

LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESEARCH JOURNAL

BRINGING LIGHT TO AREAS OF DARKNESS



ASSEMBLIES OF GOD GENERAL COUNCIL MAKES BOLD MOVE – BRINGS IN CONTEMPLATIVE KEY PLAYER RUTH HALEY BARTON TO “BELIEVE” CONFERENCE

This August, in Orlando, Florida, the Assemblies of God USA will be presenting their General Council Conference, which takes place every two years. The title of this year's event is "BELIEVE." Scheduled to speak to "women in ministry" on one of the nights is Ruth Haley Barton. This is a bold move that the Assemblies of God is making because Barton is a major player in bringing contemplative mystical (i.e., mantra-based) prayer into the evangelical church.

The mission statement for the conference is "Believe we are on the cusp of an unparalleled Spiritual awakening."¹ On the conference website, it states:

General Council is the Assemblies of God's largest gathering. It takes

place every two years bringing church leaders together from all around the world.²

It also says that the event will inspire encounters with God, shape the Assemblies of God movement, and enhance [AOG leaders] "skills and be inspired to advance the kingdom of God."

While the Assemblies of God denomination has been going in the contemplative direction for some time, especially within the AOG theological seminary, to bring a major contemplative player in as a speaker to the movement's main leadership conference illustrates how much AOG has absorbed contemplative spirituality over the last few years especially.

As a little background, in 2005, Lighthouse Trails addressed the issue of contemplative coming into AOG when we discussed Professor Earl Creps, director of the Doctor of Ministry at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. Creps is probably one of the earliest figures within the AOG movement to bring contemplative into AOG. In one document titled "Leading Others and Myself," Creps lists a number of New Spirituality, emerging church, and contemplative proponents as people he turns to.³ A 2006 LT article, "Assemblies of God: Committed to Spiritual Formation, Contemplative, and Emerging," stated:

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THE UNDERLYING FORCE OF THE "SPIRITUAL FORMATION" MOVEMENT

By Ray Yungen and Editors at Lighthouse Trails

When I first began writing in the field in the late '70s and early '80s the term "Spiritual Formation" was hardly known, except for highly specialized references in relation to the Catholic orders. Today it is a rare person who has not heard the term. Seminary courses in Spiritual Formation proliferate like baby rabbits. Huge numbers are seeking to become certified as Spiritual Directors to answer the cry of multiplied thousands for spiritual direction.¹—**Richard Foster**

What is Spiritual Formation, and what is its premise? According to Roger Oakland, Spiritual Formation came upon the church like an unsuspecting avalanche:

"A move away from the truth of God's Word to a mystical

form of Christianity has infiltrated, to some degree, nearly all evangelical denominations. Few Bible teachers saw this avalanche coming. Now that it is underway, most do not realize it has even happened.

As the Word of God becomes less and less important, the rise in mystical experiences escalates. These experiences are presented to convince the unsuspecting that Christianity is about feeling, touching, smelling, and seeing God. The postmodern mindset is the perfect environment for fostering Spiritual Formation. This term suggests there are various ways and means to get closer to God and to emulate him. Thus the idea that if you do certain practices, you can be more like Jesus. Proponents of Spiritual Formation erroneously teach that anyone can practice these mystical rituals and find God within. Having a relation-

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We hope and pray that you will find the content of the *Lighthouse Trails Research Journal* helpful and valuable. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we can make it even better, please don't hesitate to let us know. Our desire is that we lift up the name of Jesus Christ, turn to the Word of God, edify the body of Christ, and share the Gospel with those who have not yet come into the kingdom of God (through salvation by faith in Jesus Christ by His grace).

Editors at Lighthouse Trails Publishing

Note: Articles with no author name are written by the editors at Lighthouse Trails.

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Spiritual Formation—continued from page 1

ship with Jesus Christ is not a prerequisite. In a DVD called *Be Still*, which promotes contemplative prayer, Richard Foster says that contemplative prayer is for anyone and that by practicing it, one becomes “a portable sanctuary” for “the presence of God.”² Rather than having the indwelling of the person of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, Spiritual Formation through the *spiritual disciplines* supposedly transforms the seeker when he enters an altered realm of consciousness.”

Oakland goes on to say:

“The Spiritual Formation movement is widely promoted at colleges and seminaries as the latest and the greatest way to become a spiritual leader. It teaches people that this is how they can become more intimate with God and truly hear His voice. Even Christian leaders with longstanding reputations of teaching God’s Word seem to be succumbing. In so doing, many Christian leaders are frivolously playing with fire, and the result will be thousands, probably millions, getting burned.

“It isn’t going into the silence that transforms a person’s life,” Oakland adds. “It is in accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and allowing Him to change us, that transformation occurs.”³

To understand Spiritual Formation, all one needs to do is understand the spirituality of Richard Foster. Let us turn to a small book Richard Foster wrote called *Meditative Prayer*. Foster says that the purpose of meditative prayer is to create a “spiritual space” or “inner sanctuary” through “specific meditation exercises.”⁴ Foster references a number of mystics in the book who can point the way to these exercises: Madame Guyon, Teresa of Avila, Francis de Sales, Henri Nouwen, and Thomas Merton. Foster breaks the contemplative process down into three steps. He says:

The first step [into meditative prayer] is sometimes called

“centering down.” Others have used the term re-collection; that is, a re-collecting of ourselves until we are unified or whole. The idea is to let go of all competing distractions until we are truly centered, until we are truly present where we are.⁵

Foster suggests that practicing visualization methods help us center down.⁶ In the second step of meditation, Foster suggests that mystic Richard Rolle experienced “physical sensations” (similar to those in Kundalini) during meditation which perhaps we may or may not experience as well.⁷

Step three of meditation, Foster says, is that of “listening” to God. Once the meditative exercises have been implemented and the “spiritual ecstasy” is reached, this entered realm is where the voice of God can be heard, he says.⁸

However, as any New Age meditator knows, this ecstatic state is an altered state of consciousness where everything is supposed to be unified and one through a universal energy. Foster acknowledges the interspiritual attribute linked to contemplative prayer when he states: “[Jesus] showed us God’s yearning for the gathering of an all-inclusive community of loving persons.”⁹ Foster defines more of what he means by “all-inclusive” in his book *Streams of Living Water* when he says this “all-inclusive community” includes everything from a “Catholic monk” to a “Baptist evangelist.”¹⁰ In other writings, he says that contemplative prayer (and its results) are for everyone and anyone.

In *Meditative Prayer*, Foster discusses the practice of *lectio divina*, which is being heralded in many Christian settings as a Christian, biblical practice. People are persuaded to believe that repeating phrases and words of Scripture over and over again is a deeper way to know God. They believe that since it is Scripture being repeated (and not just any words), then this validates the practice and that this reading is sacred because it is the Bible being used. But Foster himself proves it has nothing to do with Scripture. It’s the

repetition that is effective, not the words. He states: “[L]ectio divina includes more than the Bible. There are the lives of the saints and the writings which have proceeded from their profound [mystical] experiences.”¹¹ Foster obliterates the supposed premise of *lectio divina* by saying this. That is because as a meditation proponent he knows that meditation has nothing to do with *which* words are repeated over and over; it is the repetition itself that puts one into an altered state. Thus whether you say Jesus, Abba, Buddha, or OM, it produces the same effect.

Spiritual Formation is contemplative spirituality, and it is sweeping quickly throughout Christianity today. If a college, a seminary, a church, or an organization wants Spiritual Formation, may they keep in mind, they will get eastern-style meditation and the occultic realms that accompany it.

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel. (Colossians 1:21-23)

Roger Oakland reminds us:

We are reconciled to God only through Christ’s “death” (the atonement for sin), and we are presented “holy and unblameable and unreprouvable” when we belong to Him through rebirth. It has nothing to do with works, rituals, or mystical experiences. It is Christ’s life in the converted believer that transforms him.¹²



For endnotes, go to page 27.

Assemblies of God—continued from page 1

“If Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is any indication, then AOG is heading straight towards contemplative spirituality and the emerging church. Earl Creps . . . is a heavy proponent of both contemplative and emerging. In his course syllabi over the last five years, Creps has classes with titles such as “Leading the Emerging Church” and “Models of Ministry in the Emerging Church.” Syllabus reading materials include those from Henri Nouwen, Brian McLaren, Ken Blanchard, Dan Kimball, . . . and Leonard Sweet. A visit to Creps’ “Spiritual Adventures” blog gives a hearty helping of emergent discussion. In one blog, Creps tries to show how there might be a union between Pentecostalism and the emerging church [i.e., contemplative], saying the relationship is ‘gaining some traction.’”

As in most cases now, contemplative starts coming into a denomination through seminaries, colleges, and universities, and in time reveals itself in the main body of that movement. That is now what is happening with AOG bringing in Ruth Haley Barton to the General Council event this year where AOG leaders from around the world will be participating.

For those who have followed Lighthouse Trails, you will know that Barton was trained at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington, DC where she, according to her own words, was “under the guidance of Tilden Edwards, Rosemary Dougherty and Gerald May.” On Ruth Haley Barton’s Transforming Center website, she enthusiastically acknowledges being trained there, but the site gives a vague and almost oxymoronic disclaimer saying: “While she values *all* that she has gained from the teachers and institutions in which she has studied, this does not imply endorsement of *everything* taught in these environments.”⁴ (emphasis added)

We could talk about the beliefs of Tilden Edwards, Rosemary Dougherty, and Gerald May, but we have in other articles

that can be looked up and read on our research site. Basically, these teachers are contemplative mystics who adhere to panentheism and universalism. It was Tilden Edwards who said that, “This mystical stream [contemplative prayer] is the Western bridge to Far Eastern spirituality.”⁵ In other words, contemplative spirituality draws all religions together in unity under the common denominator of mysticism.

Who is Ruth Haley Barton?

After Barton finished her training at the Shalem Institute, she became the Associate Director of Spiritual Formation at Willow Creek Community Church and co-authored (with John Ortberg) a Spiritual Formation curriculum for Willow Creek. In time, Ortberg moved on to become pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian in California, and Barton left to found the Transforming Center, which claims to train thousands of pastors and leaders in the contemplative way. She has written a number of books—virtually all having the core message that you gain intimacy with God through the silence (that is her predominant message). Some of these books are: *Invitation to Solitude and Silence* (foreword by Dallas Willard), *Sacred Rhythms, Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*, and one of her more recent ones *Pursuing God’s Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups*.

So what is it exactly that Barton teaches? In a *Christianity Today* article titled “Drawing Closer to God,” Barton describes the practice of contemplative prayer, saying, “Ask for a simple prayer to express your willingness to meet God in the silence . . . a simple statement . . . such as ‘Here I am. . . .’ Help yourself return to your original intent by repeating the prayer that you have chosen.”⁶

In Barton’s popular book, *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*, she goes into more depth:

- Identify your sacred space and time. Explore all the possibilities for a time

and physical space in which you can be alone on a regular basis.⁷

- Begin with a modest goal, especially if silence is a new practice for you. Ten, fifteen or twenty minutes of time spent in actual silence is realistic, depending on such factors as your personality, pace of life, reliance on words and activity.⁸

- Settle into a comfortable yet alert physical position.⁹

- Ask God to give you a simple prayer that expresses your openness and desire for God. Choose a prayer phrase that expresses your desire or need for God these days in the simplest terms possible. It is best if the prayer is not more than six to eight syllables so that it can be prayed very naturally in the rhythm of your breathing. Pray this prayer several times as an entry into silence and also as a way of dealing with distractions. Distractions are inevitable, so when they come, simply let them go by like clouds floating across the sky. Help yourself return to the prayerful intent by repeating the prayer you have chosen. Use your prayer phrase for as long as it captures what is most true about your heart’s desire for God, and link it with a body posture that also helps you express your spiritual desire.¹⁰

In regard to Barton’s disclaimer on her website, she can say that she does not endorse everything she was taught at Shalem Institute, but the fact of the matter is what she just described above is the essence of what Shalem believes and teaches. Everything they teach stems from this mystical prayer. Perhaps she is implying that she does not adhere to their panentheistic (God in all) and universalist (all are saved) views, but that would be ironic because these are the things that are produced by practicing contemplative prayer. Ray Yungen calls them the “fruit” of contemplative prayer.

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In *A Time of Departing*, Yungen discusses Shalem and its role in Barton's spiritual life. He includes a quote found on Shalem's website to show the underlying roots of Shalem's ultimate goal:

In Christianity and other traditions that understand God to be present everywhere, contemplation includes a reverence for the Divine Mystery, "finding God in all things," [panentheism] or "being open to God's presence, however it may appear."¹¹

Yungen shares his concerns about Ruth Haley Barton:

"[Barton] echoes [goddess worshipper] Sue Monk Kidd in many ways, including the general malaise or condition of the human soul. Barton recounts:

A few years ago, I began to recognize an inner chaos in my soul . . . No matter how much I prayed, read the Bible, and listened to good teaching, I could not calm the internal roar created by questions with no answers.¹²

"The following scenario Barton relates could be the wave of the future for the evangelical church if this movement continues to unfold in the manner it already has:

I sought out a spiritual director, someone well versed in the ways of the soul . . . eventually this wise woman said to me, . . . "What you need is stillness and silence so that the sediment can settle and the water can become clear." . . . I decided to accept this invitation to move beyond my addiction to words.¹³

"By 'addiction to words' [Barton] means normal ways of praying. She still uses words, but only three of them, 'Here I am.' This is

nothing more than the *Cloud of Unknowing* or [Henri Nouwen's] prayer of the heart. Like Richard Foster, Barton argues that God cannot be reached adequately, if at all, without the silence. In referring to I Kings 19 when Elijah was hiding in a cave, Barton encourages:

God loves us enough to wait for us to come openly to Him. Elijah's experience shows that God doesn't scream to get our attention. Instead, we learn that our willingness to listen in silence opens up a quiet space in which we can hear His voice, a voice that longs to speak and offer us guidance for our next step.¹⁴

"What Barton fails to mention here is that Elijah was a valiant defender of the belief in the one, unique God—Yahweh (as seen in his encounter with the 450 prophets of Baal), and he never went into an altered state of silence in his personal encounter with God."¹⁵

Those reading this who are skeptical about what we are saying may be asking, "What's so wrong about repeating a word or phrase and going into an altered state of silence?" To this we answer, this state of silence is the same state that occultists and Eastern meditation practitioners enter when practicing transcendental meditation (TM). We can prove this by the words of one of the men who trained Ruth Haley Barton—Gerald May (from Shalem Institute). May wrote the foreword to a book titled *Zen for Christians*. In that book, he says the following:

I began to explore Eastern religions . . . I was taking my spiritual business elsewhere. Or so I thought. What surprised me, eventually, was that my foray into Buddhism led me in a kind of circle, back to my Christian roots. Over time, Buddhist practices [meditation] somehow revealed to me the rich resources of Christian contemplative tradition that had

been there all along . . . I was not alone in that experience. . . [Those on the contemplative road] in their searching, many turned toward the East and experienced exactly what I had—an eventual discovery of deep nourishment [Eastern enlightenment] within their own original traditions. The phenomenon happened so frequently that we gave it a name: "pilgrimage home." (From the foreword of *Zen for Christians*.)

May was correct in stating that so-called "Christian" contemplative prayer is the same as Buddhist meditation. As one adherent admitted, "The meditation of advanced occultists is identical with the prayer of advanced mystics."¹⁶

Who are the "advanced mystics"? There are plenty of them, some names you probably know: Henri Nouwen, Richard Foster, Thomas Merton, Richard Rohr, and to that list we add Ruth Haley Barton.

And consider this: On Barton's website, she sells books by Catholic priest and contemplative activist Richard Rohr. In addition, she quotes him (in a prominent spot) in her recent book *Pursuing God's Will Together* from his book, *Everything Belongs*. Typical of other contemplatives, such as Thomas Merton, Rohr believes that everything is connected together and that all is divine (thus, everybody belongs to the kingdom of God). In his 2011 book, *Falling Upward*, Rohr implies that we all are "immaculate conception[s]."¹⁷ If these things are true, then there was no need for Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for the sins of mankind. We would not need a Savior because we would already be divine ourselves. In truth, contemplative spirituality is the antithesis of the Gospel. That is why there are countless mystics who claim to know God (or Jesus) but will have nothing to do with the Cross.

In a YouTube teaching video by Barton, she tells viewers, "You have nothing to lose and a whole lot to gain [if you follow her in-

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structions],”¹⁸ but we say you have everything to lose and nothing to gain if you go down the contemplative path. Sadly, instead of being on the “cusp of an unparalleled Spiritual Awakening,” it appears that the Assemblies of God is going to be losing “a whole lot” in the days to come as they further open themselves to the contemplative “silence” and the spiritual deception that accompanies it. Our warning here is to be taken seriously. William Shannon, Thomas Merton’s biographer, validated our concern when he made the following observation:

If one wants to understand Merton’s going to the East it is important to understand that it was his rootedness in his own faith tradition [Catholicism] that gave him the spiritual equipment [contemplative prayer] he needed

to grasp the way of wisdom that is proper to the East.¹⁹

This is what Tilden Edwards meant by the bridge to Far Eastern spirituality. Merton didn’t become a Buddhist; rather he grasped the way that “is proper to the East.” That is how Merton, as a Catholic monk, could say, “I intend to become as good a Buddhist as I can.”²⁰ In other words, while you don’t become a Buddhist, you absorb the Buddhist view into your Christianity. This is the underlying herald cry of the contemplative prayer movement, and it is something that can never be reconciled with the message of the Cross.

The ironic thing is that the Assemblies of God has traditionally held to the biblical view of the end times whereas contemplative spirituality lines up with a universal world religion, which will encompass all humanity and unite under the *man of sin*. There has never been anything on the scene before that would allow a universal

religion that appeals to people on a broad scale. But first people have to hook up to the common factor and binding agent of this one-world religion. And that is contemplative prayer!

Notes:

1. <http://generalcouncil.ag.org/about>.
2. <http://generalcouncil.ag.org/about/details#who>.
3. http://www.agts.edu/dmiss/resources/leadership_bibliography.pdf.
4. <http://www.transformingcenter.org/in/about/ruth-bio.shtml>.
5. Tilden Edwards, *Spiritual Friend* ((New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1980), p. 18.
6. Agnieszka Tennant, “Drawing Closer to God” (*Today’s Christian Woman*, September 2004, <http://www.todaychristianwoman.com/articles/2004/september/8.46.html>).
7. Ruth Haley Barton, *Invitation to Solitude and Silence* (Downer’s Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), p. 40.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 41.
9. *Ibid.*

Continued on bottom of next page

UPDATE REPORT ON BRYCE HOMES IN KENYA – 4 NEW HOMES!

By Roger Oakland

Understand the Times, International

After our last trip to Kenya in December of 2012, we reported that if support funds were available we would like to expand the number of homes for the care of widows and orphans. Because of the response from our readers from Understand The Times and Lighthouse Trails, we have been able to work towards this goal.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters located in various parts of the world we now have added four more homes to our program to bring the total in Kenya to twenty. Initially, the vision for this program started with five homes. Since the program began in late 2010, we have seen how God has directed and blessed all that is being done. Not only are the children and widows receiving food, clothes, and medical assistance, they are being nurtured spiritually by the team that God has raised up in Kenya to oversee the program.

As well, eight new homes have been built this past year replacing shacks that no longer provided appropriate shelter. Each home is built with a metal roof, a wood cook stove, and a chimney that directs the smoke outdoors. The widows have expressed their gratitude to their brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world who have expressed their love and concern for them even though they have never met face to face. Approximately 120

children are now receiving care, and for the first time in their lives have hope. This is how the Christian Church is supposed to work.



Irine, one of the new Bryce Homes in Kenya, with the children she cares for. In new clothes, from a donation from a UTT and Lighthouse Trails reader.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BRYCE HOME PROJECT OR SEND A DONATION, VISIT WWW.UNDERSTANDTHETIMES.ORG. THANK YOU.

DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, DAVE HUNT, HAS PASSED ON

Apologist and defender of the faith, Dave Hunt, has passed on. Below is an excerpt of the notice The Berean Call sent out the day he left this earth. Dave is the author of the ground-breaking book *The Seduction of Christianity* (and many other books too). Dave's ministry and writing have had a significant effect on the lives of millions of Christians.

FROM THE BEREAN CALL:

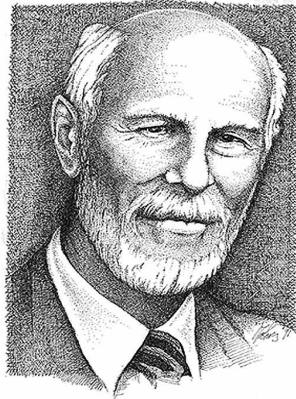
FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2013, Dave Hunt drew his final breath and entered into the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His beloved wife Ruth was at his side.

Born in 1926, David Charles Haddon Hunt enjoyed the advantages of a godly upbringing and placed his trust in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord in his early teens.

As a young man, he served in the military toward the end of World War II. Afterward, he attended UCLA and received a degree in mathematics. It was during that time that he met the love of his life, Ruth Klassen. In 1950, they were married, and since both loved the outdoors, they enjoyed a beautiful honeymoon hiking in the High Sierras—perfect for two young people madly in love and with very little money to their name. Marriage was soon followed by the birth of two sons and two daughters. Ruth was a busy mother and also a gifted writer herself. She had a tremendous interest in and knowledge of history, a gift that

would help Dave further down the road. Dave's own career path led him into a position as a CPA/management consultant and later as the manager of several corporations.

Along with church-related activities, Dave initiated and became involved in numerous campus ministries and meetings in their home, with a special outreach to Jewish young people and foreign students.



—In loving memory—

DAVE HUNT
1926 - 2013

*Precious in the sight of the
LORD is the death of his saints.*
— Psalm 116:15

Many of these have stayed in touch with Dave and Ruth through the years, fondly recalling their times spent in Bible studies at the Hunts' house.

The desire of Dave's heart was ultimately to be involved in fulltime ministry, especially since he saw firsthand everywhere he went the breaking down of the true church as the world began to work its way into her midst. He began to write in 1973, warning believers about the incursion into Western culture and into the church itself of Eastern religion, psychological and selfist philosophies, ecumenism, and other unbiblical teachings.

The ministry of The Berean Call was founded by Dave in 1992. . . . Dave's . . . love for Jesus, for Israel, and for people in general was obvious to all. At least 4 million copies of his books have been sold, many of them translated into more than 50 languages. . . .

Dave Hunt's own drive to find and then deliver the truth is evident in everything he did. His impeccable research and recognized scholarship were based on in-depth studies of original documents and publications, interviews with key experts from around the world, and extensive travel—including to South America, Australia, Europe, India, and throughout the Middle East.

Dave has left us a legacy of inestimable value. . . . From explaining about the history of Christianity, to exposing the deception that has crept into the church, to teaching about the prophecies that are being fulfilled even today, this humble, brilliant man will go on teaching us for a very long time. We look forward to the day when we will see him again.

The Berean Call

If you would like to read this entire memorial from The Berean Call, visit their website at www.thebereancall.org.

Assemblies of God—continued from page 6

10. Ibid., pp. 41-42.

11. Ray Yungen, *A Time of Departing* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2006, 2nd ed.), p. 171.

12. Ruth Haley Barton, "Beyond Words" (<http://bible.org/article/beyond-words>).

13. Ibid.

14. Ibid.

15. Ray Yungen, *A Time of Departing*, op. cit., pp. 172-173.

16. Richard Kirby, *Mission of Mysticism* (London, UK: SPCK, 1979), p. 7.

17. Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward* (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2011), p. ix.

18. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a0WNnz70aU>.

19. William Shannon, *Silent Lamp*, p. 281.

20. David Steindl-Rast, "Recollection of Thomas Merton's Last Days in the West" (*Monastic Studies*, 7:10, 1969).

GUEST EDITORIAL: CIRCLING THE WAGONS

Pan Evangelicals Still Wield the Broken Sword of Political/Cultural Evangelism

By Orrel Steinkamp
Used with permission.

THE EVANGELICAL POLITICAL games are essentially over. All that is left is to create an evangelical political party. The GOP will sooner, rather than later, nominate a presidential candidate advocating same sex marriage. The past election cycle demonstrated the culture is too far gone to be saved by the ballot box and raw political and legislative power.

Actually the Gospel was never intended to be a political/cultural product. Nevertheless, seeker-sensitive evangelism gave it the ole college try. All that remains is what Shakespeare called “wind and fury signifying nothing.”

Pragmatic Christianity tried desperately to accommodate to postmodern culture but it has peaked and is now flirting with medieval Catholic monastic mysticism.

Only a handful of attractional megachurches with multiple campus satellites draw lots of media attention. They have staked their hope on getting too big to fail, and then getting even bigger. Their motto is “grow or die.” But the price isn’t cheap spiritually and monetarily. They have to tinker with their product line to attract and then hold their postmodern shoppers. But the megachurch monstrosities of over 20,000 consumers linked to a singular CEO by super-optic technology on satellite campuses are actually very rare. Someone has designated 2000 congregants as the mini-megachurch entrance level. But only 10% of the 56 million Protestant churchgoers in America are even in churches of 2000. 47 million Protestant churchgoers are in churches that have 199 or less congregants. 60% have 99 or fewer people in their churches.

Nevertheless, many of these pastors are flat out trying to get mega. Pastors sign

up for leadership courses and get their sermons from Rick Warren’s pastoral toolbox on the net. But still they are failing to get mega. This “get out there and lure them in” only produces a bread and circus mentality. The pastors and people should just give up and return to being an authentic New Testament local body of Christ. But the business model of the big box megachurches has already set in and purpose-driven pragmatism rules.

The “take dominion” Apostles and Prophets have tried their hand at national politics as a form of Dominion evangelism. This wedding to Pentecostal Latter-Rain extremists and political activity produced some interesting activity in the last election. They had their hands all over Texas Gov. Perry’s failed presidential bid. They then tried to prophesy Newt Gingrich to the top of the ticket. That collapsed and then they turned to a Paleo-Catholic Rick Santorum, and finally dutifully followed Mormons Glenn Beck and Mitt Romney to the election gallows. But God didn’t raise up Mitt.

The Dominionists are now left with trying to fast and pray their Dominion agenda into churches having struck out politically. The jet-setting “apostles and prophets” have now aimed their Dominionist agenda on China, Africa, and Europe. Surely they, won’t want to waste their time on the small churches in America.

Others want to hitch a ride on international Catholicism. Thanks or no-thanks to the seminal work of the late Chuck Colson and his “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” (ECT) project, many are offering Reformation and Counter-reformational mystical monastic spirituality to breathe new life (pun intended) into the pragmatic/political evangelical corpses strewn around. Bill Hybels confessed the failure of his seeker-sensitive pragmatics. And in nearly the same breath he introduced Catholic mystical spiritual formation and centering prayer techniques to his congregation.

This is not victory, folks. It is admitting that political/cultural evangelicals have failed and now need to continually change their product line to hold their consumer base. Scazzero, who teaches Catholic Contemplative Prayer across the evangelical world and joins Trappist monks in silent spiritual retreats, nevertheless finds his speaking schedule filled with evangelical churches (Rick Warren, etc.). I noticed that he had an article in the recent “Enrichment,” the Assemblies of God national pastors magazine. In his intro to Catholic contemplative prayer teaching his opening play suggests that something has to be done about the low level of spiritual “health” among evangelicals, especially pastors in general. His solution is to cross the Rubicon (return to Rome) and introduce the Catholic practice of entering the “silence” of Contemplative Prayer and Centering Prayer, and actually have “Jesus” speak verbally into the silence.

The Elephant Room experiment of a grouping of megachurches last year suggested that we need to link up with Word/Faith heretics like T.D. Jakes who is still a non-trinitarian. Lou Giglio and John Piper (Neo-Calvinists) needed mystical, Catholic-promoting Beth Moore reading the lectio-divina and Bill Johnson’s Jesus Culture rock band to make a splash at the Passion youth conference in Atlanta.

This appears to be a “circling the wagons” to recruit every able-bodied sort of evangelical into the new effort. Converting the culture appears harder than anticipated. Now even the venerable Chuck Swindoll has invited a non-trinitarian rock band to his church. If you can’t defeat the culture in the ballot box or with political alliances then you need to circle the wagons. If you can’t dominate the culture by “apostolic and prophetic decrees” in league with political forces, and if you can’t become junior partners with the Vatican and

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Circling the Wagons—continued from page 8

Jesuits . . . Well, recruit every able body in sight! Different doctrine does not deter them. Anyone can enter this wide circle.

Aligning with Word/Faith apostates is now deemed acceptable (whose beliefs actually reach the extreme that Jesus did not save us at the cross but rather when the Father caused a demoniacally defeated Jesus in Hell to be born again and resurrected Him). Word/Faith advocates call this “identification” teaching. Essentially they claim we are identified with Jesus in that we together with Jesus have been born again. That parity right? Well! So be it. Why align with Word/Faith? They need to coalesce with everyone they can get just to survive in this culture. Besides, they preach a prosperity message and everyone needs more money to build their programs these days.

But it will take more than a wholesale adaptation of rock and roll music and cheap imitations of lewd cultural crazes like the Harlem Shake to rescue the future of the 60-year-old neo-evangelical experiment. Youth workers can’t ride to victory by aping rock concerts right down to mosh pits and metal/punk copies of the worst in the youth culture. It won’t help to make the kick drum explode against the sternum and the electric base to make the backbone ring like a tuning fork even if the song is “How great thou art.” Indeed this produces a full-bodied rush that has more to do with Springsteen in Phillips arena than Paul’s more modest instruction to sing to one another in “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19, see also Colossians 3:16). This is slavish imitation of a culture far along in decay. Yet evangelicals are madly rushing off in hot pursuit of accommodating to it!

Same sex marriage is unstoppable in the wider culture. The only question now is can the evangelical church find the spiritual fiber to stand against it. Especially when there are so many other sexual sins tolerated nowadays in the church. The

Andy Stanley non-stance and double-speak about homosexuals in his North Point megachurch complex is not that promising. Rob Bell, the evangelical Wheaton and Fuller Seminary-trained emergent who insists that he is an evangelical, has called for full scale capitulation to homosexual marriage and culture. Bell’s solution is simple capitulation. Bell recently stated “I am for marriage. I am for fidelity. I am for love, whether it’s a man and woman, a woman and a woman, a man and a man. I think the ship has sailed and I think the church needs—I think this is the world we are living in and we need to affirm people wherever they are.” Bell sees evangelicalism as a very narrow politically intertwined, culturized evangelical subculture. Bell urges people to embrace a different sense of the term evangelical. He states: “a beautiful thing would be if evangelical came to mean buoyant, joyful, honest announcement about all of us receiving the grace of God.” He further feels the evangelical subculture is dying if not dead already. Notice Bell is striving to retain his new version of evangelicalism. It is the term ‘evangelical’ that needs to be re-defined to fit his new image of it. That way he can still claim to be one.

Many evangelicals for now would not follow Bell that far. Nevertheless, they put their eggs with stealth into the cultural basket. Subtly many are changing their message, and only one in a hundred pew-sitters sees the shift. I heard it recently. In an Easter message the pastor dramatically told of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. But in the application there was a subtle change. Jesus was raised so people are able to “hit the restart button” for their daily lives. Indeed, it is true we will live new lives in Christ. But! No my friends! Jesus defeated DEATH in his resurrection and now the gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE. The resurrection is not about rebooting our physical lives that are already passing away. We look not to the seen world but the unseen world and the resurrection victory over the grave. That is the traditional

Easter message.

Where in the New Testament did the church attempt to gain pagan popularity in order to evangelize? Roman emperors and provincial authorities openly had legal homosexual marriage partners. But Paul and his churches didn’t give them the time of day. They zealously protected their so-called product line, the Gospel message. No cheap pagan knock-offs. They actually believed the so-called ‘product’ of the Gospel would sell itself if faithfully preached and lived. I (Paul) planted, Apollos watered but God gives the increase. (1 Corinthians 3:6). Just a reliable, unashamed, intelligent presentation of the Gospel, because it (the Gospel) is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:17).

My son recently gave me, almost ashamedly, a watch. It was a copy of a Rolex with the exact logo and all. I asked him how much he paid for it. “Oh! Dad, I bought it on the street for 10 dollars.” What an analogy! Haven’t we had enough cultural knock-off’s of the Gospel? Haven’t we had it with evangelical, political, money raising action committees? They don’t work anyway in a culture that Paul said long ago was passing away. False apostles and prophets and their conjured glory clouds will only reach evangelicals that have been surviving on inferior rations. Artificial lure fishing is not what the Bible writers were talking about in becoming fishers of men.

In biblical cultures as well as many cultures today fishing is done with a net. If the net is mended and has no holes it will bring in a catch. May our church repair the broken nets, deliver the Gospel message, and return to biblical fishing for men.

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Note: This article can be found online at the Herescope Blog (Discernment Ministries Research Group): <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2013/04/circling-wagons.html>.

WHEN HITLER WAS IN POWER – MEMORIES OF A JEWISH GIRL

By Anita Dittman with Jan Markell

1939 Breslau, Germany—My Home

I was twelve years old and entering early teen years living in Nazi Germany. Often as the lights went out at night, I lapsed into self-pity and cried myself to sleep. I knew it would be a long winter with minimum food rations, crowded, substandard living quarters, and that never-ending dread of the Gestapo knock on the door. More and more Jews feared venturing into the streets.

Rising costs for tuition and school books and the increased anti-Semitism made my school life miserable and my future education questionable. In addition, home conditions were difficult. Two of Mother's sisters had come to live with us in our one room, and we had to share the kitchen and bath with additional families.

Mother's sisters—Aunt Friede and Aunt Elsbeth—were endlessly annoyed at my strong faith in Jesus and Mother's growing interest in Him. Their nagging, coupled with the unbearable bedbugs in our apartment, made life a chore. I gave Aunt Elsbeth my bed and slept on a lumpy, bedbug-infested sofa, falling asleep each night while arguments rang through the room.

We hardly dared go to Pastor Hornig's church. The macabre scenes we saw on the way caused bad dreams at night as our subconscious relived what we had seen: Jews by the hundreds being herded into trucks as they stared glassy-eyed with fear at being separated from loved ones. Since we were in a Jewish ghetto, we could look out our window almost any day and see such scenes on the street below.

By fall, the war began in earnest. Germany surged ahead, optimistic because of her swift victory in Poland. The frighteningly diabolical trio of Adolf Eichmann, Reinhard Heydrich, and Heinrich Himmler was ordered to find a "final solution to the Jewish problem," and it was generally

understood that the final solution meant total extermination.

Auschwitz and Dachau, two of the more deadly camps, would strike similar terror within the Jews of Europe. Rudolf Ross was put in charge of the genocide at Auschwitz. Upon his orders, two thousand Jews would be gassed at one time. As men, women, and children were shoved together into massive "shower rooms" some were stamped on their chests with a coded number that indicated they had gold teeth. When they finally realized they weren't taking a shower, they screamed and cried for mercy, but their cries fell on deaf ears. Amused guards watched through peepholes as they suffered and died. Hideous horror stories began to trickle out of the various camps, putting unbearable pressure on European Jews, who knew that they were all potential gas-chamber victims.

1940—Berlin, Germany—Away From Home

By the summer of 1940, the Führer had made himself the master of western Europe as he invaded Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and France. They all would fall before the year's end. It began to look as though Italy would enter the war as an ally of Germany. As the Germans attacked Allied cities and sunk Allied ships, Britain began to retaliate by dropping bombs, and Germany started melting beneath her burning cities.

As the war got worse, so did general living conditions. Yet no true German dared to let defeat or discouragement cross his mind. It was still unthinkable. What about the thousand-year Reich? Hitler surely had things under control; this was only a temporary inconvenience. It was a small price to pay for the Fatherland and the glorious days that lay ahead for the Reich.

Early 1941—Home Again in Breslau

Brown-shirted storm troopers were marching through the towns, terrorizing

everyone and delighting in making life miserable for the Jews, whether by teasing and taunting or by acts of brutality. They ridiculed and beat Jews everywhere and randomly hauled off individuals or families to prison. Cattle cars were filled daily as trainloads of frightened Jews were shipped to secret destinations throughout the tranquil German countryside.

As I walked to the gymnasium of the school I was attending now, I saw bold signs proclaiming "No Jews Allowed" on nearly every store. Other signs warned Germans to stay away from Jews, who had been banned from theaters, parks, and all recreational areas. Everywhere I looked, I saw anti-Jewish slogans and posters. Many of the posters had the photograph of a Jew who had just been arrested for some concocted crime. In sharp contrast, flashing neon signs illuminated Hitler's picture.

The Nazi flag was hung proudly outside of most homes in Breslau. Inside, Germans were required to have a picture of the Führer somewhere in the house. Hitler was pressing the Christian pastors to have his picture placed at the front of church altars.

Hitler's contorted and strained voice blasted hate propaganda from the radio almost daily; he frantically blamed "international financial Jewry" for the war and warned Germans that every living Jew was an archenemy of the Reich. Jews had absolutely no rights and weren't entitled to own property.

More and more Jews trembled behind locked doors. We learned that a brother and a sister of Mother's had been picked up and taken to a camp. Another brother and his wife took their own lives rather than face a concentration camp ordeal. It was inevitable that the random confiscation of Jews should hit our house that winter.

Mother tried to be a peacemaker for her three quarreling sisters. However, when

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she attempted to help them, they would gang up on her because of her growing love for Jesus, who Pastor Hornig had told her was the Jewish Messiah. Mother could no longer deny the power of Christ in our lives. She had to talk about Him; it was a natural overflow of love. But her sisters insisted that it was Jesus' followers who had hounded the Jews since the first century. They claimed the Nazis were all Christians on the basis of them being Gentiles and having attended Catholic or Lutheran churches. Many of those very churches had now sold out to the Führer, allowing his picture to be on their church altars. It made no sense to my aunts to worship Jesus, a phony dead man in whose name millions of Jews had been persecuted, tortured, and killed.

"But those people aren't really Christians!" I insisted, not fully grasping the accuracy of my statement. "They just give real Christians a bad name."

"Nonsense!" insisted Aunt Elsbeth. "All Gentiles are Christians."

All internal affairs were being handed over to Martin Bormann, who began to carry out a ruthless assault on the Christian churches in Germany. More than ever we feared for the Hornigs and the believers at our church, for they would be prime targets for Bormann's men because of their interest and love for the Jewish people. Gestapo agents always were planted in the church services now.

The fresh breezes of spring 1941 brought us little relief from our agony. One by one the apartments in our Jewish tenement were emptying as the arrests increased. In June, we heard the dreaded knock again. This time they came for Aunt Friede, who was seventy-three years old. We tried very hard to swallow our tears again, for we knew it would only upset Aunt Friede more to see us crying over her. Again, no explanation was given and no destination revealed.

A great part of the terrifying fear related to the arrests was the unknown factor of the prisoner's destination. Was it jail or a concentration camp? Was it a work camp or a gas chamber or a firing squad? One seldom knew until sometimes family members received a postcard from prison or perhaps word was smuggled out that the person had been killed. The fate of millions would never be known. They would simply become statistics.

One by one or all at once, families disappeared and were separated in the ordeal of Nazi Germany in 1941. We never saw Aunt Käte, Aunt Friede, or Aunt Elsbeth again.

Only one synagogue was left in Breslau after the burnings of 1938 and 1939. Recently it had been made into a prison for Jews who were waiting for processing before being sent off to the camps.

After school one day, I made my way to the crumbling synagogue. During the long walk in the December cold, I considered the paradox of Nazi Germany. As Christmas approached, Germans celebrated the birth of Jesus; yet they worshiped the godless Nazis. The peace, joy, love, and hope that are synonymous with Christmas were strangely muted in Hitler's Germany, but few gave up the futile dream of the marvelous thousand-year Reich. Few were ready to allow the idea of defeat to enter their minds, even though smoke from burning Berlin rose five miles high in the sky and uncounted thousands of German soldiers were dying on the Russian battlefield.

1942

Hitler's attention was focused mainly on the Russian front in the spring of 1942, though the Africa corps drove further and further east toward the British-held Middle East. The Americans joined England's Royal Air Force in dropping bombs on German cities. In the coming weeks and months, Cologne, Rostock, Lubeck, and Berlin would become piles of rubble.

That May I turned fifteen, and I finished my confirmation classes with Pas-

tor Hornig. Mother scraped a few cents together to make me a lovely white dress. Pastor Hornig tested me in front of the entire congregation at St. Barbara's; it was one of the highlights of my life. I was thrilled to be able to please Pastor Hornig and Mother as I gave all the right answers in my test. Mother looked at me proudly from the audience. My eyes flashed between Pastor Hornig and Mother as I drank in their looks of approval and praise. This was the best gift I could give them.

That spring, Reinhard Heydrich died. He was one-third of the Eichmann-Himmler-Heydrich trio—the masterminds behind the Jewish persecution. The blood of thousands—perhaps millions of Jews was on his hands.

To this day, the Nazi Holocaust continues to prevent many Jewish people from believing in God. Satan uses it as the biggest stumbling block for the numerous Jews who can't accept that a loving, all-powerful God would allow such a horrible thing to happen. Granted, millions perished, yet God also allowed millions to survive.

The Reich suffered a terrible defeat at Stalingrad as the Russians captured 220,000 German prisoners in February 1943. Solemn music was played for three days on the radio as all Germans mourned the loss. At last, Germany was experiencing the type of pain she had been inflicting on others.

We had heard that defeat was also occurring in North Africa, and the air war against Germany was merciless now. A layer of smoke blanketed the land as Hamburg and other cities were being hit day and night. A concentrated Allied attack on German U-boats caused the Germans to lose the battle in the Atlantic.

Finally, the Allies demanded the unconditional surrender of the Reich, but for Hitler that was unthinkable. Instead, he declared that an attitude of defeatism would be punishable by death, and the empty propaganda that promised a glorified

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ous day for Germany continued to be screamed over the airwaves.

How much longer would the German people believe in the illusion of the glorious Fatherland? How much longer would they follow the mad pied-piper and trust him with their sons, fathers, and husbands, many of whom would never leave the Siberian prisoner-of-war camps? How much longer would they be blindly obedient to the Führer, who admittedly had no compassionate thought for a human life?

1943

As winter turned into the spring of 1943, we heard that the Allies had won the war in Africa, which gave Mother and me a surge of hope.

Rumors began to fly about some of the Reich's concentration camps being liberated in the coming year. The camps now held millions of Jews from Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the Balkans.

However, our dreams were suddenly shattered one balmy spring day when we heard about the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto. Five-hundred-thousand Jews had been herded into the ghetto to starve to death. Finally the Germans went in to kill them or crowd them into death camps; however, the starving but determined Jews fought back with everything they had. Then Hitler sent in three thousand more troops to quickly take over the ghetto with tanks, armored cars, artillery, and flame-throwers. Only five-hundred Jews lived to tell of the annihilation of the ghetto and its people.

That week we could hardly speak to one another without choking back tears of grief and anger; even within the purest heart, bitterness raged toward the Nazis. Our faith was shaken and our hope dimmed. The atheists among us cursed, while the Jewish unbelievers withdrew into themselves. The religious Jews prayed harder and asked why. We Christians comforted one another and realized that some answers would be available only in heaven.

1944

The Allies landed in Normandy. Rumor had it that everyone who had even one Jewish grandparent was now going to be picked up in a last-ditch effort to wipe out the Jewish race. Hitler would make the Jews pay, of course, for his mistakes in the war, a pattern that was never broken.

The stories from the camps told of massive gassings and shoot-

ings. Following a gassing, the bodies would be cremated in giant ovens. Giant smokestacks coughed out soot from burning bodies, blanketing most of Europe. Fellow prisoners, or in some cases family members, would then be ordered to break up the remaining bones and bury them in mass graves.

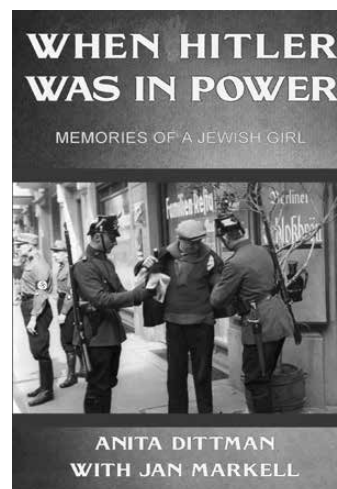
The worst horrors took place in Auschwitz, from which few ever escaped or lived to tell their stories. It was estimated that almost three million already had perished there, and at the end of the war it would be learned that eighty percent of those sent to Auschwitz died.

The most gruesome story leaked out early in 1944 and would later be documented. Hitler informed Himmler that it was not enough for the Jews to die; they must die in agony, for they were only germs, not people. Himmler was ordered to devise a plan to make thousands of Jews die a horrible death. He got the idea of placing Jewish prisoners in freight cars having their floors coated with a layer of dehydrated calcium oxide. The substance caused terrible burns, and prisoners often suffered for days before dying an awful death in the freight cars, which were left in a secluded place.

Hitler had only to whisper and ten thousand prisoners would die that day.

The human mind and body could not logically withstand such pressures and uncertainties, especially if a person had a loved one in a camp or if he himself was on the Nazi blacklist. Added to the other horrors was the constant threat that a death-camp experience awaited him after a harsh midnight knock on his door. The Nazi blacklist included more than just Jews. Christians who were suspected of hiding or aiding Jews were on it, as well as anyone who uttered an anti-Nazi sentiment. A time would come for all

of us to be hauled off to death camps unless the Allies—with God's help—could rescue us.



This article is taken from one of our new booklet tracts, *When Hitler Was in Power* and also from the book, *Trapped in Hitler's Hell*.

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ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL (ACSI) STICKS WITH CONTEMPLATIVE AFTER ALL

In 2008, Lighthouse Trails wrote an article titled “Association of Christian Schools International Adds Spiritual Formation and Promotes Contemplative Authors.”¹ The article challenged the ACSI because of its obvious contemplative propensities and how that was going to affect millions of students worldwide. You see, the ACSI claims to be the “largest Protestant educational organization in the world” with nearly 24,000 member schools and affecting over 5.5 million students throughout the world.² By the way, those figures are substantially higher than the 2008 figures—5,300 member schools and 1.2 million students. The question is, since ACSI’s challenge by Lighthouse Trails in 2008, what has the organization done with its contemplative leanings? The answer to that question can be found in an upcoming event that ACSI is holding. In July of 2013, in Colorado Springs, ACSI will be presenting the “2013 ACSI Leadership Academy.”³ The theme at this year’s annual event is “Spiritual Formation: Christian Schools Matter”! The keynote speaker will be Dr. James C. Wilhoit, author of *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered* (a copy of this book will be mailed to every registrant). Each registrant will also receive one semester hour of graduate credit from George Fox University (one of the most contemplative colleges out there today).

In our 2008 article, we suggested that ACSI “may be heading into the troubled waters of contemplative spirituality.” We stated this because listed under the ACSI “Spiritual Formation” section of their website were the names of contemplative books that ACSI was recommending. Our article focused mostly on a book titled *Cultivating Christian Character* by Michael Zigarelli. Zigarelli’s book, as we pointed out, contained the names of many contemplative figures. One in particular stood out, interspiritualist mystic David Steindl Rast.

You can read our 2008 report on our blog to learn about our concerns over Zigarelli’s book and ACSI’s promotion of it.

That first article we wrote about ACSI was written in January of 2008. Later that year in March, we wrote “ACSI (Association of Christian Schools) Recommends Brian McLaren and Defends Mysticism.”⁴ We stated in that article:

ACSI is telling attendees of the Early Education Conference on April 19, 2008 to read Henri Nouwen’s book, *In the Name of Jesus* for preparation for the conference. Now, we are sorry to report that ACSI is recommending to its 5300 member schools Brian McLaren’s *A New Kind of Christian*.⁵

Our March 2008 article discussed then ACSI president Ken Smitherman and how he defended mysticism, referring to several mystic proponents in his defense statements. We explained:

In Smitherman’s March letter [his defense against our January letter], he tries to distinguish between what he calls “occult” mysticism and Christian mysticism. But by directing people to read Dallas Willard, Henri Nouwen, Michael Zigarelli, Rob Bell, and Brian McLaren, he is promoting the very thing he says is wrong.

Basically, as we showed in our March 2008 article, the president of ACSI was a contemplative advocate and wasn’t hiding the fact. By September of that year, we posted a third article, “ACSI Searches for New President—Will This One Be a Contemplative?” Ken Smitherman was leaving ACSI, and a new president was going to take his place.

We could only speculate, but we could

not help wonder if ACSI decided they didn’t want to go in the contemplative way. Our September article stated:

We hope that ACSI will put in the place of president someone who understands the dangers of the contemplative prayer and emerging church movements and someone who will seek to uphold the Word of God at all costs. This is an organization that works with and serves thousands of Christian schools worldwide representing 1.2 million students. If they present contemplative spirituality as an acceptable and beneficial belief system, the spiritual damage to countless students will be devastating.

The last article we posted about ACSI was in February 2009, “ACSI Chooses New President.” Dr. Brian Simmons, from Indiana Wesleyan University was chosen to be ACSI’s next president. In that 2009 article, we stated:

The school where Simmons is currently working, Indiana Wesleyan University, is one of the schools listed on the Lighthouse Trails Contemplative Colleges page. In general, the Wesleyan denomination (as with many other denominations) has been influenced significantly by contemplative/emerging spirituality. . . . As for Brian Simmons, time will tell what influences he will bring to ACSI. Let us pray that he does not share Ken Smitherman’s . . . affinity for contemplative spirituality.

Four years have passed since Brian Simmons took over the leadership of ACSI.

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4 REASONS WHY HOLMAN PUBLISHERS SHOULD NOT HAVE INSERTED AN ARTICLE BY A CONTEMPLATIVE AUTHOR INTO THEIR KING JAMES BIBLES

Recently, Lighthouse Trails learned that Holman Bible Publishers (the oldest Bible publisher in America) has inserted an article by a strong contemplative proponent into several of their *King James Version* Bibles (some of which Lighthouse Trails WAS carrying) including: the *Ultra Thin Reference Bible*, the *Pocket-Sized Bible Classic*, the *Large Print Ultra Thin Bible*, and the *Personal Reference Bible*. The article in the Bibles is titled, “Why You Should Read the King James Bible,” written by the late Calvin Miller (died 2012). This is a major issue, and let us tell you 4 reasons why we believe Holman should not have done this:

1. Calvin Miller is an advocate for contemplative/centering prayer. Ray Yungen discusses Miller in *A Time of Departing*:

In *Into the Depths of God*, [Calvin] Miller encourages readers to engage in centering prayer and explains it as a union between man and God:

“Centering is the merger of two ‘selves’—ours and his [God’s]. Centering is union with Christ. It is not a union that eradicates either self but one that heightens both”¹

Into the Depths of God is an exhortation in contemplative spirituality and is brimming with quotes by Thomas Merton and other contemplatives. Miller speaks of the “wonderful relationship between ecstasy [mystical state] and transcendence [God],” and says that “Ecstasy is meant to increase our desire for heaven.”²

Into the Depths of God is riddled with favorable quotes by and references to a number of contemplative mystics. In addition to Thomas Merton, there is Evelyn

Underhill, St. John of the Cross, Esther de Waal, Kathleen Norris, Hildegard of Bingen, Annie Dillard, Bernard of Clairvaux, and St. Anthony (a Desert Father). In Miller’s newer book, *The Disciplined Life*, Miller again turns to the mystics. Miller also wrote *The Path to Celtic Prayer* (Celtic spirituality is another avenue through which contemplative is entering the evangelical church).

2. Secondly, Calvin Miller resonates with emergent teacher Marcus Borg. In Miller’s book, *The Book of Jesus* (2005), Marcus Borg writes an entire chapter for the book. Miller would never include an entire chapter of his own book if it was written by someone he did not resonate with. As Lighthouse Trails has revealed in past articles and books, Marcus Borg denies the tenets of the Christian faith including the virgin birth, the deity of Christ, and His atonement for sin. Roger Oakland discusses Borg in *Faith Undone*:

“Borg explains in his book *The God We Never Knew* that his views on God, the Bible, and Christianity were transformed while he was in seminary:

I let go of the notion that the Bible is a divine product. I learned that it is a human cultural product, the product of two ancient communities, biblical Israel and early Christianity. As such, it contained their understandings and affirmations, not statements coming directly or somewhat directly from God. . . . I realized that whatever “divine revelation” and the “inspiration of the Bible” meant (if they meant anything), they did not mean that the Bible was a divine product with divine authority.³

“This attitude would certainly explain how Borg could say: “Jesus almost certainly was not born of a virgin, did not think of himself as the Son of God, and did not see his purpose as dying for the sins of the world.”⁴

There’s no possible way that Calvin Miller could have been familiar with Borg’s writings and not been aware of his blatantly anti-Gospel stance. This is a common problem that Lighthouse Trails has had in the past and continues to have that people we critique tend to resonate with those who are blatant in their New Age views, but they themselves appear to be relatively benign to the larger evangelical community.

3. As we have shown above, Calvin Miller holds to contemplative persuasions. And yet, these Bibles have an article written by him within their pages. What this will do is point Bible readers to Miller and his writings and possibly even to Marcus Borg and his writings. To have Calvin Miller’s article in a Bible seems to be a terrible dichotomy: i.e., the Bible points people to the Gospel’s message of the Cross and man’s sinful state and need of a Savior while contemplative, as a movement, points people to man’s supposed divinity thus nullifying the need for a Savior.

4. In view of Calvin Miller’s contemplative propensities, let’s briefly examine his article in the Holman Bibles, “Why You Should Read the *King James Bible*.” In the article, he lists three reasons why the *KJV* should be read: 1) it is the version your parents and grandparents read 2) it has literary and poetic strength and beauty, and 3) there is ease in memorizing verses in the *KJV* because of its “high liter-

Continued on next page

Holman Publishers- continued from previous page

ary resonance.” While these reasons all produce merit, the article seems to turn the *KJV* into more of a poetic book than the Word of God. While Lighthouse Trails is not in the category of what some call King James Only (in that this is the only version someone can get saved through), we do see it as a standard high above many of the Bible versions available today. Thus we have come to trust it more than others. We find these two things noteworthy: one, that emerging church figures (such as Phyllis Tickle who suggest it is a lovely book of poetic literature but not an authority in our lives and Tony Jones who minimizes the authority of the Bible as the Word of God) have done much to disregard the Bible as God’s inspired Word, and two, that the Holman Bibles include someone (Miller) who resonates with a man (Borg) who rejects the basic fundamentals of Christianity and Miller himself speaks merely of the poetic nature of the Bible.

Another Possible Ramification:

There are serious implications and possible ramifications regarding what is going on here. For instance, something many may not have considered: The *King James Bible* has no copyright on it because of its age. Bluntly put, anyone can do anything they want to that Bible and still call it the *King James Bible*. As an example, in some of Holman’s editions, they have changed the spelling of some words (e.g., Saviour to Savior). This might not seem like a big deal to some people, but how do we know what a particular publisher is changing and not changing? If they can change the spellings of words, they can also omit or change words and phrases. For instance, they could change or remove references to homosexuality (e.g., 1 Corinthians 6:9, Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:27) or to the deity of Christ (e.g., Romans 9:5, Isaiah 40:3—see

more). While we do believe that the Lord will preserve and protect His Word, the “editing” of the *King James Bible* could become a free-for-all to emergent-leaning publishers.

Conclusion: Perhaps it would be a good idea to check inside your own Bibles and ones you are giving as gifts and make sure there are no articles written by contemplative and/or emerging authors. If any reading this feel compelled, here is the contact information for Holman Bible Publishers. If you do contact them, please ask them to remove the article by Calvin Miller in their Bible editions.

Note: Lighthouse Trails put two phone calls into Holman. We received a phone call back from someone at the Holman office. The woman told us she is going to be passing this article on to the editorial department. We were told that LifeWay Resources (the Southern Baptist resource arm) is the parent company of B & H (Broadman & Holman).

Holman Bible Publishers

127 9th Avenue N

Nashville, TN 37234-0002

(615) 251-2520

Notes:

1. Ray Yungen, *A Time of Departing* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2nd ed., 2006), p. 107.
2. Calvin Miller, *Into the Depths of God* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2001), p. 96.
3. Marcus Borg, *The God We Never Knew* (San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1997), p. 125.
4. Roger Oakland, *Faith Undone* ((Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails Publishing), p. 196, citing p. 125 of *The God We Never Knew*.

ACSI—continued from page 13

(He actually resigned in 2012.) Dr. Daniel Egeler took over the role of President of ACSI. Lighthouse Trails has been occupied with many other stories, and ACSI drifted into the background. But on March 29th of this year, we learned about the “Spiritual Formation: Christian Schools Matter” Leadership Academy that will be held this summer with keynote speaker James C. Wilhoit.

Regarding James Wilhoit’s book, *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered*, which as we said earlier will be given out to each conference registrant, the book is

packed with references of and quotes by some of today’s most staunch and influential contemplative names: Dallas Willard (who wrote the foreword), Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, Ruth Haley Barton (trained at the interspiritual Shalem Institute), David Benner, Kenneth Boa, Richard Foster, Emilie Griffin, Brother Lawrence, Henri Nouwen, Eugene Peterson, Pete Scazzero, Klaus Issler, and Marjorie Thompson (*Soul Feast*). (Refer to our research site for information on these names.) The book is basically a primer on contemplative prayer and emerging spirituality and backs up the teachings of the names which it includes. Wilhoit is currently a professor

of “Christian Formation” at Wheaton College. Wilhoit also has written a book titled *Discovering Lectio Divina*.

It is sad to say that ACSI’s current president, Daniel Egeler, is continuing on with Ken Smitherman’s role of taking ACSI down the contemplative path. If your children (including college-age children) attend a Christian school, it would be a good idea if you found out if that school is an ACSI member school. If it is, please talk to that school’s administrator or president and alert them to the direction ACSI has gone. Lighthouse Trails will gladly send a complimentary copy of *A Time of Depart-*

Continued on page 27

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

Over the last few years, your mailings, blog, and books have been a steady and consistent voice while I have disentangled myself from deep involvement in contemplative practices, which I now know to be profoundly destructive. It has been a lonely and confusing process as I have discarded cherished ideas, commitments, and friends, but I am convinced that your critique of the contemplative movement squares with biblical testimony and answers questions that were tearing me apart for several years.

A bit of my history: I became a Christian in [the 90s], in a highly charismatic new church in _____. As personal problems surfaced, I took "pastoral direction" from a charismatic individual who promoted mystical practices. In 1998, I was involved in starting a new church based on these practices. In 2000, I moved from _____ to _____ to champion these practices while doing an MA in Theological Studies at _____ Seminary. . . . I graduated in 2002 and returned to [my home] whereupon my life fell into crisis as I could not understand what had gone wrong. By 2005, I was discovering the scale of deception I had been operating in, and since then I have slowly extricated and distanced myself while rediscovering the Gospel of grace and the supremacy of Scripture as God's revelation.

My observation is that you are a voice in the wilderness, and that many who should know better will regard you with disdain. I sincerely hope you will persevere, because I am convinced that enormous numbers of well meaning Christians are being hoodwinked by occultic deception. It seems to me that you are spearheading a very small group of writers and thinkers who are raising the alarm over very serious problems, while so many in the wider church seem

either oblivious, or worse still even contemptuous of those who cry foul.

I have no religious ambitions left, I hope to live a quiet life and walk humbly before God, and have lost all appetite for the vanity of religious success. But I feel prompted to say that if I can be of any service then I will offer the best I can at your disposal.

LETTER FROM A WATCHMAN: "ODE TO THE WATCHERS ON THE WALL"

They are the watchers. Tirelessly they stand on the wall and watch . . . sometimes blowing their horns to warn of danger and creeping dragons. The people shake their heads and just walk away . . . "Don't believe everything you see, foolish watcher!" they say, even though the watchers can see what they can't. Foolishly, the people naively open the gates and welcome the dragons in now. Proudly they walk by flaunting their green guests. "See, this is a good guest," they sneer, oblivious to the puff of smoke wafting behind them. The watchers know that it's only because of their swords that the dragons don't devour the whole village at once. Watchers are never well liked . . . they don't apply for this job, but the King grants such a position only to those He chooses. They must accept the honor . . . it's not that they are worthy, but they have each been rescued from the mouth of a fierce dragon . . . so they know the stench and recognize the sounds of a dragon . . . and now they watch for them . . . because they owe their lives to the King and his family. **CK**

MAKING DISCIPLES

Thanks for your good works—helping those who are interested in staying on track with sound doctrine. My opinion is this:

"Churches should return to the basic fundamentals of Christianty. Jesus told us to make disciples. Seldom do we hear or know of anyone, doing discipleship training. Jesus spent three years with His small following of disciples. Then, after Pente-

cost and being filled with the Holy Ghost- These 120 became the First Church ever. Their mandate was not only to be vessels of honor-and to preach, teach, exhort the lost-and how to be saved-They had to disciple others. That requires someone capable to disciple. Then, the question arises-what should be taught/discipled? Doctrine!!!!!! Doctrine is necessary. Lest we all be confused. Today, there is much confusion because lack of discipleship training." **PASTOR R.A.**

NEW AGE IN HEALTH CLASSES AND HOSPITALS

I took a holistic nursing class at a college, and at the time I did not know about all the New Age modalities that were being taught. The professor had all the instructors and masters of Reiki, Therapeutic Touch, Yoga, and magnets, just to name a few.

This class was full of young girls hoping to be nurses. Classes are advertised in nursing magazines and newspapers if anyone is interested. It is thought to enhance your nursing practice.

When I worked in the ICU, there was some therapeutic person that hung colored scarves over the head of the bed of a patient who was depressed as she was on a ventilator. There was some sort of aura associated with the waving of the scarves in the breeze that was supposed to lift her depression. We nurses thought it was the dumbest thing we had ever seen. Needless to say, it didn't help.

If it is being taught in nursing school, you will find it in the hospitals. And yes some doctors think it works. You have a RIGHT as a patient to refuse anything or any treatment you are not comfortable with. **B.B.**

ONLINE LINKS AND RESOURCES

* While we believe the ministries below offer biblically sound research, news, and information, please use discernment whenever you search for information, and weigh all things against Scripture. As Christians, we must “Prove all things” and “Try the spirits” through the screen of the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1). You will be able to get addresses and other contact information from the listed websites.

RESEARCH MINISTRY WEBSITES

- DECEPTION IN THE CHURCH: WWW.DECEPTIONINTHECHURCH.COM.
- FORCING CHANGE: WWW.FORCINGCHANGE.ORG.
- GOOD FIGHT MINISTRIES: WWW.GOODFIGHT.ORG.
- KJOS MINISTRIES: WWW.CROSSROAD.TO
- LET US REASON MINISTRIES: WWW.LETUSREASON.ORG.
- LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESEARCH: WWW.LIGHTHOUSE-TRAILSRESEARCH.COM.
- OLIVE TREE MINISTRIES: WWW.OLIVETREEVIEWS.COM.
- REACHOUT TRUST: WWW.REACHOUTTRUST.ORG.

- SPIRITUAL RESEARCH NETWORK: WWW.SPIRITUALRESEARCH-NETWORK.COM.
- TAKE HEED MINISTRIES: WWW.TAKEHEED.NET.
- THE BEREAN CALL: WWW.THEBEREANCALL.ORG.
- UNDERSTAND THE TIMES: WWW.UNDERSTANDTHETIMES.ORG.

INFORMATIVE BLOGS

- GUARDING THE FLOCK MINISTRIES: [HTTP://GUARDINGHIS-FLOCK.COM](http://GUARDINGHIS-FLOCK.COM).
- HERESCOPE BLOG: [HTTP://HERESCOPE.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://HERESCOPE.BLOGSPOT.COM).
- INDYWATCHMAN: [HTTP://INDYWATCHMAN.COM](http://INDYWATCHMAN.COM).
- LIGHTING THE WAY: [HTTP://LIGHTINGTHEWAY.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://LIGHTINGTHEWAY.BLOGSPOT.COM).

LIGHTINGTHEWAY.BLOGSPOT.COM.

- FIRST NATION MINISTRIES WITH DON CLINE: [HTTP://FIRST-NATIONMINISTRIES.ORG](http://FIRST-NATIONMINISTRIES.ORG).
- MY WORD LIKE FIRE: [HTTP://MYWORDLIKEFIRE.WORDPRESS.COM](http://MYWORDLIKEFIRE.WORDPRESS.COM).
- WATCHER'S LAMP BLOG: [HTTP://WATCHERSLAMP.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://WATCHERSLAMP.BLOGSPOT.COM).

AUTHOR WEBSITES

- ANITA DITTMAN/JAN MARKELL: WWW.HITLERSHELL.COM.
- BERIT KJOS: WWW.HOWTOPROTECTYOURCHILD.COM.
- DIET EMAN: WWW.THINGSWE-COULDNTSAY.COM.
- GREGORY REIG: [\[COLOROFFPAIN.COM\]\(http://COLOROFFPAIN.COM\).](http://WWW.THE-

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- KATIE SAPIENZA: WWW.STOLENFROMMYARMS.COM.
- KEVIN REEVES: WWW.KEVIN-REEVES.ORG.
- MARIA KNEAS: WWW.MARIAKNEAS.COM.
- Nanci Des Gerlaise: WWW.NANCIDESGERLAISE.COM.
- PATRICK CROUGH: WWW.PROTECTINGTHECHILDREN.COM.
- RAY YUNGEN: WWW.ATIMEOFDEPARTING.COM.
- ROGER OAKLAND: WWW.ROGEROAKLAND.COM.
- WARREN B. SMITH: WWW.WARRENSMITH.COM

Q & A

QUESTION: I'm wondering if you've heard of Linda Dillow and her books? My church women's ministry is going to start reading her book *What's It Like to Be Married to Me*. I've yet to find any critical reviews on this author. I want to make sure she's doctrinally solid before I invest in participating in this study. I would very much appreciate any input you have regarding this author. Thank you in advance for your response.

ANSWER: We do not have anything on our website about her. However, we would like to issue you a word of caution. In her books, she quotes several contemplatives including Thomas Merton, Richard Foster, Philip Yancey, and others. This tells us that she is most likely reading the mystics, and even if she herself is not directly promoting contemplative prayer or the emerging church, she is pointing her readers to those who do. Thank you for writing, and may the Lord give you discernment in these matters.

QUESTION: Eli Lilly, a major pharmaceutical company, in conjunction

with Christian Theological Seminary (a liberal seminary in Indianapolis, IN) is funding pastoral sabbaticals. It appears it is just a part of a national program. Seems highly suspect to me. I wouldn't be looking twice except that I know a local pastor applying for the grant. I find it very disturbing, but not necessarily surprising considering this church was already “purpose driven” several years back.

ANSWER: In 2007, Lighthouse Trails became aware of the Lilly Endowment grants that were being given to congregations and their pastors (the pastors then allowed to go on sabbaticals that had contemplative/emerging overtones).

According to the Lilly Endowment document that lists the winners of the 2012 grants, pastors will:

“... seek to regain spiritual vitality through the ancient Christian practice of walking as pilgrims in several countries ... and making retreats in Benedictine monasteries, walking the labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral, and living in sacred space on the Isle of Iona and other Celtic spiritual destinations.”

Winners represent various denominations including Southern Baptist, Independent, Presbyterian, Reformed, Episcopal, United Methodist, Lutheran, Nazarene, Evangelical Free, and Mennonite.

QUESTION: I have been reading your newsletters for at least 4 years now. I went looking for you last night because our women's ministry just announced they are doing “prayer stations” next Monday night. Can these ever be innocuous? Should I call the leader and innocently ask questions? Any thoughts would be appreciated.

ANSWER: You should definitely be asking some questions. See if you can find out what books the women's ministry leaders are reading. Ask them this: “What books would you recommend on prayer?” Ask it neutrally to get an unbiased, unslanted answer. This will help you determine in which direction the group will most likely be heading. The prayer stations are typically being used to introduce and enhance contemplative spirituality. We're not saying that this happens in every instance, but this is the pattern we are seeing in most cases.

BELL CALLS HOMOSEXUAL "MARRIAGE" A MOVE OF GOD FOR "GREATER AFFIRMATION OF GAY BROTHERS, SISTERS"

By Heather Clark

Christian News Network

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Just days after word broke that Rob Bell, author of the best-selling and controversial book *Love Wins*, which challenges the Christian teaching of Hell, came out in support of the homosexual lifestyle, Bell has reiterated his beliefs to the media.

This week, Odyssey Networks posted a video interview with Bell, during which he further outlined his stance, stating that he believes that the push for homosexual "marriage" is actually a move of God:

"What we're seeing right now in this day, I believe, [is] God pulling us ahead into greater and greater affirmation and acceptance of our gay brothers and sisters and pastors and friends and neighbors and co-workers," Bell asserted. "And we're realizing that God made some of us one way and some of us another."

"A lot of people when they say, 'By God [pulling us] ahead, do you mean like same sex marriage?' Yes," he continued. "[W]e live in a world where we have friends, neighbors, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles — people we've journeyed with for years who are gay. And we need to love, affirm and all of us together work on the real problems we have in the world."

Bell contended that homosexual relationships should be affirmed because the world is in need of love.

"I think that's one of the things you're seeing right now is, you are seeing God pulling us all forward into a greater real-

ization that we need more love. We need more fidelity. We need more monogamy. We need more people who are committed to each other," he explained. "It's not good for us to be alone."

The former pastor then opined that the "old way" of handling the issue of homosexuality is faulty.

"I think lots of us are realizing the old way of seeing things doesn't work. It causes so much pain and heartache," Bell said. "And God's inviting us to see things in new ways. And we need to say yes, and then we need to step into the future together."

As previously reported, Bell announced last Sunday while speaking at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco that he supported same-sex "marriage."

"I am for marriage. I am for fidelity. I am for love, whether it's a man and woman, a woman and a woman, a man and a man," he said. "I think the ship has sailed and I think the church needs — I think this is the world we are living in and we need to affirm people wherever they are."

Bell opined that many evangelicals can no longer be classified as conservatives because their beliefs have changed with the times.

"I think we are witnessing the death of a particular subculture that doesn't work," he asserted. "I think there is a very narrow, politically intertwined, culturally ghettoized, evangelical subculture that was told 'we're gonna change the thing' and they haven't. And they actually have turned away lots of people."

"And I think that when you're in a part of a subculture that is dying, you make a lot more noise because it's very painful. You sort of die or you adapt," Bell continued. "And if you adapt, it means you have to come face to face with some of the ways we've talked about God, which don't actually shape people into more loving, compassionate people. And we have supported policies and ways of viewing the world that are actually destructive. And we've done it in the name of God and we need to repent."

Many have expressed concern since the news of Bell's comments.

"Plain and simple, Rob Bell's teachings are not true to the words of Scripture," Eric Ludy, pastor of Church at Ellerslie and president of Ellerslie Mission Society in Windsor, Colorado told Christian News Network. "They are a sly attempt at blending the philosophies of our post-modern age with the vernacular of pop-Christianity. The end product is highly dangerous to the human soul because it is the forging of a golden calf god—a God of our culture's making—and certainly not the God of the Bible."

"The God of the Bible doesn't change. His opinions don't change. There is no shadow of turning in Him nor in His Scripture," he said. "We cannot pander after the approval of the culture; we have to stand on the Scriptures just as they were written."



WRITERS WHO LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS USES REGULARLY

ANITA DITTMAN	CARL TEICHRIB	JAN MARKELL	KEVIN REEVES	NANCI DES GERLAISE	ROGER OAKLAND
BERIT KJOS	CHRIS LAWSON	JIM FLETCHER	LARRY DEBRUYN	PATRICK CROUGH	SANDY SIMPSON
BILL RANGLES	DAVID DOMBROWSKI	JOE SCHIMMEL	MARIA KNEAS	PAUL PROCTOR	STEVE BLACKWELL
CARLA KAMPS	DIET EMAN	JOHN LANAGAN	MIKE OPPENHEIMER	PHILIP GRAY	TAMARA HARTZELL
CAROLYN A. GREENE	GREG REID	JOHN FOXE	MIKE STANWOOD	RAY YUNGEN	WARREN B. SMITH

A STATEMENT FROM LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS ABOUT SOME WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Over the past year, there has been a number of deaths among those whom Lighthouse Trails has critiqued for their doctrinal and theological teachings. Recently, we received the following e-mail:

To Lighthouse Trails:

As much as I disagree with the doctrines that are being taught by Rick Warren and his church, we should still “weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn.” Your silence regarding the death of Rick’s son is as loud as anything you might have said. Since you are followed by so many readers, this is an excellent time to show God’s love for a person who is hurting. I was disappointed not to see a condolence to the family on your page, that would speak greatly of the love of God.

In actuality, we did post something on our blog about it the day after we heard the tragic news, and we expressed our sorrow in hearing this news: “Son of Pastor Rick Warren Commits Suicide.”

While we do not always post obituaries or notices about these things, we’d like to state that Lighthouse Trails has never felt or expressed any personal animosity toward those figures we have critiqued. We have never wished for or prayed for any personal tragedy in any of their lives. We have only prayed that their eyes might be opened to the issues discussed on our site and in our books. We believe we have maintained integrity in avoiding any personal smears against anyone. Our focus has been, and by the grace of God, will continue to be contending for the biblical Christian faith. That said, when we hear of these deaths, we do not rejoice at all but feel a sense of sadness for the loved ones of that person and even sadness regarding the one who has departed. We do not have any hate toward any of the people we challenge. Please know that while we may not always post death notices (often because these figures are highly popular and their deaths are

covered by numerous media outlets, both secular and Christian, thus not needing the coverage of our ministry) this does not mean we are trying to make a negative statement about that person. On the contrary, posting something could even give the wrong impression that we are somehow attributing their deaths to God’s judgement. In fact, we never would intend to make any public determination regarding someone’s death. So for these and various others reasons, we don’t often make mention of these deaths. We hope this explanation will clear up any concerns by our readers.

Here are a few that have occurred recently:

On Friday, April 12, 2013, popular author and speaker Brennan Manning died at 78 years old. Manning is best known in the evangelical world for his books *Ragamuffin Gospel* and *Abba’s Child*. Article by the Christian Post on Brennan Manning. His teachings are discussed in several Lighthouse Trails books and articles.

On April 5th 2013, Matthew Warren, 27 year old son of Purpose Driven pastor Rick Warren, died of a self-inflicted gunshot. Article by CNN on Matthew’s death. The Purpose Driven Movement and Rick Warren are discussed in several Lighthouse Trails books, DVDs, and articles.

On February 9th 2013, Richard Twiss, a leader in the Indigenous People’s Movement, died while attending the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC of a heart attack. Twiss was 58. Twiss’ beliefs and teachings are discussed in *Muddy Waters: an insider’s view of North American Native Spirituality*. Obituary of Richard Twiss

On August 19, 2012, Calvin Miller, a contemplative proponent sometimes discussed in Lighthouse Trails articles, passed away at the age of 75. Article by *CT* on Calvin Miller.

**“THEN SPAKE JESUS AGAIN UNTO THEM, SAYING, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.” JOHN 8:12**

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PUBLISHING), DATE, AND WEBSITE IF APPLICABLE. FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT COPYRIGHT AND USE OF OUR MATERIAL, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.LIGHTHOUSETRAILSRESEARCH.COM/COPYRIGHT.HTM](http://WWW.LIGHTHOUSETRAILSRESEARCH.COM/COPYRIGHT.HTM).

TWO SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

ANITA DITTMAN, LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS AUTHOR AND SISTER IN THE LORD

Anita Dittman, the author of *Trapped in Hitler's Hell* and Holocaust survivor, is 86-years-old and lives in the U.S. Even now, she continues speaking to groups about her experience as a young Jewish teen during World War II in Germany, giving God the glory for His faithfulness.

A few years ago, Anita suffered a serious heart attack, and we sent out a prayer request to our readers. God heard those prayers, and Anita recovered fully from the attack and continued on with her ministry. Now, however, she has been in terrible and constant pain and has been told that her hip joint has deteriorated. The doctors have

also told her that because of her age, surgery is not an option. "I am ready to go home to be with the Lord, if that is what He wants," Anita told us recently. We ask you to join us in prayer, lifting her up before the Lord. There are very few Jews alive today who suffered in (and survived) the Holocaust, who are also believers in Jesus Christ, and who have written a book of the experience. So many people still need to hear her story. Thank you for your prayers for Anita.

DOUG HARRIS OF REACHOUT TRUST

We have received this in from the UK. Doug Harris of ReachOut Trust is very ill with an inoperable cancer tumor on his bile duct (adjacent to his liver). Lighthouse Trails has been linking to ReachOut Trust for many years. Doug has been a fearless

defender of the faith. We have often posted his interviews with people like Roger Oakland (UTT) and Cecil Andrews (Take Heed in Northern Ireland).

Doug also broadcasts on Revelation TV, a UK Christian TV station (you can also see his broadcasts on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/reachout/videos?view=0>). His team in the UK has told us: "After some time in a specialist cancer hospital in London, Doug is now at home but is very ill. Plans are being made for him to receive palliative care if and when necessary. Please pray for healing for Doug, if that is God's will for him, but also for God's hand of comfort to be upon Doug and his family whatever the outcome."

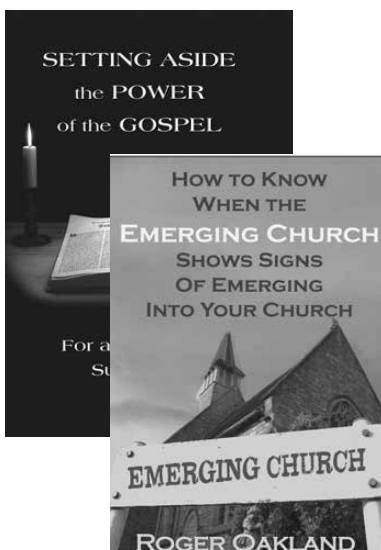
NOW—17 PRINT BOOKLET TRACTS AT LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS

Lighthouse Trails is pleased to announce the start of Print Booklet Tracts that can be used for sharing important truths with others. The booklets are printed on high quality white heavy gloss paper with color covers and are 5.5 x 8.5. Each booklet is between 12-18 pages and is written by one of the authors listed on page 18 of the *Journal*. We will be adding new booklet titles frequently. These

can be purchased in bulk at very affordable prices and given out. The booklets are \$1.95 retail with the following discounts: 6-25: \$1.66; 26-50: \$1.46; 51-100: \$1.27 cents; 101-150: \$1.07 cents; and over 150: 98 cents each.

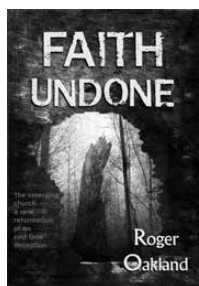
BOOKLET TRACTS BY LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS

1. *How to Know When the Emerging Church Shows Signs of Emerging into Your Church* by Roger Oakland
2. *5 Things You Should Know About Contemplative Prayer* by Ray Yungen
3. *Setting Aside the Power of the Gospel for a Powerless Substitute* by David Dombrowski
4. *"I Just Had a Vision!"* by Kevin Reeves
5. *Understanding the New Age, Meditation, and the Higher Self* by Ray Yungen
6. *The Truth About Energy Healing* by Ray Yungen
7. *My Journey Out of Catholicism* by David Dombrowski
8. *The Jesuit Agenda* by Roger Oakland
9. *Israel—Replacing What God Has Not* by Mike Oppenheimer
10. *The Labyrinth Journey* by Carl Teichrib
11. *Lectio Divina—What it is, What it is Not, and Should Christians Practice it?*
12. *The New Missiology: Doing Missions Without the Gospel* by Roger Oakland
13. *Native Spirituality "Renewal" & the Emerging Church* by Nanci des Gerlaise
14. *Can Cultures be Redeemed?* by Nanci des Gerlaise
15. *5 Things You Can Do to Protect Your Kids From Sexual Predators* by Patrick Crough
16. *When Hitler Was in Power* by Anita Dittman with Jan Markell
17. *Who Really Killed Jesus?* by Tony Pearce



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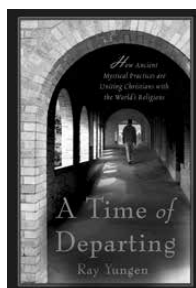
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Faith Undone

Roger Oakland

Is the emerging church movement just another passing fad, a more contemporary approach to church, or a bunch of disillusioned young people looking for answers? In fact, it is much broader than this and is influencing Christianity to a significant degree. Grounded in a centuries-old mystical approach, this movement is powerful, yet highly deceptive, as it draws its energy from practices and experiences that are foreign to traditional evangelical Christianity. **BOOK**

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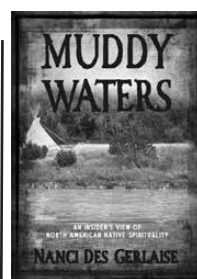
A Time of Departing

Ray Yungen

Exposes the truth about the contemplative prayer movement.

Code: ATOD, *QD
\$12.95, 240 pages

A revealing account of a New Age spirituality that has infiltrated much of the church today. Exposes the subtle strategies to compromise the Gospel message with Eastern mystical practices cloaked under evangelical terminology and wrappings. Discusses contemplative prayer and more. **BOOK**



Muddy Waters

Nanci Des Gerlaise

An insider's view of North American Native Spirituality

A biography and a warning. Raised on a Métis settlement, Nanci's childhood and young adult life was riddled with terrors that come with being the

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\$13.95, 232 pages

daughter and granddaughter of medicine men. In *Muddy Waters*, Nanci tells her story and also details just what Native Spirituality really is. **BOOK**



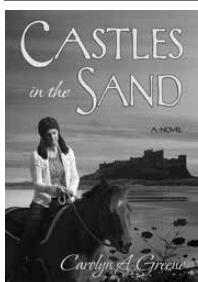
For Many Shall Come in My Name

Ray Yungen

An "Ancient Wisdom" is drawing millions of people into mystical experiences and preparing the world for the end of the age. Topics include: meditation practices, Harry

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\$12.95, 224 pages

Potter, the law of attraction, Oprah, present day New Age prophets, New Age in education, business, and health, the New Age as a force in politics, coming persecution and more. **BOOK**



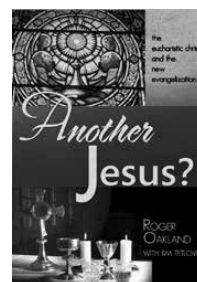
CASTLES IN THE SAND

CAROLYN GREEN

WHEN a young Christian college girl is introduced by her Spiritual Formation professor to the writings of a young mystic girl from the 16th century, Teresa of Avila, the 21st century girl's life is dramatically affected as she plunges into mysticism. Helps readers see the true nature behind contemplative spirituality (Spiritual Formation). Especially important for high school and college age young people.

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BOOK—A Novel



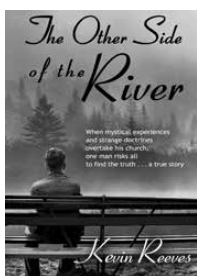
Another Jesus?

Roger Oakland

Christians think that the Christian tradition of communion is the same as the Catholic tradition of the Eucharist. But not so. The Eucharist (i.e., Transubstantiation) is a Catholic term for com-

Code: AJ, *QD
\$12.95, 192 pages

munion when the bread and the wine become the very body and blood of Jesus Christ, thus when taken the partaker supposedly experiences the presence of God. These transformed elements can then be worshipped as if worshipping God Himself. **BOOK**



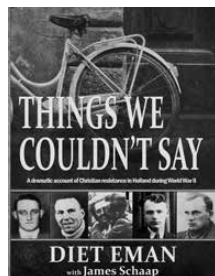
The Other Side of the River

Kevin Reeves

A compelling and deeply personal account of a young man's spiritual plunge into a movement called "The River," which claims to be spreading the kingdom of God through signs and wonders. Sometimes referred to as the River

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revival, the Third Wave, or the Latter Rain, this movement is marked by bizarre manifestations, false prophecies and esoteric revelations. Warnings of divine retribution keep many adherents in bondage and fear. **BOOK—Autobiography**



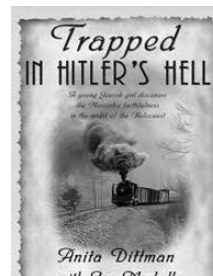
Things We Couldn't Say

Diet Eman

The true story of Diet Eman, a young Christian woman who joined the resistance movement in the Netherlands during WWII. Together with her fiancé and other

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Dutch men and women, "Group Hein" risked their lives to save the lives of Jews who were in danger of becoming victims of Hitler's "final solution." **BOOK—A True Story!**

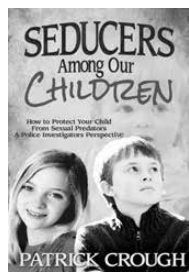


Trapped In Hitler's Hell

Anita Dittman with Jan Markell

THE TRUE STORY OF ANITA DITTMAN, A JEWISH CHRISTIAN TEEN IN GERMANY DURING WW II. Abandoned by her Aryan father, Anita and her mother were ultimately left to fend for themselves. Anita's teenage years were spent desperately fighting for survival yet learning to trust in the One she discovered would never leave her. **BOOK—Autobiography**

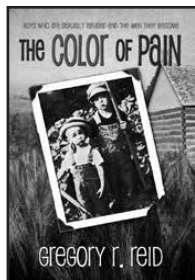
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Seducers Among Our Children Patrick Crough

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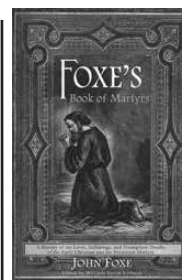
The perspective of an investigative sergeant who knows first hand the inner workings and methods used by sexual predators. Offers a practical, simple presentation of how child predators operate in today's society. Will educate concerned parents or guardians about how to recognize when a child predator is in their midst and how to protect children from that predator. **BOOK**



The Color of Pain Gregory Reid

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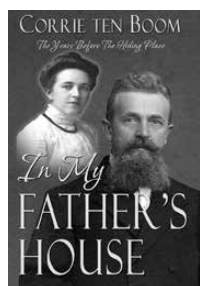
One in every six boys is sexually abused. That's just the ones who tell their secret. *The Color of Pain* speaks to the professionals, pastors, and loved ones as well as to the boys and men who were abused. And who better to write a book like this than one of the victims who has lived the pain and later experienced the healing through Christ. A combination of some of the facts that most don't think about and some of the pain that MOST WON'T TALK ABOUT. **BOOK**



Foxy's Book of Martyrs

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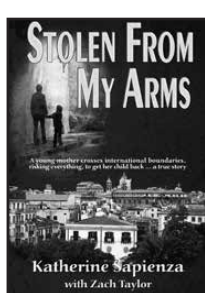
Why should you read this book? The stories within these pages are supremely inspiring accounts of those who gave their lives defending the truth of the Gospel. Much can be learned not only of their fortitude but also of an apostate false church that persecuted them. The powerful witness of these martyred saints will stir your hearts, as it has the true church through the centuries, to BE THAT LOYAL BRIDE OF CHRIST, STRONG AND PURE. **BOOK**



In My Father's House Corrie ten Boom

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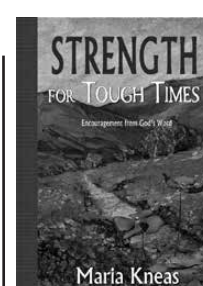
The story of Corrie's life with her mother, father, her siblings, and aunts before World War II began. This book is a testament to how God prepared one family through a father's faithfulness to his Savior and the Word of God for the most sacrificial service a family could do. The account of Corrie's experience during the Holocaust period can be read in her best-selling book, *The Hiding Place*. **BOOK—TRUE STORY**



STOLEN FROM MY ARMS KATHERINE SAPIENZA

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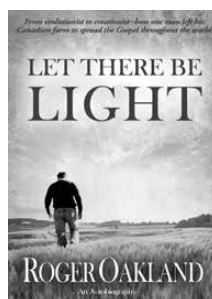
When Katie Sapienza's six-year-old son is kidnapped by his estranged non-custodial father and taken to a foreign country, Katie's world falls apart. Leaving her U.S. home, Katie, in a state of panic and near hysteria, hops on a plane and flies half way around the world. She is shocked to learn that the Italian judge on the case has sided with the father and makes it clear that Katie is not welcome there, nor will they return her son to her. **BOOK—A true story!**



Strength For Tough Times Maria Kneas

Code: TR
\$7.75, 96 pages

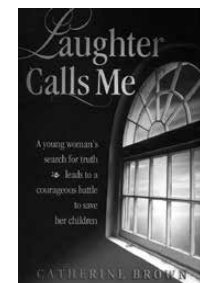
Surprising events have been happening in the world, and things in which we used to trust no longer seem to be reliable. How can we find security, peace, and joy under such circumstances? Only God has enough love, power, and faithfulness to be our Defense, our Rescuer, and our Refuge. He is the solid Rock on which we can safely stand (Psalm 62:5-7). Everything else is only "sinking sand." It promises safety for a while, but sooner or later it fails us. **BOOK**



Let There Be Light Roger Oakland

Code: LTBL
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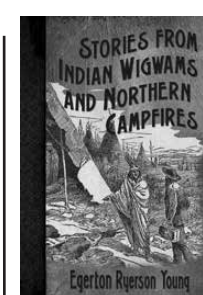
This apologetics biography will inspire you to give all for the sake of Christ and His Gospel. The cost of telling the truth and warning the church is high for Roger Oakland. Within his own denomination, Calvary Chapel, he begins to see signs of spiritual deception. He works tirelessly to teach and warn about the coming apostasy. Eventually, he realizes that both he and his message are being rejected by leaders of the movement that he tried to support for so many years. **BOOK—Autobiography**



Laughter Calls Me Catherine Brown

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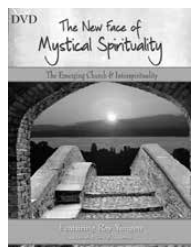
The true story of a young woman who discovers her children have become victims of child pornography. A compelling and hard-to-put-down book that takes the reader through a twenty-year period in the author's life. From her hitchhiking days in the seventies to being abandoned with four small children to raise, the story then takes a dramatic twist as she discovers what could potentially destroy her family. **BOOK—A True Story**



Stories From Indian Wigwams and Northern Campfires Egerton Ryerson Young

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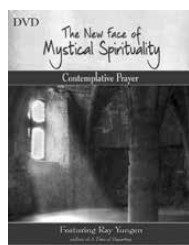
(1840-1909) His love and respect for the Canadian Indians and his determination to bring them the Gospel message motivated this young missionary to give his life so sacrificially. As far as we know, this is the only currently published edition where the text is not a photocopy of the original but is a high quality first-generation edition. Includes over 40 photos and illustrations. **BOOK—Autobiography**



The Emerging Church & Interspirituality

Part 1 of Ray Yungen's lecture series, which un-masks the spirituality and beliefs behind the New Age movement—its roots and its teachings. DVD-QD

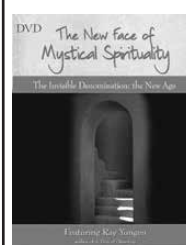
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Contemplative Prayer

Part 2—Ray Yungen explains the dynamics of contemplative prayer. Unlike biblical prayer, this “new” form of prayer halts the normal flow of thought processes and takes the participant into a mystical state. DVD-QD

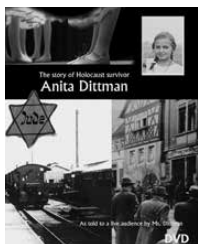
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THE INVISIBLE DENOMINATION: THE NEW AGE

Part 3—In this talk, Ray Yungen discusses the nature and beliefs of the emerging church movement and identifies some of its key players. DVD-QD

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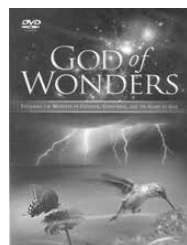


The Story of Anita Dittman—DVD

In 2007, Anita Dittman, author of *Trapped in Hitler's Hell*, gave her testimony in front of a live audience. This event was professionally recorded. Lighthouse Trails is

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pleased to present this special DVD of Anita's story. 90 minute DVD

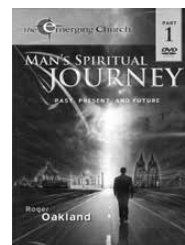


God of Wonders

A feature-length *Discovery*-quality documentary. Stunning nature footage, scientific insights, and Scripture combine to reveal the wonders of our Creator as observed throughout His creation.

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God of Wonders DVD illustrates that God, the Creator, is indeed separate from man contrary to what the New Age/new spirituality is saying. DVD



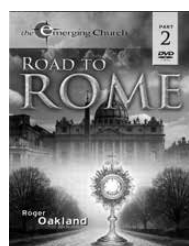
The Emerging Church—Part 1: Man's Spiritual Journey, Past, Present and Future

Roger Oakland documents Satan's three-legged stool plan, which was introduced at the Tower of Babel

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and is being re-introduced today.

This plan is setting the world up for a one-world government, a one-world economy, and a one-world religion just as Bible prophecy reveals will take place in the last days. DVD

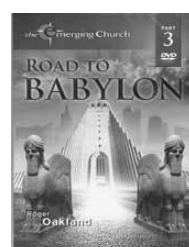


The Emerging Church—Part 2: Road to Rome

Many worshippers are being drawn into the Roman Catholic New Evangelization program without being aware of it. Icons, incense, candles, sacraments and images are preparing the way for

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the revelation of the Roman Catholic Eucharistic Christ. DVD

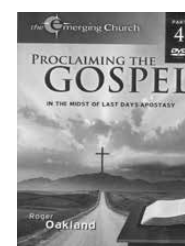


The Emerging Church—Part 3: Road to Babylon

Oakland addresses the fast growing emerging church movement, showing how it is seducing this generation and leading it toward a false one world religious system and a utopian

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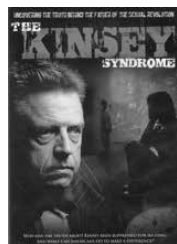


The Emerging Church—Part 4: Proclaiming the Gospel

While documenting the dangers and pitfalls of Purpose-Driven, emerging, and contemplative Christianity, Oakland encourages Bible

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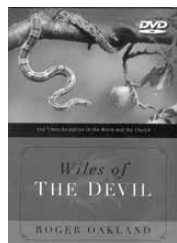
believing Christians to boldly stand for the truth and to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. DVD



The Kinsey Syndrome

This powerful and sobering film exposes the truth about the sexual revolution that stemmed largely from the work of a man named Dr. Alfred Kinsey, considered by many to be the main influence on today's

views of homosexuality, pedophilia, and other sexually deviant behaviors. In order to bring light to this area of darkness in our society, discerning Christians need to be aware, and thus our reason for carrying *The Kinsey Syndrome*. \$19.95, Over 2 hours, American History Films. Code: KS; DVD



WILES OF THE DEVIL

ROGER OAKLAND
Satan's most effective plans are in operation today, deceiving millions. Even Christians have been influenced by the

enemy's clever schemes to make them ineffective in these last days. Oakland provides the tools to help the believer become discerning. \$15.95, 1 hour, *Understand the Times*, Code: WD; DVD



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Tens of millions visit apparition sites hoping to encounter the *Blessed Virgin Mary*. Those who follow the apparitions believe Mary has come to turn us back to

God, while others insist that these events are either fabrications or the working of Satan. Does the Bible anticipate apparitions, signs and wonders in the last days? \$19.95, 79 minutes, *Eternal Productions*, Code: MFH; DVD

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TS-BK	8-15	Treasures of the Snow (Softbound book—novel—takes place in Switzerland)	\$ 7.95
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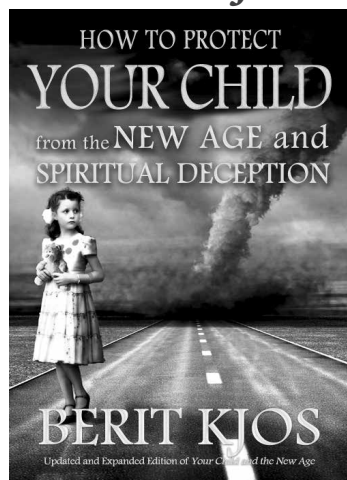
We presently have 4 blends of our own Shepherd's Bible verse tea: Cranberry Orange Rooibos, Chai Green, Peach White, and Peppermint. The cost of each box (20 individually wrapped tea bags/box) costs \$6.95. We also have a combo pack that has one box of each blend (80 tea bags) for \$23.80. When ordering in the U.S., use the U.S. flat rate shipping of \$5 on all orders; for Canada and international shipping for tea, use the same rates as those shown below (e.g., 1 box of tea same rate as 1 DVD).

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"BRINGING LIGHT TO AREAS OF DARKNESS"

In the year 2000, we learned that a mantra-style meditation coupled with a mystical spirituality had been introduced to the evangelical, Christian church and was infiltrating youth groups, churches, seminaries, and Bible studies at an alarming rate.

In the spring of 2002, we began Lighthouse Trails Publishing with the hope of exposing this dangerous and pervasive mystical paradigm—six months later we published our first release, *A Time of Departing* by Ray Yungen.

As we learned more about contemplative spirituality (also known as the Spiritual Formation movement), we came to realize it had entered the church through a number of avenues—Willow Creek, Purpose

Driven, and the emerging church just to name a few of the more prominent ones.

Because the premise of this spirituality is both pantheistic (God *is* all things) and panentheistic (God is *in* all things), thus refuting the Gospel message of the Cross, we are compelled to address this subject—Lighthouse Trails Publishing and our research ministry, Lighthouse Trails Research Project, are here as a service to the body of Christ.

Since publishing *A Time of Departing*, Lighthouse Trails has grown from one couple, David and Deborah Dombrowski, to over twenty out-of-house editors, writers, and authors. We have been able to publish several other books, including some biographies that we consider exceptionally compelling, challenging, and faith-building. For instance, one of them, *Trapped in Hitler's Hell*, is the true story of a Jewish teen who

became a Christian and lived through the Holocaust in Germany. The lessons we can learn from that time in history are vital and should not be forgotten.

Each of the books, DVDs, and CDs we publish and/or distribute has been prayerfully chosen . . . and we believe the message in each one will help equip Christian families and loved ones with biblical truth and inspiration to stand in courage and strength as you defend the faith and walk with Jesus Christ. We join you in that effort, knowing that it is only by His grace that we are able to do so.

Editors, staff, and authors
Lighthouse Trails Publishing

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AWAKE SLEEPER

by Roger Oakland

Times have changed from the past. I was reminded of this not long ago when I spoke to a class of high school students at a Christian school. Three or four minutes into the lecture, about one-third of the students in the class put their heads down on their desks and fell asleep. When I was a student, we were required to stay awake in class. If we didn't, we were told to sit in the hall until we were ready to come back and pay attention.

Not long after this incident, while I was speaking at another school, I noticed an interesting article that was posted on the bulletin board. The headline read: "Doctor says let sleeping teen lie, they are just 'resetting their brains.'"¹ According to one psychologist, it has been determined that some teens need more sleep than what was once thought. When they doze off in class, they are just "resetting their brains," the psychologist said. Although I am not a psychologist, I do have some common sense. If students sleep in class, how can they learn anything?

Another observation I have made is that there seems to be a deep sleep overcoming many who profess to be Bible-believing Christians. It seems fewer people go to a church to learn about what the Scriptures teach. Some are even saying the Bible is not sufficient for our generation. They are looking for some extra-biblical experience or new revelation that will stimulate them or make them feel good. Others have abandoned the truth and have become completely apathetic.

This reminds me of a story I heard about two Christians who were discussing the difficulties they believed the church was facing. The one said: "I see there are two major problems—first, people are ignorant of what the Bible teaches, and second, they are apathetic." The second Christian responded: "Oh, I don't know about that, but if I did, I wouldn't do anything about it anyway."

I like what Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "But all things that are reprove are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."²

According to Paul's words, we should always be alert—especially given the signs of the times, which clearly reveal we are living in the last days. Let's reset our brains and wake up! There are so many things happening which indicate we are living at the most important period of history the world has ever known. Jesus is coming soon! When He comes, I would rather hear him say "well done faithful servant" rather than "wake up."

Notes:

1. *Moose Jaw Herald Tribune*, September 11, 1997, p. 1
2. Ephesians 5: 13-16

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ing to any ACSI administrator or president that is willing to read it. Just e-mail us at editors@lighthouse Trails.com if you know an ACSI member school administrator who says he or she would like a copy.

As you may recall, Lighthouse Trails did a special report a year and a half ago titled "An Epidemic of Apostasy—Christian Seminaries Must Incorporate 'Spiritual Formation' to Become Accredited." In that report, we documented how Christian accreditation associations were requiring Christian schools to include Spiritual Formation programs/emphasis in their schools in order to receive accreditation. If you haven't read that article, we encourage you to do so. It is one of the keys in understanding how our Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries have fallen into spiritual deception. As for ACSI, it offers member schools a certification program, which Christian schools now seek. Put two and two together, and you will end up with the same scenario that has happened with Christian accreditation as we explained in our "Epidemic of Apostasy" article. In other words: ACSI offers certification (e.g., teaching certification) + ACSI promotes contemplative spirituality = ACSI eventually requiring recipients of ACSI certification to include contemplative (i.e., Spiritual Formation) in their education. It's really that simple, and it's really that dreadful.

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Endnotes:

1. <http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=2084>.
2. <http://www.acsiglobal.org/about-acsi>.
3. <http://www.acsi.org/events/acsi-leadership-academy>.
4. <http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=1892>.
5. ACSI has since removed these links.

Spiritual Formation Endnotes—continued from page 3

1. "Spiritual Formation: A Pastoral Letter"
2. Richard Foster, *Be Still* DVD (Fox Home Entertainment, 2006), section titled "Contemplative Prayer."
3. Roger Oakland, *Faith Undone* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2007), pp. 90-92.
4. Richard Foster, *Meditative Prayer*, p. 9.
5. Ibid., p.
6. Ibid., p. 17.
7. Ibid., p. 18.
8. Ibid., p. 23.
9. Ibid., p. 5.
10. Richard Foster, *Streams of Living Water* (San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1998), p. 273.
11. *Meditative Prayer*, op. cit., p. 25.
12. *Faith Undone*, op. cit., p. 92.

MRS. PREST – SHE SAID NO TO APOSTASY AND BECAME A MARTYR

BY JOHN FOXE

(AUTHOR OF FOXE'S *BOOK OF MARTYRS*)

During the Reign of Queen Mary (Bloody Mary) in England—(1553-1558)

MRS. PREST FOR some time lived about Cornwall, where she had a husband and children whose bigotry compelled her to frequent the abominations of the Church of Rome. Resolving to act as her conscience dictated, she quitted them and made a living by spinning.

After some time, returning home, she was accused by her neighbors and brought to Exeter to be examined before Dr. Troubleville and his chancellor Blackston. As this martyr was accounted of inferior intellect, we shall put her in competition with the bishop and let the reader judge which had the most of that knowledge conducive to everlasting life. The bishop bringing the question to issue respecting the bread and wine being flesh and blood, Mrs. Prest said, "I will demand of you whether you can deny your creed, which says that Christ does perpetually sit at the right hand of His Father, both body and soul, until He comes again; or whether He be there in heaven our Advocate and to make prayer for us unto God His Father? If He be so, He is not here on earth in a piece of bread. If He be not here, and if He do not dwell in temples made with hands but in heaven, why shall we seek Him here? If with one offering He made all perfect, why do you with a false offering make all imperfect? If He is to be worshipped in spirit and in truth, why do you worship a piece of bread [the Eucharist]? Alas! I am a poor woman, but rather than to do as you do, I would live no longer. I have said, Sir."

Some persons present convinced the bishop she was not in her right senses and she was permitted to depart. The keeper of the bishop's prisons took her into his house where she either spun, worked as a servant, or walked about the city discoursing upon

the Sacrament of the altar. During the liberty granted her by the bishop, before-mentioned, she went into St. Peter's Church and there found a skillful Dutchman who was affixing new noses to certain fine images which had been disfigured in King Edward's time. To him she said, "What a mad man you are to make new noses for those who shall all lose their heads." The Dutchman accused her and laid it hard to her charge. But she said to him, "You are accursed, and so are your images." He called her a whore. "No," said she, "your images are whores and you are a whore-hunter; for doesn't God say, 'You go a whoring after strange gods, figures of your own making'? You are one of them." After this she was ordered to be confined and had no more liberty.



MRS. PREST

During the time of her imprisonment, many visited her, some sent by the bishop and some of their own will. Among these was one Daniel, a great preacher of the Gospel in the days of King Edward, but who, through the grievous persecution he had sustained, had fallen off. Earnestly did she exhort him to repent with Peter and to be more constant in his profession.

Mrs. Walter Rauley, Mr. William,

and John Kede, persons of great respectability, bore ample testimony of her godly conversation, declaring, that unless God were with her, it were impossible she could have so ably defended the cause of Christ. Indeed, to sum up the character of this poor woman, she united the serpent and the dove, abounding in the highest wisdom joined to the greatest simplicity. She endured imprisonment, threatenings, taunts, and the vilest epithets, but nothing could induce her to swerve; her heart was fixed; nor could all the wounds of persecution remove her from the rock on which her hopes of felicity were built.

Such was her memory that, without learning, she could tell in what chapter any text of Scripture was contained: on account of this singular property, one Gregory Basset, a rank papist, said she was deranged and talked as a parrot, wild without meaning. At length, having tried every manner without effect to make her nominally a Catholic, they condemned her.

When sentence was read condemning her to the flames, she lifted up her voice and praised God, adding, "This day have I found that which I have long sought." When they tempted her to recant, she said, "That will I not. God forbid that I should lose the life eternal for this carnal and short life."

Being delivered to the sheriff, she was led by the officer to the place of execution without the walls of Exeter called Sothenhey, where again the superstitious priests assaulted her. While they were tying her to the stake, she continued earnestly to exclaim "God be merciful to me, a sinner!" Patiently enduring the devouring conflagration, she was consumed to ashes and thus ended a life which in unshaken fidelity to the cause of Christ was not surpassed by that of any preceding martyr.



This and other accounts of the martyrs' persecution can be found in *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*.