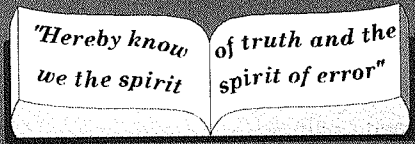


# The Discerner



Volume 17, Number 2

Apr • May • June 1997

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## EDITORIAL

*By William A. BeVier*

We consider it a privilege to send to you another issue of The Discerner.

In this issue we complete the two articles continued from previous issues. Berit Kjos with her "The U.N. Plan for Global Control" provides information seldom found in the secular media. There is much going on in our world fostered by ungodly people that will eventually affect many. Pray that each one of us will be among God's elect who will not be deceived.

The second continued article, concluded in this issue, is my series on Islam. It seems that almost daily this threat to Christians throughout the world grows greater. People are losing their lives and property for opposing or not accepting Islam. God is sovereign, but the Devil still operates as a "roaring lion" seeking whom he "may devour" (I Pet. 5:8).

We are thankful to Ed Decker for permitting us to reprint two of his recent articles. As an ex-Mormon he has for some time led a ministry

through a newsletter and other literature which seeks to free people from Mormonism and other cults. His 800 number is 800-997-7077. Contact him if you believe he can be of help to you.

Music is an important part of many individuals' lives. Jo Ann BeVier has written an article for this issue of The Discerner which updates us on some of the developments in the so called field of current "Christian" music. Incidentally, it is generally her voice you hear when you call R.A.S. on the telephone.

This issue is concluded with three book reviews of recent publications. We trust they are informative and helpful.

Speaking of The Discerner, if the number on the cover is "Volume 17, Number 2" or your mailing label reads "XVII-2" your subscription expires with this issue. Please take the time to renew your subscription. The cost for one year, four issues, is \$4.00 in the U.S.; \$6.32 Canadian (in U.S. dollars); \$6.04 Mexican (in U.S.

dollars); and \$6.80 for all others (in U.S. dollars). We seek to continue providing current, helpful information about the cults and other aberrations of Biblical Christianity.

We recently have had several inquiries about when we will be publishing a new catalog. It costs several thousand dollars to publish and mail a catalog. At the moment we do not have this money in hand, so we continue to issue catalog "updates" when responding to catalog requests. Since being elected President of R.A.S. I have attempted to obey the principle set forth in Romans 13:8, "owe no man anything, but to love one another...." I believe this also applies to our printer.

We do ask that you will pray to the Lord that He will furnish the necessary funds through His people that, if it is His will, we can soon publish a new catalog.

We do have a new and more brief URL for those who have access to the World Wide Web. Thanks to Pastor Finnan of Rochester, Minnesota information about R.A.S. can now be found at [www.org/ras](http://www.org/ras). The old addresses can be used, but they will refer you to the new one.

May the Lord's blessings continue to rest on each of us. We do appreciate those who contact us to comment about The Discerner and the other ministries of R.A.S.

## THE U.N. PLAN FOR GLOBAL CONTROL (PART 2)

### The Habitat II Agenda

By Berit Kjos

**The UN plan matches US plans.** The UN agenda fits well into the policy-making framework already being established in US communities. Three official plans for transforming cities show how UN tactics for change works hand-in-glove with US strategies.

In 1995, school districts from coast to coast were asked to use Education Secretary Riley's *Community Action Toolkit* to change public opinion and win support for Goals 2000. In 1996, two similar plans for local transformation were introduced.

*The Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide*, the Habitat II action plan based on Agenda 21, the environmental program negotiated at the 1992 UN World Conference on Environment and Development.

*Sustainable America: A New Consensus*, a report by The President's Council for Sustainable Development.

The striking similarity between the three plans suggest an alarming cooperation between the UN and US authors. All three share the following buzzwords or concepts: partnerships, consensus, lifelong learning, baselines or benchmarks, monitoring, assessment, data gathering, systemic change, system thinking, social development, etc. All stress the need to measure, assess, and monitor progress.

All are designed to bypass traditional government and govern people

through a form of "citizens" or "grass-roots participation" which the Encyclopedia Britannica refers to as "totalitarian democracy" and Communist leaders have called "People's Government." In the US, this system is already bypassing both state and national representative governments. As in Lenin's Soviets, neither UN forums nor the US community meetings on education will acknowledge dissenting voices. Resisters are silenced by trained facilitators who only record voices that echo the "right" ideology (The Delphi Technique for producing a semblance of consensus pervades community forums on education. *Brave New Schools* (Harvest House Publishers) describes the process.).

Notice below how the UN's *Local Agenda 21* and President Clinton's *Sustainable America* fit into the new bureaucratic framework already being established through America's official *Community Action Toolkit*. Note also how they match Hitler's strategies, which he learned from watching the USSR.

"STEP 1: IDENTIFY LEADERSHIP TEAM" (*Community Action Toolkit*, National Education Goals Panel, 1994, cog-5)

"Concentrate on gaining the involvement of the 15 percent of people typically open to new ideas—and ask them to help involve the other 75 percent... Try not to spend too much time

responding to the...unwelcome actions of the 10 percent who may actively oppose your change efforts..." (Community Action Toolkit, goym-6, 7).

**Hitler's Mein Kampf:** "The most striking success of a revolution will always have been achieved, the new philosophy of life as far as possible has been taught to all men, and if necessary, later forced on them." He tells his followers to "sift the human material it wins into two large groups: supporters and members.... A supporter of a movement is one who declares himself to be in agreement with its aims, a member is one who fights for them... and corresponds only to the minority of men" (581, 582).

**Local Agenda 21 (UN):** "The proper selection of participants for the Stakeholder Group and its Working Groups is perhaps the most critical step in establishing a partnership planning process. The composition of the participants will determine...consensus for action.... Include... representatives of groups who are traditionally underrepresented" including "special groups of people (women, youth, and indigenous people)... media, environmentalists..." (20-21). Consider "the inclusion of individuals of credibility..." (22).

**Sustainable America:** "Steps should be taken to ensure that historically under-presented groups are involved" (90). "Building stronger links... can revitalize grassroots democracy..." (89).

"STEP 2: DEVELOP A COMMON VISION"

"Two vision-building tools are discussed—holding community

meetings and conducting surveys." (*Community Action Toolkit*, cog-8).

**Local Agenda 21 (UN):** "The first task of such a Stakeholder Group is to formulate a Community Vision which describes the community's ideal future and expresses a local consensus..." (8).

**Sustainable America:** "Through a series of meetings and events, the community develops a vision for its future" (88). "In Portland, Oregon, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Seattle, WA... citizens are participating in community 'visioning' exercises. Through these, they typically envision a safe and healthy community..." (76).

**Hitler:** "When a movement harbors the purpose of tearing down a world and building another in its place, complete clarity must reign in the ranks of its own leadership..." (581).

"STEP 3: DEVELOP A STRATEGY"

"Specify Goals, Set Benchmarks, Describe Allies and Opponents, Identify Change Agents, Develop Action Steps..." (*Community Action Toolkit*, cog-33).

**Sustainable America:** "Specific economic, environmental, and social goals are determined.... Next, the community sets priorities for its goals, identifies specific actions, and establishes indicators or benchmarks to measure progress..." (88).

**Local Agenda 21:** "Establish distinct Working Group structures under the supervision of the Stakeholder Group... Working Groups are given responsibility for..."

priority setting, issue analysis, visioning, action planning implementation..." (15).

"It is vital that concrete targets be developed.... They also are used to measure progress..." (103).

**"STEP 4: IMPLEMENT... AND EVALUATE..."**

"Create a timeline, measure results, gather data..."  
(*Community Action Toolkit*)

**Sustainable America:** "National indicators of public well-being will build of the information identified, gathered, and disseminated..." (67). "Education for sustainability is life-long.... Benefits... include an understanding of... social and economic changes that will affect their lives" (72).

**Local Agenda 21:** "The key to successful community-based assessment process is to link the use of participant assessment exercises and expert technical assessments.... The full assessment exercise can be used to educate residents and stakeholders" (51).

"Tools used for the presentation of information can range from workshops to puppet theaters..." (53).

**"GUIDE TO GETTING OUT YOUR MESSAGE"**

"Find information that lends credence to your argument and creates a sense of urgency." "One of the best ways to influence public opinion is to influence the news and information that people rely upon in making decisions." (*Community Action Toolkit*, cog-33)

**Hitler:** "The first task of propaganda is to win people for subsequent orga-

nization.... The second task of propaganda is the disruption of the existing state of affairs and the permeation of this state of affairs with the new doctrine..." (Hitler, 581-582).

**Sustainable America:** "Community-based coalitions can create educational media campaigns..., disseminate high-quality information on community issues, and promote public discussions that identify solutions to problems" (90).

"Accurate information built on basic scientific research established the foundation of knowledge needed for sound decision-making..." (61).

**Agenda 21:** Use "...neighborhood surveys, community meetings, and public forums to directly engage the resident population in identifying and analyzing issues..." (45).

\* \* \*

**Falsifying evidence to win support.** "Accurate information" and "analyzing issues" are two of many seductive euphemism that deceive the public. Truth and facts matter little. What counts are stories and "scientific" arguments that evoke the "right" response: a willingness to submit to unthinkable controls in order to save the earth. For a glimpse at the twisted data used as evidence for environment risks, ponder the following comment by Dr. Frederick Seitz, past President of the National Academy of Sciences:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a UN organization regarded by many as the best source of scientific information about the human impact on the earth's climate, released "*The Science of Climate Change*

1995".... I have never witnessed a more disturbing corruption of the peer review process.... More than 15 sections... were changed or deleted after the scientists charged with examining this question had accepted the supposedly final text.... The following passages are examples of those deleted...

None of the studies cited above has shown clear evidence that we can attribute the observed climate changes to... increases in greenhouse gases."

No study to date has positively attributed all or part of the climate changes to... man-made causes." IPCC reports are often called the "consensus" view. If they lead to carbon taxes and restraints on economic growth, they will have a major and almost certainly destructive impact on the economies of the world.... Their effect is to deceive policy makers and the public into believing that the scientific evidence shows human activities are causing global warming. ("A Major Deception on Global Warming," *The Wall Street Journal*, 12 June 1996).

Without "proof" that humans cause global warming, globalists lose their strongest argument for world governance. Therefore they cannot let mere *facts* slow the spreading public persuasion that humanity's future rests in the hands of UN-US environmental "saviors."

**God's power and glory.** "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?" asked the psalmist. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.'"

The words King David wrote more than 2000 years ago fit our times. Then, as now, the leaders joined together to plot the end of God's reign. They would destroy His influence, break free from His natural order, and establish a new form of government based on their own imagination. History shows the devastating results. But God continues to reign! No matter how much people shun, mock or slander Him, He remains God. *We*, not *He*, become the losers when we ignore Him and shun His truth.

"The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing, He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect," wrote the author of Psalm 33. "The counsel of the Lord stands forever." To those who know His wisdom, that's good news!

The bad news is that most of the world is following false counsel. It's time for Americans to wake up, return to God, and stand together against the oppressive forces that now surround and permeate America.

Meanwhile there is no need for fear. Someone has wisely said, "Christianity is designed to be lived in difficult places." No matter how hard it gets, He offers shelter to all who trust Him and follow His wisdom.

[For more information on this and related subjects, read *Brave New Schools* by the same author.]

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Bella Abzug founded WEDO (Woman's Environmental and Development Organization), which has joined with other feminist NGOs to form the Supercoalition.

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## ANOTHER LOOK AT ISLAM (PART 3)

By William A. BeVier

The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) has approached the U.S. government to adopt a public and official position against the persecution of Christians throughout the world, principally in Islamic nations (though the NAE petition is too discrete to specifically name Islam). The Clinton administration's response was to form an "advisory committee of prominent religious leaders" (both Christian and Jewish) within the State Department to conduct a "study." Congress, reportedly, has adopted a "non-binding" resolution calling upon nations to give religious liberty to Christians and to stop persecution. At least the problem is being recognized in public circles. The American Jewish World (Oct. 11, 1996, p. 19) which carried this report under the headline "Evangelicals campaign against persecution" stressed that Jewish leaders welcomed this. Jews and "Evangelicals" now can unite in a common cause (according to the article).

Unfortunately for the Muslims, it is a small radical minority who call the attention of the world to their religion. But it is this minority who claim to be the "true" Muslims, living their religion the way it should be lived. The world's media tend to call them "Fundamentalists"; they claim to be the true believers (Tingle 3).

Christianity Today (Nov. 11, 1996, pp. 96, 99) recently had two news items with the headlines: "Muslim Mobs Kill Five in Indonesia" and "Another Pastor Martyred in

Iran" relating how Muslims are continuing to kill and persecute Christians in those countries. Again we see Muslims have a double standard. What they do when they are in control and how they expect to be treated when they are not (the Koran makes provision in its teachings for such situations).

The Minnesota Christian Chronicle reported the attacks on churches in Indonesia (Oct. 24, 1996, p. 7) with the subtitle: "Most attacks on Indonesian churches go unreported." The Indonesian government desires to keep such attacks hidden.

Dave Breese recently wrote:

Considering that Islam is experiencing spectacular growth in England and the United States, we should be left very thoughtful. How strange that this incredibly presumptuous and foolish religion should continue to expand its influence in the western world.... This strangeness increases when we remember that a particular point of the Islamic religion is the conquest of the world and the bringing of all peoples under the dictates of Allah. (Destiny Newsletter, Oct 1996, p. 3).

An interesting reflection, many people became aroused in opposition when Communism and Fascism were declared as movements to conquer the world. But not so when Islam, a far older, more wealthy, and fanatic

movement declares the same intention. One is reminded of the Lord Jesus Christ's words in Matthew 13:25, "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat...."

The publication Israel My Glory from The Friends of Israel (a Christian magazine) also recently featured articles presenting the threats from Islam. The articles were titled: "Terrorism Moves West" (the P.L.O., Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hizbullah activities), "The Oppression of Middle East Christians: A Forgotten Tragedy" (stressing Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Iran), and "Israel's New Reality" (realities of treaties, territory, and terrorism) (Oct./Nov. 1996, pp. 11, 14, 17).

Dr. Robert Morey (author of a prominent book on Islam) reports that he recently encountered the inroads of Islam in South Carolina. There are now three mosques in Columbia, South Carolina (The Truth Seeker, Nov. 1996).

The Sword of the Lord (Feb. 6, 1996) featured an article titled: "The Islamic Invasion of America." It began with the words: "This article is a warning for the church of Jesus Christ to awaken to why Islam is growing in America." Saudi Arabia was identified as the principle source of financing for this "invasion." The article reported there are over 300 Islamic student groups on college and university campuses in the U.S.; these serve as centers for conversions to Islam. Saudi Arabia gave a grant to Harvard Law School for a center to

study Islamic law. A contract was signed that only Muslim professors would be hired. Muslim chaplains now operate in the U.S. military. Islamic worship centers exist on U.S. military bases. A stated desire is for Muslims to conduct "Islamic awareness seminars" for non-Muslims.

The Officer, magazine of the Reserve Officers' Association, in April 1995 featured an article in its "ROA National Security Report" titled: "The Rise of Religious Fundamentalism in North Africa," the subject was Islam. The article was written by a member of the Spanish Parliament. Side bars read: "ISLAM—Rules governing society and spirituality"; "ISLAMISM—Boundary between moderate and radical Islamists often blurred"; "Political pluralism impossible in Muslim societies." An insightful article. These are warnings from a secular source which should be taken seriously. However, the author is a Socialist, and his solution offered for the situation is the old socialist one of materialism—the problem is basically economic and if the Muslims had economic equality with the Western world all would be peaceful (the author fails to understand human nature and orthodox Islam).

#### A Christian Response

Remember, all a person needs to do to become a Muslim is say: "There is no god, but God [Allah] and Muhammad is the Prophet of God" (Berry, 4). There is no ceremony, no ritual. But, after saying this, the person is obligated to do all the duties of Islam. The word Muslim means "one who submits."

Here are more reminders from the Koran:

Sura 2:186-187. "...those who fight against you...kill them wherever ye shall find them...."  
Sura 2:286 closes with a prayer: "You [Allah] are our protector: give us victory therefore over the infidel nations." An "infidel" is any non-Muslim.

Sura: 3:194. "And they who have... suffered in my cause and have fought and fallen, I will blot out their sins from them, and I will bring them into gardens beneath which the streams do flow."

A Christian interested in witnessing to Muslims should first study some of the many fine written works on this subject. Failure to do so may explain why so little success has been had in presenting Jesus Christ to this group. Many Muslims seem to know more about Christianity (because they are taught about it from the Koran) than most Christians know about Islam. Muslim knowledge of Christianity is not Biblical Christianity, but their perverted knowledge of it makes it more difficult to present the truth to them.

The 1996 Directory of Cult Research Organizations lists 35 Christian ministries to Muslims. Information and materials are available for those desiring to know more about Islam.

We must continue to graciously proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Muslims. That is their only hope of reconciliation to God, e.g., Jn. 14:6;

Acts 4:12. This is in spite of the fact that the Koran clearly rejects the literal death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We continue to proclaim the Gospel ("Good News") to everyone and trust the Lord to open their understanding (Jn. 16:7-11; Acts 16:14). Islam offers three choices to the world: the Koran (conversion), the sword (death), or tribute (payment of money). Bible believing Christians have only one choice to offer the world: the Cross and empty tomb of Jesus Christ.

In closing, Religion Analysis Service has in stock, as listed in our catalog, publications to help us become informed about Islam and how to reach Muslims for Christ.

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See also R.A.S. 1995-96 Catalog, p. 16.

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## ISRAELITE INDIANS?

*By Ed Decker*

Mormons continue to teach that the American Indians are actually Lamanites, descendants of Jews who settled Meso-America about 600 BC. A few years ago, I challenged the church to produce a DNA study of Middle East Jews, Indians in Meso-America, USA, Eskimos, compared with Asians, including such people groups as the Siberians.

If the Book of Mormon was really true, their claims would be proven by scientific evidence just as so much of the Bible has been validated by fact, not fiction. ***We would have to pull up our tents and go home in defeat. They have never responded.***

However, Professor Steve Jones of University College, London has. He has (or had) a TV program dealing with the science of genetics. When he mentioned the Mormon theory on his show, our English friend, Bruce Kaye, inquired of him regarding the possibility that the Mormons may be right.

Professor Jones responded:

Many thanks for your letter and the kind words about my TV programme, The Mormon theory about American Indians is, of

course, silly (at least in the scientific sense). They are clearly related to East Asians and probably came across the Bering Strait about 25,000 years ago. Many of their genes (and even their physical appearance) today show close ties with Siberians and even with Japanese. There is no link at all with Israel.

There is much more about all this (and also about the Mormons themselves) in my book, In The Blood, which perhaps you will have a chance to see. With best wishes, Steve Jones, The Galton Laboratory, Department of Biology, University College, London (letter on file).

**Well, the challenge is there again.** Except that the LDS church would never dare to publish DNA findings. I pray for someone to come forward with the cost for such an independent study. It would devastate the claims of Mormonism, Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon forever.

[Reprinted by permission from Saints Alive in Jesus Newsletter, Jan. 1997.]

# THE HISTORICITY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

By Ed Decker

*I found this interesting article on historical problems with the Book of Mormon from the LDS perspective. While it's a bit dated and the General Authority who gave the talk has been "demoted" for mixing too much fiction with his facts, it is still pure Mormon talk. I thought you might find this small part of it interesting. I've edited it but believe it to be in context. I will be happy to share a complete copy of the entire speech with anyone who asks.*

**Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies Annual Dinner, Provo, Utah, October 23, 1993: Speaker, Elder Dallin H. Oaks.**

Some who term themselves believing Latter-day Saints are advocating that Latter-day Saints should "abandon claims that [the Book of Mormon] is a historical record of the ancient peoples of the Americas." They are promoting the feasibility of reading and using the Book of Mormon as nothing more than a pious fiction with some valuable contents. These practitioners of so-called "higher criticism" raise the question of whether the Book of Mormon, which our prophets have put forward as the preeminent scripture of this dispensation, is fact or fable—history or just a story.

The historicity—historical authenticity—of the Book of Mormon is an issue so fundamental that it rests first upon faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which is

the first principle in this, as in all other matters....

In these remarks I will seek to use rational argument, but I will not rely on any proofs. I will approach the question of the historicity of the Book of Mormon from the standpoint of faith and revelation. I maintain that the issue of the historicity of the Book of Mormon is basically a difference between those who rely exclusively on scholarship and those who rely on a combination of scholarship, faith, and revelation. Those who rely exclusively on scholarship reject revelation.... The practitioners of that approach typically focus on a limited number of issues, like geography or "horses" or angelic delivery or nineteenth century language patterns. They ignore or gloss over the incredible complexity of the Book of Mormon record. Those who rely on scholarship, faith, and revelation are willing to look at the entire spectrum of issues, content as well as vocabulary, revelation as well as excavation.

*And so goes the entire message on BOM [Book of Mormon] history. No where does Oaks deal with evidence or actual history even though he says there should be a mixture. He only deals with the spiritual advantage of subjective belief over tangible evidence.*

[Reprinted by permission from Saints Alive in Jesus Newsletter, Jan. 1997.]

# WHAT PLACE DOES MUSIC HAVE TODAY?

By Jo Ann BeVier

The question of the place of music in worship is at best one of the "untouchable" areas in our churches. "We must not offend the younger generation," "times have changed, we must keep up-to-date in order to appeal to the general church goer." These and many other reasons are cited as grounds for the restructuring of worship in our services. In many churches today there are two separate services, a "traditional" one and a "contemporary" one to satisfy everyone in the congregation.

Then the basic concern is "what is worship?" Webster defines it as: "Reverence paid to a divine being." In the Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary it is also defined as "honor, reverence and homage paid to a divine being." In the early church Christian worship consisted of preaching, reading of Scripture, singing (also baptism and the Lord's supper).

What is Christian music? It is music about Jesus Christ. If you take Christ out of music it isn't Christian. Many "Christian Rock" and "Contemporary Christian" music fans believe music is neutral, neither good or evil, which is a deception promoted in a tract by Christian Rock "star," Keith Green. In an excellent book, Face the Music—Contemporary Church Music on Trial, by Lenny Seidel, this concert pianist and twenty-five year Christian music veteran proves beyond a shadow of doubt that music is definitely not neutral. He

brings out godly music is composed of melody, harmony, and rhythm, all in perfect balance; that rock "music" has no melody, only fragments repeatedly endlessly. Since there is no melody, there is no harmony, only rhythm and rhythm alone is not music.

It's been proven that the rhythms of rock music causes brain damage in laboratory animals, also proven to kill plants, and has been proven to cause hearing loss and have diverse effects on the adrenaline and sex glands and the blood sugar of the human brain.

There have been a number of former "rock musicians," "rock stars" and others involved in the rock music scene who have been delivered from this "culture" and have written books and held seminars to expose the dangers and evil to those who will heed their words given from their own experiences. One of these is Jeff Godwin, who has written three books, The Devil's Disciples, Dancing with Demons, and What's Wrong With Christian Rock? (RAS carries these and others; see our Catalog).

So, what does the craze of the "Rock Music" of the 60s have to do with music of the 90s? The April 21, 1997 issue of Christian Retailing magazine is devoted, almost entirely, to the Christian music market. The story is the same. What appeals? What sells? Who's the top artist?

In this multimillion dollar business these are major issues. What

are the titles of the music receiving awards? "Jesus Freak" is the best "rock gospel" album; "Change the World" is the song of the year; "Whatcha Lookin' 4" is the best contemporary soul gospel album. Does this sound like change? Not for the better! Some of the albums are described as having a lot of "rock elements" with rap and hip-hop influences.

What are the concerns?: Selling music with sensuality. The statement was made: "...in the Christian industry, we're pressed to examine ourselves." Is beauty or dressing in a provocative manner a criterion for a performer? Music producers are finding out there is accountability and there is a "line" not to be crossed.

Competition in the music field is in the form of videos, the Internet, CD Roms has resulted in a decline in music sales in the last two years. Because of the consolidation of companies and a cutting down, a president of a record company states that most major companies will be out of business in the next five years.

Another statement made is that, "... a younger consumer group, ages 15 to 30, has a need to draw closer to God through worship that is not

being met by contemporary Christian music." This brings to the front a most important question and concern, "Where is the Christian music industry headed morally and spiritually?" Does the "industry" have its house in order?

All of these questions and concerns were voiced in this one issue of Christian Retailing. And, as the question we posed in our title asks, "What Place Does Music Have Today?" Music plays a significant place in Scripture. The following are some guidelines to determine is your music really Christian? Is it:

- music that uplifts The Church, rather than mocking or criticizing it
- music that carries Biblical messages, not anti-Biblical ones
- music that brings more glory to God than to those who perform it
- music that feeds the spirit more than it feeds the flesh

See what the Bible says about music: Gen. 4:21; 2 Sam. 6:5; 1 Chron. 15:16; 16:42; 2 Chron. 7:6; 29:25-29; Psalms 33:1-3; 81:1-3; 108:1-3; 150; Dan. 3:5, 7, 10; 1 Cor. 14:7; Rev. 5:8; 14:2, 3.

## BOOK REVIEW

### “Watchman: What of the Night?”

*“But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand.” (Ezekiel 33:6)*

Review of The Chilling Significance of Pope John Paul’s October 22, 1996 Address by Wilson Ewin.

On October 22, 1996 Pope John Paul II delivered a message to the Holy See’s Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Vatican watchers became interested in the remarks about evolution made by the Pontiff on that occasion. Indeed, the papal announcement triggered off an alarm that urgently needs to be heard throughout the world.

The topic concerns an area reaching far beyond the subject of evolution; this impending event will radically affect the life of every individual around the globe. Details of this are contained in a booklet titled, “The Chilling Significance of Pope John Paul’s October 22, 1996 Address.”

With the booklet now available, the question of announcing the booklet arose together with a major problem. How to alert today’s population of pre-occupied, unconcerned and apathetic folk? An answer came—the comparison of two tragedies. The first stunned the entire world when it occurred and the second is already far advanced.

The first event is recorded in a dramatic book entitled The Wreck of the Titanic. It was published 85 years ago and only a few days after

that luxury liner had suddenly carried 1595 souls to their death. The second tragedy is now building in intensity and magnitude and affects the entire globe with its population of over five billion. Beyond this, the parallel between the passenger ship and the global Titanic builds an almost perfect mosaic of similarity.

First, confidence in the wisdom, pride and ability of mankind is outstanding in the story of each. Second, little interest in the Creator can be found in neither. Only when the decks began to tilt and settle was there a change on the Titanic. Finally, the music being played by the ship’s orchestra two and a half hours previously was replaced with the strains of “Nearer My God to Thee.”

#### Awaiting The Moment

Large portions of today’s symbolic ship have already been torn away by the liner’s collision with International Socialism. Over 37 million perished during Joseph Stalin’s rule over the Soviet Union. Another 65 million lost their lives under China’s Mao Tse-tung. And now, the remainder of the global liner is about to plunge as shown in the documentary “The Chilling



Significance....” Its pages carry an alert and an exhortation to both the unsaved and God’s people concerning the following:

1. The Matter of Prophecy: Though seemingly unbelievable because of all it implies and of all whom it will encompass, yet the reality of current global events confirm a solemn fact. The hour is about to strike when the prophetic contents of Revelation’s chapters 13 and 17:8 along through chapter 18 will be fulfilled. For those who doubt, two basic steps should be taken. The first would be reading of the booklet “the Chilling....” and the second would be an actual visit to Moscow’s Red Square. There to be seen is a huge marble monument to commemorate Karl Marx and Lenin. Engraved there in the base for present and future visitors to ponder is the meaningful phrase, “Religion is the opium of the people.” (Please read the caption on page 20.)
2. Matter of Vigilance: The entire world suffers from apathy, carelessness and the weight of multiple cares. Most professing Christians have slipped into the same drowsy state of lethargy, complacency and lukewarmness. Though written in the first century AD, the passages concerning sleep in Romans 13:11-14 and Ephesians 5:14-16, apply especially at this

present day and hour. Again, the booklet’s message awakens today’s believers to the probability of a soon and unexpected meeting. The passages of I John 2:28 and I Peter 4:13 spring into sharp focus as an approaching possibility.

#### Arousing the Passengers

3. The Matter of Evangelism: An article in the February 1997 issue of Canada’s “Christian Week” magazine reads, “... the church is being evangelized by the world... evangelism is being equated with either social justice or church growth.” The booklet challenges this disgraceful sham of evangelism. Unbelievers need a gospel presentation that is crystal clear and that cuts through the inclusivist message of ecumenism, Promise Keepers and other groups either neutral toward or related to the global unity movement of all religions. Roman Catholics especially need a clear gospel for the devastating crisis in which they now struggle. The urgency of the hour should move believers and local churches to a most active role in evangelism; the booklet itself will prove invaluable in this when placed in the hands of anyone claiming their faith to be Roman Catholic.
4. The Matter of Duty: The brightest pages in the history of mankind contains the sto-

ries of leaders, both men and women, who stood at their post and died for others. They refused to lower the standard of service or retreat before danger or the face of the enemy. The first leader of this quality to be found in the Bible is Noah. Described as a, "preacher of righteousness," he faced a mocking world for much of 120 years. No comparable setting of an approaching global doom has existed from Noah's day until this present hour. And yet, where are the Christian leaders who are courageously sounding out a clear alarm as did Noah?

The great Apostle wrote, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Cor. 14:8). Though written in the context of tongues, the question asked has a wider application. Especially is this true in respect to present day Christian leaders. The watchword written for them is "Ye should earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3), but the road of retreat is choked with those who flee. The prevailing attitude is one of neutrality, silence, compromise and the soothing oil of being positive.

5. The Matter of Accountability: As the global climax nears, this prominent feature of Christian service looms sharply out of the darkness. The watchman must sound a solemn alarm of rendering account. When the writer stated, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27), his words applied equally to all believers and the unregenerate. [But at a different time and place. Ed.] "For they watch over your souls as they that must give account" (Heb. 13:17), the first to appear among the former will be the shepherds of Christ's flock. The global ship is now quivering before its fatal plunge. May the Spirit of God convict and move in one final wave of grace upon all mankind.

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The booklet is available from the author for \$2.50, plus postage. 32 pages.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Counterfeit Revival

*By Hank Hanegraaff*

Reviewed by Jo Ann BeVier

The foreword of the book is written by a pastor who formerly served on the board of directors of the Association of Vineyard Churches (AVC). He is qualified to give an account of what transpired (and is currently happening) in the Vineyard movement and other related movements. He states that books like Counterfeit Revival must be published in order to resist the spread of false doctrine. This new book (published in 1997) is written in a style that is easy to read and understand in a personal, conversational format. Hank Hanegraaff lays his groundwork in the first sections of the book. After the Foreword, Acknowledgments, and "Before You Begin," is a section called "Charting the Course." In "Charting the Course" he divides the five parts of the book as follows:

Part One: Fabrications, Fantasies and Frauds

Part Two: Lying Signs and Wonders

Part Three: Endtime Restorationism

Part Four: Slain in the Spirit

Part Five: Hypnotism

As you can see in the acronym, the first letter of each title spells FLESH, distinguishing the genuine work of the Holy Spirit from the counterfeit work of the FLESH (Gal. 5:19-26), p. 13.

The Parts are divided into chapters with very interesting and provocative titles such as, in Part One: The Holy Ghost Bartender, The Party, The Vineyard Connection, The Runaway in Toronto, and The Fatal Fruit. Each Part has five chapters.

The book is progressive, starting at the beginning of this "counterfeit revival" with the men who started it, such as Rodney Howard-Browne. Howard-Browne began in 1979, at age 17, with shouting, weeping, tongues, laughing uncontrollably, plus other expressions, i.e., "saturated," "drunk in the Holy Ghost," "plugged into heaven's electric light supply," "Holy Ghost glue," etc. His unusual manifestations continued and in 1990 he made contact with Benny Hinn, who invited Howard-Browne to his church. The next year he made another breakthrough (for him) at a Kenneth Copeland convention.

The "big break" or "rise to fame" came in 1993 during meetings at Carpenter's Home Church in Lakeland, Florida. "Laughter in the Spirit" caught on and began to escalate and involve others such as Charles and Frances Hunter (charismatic leaders known as the "Happy Hunters").

Many leaders from around the world came to Lakeland, Florida to witness the bizarre emotional dis-

plays. Among them was Oral Roberts and his son, Richard. Also, Kenneth Hagin and his Rhema Center, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, became involved with "holy laughter." Hagin is identified with the Faith Movement ("health and wealth," "name it and claim it," "confess it and possess it").

The next involvement for Howard-Browne was the Vineyard Movement, especially in Toronto, Canada, through Vineyard pastor, John Arnott. What followed is known as the "Toronto Blessing." The "laughing revival" is characterized by uncontrollable laughter, receiving "the fire," jerking, shaking, dancing, barking, etc.

The book goes back to the origin of some of these groups. Unfortunately, the leaders of the Counterfeit Revival have claimed one of the church's spiritual giants, Jonathan Edwards, as "one of them."

Perhaps one of the most enlightening parts of the book is in Part Three, Endtime Restorationism, which covers the restoration of tongues, healing, charismatic unity, super prophets and apostles, and hoaxes.

The Vineyard movement especially emphasizes the restoration of prophets. John Wimber, Paul Cain,

Jack Deere, Mike Bickle, and Rick Joyner are among those who claim to be prophets and to receive messages from God, as well as visions.

There is also a section (in Part Four) on being "slain in the spirit," where John Wimber is quoted as using Scripture in an attempt to justify this phenomena. Being "slain in the spirit" is based on a sensational manifestation and refers to falling backward into a trance or into an "unconscious state." This practice has been used by a number of charismatic groups.

To conclude this book of well-documented facts about the deception and manipulation of the counterfeit revival, the author states that real experience is not found in the works of the FLESH but rather is found in basic fundamentals. The Body of Christ must bear witness to what we believe, why we believe, and who we believe.

We would recommend this book for your reading and as an excellent resource for information on what is happening in our world and in our churches today and the danger of "looking for God in all the wrong places."

R.A.S. will carry this book at \$16.95 plus postage and handling.

## BOOK REVIEW

### A Biblical Perspective on Depression

*By Darryl R. Sletten*

Reviewed by William A. BeVier

Subtitle: "A Mind/Brain Interaction Basis for Certain Mental Disorders and Substance Abuse"

71 pages, eleven short chapters. Avonmore, PA: West Publishing Company, 1996.

Thesis: Man is not controlled by some "physical biogenic amine hypothesis," or "by a mechanical-like process of chemical neurotransmitters," leaving him no longer accountable for his actions or thoughts.

The author uses the NIV edition of the Bible. He is a Christian who has no great affection for the secular fields of psychiatry/psychology.

According to Sletten, what psychology/psychiatry defines as "depression" is better known to Christians as relating to grief, loss of hope, or despair.

Sletten believes "...spiritual depression ultimately is the result of a general loss of spiritual direction" (p. 17). A Christian can become "depressed," but it should be a temporary condition and correctable by a right relationship with God through the Scriptures, not through psychiatry/psychology.

Sletten concluded, after study, that genetics does not provide an explanation for the origination of depression (as some would like to establish).

Sletten admits there exists certain physical disorders which account

for mental disorders, e.g., trauma, epileptic seizures, dementia, or demonic activity, but these do not account for much of what is termed "depression" today.

The writer documents his work with extensive quotations from research studies to establish that the causes of "depression" have not been identified by the scientific researchers. Unfortunately, the author does not directly document many of his citations where they occur, e.g., he will write "A writer of a book" says.... On pages 28-29 Sletten has the same quotation twice, as if they are two different sources. On page 29 he also quotes the same source twice. I'm sure this can be corrected in a reprint.

Because of many technical terms, the book may not be for the average Christian reader.

Sletten establishes the truth there is a difference between the

“mind” and the “brain,” the mind having to do with decision making, though in function the two are related to each other. The brain is physiological (material), the mind is not (is immaterial). God speaks to the mind, not the brain.

In this regard, Sletten refers to the principle: “A disease is something you have, behavior is something you do.” The brain can be diseased, the mind cannot (even though it is “sinful”). He strongly emphasizes the non-physical mind is able to override the physical brain.

Sletten concluded from his study that many mental disorders are self-induced (insert, p. 51).

Sletten commends Jay Adam’s book Competent to Counsel and nouthetic counseling as a good guide for Biblical counseling (p. 61).

The author lists a number of passages from the Bible which he believes will “lead depressed Christians to right thinking...” (pp. 62-63).

By definition Sletten writes: “Depression is dwelling on self” (p. 63). Thinking about God and/or others will remove the problem.

Sletten writes from a personal experience, as well as study. He was

once a patient in the psychiatric unit of a hospital and he relates how he obtained “peace of mind” through studying the Bible (pp. 65-66).

Sletten repeatedly refers to man’s “free will” in his book. Biblically this presents problems to many of us. Man has a will, but it is restricted by the will of God. Man is not a “free” moral agent. He is accountable to God. Man can and does make moral choices, but they are not “free” from consequences determined by God.

Sletten ends his book with two pages of references, but the 33 items are not directly cited on the pages of his book (this would have been a help and should be done in the next printing).

The book certainly is worth reading for any Christian interested in this subject. By arrangement with the author, R.A.S. will stock a limited number of copies of this book. The price for this limited number is \$4.95 each, plus postage and handling (tax for those living in Minnesota).

The author is a former Roman Catholic who also has written two tracts presenting the Gospel to individuals of that group. An earlier book by the same author is titled A Biblical Perspective on Alcoholism (Nashville: Scythe Publications).

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