

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

New Age Mysticism Déjà vu — Part One

T. A. McMahon

IN THE mid-1970s, Dave Hunt wrote a book chronicling the life of Paul Gupta, a Christian convert and the founder of Hindustan Bible Institute. That biography began Dave’s research efforts regarding Hinduism and Eastern mysticism. Shortly thereafter, Dave met a former Hindu guru who had converted to Christianity, and Dave collaborated with him on his conversion story titled *Death of a Guru*. It was during that time period that the New Age Movement (NAM) got underway in the US.

Defining the NAM is rather challenging given all the different perspectives and influences involved, yet its fundamental teachings are rooted in Eastern mysticism. New Agers also declare a common belief in what has been termed the “perennial wisdom,” a guiding principle stating that all religions, at their core, worship the same God, which is defined as Ultimate Reality. The New Age Movement encompasses a staggering variety of individuals, ideas, themes, and practices, all emphasizing the nonphysical/spiritual realm. Some of the movement’s most influential individuals include Helena Blavatsky, Marilyn Ferguson, Teilhard de Chardin, Deepak Chopra, Dr. Oz, Benjamin Creme, Michael Harner, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Shirley MacLaine, Aleister Crowley, Timothy Leary, Yogi Bha-jan, Helen Schucman, Neale Donald Walsch, Marianne Williamson, Ken Wilber, Oprah Winfrey, and Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

Beliefs and practices include alternative healing methods, astrology, spiritual energies, meditation, parapsychology, witchcraft, yoga, quantum mysticism, Gaia and goddess worship, reincarnation, UFOs, channeling, karma, hallucinogenic drugs, feng shui, altered states of consciousness, the martial arts, spiritualism, the kabbala, transpersonal psychology, and the human potential movement.

In the late 1980s, Dave Hunt and I wrote *America, The Sorcerer’s New Apprentice: The Rise of New Age Shamanism*. The motivation and purpose for writing that book was to give Christians a better understanding of what the NAM and Eastern mysticism were all about. We were greatly concerned that much of what was clearly New Age was entering and taking hold within Christendom. Not everyone concurred with our concerns, however, including a Christian apologetics author who announced that we had “made up the whole idea of the New Age Movement.” Surprising as that was from someone professing to encourage *discernment*, it nevertheless underscored the need for an informative work explaining what the NAM believed and practiced, its physical and spiritual dangers, and how its religious concepts were diametrically opposed to biblical Christianity. As noted, the ultimate reality of the NAM is an impersonal force or energy of which everything consists. Although there are various names for this energy (ki, chi, qi, prana, mana, barakah, innate), it is described in god-terms as pantheism, which is the teaching that everything in the universe consists of God. That widespread belief clearly does *not* describe the personal, infinite God presented in Scripture. Furthermore, if God were everything or in everything, then “it” would be subject

to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which tells us that energy is inevitably degenerating toward a terminal stage. Undoubtedly, the eternal God of the Bible is *not* an impersonal energy force.

Many today believe that the New Age Movement is itself in a state of entropy or decline. On the contrary! Though the name may not be bandied about as it was thirty years ago, its beliefs and practices are more universally accepted than ever. That would hardly be significant were we considering only India and the countries of the Far East, where the prevalent religions for millennia have centered upon a spiritual energy force. No, it’s the “Christian” West that has been seduced in staggering proportions by the East. Though the stratagems that have ushered in that spiritual flood are too numerous for this two-part series, some of the most significant ones will be identified. And, of course, the prophetic Word of God will be given to underscore the fact that what is taking place is hardly random but rather the orchestration of God’s chief adversary, Satan himself. “Now the [Holy] Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4:1).

“Seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” may seem too extreme for most Christians today. Understandably, that reaction may arise due to the notoriety of some ministries that “find” Satan in everything and behind everything. Or it could be that most Christians today simply don’t know the Scriptures or the validity of Bible prophecy. Those words that Paul wrote to Timothy were not his own ideas but rather the words of God given to Paul by the Holy Spirit. As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13). We see what should be obvious from Scripture: “Seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” reflect Satan’s lies at the very beginning of his communication with mankind, which constituted 1) a *repudiation* of God’s command to Adam that he not eat of the fruit of a certain tree in the Garden of Eden, resulting in the penalty of death for his disobedience, and 2) the seductive offer to Eve that she and Adam could be “as gods.” These self-willed and god-wannabe doctrines are indeed demonically inspired and are the very centerpiece of the NAM and Eastern mysticism.

Most people are aware that the 1970s era was a time of anti-war protest, psychedelic drug use, the hippie movement, the end of the war in Vietnam, the enormous popularity of the Beatles, and the search of young people to “find themselves.” That search led many from the West to India. What few know, however, is that at that time there was likewise a massive missionary effort from the East coming into the West to convert “Christians” to Hinduism by spreading its beliefs and practices. In his book *Yoga and the Body of Christ*, Dave Hunt reported, “Hindu gurus from the East, such as Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Baba Muktananda, Yogananda, Yogi Bha-jan, Vivekananda, Bhagwan Shri Rajneesh, and a host of others, were pleased to learn in the late ’50s and early ’60s, that through the popular use of psychedelic drugs, millions of Westerners were experiencing a nonphysical reality that Western science had long

denied existed. They were quick to recognize that a vast market for their teachings had thereby been opened up in the West. The New Age movement was birthed. Yoga, once practiced in the East only by 'holy men,' was made available to the masses in the West, and it soon spread everywhere, even into churches and among evangelicals.

"The call went out to Hindus and yoga enthusiasts, 'The New Age movement...has accepted the great ideas of the East.... Let us invade the American Campuses armed with the vision of Vedanta' [from *America: The Sorcerer's New Apprentice*, p. 281]. Few, if any, realized that the West had fallen victim to the largest and most successful missionary campaign in history.... Most Westerners find it difficult to think of these smiling, bowing, obsequious, and supposedly broadminded yogis, swamis, and lamas as missionaries determined to spread their mystic gospel. It comes as a great surprise that the largest missionary organization in the world is not Christian but Hindu—India's Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)" (Hunt, *Yoga and the Body of Christ*, p. 12).

Those gurus found their audiences throughout the West, from college campuses to Hollywood. But none were more successful (or deceptive) than the Beatles' guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Launched into the public's eye by the British pop group, he introduced his religious beliefs and practices as the "Spiritual Regeneration Movement." However, opposition arose against his effective attempts to get his program into public schools. Stymied by the courts, he changed its name to "The Science of Creative Intelligence" and later to Transcendental Meditation (TM). That success was unparalleled and set the basic stratagem for promoting Hinduism in the West: disguise its religious roots in the fog of pseudoscience. Proclaim that it's for self-improvement, for health, for peace of mind, even for "spiritual enhancement" as long as it's "not religious!"

One aspect of the NAM that boosted its acceptance in the West was the spiritual vacuum created by materialism, which didn't pan out as the scientific answer to solving mankind's increasing problems. On a mundane level, many realized that having more material goods did not bring about the happiness and peace of mind they thought it would. So, the "spiritual/mystical" solution became ripe for acceptance, and multitudes joined in, especially because there were no "accountability or judgmental strings" attached. Yet there was a major "string" that had to be accepted by the rational Western mind.

In Hinduism the *physical reality* of the universe is not real at all. It is *maya*, an illusion, the escape from which is the ultimate goal of yoga. The true reality is found in the nonphysical realm, according to Eastern mysticism. Some in the West were given an inkling that such might be the case based on their experience of reaching altered states of consciousness through psychedelic drugs. Timothy Leary and Aldous Huxley led that mind-expanding drug parade, oblivious to or in denial of its destructive results, physically (and spiritually). Yet those "bad trips" opened the doors wide for the gurus who taught a supposedly harmless method for reaching what they claimed to be higher consciousness.

So what is being sold in the West by the gurus, the Eastern mystics, and the NAM leaders? Although "perennial wisdom" over thousands of years seems thus far to have failed to solve the extensive problems in the East, are we to accept its claim that it is going to vastly improve the West? Really? It hasn't worked in its purest form in the East. (A recent comment by a native of India in *The Times of India* declared: "I am convinced. We are amongst the MOST depraved of societies in the world. And it's only going to get worse.") Are we now to believe that the homogenized versions practiced in the West (including Doga [yoga for dogs], Snowga [yoga and snow sports], laughter yoga, and SUP yoga [stand up paddleboard yoga]) will bring about the solution to what ails America?

Again, what is being promoted? It's the idea that the physical world is an illusion, i.e., true reality exists in the nonphysical realm, which is entered by suspending normal consciousness. This

suspension is accomplished by experiencing an altered state of consciousness primarily through drugs and/or meditation.

I suggest that rather than suspending our normal consciousness, let's instead apply the biblical definition of *meditation*, which means to deeply consider what's being communicated. The philosophies of the gurus et al. attempt to persuade us that achieving a *higher* state of consciousness is far better than retaining our normal state, which is supposedly preventing us from realizing that we are all part of the divine Being. Moreover, they insist that our ordinary consciousness is keeping us from experiencing continual peace and bliss in our lives.

Should I then opt for spending most if not all of my time in an altered state of consciousness? There are yogis in India who do so. Ironically, their physical needs must be attended to by those who function in a normal state of consciousness. One doesn't need much insight to recognize the dire consequences of attempting to live one's life alternating between the two states of consciousness.

Since it began, the New Age Movement never got around to addressing the practical issues of its spiritually eclectic teachings and practices. It simply pushed forward as though it were a given that the spiritual grass (pun intended) was greener in another reality. But that was then. Have the world and the West moved on? Not quite. As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, the name "New Age Movement" may be little used today, but its content is hidden in plain sight and its seeds have taken root seemingly everywhere.

Next month, the Lord willing, I will point out some of the many manifestations of Eastern mysticism—in particular the deep inroads the concepts and practices have made in the evangelical church. As shocking as that is, it is nevertheless confirmed by prophecies related to the apostasy that Scripture declares will take place prior to the Lord's return. Among the many verses that indicate this apostasy are 2 Timothy 4:3-4: "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 from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables," and Luke 18:8: "...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Although that condition is prophesied, it is a statement referring to Christendom collectively—not Christians individually. In other words, apostasy will indeed take place and will infect, perhaps, most Christians, but each Christian will be held personally accountable for his or her walk with the Lord. Not every Christian will be seduced by the end-times deception.

Just as the Beatles were the main springboard for launching the Eastern mysticism of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, so *Star Wars*, which premiered in 1977, popularized the religious concept of God as a Force. George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars*, told Bill Moyers that since childhood he had been puzzled by the number of religions in the world and concluded that they all worshiped the same God. Hence, the perennial wisdom of the Force, which he believes accommodates all religions. He clearly did not mean biblical Christianity, yet that truth has hardly dampened the world's enthusiasm for an impersonal god that holds no one accountable.

Although Lucas no longer controls what he created 38 years ago, the Force is back and may be more influential than in all its previous series of films. Based upon its opening successes, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is on its way to becoming the biggest box office hit in movie history. For those in the movie's audience who may not be aware of what the Force is all about (I can't imagine who that might be, including the light-saber-swinging very young), it is explained throughout the film, including a basic teaching by Han Solo. This is indeed New Age mysticism déjà vu.

Although one might expect the world to relish the spiritual pie-in-the-sky offered by New Age mysticism, it is both shocking and disheartening to see Christians taking it in with little or no biblical discernment. Next month: "Christianized" Eastern meditation, "Christianized" yoga, and related "Christianized" practices.

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
or e-mail: editorial@thebereancall.org

QUESTION: I'm about ready to pack it in. There are so many so-called teachers of the Word of God out there contradicting one another that I don't know who to believe. Wouldn't I be better off just locking myself up with the Bible and look to the Holy Spirit alone as my teacher? After all, doesn't the Bible say that I don't need any man to teach me?

RESPONSE: Peter tells us that the Bible did not have its origin in the thoughts or will of men; rather, holy men of God spoke and wrote what the Holy Spirit communicated to them (2 Pt 1:21). Not only did the Scriptures come by the Holy Spirit, but we're told that to truly understand God's Word, we must have the Holy Spirit to teach us (1 Cor 2:11-14). So no one can deny the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit regarding both scriptural inspiration and illumination. However, by taking the position that you plan to exclude everyone but the Holy Spirit in learning what the Word of God says, you've already missed part of the Holy Spirit's instruction.

Teaching is a function of believers in Christ. The Great Commission includes the command to teach all nations to observe all things that Christ taught His disciples (Mt 28:19-20). One of the principal ministries in the body of Christ is that of teacher (1 Cor 12:28); the selection of elders includes as a criterion the ability to teach (1 Tm 3:2); and Galatians 6:6 tells the person who is taught to share in all good things with him who teaches. God has gifted the church with these individuals who have the ability to teach "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ," and this process is to continue until "we all come in the unity of the faith" as well as maturity in Christ (Eph 4:11-13). If you read on in Ephesians you will find that teachers are also given to help us grow in discernment (v. 14), even to recognizing false teachers. At best, to deny the value of those whom God has gifted as teachers is to miss His grace and ministry to His own, through His own.

We can appreciate the frustration you have with teachers who miss the mark, either in part or for the most part. The Scriptures are not naïve with regard to the problem of false teachers. Paul warns about them with tears (Acts 20:30-31); Peter and John also raise strong concerns (2 Pt 2:1; 2 Jn 7). When the full counsel of Scripture is considered, you can see that avoiding all teachers doesn't solve the problem of false teachers. A godly teacher (who can instruct in discernment) is merely a vessel of the Holy Spirit; for anything to be truly worthwhile from such an individual, it must be the work of the Holy Spirit within him. However, when a teacher relies upon his own wisdom or flesh rather than the Holy Spirit, he has, at the very least, polluted the truth. Granted, human vessels are not the most trustworthy instruments, but God has chosen them for service and has given safeguards: His Word and His Spirit.

When John wrote "ye need not that any man teach you" (1 Jn 2:27) he wasn't contradicting those Scriptures previously mentioned. He was referring to false teachers (v. 26) and stating that the anointing of the Holy Spirit (v. 20) would enable the believer to discern what was true and what was false. Being like the Bereans (Acts 17:10-11) is the biblical solution to recognizing whether or not a teacher is in line with the truth. Remember, it says they received "with all readiness of mind" Paul's teaching and searched the Scriptures daily to see if what he had to say was true to God's Word. Paul taught under the power of the Holy Spirit, and it was the same Spirit who enabled those Berean Jews to recognize scriptural truth. That's the way it has to be for godly teachers and those who want to learn and grow in the faith, no matter how confusing and deceptive the days become.

QUESTION: I overheard a lady saying that she thinks we shouldn't argue over doctrine, but we should instead just point people to Jesus. In other words, that [Christianity] is a personal relationship with God, and so the Scriptures mean different things to different people. How would you respond to that?

RESPONSE: It takes doctrine to "point people to Jesus." Doctrine is teaching the rightly divided Scriptures (2 Tm 2:15). In her pointing people to Jesus, she may not realize it, but if she is correctly giving the Gospel, she is "arguing doctrine." The elements of the Gospel are so important that the Lord inspired Paul to write, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal 1:8).

Doctrinal arguments can be wearying and can turn people away. Nevertheless, we still need doctrine—not meaning ongoing arguments, but as the only way to understand the faith. "Doctrine" is a "teaching." The substantive teachings of Scripture are those giving us truth about God. "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Indeed, not preaching correct doctrine is specifically prophesied to be a hallmark of the Last Days (2 Tm 4:3-4). The response of the believer is clearly given. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine" (2 Tm 4:1-2).

The doctrine of the gospel is important because of who is at the center of the gospel. It is all about the Lord Jesus Christ and what He accomplished through his death, burial, and resurrection. Anything that makes Jesus secondary or teaches an unbiblical Jesus is not the gospel. Any message that ignores His death or minimizes sin is not the biblical gospel. In this age, the emphasis often is on a non-offensive, non-confrontational gospel, but such a gospel is disobedient to the command of Christ (Mt 28:19-20).

Furthermore, preaching the true Gospel is bound to offend at least some, as 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 says: "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

Teaching sound doctrine is absolutely essential.

QUOTABLE

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

—ISAIAH 53:6

Here we have the entire story of the Bible epitomized: man's ruin both by nature and practice; and God's marvelous and all-sufficient remedy. The verse begins with *all* and ends with *all*. An anxious soul was directed to this passage and found peace. Afterward he said, "I bent low down and went in at the first *all*. I stood up straight and came out at the last." The first is the acknowledgment of our deep need. The second shows how fully that need has been met in the cross of Christ. Happy to be numbered among those who have put in their claim and found salvation through the atoning work which there took place!

—H. A. IRONSIDE

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
or e-mail: editorial@thebereancall.org

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write you to inform you of God's power and how He answers prayers. From December 7 – 11, I'd been faced with various issues regarding Calvinism. R. C. Sproul had a series on it in the beginning of the month and it got a fellow brother of mine all confused and excited. I prayed about it all week.... My friend and mentor had been talking to me about it all week and spoke about a book by Dave Hunt, *What Love Is This?* Friday night at mail call I received your December 2015 newsletter "The Enigma of Calvinism." It mentioned Dave's book. A prayer answered? Well, now comes the amazing part. Saturday morning, December 12, after a week of prayer, emotional tides, and discussions... *What Love Is This?* was left on a table in my dormitory by someone who had put it there for anyone to grab. There are no coincidences in God's Kingdom! Thank you for your article. MM (CA, prisoner)

Dear Tom,

My wife and I would like to express our gratitude for the excellent services, teaching, information, and encouragement you have provided for us over the past 20 years. We enjoyed all the speakers at your 2015 conference in Bend and would like to thank you for your teaching on fellowship and finding a church in these dark last days. After coming back from Germany, where we had been for...three years, our prayers were answered [and we've found a church to attend]. The pastor is very young, outgoing, and loves the Lord and His people. This, combined with a solid knowledge from the Bible is a blessing from our Lord. A&VH (OR)

Berean Call Friends,

We eagerly look forward each month for your magazine to arrive. What a blessing you are to all of us! While it is difficult to say which article we most appreciate, the November 2015 article, "Pre- or Post-Trib Rapture?" deserves a special note of gratitude.

TBC NOTES

Knowing and Understanding God?

One of the major fallacies of the Eastern Mystical world-view is that one cannot know or understand God. That makes sense in such a belief system because "God" is not a personal Being who can be known but rather a spiritual energy force that can only be experienced. To be attracted to such a god because of the promise of Self-realization (realizing that you are a part of that god) is the ultimate in self-glorification and, sadly, self-delusion.

On the other hand, the personal God of the Bible declares, "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:24). That is true glory.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While we always sensed (since we left the Roman Church after 50 years) that the Rapture was separate from Jesus' Second Coming, we were very unsure when in the Tribulation sequences the Rapture would take place. [Dave Hunt's] article, with solid Scripture references, cleared that up for us and gave us great hope and joy. We have shared that article with many. Thank you! D&MG (WA)

Hello,

Thanks for the wonderful feature article on prayer and the biblical encouragement for my life of prayer! My wife and I will begin a regularly scheduled time allocated to serious prayer several times a week—particularly as a result of not finding others in church or otherwise with whom we can regularly join for prayer. Just because the formal groups don't do so, doesn't mean we should not adopt our own plans for joint prayer at home and with our families. We should not relegate such important business in the Lord to a "when we can get around to it" status. Your ministry continues to hit the mark! MR (IA)

Dear TBC,

Though I'm retired and need to stay within my budget constraints, my heart is to give a little where I'm most touched. I've always (for many years) appreciated your straightforward, honest, and biblical teaching. Though I do not have a computer, the old-fashioned way of communication still works. Blessings to you in Christ, while we wait on Him. MA (MT)

Dear Berean Call,

What a joy to be able to partner with you as you go into the prisons with your newsletter. When we read notes from those so touched by the sound doctrine offered—while incarcerated—we rejoice. God uses life's circumstances to get us in places where our attention is turned toward Him. *The Berean Call* is a great tool. To God be the Glory! GP (TX)

T. A.'S SPEAKING SCHEDULE

Feb 10-16	Albania geosturm01@aol.com
Mar 31- Apr 4	IFCB Conference at Sun Valley Community Church Sun Valley, CA - (818) 823-8588
Apr 9-10	Roseburg Christian Fellowship Roseburg, OR - (541) 672-7222

For up-to-date schedule information visit: www.thebereancall.org/tom

STS 24/7 BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Feb 5/12	Larry DeBruyn <i>Contemplative Spirituality</i>
Feb 19	Dave & Tom Classic <i>What Is the Kundalini Spirit?</i>
Feb 26	Dave & Tom Classic <i>Can Yoga Be Christianized?</i>

Listen to *Search the Scriptures* 24/7 at -
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NEWSWATCH

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise
in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

SBC PRES. LEADS STUDENT PRAYER AT IHOP

CHARISMANEWS.COM, 1/4/16, "SOUTHERN BAPTIST PRESIDENT LEADS THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS IN PRAYER FOR AWAKENING" [EXCERPTS]: Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd asked over 15,000 attendees at the International House of Prayer Onething 2015 Young Adult Conference in Kansas City to kneel in prayer and ask God for an awakening. His appearance at the conference stirred controversy among conservative online Baptist publications such as *Pulpit and Pen* and *The Reformed Report*.

"My being here isn't an endorsement of your theology or your endorsing my orthodoxy," Floyd told attendees.... "Yet my being here is a clear indication that people must come together and pray."

Matt Maher, a Catholic musician... was one of the featured worship artists. Bethel artists Steffany Gretzinger and Amanda Cook also led worship. Conference attendees came from all over the world from different denominations.

Ryan Baptista also posted, "As a member of the Catholic Charismatic renewal, I've had a heart for what is happening at IHOP for many years and it was amazing to finally get out there and experience the prophetic worship and preaching firsthand. There was a beautiful unity across denominations this week."

(<http://goo.gl/Z71Bzu>)

[TBC: SBC president Floyd won't endorse the theology of groups such as IHOP and Bethel Church, but "people must come together to pray." But to which god or which Christ? As Dave Hunt wrote in 1990, "That 'all the world's major religions are basically the same' is a lie aimed at the exclusive claims of Christ. The ecumenical movement is a denial of biblical truth and particularly of Christ's claim that He is the only Savior and that all must believe on Him or be lost forever."]

ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS IN INDIA

CHRISTIANHEADLINES.COM, 1/4/16, "ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS: CHRISTIANS IN [INDIA] FACE PERSECUTION" [EXCERPTS]: Normally, when we think about the persecuted Church, what comes to mind are places like the Middle East and China. But as I

told you two years ago, "the country that has witnessed the single greatest outburst of anti-Christian violence in recent years" is India.

In the past few years, six Indian states, including Maharashtra, which includes Mumbai, have enacted laws that effectively ban conversions from Hinduism to Christianity or Islam.

I say "effectively," because while the laws, at least as written, "only" ban conversions that are the result of "force, allurement or fraudulent means," these terms are extremely vague.

Tarun Vijay, a prominent Hindu nationalist, justified these measures by saying that "for the first time [in India], the population of Hindus has been reported to be less than 80 percent. We have to take measures to arrest the decline. It is very important to keep the Hindus in majority in the country."

"Measures" include a proposed national anti-conversion law, with the Orwellian title "The Religious Freedom Bill."

(<http://goo.gl/vKbz8>)

2015: EVOLUTION IMMOBILE

ICR.ORG, 12/21/15, "2015: EVOLUTION IMMOBILE" [EXCERPTS]: Advocates of vertical evolution think their beliefs are as factual as the earth orbiting the sun. However in 2015, science again shows something quite different.

Recent paleontological discoveries all point to minor variation and stasis—or standing still. Macroevolution is the holy grail of the secular faithful, but it continues to elude observation... 2015 is no different with evolutionists surprised to find creatures allegedly "millions of years old" that are just the same as their modern counterparts.

Scientists discovered a supposed 150-million-year-old fossilized crab larva in Germany this year. The find surprised secular scientists because it "possesses a very modern morphology, indistinguishable from many crab larvae living today." Creationists are hardly amazed, seeing that God created crabs as crabs, as He did with all the other arthropods. Evolutionists disagree, but admit in the same article that "the early evolution of crabs is still very incompletely known."

(<http://goo.gl/RbxEyB>)

THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt
Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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CONTACTING US

tel: (541) 382-6210 • fax: (541) 385-6025
orders and donations: (800) 937-6638
general inquiries: (541) 382-6210
e-mail: editorial@thebereancall.org
website: www.thebereancall.org
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DISCERNMENT RESOURCES ON THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT



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. The Berean Call, 175 pp.

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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.

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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. 1 DVD, 77 min. Retail \$24.95

DVD158	wt .2	\$16.00
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God of the Untouchables

Hunt—Here is the story of Vankateswami Gupta, namesake of a Hindu god, who became Paul Gupta, Christian disciple, founder of the famed Hindustan Bible College, a living apostle of Christ whose unshakable faith and incredible personal courage have brought countless numbers of Hindus and Moslems to the Kingdom of God. Everyone who has been tempted to turn to the East for enlightenment, who has been intrigued by Eastern mysticism, who is thinking of trying Eastern meditation, should read *God of the Untouchables*—proof that Jesus Christ is still the only answer to the world's problems. Straight Street Publishing, 140 pp. Retail \$10.00

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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. Retail \$12.95

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Muddy Waters

Des Gerlaise—Many Christians see no problem combining the beliefs and practices of Native American Spirituality with their view of Christianity, but Nanci Des Gerlaise knows differently. *Muddy Waters* tells the story of Nanci's life as a Cree Native American who, after years of struggle, oppression, and spiritual darkness, found light and truth in the Lord Jesus Christ. But this is not just an autobiography—it delves deeply into the framework of Native Spirituality, which has startling similarities to New Age practices. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 229 pp. Retail \$13.95

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Wide Is the Gate, Volume 1

Caryl Productions—Today's new brand of Christianity has a different gospel and is targeting the younger generation with experiential spirituality, much of which is embracing the mysticism of Catholicism with its ecumenical philosophy of uniting people from all faiths to work together to bring about a new world of peace and harmony. The dangerous result of this new spirituality in is the rise of today's "Christianized" occultism. Learn what Scripture teaches about the times we live in and the methods used by the New Spirituality to usher in the counterfeit kingdom of God on earth. 1 DVD, 227 min. Retail \$39.99

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Wide Is the Gate, Volume 2

Caryl Productions—Picking up where Volume 1 left off, this powerful series uses exclusive interviews with well-known authors and experts to examine the intrusion of the 60's and 70's New Age Movement into the professing church. Viewers will see how pagan eastern mysticism has morphed over the last four decades—from its repackaging as the "self help" psychology and holistic 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, 214 min. Retail \$39.99

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Wide Is the Gate, Volume 3

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who may be mired in the New Spirituality of today, as well as those loved ones you wish to protect from the prowling about of our spiritual adversary. The Berean Call, 294 pp. Retail \$17.99

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Yungen—Most people believe the New Age has been long gone from our society, and, if practiced at all now, it is only by unconventional "fringe" types. This expanded edition of *For Many Shall Come in My Name* reveals that this is not the case. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 215 pp. Retail \$12.95

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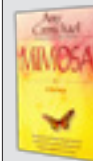
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