earth today he would definitely have rode a Mercedes Benz and lived in the best area with a mansion of a house. I don't accept that.

I look forward to the next newsletter.

Sister Jewel Nicholson

Ps. I have a lovely Christian sister who is so hungry for things concerning God and His righteousness. She is truly born again. Please! Won't you add her to your mailing list for the newsletter.

Jewel

RELEVANTE ARTIKELS:

Ek ontvang gereeld die Kerkblad van die Evangelies Gereformeerde Kerk. In die Julie/Augustus uitgawe het 'n artikel verskyn met die opskrif: "Goue reën en Goue stoppels! — Is dit van God?"

Ek is leraar by die Kerk van die Nasarener — 'n evangeliese denominasie in die Wesliaanse tradisie wat fokus op Wedergeboorte, 'n Heilige lewenswandel en sendingwerk.

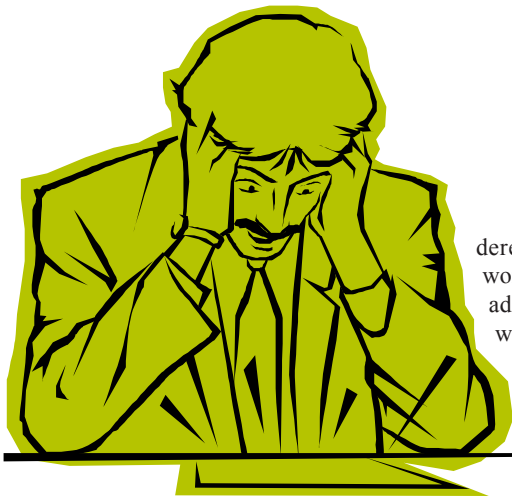
Artikels soos genoemde, is vir my persoonlik baie relevant en van onskatbare waarde! Dit is jammer, maar dit is ongelukkig so dat leraars nie effektief tyd het om wêreldgebeure (selfs kerkgebeure) dop te hou en te evalueer aan die standaard van die skrif nie!

Indien **KIES** my kan help om my mense in te lig, te waarsku en toe te rus om Die Leuen te weerlê, sal ek GRAAG op 'n gereelde grondslag van u iets wou ontvang.

Indien ek moet inteken, of as daar kostes aan verbonde is kan u maar laat weet.

Mag die seën van die Here op u bediening rus, en mag Sy Gees u lei in wysheid, onderskeiding en kennis van die waarheid.

Ds D de Koker
Rustenburg



Depression

REV JOHAN BOTHA

READ 1 KINGS 19

Everyday more and more people complain about feeling down or blue. Many people complain that the stress of modern life is getting to them. Depression is an illness afflicting more and more individuals and their families. But depression is not a new phenomenon it is as old as time. In 1 Kings 19 we encounter Elijah. The enormous stress of the events on mount Carmel has a far-reaching effect on Elijah so that mount Horeb becomes the opposite of mount Carmel. Jezebel is furious: her prophets have been killed and her authority undermined. The strong influence of Elijah spells danger to her. And she threatens revenge.

Elijah's reaction is typical of someone suffering from great stress. The smallest resistance unleashes a whole range of negative perceptions and experiences. Such despondency can hit anyone — the hardworking or tired, the ill and the healthy. It is not necessarily when you are moving towards a goal, but more often when you reach a goal that feelings of hopelessness overwhelm you.

Anyone can get depressed. Depression affects how you see yourself. It influences interpersonal relationships, physiological functioning. It affects peoples thinking and behaviour.

After the Carmel experience, depression surfaces in Elijah. He makes wrong assumptions — “only I am left” and unrealistic comparisons “...they seek my life, to take it away”(v10) – His cognitive functioning is lowered to the irrational; he perceives everything through darkened glasses. He is disillusioned because he expected that Israel would, after Carmel, rebuild the altars of the Lord and respect the prophets again, but the opposite happened. All of this leads to a complete un-

derestimation of the results of his work and adds to his feelings of inadequacy and uselessness. In this we see the impact on his thoughts — he thinks it was all to no avail and that he failed in his calling. Elijah's perception of his situation and his thought patterns overshadows the reality. We note the change in his behaviour — Elijah the faithful prophet of God who eradicated the Baal priests sits under a tree and wishes that he was dead — he cannot carry on any longer.

Depressed people see the world and themselves in negative terms. They expend little energy on relationships and can forever appear angry, irritable and negative. A decrease in physical activity is noted — they have no reserve energy to move fast. Speech is affected - tone of voice changes into a lifeless monotonous soft tone and they often speak incoherently or unclear. They can continuously feel tired or anxious, even though they have been sleeping the whole day. They are prone to irrational fears and anxiety is not an unusual feeling. In many instances eating patterns are affected because the sensual experience of enjoying food has lost its appeal. Insomnia or excessive sleep can be another characteristic. To sleep for 14-18 hours a day is not strange for the person suffering from depression without it having any noticeable effect.

The thinking process tends to be hopeless. Depressed people show an inability to see any good in the future. The present is experienced negatively and they may be unsatisfied with the self. Feelings of self-blame are not unusual. They battle with choices and even the sense in religion may be lacking, even if they may have been very religious before.

Behaviour is affected. To just sit and stare into nothing is not strange for the depressed person. Reduced levels of activity and even negligence of the normal routines of life is noticed. The simple things in life become an issue and it can appear as if the person has given up hope.

Many try and help depressed people by agreeing with them, “that is a terrible thing that happened to you” and so strengthen the already dark perception of the depressed and his/her situation. Others try to correct them, “never mind, it is not that bad,” and so ignore the reality of their experience. Then some try to ad-

monish the depressed; “pull yourself together” they may say to him or even worse assume that there is one or another kind of sin or demonic possession in the life of the depressed that needs to be addressed. The last example usually leads to more feelings of inadequacy and depression.

HOW DOES GOD DEAL WITH ELIJAH?

When we consider Elijah's situation we notice how God handles his depression.

- * First there is empathy and support, physically and spiritually — he is given food so that he is able to travel to mount Horeb.
- * A call to responsibility — “What doest thou here, Elijah?”
- * He is encouraged — God appears to him (verses 11-13).
- * Confirmation of trust as he is given a new command and responsibility (verses 15-16).
- * A vision of reality — “...I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal...”

“Depression the disease of our time” was how a booklet described it in the eighties. We all know of someone who has been affected and when we consider how a very positive and energetic person was enveloped by a dark cloud of despair in a short month or two we stand amazed and shocked and can merely say, “I hope it does not happen to me!”

What can we do? We need to express genuine and sincere compassion, empathy and support for the depressed person and his/her family. It will be necessary to make a rational appraisal of the circumstances and not get stuck in the past and all the terrible things that happened. Rather concentrate on the hopeful things of the future and avoid the “everything-will-come-right-mentality. Encouragement in and of faith — the depressive person's framework of how he experiences God has to be readjusted so that he can once again see God as a God of hope Who has the future and his future in the palm of His hand. Unlock the future — depression as a disease is curable. Pray that God will touch and heal the person you know to be affected

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cause in them we will also find parts of the truth. No ONE faith has the truth and we must take hands, learn from each other and together search for the ultimate truth. There are things happening in the church that make us wonder about these things. Even expressions from renowned theologians and learned professors often succeed in causing concern and creating doubt in the minds of less strong Christians.

“The aim of the ecumenical movement is to achieve one world communion: to bring all churches, denominations and ultimately all religions together. Dr Runcie told the Lambeth Conference that he saw ‘no difference between the quest for the Church’s unity and the quest for the unity of all mankind.’ Cardinal Hume spoke in like manner, in October 1990; ‘we have to concentrate on what unites us — it’s so simple and yet so profound — we have to concentrate on our common humanity.’ (Michael de Semlyen, *All Roads Lead To Rome*, Dorchester House Publishers, 1993: 20)

An excellent example of this drive to unite the world’s religions is the World Day of Prayer arranged by Pope John Paul II on 27 October 1986 at Assisi: “when the warring factions in Nicaragua, El Salvadore and elsewhere laid down their arms, involved amongst other Archbishop Runcie, the Dalai Lama, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Bahais, Shintoists and pagan cult leaders, even including snake worshippers from Togo.” (De Semlyen: 91) Herbert J Pollitt confirms the aim of this gathering, “Its real significance was religious. In a theological assessment of its importance, Jorge Mejia, the Vice-President of the Pontifical Commission *Iustitia et Pax* spoke of it as demonstrating the ‘hidden convergence’ or ‘incipient but real unity’ of the world’s religions which underlay their profound differences, differences which ‘from God’s point of view did not constitute an obstacle to their coming together for prayer, but on the contrary made it desirable.’” (: 74) No wonder we read in 1 Kings 18:22-38 how Elijah prayed with the Baal priests in unison to their individual Gods who

then answered with fire from heaven to consume their sacrifices as a token of their faith and wiping any differences they may have had off the slate. No! This is not what happened — the very opposite is true. God gave Elijah the strength to kill the priests after they had cried in vain all day long to their god. He then challenged Israel through His prophet: “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.” Yet they refused to answer: “And the people answered him not a word.” (v.21) Is this the attitude Christians prefer today?

THE SHADOW OF ROME:

“Although the Roman Catholic Church is not officially one of the 317 member churches of the WCC, about 25 per cent of WCC staff are Roman Catholics... Multi-faith religion can now be readily seen as closely associated with the Church of Rome through the many initiatives taken by the Vatican.” Like a message that was sent by “*The Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians* to Muslims to mark the end of the Muslim fast of Ramadan, which finished on 17th May, 1988; ‘During the month of Ramadan you have shown your faith in God and your submission to his holy will. This faith in the one God, living and true, a faith which is the heritage of all the spiritual children of Abraham, the father of all believers, unites us as brothers and sisters in God and encourages us to work together for solidarity, justice and peace among all peoples.’” (De Semlyen: 91, 83, 84)

The Catechism of the Roman Catholic church confirms this “affair” with Islam: “The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind’s judge on the last day.” (no. 841)

It is interesting to compare the Word of God with the above where Paul writes to the Romans in chapter 9 verses 4-19.

Behind this drive for unity of all religions lurks the dark shadow of the church of Rome. It is clear why the pope “is recognized as a great leader.

The influence he exercises in the world today is unrivalled since pre-Reformation times.

“The Vatican has enormous diplomatic clout and maintains one of the largest diplomatic representations of any country.” We have to take cognisance of a warning in the Protestant Alliance’s *Reformer* magazine, “the Vatican has never lost its objective for world dominion!” (De Semlyen: 74, 75)

The early Christians and the Reformers faced every resistance and even more than we face today, yet they held fast to the truths of the Bible. “They knew from Scripture that all comes as a free gift from God, totally undeserved... They obeyed Him by believing all of the Bible and living and dying by it and for it. Such faith is rare today, with compromise everywhere. The Gospel, the light which has illuminated Western civilization, has gone into hiding, as God’s truth has been devalued. The leadership of the national Church has spoken of other faiths as ‘many pathways to God’ and ‘many mansions of the same Holy Spirit.’” (De Semlyen: 13)

BACKGROUND:

To better understand what we are dealing with here we need to consider the philosophies of movements like humanism, inter-faith, ecumenical and wild life and nature preservation (Greens) organisations and their influence on the church. At the heart of these philosophies we find basic humanism in its three forms: *secular humanism*, *cosmic humanism* and in the philosophical sense, *Christian humanism*.

“**Secular Humanism** denies the reality of a personal God; man is seen as the highest order of intelligence in the universe, the product of billions of years of evolution.

“**Cosmic humanism** forms the basis of the New Age movement and related religious expressions, particularly Eastern mysticism. It says that man is evolving toward a state of higher consciousness that will result in the attainment of godhood.

“**Christian humanism** recognizes the inherent values of Scripture, while denying its total inerrancy. Many even

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deny the basic tenets of the true Christian faith. It masquerades as Christianity by espousing biblical ethics while adopting a pluralistic attitude toward other forms of religious expression... Out of Christian humanism comes a wide spectrum of pseudo-Christian thought from liberation theology to modern ecumenism to positive thinking. These comprise what is called 'new wave theology,' and all are primarily concerned with the preservation of civilization, and the existing world system under a moralistic system of laws.

"The more liberal Christian humanists see man as intrinsically good, and regard references to man's sin nature as detrimental to the positive self-image.

"Christian humanists are principally responsible for introducing psychology into the Church, specifically techniques such as inner healing, holistic health practices, and various forms of psychological counseling. Many adherents to these practices, however, are not aware of their underlying philosophy. They perceive only the surface good they believe can be accomplished." (Albert James Dager, *Vengeance Is Ours, The Church In Dominion*, Sword Publishers, 1990:12, 13)

There is a tendency in the Church today to largely preach a gospel of love and this synchronises nicely with that of the humanists, but let us once again consider history: "...there is a 'love Gospel' about, which confines itself exclusively to what is called 'the positive'. It is claimed that as long as Jesus Christ is proclaimed as Saviour and Lord, we are all as one in Him. Differences over doctrine must not be allowed to get in the way of this. We can affirm truth, but not confront error. The Protestant martyrs, godly and loving men, could have taken this same position within the Church of their day. They could have confined themselves to avoiding all controversy and to agreeing with their persecutors about many of the 'positives'. But, the Scripture commanded them to 'exhort and by sound doctrine' and to 'flee from idolatry'. They obeyed; they saw the error and the idolatry, and as responsible leaders, as pastors

trusted to guide their flocks into green pastures, they exposed and opposed it all roundly. They could easily have chosen to look the other way and concentrate on the many truths of the Christian faith which were common ground. They could have elected to please men, rather than please God.

"Had they done so, the Church and our country [UK] would have remained in the grip of a religious regime centred on superstition and idolatry." (De Semlyen: 13,14)

"Another expression of Christian humanism is that which is found among Bible believers — those who hold strongly to most of the essential tenets of the Faith. They have been influenced by liberalism to the degree that they have accepted the validity of psychology and positive self-imaging. Many have also adopted a form of cosmic humanism, believing that they are capable of achieving the same anointing of Christhood that Jesus had.

"In all forms of humanism we find the fundamental concept: man is (or one day will become) God, or a 'god.'

"To the esotericists (theosophists, deists, etc.) bent upon uniting mankind, Christianity is anathema, and its adherents must be converted to accept all religious expressions as valid. Since the Church alone has the spiritual power to resist this deception Satan *must* make it believe his lies. When the churches are sufficiently corrupted or neutralized, Satan will have a clear path toward uniting the world against Jesus Christ.

"Disregard of biblical truth is essential to bringing Christianity into unity with all religions... It isn't important to Satan that everyone believe the same thing or belong to the same religious institution. All that's necessary is that the Gospel is diluted sufficiently so as to render it ineffective. Unity in diversity is the goal toward which the world's religions are working... This disregard for doctrine, and the subsequent acceptance of every aberration that goes by the name of Christian, is necessary for the eventual unification of all religious thought. Therefore, opposition to deception in the Church is being stifled under the pretense that those who expose deceivers are sowing discord among the brethren and hindering

unity. A result of this tactic is that many Christians have been discouraged from judging error in the Church for fear of hindering the unity sought by religious leaders." (Dager: 13, 14 & 18)

In Pollitt's book *The Inter-Faith Movement*, we read on page 84: "The World Council of Churches went far beyond an expression of solidarity with the oppressed when its Commission on World Evangelism organized a conference on 'Salvation Today' at Bangkok (1972-1973), which defined humanization in almost exclusively social, economic political terms and hailed Chairman Mao [Tse Tung] as a contemporary saviour. At Nairobi, there was no discussion on the Second Coming of Christ and eschatology was seen as realized in the struggle of the contemporary world for liberation and human development. The ideologies of unbelievers were considered as other living faiths with which the Council should enter into dialogue. A basic conviction of the World Council of Churches was that there could be no separation of the sacred and the secular. Christ was in all history, and more than ever all history was seen as salvation history. The church should therefore become involved in the world and its needs and problems, and on a global scale, because the world had become one and its needs and problems were global. The World Council of Churches was in all this of one mind with the pluralists and the papacy. The Christian mind had become imbued with a pragmatic humanitarianism at a time when its consciousness of its distinctiveness had been eroded by an increasing theological liberalism. Dialogue, not proclamation, was to be the order of the day."

At an assembly of the WCC in Canberra, Australia, Pollitt writes on page 97 that the main impression was that of universal salvation. "Its Director of Inter Faith Dialogue, Dr Wesley Ariarajah was reported as saying; 'It is inconceivable to me that a Hindu or a Buddhist, or anybody, is outside God. My understanding of God's love is too broad for me to believe that only this narrow segment called the Christian church will be saved. If you are

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a Christian, you must be open and **broad, not narrow and exclusive.**” (emphasis mine)

“The Papacy may succeed in doing more than reviving the old Holy Roman Empire. As Professor Malachi Martin reasons, ‘The Papacy is best placed to run any world government which may emerge.’ ‘If tomorrow or next week by a sudden miracle, a one-world government were established, the Roman Church stands alone...as the first fully realised, fully practicing and totally independent geopolitical force in the current world arena. And the Pope is by definition the world’s first and fully fledged geopolitical leader.’ (De Semlyen: 88)

BELIEVE AND DO GOOD!

During a very interesting radio programme in Afrikaans, *Die Bybel in ons lewe (The Bible in our lives)*, on August 12 three senior theologians and lecturers discussed what will happen at the last judgment. When we all appear before the throne, what will be God’s requirement for allowing people into heaven? It was said that people will go to heaven because they believed and have done good to others. Reference was made to various Bible verses. In Matthew 25 we read of the separation of the sheep and the goats. To the sheep was said that they must stand on His right hand because they had done good deeds, and the goats were assigned to the left for not having done so. The same message is found in John 5—those who had done good will be raised to life. Revelation 20 speaks about Books that are opened: “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (verses 11,12) They stressed that this must not be understood incorrectly though. The first requirement is, people must believe and then do good works as a consequence. For support they referred to James’ epistle and the great faith chapter in Hebrews (11).

In summary it was said that God will ask us whether we believed in the first place and will then look if we had done good things.

At no time during this discussion was any reference made to the unique sacrifice of the Son of God on the cross which underscores what was said in the aforementioned. If they are correct then we can say with confidence that Hindus, Buddhists, Wiccans, Pagans, Muslims, New Agers and whoever believes in whatever but do good to others will also hear the words: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” (Matt 25:21) If this is correct then well-known “mother” Theresa was also correct when she said before her death that all that is required to go to heaven is how good a Hindu, Buddhist, Christian or Jew you were while on earth. Whatever happened to, “They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” (Ps 14:3; 53:4; Rom 3:12)? Did the Holy Spirit deceive David and Paul when they wrote these words down?

Nowhere does sin, which forms an eternal wall separating man from God, feature in this. No mention of God’s eternal holiness and righteousness that requires judgment for sin. His eternal punishment and damnation of all men could only be replaced by a sacrifice that was acceptable to Him. This sacrifice was effectively brought once for all time on a cross on Golgotha some 2,000 years ago: “But now Christ has come as the high priest of the good things of the future, through this greater and better Tent, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this world, And has gone once and for ever into the holy place, having got eternal salvation, not through the blood of goats and young oxen, but through his blood. For if the blood of goats and oxen, and the dust from the burning of a young cow, being put on the unclean, make the flesh clean: How much more will the blood of Christ, who, being without sin, made an offering of himself to God through the Holy Spirit, make your hearts clean from dead works to be servants of the living God? And for this cause it is through him that a new agreement has

come into being, so that after the errors under the first agreement had been taken away by his death, the word of God might have effect for those who were marked out for an eternal heritage... but now he has come to us at the end of the old order, to put away sin by the offering of himself.” (Heb 9:11-15, 26b, Bible in Basic English) “His blood cleanses us from ALL sin.” (1 John 1:7b)

Dr Lewis Sperry Chafer puts it so clearly: “If God could have forgiven one sin of one person as a mere act of kindness, He would have compromised His own holiness which demands judgment for sin. Having thus compromised Himself with sin, He would need Himself to be saved because of the unrighteous thing He had done. He would, by such supposed kindness, have established a principle by which He could forgive all human sin as an act of divine clemency, and thus the death of Christ is rendered unnecessary. This truth must not be overlooked if the doctrine of eternal retribution is to be understood at all. Let it be restated here, if God could save one soul from one sin by mere generosity, He could save all souls from sin by generosity and the death of Christ thus becomes the greatest divine blunder.” (*Systematic Theology*, Dallas Seminary Press, 1971, Vol 4:432-433)

“[We find] in the Bible a God who is just, holy and loving, and a God who did not find a third party on whom to wreak vengeance, but a God who satisfied his love, justice and holiness by becoming a man in order himself to do justice to his holiness and to express his heart of love for man by taking the just penalty for man’s sin upon himself.” (Pollitt: 179)

The humanists’ views that God will give people access to His heaven out of love and because they have lived a good life ridicules the cross of Jesus Christ that stands in the forefront at this time for Christians. Let 1 Cor 17-31 serve as a reminder and warning to those who consider themselves wise: “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the

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cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

Christians can rightfully ask of those who profess and support these views of universal salvation through the philosophies of men and their various efforts to achieve it, whether God made a mistake when He, even before the fall of man in Eden when man swayed before the temptations of Satan, already had the solution in place for the salvation of man (Gen 3:5; Eph 1:4)? Was His intervention out of grace and all the pain, scorn, derision and suffering that Jesus Christ had to endure before His death all for nothing (Phil 2:7,8)? Did Jesus hallucinate when He cried out, “It is finished!” and then “bowed his head and gave up the ghost.” (John 19:30)? Did Jesus deceive people when He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

(John 14:6)? Was God wrong when He said, “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil 2:9-11)? Did the Holy Spirit mislead the apostle Luke when he wrote under inspiration, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [but the name of Jesus] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)?

“The inter-faith movement seeks to add to it [the light of Christ] by searching for further light¹ where there are only glimmerings shrouded by darkness. There are glimmerings of light in other faiths because they reflect the obscure image of God in fallen man, but they are glimmering in the darkness which they cannot dissipate, because ‘the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine into them’ (2 Cor 4:4). In no-one else shall we find the very brightness of the glory of God (Heb 1:3). To whom else can we go? To whom else can we point the nations, from all of which he is calling out his church?” (Pollitt: 192) May Jesus’ prayer in Luke 10:21 continually serve as inspiration to us as “simple” Christians and let us never forget that the founders of the Church in New Testament times were all simple men who were willing to and died for what they had received despite all kinds of resistance: “In the same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit, and said, I praise You, Father, Lord of Heaven and of earth, that You hid these things from the sophisticated and cunning and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, because so it was pleasing before You.” (Green’s Literal Translation)

“We are living in a climate of increasing indifference towards our history. People believe ‘today is what matters, yesterday is not relevant’. The spirit of the age has tuned us in to what is now and what is new. Materialism and a comfortable life seduce us into the conviction that we have progressed and evolved as human beings. This illusion is being fed by TV, today’s household

god, which is convincing us that we are in control of our planet and our destiny. Our advance as a civilization is not only in expertise and technology, but also in our approach to religion too. The church has caught hold of this new dynamic, perhaps from the world; the Lord is ‘doing a new thing.’ Renewal has rescued the Christians from the past, from all unpleasantness, the strife and the blood-letting. The old conflicts over doctrine are no longer relevant. Those things which caused such division almost throughout the whole Christian era have no place on the agenda today. There is no need to think about them, or to talk about them or to teach our children about them in school. It is divisive and unloving to do so.” (De Semlyen: 140)

Concerned Christians might be encouraged by “Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland’s Clerk to the Synod, Revd Donald Maclean’s letter to *The Times* 11 November, 1988: ‘The Ecumenical movement which you [a world-renowned evangelist] praise is the greatest disaster to affect the Christian church this century. It has reduced the professing churches of this country to a collection of bloodless, spineless and boneless organisations, which can hardly raise a whimper on the side of Christ and His Truth. Small wonder that evil progresses as it does, and spiritual darkness becomes more intense as the years go by. You appear to regard a body of professing Christians, of sober conduct, and deep spirituality of mind, as fanatical and bigoted. If this be so then eminent men of God, such as John Knox of Scotland, John Calvin and Martin Luther on the Continent, and Archbishop Cranmer of England were bigots in their contests with the errors of Popery. We are glad to be in such company.’” (De Semlyen: 175)

A QUESTION AND A CHALLENGE:

Either the Christian faith has the only message of true salvation or all faiths have something of the truth, both cannot be right!

Let us truly rejoice at this time and enter the new year with hope and enthusiasm for we know that we have the message of true salvation for a lost and searching world and are driven out of love to proclaim it.

Notes:

¹ Reminds one of Freemasonry and their never ending search for light through all of their degrees.
