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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WITH RELIGION ANALYSIS SERVICE

by Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

It seems appropriate that I share with the readers of *The Discerner* some of my observations and experiences after having directed the work for a quarter of a century. This has included being the President of the Board, and Editor of the magazine, *The Discerner*. Religion Analysis Service is a specialized ministry; it serves as an agency of public enlightenment on the numerous cults which are active in our land and elsewhere. Through the printing and distribution of literature, counselling, correspondence, and by means of the telephone, we are reaching a large number of people who seek information on groups which have deviated from the Scriptural position. It is necessary for me to reply personally to many who direct their letters to me. Obviously our office provides the needed information to most of the people who write to us each week. In the letters which have needed my personal attention, I have been enabled to appreciate the problems and the confusion caused by the various aberrants who are at work these days. First, I wish to point

out that the interest and concern about the activities of the spurious groups have increased in recent years. This provides a plus in our task of combatting false teachings. Interest must be manifested before remedial means may be applied. During the early years of my leadership in this ministry there was a general lethargy among most church people with respect to the activities of the false groups. A major change has taken place in this regard, and it constitutes a distinct experience of mine during the years.

The Changing Pattern of Public Attitude

I shall endeavor to explain the reason for the changing pattern of public attitude towards the cults which might be designated as the off-center groups. In the early years of this ministry, generally considered, Christian people did not regard the cults as being particularly detrimental to the work of the church. Many considered the cultists as sincere people, although they followed a somewhat different approach in

the activities with which they were identified. To illustrate: In past years I have known a number of churches which invited representatives of the cults to appear at the public meetings in the church. And, they were permitted to present their position. It was thought that such a procedure would be advantageous in that information would come from the cults directly, and that second-hand information could be ignored.

By this I refer to pamphlets and books on the various cults. This was not only a fallacious concept, but it was exceedingly harmful. When I heard such announcements being made, about the appearance of these cultic representatives, I recommended a cancellation of such invitations. My reason for doing this was that such arrangements gave the cultists a status and respectability which they did not deserve. Even the highly respected pastor of The People's Church in Toronto, Canada (the largest Protestant Church of that country) arranged for the appearance of such representatives at regularly scheduled meeting of the church. Obviously the purpose of Dr. Smith, a skillful preacher, was to subsequently refute their teachings. Possibly he achieved some of the objectives which he had in mind. But by giving these cultic representatives the platform, it provided a special opportunity for such people to use the maximum skill in seeking to influence the audience. It appears that this procedure has been aban-

doned in recent years. The Apostle John in his Second Letter tells us specifically how to deal with those who come with false doctrines. He says there must be no accommodation with these propagandists. More than a decade ago a nationally known Bible teacher extended his hand of fellowship to the Seventh Day Adventists. While he recognized some of their doctrinal errors, he was convinced, nevertheless, that they had much in common with Bible-believing Christians. No doubt the late well known Bible teacher was sincere, but misguided, I think. Competent students of the Seventh Day Adventist Movement have discovered, however, that this strong body has not abandoned its heretical teachings. This kind of recognition was a great windfall to a major group which continues its proselyting among people within the established denominations.

The lack of doctrinal convictions explains the procedure which I have discussed. Fortunately of late there has been evidence of a distinct change in this regard. The infamy of Jonestown in South America opened the eyes of many people. And, the cleavage in the Armstrong system has added to the general awakening of many others. In fact, the inner conflict within Armstrongism received national attention in our major newspapers and magazines. In addition, the indictment of certain leaders of other cults, as well as Congressional investigations, have focused the attention on some of the extreme cults. Taken together, these developments have exposed many

of the false leaders, and this in turn has changed the public attitude with regard to the present-day cults.

Numerous churches have been challenged to go on the offensive in combatting the false teachings of today. Progress has been made in combatting error, and for this we are pleased. A few decades ago about the only information on the cults came through a limited number of books and pamphlets published and available in bookstores. And, these publications treated mainly the old-line cults. Recently many new cults have moved in like an avalanche, particularly the Eastern oriented groups. They have swept across the country and ensnared tens of thousands of people. Fortunately, we have much up-to-date literature giving the facts with regard to their false teachings. Many of our contemporary Christian periodicals have published articles on the various cults, sometimes in a series. Moreover, courses on cults are taught in many of our Christian institutions. In addition, a number of local churches are arranging systematic studies on the cults. A local church recently invited me to speak five evenings in such a series. For many years I have taught courses on the cults at the evening school of Northwestern College. Indeed, we have witnessed a change in the public attitude towards the aberrants from the truth. This is a constructive development and is truly needed in a day when cults are expanding in every area of the land. People must be instructed to know

the great difference between the wheat and the chaff, or the false in contrast with the genuine. Since the cults have ensnared millions of people in the last decade, it is imperative that all of us Bible-believing Christians seek to counteract the false teachings in ways that are effective.

The Most Reliable Methodology

Most of our discussion has been on the changed attitude towards the cults in recent years. Let us go a step farther and ask, What is the most effective way in combatting these many counterfeits in the sphere of religion? After these many years as director of Religion Analysis Service, it is my judgment that our concentration should be in the distribution of literature. Oral confrontations, debates, and attempts to gain an advantage over our adversaries by superior arguments are usually unproductive. When people are pressed for a reply in coping with those holding forth superior arguments, they usually move to a fixed position and become more difficult to reach for Christ. This is the natural psychology of men and women who face an encounter where they lose the argument. Select literature given at the proper time has been effective in dealing with those who have strayed from the truth. Literature keeps the door open, as it were, while arguments often close the door. I have no hesitation to state that the use of the printed page is our best method in reaching people who have been ensnared by cultic teachings.

Those who have been associated with me in this kind of ministry share my observations on this methodology in confronting the cultists. If space were available I would provide examples to confirm what I have just stated. It is a thrilling experience to see people abandon false teachings and move back to the path of truth.

The Final Lesson in my Review

It is my firm conviction that a total dedication to this kind of ministry is absolutely essential. We are dealing with very difficult matters when we seek to gain the release of people who are ensnared by the cults. Our adversaries, particularly the leaders, are dedicated in propagating error. Indeed, we ought to surpass them in our dedication in presenting the truth of God. My interest has never diminished through the years. Since I give much time to other activities, such as radio ministry, teaching, and conference work, I have only so much time to devote to this ministry in literature. Again and again I have been encouraged by our official board to continue in this leadership. I count my time given over to Religion Analysis Service well spent and most rewarding. Where should people turn for information except to organizations such as ours which are equipped to be helpful in this vital area? Only a limited number of people have made a careful study of the cults and hence are competent to deal with these situations, where false teachings must be met. During practically every series of meetings held, I arrange

one of the services for a presentation on the cultic situation. And, at each place literature is made available to those who are present. I am convinced that the first requisite for one who deals with false teachings is to be well informed on the position of the cultists and their tactics. In other words, one needs to be knowledgeable. I always keep literature at my home to meet situations when they appear, and I have literature in my car every day. And when I travel by plane or the train, I always take along essential pieces of literature.

During these many years we have trusted God for the necessary funds to maintain the ministry. Funds are needed continually in getting literature printed and distributed. In our ministry we have appreciated those who pray that God may direct our work so that it will be effective in helping many of our fellowmen who are misguided and led astray by cultic teachings.

By this overview of the past twenty-five years, I am convinced my major contribution to the cause of Christ is leadership of the agency, Religion Analysis Service. Thousands of people have been informed and strengthened in the struggle against the cults. In addition, others have abandoned error and returned to the fellowship of Bible-believing people. Ours is a service agency designed to help people at a time of need when cultic groups have expanded their activities in every area.

THE GULF BETWEEN TRUE BELIEF AND FALSE

Sometimes a fine line

by Ronald Enroth

NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS tend to emerge and prosper whenever a society is experiencing upheaval, uncertainty and massive cultural shifts. In our own country, this cause and effect relationship has been in evidence throughout those specific historical years characterized by change and adjustment, such as the Industrial Revolution and the Civil War. It follows then that the much publicized religious movements of today are simply the latest by-products of this continuing metamorphosis.

Forged by a generation which saw our nation divided over war and peace, convulsed by racial violence and lost to drugs, the "new-age" cults capitalize on the vast pool of potential recruits who, either because of their biblical illiteracy and nominal church background or because of their disenchantment with political, economic and social structures, turn to self-appointed messiahs and "spiritual masters" for enlightenment and truth.

Indeed, the new cults proclaim new truth (so-called) for this new "Age of Enlightenment." Some, like the Eastern hybrid Eckankar, claim to be based on "the most ancient religious teachings: while offering "the first truly modern approach to spiritual realism." Others, like the burgeoning self-improvement and self-awareness organizations (TM, Scientology,

est), represent extensions and/or distortions of humanistic psychology cloaked in religious and pseudo-religious garb. And still others emphasize the experience and subjectivism many young people perceive to be missing in the doctrine and dogmatism of Christianity. Such groups extend beyond the realms of religious pursuits into the everyday context of communal, family-like expressions of fellowship and caring—experiences all too frequently lacking in contemporary, urban America.

Shopping for "God." The experience-over-doctrine syndrome probably explains in large part why both Christians and non-Christians have been drawn into today's new spiritual marketplace by the aberrational so-called "Christian" groups that have mushroomed in recent years. Some, like the Local Church of Witness Lee and The Church of the Living Word (also known as "The Walk"), are comprised largely of born-again Christians who have become disenchanted with traditional evangelicalism or who have been spiritually seduced at an early stage in their Christian experience. They become victims to authoritarian groups and movements which offer a sense of belonging, spiritual power (whatever its source) and defined, black and white answers to life's problems. Such target persons are

often unable to biblically evaluate what they are hearing and experiencing.

The Christian Church must recognize that many of its believers are naive—theologically and doctrinally. Solid Bible teaching as well as elementary apologetics should be a part of Christian education efforts even at the junior high school level. Each congregation should appoint someone—a lay or staff person—to stay abreast of spiritual counterfeits and see that effective communication of cult-related information is available to all age levels. We can no longer assume that "cults" affect "them," and not "us."

That these psuedo-"Christian" groups represent the greatest direct threat to mainstream evangelicalism is no overstatement of the truth. Because their doctrinal systems and practices closely resemble those of evangelical Christianity, they confuse immature believers. Some even apply the same terminology and enjoy the same hymns that conventional Christians do.

For example, the term "born again" is central to the spiritual vocabulary of members of The Way International. Letters from the organization's leader, Victor Paul Wierwille, often begin: "Greetings to you in the precious and wonderful name of Jesus Christ." In a statement to followers in a midwestern state, the Way's leadership sounded like card carrying evangelicals: "Comfort one another and exhort one another. Walk the path of victory

together and you will see increase." (Closer inspection of The Way's teachings reveal that they reject the Trinity and deny the divinity of Christ and His pre-existence in the Godhead. Wierwille's most recent book, *Jesus Christ is Not God*, clearly indicates both in title and in content why his movement is theologically aberrant.)

Members of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church have also been known to identify themselves as "born again Christians." In conversations with evangelicals they often give testimony to Jesus as their savior and state they regularly read the Bible. Although they acknowledge the significance of Moon's teachings as contained in the *Divine Principle*, Unificationists are anxious to give the impression that the Bible is central to their theology.

Moon's early advice to his follower's, however, is perhaps more indicative of the movement's true feelings about God's Word: "Until our mission with the Christian church is over, we must quote the Bible and use it to explain the *Divine Principle*. After we receive the inheritance of the Christian church, we will be free to teach without the Bible."

These same cults have even employed marketing ideas all too commonplace in the presentation of our own faith. The loose-leaf notebook containing the outline and notes for the Way's foundational "Power for Abundant Living" course is remarkably similar in graphics and format to Bill

Gothard's well-known red notebook used in his Basic Youth Conflicts seminar. It contains home study lessons designed for "your continued spiritual growth." Lesson number four, for example, is intitled, "The Renewed Mind," and contains little which would trouble evangelical Christians. Other materials produced by the Way discuss the "how" of door-to-door witnessing. However, the curriculum of an "Advanced Class" taught during the summer of 1979 at a large gathering in Ohio included right wing political and racist literature. One of the recommended readings was *The Myth of the Six Million*, a book which asserts that the massmurder of the Jews during World War II was a hoax.

And in a direct mail appeal similar to those offered by more conventional groups, the Unification Church recently sent a letter from the Rev. Moon which described a new "Divine Principle Home Study Course." The reply card included a box to be checked if the subscriber also wanted the Rev. Moon's personal prayers for a "specific prayer need." The Korean evangelist added the following P.S. to his letter: "The power of prayer works wonders. I shall be very happy to pray for you and the people you love." The descriptive materials enclosed included color brochures and mentioned an opportunity to "win a trip to the Holy Land and London." It all sounded strangely familiar. Whatever the doctrinal idiosyncracies of these aberrational groups, they derive their

charisma and powerful influence from one central authoritarian leader who, almost without exception, is the one who determines the groups teachings and behavior. Thus, for the Children of God (now called the Family of Love) it is David "Mo" Berg; for The Way International, it is Victor Paul Wierwille; for "The Walk," it is "Apostle" John Robert Stevens.

A Bill of Goods. Whether the focus is on self-improvement, altering human consciousness via Eastern spiritual techniques, or following some pseudo-Christian pied piper, the bottom line is still the same. From the perspective of Christian orthodoxy, a group may be termed "cultic" if it deviates from the ultimate standard of God's objective truth as set forth in Scripture. Groups or movements which depart from that base line of revealed truth are, as a staff member of the Spiritual Counterfeits Project put it, "a form of terminal falsehood" representing a challenge to all that is biblically true of God and man.

The specific operational and presuppositions of cultic religion—old and new alike—include the following:

(1) *Serving the Self.* Contemporary society has been described as being preoccupied with "transcendental self-attention." It is not surprising then that both the secular and the religious aspects of the human potential movement focus on the self as the ultimate source of salvation and physical well-being. Swami Muktananda, an Indian guru currently popular in North America, teaches that

human beings are "immeasurably great" and that sin is a negative concept. "It is your own wrong understanding of yourself that has created your present state of affairs," says the Swami. "Give up the idea that you are a sinner . . . The inner Self of everyone is Supreme; it is not sinful."

This is precisely the thinking of God's adversary, Satan. He has convinced many of today's cultic proselytes that they are, in fact, divine. In a distorted application of Philippians 4:13, a Way International teacher declared: "I am self-adequate for everything . . . and there is no situation that I could not be master of, if I so desire."

Serving the self and discovering the divinity within is the objective of all false religions. Yet even the secular commentators see the futility of looking within for personal salvation. In his book, *The Culture of Narcissism*, Christopher Lasch writes: "The ideology of personal growth, superficially optimistic, radiates a profound despair and resignation. It is the fate of those without faith."

(2) *Dealing in Deception.* Many of the new cultic religious groups promise far more than they can deliver. And this, too, is in keeping with Satan's strategy to deceive.

In his book *Deceived*, Mel White describes the web of deception and effective camouflage that typified the People's Temple. "Like a contractor who builds a high fence around an ugly hole and covers the fence with bright posters and cheerful greetings," White observes, "Jim Jones put up a wall

of deception that fooled almost everyone."

During the Pope's recent visit to the United States, a clean-cut young man was seen moving among the crowd in Washington, D.C. attempting to sell a crucifix to anyone willing to pay \$10. "We're doing it to raise money for the Church," the man explained, "for the education of the young." When asked what agency of the Church he represented, his answer was vague. When pressed, he mumbled that it was "interdenominational." Finally, he admitted that his association was with the Unification Church of the Rev. Moon.

(3) *Making merchandise of People.* The second chapter of II Peter describes the motives and methods of false teachers—past and present—by revealing their aim: to "make merchandise of you" (vs, 3, KJV). The cults exploit human weaknesses. A young man who is paralyzed from the neck down as a result of a tragic auto accident joined The Way, after its members convinced him he would be healed and walking within a year. He gave The Way over \$200,000 of his accident settlement money, money that was reportedly used by the cult leaders to buy luxury automobiles. The young man later left the group, sued for return of his money and won the case.

Cults have not only exploited people financially, they have exploited them physically (long hours, poor diet, ill health), mentally (subjugation of the will, use of brainwashing techniques) and spiritually by promoting a false

basis of salvation and preaching a "different gospel" (Gal. 1:6).

(4) *Minimizing the Mind.* Eastern mysticism rejects the rational mind in favor of the experiential. The ultimate objective of Transcendental Meditation, for example, is the elimination of all consciously directed thought. According to Guru Maharaj Ji of the Divine Light Mission, the human mind is little more than garbage. He teaches in order to obtain "True Knowledge," one must bypass the mind.

New age cults tend to be feeling-oriented rather than truth-oriented. As noted earlier, the same emphasis on subjective experience also characterized many aberrant Christian groups as well. Witness Lee of the Local Church movement states: "One who is in the mind should refuse his intellect in all spiritual things; he should not put aside completely such functions as thinking and considering . . . There is no need for us to close our eyes when we pray. It is better for us to close our mind!"

The anti-intellectual stance of The Church of the Living Word, is illustrated by its leader's advice to young people: "Stay away from Bible schools." Apostle Stevens went on to assert that ". . . we can produce better ministers with our eyes blindfolded than the seminaries can."

(5) *The Adversarial Stance.* Traditional, orthodox Christianity has tended to be consiliatory in nature, attempting healing where there is hurt and division. New religious movements often seem to have an adversarial impact on the com-

munity, the church and the family.

Perhaps the most dramatic illustration of this negative effect can be seen in the area of family relationships. Many young Americans associated with new age religious groups have severed all ties with their parents and adopted new "spiritual families." Natural parents are sometimes redefined as agents of Satan. David Berg, leader of the Children of God, has stated: "God is the greatest destroyer of home and family of anybody . . . If you have not forsaken your husband or wife for the Lord, at some time or another, you have not forsaken all."

Any religious group which consciously or unconsciously undermines the God-ordained institutions of our society cannot claim to be biblical religion. Pseudo-Christian groups which are divisive and place a wedge between parent and child or husband and wife cannot be of God. True Christians are called to be agents of reconciliation.

(6) *Emphasizing Exclusiveness.* A deliberately anti-church attitude is another indicator of cultic orientation. Virtually all aberrational Christian groups reflect the feeling that "We are the only group with the truth" or "We have more truth than any other group." Members of the Local Church, for example, have been known to wear "God Hates Christianity" T-shirts. Witness Lee teaches that God's church today is his (Lee's) Local Church: "Do not try to be neutral. Do not try to reconcile the denominations with the local

church . . . The Lord's separating work for His Bride today is in the Local Church." Another example of the Local Church's extreme sectarian view is illustrated by a statement from one of the group's publications: "Do not think that the Lord is in the circle of Protestantism. He is outside the door. Judaism is Satanic, Catholicism is demonic, and Protestantism is without Christ."

The seductive appeal of the new

wave of cultism has been widely reported by both the secular press and by Christian observers. As never before, evangelical Christians must be alert, informed, and above all discerning. "But test everything; hold fast to what is good, abstain from every form of evil" (I Thess. 5:21-22).

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FALSE PROPHETS

One of the often used phrases in identifying those who have departed from the Scriptures is "false prophets." Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15). Later in the same Gospel our Lord says, "Many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:11). Like the wolf mentioned, the false prophet has a lot to hide. He will hide his teeth. In other words, he will want to appear harmless. The verse quoted has some harsh things stated about the false pro-

phets. They are called wolves in sheep's clothing. The apostle Paul also describes them in the words, "For such are false prophets, deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into the apostles of Christ." In the end-time their appearances will be common. Paul writes, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils" (I Tim. 4:1). The unusual number of the cults are indicative of the fact the latter days are here. God's people need to be alert regarding the false prophets.

WHAT COMPELS THE CULTS?

John E. Dahlin

Very few publications have discussed the matter of the immense drive of the present-day cultists. This has reference to their ongoing activities from year to year in nearly every community. Those of us who have made a study of the cults are amazed at their strong motivation, especially those who direct the work. It is seldom matched by the evangelicals who have the true Scriptural message. The current situation with regard to the off-center groups call for an explanation. Since I have observed these groups in action for several decades, it is clear that some conclusions have been reached concerning the zeal with which they carry on their work. Their continuous proselyting is a major religious phenomenon of our time.

THEY CONSTITUTE A MINORITY

The fact is that all minority groups, whether they be political, economic, or religious, do have this in common, namely, that of manifesting an amazing drive in order to gain certain objectives. As a rule minorities become targets for severe criticism by the majority in society. To overcome this handicap of continuous opposition, the minorities must offset such a disadvantage by manifesting a superior zeal and determination. There is no alternative. Unless they persevere, it simply means for them to fold up and discontinue their activity. To

illustrate their skill: In Russia during the year 1917 Lenin and Trotsky led a small minority (known as the Bolsheviks) with a determination that was incomparable. Actually, that small minority by its extra-ordinary effort and propaganda succeeded in taking over all of Russia, thus ending the long rule of the Tzars.

In the religious area we have frequently seen certain groups, which have splintered off from the established denominations, and manifesting unusual zeal and determination in getting established in their separate status. Even a group breaking away from a local church usually demonstrates the same drive or motivation in becoming successful in its minority position. The upshot is all minorities are compelled to develop an extra-ordinary capability in achieving their difficult goals. This is one clear explanation of the drive which characterize the cults.

THE SUPERB LEADERSHIP

All the spurious groups are directed by talented and resourceful men and women. Often they are unscrupulous and highhanded in their tactics, but they demonstrate skill as innovators and manipulators. In other words, these leaders manifest vision and farsightedness seldom matched by the Bible-believing groups. Let us take the example of Brigham Young who 130 years ago led a multitude of

Mormons westward for a thousand miles. They started their trek in the mid-west and reached the Great Salt Lake region within a year. No such example of determination is found in American History. The people were detached from their moorings and they went across the prairies and over the rivers (no bridges at the time) and no railways and roads existed. Brigham Young became the territorial governor of Utah territory until the latter part of the 19th century. Other cultic leaders also have manifested remarkable leadership, and thousands have blindly followed these gifted personalities. We might call the roll and the following names appear: Ellen White, Mary Baker Eddy, Pastor Russell, Judge Rutherford, Herbert W. Armstrong, Sun Myung Moon, and Paul Wierville. This list could be lengthened considerably. With the strong leadership possessed most of the cults have succeeded in their objectives of reaching millions of people. Not only has the leadership been superb, but people have been totally loyal to those who lead despite their false teachings.

THE SATANIC ELEMENT

As a student of the various cults, I am altogether convinced that the explanation for their drive and intensity with which they carry on the work is satanic. The fact is those who are committed to error are energized by the power of the fallen world. There is no other explanation. We read, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter days, some shall depart

from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and the doctrines of demons" (I Tim. 4:1). An even more direct statement comes from Paul in the following words: "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against world rulers of darkness in this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). In this illuminating passage the writer points out that we are surrounded in the atmosphere by demons under the direction of satan who is seeking ways to circumvent the purpose of God in bringing to humanity the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Acts (which constitutes early Church History) we find a series of examples of satanic power at the time the believers came in collision with the forces of darkness. In fact, this became a continuous confrontation which the servants of Christ experienced throughout Asia Minor. In the Second Letter to the Church of Corinth, Chapter 3, the apostle presents for us a graphic picture of this ongoing struggle and he provides an insight with regard to the ongoing conflict with satanic forces. At one particularly difficult period Paul writes, "We despaired even of life" (2 Cor. 1:6). To fail to ascribe to cultic activities the inroads of satan is to be unrealistic and ignorant of the Scriptural teaching. During the latter days the conflict with the satanic forces will take on a greater dimension. It is therefore logical that the apostle should exhort us to put on the whole armour of God in order to

prevail over the forces of darkness. Those of us who seek to oppose our adversaries are aware of this ongoing conflict. The apostle makes a striking statement in this regard, "Lest satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11). It seems clear the energy supplied by the fallen beings compels the cults to move onward in the direction which the evil forces desire to have people move.

In Second Corinthians, chapter 3, Paul refers to the counterfeit forces which are engaged in ensnaring people. The brain-washing of naive and unsuspecting people

is a distressing reality in our generation. In our ministry of literature over these many years we have witnessed the mind-bending tactics used by those which are energized by satan. What I have pointed out in this article should help to explain the drive which compels the cultists of our time. Only people thoroughly grounded in the Word of God will be able to remain victorious over the satanic forces. Our literature is exceedingly helpful to our fellowmen in a time of confusion. There is no substitute for being knowledgeable with respect to the tactics used by our adversary.

MILLIONS ARE ASKING

Miami has exploded in racial violence, Mount St. Helens is erupting (without permission from the environmentalists), Iran continues to defy the United States—all of which leads to the question, "Is God trying to tell America something?" The Middle East continues to totter on the brink of catastrophe, Russia persists in making warlike noises while calling for a peace conference, Europe considers arming, and Latin

America contemplates the next revolution. The church on the Left continues its fatal flirtation with liberation theology, while mainstream Christianity attempts business as usual, trying to ignore the signs of the times.

Perceptive people, however, are beginning to look up. They also sense that these are days of remarkable opportunity to testify as to the truth of the gospel to anxious millions in our world.

from Christian Destiny

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PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

John E. Dahlin, Editor

QUESTION . . . Are the cults compelled or energized by satanic forces in their persistent activities?

ANSWER . . . Obviously there is a considerable variation among the present-day cults. Some have departed from all the major areas of the Scriptures. Others have misinterpreted the Word of God in a lesser manner. It is certain, nevertheless, that the extreme cults are under demon influence. This may not necessarily apply to all the cults of our time. Since the New Testament refers to false teachers as propagating doctrines of demons, it is proper for us to state that the cultists are compelled in carrying on their activities by the energy of the satanic emissaries.

QUESTION . . . What procedure should we follow in order to successfully combat the satanic forces?

ANSWER . . . In Ephesians, Chapter 6, verses 11-17, the apostle instructs us how to oppose the entire system which is energized by satan. He gives much encouragement to us in our combat against the evil forces. Satan is powerful but he is not all-powerful. We read, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I Jn. 4:4). Paul also states it inspiringly in the words, "Nay in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37). The clear procedure, according to the same writer, is found in the statement, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Eph. 6:16).