

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

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DISCERNER Editorial

Dr. William A. BeVier

Change appears to be an important part of society, but even in view of many changes, some basics remain the same. This is true of Christianity and of the cults. We see denominations and other organizations changing daily, but God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Scriptures do not change (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8; Psa. 119:89). The unchanging things of God should establish and comfort our hearts.

At the Religion Analysis Service we have to keep our attention continually on the cults to learn how they are changing and how they are remaining the same. A part of our ministry is to share with you our findings and that is what I desire to do in this Editorial.

Starting with the major, established cults, we see a growing effort on their part to be accepted into the "mainstream" of evangelical Christianity. This effort presents a danger to us for several reasons: (1) We evangelicals seem to have few true friends in the world and some are willing to accept anyone who might want to identify with us; (2) Many true Christians are ignorant or lack understanding of the cults and what they believe, or their objectives, so some say, "They don't seem so

bad—why not fellowship with them?"; and (3) Some Christians also do not know the Scriptures which tell us to beware of false teachers and beliefs. For example, the Lord's words: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders . . ." (Mt. 24:23-26); or Paul's: "... shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:28-31; Gal. 1:6-9); or Peter's: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you . . ." (II Pet. 2:1-2).

All of the major cults today provide us examples. The Christian Science church is being increasingly accepted by some outsiders as being "Christian," while at the same time observers of the cult report the group is declining in overall numbers (they do not publicly report their membership). They cannot keep the members they have, but they want recognition as being Christians. Their military chaplains are classified as being "Protestants," though most Protestant chaplains do not desire to participate in joint worship services with them. The *Christian Science Monitor* newspaper, and radio program, get favorable reception in our media. The

Christian Science Monitor radio program is carried on a regular basis by our tax-supported National Public Radio (NPR). At the same time the Christian Science church receives unfavorable publicity when three Christian Science students die at their Principia College in Illinois from measles because the group does not believe in vaccinations (March 1985).

The Jehovah's Witnesses are not officially seeking acceptance from existing Christian groups, but outsiders are in some cases becoming more accepting of them. This is in spite of the difficulties they are having within themselves. The Witnesses publicly present themselves as a monolithic, satisfied group with no problems. These things are not true. Defections, disfellowshipping (excommunication), and "shunning" by Jehovah's Witnesses are now common knowledge. See *Christianity Today* (Sept. 3, 1982, pp. 37ff, and Nov. 9, 1984, pp. 63ff), *Eternity* (Jan. 1987, pp. 27-28), William Cetner's "Why I Was Kicked Out of the Watchtower" (*Power for Living*, Jan. 10, 1982) and his more recent writings, and The John Ankerberg Show "News and Views" Numbers 0286 and 0386, 1986, for documentation and personal testimonies. Many of their defections have taken place at their headquarters in Brooklyn, NY. Currently, the JW's also have a problem in top leadership. Their president, W. W. Franz, elected for life, is elderly, feeble, and unable to lead the organization. According to their organization, he cannot be replaced until he dies.

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints ("Mormons") present another illustration of a cult which on the one hand is receiving acceptance from some non-Mormons

but at the same time is having difficulties within themselves. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir has long had acceptance among even evangelical Christians for their music, and many of our homes have recordings produced by the choir. The Osmond family has been accepted as entertainers nationwide (though the divorces within the family's marriages are contrary to their professed Mormon beliefs). Brigham Young University is attracting good recognition in America primarily because of its football and basketball teams (though it took much public pressure before President Spencer W. Kimball had a revelation in 1978 that it was alright for blacks to enter the Mormon priesthoods). The Mormon Church has also had acceptance through the public media. In 1986, the TV Public Broadcasting Network produced a film presenting Mormonism. Criticisms of the group in the film were minimal.

Yet the Mormons, too, are having difficulties as more public information is made available about them. Such publications as those by Jerald and Sandra Tanner (former Mormons), and by Ex-Mormons for Jesus in Brockton, Massachusetts are being read by evangelical Christians. Dan Vogel, a Mormon, in 1986 published *Indian Origins and the Book of Mormon* based on his research which led him to acknowledge that much of the *Book of Mormon* was based on the myths and legends of Joseph Smith, Jr's day and not upon revelations received from gold plates unveiled by the angel Moroni. In spite of this acknowledgment, Vogel wrote that he planned to continue to be a Mormon.

It is obvious to most Americans that Mormonism still unofficially countenances polygamy, in spite of President Woodruff's "revelation" to the contrary in 1890. Evidence of this is reported in such current publications as *USA Today*, March 28, 1983, p. 1, with the sub-headline "In Utah and Arizona, thousands secretly violate law, convention," and *Confident Living* magazine, March 1987, p. 35, "13-Wife Polygamist Dies."

Some will say: "The Mormons don't drink, they don't smoke, they make such fine neighbors." Most of this is true in most cases, but there is much more to Mormonism than these activities and all true Christians need to know it.

The fourth major cult in the United States is the Seventh Day Adventist. This group presents special problems to the evangelical church. The situation involving them is more complicated than the other major cults, but I will try to be brief in this Editorial. Probably it is the complexity of the situation involving the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) with their beliefs, and the beliefs of the evangelical church which makes the relationships complicated. Much of what SDAs profess to believe is Biblical.

The SDA identify themselves as "evangelical Christians" (*Encyclopedia Americana*). They desire to be accepted as evangelicals. Walter Martin for years classified them as a "Christian denomination" (*The Truth About Seventh-day Adventism*, Zondervan, 1960. See Prof. Dahlin's article about Walter Martin in this issue of *The Discerner*). Recently SDA musical groups have had their records played by Christian radio sta-

tions and they themselves have performed on Christian college campuses.

This acceptance of the SDA as evangelicals is generally by those who do not know or understand their basic beliefs, or by those to whom heterodox beliefs make no difference. An outstanding exception was Dr. Walter Martin. However, though, he repeatedly wanted the Seventh Day Adventists to be accepted as evangelicals, he remained very critical of many of their doctrines and their leadership (see the chapter on SDA in his *The Kingdom of the Cults* and the six weeks of programs on the John Ankerberg Show, March-April, 1986).

Dr. Martin was interviewed some years ago by *Adventist Currents*, a SDA magazine. In the interview he was quoted as saying SDA leaders: "... are on Masada and they don't know it" (*Adventist Currents*, July 1983, pp. 15-28). For those who aren't familiar with his illusion, Masada was where a number of Jewish leaders killed their families then committed suicide in A.D. 73.

But the troubles within Seventh Day Adventism have become public knowledge from a variety of sources. Walter Rea, for many years a SDA pastor and a teacher at one of their colleges in California, began to question some of the things he had been taught about Ellen White, one of the founders of the movement and a "supposed" inspired prophetess. In 1982, Rea published his findings in a book titled *The White Lie* (M. and R. Publications, Turlock, CA). He documented that most of Ellen White's "inspired writings" were plagiarized from already published

books and magazines. Even before 1982, *Christianity Today* had published an article titled: "The Shaking Up of Adventism?" (Feb. 8, 1980, pp. 64ff). Some of their own scholars were challenging the SDA traditionalists. *Newsweek*, on January 19, 1981, had an article interviewing Desmond Ford, a leading SDA theologian, under the title "A False Prophetess?" referring to Ellen White. Again, in their January 4, 1982 issue, *Newsweek* titled an article: "A Day of Judgment For Adventists?" *Time*, August 2, 1982 (after the publication of Rea's book), titled an article: "The Church of Liberal Borrowings" referring to the "Plagiarism and fraud charges [which] rock the Seventh-day Adventists" (p. 49).

Christianity Today, March 18, 1983, pp. 23-25, reported that Desmond Ford's ordination was "annulled" by the SDA and that his membership was to be "revoked." Ford was quoted as saying some 150 Adventist pastors and teachers had been "fired or forced to resign" recently. Even for a group their size, the loss of 150 pastors and teachers in a few years indicates something is basically wrong, especially when the essential issue seems to be a comparison between what the Bible has to say and what traditional SDAs support from the writings of Ellen White.

If time and space permitted, this line of thought, comparing what cults have taught in the past and what they claim now, could be continued, not only for the "major" cults but for the "minor" ones as well. The end results would be evidence that though some cults have changed some expressions of their beliefs and attitudes, they basically have not changed. The Unification Church ("Moonies") has and is making efforts to be accepted by traditional Christians, even to the point of revising their claimed God-given **Divine Principle**. However, they are still followers of the convicted felon Sun Myung Moon.

It is true that evangelical Christian leaders have been accused and convicted of sins and crimes. Generally when that has happened, Bible-believing Christians have either practiced discipline or withdrawn from such leaders. We are not so tied to human leaders that we continue to follow them in spite of what they do. May it always be so in the true evangelical church.

Please remember that the Religion Analysis Service exists to be of service to you. If you, or someone you know, wants information or literature about the cults or other aberrations of Biblical Christianity, contact us. We also appreciate your continuing prayer and financial support.

THE PASSING OF DR. WALTER MARTIN

by Prof. John E. Dahlin

Dr. Walter Martin, the widely-known scholar, theologian, and author, died suddenly in his home in San Juan Capistrano, California, in

late June. His secretary told me it was a heart attack that caused his death.

For many years he was known as

"The Bible Answer Man." His radio program has been heard over 100 stations. It has been ongoing for 15 years. Prior to his popular California broadcast, the program was earlier aired over a station in New Jersey beginning in 1964. He moved his ministry to California in 1974. Dr. Martin also founded The Christian Research Institute in 1960. From this center his radio program was produced. It had a telephone format in which Dr. Martin answered questions which were phoned in to the station. The radio program was well handled and was interesting. I heard this program in January when I was visiting my sister in Sacramento.

As an author, Dr. Martin had written a number of books. He specialized in writing on cults and other false teachings. His most widely-known book is *The Kingdom of the Cults*. About 500,000 copies have been sold. It is perhaps the most complete coverage on the cults written. His latest book was printed only a few weeks prior to his death. It is titled *The New Age Cult*.

The Christian Research Institute is a center of continuous study and research. A few weeks before his death, the Institute was moved to a more commodious location with adequate space for the research personnel, and room for the office staff. In his newsletter, Dr. Martin seemed thrilled with this new center, one which he had invisioned for years and which had now become a reality. Here studies may be carried on in depth on cults and the occult, plus the many other aberrant teachings in our time. Dr. Martin had stated that his work was established to interpret correctly the Biblical teachings. His work was

to confront the cults and to criticize groups which misinterpret the Word of God.

Religion Analysis Service appreciates his books and writings and have them in stock. His publications are also listed in our catalog. His book, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, has sold very well for many years.

When Dr. Martin lived in the East he was closely associated with Dr. Donald G. Barnhouse, the gifted pastor, author and editor. Dr. Barnhouse was also the publisher of the Christian magazine known as "*Eternity*." Over thirty years ago he and Dr. Martin met with a small group of Seventh Day Adventist leaders. They discussed Adventist doctrine and evaluated them with the history of Christianity. The result of these meetings was the recognition of the Adventists as being evangelical by Dr. Barnhouse and Dr. Martin. They affirmed they should no longer be classified among the cultic groups. Disagreement was only on secondary teachings. The hand of fellowship was extended to the Adventist denomination. I do not know of any other evangelicals who took that position at that time. Religion Analysis Service took the position that this agreement was a mistake. Subsequent events verify, I believe, that our position was the right one. In my correspondence with Dr. Martin some months ago, he stated that the Adventists are not homogenous and consist of several wings, but do not maintain uniformity in their doctrine. Dr. Martin insisted that in his writings he does not hold the position of SDA "hard-liners" whose doctrines remain as in the past. The fact is the so-called "hard-liners" are in

control of the Adventist organization and they speak officially for the entire Adventist church.

To illustrate: Some Adventist scholars discovered that Ellen White, their founder, had incorporated considerable material from other writers and failed to give any credit to the material used. This is called **plagiarism**, or in other words, considered as literary thievery. They were quickly excommunicated for discrediting Ellen White. This, moreover, also raised questions on her divine inspiration as traditionally claimed by the Adventists.

I do not believe it is logically possible to sort out a certain section in Seventh Day Adventism and state we accept that area within Adventism and consider that element as basically evangelical. On the whole, there is generally uniformity in Seventh Day Adventism. It is disappointing when good men such as Dr. Barnhouse, Dr. Martin, and a few others state that there is a very distinct cleavage within Adventism. There is a variation by degree on certain points, but this does not make them non-Adventists. Let me provide the following illustration:

In a recent article by Dr. Arthur S. Glasser in the Adventist magazine, "Ministry," a publication directed to the clergy in particular, he gives, what might be classified, an endorsement of the Adventist denomination. He points out the effectiveness of their ministry. Dr. Glasser is a long-time missionary leader, and for a number of years has been a professor of missions at Fuller Seminary. He tells how much he has appreciated the fellowship of Adventist leaders. He also states the loss by non-Adventists by not having friendly

relationships with these "fine Christians." In fact, he rebukes and scolds Christian groups for avoiding this fellowship. Dr. Glasser mentioned nothing about Adventist doctrine as being false in vital areas. He says nothing about the proselyting tactics of this organization. Missionaries from various fields have told me about it, and that the Adventists create very substantial problems. Frequently, they seek converts among new Christians who are already evangelized, in preference to evangelizing the native heathen. Without a doubt, the Adventist denomination has made great progress in their educational and medical achievements in many areas. But Dr. Glasser might well have reread II Cor. 6:17-18 and II John, verses 9-12. This provides the Scriptural answer to the discussion on cultic matters. His article is a present-day example of ecumenicalism in its expansion.

We salute the memory of Dr. Walter Martin for his great contributions in the area of writing on the many cults of our time. We extend sympathy to his wife, Darlene, and their six children, on the loss they have experienced. We pray that God will comfort the family and direct their lives each day. Memorial services were held at the Valley Baptist Church in Capistrano, California (Dr. Martin was a Baptist).

* * * *

Ed. Note: A report has come to us that Dr. Martin on occasion suffered from insomnia. When this occurred, he would leave his bed and spend the time in prayer. On the night he passed away this occurred. His wife found him on his knees in the position of prayer. She said: "Walter, come to bed." But he was gone; the Lord had called him home (Psa. 116:15).

THE RISING OF THE FULL CRESCENT MOON

Lynn Garrett (Master of Arts student at TEDS)

Today, Islam presents an intense barrier to Christian missionary efforts. Presenting the Gospel in Muslim countries can even be a dangerous proposition. Laws differ from country to country, but in most Islamic republics it is a crime to proselytize for Christianity. The legal sanctions can be severe. Any Christian ministry in countries such as these must be clandestine, and the names of those working there or planning to go, must be carefully guarded. Such missionaries go in tentmaker roles and work to establish house churches.

Even here in the U.S., Muslims are militant in their resistance to missionary efforts. They often send representatives to missions conferences to gather information about efforts to win Muslims to Christ.

This resistance to conversion is not hard to understand. Under the Islamic law of apostasy, any Muslim who turns from his faith, or even criticizes it publicly, is condemned to death. (It is under this law that Ayatollah Khomeini has called for the execution of Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*.)

Dr. Edward Rommen, associate professor of Mission, teaches a course on Islam at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. "I never intended to get involved in Muslim ministry," says Dr. Rommen. "I was trained at TEDS, and went to Europe to work among nominal Christians. But for whatever reason, the Lord saw fit to allow Muslims to keep crossing my path. As a pattern began to develop, I realized that God was trying to tell me something."

It was a wet, foggy day in the late fall when Rommen first found the local mosque in the town where he was living in central West Germany. "It was just a building with peeling paint, and at the top there was a small sign that said 'Mosque.' As I walked toward the entrance, I could hear the people inside—there was a very happy hubbub. When I walked up the steps and opened the door, the effect was instantaneous. The minute they saw my face, everything was dead silent. There I was, impaled on their stares. I was not welcome."

The imam (pastor) of this mosque was a layman, a specialty welder in a local factory. Dr. Rommen became his friend, meeting once a week with him for coffee as they discussed their different faiths.

When most of us think of Christian missions to Muslims, we probably picture ministry overseas in the Islamic republics of the Middle East or the largely Muslim countries of North Africa. But there are large numbers of Muslim immigrants in Europe, and there is a growing Muslim population right here in our own country.

It is estimated there are 4.6 million Muslims in the United States. Of these, roughly one-third are converts to Islam, mainly African-American. Approximately 40,000 to 80,000 Muslims in the U.S. are Caucasian converts to Islam. Of these, about 40 percent are Roman Catholic in background, and about 15 percent are Jewish. According to Dr. Yvonne Haddad at Amherst College in Massachusetts, by 2015 Islam may

be the second-largest religion in the U.S.

Dr. Gleason Archer, professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at TEDS, debated a Muslim speaker at TEDS in January. In return, a TEDS student was invited to speak to a group of 125 Muslims about Christianity. This student has lived in countries with large Muslim populations and plans to return to missionary work in that area. His talk was well received, and to his amazement the 18 Bibles he had taken to give away were eagerly snatched up. "I wish I had taken more!" he said. "I had a lot of people praying for me, and I know it made a difference. I had a real sense of peace." As he looked out over the group, "God gave me a heartfelt love for those people as individuals. I was reminded of II Corinthians 5:14—'For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all...'"

Christians who evangelize Muslims stress that the most important thing is simply to build sincere friendships. One Muslim convert to Christianity

commented that his coming to Christ had nothing to do with what Christians said or did; he just observed their happiness.

Looking at Luke 14:1-6, Dr. Rommen notes that Jesus maintained contact with the Pharisees in spite of their resistance to Him. He cared enough to go to them. And, says Rommen, he did so openly: "Although we have to be very careful about what we write and say in public, I don't know that we have to be secretive about our contacts with Muslim people." Jesus' contact with the Pharisees was of a very human sort—He went to eat with them. "That's essentially what I did with my friend, the imam."

The outstanding quality displayed by Christians who are called to minister with Muslims is the love God plants in their hearts for Muslim people. That love gives them the desire and the ability to persevere in a difficult task.

From *The Evangelical Beacon*,
June, 1989—a publication of
the Evangelical Free Church
of America.

THE DEVIL'S WEB Who Is Stalking Your Children for Satan?

by Patricia Pulling

Patricia Pulling is a private detective and leading occult authority. She instructs FBI agents, local police forces, sheriff associations and many other organizations on occultism all across America. She is recognized by these groups as our nation's top authority on Satanism and the deadly snare it has set—for our children.

In this country alone, there are estimated to be approximately

300,000 practicing Satanists representing all walks of life and enticing our youth to join in their ranks at an alarming rate. Are your children being lured away by promises of drugs, sex, and the opportunity to revolt against you and the system?

Pat tells how you can recognize the early warning "danger" signs of your child's possible occult involvement and possible suicide. Although these

things are unthinkable for most parents, you must not turn away. The information you read in this book may save your child's life.

Pat Pulling's involvement in this battle is not incidental. Her son became ensnared by occultism in a very subtle but deadly way. It eventually led to his suicidal death and made her determined to awaken others to the pervasive occult activity in our nation.

This book presents the first ever comprehensive guide on childhood and adolescent occult involvement and gives you the tools you need to protect your child.

Pat is currently aiding in the investigation of Satanic slayings in Matamoros, Mexico, and the findings will be included in the book.

(Paper - \$7.95)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BEING DENIED AT ICR

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This article is presented in order that our readers will be informed about what is taking place.

During the week of August 7-10, 1989, a team of scholars, dominated by eminent evolutionists and anti-creationists, were sent (over ICR's protest) by California's Department of Education to evaluate ICR's Graduate School and its M.S. programs in the sciences. As the State obviously intended them to do, they recommended the "death penalty"—that is, that ICR's graduate teaching be forced to cease. This proposed ruling is merely the latest in a pattern of governmental abuse of ICR for its stand on creation, by California's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Bill Honig, and his office. A brief historical review is necessary to understand the present situation.

Spring, 1981 — ICR received "authorization" from the State Board of Education to begin its graduate school (offering master of science degrees in four areas). This "license to operate" was upgraded to "approval," beginning in July, 1981. Every degree-granting institution in

California must have such state recognition to operate, and ICR continued to receive re-approval at required intervals.

1985-1988 — The State, at the urging of doctrinaire anti-creationist groups, began to implement a plan to destroy the ICR Graduate School. These same groups launched a national propaganda campaign against ICR, and anti-creationist scientists from all over the country began flooding the Department with letters and articles encouraging opposition to ICR, so that our file consisted, as one state representative put it, of "a two-foot-thick stack of outrage" against us.

August, 1988 — A team of scientists arrived at ICR to evaluate our application for re-approval. One of this team of five was a well-known opponent of ICR, who had written the State asking to be on the evaluation team. In spite of his strong objections, however, the team voted 3-2 in favor of re-approval.

Fall, 1988 — Bill Honig, who has for several years been publicly endorsing and promoting exclusive evolution teaching and opposition to creation in California's public schools, called an unprecedented re-convening of the visiting team, and, in December, finally convinced one member to change his vote, using our creationism as his sole argument for doing this, thus making the vote 3-2 against re-approval. He then proceeded to notify the New York Times of his "intent to deny" ICR's application. Our first indication of this decision was a call from a reporter on the Times informing us of his intent.

January, 1989 — The State next insisted that all creation teaching be taken out of our science courses if we desired to continue offering masters of science degrees, and scheduled a "verification team" visit for August 1989. Although ICR's reason for existence is to reintroduce creationist interpretation into science, we attempted to meet the State halfway and find a mutually agreeable position. These efforts met with failure at every turn. Furthermore, we have documented many violations of the law, as well as "dirty tricks" by the State, toward ICR. We became painfully aware that we were at the mercy of the personnel of a regulatory body, whose approval we needed to operate, but who had set themselves up as our adversaries.

Last month, August, 1989 — The verification team consisted of five members, four of whom were famous evolutionists from large state universities. The team proceeded to evaluate every aspect of the school from its inception, although its ostensible function was simply to see if

ICR had removed its creation interpretation from its science classes (which it should not be forced to do), but Honig undoubtedly realized that a denial on such a basis for a private Christian institution would not stand up in court. Consequently, the visiting team, guided by two Honig representatives plus one of his attorneys, scrupulously avoided mention of this sensitive topic. The promised content of their report, as outlined in the team's verbal summary and exit interview, contained overstatements of all problems that they could find—many dating from ICR's earliest years. No mention was made of the outstanding credentials of the ICR faculty, of ICR's high financial integrity, its administration, its facilities, or the excellent accomplishments of its graduates. Only two of the four majors were criticized at all. The main problem of the Physics program was its name (we have tried for two years to have it changed from Astro/Geophysics to Physics, but this has been refused by the State). The main problem cited in the Biology program was the opinion of the two biologists on the team that it should have five full-time faculty.

Visiting teams such as this generally make recommendations for improvement, and we have effectively fulfilled every previous recommendation made by earlier teams. But this team issued "the death penalty," with no recognition of any positive aspects of our programs, and without allowing any opportunity to grow and improve. Clearly, a fair evaluation was not a goal of the committee. Instead, their goal seemed to be to find other means by which Honig's vindictive goal of denying ICR's religious

and academic freedom could be justified.

Does the State have the power to tell a private Christian school such as ICR (which has never accepted a penny of state or federal money) that they cannot teach as their conscience dictates? Is this the beginning of the end of our cherished American freedoms? Will all Christian education soon come under similar attack if this precedent is allowed? Maybe so,

but please be aware that ICR will not accept these rulings without exhausting every reasonable and feasible avenue of appeal. We hope Christians everywhere will realize the serious implications of this precedent. It involves far more than the future of one small graduate school. We will, of course, need specific financial help to appeal this decision. Above all, we need your prayers, for no victory is possible unless He captures the resistance.

EVANGELICALS WON'T CALL CATHOLICISM A CULT

Most Christians readily identify Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses as cults, but there is a growing tendency to not list Roman Catholicism as a cult. The 1973 edition of OMF leader J. Oswald Sanders' book *Cults and Isms* placed Roman Catholicism "at the head of the list of heresies." But the RC chapter was dropped in his 1981 edition (1983 ICCR Rpt). More recently, in their book *Understanding the Cults*, Josh McDowell (Campus Crusade) and Don Stewart list 11 characteristics of cults. Roman Catholicism has every one of the characteristics, yet is not listed as a cult. Why? (Chr. Evan. Catholics). Other evangelical leaders such as J.I. Packer, Kenneth Kantzer, and MBI's C. Donald Cole have recently praised, or said they accept Catholics as "brothers in Christ," etc. Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell and charismatics, praise the Catholic pope, who prays with Buddhists and

Hindus. Romanism is a dangerous counterfeit.

These problems are recognized, not only here in America, but also in other countries. Ian Paisley of Northern Ireland opposed Billy Graham's inclusion of Catholics in his Mission '89 London meeting. The Roman Catholic Church joined in the invitation that brought Graham to London. British papers said Graham received death threats, but a Graham spokesman said no threats of any kind were received (8/18 Chty Today). A Graham crusade is scheduled for Little Rock in September supported by the usual mixed crowd of Southern Baptists, charismatics, and liberals. The Roman Catholic Archbishop is fully cooperating, training personal workers, and expects at least 600 referrals to the Roman Catholic Church (8/89 Bapt. Challenge).

Calvary Contender, 9/1/89

THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

(Part 4)

In this issue I will conclude the listing of the key persons, institutions, practices, etc., that began in the April-May-June, 1989 issue of the *Discerner*. What remains to list under that broad heading are the:

Symbols:

RAINBOW (Seven colors that equal the seven steps to perfection).

PEGASUS (The White Winged Horse).

THE UNICORN

THE UNICORN'S HORN

THE RAYS OF LIGHT

666 (Alice Bailey wrote: "The triple six is a sacred number. Use it as often as possible. By the use of that number you will be sending a signal to the ascended masters and will receive back a vibration of 999 with spiritual instructions).

THE SPIRITUAL OR RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

The writings of Alice Bailey stress that there must be established not only a one-world government, but also a one-world religion. She anticipated opposition, especially from Fundamentalists "and other stubborn Christians," Jews and fundamental Muslims. She advocated that these groups must be eliminated by what she called a cleansing action. Global religion represents a human attempt, universal in scope, to reverse the outcome of the first universal effort of man, at the Tower of Babel, to unite all mankind through a human scheme.

John Cotter, in his *A STUDY IN*

SYNCRETISM wrote:

"All religions are one in origin and based on a common principle—the spirit of brotherhood. Differences which have arisen are 'accidental' and through failure of the followers to understand the teachings given. Since no one religion is capable of meeting the challenge of modern times, all religions must be merged into a Universal Brotherhood."

While there is no organized religion as yet, there are those doctrines which are mentioned in New Age writings and to which most, if not all, New Age religious leaders subscribe:

A Central Spiritual Being, "the Source" or "The God of Force."

"God Immanent" or "God within" The divinity of man

Reincarnation

God being inferior to "Solor Logos."

"Jesus" and "The Christ" are two separate entities.

Evolution

Perfectability of man

The Law of Avatars—At the start of every new age the "Solor Logos" sends "The Christ" who overshadows a human being to help people through the new age.

"Salvation" by Initiation and works.

Jessica Lipnack & Jeffrey Stamps wrote a 400 page book, *NETWORKING: THE FIRST REPORT AND DIRECTORY*. In it they stated that "the new religion is universal and so has had its heroes in the past who have risen above the petty strifes

that have plagued ordinary religious efforts. They list, "Buddha, Jesus, Gandhi, Schweitzer, Teilhard de Chardin, Martin Luther King, Hammarskjold, U Thant, people who really transcend races, nations, and groups." End of quote.

Dr. Lola Davis, in her *SYNOPSIS OF TOWARD A WORLD RELIGION*, tells us, as do others, that Christians wait for Jesus Christ, the Jews wait for Messiah, Moslems wait for Imam Mahdi, and the Eastern religions await Lord Krishna or Bodhisattva. The New Age belief is that all of these are the same and are embodied in their Messiah who is Lord Maitreya.

Dr. Beverly Galyian, the creator of *CONFLUENT EDUCATION* based her system on the following belief:

Once we begin to see that we are all god . . . then I think the whole purpose of human life is to re-own the godlikeness within is . . . and when we do that, we create back to that old, that essential oneness which is consciousness.

The NA Directory lists among other things the NA churches. There are 19 in the Twin Cities.

The outstanding evangelist for New Age religion is Shirley MacLaine. She has three books in the stores which are selling like hotcakes, *OUT ON A LIMB*, *DANCING IN THE LIGHT*, and *IT'S ALL IN THE PLAYING*, her fifth book. This last one is a collection of events which occurred during the course of filming her TV mini-series, *OUT ON A LIMB*. Because of that mini-series, literally millions of people have been exposed to a religion of the senses which is demonic, and which, if followed, will rob them of any oppor-

tunity for receiving the salvation offered freely by our Lord Jesus Christ. MacLaine's third and fourth books, *OUT ON A LIMB*, and *DANCING IN THE LIGHT*, have sold over five million copies. She also conducts seminars for \$300.00 per person per session.

Basic to New Age religion and mindset is a belief in Pantheism, which is the belief that all things including man are divine or parts of god with no accountability to any other god outside of ourselves. They do, however, believe that there must be a religious leader over their religious system.

Thus, on April 25, 1982, there appeared full page ads in the major newspapers of the world which proclaimed, "THE CHRIST IS NOW HERE." And Benjamin Creme, a John the Baptist type, began to travel the world announcing LORD MAITREYA as messiah. He claimed that this spiritual deliverer was living in the southern suburbs of London. Maitreya claims to have been born 2600 years ago and has spent the centuries evolving, through many reincarnations, into a perfect spiritual being with a perfect spiritual body which cannot be hurt or killed. Creme's message was that Maitreya is now ready to reveal himself to the world if the media in every nation would fulfill certain conditions. These conditions have not been met and so, evidently, the plans have been changed. In the *WATCHMAN EXPOSITOR* (Vol. 6, No. 1, received in our office on January 16, 1989) there was an article "LO! HERE IS CHRIST! The author, Rick Branch, wrote as follows: "According to New Age spokesman Benjamin Creme,

Jesus, in the guise of Lord Maitreya, appeared in Nairobi, Kenya. The *NETWORK NEWS* reports that '... Maitreya appeared to people in many stations of life, but always in a way that coincides with their concept of him.' After reading the article,

Watchman Fellowship wrote to the Tara Center (publisher of the *Network News*) requesting further information about this appearance."

(The article will be continued in the next issue of The Discerner)

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

SALVATION IS FOREVER, by Robert G. Gromacki. Dr. Gromacki answers the universal questions: Can a saved person ever become lost? Can a Christian sin so much that he loses his eternal relationship with Christ? Is the old saying true: "Once saved, always saved?" Written in the frank and readable style of an experienced Bible teacher, this book will help young Christians—who are struggling with the answers to these questions, teachers—who would like to help them, disciplers and other Christians—who want to know how to answer these questions when they are asked—192pp., \$8.95.

UNMASKING SATAN, by Richard Mayhue. An expose' of the devil's schemes and God's strategies for fighting back. The author takes off all of the masks of the adversary and exposes the tricks of the temptation trade. Then for each devilish tactic, he unfolds the Biblical counter-tactic—166p., \$6.95.

SATAN'S EVANGELISTIC STRATEGY FOR THE NEW AGE, by Erwin W. Lutzer and John F. DeVries. This hard cover book presents a Christian defense against

the infiltration of New Age doctrine in the church, the home, and the political arena. It shows how you can respond in a time of renewed spiritual searching to an unprecedented opportunity to share the real Gospel—190p., \$12.95.

ASTROLOGY: Do The Heavens Rule Our Destiny? by John Ankerberg and John Weldon. Forty million Americans today believe in some form of astrology. Its influence is felt throughout government, industry, the sciences, education, the church, and the home. The authors, who are occult authorities, examine the major issues of astrology and answer the most commonly-asked questions—344p., \$6.95.

HOW TO RESCUE YOUR LOVED ONE FROM THE WATCH-TOWER by David A. Reed. This book helps you to plan your strategy and learn techniques that work—also to present your material in the proper manner and at the appropriate time. The author is a former Jehovah's Witness Elder and Presiding Minister and is now a member of a Baptist Church—168p., \$8.95.

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THE DEVIL'S WEB by Pat Pulling with Kathy Cawthon. In this very explosive expose', Pat Pulling explains how the violent underworld operates in the United States. She points out how they stalk and recruit children, teenagers and young adults for their evil purposes. She explores the influences of violent entertainment, including heavy metal and black metal music, fantasy role playing games, and the current rash of horrifying television programs and "slasher" movies—206p., \$8.95.

WITNESSING TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES by Fred Swarbrick. This short book is written to share some of the insights that were gained by the author in his own witnessing experiences to members of this cult—20p., 60¢.

THE BIBLE AND ISLAM, Sharing God's Word With A Muslim, by

Bassam M. Madany. The author is the Minister of Arabic Broadcasting with The Back to God Hour. He writes about this religion, which is the only major religion that is anti-Christian, out of his 30 years experience bringing the Gospel to the 900 million Muslims who are unsaved—115p., \$3.95.

CONSPIRACY: A Biblical View, by Gary North. This book introduces Christians to one of the most controversial topics today. What is the evidence for the conspiracy view of history? What motivates the conspirators? What are their tactics? As the war between light and darkness rages on all sides, how should Christians respond? This timely book offers Bible-based conclusions and clear insight into the remarkable events which affect the lives of every Christian—168p., \$7.95.