

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

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DEFECTIVE CHRISTIAN REPORTING

Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

It is unfortunate that a large number of Christian people are naive to the extent of accepting unsubstantiated reporting of events which lack the proper verification. In another short article in this issue, I deal with certain claims made for the Mormons. This falls into the same category. Here I am attempting to cover some sweeping reports on present-day evangelism. Take, for example, the widely made claims that there are at least 50-million born-again believers in atheistic China. I would like to ask these reporters how they have arrived at these figures; and, such reporting is usually accepted without any reservation by most Christian people. In the thousands of communities in China there obviously have been no thorough investigation of the matter discussed. It is a fact that for four decades China has been under the dominance of a Communist regime, where religion has been disallowed. Many Christian people have gone underground, as it were, in order to escape persecution and arrest. It has been a nightmare of terror over there. Even believers are hesitating to provide any information to visitors, or corresponding with friends in non-communistic areas of the world for fear of coming under arrest. The few

who have penetrated the interior of China in recent decades are usually not trained reporters capable of factual investigations. We may ask, who has gathered authentic information regarding the 50-million born-again believers who supposedly live in China at present? In order to get bona-fide facts, skillful investigation and careful evaluations must be made regarding these matters. We know, of course, that a certain number of people have come to know Christ in recent decades despite the persecutions prevailing in that pagan land. Suppression and persecution have not been able to stamp out Christianity; and, being banned by Chinese governmental authorities has not terminated conversions to Christ. People on a week's tour in China, with supervision by government agencies, cannot secure a factual picture of the conditions in the interior with its vast population.

A number of relatives of mine (on my wife's side), spent the greater part of this century as missionaries in China with a large evangelical mission. Despite their fervor and dedication, only a very small minority were reached for Christ during several generations. Records of those who were converted and baptized were

kept. The same conditions prevailed within other missions. I do not believe the claim of 50-million Christians in China can be substantiated. This does not rest on realistic investigation.

A few decades ago we received reports about vast numbers being converted in Indonesia within a relatively short period. The news came as a bolt from the clear sky. Later, factual investigators entered that land and found nothing that was comparable to the optimistic statement which had been made. Those reports simply evaporated when the facts came out.

Moreover, a few years ago a respected spiritual leader of a dynamic organization, who is well known, said that their special task force had made an arrangement of teams going out to present Christ to every person in the United States that year. At the end of that same year, this organization presented a full report. The vigorous crusade had not presented the Gospel to over 200-million Americans as announced earlier. In its report, the organization stated the facts. They had confronted $\frac{1}{2}$ a million people with the claims of Christ. Reduced to more detailed figures, it meant less than one out of over 200 people had been reached. Pre-crusade reports and results did not harmonize at all. It was a staggering conflict in figures. At times, I cannot help but admire those with great optimism, but, without a doubt, the lack of realism does harm a good cause.

In contrast, I am impressed with the Red Sea Mission reports which regularly come to my home. The mission has a considerable number of missionaries who are thinly spread

out through the Muslim world, that is, in North Africa, the Middle East, Asia, India and other Muslim areas. Despite their heroism and sacrificial work, only a very small number have been brought to Christ. Nothing fantastic is found in the reports, but these dedicated servants of Christ have been faithful in carrying out Christ's great Commission. The Muslim world includes perhaps 500-million people. It is a most difficult area of the world to reach for Christ. There is no big harvest of souls. Missionaries do not report that they expect to reach the Muslim world in one generation. Broadly speaking, the Lord prophesied that the Gospel would reach the world as a testimony, not world conversion. Not all individuals will be reached. With reference to the conversion of individuals, we have lost ground in recent years relative to the great increase in the world's population. Our Lord did not promise the conversion of the world during this dispensation.

In summary, I feel that Christian reporters might well take lessons from the well-known Gallup Poll, and other pollsters who sample trends and voting records of people. These pollsters have developed such expertize and scientific ways of sampling public opinion that they have as a goal not to miss the results by more than 3 or 4 percent. This they have achieved. In addition, religious denominations have been very factual in reporting membership gains in the American churches; also the membership of the denominations. Their accuracy comes from organizing all their statistics based on their own records. They do not report in round figures when they are asked to furnish the information. They have

achieved numerical accuracy in their reports.

In contrast, Dr. Falwell, whom I admire in many ways, does not practice accurate reporting. He announced when his program of action is fully implemented, we will see America turned around and will go God's way. This may have a psychological effect on the people he reaches as a

stimulus. No New Testament Scripture supports such statements. Christ predicted a different end to our dispensation. He said, "When the Son of Man cometh, will He find faith on earth?"

It is time that Christian reporting became factual and not take the irresponsible road in the presentation of news.

DO MORMONS SCORE BETTER THAN OTHER PEOPLE?

During my thirty years as director of Religion Analysis Service, I have heard people frequently say that Mormons are people of integrity, high morals, and who are honorable in their daily conduct. Obviously this is true among a number of Mormons, but it is also true among many more non-Mormon groups. It is a sweeping statement, however, which needs a further explanation and evaluation. Unfortunately for the Mormons, that statement will not stand up under a careful test and scrutiny.

About twenty years ago, we published a pamphlet by Floyd C. Button, who wrote it by request, and he gave it the title, *No Longer a Mormon*. It has been one of the best and most effective publications that we have printed. Lloyd Button has served as pastor, teacher, and author for several decades. He grew up in a Mormon family and in a strictly Mormon community in Utah. This continued under the entire period of his childhood and youth. As a young man he entered the United States Navy. While in the service, he was led to Christ mainly through the life and testimony of one, who also served his

country in the Navy on the same ship. I recommend that you get this pamphlet and read it carefully. It is available at our office. In the pamphlet he mentions that Mormons generally do not drink coffee and tea, or alcoholic beverages; and, as a rule, they do not smoke. We hear much about their "clean living." He points out also, "I saw as much drunkenness on Saturday evenings as in many other places, and heard just as many off-color stories as I heard elsewhere. Our church had a large auditorium which was used frequently for dances on Saturday evenings. I saw too much there to be swayed by the Mormon propaganda. Anyone who will take the time to do research in Mormon history will come up with a different concept, that is, on Mormon society." Often Mormon life is upheld favorably in our generation. "Their Society led to my mother getting a divorce from my father on account of his drinking. I have lived too long in a Mormon community to believe that being a Mormon is a guarantee of good conduct. The drinking parties often were held in our home, and even there, a number of so-called good

Mormons were present." This is in print by a former Mormon. The rest of the pamphlet deals with the conversion of Lloyd Button. He had heard nothing about salvation through all his past years when he was under Mormon influence. After he came to know Christ, the Mormons did their best to keep him within their teachings, "but I broke away from them on account of their false doctrine," he says.

Let me now present some additional observations: An analysis of the F.B.I.'s statistics by a Utah paper reveals that Salt Lake City continues to have the highest crime rate among the 15 Rocky Mountain area cities. (*Salt Lake Tribune*, April 28, 1986). According to this article, crime was up 7 percent, 110.4 per 1,000

residents. The next highest crime county was in Tucson, Arizona, Denver, Colorado and Phoenix, Arizona. This may be explained, in part, by the large number of teen-age population in these cities. Whatever be the cause, Mormons are not all that is claimed for them. The statistics simply do not support the propaganda of the public relations officials, that their people score higher in integrity and in moral standards than other people with whom they are compared. I have not made reckless or unsubstantiated statements; rather, I have tried to set the record straight in our discussion on Mormons versus other groups. Statistics do not lie, nor do they reveal a bias in a study which has been presented by my article on Mormon society.

JIM BAKKER AND THE P.T.L. CLUB

Roy E. Knuteson, Ph.D.

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Anyone who has watched religious television has seen Jim Bakker and the P.T.L. Club. Multiplied millions of viewers apparently think that it is one of the greatest programs of our time because hundreds of millions of dollars are sent yearly to Charlotte, North Carolina, for the support of this television show and its related activities. It is big business by anyone's standards.

Heritage USA

NEWSWEEK Magazine recently featured Jim and Tammy Faye in their latest religious venture: "Heritage USA" (Aug. 11, 1986). Reportedly, over 5-million people visited this 175-million dollar extravaganza last year, paying up to

\$140.00 for a hotel room. This spectacular "Disneyland for the Devout" occupies 2,300 acres of ground south of Charlotte, and features the gilt-encrusted Heritage Hotel with its prominent sign: "JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!" There are also restaurants that can accommodate 100,000 persons per day, plus a dinner theatre, a high-tech Passion Play in the Heritage Amphitheatre, and the world's largest water slide and wave pool, complete with sandy beaches and bikini-clad women.

Like all secular resorts, Heritage USA provides horseback-riding, camping, tennis courts, and other diversions for the devoted. They also feature weekly baptisms in the hotel

swimming pool, and nightly healing sessions in the "Upper Room." There is also a teen-age disco-like theatre where Tammy Sue, Bakker's teen-age daughter, is the feature singer. In a recently-viewed show she appeared for the first time dressed in punk garb complete with spiked hair, and undulated to the hard-rock band accompaniment of her own "cross-over" style of music. Anyone changing channels or picking up this program for the first time could not be able to distinguish it from "Madonna" and others of her ilk. Shops throughout Heritage USA sell everything from Tammy Faye's own line of cosmetics and panty hose to toy dolls that sing "Jesus Loves Me."

Bakker and his wife are promising more good things for the affluent Charismatics who throng their grounds. This includes a projected full-sized replica of the city of Jerusalem in Jesus' day, a biblical theme park, and a giant sand castle-shaped Wendy's restaurant to feed the ever increasing clouts who come to this religious shrine. *NEWSWEEK* quoted Neil Eskelin, the Vice-President of Heritage USA, as saying: "Bible-believing, Christ-loving people think they have found nirvana here."

The P.T.L. Club

Heritage USA is the centerpiece for the daily, nationally televised "P.T.L. Club" (People That Love). Millions of people each year travel to Charlotte to watch the production of their favorite religious T.V. show with the hope that they may also get to meet Him and Tammy personally. It is show biz with a big religious twist. Everything is geared to appeal to the

senses and the sensual. In Johnny Carson fashion, Jim Bakker is introduced by his rotund side-kick, to a roaring crowd of adulating Charismatics with these words: "AND NOW . . . JIM BAKKER!"

Bakker's wife is a real motor-mouth, who, on a recent show, exclaimed: "Jim, Christianity is the greatest thing in the world, even if it wasn't true!" Why these apparently normal people in her audience aren't completely turned off by this worldly-looking, worldly-talking sensuous woman, I do not understand. She wears mascara and make-up so heavy that *NEWSWEEK* described her as having a face that looked like it was sculpted by Madame Tussand of wax museum fame.

Bakker, as all regular viewers know, parades a host of famous religious celebrities through the various sets for his daily show. Faith-healers, religious counsellors, and Charismatic preachers are regular guests. In spite of all the claims of "preaching the gospel," there is very little gospel preaching on any of the programs; but, there are plenty of pitches to the faithful for financial support. It is, as is the case on so many religious shows, an hour-long appeal for the almighty dollar. Bakker has, from a worldly standard, been very successful in milking his audience in order to build his own personally-designed Disneyland, and also to live in opulence himself with a quarter-of-a-million-dollar home in Palm Springs (where Oral Roberts and others like him have palatial homes), together with Rolls Royce cars and servants. He believes that this is the obvious sign of God's blessing on his life and "ministry."

Jim Bakker has been under investigation by the *Charlotte Examiner* and the Federal Government for fraud. One recent program had him justifying his extravagant purchases and quoting from letters from all the leading religious personalities of America, including Billy Graham! Many of the letters quoted had nothing to do with the present media investigation, and were wrongly used out of context. To the credit of Bakker and his empire, he does have a home for unwed mothers and handicapped children which he supports from other's donations. In addition, he claims hundreds of "People That Love" centers in 52 countries that help the needy. Just how much help is not published, and it is obvious that these philanthropic programs (like pictures of starving children) have a tremendous psychological fundraising appeal to the gullible and non-discerning viewer.

A Cause For Concern

There is much about Jim Bakker and the P.T.L. Club that is cause for concern for the discerning Christian. This is a powerful demonstration of the new secularism that is permeating Christendom. Its emphasis is on the world's attitudes and desires. It appeals to the flesh and not the Spirit. There is nothing that I have seen that really honors the Lord, unless a person is taken up with their religious rhetoric. I agree with Dave Wilkerson who said: "All these religious T.V. programs are of the flesh and should be shut down today."

Bakker, like many other Pentecostals and Charismatics, has fallen for the diabolical lie that "success" is measured by money, posses-

sions, and fame. That is not the sign of God's blessing as multiplied thousands of spiritual Christians in Africa, and other deprived nations, can testify. The book of Hebrews commends those heroes of faith who are described as being "destitute, persecuted, and mistreated" (Hebrews 11:37). It says of them "the world was not worthy of them." Yet Bakker has said many times: "God doesn't teach poverty." The "Name it and Claim it" theology of Copeland, Hagin, and others, permeates Bakker's programs; and naive, ignorant Christians soak that nonsense up as though it were the gospel truth!

The Bible warns repeatedly against those religious leaders who "introduce destructive heresies," who "exploit people with stories they have made up" and who "mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the sinful human nature" have led many astray, (II Peter 2:1, 3, 18 NIV). In opposition to Bakker's success formula are these potent words of warning from the Apostle Paul: "If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to godly teaching (emphasis mine) he is conceited and understanding nothing . . . he thinks that godliness is a means of financial gain" (I Timothy 6:3-5 NIV). Paul warned all believers to ". . . flee all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and gentleness" (I Timothy 6:11 NIV). We would be wise to obey these words and not give time, money, nor audience to such worldly religious programming as Jim Bakker and the P.T.L. Club.

OUT ON A LIMB

Douglas R. Groothuis

Mysticism for the masses: Based on the best-selling book (translated into thirteen languages), the mini-series/docu-drama "Out on a Limb" brings to the watching masses Shirley MacLaine's conversion to New Age thinking. From the mystic Andes of Peru, to occult bookstores in California, to metaphysical discussions with "spirit guides," she takes us on her spiritual journey and to propagate her convictions.

Ms. MacLaine's dramatic revelations are a romantic reflection of a school of thought that is cropping up everywhere—in movies, books, education, politics, and sometimes even in the church. A "New Age" beckons that promises to deliver us from our personal and social ills; and Shirley MacLaine is one of its celebrity evangelists.

The message of her romantic New Age pilgrimage is really not new at all. It is ancient occultism, the second oldest religion around. Her New/Old Age gospel is fivefold:

First, all is One (monism). We are not separate beings, distinct from nature, God, or each other, but part of a great mystical Oneness. Second, everyone and everything is God (pantheism); our goal is to awaken our "Higher Self" through a mystical experience which is beyond the rational mind. We have unlimited potential. Third, we have lived before and will live again (reincarnation). There is no death, only birth and rebirth. Fourth, we "create our own reality." The world of the paranormal explodes before us—"mind over matter," e.s.p., telepathy, etc. Fifth, we can,

and should, communicate with "spirit guides" (spiritism) like her own discarnate friends "John" and "Tom McPherson."

Her new book, *Dancing in the Light*, elaborates and expands on these themes. It is an almost encyclopedic exposure to the New Age in autobiographical form. It, too, is a best-seller.

Out On A Broken Limb?

But there is a dark side to this "dancing in the light," making us wonder if Shirley MacLaine might be out on a broken limb.

Who is Jesus?: MacLaine sees Jesus as simply one of many mystic masters who taught the old occultism. Basing her views on occultic misinterpretations and bogus documents, she ignores the testimony of Christianity's prime document, the Bible, which flatly contradicts this. Jesus taught not "the Higher Self" but "our Father who art in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). He taught the resurrection of the just (to heaven) and of the unjust (to hell) not reincarnation (Matt. 25:31-46). He called everyone to believe in Him for salvation, not to look to themselves for unlimited potential or to work out their own karma (save themselves) through multiple lifetimes. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

Simply put, Shirley MacLaine's Jesus is pure fiction, a false Christ. Her contention that we are all really gods puts us on a par with Christ and makes us pitiful imposters of deity.

Who are these "spirit guides"?: We should also question the source of Ms. MacLaine's "revelations." Much of her new-found New Age faith comes through "trance channeling" (mediumship) during which "spiritual guides" discourse about the nature of reality. Jesus Himself warned that there would be false Christs and false prophets working signs and wonders to deceive many people (Matthew 24). The Apostle John cautions to "test the spirits to see if they are from God." Spirits that confess Jesus as Lord are from God; others are anti-Christ (I John 4:1-3).

The Apostle Paul tells us that Satan disguises himself as "an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:4). The demonic hosts will masquerade as various interesting characters so long as they can keep people from Christ's gospel. Demons are real. They are also deceptive. Paul warns that if anyone "should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!" (Galatians 1:8).

Even if the purported "spirit guides" are really figments of overactive imaginations, interest in this phenomena tragically keeps people from Christ.

The occult—off limits! The Bible clearly prohibits occultic practices for our own protection, that we might seek the one true God. The law (Lev. 19:13; Deut. 18:9-13), the prophets (Isa. 18:19, 20; 47:12f.), the Old Testament historical books (I Chron. 10:13, 14), the Acts of the Apostles (13:4-12; 16:16-18), the Epistles (Gal. 5:20), and Revelation (22:15) are united in condemning occultic activity.

Our spiritual communication should be through Jesus Christ who

offers eternal life to all who call upon Him in faith to forgive their sins and give them new birth (John 3). As Paul says, "There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men" (I Timothy 2:5). The kingdom of God is at war with the kingdom of darkness. Jesus' resurrection from the dead has insured His ultimate victory, but the struggle rages on.

Jesus and the New Age: Jesus Christ does indeed offer a "new age" of life and truth for those who come to Him in faith. Paul teaches that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is come!" (II Cor. 5:17). And Jesus says:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

The New Age gospel of Shirley MacLaine, and countless others, is really not new but an old lie, tempting people today as it has tempted millions for centuries by promising spiritual power and knowledge apart from the Creator's way (Genesis 3). A lie is a lie, and you don't have to go out on a limb to reject it.

For more information:

Douglas R. Groothuis, *Unmasking the New Age*, Inter-Varsity Press, 1986, \$6.35.

F. LaGard Smith, *Out on a Broken Limb*, Harvest House, 1986.

END-TIME APOSTASY RAMPANT WORLDWIDE

By Ewald Eisele

Evidence is escalating that on the world scene the apostasy that is to characterize the end-times is, as a matter of fact, here today. Ever since the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, held in Vancouver, Canada in 1983, there has been a concerted effort to intensify the theological and socio-political radicalism of that organization and its member denominations and churches. Not only that, but many who should know better are taking a definitely condescending attitude to the efforts of some of the cults and false religions as they extend their efforts to be recognized as "Christian."

A vivid illustration of the direction which is being taken by those of this persuasion is seen in the speeches by an Anglican blasphemer in charge of York Cathedral in England. Bishop David Jenkins was in San Francisco at the Grace Cathedral where Bishop James Pike once held forth. He was interviewed by Don Lattin of the *San Francisco Examiner*. In the interview, the Bishop denounced the present "preconceptions of the Bible," and said that religious fundamentalists "do not want to think." He reaffirmed his questioning of "the historical veracity of the virgin birth and the biblical account of Christ's resurrection from 'the empty tomb.'" The dean of Grace Cathedral, where Jenkins came to address The Church Divinity School of the Pacific, quoted the speaker as saying, "The Christian is not bound up with freak biology or corpses getting up and walking around."

We should not think that this approach to biblical truth is unique or

that only in the Anglican Church this kind of blasphemy is expounded. The ecumenical movement is full of fools and liars. Fools, who do not believe in the fundamentals of the faith—and liars, because in their ministry they cover up their unbelief to deceive the people in the pews until they can subtly bring them around to their way of thinking. Neither are we to think that this is a new thing. After all, "There is no new thing under the sun" the Preacher said in Eccl. 1:9b; and since we know that there was this response to truth in the days of our Lord and the Apostles, as there has been all through the church age, hence we should expect it today.

Most of our schools are spreading the religion of Humanism. Those who go through the entire system of public education, from kindergarten through college, go out into the work-a-day world with a warped idea of what life is all about. In the nineteenth-century, the French philosopher Auguste Comte advocated the worship of the Great Being, which he defined as humanity past, present, and future. He was one of the most influential theorists who deified the human race. Today the idea of humanity as deity is seldom avowed openly but rather is expressed by ascribing to man the attributes of God: sovereignty (or autonomy), complete rationality, and moral perfection.

The natural outcome of such thinking is the Humanism of our day and the Humanist Manifesto which declares that man is master of his own fate and certainly not in need of any help from a deity, if there is such

a one. It is stated very bluntly in these words, "No deity will save us, we must save ourselves." The source of salvation and the object of worship are one—man himself. Humanism also takes care of the future by taking it out of the hand of God and placing it at the disposal of man:

"The next century can and should be the humanistic century. Dramatic scientific, technological, and ever-accelerating social and political changes crowd our awareness. We have virtually conquered the planet, explored the moon, overcome the natural limits of travel and communication; we stand at the dawn of a new age, ready to move farther into space and perhaps inhabit other planets. Using technology wisely, we can control our environment, conquer poverty, markedly reduce disease, extend our lifespan, significantly modify our behavior, alter the course of human evolution and cultural development, unlock vast new powers, and provide mankind with unparalleled opportunity for achieving an abundant and meaningful life."

The younger generation, especially, having been partaking of this kind of diet throughout their educational experience, is today ready to say with the fools "No God!" Apostasy and atheism of sorts will find fertile ground in the minds of those who have never really been confronted with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not that they have never gone to Sunday school or church—some have. However, few and far between are the churches where the truth is presented in such a way that it can counteract the teaching of a

humanistic school system that has the younger generation most of their waking hours. As Peter L. Berger states in his book, *The Noise of Solemn Assemblies: Christian Commitment and the Religious Establishment in America*, "The public schools are the principal agency in the United States for spreading the established cultural religion." Coupled with that is the almost total lack of home discipline. What is learned of ungodliness in school is supplemented through hours of unrestricted television viewing. In the average American home the television is on for 45 hours each week and has done more to change our lifestyles and beliefs than anything else in the world.

But the apostasy which is in evidence today is not only confined to the church, fed by the school systems, and nourished by the television sets in our American homes. Today large blocks of the world population are apostatizing from God and His plan and purpose for mankind. One only has to look on the sins of the day—homosexuality, abortions, the liberation movements, the sins of genocide committed by some nations, the rapid growth of cults, the successful proselyting by non-Christian religions, the world-wide problems of illegal drug trafficking, the wide acceptance of pornography and the endless and senseless killing of innocent people by radical terrorists. Nor can we leave out the Rock Culture and its daughter "Christian" Rock. Gaining wide acceptance in too many churches, and especially by too many youth leaders, is this perversion of the word "music." Adults do not seem to realize that it is not

necessarily the words but rather the beat that stirs the emotions of young people to the point of departure from good Biblical morals.

The prophetic warnings in II Peter 3:3 and Jude 18 are certainly being fulfilled today, "... there shall come in the last days scoffers walking after their own lusts," and, "there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts." People, in general, are certainly addicted to their own appetites and interests. There is very little sympathy with, or interest in, the message of the Bible. The acquisition of things, a hunger for spectator sports and entertainment, have become the most important things in the life of the average family. Then there is worldwide involvement with the occult and demonism of one sort or another which also plays an important role in the apostasy. We are aware of some forms which are the more popular and publicized. Common to all who know anything at all about the occult are those who practice astrology, black and white magic, clairvoyance, fortune telling, hypnosis, palmistry, spiritism, witchcraft and yoga, just to mention a few. Most of the cults and eastern religions are involved with the occult in one way or another. However, Satan is very subtle and very often his angels will, and do, appear as angels of light; very often as supposedly legitimate preachers. A case in point is an Associated Press release from Burien, WA, which involved a mother who drowned her 5-year-old daughter in a motel bathtub because she believed that she could, by doing it, save her from demons. The woman was involved for

18 years in a "church" which called itself "The Community Chapel and Bible Training Center." This so-called church has, according to the report, spawned suicides, this murder, and multiplied broken marriages, testified to by former members who were involved in unfortunate marriage situations. Prof. Ron Enroth, a sociologist at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA, attended the Sunday school and church service at this charismatic church last June 1. He said, in the AP story, "It was one of the most bizarre things I've seen in the 15 years I've been watching new religious movements, because of the incredible intensity and inappropriate role relationship involving the sexes." Situations like this one is seldom thought to be connected with world-wide apostasy but the more that we investigate this total departure from God's Word and the principles He has set forth, the more we can see a kind of pattern of evil that is orchestrated by a master mind which is Satan himself.

Perhaps this is a rather sobering and grim picture to paint. There is another side to the coin! It is true that our Lord said in Matt. 24:12 that "the love of many shall wax cold," and Paul wrote to Timothy in II Tim. 3:13 that "seducers shall wax worse and worse." But we are also admonished to "... look up!! and lift up your heads!! for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28), and "Behold I come quickly" (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20). Paul also passed on the promise to us in I Thess. 4:13-18 that one day, soon, the Lord would "receive us unto Himself that where He is we may also be" (John 14:3).

NEW BOOKS IN STOCK

THE TRUTH ABOUT ROCK—by Dr. Hugh Pyle. 58pp, \$1.50.

Here is a book that tells it as it is on the rock scene! If you like rock you will not like this book because it is written as a true expose' of this demonic "music." Every Christian should read this and make it available to those taken captive with the Cult of Rock Music!

UNMASKING THE NEW AGE—by Douglas R. Groothuis. 192pp, \$6.95.

Not just another book on the New Age, but rather a well-researched book of significance which illuminates some of the aspects of this movement that have been by-passed by others.

THE NEW EVANGELICALISM, The Deadliest Ism Of All—by Rolland C. Starr. 54pp, \$1.50.

In the introduction, the author wrote: "Please note, it is a NEW Evangelicalism. The title was chosen by Dr. Ockenga and it is not the same as the Evangelicalism (or Orthodoxy) of an earlier era. In defense of this new ism, Willard Erickson wrote in his book *THE NEW EVANGELICAL THEOLOGY*: '(there is) a new theology on the scene.' I want to point out three basic elements of the NEW Evangelicalism."

COMPUTERS AND THE BEAST OF REVELATION—by David Weber & Noah Hutchings. 160pp, \$6.95.

We live in THE age of the explosion of knowledge. If computers do not frighten you with their potential, you need to know that The Sperry Rand Corporation has developed a memory bank which can assimilate the 850,000 words in the Bible FIVE TIMES in ONE second! This is a

good book for everyone to read if for no other reason than to store some of the incredible facts presented for future use. The authors constantly point out that we are, indeed, in the closing days of this age of God's grace.

THE PIED PIPER OF THE PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT—by Wilson Ewin. 80pp, \$5.50.

The world is moving into the arena known as the New Order of New Age. Though political in appearance, the system has a religious element that is international. Little is being said about this sacred wing of the New Age movement. With the publication of this powerfully documented, dramatically illustrated book, a piercing light is focused on this spiritual empire that manipulates untold millions of devotees and zealously seeks others.

OUT ON A BROKEN LIMB—by F. LaGard Smith. 208pp, \$6.95.

Actress Shirley MacLaine has influenced over four-million readers with her best-selling books, *OUT ON A LIMB* and *DANCING IN THE LIGHT*. Now she is seeking to extend that influence to multiplied millions with a two-part mini-series television production. On the eve of that series, this book is issued to offset that influence. Her books, and, without a doubt, the TV presentation as well, is a subtle indoctrination manual in New Age Philosophy.

THE MORMON MIRAGE—by Layne Colvett Scott. 276pp, \$7.95.

A former Mormon tells why she left the cult. MUST reading for those who would want to know more of this most wealthy cult in America.

THE MORMON CORPORATE EMPIRE

By John Heinerman & Anson Shupe

Reviewed by Ewald Eisele

If you have had the idea that the Mormon Church was just a religious institution represented by pairs of young men or women going from house to house trying to win gullible folk over to their way of thinking, you need to read this most revealing book! The authors call the Mormon Church a "corporate religion" and then describe in detail what they mean by that term.

The authors are academic researchers, one an anthropologist, and a Mormon, the other a sociologist, and a Methodist.

On the book jacket is a statement written by Sterling M. McMurrin of the University of Utah. He states, "The Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is an American religious success story. From a small-time cabin faith of barely thirty members, the Mormon Church has burgeoned into a global religious organization spanning every continent and boasting a membership of over five million." The most surprising thing about this book is that it reveals the fact that this religion, with only one percent of the population of the nation in its membership, has financial and property holdings which are equal to, and sometimes above, the holdings of some of the giants in our industrial and financial sectors.

According to the authors, the current wealth of the Mormon Church is about eight billion dollars. I might say here that everything that is written is fully documented. This is not just the ideas of a couple of in-

dividuals but facts which they have gathered over several years. Also, the authors do not deal with the errors in the doctrines of the religion but rather expose what is probably the most influential religious organization in the country if not in the world. In the preface the authors state, "Our premise—that the Mormon financial/political enterprise is not simply an American success story but rather an ongoing crusade to reshape our society and its democratic traditions—will inevitably prompt accusations of bigotry."

Some of the figures stagger the imagination! In the area of publishing, and the general media, it would be difficult to find another organization as powerful as this largest media owner in the world. The figures are given on pages 35 to 44. They have the largest satellite video electronic church in the world. On page 44 some of the most publicized "electronic church" preachers are mentioned, and in comparison they are dwarfed by the enormous holdings and expansion of the Mormons in radio and television. The figure given by the authors for the total worth in this area is on page 73, \$397,040,000. Their holdings in public utility bonds total \$225 million. The value of the "meeting-houses" (not called churches) were valued in 1983 at over \$3 billion. They build over 400 new ones each year, world-wide, to accommodate the rapid growth in membership. This does not include the over 40 temples completed or scheduled for completion by 1985 around the world. The educational facilities in 1983 were

valued at over \$628 million. They have the largest farming/ranching operation in the nation, valued at over \$2 billion. They own granaries and flour mills valued at over \$24 million. There is an interesting chart on page 116 which gives the growth in income from all sources, both tithes and profits, for the years 1962 through 1983. In the latter year the total was \$2 billion!

Besides the financial aspect of the cult the authors spend some time discussing the authoritarian rule of the membership. In a section titled

THE GARRISON MENTALITY the pyramidal hierarchy is examined. The aim established by the original leadership is still uppermost in the planning of the cult. Very simply it is to bring about the kingdom of God on earth by their efforts (post-millennialism).

This is a book for the serious student of Mormonism. It is a cloth-bound book and it is priced at \$19.95. It has 293 pages and can be ordered from our office. Please include \$.94 postage.

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND EVANGELISM

Those who claim that the World Council of Churches is becoming more evangelical are deceived and deceiving others. One of the latest WCC publications is a book titled, MINISTERIAL FORMATION IN A MULTI-FAITH MILIEU" with a subtitle of "implications of Interfaith Dialogue for Theological Education." On page 85 is the following shocking admission: "Mission and evangelism, we rediscover, is for the formation of a new human community, for the realization of the rule of God, the manifestation of that life-giving, life-enhancing power of the Universal One. Such an understanding of mission and evangelism would render certain methods and techniques out of place. And those so used to these might find mission and evangelism abandoned rather than rediscovered. But that is the accompanying pain of rebirth, of the new creation." This utterly repudiates the Biblical teaching of the goal of TRUE evangel-

ism—New Birth!

Furthermore, in this same WCC publication are some other statements and questions which document current WCC unbelief. We quote from pages 98 and 99: "To learn Buddhism, for example, there should be a committed immersion, a living and following of the Buddhist precepts—a tasting and seeing, which is akin to what the Psalmist says, 'O taste and see that the Lord is good' (Ps. 34:8). This demands that one goes to a temple, throws oneself at the feet of the chief monk and learns by watching, listening and experiencing the beauty of the rituals of this particular faith by participation." Can you imagine any Christian recommending such a course of action to be an integral part of "mission and evangelism"?

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PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

John E. Dahlin, Editor

QUESTION . . . Have the Cultic Groups reached a peak in their long period of expansion?

ANSWER . . . All evidence indicates that they have had a continued expansion right up to the present time. At the end of the last century, there were only five identifiable cults in our country. As we are now moving to the close of this century, it is conservatively estimated that there are today 1500 cultic groups in the U.S. Their expansion has been nothing less than phenomenal, with a conservative estimate of 1500 separate groups. In numbers they are approaching 20-million people. The biggest one is the Seventh Day Adventist, which is now nearly 6-million. There is no evidence that the cultic groups have reached a peak and are beginning to taper off now.

QUESTION . . . Is there adequate literature available in combating the spurious groups known as cults?

ANSWER . . . There is now available an enormous number of books, pamphlets and tracts printed on all the false teachings. Our headquarters has, perhaps, the largest quantity of such literature available; this material has been checked and it has reliable information on these many groups. Make your selection from our catalog.