



*The*  
**Berean**  
**Call**

AUGUST 2013

*THE ULTIMATE FALSEHOOD*

*by Dave Hunt*

## NEW REPACK! COUNTDOWN TO THE SECOND COMING

*A fresh cover for Dave's classic work on last days prophecy!*



### Countdown to the Second Coming

**Hunt**—At last, a book that presents in a concise manner the events leading up to the return of Christ. Dave Hunt, in his characteristic direct style, answers these pervasive questions: Who is the Antichrist? How will he be recognized? What current events indicate that we really are in the last of the “last days”? For those who seek to understand the times from a biblical perspective, this little volume provides a concise summary of historic and current world events that will excite, encourage, and equip God’s people to boldly proclaim the Gospel to this generation. With clarity and conviction, Dave dispels popular distortions of the Last Days, and demonstrates how believers can minister effectively without fear or anxiety, “redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16). The Berean Call, 95 pp.

**B00193    Retail \$12.99    wt .4    \$10.00**

*“If you want to understand what is happening in our world today and how it relates to Bible Prophecy, this in an excellent primer. Dave has condensed a difficult topic into an affordable, easy-to-read booklet I’ve bought several and given them away.”*

— AMAZON REVIEW

**TWO OR MORE COPIES — JUST \$8.00 EACH!**

## ABOUT THE BEREAN CALL

Seven years after publication of the controversial ground-breaking bestseller *The Seduction of Christianity* in 1985, its authors, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, joined forces on another front. TBC was formed under the direction of Dave Hunt for the purpose of encouraging spiritual discernment among those who regarded themselves not just as “evangelicals” but as *biblical* Christians. The primary vehicle for this endeavor was through the publication of the newsletter *The Berean Call*. The ministry and newsletter name is taken from Acts 17:11, in which the writer of Acts commended those in the synagogue of the Greek city of Berea for being more fair minded than those in Thessalonica—because not only were they eager to receive the Word, but the Bereans also checked it against what the Apostle Paul taught them in order to see if his teaching was according to the Scriptures. Through the publishing and multimedia efforts of The Berean Call (TBC) believers are exhorted to get back into the Word of God instead of being “carried about by every wind of doctrine,” and are equipped with materials to help them walk in the truth. TBC’s stated mission is to:

**ALERT** believers in Christ to unbiblical teachings and practices impacting the church

**EXHORT** believers to give greater heed to biblical discernment and truth regarding teachings and practices being currently promoted in the church

**SUPPLY** believers with teaching, information, and materials that will encourage the love of God’s truth, and assist in the development of biblical discernment

**MOBILIZE** believers in Christ to action in obedience to the scriptural command to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3)

**IMPACT** the church of Jesus Christ with the necessity for trusting the Scriptures as the only rule for faith, practice, and a life pleasing to God

AUGUST 2013 • VOL XXVIII NO. 8

### Editorial Staff

Founder: Dave Hunt  
Executive Editor: T. A. McMahon  
Managing Editor: Mark Dinsmore  
Senior Editor: Barbara Romine  
Copy Editor: Sally Oppliger  
Correspondence Editor: Edwin Newby  
Design & Production:  
Mark Dinsmore, Philip McDaniel

### Subscriptions

*The Berean Call* newsletter is published monthly and sent free of charge to U.S. addresses (\$12/yr outside the U.S.). To subscribe, please write PO Box 7019, Bend, OR 97708, or call 1-800-937-6638.

### TBC Online

To register for our free online newsletter and email updates, to access our digital archives, or to order a wide variety of additional resource materials, visit us at: [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)

### Permissions

The publisher reserves all rights but permits readers to make up to 100 photocopies of any whole or partial newsletter, for non-commercial use. Readers may also quote or re-post material from this issue for print or online usage, provided that: the excerpt is not the primary content of a work for sale; that the context is preserved; and that proper citation/attribution is given. For any other usage, please contact TBC.

### Donations

The Berean Call (TBC) has always operated on the belief that God will provide as we seek His face, so we do not make appeals for financial help. Although the ministry operates primarily on donations, these are freewill and not solicited. Through the years, TBC has seen God “do exceeding abundantly above” all that was asked or thought.

### Contacting Us

tel: (541) 382-6210 • fax: (541) 385-6025  
orders and donations: (800) 937-6638  
general inquiries: (541) 382-6210  
e-mail: [customerservice@thebereancall.org](mailto:customerservice@thebereancall.org)  
website: [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)



The Berean Call is a nonprofit 501 [c] [3], tax-exempt corporation registered in the State of Oregon. It is overseen by an independent board which has full and final authority over all corporate assets, personnel, and affairs. (8/13)



# THE BEREAN CALL

*"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so."—Acts 17:11*

WWW.THEBEREANCALL.ORG • DAVE HUNT, FOUNDER • VOL. XXVIII NO. 8 • AUGUST 2013

## **The Ultimate Falsehood**

*Dave Hunt*

*Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

— 1 JOHN 2:18

Somewhere at this very moment on Planet Earth, the Antichrist is almost certainly alive—biding his time, awaiting his cue. Banal sensationalism? Far from it! That likelihood is based upon a sober evaluation of current events in relation to Bible prophecy. Already a mature man, the Antichrist is perhaps active in politics and might even be an admired world leader. Or he could be the head of a multinational corporation, a little-known international banker of great wealth and behind-the-scenes influence, a sports hero—or he might arise suddenly from total anonymity. Somewhere he is being meticulously groomed, though as yet he probably has no more inkling than do those who encounter him daily of the ultimate role for which Satan is preparing him and will, one momentous day, utterly possess him.

Whoever and wherever he is, one passion rules this remarkable man—a lust for power. Even so, benevolence, prudence, integrity, and principle mark his circumspect public behavior. It may be that at this point in his life he is still convinced that his motives are altogether pure and unselfish.

*Antichrist!* The media has so conditioned our minds that the very word instantly conjures up the image of a sinister man who exudes evil from every pore. But Hollywood caricatures play into the hands of the real Antichrist, since no suspicion will rest upon this one whose admirable qualities so well conceal his dark designs. When the time has come for his surprising world takeover, precipitated by an unprecedented global crisis, he will be hailed as the world's savior—and so he will appear to be.

The Apostle Paul dispels popular misconceptions and gives us the awesome facts: "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness..." (2 Corinthians 11:14,15). We may be certain that Antichrist

will appear as the purest "angel of light" that Satan can produce.

Society has been undergoing a step-by-step preparation for the advent of Satan's messiah, and in our moment of history has at last produced a generation so perverted that it will actually mistake the Antichrist for Christ. In the name of freedom and right of choice, our most blessed of nations has condemned its unborn to the cruelest of deaths, has made a mockery of the sanctity of marriage, entertains itself with films and music centered on themes of violence, Satanism, and sexual perversions, has all but destroyed millions of its youth with drugs, and has created an urban war zone and a poisoned planet. Evil will soon be ripe for harvest.

Jesus warned that *many* would come claiming to be the Christ. These numerous lesser antichrists who were already in the world, as the Apostle John explained in 1 John 2:18, would prepare the way for the real Antichrist who would appear in the last of the "last days." Behold the ultimate deception: Satan posing as God, Antichrist masquerading as the true Christ, and not just the world but an apostate church as well totally taken in by the bold fraud. Instead of a frontal assault on Christianity, the evil one will pervert the church *from within* by posing as its founder. He will cunningly misrepresent Christ while pretending to *be* Christ. And by that process of substitution, he will undermine and pervert all that Christ truly is. Anything less than such a diabolically malevolent strategy would be unworthy of Satan's foul genius.

This is an altogether different scenario from that envisioned by most people. If they believe in a literal Antichrist at all, they presume he will be an obviously evil ogre whom any child would immediately recognize. In fact, however, he will be the closest counterfeit of Christ that Satan can produce. Completely deceived by this brazen masquerade, the world will hail him as its deliverer.

And right there is where the plot thickens. If the Antichrist will indeed pretend to be the Christ, then his followers must be "Christians"! The church of that day will, with scarcely a dissenting voice, hail him as its leader.

Such perversion and deception are beyond the ability of the imagination to

conceive. It is certainly not what the average person has been led to believe. Yet this is the picture which the Bible presents and to which current events ever more clearly seem to point.

It becomes immediately apparent that such an unthinkable scenario requires certain preconditions to make it credible. First of all, the apostate church in the last days must become so corrupted that it actually opposes what Christ taught while at the same time insisting that it is faithful to Him. Satan's lie will be honored as God's truth—without the church leaders who deceive, and those who are deceived, even knowing that such a metamorphosis has taken place. Moreover, the preparation for the great delusion must have been well in process from within the "last days" church itself even before the Antichrist appears.

Could Paul have meant anything less when he warned, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away [apostasy, turning from the faith] first, and [then] that man of sin [the Antichrist] be revealed, the son of perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2:3)? In that day, sound doctrine will be despised (2 Timothy 4:1-4). For many people, objective truth will have been replaced by feelings and experience. For others, intellectualism and skepticism will have justified what will seem to be a very reasonable improvement upon "Christianity."

Jesus himself, who raised the question whether there would be any faith whatsoever on the earth when He returned (Luke 18:8), used language similar to Paul's. When His disciples asked Him what would characterize the last days just prior to His return, Jesus explained that it would be a time of the greatest religious deception the world had seen to that point, or would ever see again. He prefaced His remarks with this solemn warning: "Take heed that no man *deceive you*" (Matthew 24:4; cf. 5,11,24).

Those who truly know the Lord and heed such warnings will not succumb to the spirit of the last days. Like God, who weeps over a rebellious world and delays His judgment to give men time to repent, they will have a passion to bring His truth to the world. Everyone who loves God more than this world, and to whom His evaluation of one's life means more than the fickle opinions of men, will be kept from the delusion that will sweep

the world. Those who fear God and keep His Word have no fear of what others may think or say or do to them, because they fear God with deep reverence.

The world must be prepared both religiously and politically to embrace the Antichrist when he suddenly rises to power. If “Christianity” is to be the official world religion (which must be the case if the Antichrist claims to be Christ returned), then it must become broad enough to accommodate all of the world’s faiths. As for the political climate, the world must be united in the twin causes of global peace and ecological rescue when this man appears.

There are only two persons who will hold absolute rule over this world. The first is the Antichrist and the second is the Lord Jesus Christ. Every person must choose between these two antagonists and their opposing kingdoms. There is no neutral ground.

Those who suggest that we can retain the idea of Christ’s return to reign over Planet Earth as the *symbol* of some “spiritual truth” suitable for all religions deny the very foundation of the Christian faith. Christianity is based upon the claims that Christ made about *Himself* and the eyewitness accounts of His life, death, and resurrection as recorded in the New Testament in undeniable fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. The distinctions that make Christianity unique are irreconcilable with any other religious belief, and any attempt at ecumenical unity is a denial of biblical Christianity. Consistent with the distinctiveness of Christianity, the Bible also teaches that peace will not come to this world through the triumph of Christ’s *teachings*, but only through His *personal return to reign from Jerusalem*....

How dare anyone think that a world ripening for judgment can be rescued by Christians working together in political/social activism with the followers of all religions, and with humanists and atheists! Scripture says repeatedly that nothing but the personal and physical return of Christ to this earth can put an end to its wickedness and suffering. Paul declared that “the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together” as it longs for a release that can come only through “the manifestation of the sons of God” (Romans 8:19-22). Paul makes very clear what this means: That only when Christians have received their immortal bodies and are glorified with Christ (verses 23-25), ruling and reigning upon this earth with Him, will earth be delivered from its turmoil and pain.

The last days before Christ’s return are indeed prophesied as a period of growing

evil, error, and spiritual delusion, manifested in both the world and the professing church. There are also, however, indications in Scripture that in the last days, millions of people around the world will receive Christ as Savior and Lord, thus hastening His return. Many of them will be the most unlikely candidates for salvation—New Agers, drug addicts, prison inmates, communists, Muslims, Catholics, the poor and the outcasts of society—as Christ seemed to indicate in the parable of the great supper (Luke 14:21-23).

Evangelicals tend to present the gospel exclusively as a remedy for personal sin and the procurement of an eternal home in heaven. They generally neglect to proclaim it as God’s means of bringing peace to this troubled planet, as did the angels at the birth of Christ and as did the early church. It is the duty of every Christian political leader, whether president, ambassador, or other official, to make very clear to the entire world that all human efforts to achieve peace are in vain unless Jesus Christ is invited back to this earth to reign in individual hearts and over all nations.

Skeptics argue that the early Christians and even the apostles, as well as countless others down through the centuries, all thought they were living in the last days, and that the term is therefore meaningless. It is true that in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17), Peter seemed to apply an Old Testament prophecy about the “last days” (Joel 2:28-32) to the outpouring of the Spirit at that time upon the disciples. However, carefully reading the context in Joel, along with Peter’s words, makes it clear that Peter was not declaring that what was happening at that moment was the fulfillment of Joel’s promise. Rather, it was a sample of what *could have occurred* if Israel had repented of her rejection of Christ: She could have experienced the millennial reign of her Messiah, which Joel went on to describe. It was an offer that Israel refused (as it had been prophesied she would) but one that she will accept at a future time, after God’s judgment has been fully visited upon her.

The Apostle John, writing in about AD 95, declared: “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time” (1 John 2:18). Yet John was by no means asserting that the “last days” had fully come, as some claim. He made it clear that although there were already many antichrists, *the Antichrist* was to appear at a future time.

Let us be reminded that the *Rapture* could have occurred at any moment.

Indeed, then as now, the early church watched and waited in eager anticipation of being taken to heaven in that glorious event. There are no explicit signs to indicate that the Rapture is about to occur. The “last-days signs” are not for the *church* but for an unbelieving *Israel*; not for the Rapture but for the Second Coming. Nothing stands between the church and that “blessed hope” (Titus 2:13) of being caught up to meet her Bridegroom in the air.

Those events that Christ prophesied when He was asked for signs of His coming are intended to warn *Israel* of Antichrist’s appearance and that after guaranteeing her peace he will seek to destroy her. Those specific signs also herald the coming of Israel’s Messiah to rescue her from Antichrist’s attacking armies, an event that Christians refer to as Christ’s Second Coming in power and glory. Since the Rapture comes first, however, certain signs that indicate the nearness of the Second Coming may cast their shadows far enough in advance to tell the church that the Rapture must be soon. Nevertheless, we are always, regardless of any signs, to expect the Rapture to occur at any moment and to live in that expectancy (Matthew 24:44; Luke 12:35,36; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:3; Revelation 22:17,20).

As for the Second Coming, it would have been premature for Israel to expect it when only a few of the signs were yet in evidence. Jesus declared: “When ye shall see *all* these things, know that it [the Second Coming] is near, even at the doors” (Matthew 24:33). Israel has been alerted so that she might know exactly when the moment of her Messiah’s intervention to save her has come. How many of these signs will cast their shadows before them at the time of the Rapture, no one can say. We do know, however, that our generation is the first for which *any* of these shadows have appeared, and we now have *many*.

The New Testament writers seem to have understood the “last days” as a time that began with the ascension of Christ and would culminate with His second coming. That event would be preceded by specific signs indicating that the generation that would exist on earth at that time would be living in the *last* of the “last days.” It is exciting to note that *no generation* has ever had solid biblical reason for believing that it was living in the *last* of the last days preceding the second coming of Christ—*no generation until ours*.

TBC

[Excerpted from Countdown to the Second Coming. See page 2 to order.]



## Quotable .....

A traveler among the high Alps often feels overwhelmed with awe amid their amazing sublimities; much more is this the case when we survey the heights and depths of the mercy and holiness of the Lord. "Oh God, who is like unto thee!" Psalm 71:19.

—C. H. Spurgeon

## Q&A .....

**QUESTION: My father abused my siblings and me...for years. Recently, he demanded that we come to his house to receive an early part of our inheritance. We would no longer be considered his children if we did not show up and obey his decree. His "gift" had some specific conditions that I believed were wrong. Due to these conditions, I and several other siblings could not "obey" and declined or returned the money. This made him furious. How do I honor this man... who has shown no evidence of repentance at all...and when I am no longer his child, by his own vow? How do I address him as "father" or "dad" ever again?**

**RESPONSE:** Paul wrote, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph 6:1-3).

So, first, children are to "obey" their parents "in the Lord." We may not always have godly parents, and some of their commands may contradict the revealed will of the Lord. Paul writes in Romans 13:1, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Our first obligation is to obey the Lord, regardless of our age.

Second, we are told to "honor thy father and mother...." Some may think that to "honor" our father or mother means to obey every demand they may make. This isn't true. Again, our first priority is the express will of God, and when our earthly parents stand in opposition to this, we certainly cannot disobey the Lord.

There is a difference between a *child* in submission to their parents and adults who no longer live with their parents. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gn 2:24). In our view, adult children are accountable first to the Lord and are no longer under the direct authority of their parents.

What does it mean to "honor" someone? In 1 Peter 2:17 we are told, "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." Certainly "honoring" all men doesn't include agreeing to or obeying every demand

they may make. It does mean, however, to be respectful: "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing" (1 Pt 3:9).

What should be our response before authorities? When Paul was before the "chief priests," the High Priest commanded one of his aides to strike him (Acts 23:2). Paul replied, "God shall smite thee, thou whited wall..." (Acts 23:3).

Regardless of the unjustness of his "trial," when the authority of the high priest was pointed out (v. 4), Paul's reply (v. 5) was, "I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people." Paul "reviled not again" (1 Pt 2:23).

When Daniel's three friends appeared before Nebuchadnezzar, they answered firmly, but without railing, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us....But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Dn 3:17-18). God did intervene and the king "promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon" (v. 30).

You ask how you can "address him as 'father' or 'dad' ever again." Shouldn't the question be "how do I respond according to the Scriptures?"

Despite what your father has said or done, he remains your father. Neither you nor he can change that fact. If his "decree," however, means there will be no further contact with him, that rests with the Lord. Who knows how the Lord may intervene as He did for Daniel's three friends? Your godly conduct may be used of the Lord to convict, bring repentance, and change the heart of your father. And of course, you should never cease to pray for him.

**QUESTION: Some Seventh day Adventist friends have what they call "The Clear Word Bible." Something doesn't sound quite right, and it looks like verses have been changed to support their teachings.**

**RESPONSE:** We would agree with your concerns about the Clear Word Bible. One doesn't have to go through much of this version to determine that words have been added or meanings changed in order to "more clearly" support their particular teachings.

For example, Deuteronomy 5:3 in the KJV reads, "The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day." In this passage, Moses is stating that the Sabbath Day was given by God to a named people (the Jews) as part of the Mosaic Law. This verse reads the same in all alternate translations that we

consulted (NIV, NASB, ESV, NLT, etc.).

The same verse from the SDA paraphrase (the Clear Word Bible) reads, "It wasn't only with our ancestors that He made a covenant, but with us and with all who are alive today." It is clear to see that the meaning of the passage has been changed. There is a reason. Many SDAs believe that those who came before—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the patriarchs—all kept the Sabbath. So, Jack Blanco, who produced the Clear Word Bible, changed "not with our fathers" [did He make a covenant] to "It wasn't *only with our ancestors* that He made a covenant...." This is clearly wresting the Word of God.

Consider Exodus 5:5: "And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens" (KJV).

The Clear Word Bible: "You've created enough problems by making them rest every week on your Sabbath...." Pharaoh is made to be complaining about the Jews keeping the Sabbath prior to the Law! In truth, this passage says nothing about keeping the Sabbath, and this twisting of Scriptures removes the meaning from this passage of Holy Scripture. From the context, it is clear that Pharaoh is the one adding to the burden of the Jews.

SDAs have historically gone through a "purging" process every few decades or so. The last major one was in the 1980s, when many theologians, pastors, and members left when Ellen G. White's plagiarism was highlighted and the governing body nonetheless issued the directive to recognize the "spirit of prophecy" (i.e., Ellen G. White's status as a prophet) and submit.

In SDA President Ted Wilson's inaugural sermon he chastized those who don't emphasize the Sabbath and those who speak against "the spirit of prophecy." In his address "Go Forward" (General Conference Sabbath Sermon from July 3, 2010), he emphasized the "correct way" to interpret Scriptures: "hold your leaders, pastors, local churches, educators, [et al.] accountable to the highest standards of belief based on a literal understanding of Scripture. Utilize wonderful resources such as the Biblical Research Institute's new book on hermeneutics that helps us know the correct way to interpret the Scriptures."

Again we read in *Selected Messages*, Book 1 (by Ellen G. White), on p. 170, "Do not overstrain the meaning of sentences in the Bible in an effort to bring forth something odd in order to please the fancy. Take the Scriptures as they read."

The irony of this is that many SDA doctrines, such as the Investigative Judgment, do not take the Scriptures as they are read. With the "Clear Word" Bible, there has been some "wresting" that slants the verses in this paraphrase towards particular doctrines of SDAs.



# IN DEFENSE *of the* FAITH

BIBLICAL ANSWERS *to* CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

## Was Jesus Christ Really God?

**QUESTION:** Our adult Bible class teacher says Jesus was half God and half man. He insists that God can only act in response to our prayers and that when the one prayed for isn't healed it's because there hasn't been enough prayer and fasting. Are these ideas biblical?

**RESPONSE:** No. Until evidence to the contrary arises, however, let's give the teacher the benefit of the doubt and assume that he believes what is right but is having difficulty expressing it. Yes, God is Jesus' Father and Mary is His mother, but that doesn't make Him half God and half man. That error is similar to the Roman Catholic teaching that Mary is "the mother of God." Jesus existed as God from all eternity and thus eons before Mary was born. Obviously, then, she is not the mother of Jesus as God but only of the human body by which He was born into this world.

Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born. Consequently, as the Bible tells us, the baby she gave birth to was conceived by no man but by the Holy Spirit. It is impossible for us to understand fully what that means, but we know what it doesn't mean. The virgin birth is not like having an Irish father and French mother and thus being half Irish and half French.

Jesus is fully God and fully man: "God manifest in the flesh" (1 Timothy 3:16), not half God manifest in half flesh. The same verse calls this a "great . . . mystery." Isaiah called the virgin-born child "Emmanuel," which means "God [not half God] with us" (Isaiah 7:14; cf. Matthew 1:23) and "the mighty God [not half-God], the everlasting Father" (Isaiah 9:6). If this were not the case, Jesus could not be our Savior.

Throughout the Old Testament God says that He is the *only* Savior (Isaiah 43:11; 45:15, 21; Hosea 13:4). Obviously, this must be true because salvation is an infinite work, including as it must the full payment of the infinite penalty for sin required by God's infinite justice—something that only *God* could accomplish. Consequently, for Jesus to be our Savior, He must be *God*. Paul called Him "God our Savior" (1 Timothy 1:1; 2:3; Titus 1:3–4; 2:10, 13; 3:4), as did Peter (2 Peter 1:1) and Jude (verse 25).

Yet the Savior must be *man* as well, because it is man who is the sinner, not God. The penalty for sin is pronounced against *man*, not against God; therefore it must be paid by a *man*. But no finite man could pay that penalty. Thus, God, in His infinite love and grace, became a man through the virgin birth so that He, as a

man, could take the judgment we deserved and make it possible for us to be forgiven.

To be our Savior, Jesus had to be *fully God* (Isaiah 43:11) and *fully man* (Romans 5:12–21), not a hybrid composed of half of each. Ask your teacher if this is what he means.

That God doesn't need our prayers to act is obvious. He managed to exist for an eternity and to create the universe and angels and mankind without our prayers. Certainly our prayers didn't cause Christ to be born into the world and to die for our sins. Nor is it our prayers that will usher in a new universe, though God gives us the privilege to pray, "Thy kingdom come."

If God could act *only* in response to our prayers, He would be at our mercy, His hands tied most of the time, unable to do what He in His infinite wisdom and knowledge knows ought to be done but that we in our limited understanding were ignorant of or hadn't thought about. Moreover, He couldn't meet emergencies that we didn't know would occur and thus hadn't prayed about. The idea that God "can only act in response to our prayers" is unbiblical and illogical.

To say that failure to be healed results from too little prayer and fasting is equally false. That teaching implies that we can cause God to do whatever we pray for if we pray and fast long and hard enough—in other words, that we can impose our will upon Him. What about God's will? It also suggests that God's will is to heal everyone every time. On the contrary, He has something better for us than perpetuating our lives endlessly in these bodies of sin.

## TBC NewsWatch

### FBI MAKES CHANGES TO NOT OFFEND MUSLIMS

**CBNNews.com, 5/28/13, "FBI MAKES CHANGES TO NOT OFFEND MUSLIMS" [EXCERPTS]:** The FBI has removed material that may be offensive to muslims from its anti-terror training guidelines.

A report from "Judicial Watch" shows that materials linking the Muslim Brotherhood to terrorism or profiling terrorists as "young male immigrants of Middle Eastern appearance" are now gone. The FBI called such references "unsuitable in the current political context."

An independent group of subject matter experts reviewed the FBI's training curricula on counter terrorism.

The group recommended the removal of presentations and curricula on Islam from FBI offices around the country.

(<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/June/FBI-Makes-Changes-to-Not-Offend-Muslims/>)

**[TBC: The FBI called such references "unsuitable in the current political context." Dave Hunt wrote in March, 2003, "Our politically correct delusion is leading to disaster. Tragically, the gospel is kept from Islamic countries by the failure of Western governments to admit and confront the truth about Islam. Please continue to inform yourselves, to protest to our leaders, to pray for God's intervention, and to be witnesses for Christ to Muslims in our country."]**

### CHRISTIANS FARE BADLY IN OPPRESSIVE COUNTRY

**ONEnewsNow, 6/2/13, "CHRISTIANS FARE BADLY IN ONE OF WORLD'S MOST OPPRESSIVE COUNTRIES" [EXCERPTS]:** A Christian advocacy group is asking for prayer for Christians who are being persecuted in one of the most oppressive countries in the world.

Religious persecution in Eritrea is at its height, one Christian advocacy group says. The country of six billion people is located between Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Red Sea. This year, almost 200 Christians have been arrested in the country, and it is estimated that roughly 1,200 Christians are currently incarcerated. In the Eritrean town of Adi Keyh, 37 Christian students and five adult men were arrested in May. Christians who are discovered are put in shipping containers in military camps.

"Nobody knows what's happened to them, not even their families, because there's no process," Open Door's Jerry Dykstra says. "We just ask your prayers for the Protestant and evangelical churches....

Last year, about 30 Christians died while in Eritrean prisons. Churches in the country have been closely watched since 2002, when the government closed Christian churches that did not apply for registration with the government.

Eritrea is one of the most "repressive, secretive and inaccessible countries in the world" [Amnesty International].

(<http://www.onenewsnow.com/persecution/2013/06/07/christians-fare-badly-in-one-of-most-oppressive-countries>)

### CHRISTIAN COCKTAILS

**CHRISTIAN Post, 6/14/13, "CHRISTIAN COCKTAILS" [EXCERPTS]:** Gina was so tired of defending what she knew was right. She'd heard it repeatedly—today's issues aren't black or white. Her teens kept telling her that her opinions were no longer a reality. But why should she "tolerate" behavior that used to be illegal?

It wasn't as if she was getting much assistance from the pulpit either. She couldn't recall a real sermon about sexual sin, greed, lust, or what living for Christ looked like. They'd certainly been to enough churches—at least a dozen. The family had followed her husband's sales career across the country—settling in five different cities over the course of twenty years. It was as if the churches knew they had to keep people interested and steer clear of controversy. They served up Christian cocktails, tasty and easy to swallow.

She remembered a church in the Midwest that didn't even use Bibles. Even though Gina carried hers each week, no one else did. And her kids refused to since none of the other kids had one. A church near Sacramento was like a pep rally. A large screen showed humorous mini-clips about life. This was followed by what amounted to a rock concert, which the kids seemed to like. A young pastor then delivered a short, cheery message encouraging everyone for the week ahead. People walked out smiling, but the joy was so shallow it wouldn't last.

What seemed to be missing most everywhere they'd gone, was studying the Bible. As Gina looked over the different crowds of attendees, she wondered how many took the time to read the Bible during the week. She knew her kids never did. When they even bothered to go to youth group, it was just more entertainment—designed to pull kids in, but not equipping them for what they'd face in life.

Gina knew her kids hadn't been trained to battle the war against principalities—and she wasn't much better. Each Sunday, the controversial issues facing them were untouched. They heard syrupy-sweet

words that helped them co-exist with evil. Instead of loving the sinner, they had come to a place where they loved the sin too.

Gina and her husband couldn't place all the blame on church. They had been part of the problem and didn't offer any kind of solution. Gina picked up her Bible. Turning to Paul's warnings in 1 Timothy 4, "The Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons."

Indeed, her family had been drinking Christian cocktails for a long time now—instead of feasting on God's Word. They'd chosen to live in a drunken stupor, failing to see God's truth. It had been easier to listen to what they liked to hear but they'd failed to learn how God wanted them to really live. Sobered by the thought, Gina slid to her knees and prayed. Which is where repentance begins. And change follows.

(<http://blogs.christianpost.com/friday-tidings/christian-cocktails-16573/>)

### LEGS KNOCKED OUT FROM UNDER SNAKE EVOLUTION

**CREATIONMOMENTS.COM, 6/14/13, "LEGS KNOCKED OUT FROM UNDER SNAKE EVOLUTION" [EXCERPTS]:** It's rather interesting that evolutionists believe that snakes once had legs and lost them. This sounds very much like the Genesis account of the serpent in the Garden of Eden.

Obviously, evolutionists don't accept the story of the first temptation. As far as they are concerned, the snake evolved from some reptile which originally had legs. But evolutionists have always tried to find some evolutionary advantage to losing legs and, thus, justify their theory. In 1973 an unpublished study suggested that garter snakes use 30 percent less energy for locomotion than they would if they had legs. That study was preliminary and never published. But that didn't stop evolutionists from saying that they had found the reason that snakes don't have legs.

Now, a much more exhaustive study done at the University of California at Irvine, has shown that this evolutionary explanation is false. Outfitting black racer snakes with oxygen masks and using modern precision equipment, including a snake-sized treadmill, researchers have shown that snakes use as much energy as a creature of the same weight to get around. The supposed evolutionary advantage to not having legs has disappeared under the bright light of scientific investigation.

(<http://www.creationmoments.com/radio/transcripts/legs-knocked-out-under-snake-evolution>)



## T. A.'s Speaking Schedule

**Aug 23-24** **TBC Conference**  
Bend, OR  
(800) 937-6638

**Sep 4** **Candlelight Christian Fellowship**  
Coeur d'Alene, ID  
(208) 772-7755

## STS 24/7 Broadcast Schedule

**Aug 9 & 16** **Tommy Ice**  
Rapture

**Aug 23 & 30** **Keith Gibson**  
NAR

Listen to Search the Scriptures 24/7 at:  
[www.thebereancall.org/radio](http://www.thebereancall.org/radio)  
(Schedule is subject to change.)

## Letters .....

### Hello TBC,

I am a Christian with a doctorate in clinical psychology. I have been blessed very much by your ministry (and that of Dr. and Mrs. Bobgan). Over the past ten years, God, in His grace, has led me out of the wine of Babylon that is modern psychology. I continue to ask for His guidance in keeping me free from these errors, which are fatal to the Christian. Thank you for your faithfulness in preaching the Word. KN (email)

### Dear Mr. McMahon,

I wanted to let you know that I so enjoyed your "memory of Dave" article (May 2013). It really gave a behind-the-scenes insight of someone whose work has changed and enlightened me...thank you! I want you to know that you are daily in my prayers and my hope is that you will carry on the great work that Dave began. This ministry means so very much to me. It is a beacon of light on the truth of God's Word. I, like you, was raised a Catholic and the very first time I questioned Catholicism was when I overheard my dad lecturing my brother about skipping church and saying that it was a sin he could go to hell for. I was shocked, but this was only the beginning of my turning. *A Woman Rides the Beast* was a great source of information and confirmation. I praise God that it was put into my hands. Until then I did not know Dave Hunt or The Berean Call but his and your writing and witness have so strengthened me that I just can't imagine not having that light in my life. I know you will carry on the good work and that God is already equipping you for this challenge.

Just wanted to thank you and encourage you. God bless you all at the Berean Call and the good work you do! LL (email)

### Brother McMahon,

I am 89 years of age and have been receiving your publication for many years. I sincerely believe that it is the best thing that is printed to lead the readers in the right way (next to the Bible itself)! We have lost a good advisor and friend by brother Dave's passing, and I will miss him. Please keep up the good work. The USA needs you! OJ (MI)

### Hello,

I have been deeply encouraged by the ministry of The Berean Call...please know how thankful I am for all you do [to get] the Truth out there. I was saved out of sin and out of Catholicism over 30 years ago as a young gal in a very Catholic area in Iowa. My high school had over 900 people in it and 11 of us regularly gathered together for prayer. We could not think of another possible born-again Christian in our school. As I matured in my faith in the Lord, I was amazed at how often people would vehemently defend the idea that "Catholics" are saved. (I believe it is possible that there may be some saved people sitting IN a Catholic church, but you have to decide if you are really Catholic [i.e., believing the doctrine of the Catholic church] or believing the biblical gospel message.) As I set myself apart from those who would so defend the Catholics, I became more and more isolated. Later I began speaking up about the emergent church, oftentimes being the only one who would take a public stance against it. Ha! I was not made for that! I was just fine being calm and a peacemaker and sitting on the fringes. But I could not bear for false teachings to continually go forth and not say anything when no one else would. God pushed me into becoming more vocal. I was timid and lacked a good support system to encourage me onward. The Lord remained so very faithful and He was and is my support system! Others have been there for just the right times as well. I have a deep thankfulness for Dave Hunt (and all of you) for being so bold, and for sharing all you have learned with us. It was so helpful for me at different times to have your materials via books or the internet or newsletters come into my life once again to uplift me in those times of isolation. KD (IA)

### Berean Call,

The world has certainly lost one of its greatest defenders of the faith in Dave Hunt. I can say with certainty that Dave's teachings clarified any confusing questions I had about my faith and gave me a better understanding of God's Word. I know that Ruth and readers of *The Berean Call* are

comforted by the fact that Dave is now enjoying his eternal reward in the presence of his Lord and Savior. TC (email)

## A note from Ruth .....

I hold before me another day's communications expressing the outpouring of comfort from those who also loved and appreciated the ministry of my dear David in their lives. Please know that each expression of love and sympathy is deeply felt. It is beautiful indeed to be a part of God's loving family and to share in both the sorrow of loss and the triumph of resurrection life (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

*With love and affection  
in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
— Ruth Hunt*

## TBC Notes

### The "Bible Survival" Video Series

A concept that the Lord put on our hearts a couple of years ago has been launched on our website: [thebereancall.org/content/free-video](http://thebereancall.org/content/free-video). Our objective is to attract primarily the 20-plus, mostly visual generation of believers and encourage them to read the written Word of God. Although the ongoing message of the videos applies to believers of all ages, the upcoming visual generation needs all the urging we can muster to get them into the Scriptures.

We believe it is truly a matter of "Bible Survival" for an evangelical generation in which discipling has been replaced by entertainment, resulting in most of our young people becoming functionally biblically illiterate (they have Bibles, they know how to read, but they don't). That condition, should the Lord tarry, makes them terribly vulnerable to the increasing apostasy that the Bible tells us will take place and will seduce all professing believers and many true believers (2 Ti 4:3; Mt 24:24). The outcome will lead them into spiritual delusion and cause them to unwittingly contribute to the developing agendas that will usher in the religion and kingdom of the Antichrist.

It is our hope that the series of three- to five-minute videos will attract those who need encouragement to discipline themselves to get into the Word. That is the simple but critical message for our times. Please pray for the project's development and fruitfulness.

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# ✠ ONE MORE TRANSLATION: ONE MORE STEP AWAY FROM THE TRUTH ✠

WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God (Latter Day Saints article of faith, No. 8).

While I do believe that the Holy Bible is Divinely inspired and written by men, I do not necessarily hold to the idea that only the 66 books we now have in our (Protestant) bibles are the sole Divinely inspired books of antiquity (<http://www.seedtheseries.com/blog/Intro.html>).

In the words of Dallas Theological Seminary president Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1952), “All heresy is either the Bible plus, or the Bible minus.” The quotes above are examples of adding to the Word of God. In the case of the Mormons, the Bible specifically contradicts LDS teaching. Consequently, and not surprisingly (according to the LDS Church), the Bible is “incorrectly translated” in those verses.

The second quote by “Nephilim” teacher Rob Skiba is actually an admission that his view of the Genesis 6 “sons of God” lacks support from the Bible alone. He therefore adds to the Bible to support his case by using apocryphal books to fill the “void” left by Scripture. Though the New Testament writers on a few occasions referred to apocryphal books, there is no certainty that the ones available today are the same as when quoted.

Another example of “adding” to the Scriptures is seen in the explosion of Bible translations and paraphrases today. From the “Queen James Version” published by homosexuals to the *Passion Translation*, the “agenda” is plain to see.

Former missionary and now New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) pastor Brian Simmons is producing the *Passion Translation* (PT). It wrests the Scriptures as blatantly as Eugene Peterson’s *The Message*. The portions translated so far furnish ample evidence of his need to alter Scripture in order to support NAR doctrinal teaching.

Not surprisingly, his translation has been endorsed by NAR leaders such as Dr. Che Ahn, Senior Pastor Harvest Rock Church, Pasadena, CA: “Brian Simmons is a brilliant man that has been given *fresh revelation* and insight into the deeper meaning of the Scriptures....” Or Katherine Ruonala, Senior Minister, Glory City Church, Brisbane, Australia: “I pray that as you read these sacred works, the fire of God will awaken you to a fresh hunger. It was through a life-changing encounter with God that Brian *was commissioned* to do this translation and I believe that *an impartation for Holy Spirit encounters is released through his ministry*” [our emphasis].

Simmons was “commissioned” to do this translation? Professing “the anointing” of the Lord, Simmons forsook the manuscripts that previous translators have used and opted for Aramaic versions no earlier than the fifth century. As a consequence, the wording of many verses runs quite contrary to those derived from the Greek.

Simmons writes, “For centuries, it has been believed that the New Testament was first written in Greek. [But,] some scholars now lean increasingly towards the thought that Aramaic and Hebrew texts of the New Testament are the original manuscripts, and that many of the Greek texts are copies, and a second generation from the originals! This is radically changing translation concepts, and will result in many new translations of the New Testament based on Aramaic” [Excerpt taken from the “Translator’s Introduction” to *Letters from Heaven by the Apostle Paul*, Simmon’s fourth release of *The Passion Translation*.] Mind you, he doesn’t tell us who those scholars are.

Further, Simmons seems to echo the opinion of some Hebrew Roots teachers—an opinion without proof. Fragments of New Testament manuscripts from the second century written in Greek exist. And, more recently a first century Greek fragment of Mark’s Gospel has been found.

Simmons relies upon the Aramaic translation. But the readers of Paul’s letters were not Aramaic speakers. Rome, Greece, and western Asia Minor were Greek speaking. Paul would naturally have written to them in Greek.

The oldest Aramaic bible manuscripts are written in a different dialect than the Aramaic spoken by Jesus and his disciples in Galilee.

Also, the synoptic gospels have long been said to have “large overlaps in Greek” (for example, similarities between Matthew and Mark). This simply means that some writers of the Gospels were familiar with other gospels *already written in Greek*.

Concerning the PT, it is instructive that another commentator notes, “I must mention that even those verses he claims to translate from the Greek are still drastically different” (<http://www.spiritoferror.org/2013/05/a-new-nar-bible-part-3-where-the-manuscript-evidence/3153>). They are different because the human bias of Simmons drives this work.

For example, consider his translation of Galatians 6:6. The KJV reads, “Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.” To “communicate” means to “share” (as translated in other English translations) material things with those whose full time job is to teach the Word of God. Compare it to the *Passion Translation*:

And those who are taught the Word will receive an impartation from their teacher; a transference of anointing takes place between them.

The meaning given by Simmons is supportive of NAR teaching regarding the “anointing” but has nothing to do with what the verse says. Again we see the NAR bias imposing itself upon Simmon’s translation.

Even Paul’s greeting to the Philippians is corrupted by Simmons. The KJV reads, “Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:2). In the PT Paul’s greeting becomes,

*We decree* over your lives the blessings of divine grace and supernatural peace that flow from God our wonderful Father, and our Anointed Messiah, the Lord Jesus.

Inspired by positive confession, NAR folks are not afraid to make “decrees,” believing that they are speaking for or in the place of God. Simmons is adding to and departing from the Scriptures and most of all distorting God’s Word for the sake of his movement. As noted, so do the LDS and other groups.

A critical passage for perilous times (2 Timothy 3:1-9) is 2 Timothy 4:2-4. In the KJV the exhortation is to “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” Doctrine is specifically mentioned twice in this passage.

The point of the passage and the protection for the sheep is removed by the PT:

Proclaim the Word of God and never give up! Rise to the occasion and preach when it is convenient and when it is not, with all the outpouring of the Spirit—with wisdom and patience as you instruct and teach the people. For the time is coming when they will no longer listen and respond to the *healing words*, but because they are selfish and proud they will seek out teachers with soothing words that line up with their desires, saying just what they wanted to hear. They will close their ears to the truth and believe nothing but fables and myths. [our emphasis]

Finally, the book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom. The PT does much to subtract from that wisdom. Consider just one verse—Proverbs 1:7:

How then does a man gain the essence of wisdom? It starts with God, For the first rays of revelation-light come from Him. So trust Him and live in awe and adoration of Him! Careless ones will never stop to do this, For they scorn true wisdom and knowledge.

In truth, Proverbs 1:7 tells us that, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” As A.W. Tozer points out, “No one can know the true grace of God who has not first known the fear of God.”

In Psalm 119:105, the inspired writer of Scripture tells us, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” The *Passion Translation* does much to obscure and turn off that light.

— BY EDWIN NEWBY

# NATIVE SPIRITUALITY “RENEWAL” EMERGES

EXCERPTED FROM *Muddy Waters: An Insider's View of North American Native Spirituality* BY Nanci Des Gerlaise

WHILE THOSE PRACTICING NATIVE SPIRITUALITY may believe they are practicing a completely unique form of spirituality, originating with them, they couldn't be further from the truth. Native Spirituality is just one part of a vast movement that is creating a paradigm shift in our present-day culture away from biblical Christianity and replacing it with an all-inclusive interspiritual global religion that relies heavily upon mystical practices. The results will create a “Christianity” that has no resemblance to biblical Christianity whatsoever.

As part of this massive global shift, many Native American or First Nations tribes are exploring the renewal of their ancient spiritual traditions and reinstituting ancestral and mystical practices. Natives involving themselves in this pursuit see this as an opportunity to bring recognition to the forgotten and once persecuted Native American religion. They fail to realize that they are actually participating in a mass deception spreading throughout the world in the days prior to Christ's return.

Richard Twiss [now deceased], of the Lakota Sioux tribe, is looking for this renewal or awakening among Native people. In his book, *One Church, Many Tribes*, Twiss states:

This is a time of transition in ministry among indigenous believers around the world—a time of exploration and sincere inquiring of the Lord for *new perspectives and approaches* to Native ministry. Around the globe among indigenous Christians, cultural identity is surfacing as the key dynamic in this *emerging new Native ministry paradigm and spiritual awakening*. (emphasis added)

Twiss adds:

Christians are debating the use of Native American drums, gourds, rattles and dances as legitimate expressions of godly faith. In the next decade or so, this controversy will also subside and we will hear and see indigenous sounds and movements in church services across the land in glorious worship to Jesus Christ. Indeed, *that day is already dawning*. (emphasis added)

But while many Native American Christians, like Twiss, are looking for a great spiritual awakening within the First Nations and Native American groups—primarily by incorporating Native Spirituality cultural practices into their Christianity—right under their noses, a massive worldwide deception authored by Satan is incorporating Native Spirituality into its plan and is surging forward, ultimately forsaking the purity of the Gospel message.

## *Incorporated into Society*

Native Spirituality is being incorporated into contemporary culture in popular forms of interspirituality such as goddess worship in public schools...as part of multiculturalism; throughout the environmental movement; and in the work of prominent politicians such as former Vice President Al Gore. Even the movies *Pocahontas* and *Dances With Wolves* have given mainstream culture a “crash course in Native spirituality.” Partly in overcompensation for very real injustices committed against Native Americans, Native Spirituality has become politically correct inasmuch as traditional biblical Christianity is on a fast track to becoming politically incorrect. Sadly, in the process, the Gospel which is “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16) is being pushed aside, as if it were to blame—leaving countless numbers of people—both Native American and non-Native—without the sure hope that only comes through knowing Christ.

## *Native Spirituality and Catholicism—“A Natural Fit”*

The Catholic Church has joined the ranks of those embracing Native Spirituality. In a November 2006 article in *Western Catholic Reporter* titled “Catholic School Makes Room for Native Spirituality,” the principal of Ben Calf Robe Catholic School in Alberta [Canada] states that the school, made up of 200 native children, “combines the teaching and Gospels of the Catholic Church with the various aspects of native spirituality.” The article states:

There are four sacred drums in the school and some 60 drummers. Drumming is the sacred heart beat of Mother Earth, Richardson said. “When the drum is beat upon, we believe that all of the prayers within the children are lifted to God.” ...In their monthly liturgical celebrations, the school uses the Catholic rite but they bring in native spirituality in the methods of smudging and the prayers to the Creator.

The principal...says that the “similarities between Catholicism and native traditions and processes are evident.” He adds, “[W]e believe Catholicism and native spirituality are equal....We don't see one being more important and we don't see them being entwined. We do see them over-lapping at times.”

In an article in the *News of the Northwest Jesuits*, a Montana Jesuit novice says he has found “a beautiful marriage between Catholic and Native Spirituality,” and is encountering “new light” in the sweat lodge. The article describes what transpires in a sweat lodge ceremony:

The space eventually is packed with Nakoda and White Clay tribe members of every age, surrounding the awestruck Jesuit guest. Three young men bring rocks from the blazing fire outside and drop them into a pit. The holy man—whom Herman describes as entirely Indian and entirely Catholic—douses his flashlight and begins splashing water and tossing sweet grass on the smoldering stones. Red sparks dance, intermittently lighting up the many Native faces. The people chant sacred songs in their native language, calling on their local saints, the ancestors.

## *Embraced by Mainstream Christianity*

Within the evangelical/Protestant church, Native Spirituality is cropping up more and more all the time. For instance, the Mennonite Church Canada offers on their Resource Centre website a Medicine Wheel Poster. It states:

This poster is a tool for living in harmony with God, each other and creation. It's a part of the Reaching Up to God our Creator resource box which highlights the common ground of Aboriginal Sacred Teachings and the Bible, in the hope of fostering respect and understanding among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Also on the Mennonite Church Canada website is a booklet titled *Teachings of the Sacred Tree* “to compare Aboriginal Sacred Teachings about the Sacred Tree and the Bible's use of trees.” The site also offers several resources by Native American Richard Twiss, a leader in the Indigenous People's Movement (IPM), as well as several other resources on Native Spirituality, the emerging church, and contemplative mysticism.

The ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) is another Protestant denomination that is embracing Native Spirituality. In *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, the president of a Lutheran seminary wrote this in an article titled “Dream Catchers: The ELCA Commission for Women”:



Beside the bed of my now-teenage daughter hangs a dream catcher, one of the many treasures of Native American culture. According to legend, the dream catcher filters dreams, sending good ones to the sleeper and trapping bad ones until they evaporate at dawn's first light. I thank God for the past 15 years of history during which the Commission for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been a dream catcher for thousands upon thousands in our church and beyond.

You can find examples all over the Internet of mainstream Christian groups and denominations that are integrating Native Spirituality. Medicine wheels, circles, dream catchers, sweat lodges, and shamanism—it's all there.

### *Praying in (Dangerous) Circles*

In 2011, a book titled *The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears* by emerging church pastor, Mark Batterson, was released. Batterson says his book is inspired by a legendary Jewish sage, Honi, the Circle-Drawer. The premise behind the book is that if we draw circles around important things in our lives, including our prayers, we will receive great blessings. In the legend of Honi in 1 BC, the land was subjected to a drought. In the excerpt below, Batterson says:

With a six-foot staff in his hand, Honi began to turn like a math compass. His circular movement was rhythmical and methodical. Ninety degrees. One hundred and eighty degrees. Two hundred and seventy degrees. Three hundred and sixty degrees. He never looked up as the crowd looked on. After what seemed like hours, but had only been seconds, Honi stood inside the circle he had drawn.

Sure enough, it rained, and Batterson went on to say, "The circle he drew in the sand became a sacred symbol." What Batterson has done in his book is turn "circle making" into a practice and a ritual... that will supposedly bring great results in a person's life.

While Batterson doesn't talk about Native Spirituality in his book, his "circle making"...conditions Christians to more readily accept Native Spirituality, whether Batterson intended it or not. Everything in Native Spirituality is done in circles because [natives believe] the power of the world works in circles. As the moon, sun, and earth are all round, so it is that all circles attract a spiritual energy as does symbolic expression. The circle that the medicine wheel represents is an integration of energy and matter, as well as spirit and man, so as to achieve a greater spiritual understanding and creation. Some segments of Native Spirituality involving circles are: round dances, talking circles, pipe ceremonies, drums, four quadrants (north, south, east and west), seasons, and life of man.

### *The Emerging Church, The New Age, and Native Spirituality*

[Supposedly reaching out] to the new postmodern generation in a more relevant way than traditional Christianity...the emerging church...is a full-scale ecumenical effort to unite all religions against biblical Christianity [through] mystical practices.

Richard Twiss talks about "heal[ing] the rifts" between Natives and Anglo-Saxons, Democrats and Republicans, men and women, rich and poor, etc. and asserts how we can "all have a part to play in the healing of our nation [America]." But the healing of the nations (America, Canada, or any part of the world) is not going to happen before Jesus Christ returns. The teaching that we can, in and of ourselves, usher in the Kingdom of God on earth...is heretical. Our focus, as Native or non-Native Christians, needs to be the preaching of the Gospel according to the Holy Scriptures. It is not the earth we are to save but rather men, women, and children's souls.

When Twiss tells us to "imagine Native believers enjoying the fragrant aroma of burning sage, sweet grass or cedar" or "smudging," I believe he is misleading many. Galatians 3:28 tells us, "There is

neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." In other words, our focus as born-again believers isn't to practice rituals from the cultures we were born into. We are born again, into a brand new culture—God's culture. The one "culture" that God has bestowed on all mankind is the Gospel; it is the one heritage passed on to us by God, yet we are destroying it today: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In 2010 at the Emergent Village Theological Conference...[a] blog for the event states:

Richard Twiss...began by blessing us with sage incense and having a member of his team dance a healing dance....He moved from rejecting his reservation upbringing, to re-discovering his heritage and hating white people, coming to faith in Christ through evangelical churches, walking away again from his heritage, to re-re-discovering his Native culture and integrating it into his faith.

The emerging church fits in very well with Native Spirituality and Catholicism. Icons, incense, earth-based spirituality, ushering in the kingdom of God, and healing for the earth through ecumenical unity, mantras and chanting—these are all elements they have in common with each other.

In *One Church, Many Tribes*, Richard Twiss echoes Rob Bell, a leader in the emerging church. Twiss talks about removing the barriers between the "sacred" and the "secular." He says that "Native people do not have a split view of reality." On Bell's national tour, *Everything is Spiritual*, Bell tells his audiences that God is in everything and no gap exists between the secular and the spiritual. Twiss says that "Western Christians struggle with...a dualistic belief." Whether Twiss realizes it or not, he is describing a core viewpoint in the New Age and occultism where the secular (the flesh or carnal man) and the spiritual (God) are one. Christian author Ray Yungen demonstrates the subtleties that lie within bridging the gap between the secular and the spiritual (i.e., man and God) in his book *Time of Departing* [see resource pages]:

Satan is not simply trying to draw people to the dark side of a good versus evil conflict. Actually, he is trying to eradicate the gap between himself and God, between good and evil, altogether. When we understand this approach it helps us see why...Jack Canfield said he felt God flowing through all things....Such reasoning implies that God has given His glory to all of creation; since Satan is part of creation, then he too shares in this glory, and thus is "like the Most High"....If the all-is-one view were true, then salvation through a Redeemer would become unnecessary and Jesus' death on the Cross would be rendered altogether futile and pointless.

The Native view, which maintains there is no division between the secular and the spiritual, goes against what the Bible says about the wretched carnality of man. God is so holy and so pure that He cannot even look upon such sinfulness....The plan of the emerging church is to see the earth "healed" by bringing in a global, all-inclusive kingdom of God....The problem with an all-inclusive "kingdom" is that there is no room for a Savior who proclaims there is only one way to Heaven. One very popular New Age/New Spirituality proponent who believes man is on the threshold of enlightenment and healing for the earth says this:

It will take an unprecedented act of courage, on a grand scale. You may have to do something virtually unknown in the annals of human history....You may have to give up some of your most sacred beliefs....Let me make something clear. *The era of the Single Savior is over.* What is needed now is joint action, combined effort, collective co-creation. (emphasis added)

[Note: Biblical leadership among Native tribes does exist.  
See page 12 to order Muddy Waters.]

# NEW! EXPOSÉ ON NATIVE SPIRITUALITY MUDDY WATERS



## Muddy Waters

**Gerlaise**—In the world today, many Christians believe that combining the beliefs and practices of Native American Spirituality with their view of Christianity is perfectly acceptable. Nanci De Gerlais knows better. Raised on a Metis settlement with fifteen brothers and sisters, Nanci's childhood and young adult life were riddled with the terrors that arose from the fact that her father and grandfather were both practicing medicine men. *Muddy Waters* tells the story of Nanci's life as a Cree Native American woman who, after years of struggle, oppression, and spiritual darkness, found light and truth in the One who offered her freedom.

But *Muddy Waters* is not just an autobiography. It delves deeply into the framework of Native Spirituality. Native American Christians are looking for a great spiritual awakening within the First Nation/Native American groups by incorporating Native Spirituality practices into their "Christian" gatherings. Due in part to overcompensation for very real injustices committed against Native Americans, Native Spirituality has more recently become "politically correct" at the same time that biblical Christianity is viewed as being intolerant. In the process, the true Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), is being pushed aside, leaving countless numbers of people without the sure hope that comes only through knowing Christ. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 229 pp. Retail \$13.95

B36693

2 or more \$10.40 ea.

wt .8 \$13.00

## NANCI DES GERLAISE'S TESTIMONY:

*I am a First Nations person born and raised in Northern Alberta to a large family of sixteen where I descended from a long line of medicine men. My husband and I currently reside in the province of British Columbia. It was here in 1999 that I renounced false doctrine, including Native Spirituality and all the effects it had in all areas of my life.*

*Since then I have been blessed richly with the freedom that comes only from the Lord Jesus Christ. I am by no means saying that I am exempt from tests, trials, and tribulations but rather, now that I have the help and power of the Holy Spirit I am in a much better situation to deal with these issues as they arise. During my renunciation, the Lord God instructed me to write a book about Native Spirituality, what it really is, and what the Bible really says about it. Out of that session was born Muddy Waters: An Insider's View of Native Spirituality.*

## MORE DISCERNMENT RESOURCES RAY YUNGEN AND WARREN SMITH BOOK PACKS



**Ray Yungen**, author, speaker, and research analyst has studied religious movements for the last twenty years. His exuberance for life and his love for Jesus Christ and for people are evident in his writing. Mr. Yungen resides in Salem, Oregon.



**Warren Smith** (B.A. University of Pennsylvania; M.S.W. Tulane University) is a free-lance writer and community social worker who was formerly involved in the New Age movement. He has written extensively on the subject of spiritual deception and has been widely interviewed on radio and television.



## A Time of Departing

**Yungen**—A revealing account of a universal spirituality that has infiltrated much of the church today. This book exposes subtle strategies to compromise the gospel message with Eastern mystical concepts cloaked under the wrappings of contemplative prayer and "the silence." Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 242 pp.

B01206

retail \$12.95 wt .6 \$11.00



## A "Wonderful" Deception

**Warren Smith**—This book explains how all the puzzle pieces are in place for the "strong delusion" described in 2 Thessalonians. A "Wonderful" Deception pierces right into the heart of this lie while preparing believers in Jesus Christ to effectively stand against it. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 243 pp.

B88102

retail \$14.95 wt .8 \$14.00



## For Many Shall Come In My Name

**Yungen**—Most people believe that the New Age has long since disappeared from our society, and, if practiced at all now, it is only by unconventional "fringe" types. This new expanded edition reveals that such is not the case. In fact, quite the opposite! Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 215 pp.

B01290

retail \$12.95 wt .8 \$12.00



## False Christ Coming - Does Anybody Care?

**Warren Smith**—*False Christ Coming* is a wake-up call to a church that remains strangely silent and in deep denial about the very deception that Jesus warned would come in His name (Matthew 24:3-5). *False Christ Coming - Does Anybody Care?* was originally published in 2002 under the title *Reinventing Jesus Christ*. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 159 pp.

B49228

retail \$14.95 wt .6 \$14.00

**SET100** Ray Yungen set—retail \$25.90 wt 1.4 **SALE \$20.00**
**SET80** Warren Smith set—retail \$29.90 wt 1.4 **SALE \$20.00**



## SPIRITUAL DECEPTION RESOURCES EXPOSING ERROR IN THE CHURCH



### Yoga and the Body of Christ

**Hunt**—Promising to bring peace, healing, and wholeness (even prosperity!) to its practitioners, readers will be shocked to discover that yoga is, in fact, based on the worship of (and prepares participants for supernatural connection with) unholy spirits that manifest in extraordinary and dangerous ways. The author—an avid promoter of biblically based physical, mental, and spiritual wholeness—distinguishes pure truth from popular belief in this revealing exposé. Every Christian should be informed of the true origins and effects of the practice of yoga and its ungodly roots in Kundalini energy. TBC, 175 pp.

B60487

wt .5 reg. ~~\$9.00~~ SALE \$7.50



### Yoga and the Body of Christ - Radio Discussion

**Hunt/McMahon**—From fast-food franchise promotion to virtual video-game venues, yoga is revolutionizing the fitness movement worldwide—and is even extending its reach directly into the churches. Is yoga one of the greatest Trojan Horses of our time? This fascinating compilation from *Search the Scriptures*

*Daily Radio* will encourage listeners to look to God's Word—and toward heaven—for Christ's imminent return. The Berean Call, 4.3 hrs.

CD132

4 CDs

wt .4

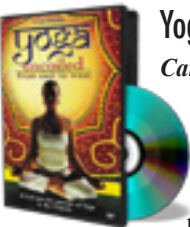
reg. ~~\$18.00~~ SALE \$15.00

MP3132

1 MP3 CD

wt .3

reg. ~~\$9.00~~ SALE \$7.50

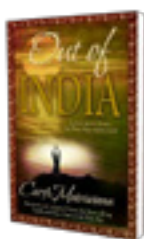


### Yoga Uncoiled

**Caryl Productions**—If you think that yoga is simply a method of stretching and breathing and therefore an acceptable form of exercise, this video may shock you. Fast-moving visuals and engaging commentary will hold your attention to the very end. This documentary is a fascinating and helpful tool in building discernment. 77 min.

DVD158

retail \$24.95 wt .2 \$20.00



### Out of India

**Matriciana**—Born and raised in India, Caryl Matriciana was surrounded by a strange and mystical religion, seeing firsthand the effects that Hinduism had on the people of that nation. After leaving India as a young adult, she became involved in the counter-culture hippie movement only to find that the elements of Hinduism and the New Age were very much the same. Eventually, Caryl would discover that this same spirituality had entered not only the Western world but the Christian church as well. Caryl Productions, 246 pp.

B01530

wt .9 \$12.50



### Occult Invasion

**Hunt**—As this timely reprint of the best-selling 1998 first edition powerfully documents, today's popular obsession with spiritual revolution, "societal transformation," paranormal activity, and "supernatural" signs and wonders has not just magically appeared by chance. Today, children and adults alike are faced with an endless barrage of "supernatural" violence and sexualized content designed to assault the senses—not merely for titillation but for transformation of values, beliefs, and lifestyles. Dave Hunt documents and exposes this false dichotomy of "darkness" and "light" that is deceiving not only the world but also countless believers in the professing evangelical church. The Berean Call, 647 pp.

B60606

wt 1.8 reg. ~~\$20.00~~ SALE \$17.50



### Religious Trojan Horse — SAVE 37%

**Howse**—In *Religious Trojan Horse*, Brannon Howse exposes the outrageous breach of integrity in the church, which has been compromised by popular and dangerous teachings that are anything but scriptural. With thorough and precise documentation, Brannon shows exactly who is to blame and how. Worldview Weekend, 485 pp.

B01497

wt 2.2

reg. ~~\$25.00~~ SALE \$17.50

## WIDE IS THE GATE VOLUMES ONE AND TWO



### Wide Is the Gate: The Emerging New Christianity (Vol 1)

**Caryl Productions**—Video journalist, Caryl Matriciana, author of *Out of India*, interviews friends, well-known authors, and experts in a bold and challenging new DVD. Caryl examines the intrusion of the 60s and 70s New

Age Movement, steeped in its pagan eastern mysticism, and traces its morphing over the last four decades—from its repackaging as the "self help" psychology and wholistic health movements of the 80s, to its seeker friendly, megachurch appearance in the 90s, to its coming out in the 21st century as "the new spirituality." 1 DVD, 227 min.

DVD309

Retail \$39.99

wt .2

SALE \$30.00



### Wide Is the Gate: The Emerging New Christianity (Vol 2)

**Caryl Productions**—Caryl Matriciana's *Wide is the Gate: The Emerging New Christianity*, Volume 2, includes five brand new 40-minute chapters on one DVD. This eye-opening production contains information vital to the defense of biblical Christianity. Learn what Scripture teaches about

the times we live in, the ways in which Christians are being seduced away from biblical truth, and the methods used by the new spirituality to usher in the counterfeit kingdom of God on Earth. Volume 2 features interviews with: Mike Gendron, Tom McMahon, Johanna Michaelsen, Brenda Nickel, Chris Quintana, Warren Smith, Ray Yungen, Paul Wilkinson, and others. 1 DVD, 214 min.

DVD316

Retail \$39.99

wt .2

SALE \$30.00

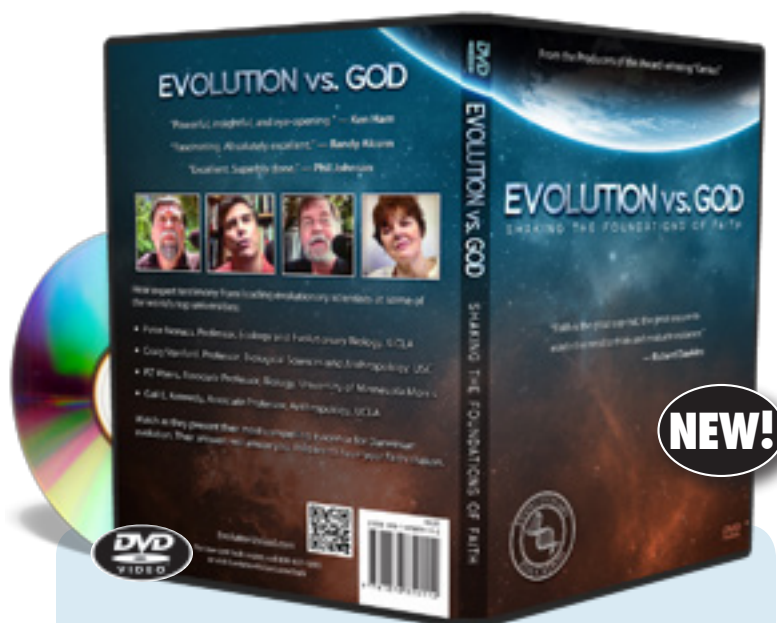
SET97

Wide Is the Gate Vol. 1 & 2— Retail \$79.98

wt .4

SALE \$60.00

# NEW! EVOLUTION VS. GOD "SHAKING THE FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH"



**NEW!**



## ABOUT RAY COMFORT:

Ray is a New Zealand-born Christian minister and evangelist. Comfort started Living Waters Publications and The Way of the Master in Bellflower, California and has written a number of books.

## Evolution vs. God: Shaking the Foundations of Faith

**Living Waters**—The main premise behind *Evolution vs. God* is that top evolutionary scientists cannot convincingly support their theory and instead rely heavily on unfounded assumptions. Even when evangelist Ray Comfort personally interviews influential evolutionists from major universities (such as well-known atheist PZ Myers), they are unable to satisfyingly answer his prodding questions. "As you will see on *Evolution vs. God*," Comfort stated, "not one of the experts could give me a whisper of evidence for Darwinian evolution. The movie is going to shatter the faith of the average believer in evolution, and strengthen the faith of every Christian." Not only does Comfort tactically lead the evolutionary scientists to admit that their theory requires copious measures of blind faith, but he also pries similar confessions out of several college students. In one scene, for instance, a young man admits that his belief in the evolutionary theory is "similar" to a religious conviction. "Most Christian videos on the subject of evolution normally look at what evolution says and then have a creationist expert dismantle it," Comfort remarked. "That's very effective. But what *Evolution vs. God* does that is unique is that we didn't interview anyone who believed in Intelligent Design. Every person interviewed believes in evolution...and they are the ones who show that evolution is a fairytale for grownups. This is going to put a massive weapon in the hands of parents in their battle for their kids, because it exposes evolution, using their [own] experts." 1 DVD, 34 minutes.

**DVD324**

Retail \$9.95

wt .2

**\$5.00**

**BULK ORDER DISCOUNTS!**

2 or more copies — \$4.00 each

10 or more copies — \$2.00 each

## MORE CREATION VS. EVOLUTION RESOURCES — HAVE AN ANSWER FOR ATHEISTS



## The Evolution of a Creationist (DVD set)

**Biblical Discipleship Ministries**—For years Dr. Jobe Martin wrestled with the conflicts between the evolutionary theory and the Bible. As a scientist, he was sure he knew the answers.

But then his faith, as a Christian, completely changed his life. In this video series, Dr. Martin points out the distinct differences between evolution and creation, by taking a look at animals that break all the evolutionary "rules." Dr. Martin examines the many problems with the evolutionary theory and shows why the Bible is an excellent book of science. This 4-part DVD set includes: "Evolution or Creation...Does it Really Matter What We Believe?" (60 min.), "Fact or Fraud...Is Evolution Evolving?" (56 min.), "Cause or Coincidence...Did Earth Begin With a Purpose or Probability?" (50 min.), and "How Young Is Earth?" (65 min.) Included with the video series is a 70 page workbook. 2 DVDs (231 min.), 1 workbook (70 pp.) Retail \$79.95 — 2+ copies \$40.00 ea.

**DVD323**

Save \$29.95!

wt .7

**\$50.00**



## Set in Stone: Evidence of Earth's Catastrophic Past

**Truth in Science**—*Set in Stone* takes the viewer on a visual odyssey of discovery shot in high definition on location around Britain. Enjoy spectacular scenery, awe-inspiring landscapes, and beautiful coastlines. This 58-minute DVD presents evidence for Earth's catastrophic past and enables the viewer to consider crucial questions. According to modern geology, our world is over four and a half billion years old, and its geological features have been sculpted over vast eons of time. "Everyone knows" that Planet Earth is unimaginably ancient. But what if what everyone "knows" is wrong? Were the rocks around us formed slowly and gradually—or suddenly during catastrophic events? Did the history of the world unfold over vast eras of time or much shorter periods? Riveting! 1 DVD, 58 min.

**DVD311**

Retail \$24.95

wt .2

**\$20.00**



## The New Answers Bundle

**Master Books**—Are you ready to defend the Bible?

Do you have answers to the big questions about the Christian faith, evolution, creation, and the biblical worldview? Receive all three books and all three DVDs in *The New Answers Book* series for one low price! Retail \$89.94

**SET75**

wt 3.9

**\$84.00**





**1-800-937-6638 • Box 7019, Bend, OR 97708 • [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)**



[www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)

PO BOX 7019

BEND OREGON 97708-7020

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Dallas TX  
Permit No. 419

AUGUST 2013

# THE BEREAN CALL 2013 CONFERENCE



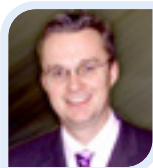
At the Riverhouse in Bend, OR  
**FRI-SAT • AUGUST 23-24**



KEITH GIBSON



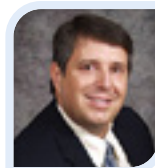
MARK CAHILL



PAUL WILKINSON



T. A. McMAHON



CARL KERBY



DAVID JAMES

## REGISTER:

[www.thebereancall.org/conference](http://www.thebereancall.org/conference)

1-800-937-6638

## DETAILS:

Conference admission is FREE

Registration is required

Food/Lodging not provided



Have a question?  
Ask it on our  
Facebook page:

[facebook.com/thebereancall](https://facebook.com/thebereancall)