



August 17, 2012

Table of Contents

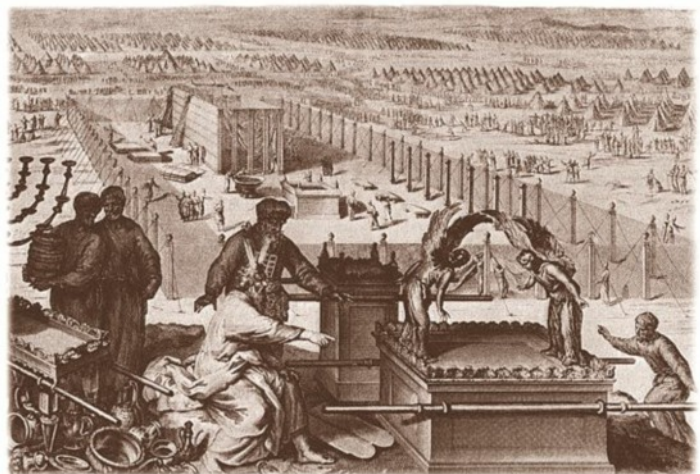
[Feature Article - Serving God Creatively - Part 3](#)
[What About The Chronicles of Narnia?](#)
[Charismania - The Rotten Fruit of the NAR](#)
[Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes](#)
[Dumbed Down at Wal-Mart](#)
[Therapy For The Funny Bone](#)
[Origen's Replacement Theology](#)
[Deacon True Sez](#)

[Poems That Preach](#)
[Lie Down With Dogs...](#)
[Spiritual Issues - Part 1](#)
[Family Time Helps Prevent Drug Addiction](#)
[A Decade of Decadence - Timeline of Apostasy](#)
[Narcissists Anonymous or the iGeneration?](#)
[Eddy-torial](#)

Feature Article - Serving God Creatively - Part 3

All those who know Christ are to serve Him gladly and creatively. We were created to be creative. Creativity in service for God ought not be left to others, but we should all seek to be creative for Him.

I know many Christians who write tracts, booklets, and books. Others compose godly music. Some are adept at art that glorifies God. Every pastor should be creative in the way he preaches God's Word.



But How Do We Serve Creatively? Are there any biblical guidelines for our creativity?

We have been thinking about Bezaleel and Aholiab and the impressive creative work they performed for the Lord in preparing all that was needed for the worship of God at the Tabernacle in the wilderness. They worked in gold, silver, and brass, in casting, in gilding, and in hammered work. They sculpted wood and faceted precious stones. They and their co-workers did beautiful seamstress work in the garments of the high priest. They built the furniture for the tabernacle. They stitched up the veil and the coverings, and the walls of the Tabernacle. They did the apothecary work needed for the anointing oil and the incense for the censers. Whenever the tribes of Israel gathered at the door of the Tabernacle, everything they saw was the work of men and women who served God creatively.

If nothing else speaks to us about our need to be creative for God, the Tabernacle ought to convince us.

Did Bezaleel and Aaholiab have any guidelines from God for their creativity?

Consider the following guidelines:

1. God set certain restrictions in the ten commandments He spoke to Israel - There was to be nothing that tended toward idolatry in their work.
2. God laid out for them in chapters 25 to 30 all that He wanted them to make - Everything needed for the worship of God was clearly described.
3. God fills His children with His Holy Spirit (Ex. 31:3) to sanctify their creativity. This is a forgotten truth today. True Christian creativity is consistent with the Spirit of God. Does that mean it is inspired like the writings of the apostles? Not at all. But it will be spiritual in nature, not carnal. In our area there are several charismatic churches. In one of them there is a lady who used to dance with veils before the congregation. It was not spiritual, but carnal. You don't think so? Just ask any of the men to tell you honestly where their thoughts were when she danced and pranced before them? To be perfectly frank, CCM music is 99.99999% carnal. You don't agree? Turn the sound off the next time you see a CCM video clip and just watch the body language of the performers. You won't watch long before you see the mating movements that are at the core of all rock music.
4. Creativity that is biblical and spiritual in nature is also wise (Ex. 31:3,4). Wisdom works the greatest good for the greatest number of people for the greatest length of time. Wise creativity understands what is the background, what is the true nature, and what will be the results of the work that is being done for God.
5. Creativity that is biblical, spiritual, and wise is also accountable to its authorities. Exodus 39:42-43 "According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work. And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the LORD had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them." Bezaleel and all his helpers made all that God commanded them to make and left nothing out, nor did they make anything extra. They worked according to God's plan. Theirs was an obedient creativity. And take note that their work was not only approved by God, but by God's man, Moses.



Questions I must be willing to answer about my creative service for God:

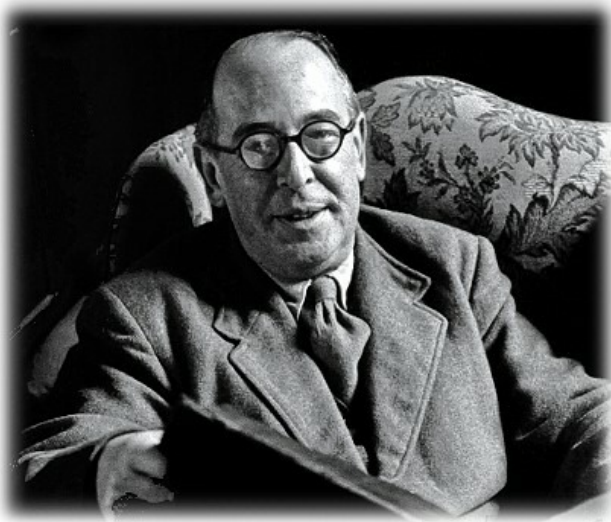
1. Does it glorify God or man? (Will I be happy if no one ever finds out that I made this?)
2. Does it promote God's kingdom or mine? (Is this work of mine an attempt on my part to gain control of others?)
3. Does it agree with Scripture? (Am I violating the letter or the spirit of even one Bible verse?)
4. Is it consistent with the gospel? (Is it supportive of the gospel or flow out of it as a result?)
5. Does it display man's wisdom or God's? (Does this _____ show how clever I am or how wise God is?)
6. Does it bear the fruit of the Spirit or the works of the flesh? (read Gal. 5:19 - 23)
7. Does it edify or entertain? (Does it make people laugh and clap or does it bring them to repentance and faith in Christ?)
8. Does it offend any of my brethren? (Am I causing someone to stumble through this?)

9. Does it reveal selfish ambition on my part? (Am I seeking promotion, position, or profit through this?)
10. Am I willing for it to be used once and then discarded? (Like Noah's ark, or the brasen serpent, or Mary's alabaster box and spikenard?)
11. Did I learn this from godly men or worldly men? (Who were my mentors, my examples, my models, my heroes in learning how to do this?)
12. Am I willing to be ignored and forgotten when it is used? (Do I consider it to be a sacrifice to God I can give to Him and then forget about?)
13. Am I willing for another to receive credit for my work? (Am I offended if another is praised for my work? Do I demand recognition?)
14. Can I invite the Lord Jesus Christ to participate in it? (Is there anything in this that I would be embarrassed over if Jesus watched over my shoulder while I did it?)

It will do us much good to serve God creatively. But we must do so biblically, spiritually, wisely, with accountability, and with much soul searching.

Buddy Smith

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



What About the Chronicles of Narnia?

"The Chronicles of Narnia" - OCCULT FANTASY OF A CLOSET ROMAN CATHOLIC

by Shaun Willcock

www.biblebasedministries.co.uk

A world-famous series of fantasy novels by C. S. Lewis, entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia*, are praised as "Christian allegory" in many ecclesiastical circles. Lewis himself is described in many of these circles as **"the greatest Christian writer of the twentieth century."** And now the first book in the series, entitled *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, has

been made into a blockbuster movie by Disney, apparently the first of a series of movies to be based on the Narnia novels. And "churches" have worked themselves up into a froth of excitement, convinced that this movie represents the greatest evangelistic opportunity since *The Passion of the Christ*. But as with that unscriptural Roman Catholic splatter-movie, so with this one: it just shows how biblically-illiterate and doctrinally confused vast numbers of churches are.

...the Narnia books are sold not only in Christian bookstores, but in occult bookstores as well, and are recommended by the promoters of the occult game, "Dungeons and Dragons"!... For this is precisely what the Narnia books are all about: **occultism, heathen mythology, magic.** Lewis most certainly borrowed many elements from his reading of the Bible, and did so deliberately; but at the same time, he draped the stories in outright occultism. His books also deal with such occult practices as alchemy, clairvoyance, astrology, crystal gazing, necromancy, magic, talismans, etc.

The Lord forbids such occult practices in many parts of His Word, e.g. **Deut. 18:9-14; Gal. 5:20; Isa. 8:19,20; Acts 7:42,43**. What dark times we are living in, when professing “Christians” are so blind, so ignorant of biblical truth, that these stories are as acceptable to them as they are to occultists! ... C.S. Lewis did not believe in the biblical doctrine of *penal substitution*, and thus promoted a false doctrine of the *atonement*. He denied the doctrine of *man’s total depravity*. He believed in the Roman Catholic heresies of *baptismal regeneration* and of *salvation by works*. He believed in the Roman Catholic doctrine of the mass. He did not believe in the biblical doctrine of repentance. He did not believe that the Holy Scriptures were inerrant, and thus rejected the doctrine of the *divine inspiration* of the Bible. He believed in the Roman Catholic doctrine of *purgatory*. He believed in the Roman Catholic doctrine of *praying for the dead*. He believed in *theistic evolution*. He denied the doctrine of *hell*....Lewis himself also requested the “*last rites*” of the Roman Catholic institution on his deathbed.

(David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) -

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, one of seven stories called ***The Chronicles of Narnia***, is about four children who enter a magical country called Narnia through a closet. It is perpetually winter in Narnia, because the land is under the spell of a witch. A prophecy predicted that two boys and two girls would come to the land and become the rightful kings and queens. The great lion Aslan, supposedly a Christ figure, dies and rises from the dead to make the defeat of the witch and the fulfillment of the prophecy possible.



What about the alleged Christian aspects of this story? At best, any biblical doctrine that is presented in Lewis’s Narnia is vague and distorted and overlaid with heathen mythology. The defenders of Lewis’s fiction argue that the Bible uses parables to present truth, but Lewis’s fiction is filled with unscriptural things that one will never find in a biblical parable.

Christ’s parables did not contain a mixture of truth and paganism, but Lewis’s stories unblushingly intertwine a few vague biblical themes with pagan mythology: nymphs, fauns (part man and part goat), dwarfs, centaurs (part man and part horse), Dryads (tree-women), and Naiads (well-women). All of these creatures are depicted as serving Aslan. Lewis presents the deeply heretical idea of good magic. He calls Aslan’s power “Deep Magic” and Aslan’s father’s power as “Emperor’s Magic.” He introduces the vile pagan god Bacchus and his orgies as a desirable thing that was part of Narnia’s past before the White Witch worked her spell. He presents the myth of “Father Christmas” as if it were innocent and wholesome. He teaches that Adam’s first wife was not Eve but rather a woman named Lilith and that she was a witch.

As for the heart of the story, which is the death and resurrection of the lion Aslan, at best it is a corrupt depiction of Christ’s salvation. Aslan dies and sheds his blood not to satisfy God’s law but to satisfy the “Deep Power” and the White Witch.

This confusion is a reflection of Lewis’s heretical stand on the atonement. He said, “The central Christian belief is that Christ’s death has SOMEHOW put us right with God and given us a fresh start. Theories as to how it did this are another matter. ... Any theories we build up as to how Christ’s death did all of this are, in my view, quite secondary...” (Mere Christianity, Harper San Francisco edition, 2001, pp. 54, 55, 56). This is heresy. God has revealed exactly what Christ did and what the atonement means. It is not a matter of theorizing or believing one “formula” over against another. The Bible says our salvation is a matter of a

propitiation, a ransom, whereby our sins were washed away by Christ's bloody death, which was offered as a payment to satisfy God's holy Law.

Through Christ's blood we have eternal redemption. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12).

This is not a theory or a formula. It is the Word of God, and if one does not like it or believe it, he cannot be saved.

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[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Charismania - The Rotten Fruit of the New Apostolic Reformation

A Conversation With an "Apostle's" Wife

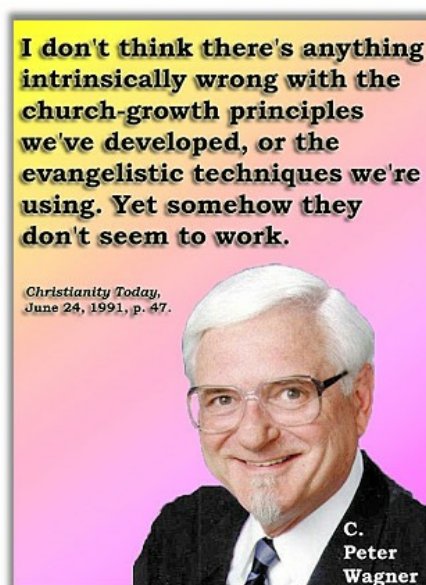
By Hughie Seaborn

In February, I received an email from a distraught lady who had been researching the subject of the New Apostolic Reformation. She had been looking for answers to questions about a situation in her life which was adversely affecting her relationship with her Pentecostal pastor husband, and the relationship between him and their children.

During a search on the Internet for answers about the NAR, this lady came across my article "[Jumping on the Bandwagon](#)" which I wrote back in 1999. The article deals with the rampant apostasy that was being introduced into the Pentecostal churches at that time, and particularly the role that the Assemblies of God denomination, in Australia, was playing in the propagation of false teaching. The article also includes a section about the growing acceptance of the heretical New Apostolic Movement that was being ushered into the mainly Pentecostal churches under the leadership of C. Peter Wagner. My article also includes an email link for people to contact me, which this lady did.

According to the information this unfortunate lady provided, her pastor husband had recently been commissioned as an "Apostle" by C. Peter Wagner, something that she had difficulty accepting as being from the Lord. She related to me that because of her negativity about what her husband was getting himself into, he therefore warned her that God would take her life to remove her from thwarting God's will and purpose for his life. He told her that according to NAR teaching, God kills any unsupportive wives of installed "Apostles" to get them out of the way of what He is doing. She asked me if I knew anything about this abusive and controlling teaching.

This type of thing wasn't entirely new to me, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if this style of power abuse and intimidation is taking place amongst NAR leaders. It certainly wasn't uncommon when Rodney Howard Brown's Toronto Blessing and the Brownsville Revival fiascos were being pushed into the Pentecostal/Charismatic congregations of the world during the early 1990s. If you weren't prepared to



blindly follow the church leaders and jump into the muddy river of the false revival outpouring, or “belly up to the bar at Joel’s Place” and get drunk, then you were a marked person and targeted with all forms of intimidation to force compliance, even, as in my own case, death threats in the form of a prophecy issued from the pulpit in the name of God – and in the first person even. So death threats are nothing new, but it’s the first time I have heard of a pastor husband, a professing Christian, being so infatuated with the idea of being a successful “Apostle” that he is even prepared to accept a proclamation of death to his wife, and separation from his children, in order to fulfil his ambition to be some great one in Christendom and in the eyes of his peers.

I do remember listening to some C. Peter Wagner messages around the time I wrote my article, where he endorsed that church leaders who were embracing his teachings and attempting to introduce them to his congregation, if they met resistance from any of the members, to just force them to leave – regardless of their position or how long they had been attending the church. Just get rid of them to make way for what they believed God was wanting to achieve in their church. Rick Warren, a close associate of Wagner, picked up on this idea by suggesting that they let resisters to his Purpose Driven Church model die out, or force them to leave, if they don’t “...get with the program.”

Excerpts of my communications with this lady are copied below, with her identifying information removed for obvious reasons.

(12 February, 2012) - Hello

I am a pastors wife in ----- whose husband has embraced this [New Apostolic Reformation] teaching. He has been "commissioned" as an apostle by Peter Wagner. What is so difficult for me is that he believes that because I don't believe God is going to take my life early this year. This is apparently a teaching they have that spouses of end time leaders will be killed so as to be out of the way. This is to be a blessing for spouses who find it hard to accept what their husbands are into. Do you know anything about this teaching? Thank you in advance.

(13 February, 2012) - Hello -----, with greetings in the Lord.

I’m glad to say I have never heard of such ungodly teaching as you have mentioned, regarding non-submitted spouses of “apostles”. I’m not wanting to label you as rebellious, unruly or unsubmitted, but it sounds like this is just how Peter Wagner and his “apostles” have labelled you, going by what you have told me. If it is true that they do see you as non-supportive of your husband, one who God needs to kill to get you “out of the way” then, really, Peter Wagner has “commissioned” a person who, by God’s own standards, does not qualify for such a lofty role. In 1 Timothy 3:2-7, God gives the qualifications for a person to qualify for the role of bishop or pastor in the New Testament church.

“2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

In verse 4, as an example, God specifies that the pastor must rule his house well. A man with an unsubmitted or unsupportive wife, especially in things to do with his ministry, does not seem like one who runs his house well, which, despite what Peter Wagner says or thinks, disqualifies your husband for the

role. A man who cannot get his own dear, loving wife to willingly support him doesn't seem like one who God, by His own recommendations, would choose to run His House, the Church of the living God.

The other thing I should mention, which you might already have read in my article, is that the role of Apostle is no longer relevant in the New Testament church. 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 give instructions regarding the qualifications for those who desire to be bishops (pastors) and elders in the church. However, there is no similar listing in the entire New Testament regarding those who desire to be an Apostle. If the role of Apostle is supposed to be relevant for today, isn't it amazing that God forgot to include the necessary list of qualifications for our instruction? The reason there is no listing is plain to those who read Scripture in context. The role of Apostle (and Prophet) was (past tense) to lay the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:19-22). Peter Wagner, and those silly enough to believe him, are still attempting to lay foundations when, really, they should be putting their effort into helping the Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers finish the superstructure and put the roof on.

Be assured, -----, if your life is taken "early" this year (please write to me again in July to confirm my suspicions that you will still be alive and well) it won't be because you did not support your husband in his desire to be an Apostle. The God of the Bible is not about to promote something that is contrary to Scripture and then kill someone who doesn't believe in it and won't submit to it. In Romans 3:8, unlike the self-proclaimed "apostles" of our day, the (real) Apostle Paul condemns those who say "Let us do evil, that good may come."

Having said all that, I am not one who endorses division between a wife and her husband, or vice-versa. By the same token though, I would also never endorse that a wife get on board with some heretical teaching that her husband has been deceived by. You should pray for the Lord to intervene and show your husband his error and that he would, for his spiritual well-being, disassociate himself from the likes of Peter Wagner.

The Lord bless you as you seek to serve and honour Him.

Hughie Seaborn (Cairns, Australia)

(17 February, 2012) - Hello Hughie

Thank you so much for replying to my e-mail. I was blessed by it and will continue to pray. We have been married for 35 years and it is only in the last 8 years that my husband has slowly bought it to this teaching. It is not that I don't support him, I just think he has been deceived and his way of relating to me has confirmed this. I also know those scriptures about qualifications and that was on my mind too. The thinking is that God is raising up apostles to lay the foundation for the end time harvest that will usher in the second coming and spouses that are not on board will be taken as this is what God is doing in the last days. Anyway, I will be in touch with you in July and thanks again.

Be blessed.

(2 July, 2012) - Hi

I don't know if you remember me but I am the pastors wife from ----- whose husband became part of the NAR with Peter Wagner. He had been given a prophecy when he was down in ----- at his "commissioning" to be an apostle, that I was going to die in the early part of this year. Well, it's July 1 and I am still here and in perfect health. Our relationship has greatly deteriorated, though, and he refuses to talk to me about this false prophecy. I really think it was something he was hoping for as I do not believe the extreme that he believes and this has really bothered him. I had read on someones blog who went to the training school at

Morningstar with Rick Joyner that they were taught that with the new wave that was coming those who stood in the way would have to be killed to allow for God to have His way. It was not to be punishment but just so that there would be no one standing in God's way on the earth. So much bizarre teaching out there, I feel sometimes like I am in "the twilight zone."

You had asked me to let you know what happened and so this is why I am writing. Thank you for your concern.

(17 July, 2012) - Hello again, -----.

Great to hear you are still in the land of the living. Thanks for getting back to me. Please forgive me for not responding sooner, but I have been a bit preoccupied with a few other matters and your email ended up being swamped under the pile. I was thinking that you might have come to the conclusion that I had departed this life instead of you. Praise the Lord we're all still here.

It's a great shame that your husband continues to be enamoured and confused by the likes of Wagner, Joyner, et al, but in reality they are only catering to his pride of wanting to be greater than God has called him to be. He needs to re-evaluate his calling from the Word of God and not from the false teachers. The Bible tells us that a time will come when host of scripturally uninformed people will gladly gather to themselves false teacher because they teach what their itching ears, or their pride, wants to hear. The appalling situation of apostasy we observe in the professing churches today only serves to demonstrate that that day has well and truly arrived.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

I'm not sure if you read the account on my website of the death prophecy that was aimed at me from the church pulpit when I stood for God and biblical truth, back when the teachings of the Toronto Blessing were making inroads to the Pentecostal churches, but it turns out I am still here after 15 or so years. These self-appointed leaders like Wagner and Joyner will be held to account one day for their careless words and for attempting to gather followers by using fear.

"Let them curse, but bless thou: when they arise, let them be ashamed; but let thy servant rejoice" (Psalm 109:28).

Continue to pray for your husband, that he will read his Bible and see through the error of those who are influencing him.

Thanks for getting back in touch. The Lord bless you, -----, as you continue in your desire to serve Him.

Hughie Seaborn (Cairns, Australia).

P.S. I was wondering if you would be agreeable to my sharing your situation with a couple of my associates who are involved in discernment ministries? I would, of course, remove anything that could possibly identify you, such as name, email address, etc.

(17 July, 2012) - Thank you for getting back to me. It's very interesting that you received a similar prophecy. How strange, when prophecy is to be for "edification, exhortation and comfort." It's a serious thing to speak out a curse against another leader God is using.

My husband does study the word for hours. He feels he is receiving new revelation. One thing I have learned is that you can read the word but if you are under a deception you read it through your own lens. Most of these fellows I have heard preach take old testament prophetic verses out of context to back up what they believe. My husband always believed he would have a huge world wide ministry and he is 60 now and it has not happened. I see him trying to make it happen now by connecting with these men.

You can certainly share my situation with whoever you wish. There seems to be so little discernment these days. I have told very few people about it but you can share with whoever you think best. My husband did tell our adult kids what he thought was going to happen to me in order to "prepare them." My daughter went onto a severe depression and attempted to take her own life waiting for my demise. Our son just got angry with him. All of this has caused great upheaval in our family.

Thank you again and the Lord bless you for the work you are doing.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

- I recently read about a missionary to Africa who gave a Bible to one of the African men with whom he had been studying. When it was given to him, the man hugged it close and expressed great appreciation for the precious gift of God's Word. However, when the missionary saw him a few days later, he noticed, much to his dismay, that the Bible looked like it was already falling apart, with many of its pages missing. The missionary asked him, "What happened? What did you do to your Bible? When I gave it to you I thought you considered it to be a treasured possession."

"Indeed, it is a very precious possession, the man replied. "It is the finest gift I have ever received. It is so precious that when I returned to my village I very carefully chose a page and tore it out and gave it to my mother. Then I tore out another page and gave it to my father. And I tore out another page and gave it to my wife. Finally, I gave a page of God's Word to everybody who lives in my village." -

selected

- "A Pharisee is hard on others and easy on himself, but a spiritual man is easy on others and hard on himself." *A.W. Tozer*
- There is not a thing that God expects of a person but that God will give him or her the power to do. There is not a command God gives to His children for which He does not provide the enablement for obedience. - *A. B. Simpson*
- T-Shirt Evangelism - We just had Bro. Randy Bane here in north Queensland for revival meetings and were blest by his good preaching and bold witness for Christ. In one message, he told us of a 16 year old boy who works as a chain man for a surveyor. At every opportunity he witnessed to his boss, until finally his boss told him to stop and not say another word about Jesus or about being saved. So the boy went to a Christian bookshop and bought a number of evangelistic t-shirts. And then every time the boss looked through the theodolite at the stick, he saw the lad's gospel witness. His T-shirt had a silhouette of Jesus on the cross with the crown of thorns on his head, and across the figure of Christ dying for our sins were written the words, "If I'm OK and You're OK, Then What's This All About?"

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Dumbed Down at Wal-Mart -



[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Therapy For the Funny Bone -

A husband and wife woke up at the same time one morning and he asked her, "How are you feeling?" She replied, "I'm dead." He said, "You're not dead. You're talking to me and you're breathing and your eyes are open. Why did you say you are dead?" She answered, "I don't hurt anywhere. I must be dead."

A pastor's wife was on her deathbed, just about to depart to Heaven, called her husband to come close so she could tell him one last thing. She whispered to him, "Honey, when I'm gone I want you to remarry. You can't take care of yourself. You need a wife to cook for you and clean for you, so I want you to remarry. There's just one thing. I don't want your new wife to have my clothes. Just give them to the second hand clothing store." He said, "Don't worry, honey, Alice can't wear your clothes, anyway." (I reckon she just rose up and refused to die, don't you?)

A couple sitting in church thought they knew the man sitting in front of them, but couldn't remember his name. The wife whispered to her husband, "I saw his name on his Bible. The next time we stand up to sing, I'll lean down and see what it says." So she did. Her husband asked her who he was, and she replied, "His name is Genuine Leather." (They were my mom and dad.)

The pastor was renowned for his long sermons. One day a man fell to sleep in the church service and began to snore. The Pastor caught the eye of one of his deacons and said, "Wake that man up!" And the deacon replied, "You wake him up. You put him to sleep."

A visitor at church heard an old man pray the longest prayer he'd ever heard. It just went on and on and on. Finally he leaned down to the little boy beside him and asked, "Does he always pray this long?" and the little boy replied, "Is he up to the part about the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea yet? When he gets there, he's halfway through."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Origen's Replacement Theology.

"I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 2:9).

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee" (Rev. 3:9).

At the end of the first century there was an error in the churches at Smyrna and Philadelphia. Some were claiming that Gentiles in the Church were Jews; they *"say they are Jews and are not"* (Rev. 2:9; 3:9). God calls this false doctrine *"blasphemy"* and identifies those who teach it with *"the synagogue of Satan"*. *Barnes' Commentary* assumes that those referred to were Jews who were not *"truly religious Jews"* and claims that these Jews were filled with hatred against the martyr Polycarp, even providing fuel for the fire when he was burned at the stake. However, that does not fit the case of Philadelphia where these people are said to prostrate themselves before the Christians and acknowledge that they were the objects of the love of Christ. If they were such evil Jews from the synagogue of Satan they would hardly prostrate themselves before believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. There must be another explanation for these words.



The Church at Smyrna

The Scripture states that these people were **NOT Jews** though they claimed to be Jews; they were Gentiles who for some reason called themselves Jews. They were **religious** because they were said to be of *"the synagogue of Satan"*. Early in the history of the Church there were those within the Church who spiritualized the Scriptures and claimed that the Church was *"spiritual Israel"*. **They said they were Jews and were not.**

Perhaps the most notable teacher who held this view was Origen (AD 185-254). He was born in Alexandria and led a theological school at an early age. He travelled to Arabia, Greece and finally settled in Caesarea. He was an academic and it is claimed he wrote 2,000 books. He was also a textual critic and assembled the Hexapla which had six parallel versions of the Old Testament including the Septuagint Greek translation. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* states that Origen frequented *"the philosophic schools, especially that of Ammonius Saccas, he devoted himself to*

a study of the philosophers, particularly Plato and the Stoics. In this he was but following the example of his predecessors Pantenus and Clement, and of Heracles..."

Origen spiritualized the Scripture and taught in his book entitled, *The Inspiration of the Scriptures*, that the Jews were wrong to interpret the prophecies of Christ's kingdom literally. He applied these unfulfilled prophecies to Christ's first advent in a "spiritual" and "allegorical" sense similar to the way Amillennialists do today. The allegorical method was taken to an extreme. He denied the literal days of creation and the fact that God planted a garden in Eden. He believed it was absurd to say that God would walk in the garden or that Adam would seek to hide from God! In this regard Origen had much in common with those so called "evangelicals" who hold to theistic evolution. Origen held the view that there was much in the Bible that was **unbelievable** and could not possibly be taken literally or historically. Prophecies that were future were considered unbelievable because they had not been fulfilled in Christ's first advent. He contended that these unbelievable parts were deliberately placed there by the Holy Spirit as **stumbling blocks** to make us aware that the Bible must not be interpreted literally!

Origen places the temptation of the Lord in this category. He states: "...what nevertheless **cannot be believed as having reasonably and appropriately occurred** according to the historical account. The same style of Scriptural narrative occurs abundantly in the Gospels, as when the devil is said to have placed Jesus on a lofty mountain, that he might show Him from thence all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. How could it literally come to pass, either that Jesus should be led up by the Devil into a high mountain, or that the latter should show him all the kingdoms of the world?... And many other instances similar to this will be found in the Gospels by any one who will read them with attention, and will observe that in those narratives which **appear to be literally recorded, there are inserted and interwoven things which cannot be admitted historically, but which may be accepted in a spiritual signification.**"

It is this method of interpretation that led Origen to call the Church "spiritual Israel" and to "say they are Jews and are not". He wrote: "there is one Israel according to the flesh, and another according to the Spirit, when the Savior says, 'I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel,' we do not understand these words as those do who savor of **earthly (literal) things**... but we understand that there exists **a race of souls** which is termed "Israel,"... The apostle, again, makes a similar revelation respecting Jerusalem, saying, *'The Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all'* ...

If, then, there are certain souls in this world who are called Israel, and a city in heaven which is called Jerusalem, it follows that those cities which are said to belong to the nation of Israel have the heavenly Jerusalem as their metropolis; and that, agreeably to this, we understand as referring to the whole of Judah ... any predictions delivered either regarding Judea or Jerusalem, or invasions of any kind, which the sacred histories declare to have happened to Judea or Jerusalem." "For if there be "spiritual" Israelites, it follows that there are also "spiritual" Egyptians and Babylonians". "If, then, the prophecies delivered concerning Judea, and Jerusalem, and Judah, and Israel, and Jacob, **not being understood by us in a carnal (literal) sense**, signify certain divine mysteries, it certainly follows that those prophecies also which were delivered either concerning Egypt or the Egyptians, or Babylonia and the Babylonians, and Sidon and the Sidonians, are **not to be understood as spoken of that Egypt which is situated on the earth...**" Such an approach to Scripture is undoubtedly a blasphemy against the Word of God and so the Lord said: *"I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."* Origen was not the first to hold such views for the encyclopaedia states his interest in Greek philosophy followed "the example of his predecessors". The letter to the Church at Smyrna is prophetic of Christendom during the pagan persecutions of the 2nd and 3rd centuries and that is exactly when Origen and his followers were propagating the blasphemous teaching that Christians were "spiritual" Jews!

The Church at Philadelphia

The second reference to this error is in the letter to Philadelphia which is prophetic of the great missionary era of Christendom from 1700 to 1900. It was during this era that the premillennial truth of the Lord's return was revived. The Moravians had understood the Church to be the Bride of Christ, the heavenly

Bridegroom, and the early Brethren preachers took this truth to its Biblical conclusion and taught the Dispensational truth of the Rapture of the Church before the Tribulation. They were **opposed by Reformed theologians** who followed Amillennial teaching. Amillennialists take a similar position to Origen on prophecy. They both deny a literal reign of Christ on earth and have no alternative but to spiritualize the Church and claim *"they (Gentile Christians) are Jews and are not"*. The promise to the Church at Philadelphia is that these Amillennialists will one day acknowledge that the preachers of the Lord's return were right after all. It is said of Spurgeon that when he realized that those who preached the Gospel best were premillennial in doctrine, he reexamined his position and became a premillennialist. Those amillennialist preachers who are truly saved will be caught up with the Church at the Rapture and will then have no doubts about dispensational truth. Those who are not saved will be deceived by the Antichrist.



The Synagogue of Satan

What shall we say then about the *"synagogue of Satan"*? Christendom is becoming more and more apostate. There are pockets of faithful believers in Christendom but as we draw near to the end of the age many are departing from the faith and *"giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy"* (1Tim.4:1). Immorality and tolerance of homosexuality in contemporary Christendom would indicate that many have *"their conscience seared as with a hot iron"* (1Tim.4:2). Officials of the Anglican Church endeavoured unsuccessfully to adopt a resolution at a Lambeth Conference to condone homosexual behaviour, and the officials of the Uniting Churches of Australia did likewise. Many Churches that once stood for the great fundamentals of the faith now deny the verbal inspiration of the Word of God and oppose the truth of the Lord's return. No longer do they preach the Gospel of redeeming grace by which sinners are liberated from sin. These refuse to take the Bible literally and see themselves as a "spiritual" Israel. Christendom has become *"the synagogue of Satan"*.

Herald of Hope, February 2012

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Deacon True Sez -

One of the old evangelists said, "It is better to wash dirty linen in public than not to wash dirty linen at all. A little public dirty linen washing would do this country good!"

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Matthew 16:25

"...whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

Poems That Preach -

I KNOW I'LL MEET HIM THERE

*Oh the curse of sin and the scars it left came in a garden fair,
When man thought it better to disobey, step from God's loving care;
From the garden they were cast that day to a place they knew not where;
And blood would need be shed for them that they may meet Him there.*

*So sad it is that all mankind inherits this sinful curse;
There bound for hell in a raging fire, dear friend, what could be worse?
Though we try so hard to save ourselves, not a thing can we repair,
And the truth remains for men to-day, they'll not all meet Him there.*

*But God in His mercy, love and grace, knew the way, the sure way out
Was His only Son, His sinless Son; in Him there was no doubt.
He would give His life a ransom, not a part there would He spare,
That all who trust Him as Saviour shall surely meet Him there.*

*He hung that day on a dreadful cross, those thorns dug deep in His brow;
All the sins of man were placed on Him, oh the agony suffered now!
From His wounded side flowed precious blood for men from everywhere.
This blood you'll need to cleanse your heart, so you can meet Him there.*

*He paid it all at Calvary, He shed His precious blood;
Over all my heart so stained with sin, He poured it as a flood.
This wicked heart, this helpless soul, was cleansed beyond compare;
To-day, dear friend, I'm heaven bound, I know I'll meet Him there!*

*He arose again over death and hell, and now has the victory,
And lives on high as the Saviour, the One from Calvary.
He's coming again as Lord and King for all who would prepare.
Can you, dear friend, say with me to-night, I know I'll meet Him there?*

By Kevin Milson

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Lie Down With Dogs -

(We used to hear people say, 'If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.' That old proverb has disappeared. The new version is, "If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with a deeper understanding of what it is to be a dog, and others will see that you really do love the entire canine species, and that you fully accept their dogness! {Fleas? What fleas?}" One of the clearest indications of the true nature of CCM musicians is their love for anti-Christian, occultic, New Age, drug addicted, and immoral rock musicians like the Beatles. Preachers that truly love the souls of men must warn their hearers of the dangers of CCM. In fact, we need to tell them another proverb. It goes like this, "If you hold hands with those who lie down with dogs, you will soon be infested with fleas, the mange, and smell like a dog."
- Ed)



The following is from The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians available at the Way of Life web site in three eBook formats.

http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/

Beatles and CCM



One of the reasons why we are opposed to Contemporary Christian Music is its worldliness, its refusal to separate from the world. Contemporary Christian musicians make no attempt to hide the fact that they love secular rock & roll and they have no shame for doing so. When asked in interviews about their musical influences and their favorite music, invariably they list some raunchy secular rock musicians. And one of the rock groups that CCM musicians love is the Beatles.

When **MATT REDMAN**, one the most influential names in the contemporary worship movement, was asked in 2011, "Who are your musical influences?" he replied: "All sorts. But all time favorite must be the Beatles. I love it now that my five kids even get into their music" (<http://www.louderthanthemusic.com/document.php?id=2526>).

It is obvious that Redman is rearing his children on secular rock & roll so that they have a taste for the world even at very young ages.

In a May 1987 interview with CCM Magazine, **LESLIE PHILLIPS** said: "[In the 1987 album The Turning] I just sort of returned to what I loved originally. You know, returning to your roots and all that. The Beatles were the first rock group I remember hearing, and I dearly love them. They were spectacular, even in their mistakes. There was a spirit in that kind of music that we don't have today."

PHIL KEAGGY performs an unholy combination of secular rock and Christian rock/folk, and those who listen to his music are drawn toward worldly rock & roll. On his 1993 Crimson and Blue album, for example, he

pays “homage to the Beatles” with several of the songs. In a June 2008 interview Keaggy said that performing at the wedding of Linda McCartney’s sister and jamming with Paul McCartney is one of his most cherished memories (“Reconnecting with Phil Keaggy,” Crosswalk.com, June 25, 2008). Keaggy’s 2011 CD “Live from Kegwood Studio” features “homage to George Harrison with a spot-on rendition of the Beatles’ hit ‘Here Comes the Sun.’”

CAEDMON’S CALL often performs Beatles music.

RANDY STONEHILL says that it was the Beatles who gave him the inspiration to play rock and roll: “Really it was after I saw the Beatles. I saw them on television when I was twelve and I knew that that was what I wanted to do” (Stonehill, cited by Devlin Donaldson, “Life Between the Glory and the Fame,” CCM Magazine, October 1981).

The GALACTIC COWBOYS lead singer says, “I’d have to say that The Beatles are still the biggest influence on us, all the way around--except for maybe the guitar tones. They were great songwriters and vocalists” (Ben Huggins, cited by Dan Macintosh, HM magazine, September-October 1998).

Some of **DC TALK’S** musical role models are the Beatles, David Bowie, and The Police, all of which are wicked secular rock groups (Flint Michigan Journal, March 15, 1996). dc Talk opened its “Jesus Freak” concerts with the Beatles’ song “Help.” During their 1999 “Supernatural Experience” tour, dc Talk performed “Hello Good-bye” by the Beatles (CCM Magazine, April 1999, p. 55).

JARS OF CLAY names Jimi Hendrix and the Beatles as their inspiration (Dann Denny, “Christian Rock,” Sunday Herald Times, Bloomington, Ind., Feb. 8, 1998). The lead guitarist for Jars of Clay is said to be a “Beatles fanatic” (Christian News, Dec. 8, 1997).

MAYFAIR LAUNDRY, a group which got its name from a scene in a Beatle’s movie, cites influences from the Beatles to Red Hot Chilli Peppers (Heaven’s Metal Magazine, May-June 1998).

JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT performed Beatles songs during concerts in the late 1990s.

In a May 1987 interview with CCM Magazine, **LESLIE PHILLIPS** spoke of her love for the Beatles: “[In the 1987 album *The Turning*] I just sort of returned to what I loved originally. You know, returning to your roots and all that. The Beatles were the first rock group I remember hearing, and I dearly love them. They were spectacular, even in their mistakes. There was a spirit in that kind of music that we don’t have today.”

The “**Heart of David Conference on Worship & Warfare**,” sponsored by **Rick Joyner’s Morning Star Ministries**, concluded with the praise team singing the Beatles song “I Want to Hold Your Hand” as if God were singing it to believers. The worship leaders were **Leonard Jones, Kevin Prosch, and Suzy Wills**.

THE ROCK ‘N’ ROLL WORSHIP CIRCUS’ musical style is “reminiscent of rock’s glory days” and “combines the best elements of classic seventies style power pop ala David Bowie, The Kinks and Cheap Trick, Pink Floyd, The Beatles and U2” (from their web site).

During the Feb. 18, 2002, premier show for **MICHAEL W. SMITH’S** Come Together Tour, **THIRD DAY** took the stage to the strains of the New Age Beatles song “Come Together” (press release, Nashville, April 24, 2002).

In his musings on Contemporary Christian Music of October 2, 2002, **RUSS BREIMEIER** (co-director of ChristianityToday.com music channel) exalts the Beatles. He describes his attendance at a Paul McCartney concert in the following terms: “Last week, I also fulfilled one of my lifelong dreams ... and got to see Sir Paul McCartney in concert. What an incredible show! ... It was simply awesome to hear 20,000+ people sing along to ‘Let It Be,’ surrounding a beautifully lit stage.” There was not a word of warning about the wicked

influence the Beatles have had upon society for the past 45 years or about their anti-christ blasphemies. Consider the words to this “simply awesome” song “Let It Be” -- “When I find myself in times of trouble/ Mother Mary comes to me/ Speaking words of wisdom, let it be./ And in my hour of darkness/ She is standing right in front of me/ Speaking words of wisdom, let it be. ... Whisper words of wisdom, let it be.” That’s awesome, indeed; it’s awesome apostasy!

One of the members of **VOX79**, the worship band at a conference at **WILLOW CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH**, February 2007, was pictured wearing a Beatles t-shirt on the Willow Creek web site (<http://www.willowcreek.com/events/student/schedule.asp>).

A video that contains a graphical slide show from an Argentina missionary trip by **SADDLEBACK CHURCH** members features John Lennon’s atheistic song “Imagine.” The trip, made August 1-12, 2006, was part of **Rick Warren’s** P.E.A.C.E. program, and the video was published on YouTube. The soundtrack uses several pieces of music, including John Lennon’s original recording of Imagine. The lyrics say: “Imagine there’s no heaven/ It’s easy if you try/ No hell below us/ Above us only sky.”

In an interview published on CMCentral.com September 27, 2007, the interviewer of **John Ellis of TREE63** commented that their new album (Sunday and Everyday) has a psychedelic feel to it and some tracks are reminiscent of John Lennon. Ellis replied: “Did you say psychedelic? It’s funny, I’ve been doing a lot of reading recently about the 40th anniversary of Monterrey, and the Summer of Love this year. So I’ve been reading a lot about Sgt. Pepper, the whole psychedelic culture of 40 years ago. My dad brought me up on the Beatles and by the time I was twelve I was a complete Beatle addict. I have a lot of deep roots in that culture, and most of the music I buy these days is 40 years old.”

Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana, featured Beatles Music as their 2007 Christmas theme. **Pastor Tim Stevens** said: “With Across the Universe currently in the theaters and the new Beatles-themed Cirque du Soleil show in Vegas called Love, the Beatles are as hot as ever. Using the music of the Beatles we will be telling the Christmas story all December. And we’ve been getting great feedback from music lovers of all generations” (<http://www.leadingsmart.com/leadingmart/2007/11/let-it-bechrist.html/>). They advertised it as “Let it Be...Christmas -- A Story Told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, George and Ringo.”

Standard Publishing published a series of Bible studies in 2007 entitled “Tuning into God” that are based on songs from the Beatles and other rock groups. The studies give the background to the raunchy old songs and even encourage the Bible class to play them. This is like digging in a garbage can to learn nutrition.

CCM bands traveling with the **Rock & Worship Roadshow 2011** performed the Beatles song “Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da.” The “artists” are **MercyMe**, **Jars of Clay**, **Matt Maher** (Roman Catholic), **Thousand Foot Krunch**, **The Afters & Lacrae**. Their enthusiastic cover of the Beatles song appeared on the MercyMe Channel on YouTube.

We believe it is absolutely unconscionable for Christian musicians to encourage an appetite for Beatles’ music in young people. No rock group has had a more spiritually-destructive influence than the Beatles. They were certainly controlled by demons as they captured the affection of an entire generation with their “magical mystery” music and carried millions of young people along on their journey to free sex, unisex, eastern religion, atheism, drug abuse, and rebellion against established order.

Why Pastors Should Be Concerned When Their People Love the Beatles -

In his 1965 book, *A Spaniard in the Works*, John Lennon called Jesus Christ many wicked things that we cannot repeat and he blasphemed the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the song “God” (1970), Lennon sang:

"I don't believe in Bible. I don't believe in Jesus. I just believe in me, Yoko and me, that's reality." Lennon's extremely popular song "IMAGINE" (1971) promotes atheism and a global New Age unity. The lyrics say: "Imagine there's no heaven ... No hell below us, above us only sky ... no religion too/ You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one/ I hope some day you'll join us, and the world will live as one." How many millions of people throughout the world have followed John Lennon in this delusive dream? Death will prove that this dream is actually the most horrible nightmare imaginable.

George Harrison was a Hindu to the day of his death and led many into this pagan darkness.



As of April 2009, the Beatles were still promoting Hinduism. The two surviving Beatles headlined a benefit concert to promote Transcendental Meditation (TM) among children. The concert benefited the David Lynch Foundation, which is dedicated "consciousness-based education and world peace." The objective is to raise funds to teach one million children to meditate. Joining Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney were Sheryl Crow, Donovan, Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam, and others. Though some try to deny it, TM is a Hindu practice and is based on the concept that the universe is God and man can unite with God through mysticism. The TM practitioner uses a mantra to put himself into an altered state of consciousness.

One page of the David Lynch Foundation's web site a little girl testifies, "It is quiet and comfortable and I feel connected to everything and everyone." The practice of TM was brought to America by the Hindu guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and popularized by the Beatles when they visited his lectures in Wales in 1967 and his ashram in India in 1968. George Harrison went on to join the Hare Krishnas and died in the Hindu faith. Maharishi developed TM from the Hindu Vedas. He called TM "a path to God" and "the spontaneous flow of knowledge."

The Beatles have done more to further the devil's program in these last days than any other music group. It is unconscionable for a Christian to pay homage to these people and to their demonically-inspired music, thereby encouraging Christian young people to think that rock & roll is innocent fun.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

The Beatles continue to exercise a vast influence, and young people need to be warned to stay away from them and from the world of licentious rock and roll and pagan New Age philosophy that the Beatles promoted.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

by David Cloud

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Spiritual Issues - Part 1

Tongues Are Known Languages

by Helmut Silbach

"TONGUES" is one of the most controversial issues amongst evangelical Christians today. This study is an attempt to clarify that question for the honest mind. Remember it is of uttermost importance that we make sure that we worship God the way He is demanding; otherwise we may find to our eternal regret that we have followed cleverly devised fables.

An important key in scriptural interpretation is the '**law of first mention**', which means that wherever a subject or a doctrine is mentioned for the first time, that passage gives us the key to understand any other passage where the same word or doctrine appears.

The first time that the word '**language**' is cited in the Bible is in Genesis chapter eleven. Post-flood man had only one language, and in defiance of God's clear command to re-populate the earth (Gen. 9:1), they decided to stay in one place (Gen 11:4). For this reason God judged humanity by confusing their language. **A Multiplicity of Languages are therefore a result of sin and rebellion** and whenever that subject is considered, that fact has to be considered; this fact is most important, and few seem to comprehend this.



Gen. 11:6-7, *"And the LORD said, Behold, the people [is] one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."*

Another place where the subject of "**SPEAKING IN LANGUAGES**" is mentioned in the Word of God is in Isaiah 28. There from verses 7 to 14 the theme is the teaching or preaching of the Word of God to a sinful and rebellious people. The Lord through the prophet Isaiah tried to teach the leaders of Israel like little children. He taught them one precept upon another precept, one line of scripture upon another line of scripture (v.10-12). Yet for all that, the rulers of that nation would not listen to the teaching of their God sent prophet.

Isaiah 28:7-8, *"But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; **the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink**, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean."*

Isaiah 28:10-12, *"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: **For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.** To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: **yet they would not hear.**"*

Since they were not willing to listen to their own teachers, God promised them that He would send them as a sign of impending judgment, men of other tongues. These were the Babylonians and other foreigners

who spoke (what sounded to the Jews) with stammering lips. Yet for all these warnings, they would not listen; consequently God eventually used those foreigners to execute judgment against those Jews.

Thus, the subject of speaking with 'strange languages' is mentioned in Isaiah in the context of teaching or preaching to a sinful and rebellious people. Just as at the first time in Genesis, when the subject of languages was mentioned, here again it is in the context of judgment. Again the Jews during the years after the crucifixion were heading for judgment, and like in O.T. times the Lord warned them by giving them the warning-sign of foreign languages. To the Jews therefore, foreign languages were given as a sign of an impending judgment.

In Matthew 12:38, the Pharisees challenged the Lord Jesus with these words: **"Master we would see a Sign from thee"**. Why did those religious leaders of Israel insist on having a sign demonstrated to them? The reason for this we find in the O.T., in scriptures such as Exodus 4:8-9, Joshua 3:7, 1Kings 18:36, etc. Prophets of the old order, such as Moses, Joshua & Elijah, always had their God given ministry confirmed with God given signs. It was a mark of each prophet to be able to prove his God given call with God given signs. The signs were God's identity card, given to His servants as proof that He called them to this ministry.

This we have to remember, when we read the Acts of the Apostles. They, (the Apostles) were God's chosen vessels to act under His direction during the transition period between the old and the new order. God confirmed their call with signs and wonders. Bear in mind, the Jews in the early stages in Acts, were not as yet set-aside as a nation. God still called them to national repentance; the call still went out - to the Jew FIRST - and also to the Greek.

However God gave them the sign of **"foreign languages"** as a warning. In days gone by, whenever the Jews had heard other languages being spoken in their midst, they knew that they were under judgment. It was so when the Assyrians invaded Israel, or when the Babylonians captured Judah. *"When you Jews hear strange languages being spoken in your midst, then your judgment is not far away. Unless you repent, judgment is standing at the door."* This statement was valid in those days, and proves to be correct today, because the Jews hear many strange languages in their own land, and consequently are again warned about a coming judgment.

Anybody who honestly wants to understand the reason, why the Holy Spirit gave the gift of tongues in those days, should always keep the following three points in mind.

1. Strange languages were given as a sign of impending judgment to the unbelieving Jews.
2. They were given as a sign to the Jews that God had approved the ministry of the apostles. He had sent them, just as he had sent the former prophets.
3. Foreign languages were given for teaching and preaching to other people.

(Ed - Bro. Helmut is one of our men at Grace Baptist Church and assists with the teaching ministry. He recently taught a series of lessons on I Cor. 12, 13, and 14 in Spiritual Issues. This article is an excerpt from his notes. If anyone would like to read all the notes from the 6 lessons, please email me at smiletex@bigpond.net.au and I will send them to you.)

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Matthew 15:8

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

Hey, Guess What? Family Time Helps prevent Drug Addiction

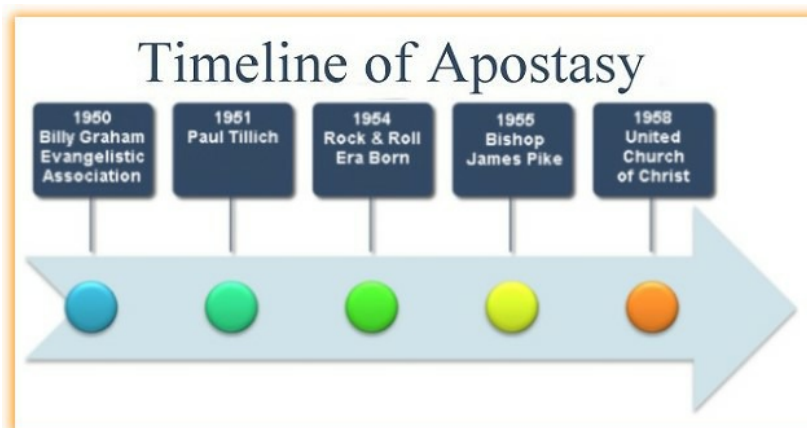
Family Dinners reduce drug usage

"As frequency of FAMILY DINNERS increases, reported drinking, smoking and drug use DECREASES. Compared to teens who have five to seven family dinners per week, those who have fewer than three family dinners per week are more than twice as likely to have used tobacco or marijuana, and one and a half times likelier to have used alcohol."



See Page 11 in <http://www.casacolumbia.org/articlefiles/380-2008%20Teen%20Survey%20Report.pdf>

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



Decades of Decadence - A Timeline of Apostasy

Updated ----- September 30, 2009
(David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; www.wayoflife.org)

1950--The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) was formed and Harold Ockenga would become one of the directors. That same year Roman Catholic Cardinal Cushing promoted Graham with the words "BRAVO BILLY" splashed on the cover of his magazine, making news all across the country, and leading the evangelist to say: "That was my first real coming to grips with the whole Protestant/Catholic situation. I began to realize that there were Christians everywhere. They might be called modernists, Catholics, or whatever, but they were Christians" (Bookstore Journal, Nov. 1991).

----- The theologically liberal, Communist-infiltrated [Federal Council of Churches in America](#) (later renamed the National Council of Churches) was formed.

----- On October 7 the Vatican approved Mother Teresa's Order of the Missionaries of Charity, and two years later she opened Nirmal Hriday, her now-famous home for dying destitutes in Calcutta. In spite of her commitment to Rome's false sacramental gospel, her firm belief that the wafer of the Mass is the very Christ Himself, and her universalism, Mother Teresa became an icon of the ecumenical movement and was praised by practically every influential evangelical leader.

1951--Paul Tillich (1886-1965) began the publication of his [Systematic Theology](#), teaching through obscure and difficult language a philosophical Christianity, that theology is never dogmatic but always in process,

that God, the “Ground of Being,” can be known only through myths. “At best Tillich was a pantheist, but his thought borders on atheism.”

----- Influential theologian Nels Ferre wrote: “As a matter of fact, the reference in John to the claim by the Jews to the effect that they were not born in adultery, could give external credence to a Nazi claim that Jesus was German. Mary, we remember, was found pregnant before her engagement to mild Joseph. Nazareth was hard by a Roman garrison where the soldiers were German mercenaries. Jesus is also reported throughout a continuous part of the history of art, it is claimed, to have been blond. This is supposedly unnatural for the Mediterranean countries where this same tradition started and was continued. Hence Jesus must have been the child of a German soldier!” (Ferre, *The Christian Understanding of God*, p. 191).

----- The Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International was founded by Demos Shakarian. It would become a major catalyst to the charismatic-ecumenical movement by de-emphasizing doctrine and stressing shared religious experiences. Eventually a high percentage of its members would be Roman Catholic.

1952--Billy Graham told reporter William McElwain of the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph (Sept. 6, 1952), “Many of the people who have reached a decision for Christ at our meetings have joined the Catholic church and we have received commendations from Catholic publications for the revived interest in their church following one of our campaigns. After all, one of our prime purposes is to help the churches in a community.”

1953--Billy Graham “locked himself into a room in New York City for an entire day” with theological modernists Jesse Bader and John Sutherland Bonnell, that he might ask them questions and receive their counsel. In an article in *Look* magazine the next year (March 23, 1954), Bonnell testified that he and most other Presbyterian ministers did not believe in the virgin birth and the bodily resurrection of Christ, the inspiration of Scripture, a literal Heaven and Hell, and other doctrines.

1954 -The rock & roll era was born when Sun Records in Memphis recorded Elvis Presley’s single “That’s All Right, Mama.” From its inception, rock music has promoted rebellion against the morality of the Bible. Fifties rock literally changed the character of Western society and laid the groundwork for the dramatic spiritual and moral revolution that has followed. It also paved the way for “rock & roll Christianity” at the end of the 20th century. Rock & roll is the soundtrack of end-time apostasy.

1955--Bishop James Pike of the Episcopal Church in America said, “I have abandoned ship on the doctrine of the Trinity. I have jettisoned the doctrine of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ” (*Christian Beacon*, March 17, 1955).

1956--Christianity Today magazine was formed by Billy Graham, with Carl Henry as its first editor-in-chief. This would be the premier voice of positive-emphasis, non-judgmental, non-separatist, intellectually respectable, New Evangelical Christianity.

1957--Billy Graham’s evangelistic crusade in New York City was sponsored by the liberal Protestant Council and featured prominent theological modernists. Here Graham began his life-long practice of praising rank modernists, when he spent about 10 minutes eulogizing Jesse Baird, a well-known liberal and apostate, calling him a great servant of Christ. This crusade was the catalyst for Graham’s break with fundamentalists such as Bob Jones, Sr. and John R. Rice of the Sword of the Lord.

----- Methodist Leslie Weatherhead, who denied the blood atonement of Christ, said, “Graham is helping to fill our churches. We can teach people theology when we have got someone to teach” (Leslie Weatherhead: *A Personal Portrait*, 1975, p. 199).

----- At his [San Francisco Crusade](#), [Billy Graham](#) honored modernist Bishop James Pike by having him sit on the platform and lead in prayer and by speaking at Pike's Grace Cathedral. Graham honored Pike again at his 1960 Detroit Crusade.

1958--An official follow-up of [Graham's San Francisco Crusade](#) reported that of the roughly 1,300 Catholics who came forward, "practically all remained Catholic, continued to pray to Mary, go to mass, and confess to a priest" (Oakland Tribune, Wed., Dec. 17, 1958). The chairman of this crusade was Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy, who denied practically every doctrine of the Christian faith and who had endorsed Nels Ferre's blasphemous 1953 book *The Sun and the Umbrella*.

----- When the [United Church of Christ](#) was formed in America by a merger of Congregationalists with the Evangelical and Reformed Church, it adopted a Unitarian statement of faith.

1959--At the [Centennial Celebration of Darwin's Origin of Species](#) at the University of Chicago, Julian Huxley, grandson of Thomas, said, "Man's destiny is to be the sole agent for the future evolution of this planet. ... In the evolutionary pattern of thought there is no longer either need or room for the supernatural. The earth was not created, it evolved. So did all the animals and plants that inhabit it, including our human selves, mind and soul as well as brain and body. So did religion. Evolutionary man can no longer take refuge from his loneliness in the arms of a divinized father figure whom he has himself created, nor escape from the responsibility of making decisions by sheltering under the umbrella of Divine Authority ... the evolutionary envision is enabling us to discern, however incompletely, the lineaments of the new religion that we can be sure will arise to serve the needs of the coming era" ("The Evolutionary Vision," S. Tax and C. Callender, *Evolution after Darwin*, vol. 3, pp. 252-253, 260). Sri Gavin de Beer, director of the British Museum of Natural History, said that to impugn Darwinism could only come from "ignorance or effrontery," while Garrett Hardin of the California Institute of Technology warned that anyone who fails to honor Darwin "inevitably attracts the psychiatric eye to himself" (Arthur Koestler, *The Ghost in the Machine*, p. 204).

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



Narcissists Anonymous or the iGeneration -

This article appeared July 31, 2012 - in the Sydney Morning Herald

Sandy Smith

(Ed. - The self love movement is spoken of in Scripture. 2 Timothy 3:1-7 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. *For men shall be lovers of their own selves*, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false

accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Self love is identified as one of the symptoms of the great apostasy of the last days. Psychologists have another name for it. they call it "narcissism." It is interesting for pastors to read the pompous pronouncements of the shrewd shrinks in our universities. Every once in a while they will stumble across a Bible truth (as above in II Tim. 3:2). But they will never admit that God said it first. Facebook, to me, is a great example of self love. In fact, before that it was MySpace, and now it is Twitter, and half a dozen other social media pipelines for narcissists to tell everyone how great they are. Christian, Beware!)

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/life/narcissists-anonymous-or-the-igeneration-20120727-22yhl.html#ixzz23ZSCrQRp>

Do you fantasise about being a celebrity? Perhaps you rely on Facebook to promote your successes and achievements? Or do you constantly tell your children how special they are to boost their self-esteem but really think you should be the one getting all the attention?

You could just be displaying the traits of a confident person with healthy self-regard but some might argue you have the more sinister characteristics of a narcissist.

Lisa Firestone, a psychology expert on relationships and parenting, writing in Psychology Today, explains the distinction. "Self-esteem differs from narcissism in that it represents an attitude built on accomplishments we've mastered, values we've adhered to, and care we've shown toward others. Narcissism, conversely, is often based on a fear of failure or weakness, a focus on one's self, an unhealthy drive to be seen as the best, and a deep-seated insecurity and underlying feeling of inadequacy."

Narcissists come in two forms, says Dr Doris McIlwain, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at Macquarie University. "The grandiose narcissist is out for themselves, pretty hopeless at empathy, likely to make any shame coming their way your problem rather than theirs. They are status-obsessed, unlikely to thank you or apologise. The thin-skinned narcissist is secretly resentful of being imposed on, feels like an unsung hero and, since they are unable to soothe their own ruffled emotions – they will outsource that need by getting others to bolster their ego."

If all this is starting to sound familiar, it's not surprising. Experts are warning of the dangers of narcissism - from celebrity culture promoting fame and wealth above ethics and altruism, to Internet-enabled self-obsession and discipline-averse parenting styles.

Larry Rosen, Professor of Psychology at California State University in Los Angeles believes technology is affecting our emotional stability and exposing us to a range of psychological disorders including narcissism. The author of *iDisorder: Understanding Our Obsession With Technology And Overcoming Its Hold On Us*, told ABC Radio National's *All In The Mind* program, "iDisorder is where technology is literally making us exhibit signs and symptoms of a whole bunch of psychological disorders including narcissistic personality disorder, depression, attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder even a little bit of schizoid personality."

"While people may not be exhibiting a full-blown narcissism, what they are exhibiting are more signs and symptoms of narcissism" said Rosen. "This narcissism might be manifested on Facebook by collecting friends. I have lots, and lots, and lots of friends; I have a thousand friends, look how wonderful I am. Or look at these photos of me that I'm posting on Flickr. Wow! Look at how much fun I'm having in my life."

"Researchers that have found looking at, say, even popular lyrics in songs that over the last several decades, the songs have become more narcissistic, songs instead of being about other people and love, are more about me, me, me – look at me," he added.

Last month singer Rihanna became the latest celebrity thought to be suffering from a narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) after the UK's Daily Star said "a string of bizarre messages and pictures she put on Twitter revealed she could have a mental disorder". Relationship psychologist Jo Hemmings told the newspaper: "Rihanna's erratic behaviour could indicate that she suffers from NPD. Symptoms are an exaggerated sense of self-importance and a need for constant admiration, which Rihanna shows by posting semi-nude pics."

Jean Twenge, professor of psychology at San Diego State University and co-author of *The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement* believes young people are becoming increasingly narcissistic.

"Overall, we've seen a massive increase in narcissism among college students" she told the American Psychological Association's Monitor on Psychology.

The financial crisis may have dampened down materialism but "a lot of other cultural forces — the Internet and parenting in particular — are still pushing in the direction of narcissism," she said.

Lisa Firestone highlights the role of parenting in the book she has written with her psychologist father, Robert Firestone, *The Self Under Siege*. "Vanity is a fantasised image of the self that is formed when parents substitute empty praise and a false build-up for the real love and acknowledgment they have failed to provide to their child," she says.

"Studies have shown that children offered compliments for skills they haven't mastered or talents they do not possess are left feeling as if they'd received no praise at all, often even emptier and less secure," she wrote in *Psychology Today*. "Only children praised for real accomplishments were able to build self-esteem. The others were left to develop something far less desirable — narcissism."

These arguments have found resonance in Australia where the question of whether young people today are more narcissistic than previous generations is a topic of debate.

Professor Johanna Wyn, director of the Australian Youth Research Centre at Melbourne University, has been conducting research through the *Life Patterns* project following two generations of Australians, Gen X born in 1973 and Gen Y born around 1989, in areas such as education, employment, health and family as well as learning about their aspirations and attitudes.

Wyn says she rejects the narcissistic label given to young people in Australia today. "Jean Twenge can't speak for Australians" she says. "I don't see anything like that in the data we've got and we've been researching Generation X for over 22 years," she says. Young people today "have to be really good decision makers, they have to be self-aware and they have to be good navigators of complex times and I think you could be reading some of those traits as somehow being narcissistic because they have to be fairly aware of where they stand, who they are, how they connect, but I see it as a functional and probably inevitable way of operating."

Young Australians "really value family highly and friends and there's a really high rate of volunteering and I think it really doesn't paint a picture of that kind of narcissism or self-interested individual. As they get older volunteering increases so, instead of becoming more narcissistic, they are becoming more community minded in general and I think that's really important. I think there's a lot of evidence to paint a different picture."

Dr Helen McGrath a senior lecturer in the School of Education at Deakin University disagrees. "Parents and teachers always have the best interests of children at the heart of what they do and their involvement in the 'self-esteem movement' has reflected that. However, although well-intentioned, this movement is now seen by many researchers to have contributed to a stronger sense of entitlement and, in some cases, higher levels of narcissism."

So what does McGrath think can be done to protect children from these narcissistic tendencies? One approach, she says, is to place more emphasis on self-respect rather than self-esteem. "We can work with parents to change their focus slightly and identify self-respect as a more useful goal rather than self-esteem," she says. "People who have self-respect have sound values that they use as a 'moral map' they treat others respectfully. They consider themselves equal to other people (neither inferior or superior) and work hard to try and achieve their goals. They are resilient, accept themselves as imperfect and continue to be self-accepting in spite of mistakes or failures. Although they enjoy receiving positive feedback and they are not dependent on it to feel okay."

In the meantime perhaps we can stop seeing celebrities as role models, take a break from Facebook and give our egos a well-deserved rest.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/life/narcissists-anonymous-or-the-igeneration-20120727-22yhl.html#ixzz23WMIvwAP>



Narcissistic Symptoms in Children

Posted by *Steve Blizard* 23 July, 2012

There are several symptoms that characterize a narcissistic child.

Grandiosity: The narcissistic child believes she possesses exceptional talents or intellect.

In her online article published by "Psychiatric Annals," Karen Kernberg Bardenstein, Ph.D. says the child's superior view of herself reflects in her haughtiness toward others. She does not view others as important and *expresses no empathy or warmth toward them*, because of her distorted view.

The absence of reciprocity, as in taking turns, supports her inflated self-love. *Others' needs don't*

matter to her. Her needs always prove more pressing. She believes *the world revolves around her because of her uniqueness*. Learning interests her only when she likes the subject matter. When she reaches a boring spot, her mind shuts down or she moves on to something that holds the promise of mastery and praise.

Because she cannot tolerate failure, she often abandons a project that won't make her shine. When she doesn't receive praise for her endeavours, she opts out and stops trying.

More here <http://steveblizard.wordpress.com/2012/07/23/narcissistic-symptoms-in-children/>

How to Spot a Narcissist

Posted by *Steve Blizard* 4 June , 2012

Narcissists thrive in big, anonymous cities, entertainment-related fields (think reality TV), and leadership situations where they can dazzle and dominate others without having to cooperate or suffer the consequences of a bad reputation.

More here <http://steveblizard.wordpress.com/2012/06/04/how-to-spot-a-narcissist/>

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



Eddy-Torial - A Ten Dollar Salary and The School of Faith

Ten dollars a week sounded like a pretty good salary for a first pastorate. After all, there was the forty dollar paycheck from the job at the garment factory.

We were in tall cotton until we enrolled in the school of faith.

Our home church's pastor invited us to their annual Bible conference, so I asked for a

week off work. The boss said no, so I quit my job, knowing that there was work available everywhere.

Two elderly pastors were the speakers at the conference with more than fifty years of experience between them. We were treated to a feast of good preaching that week.

I am convinced that most of us never learn to listen for the still small voice that teaches us life's most important lessons. Elijah heard that voice at least once. I wonder where he learned to listen for it? Was it by the brook while he waited for the ravens? Was it in the widow's house in Sarepta? When he sheltered in the cave God's instructions came not in the wind or the earthquake or the fire. He issued His commands in the still small voice after those all died down. As we sat through the meetings of the Bible conference, we heard a lot of tempestuous, seismic, fiery sermons, but it was the Holy Spirit's whisperings that were the clearest. They came after the fiery sermons had fallen silent.

God's whispers to my soul were that I should not go back to my job at the garment factory or take up another job at the casket factory in town, but rather that I should go full time at the church on that ten dollar salary and trust God to meet our needs. And then the struggles began. Were these thoughts really of God, or did they spring from a desire to be a man of leisure? Was it laziness or godliness that moved me to think these things?

On the third night of the conference a dear old Dutch preacher told me he had a book for me. He said he had tried to give it away several times that day without success. It was for me. I confess, I am a sucker for books, especially free ones. When I was in the first grade my dad turned me into a book addict by buying me and my sis a new Little Golden Book every Saturday when he went grocery shopping. I suspect he bought them so he could read them, too.

The book the preacher gave me? It was The Life of George Muller by Basil Miller. It was a book I had longed for ever since I heard of Muller. So I stayed up most of the night and read the entire book. Long before sunrise I'd made my decision. We would go fulltime in the ministry and trust God to meet our needs. No high level begging, no mooch mail sent out, and no teary pleas to the church for a pay rise. We would follow Muller's example and ask God and no one else, and be content with what he supplied. My sweetheart agreed, and we enrolled in the school of faith.

The first classes we sat were that very week. My parents were totally supportive of us being in the ministry. But mothers do worry, you know. In my teens I gave my dear mother plenty to worry about. So when I told her before the meeting on Wednesday night that we would be dependent on that ten dollar salary for our upkeep, she nearly fainted. We sat with our parents through the two sermons that night. The last message of the entire Bible conference was from Deuteronomy 33:27, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms..." The title of the message was "The Faith That Gets Rid of Our Fears and Our Worries." The words of the still small voice were confirmed by the old preacher's bold sermon on faith, and my mother leaned across to me after and said, "I needed that." I needed it, too.

The next class in the school of faith was waiting for us back at our little church in the Ozarks. You see, it never dawned on me that the ten dollars we put in the offering every Sunday was what the church was paying us. When I no longer had ten dollars to put in, well, the church no longer had ten dollars to pay the preacher. We didn't go from fifty dollars a week total salary to ten dollars. We went from fifty dollars to zero, just like that. The members of that little church had no cash crops. They grew what they ate, and they ate what they grew. We didn't grow anything, so we prayed. And God heard. Now the preacher's pay was a dozen eggs or a gallon of milk or two roosters in a townsack. I only wish I had kept track of all that was given to support us in the ministry. We never ran out of food. We always had fuel for the car and bought \$10 retreaded tires as they wore out. We both became marksmen and ate what we shot. When we ran out of meat I'd take a bullet or two and go hunt the next meal. Every shot had to count since a box of bullets cost 75 cents. Susan learned to cook rabbits, squirrels, and groundhogs, and we thrived on collard greens and poke salad. We didn't exactly eat locusts and wild honey, but we did eat the bugs that crept into the flour bag and the spice jars. Our house cost \$23 a month so I helped our landlady with the milking to pay the rent. We chopped our own wood for heat, and visited and studied and preached and saw that little church double in attendance. And we sat course after course in the school of faith.

Recently in Sunday School I shared some of the lessons of faith we've learned through the years. I told of the time here in Australia when our monthly support dropped to its lowest level. We had house payments, fuel, and a grocery bill to pay and there was a Bible conference scheduled that month in a distant city. So we taught our children a lesson from the school of faith. We took a piece of paper and wrote "Praise the Lord" on one side, and on the other side we wrote down every single thing God provided that month, and then we stuck it to the door of the fridge. In family devotions we asked God for our daily bread and when it came we wrote it down. Day after day we experienced the generosity of our Heavenly Father's love for His children. The backside of that piece of paper filled up and we wrote in the margins and still the gracious provisions of God poured in. We paid all our bills and attended the conference and rejoiced with our children over the goodness of God. Three memories related to that month are especially sweet to my soul. One is the daily excitement of the children coming home from school and running up the steps and in the back door and snatching the "Praise the Lord" paper off the fridge to see what God had provided since they left for school that morning. I never want to forget that scene, our children rejoicing over our exam results in the school of faith. Theirs and ours. The second sweet memory has to do with something that happened to us at the Bible conference. We had taken a van full of our people to the conference. When we were all loaded and ready to leave, several of the pastors came out to say goodbye. One of them reached in the window and stuck something in my pocket and told me to buy everybody's breakfast with it. It was \$100 and it bought our breakfast. The third sweet memory is very recent. It is the laughter of our daughter Joanna that day in Sunday School when I told our people about the "Praise the Lord" page on the fridge. She laughed out loud so I asked her if she wanted to say anything, and she replied, "I remember that month

as being the highest point in my childhood." Surely, surely, the greatest blessings of this life have to do with attending the school of faith with our children and learning its lessons together with rejoicing.

I must tell you that there is no graduation from the school of faith, at least before we are gathered home to Heaven. God is ever deepening and strengthening our faith in Him. The lessons are never finished. The exams are harder and our knees grow dustier, but the rewards are richer all the way to Heaven.

When our faith will be sight.

How grateful we are to have enrolled our entire family in the school of faith. If you haven't already signed up, you can today.

Bro. Buddy Smith

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



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Welcome to the Website of Grace Baptist Church - Malanda, North Queensland, Australia



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