

*"... Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"*

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2. THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
6. FOUR SPIRITUAL FLAWS
8. THE IMMORALITY OF MARXISM
9. MRS. DELLA CANEDAY WITH THE LORD
9. CHRISTIAN NEWS ENCYCLOPEDIA
10. A Review of the Book named:  
"JESUS CHRIST IS NOT GOD"
11. ARE YOU RECEIVING THE DISCERNER?
12. BOOK REPORTS
13. HOW TO MEET CULTIC STRATEGY
15. NEW BOOKS IN STOCK
16. PERTINENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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# The DISCERNER

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## THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*An evaluation by Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor*

The World Council of Churches held their sixth general assembly at Vancouver, Canada, July 24 to August 10. The theme was lofty, namely, "Jesus Christ - The Life of the World." As expected, the theme was ignored during the sessions. The Russian and Greek Orthodox groups which are historically from the Eastern Catholic background, must be added in the membership count. It is well to remember that the World Council of Churches came into existence in the year 1948 at Amsterdam. The total number of individual members is approximately 500 million. There were 900 official delegates present for the 17-day conclave.

A recent editorial in the *San Antonio Light* had some very cogent questions raised in its August 21st edition through its editorial. I wish to quote some of the statements from this excellent overview of the sessions held at Vancouver. The opening statement serves as an introduction to the pertinent questions raised by the writer: "The World Council of Churches adjourned its assembly at Vancouver without doing much to dispel the doubts of those concerned about keeping politics out of the

pulpit. And, its resolutions left a lot of nagging questions for all who wonder why the Council is so eager to attack the United States but soft pedal any criticism of the Soviet Union."

Here are the questions raised by the San Antonio editor: "Why, for instance, did the Council avoid mentioning Moscow in its resolution concerning the invasion of Afghanistan?"—"Why did the Council criticize Israel in strong language without mentioning Arab nations that refuse to recognize Israel as a state and would like to push the Israelis into the Mediterranean?"

Another disturbing question relates to Central America: "Why is the United States blamed for the turmoil in the region, and not Cuba or the Soviet Union, or the Marxist government of Nicaragua? So the United States was accused of being a troublemaker, while the Nicaraguan Sandinista government, for reasons best known to the World Council of Churches, it commended the deeds of that government."

The big news recently, as the 900 delegates of the 300 church groups were leaving the British Columbia city, was Libya's invasion of Chad. The

WCC resolutions ignored that event. To be sure, these resolutions were not passed without opposition, but the fact that they were passed at all lend validity to the continuing criticism that the leadership of the WCC is anti-American and Pro-Third World. In other words, the WCC is blind to the present Soviet-Cuban aggression.

Another question ought to be answered: "How many of the Council's churches agree with the slanted posture of the international religious body?" We suspect that many of the congregations in San Antonio do not follow the WCC policies of this kind. These questions and timely observations provide an insight regarding the biased position of the World Council of Churches.

In addition to the editorial statement quoted from the *San Antonio Light*, an opportunity presents itself to me for a further evaluation of the recent meeting of the Sixth Assembly of The World Council of Churches. First of all, the WCC, by its official action, brings accusation that the United States is attempting to "destabilize" the Nicaraguan government. The WCC is seeking international support for that government's military regime in its ruthless program.

The Vancouver Assembly, at its recent sessions, opposed any type of military intervention by the United States, covert or overt, or by any other government. And, as expected, the Assembly rejected a proposal calling for an immediate withdrawal of the Russian forces from Afghanistan until an overall political settlement is reached. This obviously will result in the crushing of the freedom fighters in Afghanistan.

Moreover, the Assembly refused to hear two appeals from Christians in Russia begging for a "helping hand to the persecuted faithful." The Council stated it would not take up matters that would involve an intervention in the "internal situation" of a member of the World Council of Churches, of which the Russian Church holds membership. It is a hopeless matter to seek justice from the WCC whose sympathy is with the Communists. The Communists continue to persecute dissenters within the Soviet Union. A leader of the Russian Orthodox Church (which is a member of the WCC) publicly accused the Soviet regime of persecuting the Christians. When this charge became known to the Communist authorities, the man making the charges was sent to a labor camp for 5 years. This kind of persecution is ongoing in Russia without any abatement. Unfortunately, the recent assembly of the WCC at Vancouver took no action, nor did it offer any resolution deploring this cruel treatment of Christians in Russia. Solzhenitsyn, one of the most illustrious Russian men of letters, who won the Nobel Peace Prize a few years ago, was banished from the Soviet Union for his criticism of the policy of the Communist government towards dissenters. Had he not been a renowned world figure, one may be certain that Solzhenitsyn would have been confined to a Russian prison for the rest of his life. All of these situations do not seem to disturb the leaders of the WCC. The World Council of Churches is insensitive to the merciless persecutions which are carried on in the Soviet Union.

The most revolting and incredible

practice of the World Council of Churches is its policy of allocating huge sums of money to a number of revolutionary elements which seek through violence to overthrow constituted governments. The well known CBS's "60 Minutes" concluded that whether by design or mischance or deliberate manipulation by the WCC, considerable sums have been sent to a number of these radical groups which are engaged in political revolution and violence. The WCC leaders were exceedingly angry at this popular program for ventilating such charges over the television during prime time. No effective rebuttal was made by the WCC to these charges. They brought the excuses that their activities were not military, but mainly economic, that is, the priority was given to economic help in needy areas of the Third World. Those who are giving money to the WCC should demand some forthright explanation for this incredible action in the distribution of funds to the revolutionary elements within certain nations. In the August 1982 issue of the Reader's Digest an article appeared with the title, "Karl Marx or Jesus Christ." The aid to the revolutionary elements was given specific treatment with monetary figures included. The Patriotic Front, a Marxist guerrilla organization then fighting the white-dominated regime, received \$85,000 to combat racism. In recent years, the WCC has given over \$5 million dollars to 130 organizations in fighting racism. But nearly half of that money has gone to guerrillas seeking the violent overthrow of white regimes in southern Africa. The Soviet-backed element of Angola received \$78,000. The Marxist in Mozambique received \$120,000,

and WAPO in Namibia \$823,000 which is Russian-supported and Cuban-trained. Many other areas of the world have received big sums for social and revolutionary action. All of this is detached from the ministry of the Gospel.

It was openly stated by the headquarters of the WCC that in the attempts at solution of many of the world's ills, mankind owes as much to Marxism as to Christianity. It has been documented that the Patriotic Front in Rhodesia had murdered 201 white civilians and 1712 blacks, and only weeks prior to this the same vicious element had slaughtered nine white missionaries and children. When this news became publicly known, the Salvation Army, a founding member of the WCC, suspended its membership in protest, as did the Irish Presbyterian Church, which called the big monetary grants by the WCC as "racism in reverse."

At the time of the establishment of the WCC, not many would believe that the world's largest federation of churches would provide funds in support of violence and political radicalism in the Third World. More and more the WCC has focused its attention on political, social, and economic matters. All of this is in complete departure from the Great Commission which involved majoring in the Gospel. This great change of emphasis in the work of the WCC can be attributed to two main causes:

First, the Council realized that its effort of achieving Christian unity was withering, and groups became unyielding in the doctrinal differences. And, the largest religious group on earth, the Roman Catholic Church, refused to join the WCC. It

was at this time the World Council of Churches shifted its emphasis to "secular ecumenism."

The second reason for the change in the emphasis was the altered composition of the membership in the WCC. At the time of the founding Assembly at Amsterdam in 1948, churchmen from the Third World made up only a small percentage of the voting delegates. In recent years, however, a phenomenal change has come in its membership. Of the present church organizations, only 28 are American. The so-called western world no longer maintains the influence it once possessed. Philip Potter, the present Secretary General, does not hide his anti-Western and anti-Capitalistic attitude in his writings and speeches. He is fond of citing Marxist writers. And, he has admiration for such black-power advocates as Stokeley Carmichael. Under his leadership, political and economic activism have become dominant in the course pursued by the WCC. This led a well-known Western German leader and head of the International Network to say, "If we do not succeed in bringing the WCC back onto a course that represents its true calling, it would be better to dissolve the WCC."

Incredibly, not a cent of the vast sums controlled by the WCC goes to dissident groups in the Soviet Union, where the government practices overt repression of ethnic and religious minorities such as Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Jews, and evangelical Christians. Marxist governments in general—and the Soviet Union in particular—get kid-glove treatment by the WCC. Moreover, the WCC turns a blind eye to the plight of Ethiopia, where the

Marxist government has summarily executed over 10,000 persons for political reasons and closed more than 200 churches. There is no question that the WCC leadership is dominated by people with a leftist ideology. In taking this course, the WCC has lost support, and financially United States congregations of late have given only one-half of the amounts remitted in past years.

The Sixth Assembly, which concluded its sessions at Vancouver in August, broke no new ground. It manifested no willingness to change its course or retreat from its pacifism, and its support of extreme socialism and non-Christian ideologies. While somewhat veiled, it is being held by the WCC that the United States is giving support to violent military regimes, and the Reagan administration is accused of bringing disaster to a peaceful solution of the present problems vexing mankind.

Powerful anti-Communism writers have in a very incisive manner pointed out how Communism functions. While in London quite recently to receive this year's Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, Solzhenitsyn, in his speech, accused the World Council of Churches for supporting Communism in Third World countries while remaining silent on religious repression in the Soviet Union. Dr. Fred G. Schwartz, long-time analyst of Communist ideology, also said, "Communism is morally reprehensible as an ideology. Communists are not misguided, but rebels against God Almighty." The key historical leaders of Communism, Karl Marx, Lenin, and Stalin, actually declared war on God and sought to overthrow His laws as set forth in the

Bible. Communism is committed to establishing a Godless state where materialism is completely dominant.

In conclusion, it must be said that it is mind-boggling for Christian observers to find that the world's largest federation of religious groups is giving its support to an ideology which rejects the historic Christian religion, and that these leaders have turned away from the western nations, and now manifest a preference

to the Third World with all its ignorance and violence.

This, then, provides an overview to our readers with regard to the present position of the World Council of Churches. With the Reader's Digest's conclusion of the article "Karl Marx or Jesus Christ," I agree that the leaders of WCC need to turn away from Karl Marx and turn to Jesus Christ during the present troubled international situation.

## FOUR SPIRITUAL FLAWS

By Rev. Ewald Eisele

Almost everyone in the church is familiar with the tract which was written years ago by Bill Bright, "The Four Spiritual Laws." Now, just as there are many more laws than the four mentioned, there are also many flaws in the doctrine and practice of the cults and false religions of the world. There are, however, four flaws that are so very obviously a part of most groups that it may be well to refresh our memories regarding them.

Let's call this *flaw one*: **There is no God as the One described in the Bible.** Now, some cults would not subscribe to that statement. Seventh Day Adventists would not, but they are still a cult for other reasons. Armstrong describes God as "a family, a kingdom, not a limited Trinity," (*The Plain Truth* magazine, Aug., 1958, p. 17). Also, "God is reproducing Himself, and man was created to literally become God," (*What It Means To Be Equal With God*, p. 43). He borrowed that from the Mormons. The Mormons say, in their well-known and much publicized statement, "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become," (*Articles*

*of Faith*, by J. E. Talmage, p. 442-443). So Mormons believe in many gods, and any good Mormon—if there are any—may, in their estimation, attain godhood. To the Christian Scientist, God is not personal in any sense but is described as Invisible God, Principle, Mind, all-in-All, etc. Jehovah's Witnesses reject the Biblical teaching regarding the Trinity in statements such as, "Jesus Christ is not one God with the Father," and, "The Holy Spirit is God's active force, not a person." Spiritualism followers go along with Christian Science to a great extent regarding the Biblical doctrine of God when they declare, "God is Infinite Intelligence and as such pervades and controls the universe. This is also true of Unity, New Thought and most of the other Meta-physical cults.

The New Age Movement defies man and dethrones God, declaring its adherents to be free from **any** authority and able to do "their own thing" as dictated by the "inner light" of their "higher self." As Dave Hunt reports in *Peace, Prosperity and the Coming Holocaust*, "This movement is

teaching public school children that they are gods." The *Humanist Manifesto II*, which governs what is taught in public schools today, states, "As non-theists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity." Also, "... we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves." Those who practice some form of Eastern Mysticism readily admit that, "All is One," and that the only god that exists is within each individual "self."

The natural man does not want a God. He wants to be the master of his own destiny and doesn't want anyone telling him what to do. He will not tolerate a God who demands total allegiance. The Bible calls such a man a fool even if he doesn't verbally express his feelings. The Psalmist put it this way, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God..." (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).

For most false or pagan religions and cults the *second flaw* is: There is no sin. Again, some cults would not agree. The Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, Mormons (but their view is not Biblical), and several others could be included. Armstrong recognizes the existence of sin but has a mixture of occult and pagan situation ethics involved in his doctrine. Christian Science, Unity, most Eastern Mysticism systems, (which include some form of the so-called law of Karma), and modern "Christian" liberalism, (which embraces evolution in one form or another, as well as a non-orthodox view of the inerrancy of the Scriptures) would agree: There is no sin.

For Muslims, the framework of faith is not sin and salvation, but error and guidance. Sin, likewise, has no place in Spiritualism or Spiritism.

What it really boils down to is that if there is no sovereign God; there are no rules—no laws—and hence, nothing that can be called a transgression. While most people in the world would not verbally state it like this, it is really situation ethics. The *Humanism Manifesto II* says, "Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological or ideological sanction." Homosexual perverts love this kind of godless philosophy, and the *Manifesto* backs them up! It states, "Short of harming others or compelling them to do likewise, individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their life-styles as they desire."

But even Christians are not exempt. Far too often, sin is renamed. It is called a habit, a mistake, a popular pastime with so many, so why not for me? Some even blame God for their sin—"God made me like that so what is wrong with what I am doing?" But the Bible is very inflexible. Sin is a reality with which every individual must deal, and the Word will never give one fraction where it deals with sin. It states, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

The *third flaw* prevalent in cults and false religions is: There is no single, complete, and authoritative revelation from God, which is called the Bible. No God, No Sin, No Bible—These go together! Without exception, cults want an additional revelation, one with more authority than the Bible, and since they have what

they feel to be the last word, they follow that instead of the clear teaching of the Scriptures.

There is the Watchtower literature for the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mary Baker Eddy's "key" to the Scriptures for the Christian Scientists, the writings of Ellen G. White for the Seventh Day Adventists, and the Book of Mormon and the pronouncements of the President and Prophet of the church for the Mormons. The New Agers have the Aquarian Gospel, the Muslims have the Koran, the Hindus have the Vedas, and the list could go on and on.

The logic is very simple. If a person says, "No God," it is natural to say, "No Bible." Why should a person who does not recognize the God of the Bible want to recognize the Bible itself? One may ask, "Well then, why the need for another revelation?" Very simply—when God gives a good thing, Satan produces an imitation to take the place of what God has provided, which means that all "authoritative" writings of whatever cult or religion, are inspired - by Satan.

No God, No Sin, No Bible, and quite naturally: **No judgment or hell** (*the fourth flaw*). Most cults, unless they believe in reincarnation and the law of Karma, believe in annihilation. The eastern religions and cults, for the most part, believe in transmigration of the soul, which is a system of reaping in one reincarnation the fruits of earlier ones. But for Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Armstrongites and a host of other cults, annihilation is the word for all who do not measure up to their standard.

For Mormons, hell is for Satan and his demonic hosts, and for only those men who have committed the unpardonable sin.

Eastern religions do not even think about heaven or hell. For them, if your next reincarnation is a bad one, you are just reaping what you sowed in an earlier life.

It is easy to understand why men who say, "No God, No Sin and No Bible" refuse to believe in a future judgment and the reality of hell. They will believe someday, but too late to do anything about it. Even good Christian pulpits are very often silent about this Biblical truth. Christians need to hear preaching about the hell of eternity which will be the portion of each and every individual who places his trust in some cult, or some self-styled messiah, or some illusive dream of a demon-inspired religious philosopher.

**Four spiritual flaws**—Of course, there are hundreds of others in the cults, but there are none in God's Word, the Bible. The Gospel is very clear—no works, no self-help salvation. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

## THE IMMORALITY OF MARXISM

The spirit of lawlessness is not uncommon among Communists and Socialists. Lenin and Stalin both spent time in Russian prisons. Nor is immorality coincidental; it is absolutely central to the Marxist faith.

Marx himself concluded that the criticism of religion leads to "the categorical imperative to overthrow all circumstances in which man is



humiliated, enslaved, abandoned, and despised."

This, of course, is a declaration of

war on God, who requires men both to be humble before Him and to be His servants (Micah 6:8; 1 Cor. 7:22).

### **MRS. DELLA CANEDAY WITH THE LORD**

On September 3, 1983, Della Caneday, wife of Rev. Herbert V. Caneday, passed away after nearly a year of serious illness. At the public service on September 6th, the First Baptist Church of Taylors Falls, Minnesota, was filled with people from the communities where the Canedays had served various congregations. Herbert V. Caneday also is the only member of the Board of RAS who has been with the organization since its inception nearly 40 years ago. Our departed friend was a dedicated

Christian and greatly admired and loved by relatives and friends throughout the entire area. We extend sympathy to Pastor Caneday and the five grown children who feel the great loss in the departure of their beloved wife and mother.

Ministers participating in the service were Andrew Johnson, Ellsworth Moritz, and John E. Dahlin, who represented Religion Analysis Service. At the time of her passing, Della Caneday had attained the age of 71 years.

### **CHRISTIAN NEWS ENCYCLOPEDIA**

The Missouri Publishing Company of Washington, Missouri, has rendered an outstanding service to the Christian world by releasing the **Christian News Encyclopedia**.

The two-volume set is sturdily bound and contains 1,800 pages of materials covering the decade of 1973-1983. The pages are 10½ x 16 in size and are of quality stock—much better than ordinary newsprint.

The value of this massive compendium of information is greatly enhanced by a table of contents which is in reality a topical breakdown spanning nine huge pages.

All of the materials relevant to topics like Abortion, America, Capitalism, Creationism, Disarmament, Education, Revolution, Gambling, Homosexuality, Humanism, Social Gospel, Solzhenitsyn, United Nations, World Council of Churches, etc., are marshalled sequentially under these headings.

Further, an excellent Index of Subjects appears at the end of Volume II, followed by an Index of Names. Thus, it is very easy to locate materials quickly—relating to a wide spectrum of subjects.

This huge collection of useful materials is available at an amazingly low price: \$31.95 plus \$4.00 postage for the rugged hard cover edition, and \$24.95 plus \$3.50 postage for the soft cover edition.

We recommend the **Christian News Encyclopedia** for pastors, Christian writers, and educators who are interested in having close at hand a valuable collection of issue-oriented materials which arise from a sound conservative Theological and pro-American perspective.

Orders may be sent direct to:

**The Christian News Encyclopedia**  
Box 168  
New Haven, Missouri 63068

A Review of the book named:

## **“JESUS CHRIST IS NOT GOD”**

*By Homer Duncan*

I will review the book with the above title by Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille, who is the president of a research, teaching, and training ministry called “The Way,” whose headquarters is in New Knoxville, Ohio. Dr. Wierwille studied at the University of Chicago and is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary. He has studied with such men as Karl Barth, E. Stanley Jones, and Glen Clark, all of which reminds me of a saying of my dear old Dad, “You cannot rub up against a smutty stove without getting some of it on you.” It would seem that some of the smut has rubbed off on Dr. Wierwille.

It has been said that we should never judge a book by its cover or by its title, but, in this case, the title of this \$6.95 book very well lets us know what it is all about. Dr. Wierwille does not believe that Jesus Christ is God, and he has written this 177-page book to try to prove that Christ is not God. He states, “Jesus Christ is not God. Biblically He is the Son of God.” Wierwille rightly recognizes that Christ must be a man in order to redeem men, but he refuses to recognize the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is the God-man.

Much of his book sounds like an old Watchtower record, and I cannot help but wonder if Dr. Wierwille has studied with the Jehovah's Witnesses, or if he has not read some of their books. However, there are a number of marked differences between Dr. Wierwille and the JW's. He uses a different method in explaining away John 1:1, and he denies the pre-existence of Christ, which the JW's do

not do. Dr. Wierwille states, “We did not exist before the world began. Neither did Jesus Christ.”

Chapter one of this book is entitled “The Origin of the Three-in-One God.” Among other things, Dr. Wierwille attempts to prove that Constantine controlled the proceedings of the Nicean Council, and that he brought pressure on the bishops compelling them to adopt his theological position. The Nicean Council deals with the Arian heresy which was a denial of the full deity of Christ. This book is simply a new manifestation of the old Arian heresy.

In chapter two, Dr. Wierwille correctly tells us that the Lord Jesus is called the “Son of God” over 50 times in the New Testament, and that He is called “God” only four times. He thus implies that there are only four references on the deity of Christ in the New Testament. With the usual dexterity of false prophets, he explains away the four verses that he says seem to teach the deity of Christ. The four verses that He explains away are: 1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 1:8, John 20:28, and Isaiah 9:6. He does not mention John 1:1 in this chapter but deals with it in a separate chapter. In this chapter he does not mention Isaiah 7:14, Ezekiel 44:1, 2, John 5:17-19, 5:23, 8:58, Romans 9:5, Colossians 2:9, Titus 2:13 or 1 John 5:20, but he does attempt to explain away some of these verses in Appendix B of his book.

One of the most popular booklets published by the Watchtower Society is THE WORD: WHO IS HE? Chapter four of Dr. Wierwille's book

is "WHO IS THE WORD?" Neither Dr. Wierwille, nor the Watchtower Society, can allow the truth of John 1:1 to stand since this is one of the clearest references to the deity of Christ in the entire Bible. However, Dr. Wierwille uses a different method of destroying the deity of Christ than does the WTS.

He attempts to prove that "The Word" refers to God the Father, rather than to God the Son, but he states that the incarnate Word is His Son, Jesus Christ. You will have to figure that one out for yourself! Dr. Wierwille states, "The Word began to be made flesh when God created the sperm in Mary." He also states, "When Jesus Christ was born He came into existence." Wierwille denies that Christ is the great creator. With the usual skill of false prophets, he explains away John 1:3, Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:16 and Hebrews 1:2. He states: "The people who say that all things were created by Jesus Christ contradict the first verse of the Bible, 'In the beginning God created . . .'"

Dr. Wierwille fails to mention that the Lord Jesus has all of the attributes of God the Father. He fails to call to the readers' attention that the name "Lord" proves the absolute deity of Christ. He does not recognize that the Jesus of the New Testament is the Jehovah of the Old Testament.

Dr. Wierwille states that his is the only true and right doctrine, and, of course, this is the claim of every false cult under the sun. The faith of unstable souls who are not rooted and grounded in the Word of God will be shaken by the subtle arguments presented by Dr. Wierwille, but those who know the Book and who are taught by the Holy Spirit (who Wier-

wille denies) will not be led astray. Wierwille makes a distinction between God who is the Holy Spirit, and the holy spirit (no caps) which is the gift of God.

To be honest with you, I do not like to get my hands dirty with such a mess, but Jude by the Holy Spirit exhorts us to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Either Jesus Christ is God, or He is not God. We believe in His deity and we accept the doctrine of the Trinity, not because we can understand these doctrines but because both of these doctrines are clearly taught in the Word of God. Additional copies of this expose' can be obtained for ten cents a copy. Our booklet, JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES AND THE DEITY OF CHRIST, which deals fully with every aspect of this subject, can be purchased for \$1.00. Both can be obtained from:

MISSIONARY CRUSADER  
4606 Ave. H  
Lubbock, Texas 79404

The above message was written by Homer Duncan, Editor of the MIS-  
SIONARY CRUSADER.

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## ARE YOU RECEIVING THE DISCERNER?

Our magazine, *The Discerner*, keeps abreast of the present-day cultic activities. The price of \$2.00 a year has remained the same for a number of years. Gift subscriptions sent in for your friends will be appreciated very much.

If you receive *The Discerner*, kindly report any change of address promptly, and also check the expiration date of your own subscription. We want you to receive every copy.

## BOOK REPORTS

**THE SECRET SECT** by Doug and Helen Parker. 124pp. paper. \$6.95. This is a book about one of the most secretive and unusual cults in America today. It is known as the No Name Church, Two By Two Preachers, The Perfect Way, The Truth, The Jesus Way and their legal registered name, Christian Conventions. The authors are former members of this group and give a remarkable report of its history, activities and phenomenal growth. Here is a group which has become world-wide through the missionary work of its homeless preachers who go about two-by-two, conduct missions, and organize annual conventions. Here is growth without hierarchy or even a permanent headquarters. They have no publishing house nor do they use any printed forms of open communication. Yet these people, who do not live communally, have not given up their individual secular employment, nor given up their property, have nevertheless created and maintained an effective movement.

The historical account of their growth and development will be especially interesting to anyone with an interest in sociology. The chapter on doctrine should be of interest to all who have a desire to reach out and give the good news of salvation, full and free, to all the lost.

**THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF THE RAINBOW** by Constance Cumbeby. 268 pp. paper. \$5.95. Millions around the world awoke to a great surprise on April 25, 1982. Opening their newspapers, they saw full-page advertisements brazenly proclaiming, "THE CHRIST IS NOW HERE." The ads declared that

"Lord" Maitreya is the Christ and already in the world TODAY.

Constance Cumbeby, a practicing attorney from Detroit, Michigan, says that Maitreya is the "Christ" of the New Age Movement, a vast network of many thousands of occultic, and other organizations, networking throughout the world to bring about a New World Order and a new messiah.

The Baptist author also says the Movement plans mass planetary Luciferic "initiations" for all those who want to enter the "New Age" alive. The Movement defies Lucifer and denies God.

Leaders of the Movement have an insidious plan to wipe out all Christians from the face of the earth. Their sacred number is 6-6-6. They also plan to outlaw all present religious practices and symbols of orthodox Jews and Christians. They also plan a universal credit card system, a world food authority to control the world's food supply, a universal tax and a universal draft.

Constance Cumbeby, in her book, exposes this well organized, world-wide plot to take over the world for the false Christ. This explosive book on the New Age Movement is one of the great written works of our generation.

**THE WEDDING DRESS** — by Marian Wells. A compelling, easy-to-read and hard-to-put-down historical novel of an orphaned girl caught up in the confusion of the early days of Mormonism. The author has thoroughly researched and documented the historical events surrounding the story. 264 pages, \$4.95.

## HOW TO MEET CULTIC STRATEGY

*Prof. John E. Dahlin*

It is altogether important that Bible-believing groups are knowledgeable regarding the ways of the cultic groups in gaining followers. In a study of these off-center organizations, one will find that they manifest uniformity in conforming to a certain approach to people in order to gain a favorable response from those who are contacted. First of all, the cultists reach people by going directly to them. In fact, these emissaries cover our cities and communities by going from house-to-house ringing the doorbells. They understand the naivete of many people in accepting teachings which are presented by clever cultic spokesmen. There is no more effective way in reaching people than going from door-to-door.

The Apostle John, in his Second Letter, provides a fine directive, which ought to be followed by every Christian who confronts those who come with a false message. No hospitality should be extended, and they should be refused an entrance into the home. This firm position is a wise one, as it will terminate the visit of these propagandists of error. We need not be harsh or condemnatory in dismissing these people at the door, however. The peddlers of false doctrines should be met in the manner just stated. If these people are willing to accept literature, we should offer them pamphlets which deal with the cultic groups with which they are associated. For many years, I have followed the instructions of the Apostle John in meeting the false messengers. I have found it works very well.

With practically no exceptions the

representatives of the cults claim that their leaders have received special revelation from God on the teachings which they promote. If they were right with regard to ongoing revelation, then the Bible must be regarded as being out-dated and inferior to the new revelation. Practically all the cults of today adhere to the position of continued revelation. This viewpoint has been contradicted by the Christian church through the ages. In Revelation, Chapter 22:18-19, we have a clear statement which refutes the claims of the cultists on the matter of ongoing revelation. We need to realize that the false spokesmen are cleverly manipulating the Scriptures by taking passages out of their context in order to build support for the teachings which they present.

It is also necessary that we know with conviction that many of the cults in our time are following the technique of mind control. Being that cultic leaders are usually authoritarian in their methods, it is quite obvious that mind-bending would be a major technique introduced. It is a control which is arranged on a piecemeal program. Oftentimes those who have yielded to these cultic manipulators are detached from their parents and solid moorings, are brought into a new environment and are daily subjected to the mind-bending technique. In this brief article, there is not space to point out any details how the brainwashing system is applied, but it is systematically done. When the unfortunate people have been victimized, the method of deprogramming has been used suc-

cessfully. In fact, some of these victims have been kidnapped from their new masters, and many have been restored. Christian publications have published many of these experiences in the lives of those who have been brainwashed. Certain cultic groups arrange colonies where isolation aids the leaders in gaining total dominion over the captives. The battle for the minds of people is a most revolting chapter within much of the cultic activity of our time. Without question much of this technique comes under the category of demonology. The New Testament makes it completely clear that such methods will increase as we approach the end-times. In both 1st and 2nd Timothy, words of warning are provided for our generation regarding dangerous teachings and methods used by deceivers—(See 1 Tim. 5:1-3; II Tim. 3:1-8). While it may be unpleasant to enter into this particular area of study, we believe it is necessary that we familiarize ourselves with cultic strategy in our time which brings ruin to people in every community of our country. Our office has available literature which will enlighten the readers regarding the strategy of the cults. Authoritarianism is a dangerous position wherever it is being used. In the cultic area gaining mind control is a satanic strategy with which we need to be acquainted. Might we pray that God will provide wisdom for us in meeting this major challenge.

The cultic groups have achieved remarkable cunningness and capability in misleading people through the power provided by the fallen spiritual beings which are actively involved in the work of gaining dominion over human beings. Paul writes, "They

shall depart, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1). The Apostle elaborates further on this subject in Eph. 4:12 in which passage he points out the area of our warfare. Cultists are agents of our adversary in the strategy of deception. In other words, the false leaders among the unScriptural groups are energized by the power of demons who are directing the present apostasy. Paul refers to this ongoing contest in the words, "We are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11). Obviously, the writer points to the strategy of the enemy in deceiving people.

This is the situation facing God's people. We are encouraged to read further in the same chapter that believers may be victorious in the contest with the evil forces. The Apostle exclaims, "Now thanks be unto God who always causeth us to triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14). It is well, however, not to underestimate the strength of the forces of our adversary. Students of Prophecy are convinced that the satanic deception will be intensified in the latter days. Without a doubt, the climactic impact of our adversary is greater today than at any time since that which faced our first parents in the Garden of Eden.

The Apostle Peter makes a significant statement with regard to the conclusion of the age, "The end of all things is at hand." Most prophetic students are in agreement that we are ushered into the final period. The forces of satan are redoubling their activities in seeking to defeat the people of God. The expansion of these many cultic groups demonstrates the power of the adversary during these days. Our best guide for victorious living is found in Eph. 6:13-19.

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## PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*John E. Dahlin, Editor*

**QUESTION . . .** What constitutes the antecedent ecumenical link which preceded the organization of the World Council of Churches at Amsterdam in 1948?

**ANSWER . . .** The historical record of an important link stretches back to the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh in 1910. An open dialog between the various groups present on the matter of organizational unity had its beginning at this time. The two global wars, which involved most of the nations (1914-18 and 1939-45), delayed the establishment of the WCC. But in 1948 the international church unity was achieved.

**QUESTION . . .** Has the WCC changed its functions and broad objectives during the past 38 years?

**ANSWER . . .** With the steady increase in the Third World participation, and the rapid growth of an international bureaucracy in Geneva, the WCC has de-emphasized the theological matters and the ministry of the Gospel. In fact, it has turned to meddling in the social, political, and economic conditions in the world, particularly within the **have not** nations. The WCC has doled out large sums of money to the so-called liberation objectives, even financed many of the guerrilla activities within various nations both in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.