

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

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

A Berean Exercise: “Christian” Magazines

T. A. McMahon

A STAFF MEMBER handed me a couple of the latest magazine issues we received in order to review them. They were *Christianity Today* (CT) and *Charisma Magazine* (CM). We subscribe to them in order to keep up to date regarding teachings that are being disseminated throughout Christendom. In general they are representative of seemingly diverse Christian theological positions. CT was founded by Billy Graham and has been described as “a mainstream evangelical magazine.” Its beginnings were conservative, doctrinally, and Graham was considered an icon of fundamentalism. Not too long afterward, however, he began praising modernists (Christian liberals of that day) and involving them in his crusades. His later crusades included Roman Catholic priests and nuns as counselors who were to direct those Catholics who responded to Graham’s message back to their Catholic churches! Those seeds have produced the *Christianity Today* of our day. It is unabashedly liberal and pro-Catholic, which underscores its ongoing disregard of biblical Christianity.

Charisma Magazine has been described as “the main magazine of the Charismatic Movement.” Unlike CT, it hasn’t grown from the seeds of doctrinal changes. Its errors of hyper-charismatic beliefs were in place from the beginning of its publishing in the mid-1970s. They proudly proclaim, “We introduced many now-famous leaders to the charismatic community, from Benny Hinn to T.D. Jakes to Mike Bickle to Jonathan Cahn, and, in recent months, new up-and-comers.” Critiques of their false teachings can be found throughout TBC’s archives.

The objective of this article is to point out the critical need for biblical discernment when reading (or, for that matter, watching or listening to) anything that claims to be Christian. In the cases of CT and CM, they rarely produce a monthly issue that doesn’t exhibit serious doctrinal errors and practices. The following is a typical example from both magazines, which just crossed my desk for the month of May 2019.

One of *Christianity Today*’s feature articles is titled “Small Groups Anonymous,” subtitled, “Why the best church small groups might take their cues from the Twelve Steps [of Alcoholics Anonymous].” At first glance, the idea that “church small groups” should look to AA meetings for edification might seem a bit off track, but it’s way worse than that, as you will see. Furthermore, that concept is hardly new to *Christianity Today*, which has been an endorser of the psychological way of counseling for decades. Alcoholics Anonymous and its 12-Steps programs actually utilize a psycho-spiritual methodology. This means that it’s a mixture of two belief systems—psychotherapy and spiritism.

CT’s history of promoting AA and 12 Steps and its religious convictions will be made clear following the perspective given in this article. The author, Kent Dunnington, a professor who teaches a class on addictions at Biola University, begins, “I am not an alcoholic. Alcohol just doesn’t do it for me. But Alcoholics Anonymous does. I attended an AA group while writing a book

called *Addiction and Virtue*, and I’ve missed it ever since.” His students at Biola are required to attend AA meetings. He notes CT’s support of his subject when he states that “This magazine, too, has featured an ongoing conversation about the spiritual power of AA.”

He’s confident in the AA approach: “...generally speaking—and amazingly—AA works. It has a theory of how people change and a set of practices designed to change real human beings. In this respect, AA has what the contemporary church, or at least a large portion of the contemporary evangelical church, seems to lack: a clear theory of personal transformation codified in practices and traditions that are easily accessible to those who would like to be transformed.”

He reveals a higher regard for the false methods of men than for the full counsel of God given throughout the Scriptures. For example, he praises the anonymity of the Roman Catholic confessional as needful in the church: “Roman Catholics, with their practice of private confession, have known this for a long time, as has AA. Anonymity provides a haven in which we may speak about the incoherence of our lives. For the same reason [that] we are more likely to tell our darkest secrets to a stranger on a plane than to our friends, AA is a place of greater honesty than the small group can probably ever be.”

As I mentioned, CT’s affinity for AA and things psychological is not new with its May 2019 issue. In July 22, 1991, CT’s then-senior writer Tim Stafford wrote the featured article, “The Hidden Gospel of the 12 Steps.” He declares, “The 12 Steps are Christian,” and “We ought to use them gladly. They belong to us originally. They are doing tremendous good.” He further assures CT’s readers, “The 12 Steps are a package of Christian practices, and nothing is compromised in using them.”

Before I evaluate some of what Dunnington and Stafford have written, it might be helpful for the reader of this article to know a few things about me. I grew up in the mental health community. My father was a psychiatrist, and for a time we lived on the grounds of a very large mental institution. I take a back seat to no one when it comes to having compassion for those suffering through problems of living, especially the sin problem of drunkenness. That was dominant in my family history for generations. I’ve written books, articles, preached sermons, and given conference talks on the antichristian and pseudoscientific aspects of psychotherapy and so-called Christian psychology. Much of that material can be found in the Berean Call’s archives, especially *Psychology and the Church: Critical Questions, Crucial Answers*, chapter 13 of *The Seduction of Christianity*, and chapter 15 of *Occult Invasion*.

First, some general observations. Those issues that AA attempts to remedy are all *sin* problems. The word “sin,” however, is found nowhere in the CT article. AA’s co-founder Bill Wilson erroneously taught that “alcoholism” is a *disease*. Rarely can an individual be held accountable for contracting a disease. If the root problem is sin, and the claimed solution rejects sin as the problem, then AA has *no* solution. Dunnington’s psychologized mindset has him wanting to see church small groups function more as therapeutic or behavioral encounter groups like AA. He never acknowledges that a small

group study of—and obedience to—the Word of God has provided the individual with “all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3). God’s Word, the Manufacturer’s Handbook, has the only answer to man’s sin nature and sinful practices.

Dunnington is not only ignorant of the sufficiency of Scripture, but he is also *dead wrong* about the effectiveness of AA. There are no studies supporting AA’s programs over any other forms of treatment. The Harvard Medical School reported, “Most recovery from alcoholism is not the result of treatment. Probably no more than 10 percent of alcohol abusers are ever treated at all, but as many as 40 percent recover spontaneously.” One of the leading authorities in this field, Herbert Fingarette, the author of *Heavy Drinking: The Myth of Alcoholism as a Disease*, writes for the *Harvard Medicine* magazine: “This [disease] myth, now widely advertised and widely accepted, is neither helpfully compassionate nor scientifically valid” (See *12 Steps to Destruction* by Martin & Deidre Bobgan, on page 6).

If AA can make no true claim of being more effective than the (non-treatment) spontaneous remission of drunkenness by alcohol abusers, what of its spiritual input? That “spirituality” is incorporated in the 12-Step philosophy and is foundational to everything that AA promotes. As noted above, Tim Stafford and CT declared, “We ought to use them [12-Steps programs] gladly. They belong to us originally. They are doing tremendous good.”

Really? Anyone who takes the time to research how AA’s 12 Steps began would readily discover that it came to Bill Wilson and Bob Smith through the activity of spiritism. That is “the spiritual power of AA”! Dave Hunt writes in *Occult Invasion*, “The official AA biography of Wilson reveals, without embarrassment, that for years after AA’s founding, regular séances were still being held in the Wilsons’ home, and other psychic activities were being pursued, including consulting the Ouija board.”

The biography itself declares: “[T]here are references to séances and other psychic events in the letters Bill wrote to Lois [his wife] during that first Akron summer with the Smiths [Bob and Anne], in 1935... Bill would lie down on the couch. He would ‘get’ these things [from the spirit world]... every week or so. Each time, certain people [demons impersonating the dead] would ‘come in... long sentences, word by word would come through....’ [In 1938] as he started to write [the AA manual], he asked for guidance.... The words began tumbling out with astonishing speed. He completed the first draft in about half an hour.... Numbering the new steps... they added up to twelve—a symbolic number; he thought of the Twelve Apostles, and soon became convinced that the Society should have twelve steps.”

The Bible condemns the practice of communication with spirit entities as *divination*. The reason should be obvious. Those spirit entities are demons, whose objective it is to turn people away from the truth of God’s Word. Although Wilson and Smith were clearly intent upon contacting the spirit world through divination devices and techniques for spiritual guidance, the evidence that what Wilson received was and is demonic is found in the content itself. It only takes reading the second and third Steps to recognize how antichristian the methodology is. Step 2 and 3 state: [We] came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we “*understood Him*” (emphasis in the original).

“A Power greater than ourselves”? Who or what might that be? The God of the Bible and Jesus Christ, the Savior (from sins!) of the world? They are *never mentioned* in the 12 Steps, nor is sin! Yet there are many “Higher Powers” being put forth and sought after today. AA would have us pick whatever one we favor. Not only that, but we are to “turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we [understand Him].” When Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-5), he was helping

her to “better understand” the God she believed in by questioning what she believed He had said (verse 1): “Yea, hath God said,...?” He followed that up by denying what God indeed *had* said (verse 4). That’s the demonic origin of Step 3. Proverbs 14:12, 16:25, and 3:5 ring out a sure warning against the allegedly Christian Step 3: “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Pick a God? Any God? No! “For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

I’ve spoken to dozens of men who have gone through the AA program. Nearly all have confirmed what I’ve written and much more than I have the space for. One common complaint among those who came to Christ outside of AA yet continued to attend AA meetings was the resistance, even hostility, toward sharing Christ among the group. You see, you can pick any God you desire—but you can’t claim that your God is any better than the “Gods” of the other members. That’s the problem (for AA) with the biblical Jesus who declared, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). However, it’s only the first part of the verse that bothers AA. The issue of eternal life is out of their “spiritual” concern. They only focus on keeping a drunk sober and productive this side of heaven.

Those who have clung to AA for years admitted they do so, never missing meetings, regardless of family events or situations, in fear of “falling off the wagon” of sobriety. That’s bondage to a system of man and worse.

Christianity Today and its writers have tragically reinforced for its readership a program that rejects the God of the Bible and His instructions for the lives of those who have put their faith in Him. It’s clear that they also have rejected God’s instructions by attempting to supplement them with the so-called wisdom of the world. Again, that’s tragic. When Jesus, who is the Word, is supplemented, He is *supplanted*. And when He is supplanted, He becomes “another Jesus.”

But CT isn’t the only entity that has been turning to the world for its ways and means. The demonically inspired 12-Steps programs have, like leaven, worked their way throughout the church in various forms. My personal experience with 12 Steps involved Celebrate Recovery (CR) at Saddleback Church (see “A Way That Seemeth Right...” TBC October 1, 2005). I enrolled in the Celebrate Recovery Training Program in order to get an “up close and personal” understanding of what’s being taught. I do that whenever I can to make sure I’m not misunderstanding the things I’m critiquing biblically. That can happen, so whatever I can do to increase my understanding I try to do. The Saddleback event brought together thousands of people who seemed to me to be sincere in wanting to help those dealing with various sin issues.

We were all told that CR was based upon the Beatitudes. Wrong. It’s based upon the 12 Steps of AA, and the AA methods displace many scriptural elements that might conflict. For example, the men in my AA group claimed that AA meetings hold sway over Bible studies. The group meetings open with silence, the reading of the Serenity Prayer (a vague-at-best rote prayer to god as you conceive him), and the acknowledgement that one is undergoing the ongoing recovery of one or more “addictions.” This has nothing whatsoever to do with the Beatitudes nor with any other part of biblical Christianity.

What’s clear to me regarding *Christianity Today* is that it reflects the prophecy in 2 Timothy 4:3: “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.” CT obviously prefers the world’s ways over God’s way, which is proven in every one of its issues. Next month, the Lord willing, there will be a review of the May issue of *Charisma Magazine*.

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

QUESTION: Jesus Christ resurrected was the third day and was seen by 500 people. Why didn't the resurrected Jesus Christ show himself to the Roman leaders and the Jewish High Priest and their leaders? This would include the Roman soldiers who were at the cross to crucify our Lord.

RESPONSE: The Lord always has priorities. Nevertheless, He has specifically said that there is a day coming when every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7). In Zechariah 12:10, the Lord prophesied, "... they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth."

Regarding the Roman soldiers, including those who guarded His tomb, they were terrified just at the sight of the angel and were shaking with great fear. In fact, "for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men" (Matthew 28:4).

Yet the guard's report was taken seriously by the Pharisees and religious rulers. In fact, the priests informed the elders of the soldiers' report. As a result, a significant sum of money was given to silence the testimony of the guards as to what actually had happened. If the Lord had appeared to them Himself, would that have changed their mind?

Apparently not, because in Matthew 23:39, the Lord Jesus had already told the religious rulers, "Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Nevertheless, the testimony of the Lord's resurrection had a great impact. In Acts 6:7 "a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." In John 20:29, to Thomas, who hadn't seen Him, and only believed in Him when he finally did see Him. Jesus said, "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

In addition to all this, the Pharisees, who had witnessed firsthand many of Jesus's miracles *still* didn't believe in Him. Rather, they sought to dismiss His amazing actions by asserting that He was doing his healings and casting out demons by some kind of demonic power. In fact, after Jesus had delivered a number of people from demonic possession, some Pharisees came along and told the people that He was casting out demons "by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils."

Jesus healed the blind, but these same leaders didn't say, "Jesus restores the sight of the blind. He must certainly be a great prophet if not God himself!" And therefore, He appeared to his own.

QUESTION: Since we as Christians are meant to love our enemies, does that mean we are also to 1) love Satan? 2) love the Antichrist? 3) love the false prophet who assists the Antichrist? 4) love (the many) false prophets and (the many) antichrists in general? Or are we supposed to pray for them and hope for their salvation?

RESPONSE: To not love an entity such as Satan does not require that we in turn "hate" him. Satan's fate is absolutely fixed concerning his judgment—he will be cast into the Lake of Fire—and that won't be affected by any prayers of ours. Such is also true of the Antichrist and the False Prophet: "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20).

As a consequence, we can see that the admonition of Jesus to "love our enemies" (Matthew 5:44) is directed to our relationships in

this world. We are called to love God and also love people, including our enemies—all of whom are *made* in God's image, although they're not living up to that, and may not even be saved. We are never told to love angels (or demons) in Scripture, nor were they created in God's image, as people are.

God has already judged that there will be no forgiveness for Satan and neither does Satan seek forgiveness. On the contrary, he remains the adversary. Even after his temporary release at the end of the millennium, he immediately goes about his destructive ways, showing that his choice has been made and his judgment just.

We can certainly, however, pray for false prophets and teachers. The hatred expressed by the world for us is not really directed to us. As Jesus said in John 7:7, "The world cannot hate you, but Me it hateth, because I testify of it that the works thereof are evil."

QUESTION: Why is the Bible silent about mental illness except for speaking of demon-possessed persons? Could you address this subject?

RESPONSE: The Bible does deal with madness, or insanity (Deuteronomy 28:34; 1 Samuel 21:13-15; Acts 12:15; 1 Corinthians 14:23), but insanity is not a mental illness. Either the Holy Spirit was ignorant of a class of mental sickness that has only lately, through godless humanists, been uncovered, or what we are being told today by Christian psychologists isn't true. Unfortunately, much sin is being redefined as sickness and thus excused.

If Christian psychology has something vital to offer, then we are confronted with some crucial questions. How did Christians get along without psychology for 1,900 years? Why would God leave His people in such desperate ignorance, and why would He use godless people such as Freud, Jung, et al., as the channels of this "new truth"? And why would the Bible claim that it offers *all we need* [emphasis added] "for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3-4) and to be "perfect" (i.e., all that God wants us to be) and to be fully prepared for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17) if that weren't true? Did God lie to us? And since Christ lives in our hearts (Ephesians 3:17) and "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:13-16) and are crucified with Him so that it is not ourselves anymore but Christ living through us (Galatians 2:20) and we "can do all things through Christ" (Philippians 4:13), does Christ, who is our very life (Colossians 3:4), need psychological help? If He is our "counselor" (Isaiah 9:6), why do we need psychological counsel? And how did Abraham, Joseph, Daniel, the martyrs in Acts, and the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11, etc., triumph without psychology?

These are serious questions. If we have any confidence in God and His Word, then the answers are obvious. A distinction must be made between the brain (a *physical* organ, which could have a chemical imbalance, nutritional deficiency, or some structural damage), and the *spirit* (a nonphysical part of man). We must distinguish between *medical* problems involving the *physical* brain (for which the Bible doesn't claim to be a handbook) and *spiritual* problems involving the spirit, soul, mind, and will (for which the Bible claims to have given us all the guidance we need). The physical brain can be sick, but the nonphysical spirit cannot. Thus "mental illness" is a misnomer.

Demon possession is something else entirely. The problem is either physical (medical) or spiritual (moral). The latter may involve sin, such as disobedience or a lack of trust in God to fulfill what He has promised in His Word, all of which rob us of joy and peace. (From our TBC archives)

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
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Dear TBC,

Good job on your recent newsletter article about certain female teachers and their lack of ever *actually* presenting the biblical gospel. As an aside, my wife and I recently watched the 2017 movie, *The Case for Christ*, the story of Lee Strobel. After watching the movie, we both turned and looked at each other, and said, “Where was the Gospel?!” It supposedly portrayed two conversions, but the gospel was never presented. I’m not sure what the “conversion” prayers in the movie were intended to achieve. You could call the movie “The Case for Christianity,” but you certainly couldn’t call it *The Case for Christ*, because the case was never made. PG (email)

Dear Bereans,

The author of the letter in the May edition of *The Berean Call* did not search the Scriptures [when they implied baptism is necessary for salvation]. They wrote, “If the Lord wants to save without Baptism [such as the thief on the cross], that’s the Lord’s business.” But Christ has clearly given us [the] plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, “...in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Col 1:14), John 10:28 (gift of eternity through Christ), and 2:8-9: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves....” Many more scriptures teach salvation and that there is only one way.

TBC NOTES

There Is a Way...

There are many ways to do things, and there are different consequences, depending on the way one chooses to do them. There’s the right way and the wrong way. The right way may be the most difficult, especially at the beginning, but the results will be worthwhile. The wrong way may seem to be beneficial at first, but the outcome will not be pleasing.

When Christians are faced with difficult situations that they want to resolve, including things that are very complex and seem to have numerous options in order to reach a solution, there’s a very simple way to assure that you will be blessed and thankful for the results. Do things God’s way!

God’s way is given to us from Genesis through Revelation. The more a believer knows God’s Word and its instructions, the more he or she will be confident and able to make decisions in any circumstances. Even for those believers who are beginners at studying the Scriptures, God gives uncomplicated encouragement: “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). The wonderful encouragement for believers, young and old alike, is this absolute truth found in Jesus: “I am *the way*, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

Pray that the Lord will help us to do things His way!

T. A. McMAHON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If baptism were necessary for salvation *plus* Christ, that’s a 50-50 formula for salvation. No! It’s Christ, God’s Son, who alone paid [the debt] for our sins—100 percent! If God requires baptism for salvation, then we need to eliminate many Scriptures (John 3:16 included)....The Bible doesn’t contradict itself. Acts 2:4 tells us that those who “gladly received His word...were baptized.” Why not use Acts 3:19, since it is so close to Acts 2:38? “Repent ye therefore and be converted (not baptized) that your sins may be blotted out.” CC (TN)

Dear Brother McMahon,

I have been a believer ever since I was incarcerated 22 years ago, and I have been faithfully serving the Lord since. I’ve had many answers to prayer since my conversion. Here at the prison, the Word is not being preached since the arrival of a chaplain a year-and-a-half ago. Until then, I was leading the prayer meetings and teaching Bible studies.... Since then, he has put men in leadership who are ungodly, and his primary agenda is to lay hands on people amid a lot of singing, shouting, and [sometimes] screaming. He does not preach the Word. I teach hermeneutics and how to discern truth from error. Pray for those in prison. GP (prisoner, NY)

Dear Mr. McMahon:

I am a 72-year-old man who has received your newsletter for years, and I appreciate you folks as being part of the remnant that stands strong for the full truth of God’s Holy Word.

My wife and I have been Gideons for 20 years, and we take the Bible literally except when it states itself to be taken figuratively, which is why we are appalled at the way the Word has been watered down and twisted to suit whims. Your May newsletter speaks directly to that.

You’ve made some very excellent points regarding the “feel good” books that are proliferating today. LH (OK)

QUOTABLE.....

Christ’s presence is real and abiding in believers. As one great hymn puts it: *Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!* [Chisholm]

This is “the hope of glory” (Col 1:27). In Christ, the Holy Spirit, who “is the earnest [down payment] of our inheritance,” has “sealed” us “until the redemption of the purchased possession [the whole person, body and soul]” (Eph 1:13-24). Our eternal destiny involves His presence until our redemption is completed. As Jesus told His disciples, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Mt 28:20). Although Jesus would no longer be physically present with His faithful followers, the Spirit whom He would send to take His place would be. By faith we realize that presence now! The Spirit of Christ is both with us and in us (Rom 9:1b)! As did Jesus, Hebrews tells us the people of this promise, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb 13:5). In this light, Jude’s benediction becomes glorious: “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in His presence of His glory blameless with great joy to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

—LARRY DEBRUYN

NEWSWATCH

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

METHODIST COLLEGE DENOUNCES PRO-LIFE STUDENTS

THECOLLEGEFIX.COM, 5/21/19, "COLLEGE PRESIDENT DENOUNCES PRO-LIFE STUDENTS FOR COMPARING ABORTION TO KILLING OF BLACK GIRLS" [EXCERPTS]: The United Methodist Church believes that women "need" to have "access to safe, legal abortions," so perhaps it's unsurprising that a UMC-affiliated college publicly scolds its own pro-life students.

Alabama's...Birmingham-Southern College encouraged the community of 1,300 students to pile on its College Republicans chapter for approving of the state's strict new abortion law, specifically for comparing abortion to a horrific incident in Alabama.

In a since-deleted Instagram post, the CRs thanked lawmakers for "championing the fundamental human rights of children in the womb" in contrast to the state's "ugly and tragic" history of human rights violations, including lynching and discrimination.

In an official statement linked from the college homepage—but inexplicably missing from its "latest news" and even 2019 news indexes—President Daniel Coleman feigned support for free speech while denouncing the College Republicans for their consistent life ethic.

(<http://bit.ly/2KxFi9J>)

RELEASE OF IMPRISONED CHRISTIAN OFFERS HOPE

MORNINGSTARNEWS, 5/28/19, "RELEASE OF IMPRISONED CHRISTIAN OFFERS HOPE FOR JUSTICE FOR WRONGFULLY CONVICTED IN INDIA" [EXCERPTS]: When police took Gornath Chalanseth from his home in eastern India early on the morning of Dec. 13, 2008, he assumed they only wanted to question him.

Except for two brief releases on bail, he would spend the next nearly 10 and a half years in jail for the murder of a Hindu leader that Hindu nationalists falsely accused him and six other Christians of committing.

Ten years, five months and six days after he was taken into custody, Chalanseth walked out of prison on May 21, again released on bail. This time, however, because the Supreme Court issued the release on bail, he does not have to return unless the high court itself so orders.

"The Supreme Court ordering bail for Gornath has exposed the Hindu nationalist

fraud behind Kandhamal," journalist and activist Anto Akkara told *Morning Star News*. "The bail order proves that Swami Laxmanananda's murder was used to trigger the bloodshed and [the accusation against Christians] was cooked up by the Hindu nationalists for political gain."

(<http://bit.ly/2Zh3d1n>)

RESERVISTS ON DUTY

FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 5/31/19, "RESERVISTS ON DUTY FIGHT FOR ISRAEL ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES" [EXCERPTS]: It's Israel "Apartheid Week" and the Israeli veterans and student activists of Reservists on Duty are reporting to campuses across America. Their mission is fighting back against the lies and the hate.

The annual anti-Israel campus events have become notorious for anti-Semitism and assaults on Jewish students. Poster-board walls rise on quads depicting Israel as a racist apartheid state. Fake checkpoints manned by anti-Israel activists dressed in the uniforms of Israeli soldiers pop up around the country.

On American college campuses, [IDF Major Amit] Deri saw for the first time just how ugly the lies were.

At the University of Houston, a school that Deri describes as one of the worst, alongside UC-Berkeley and UC-Irvine, a girl told him, "You're taking organs from Palestinians and putting them into Israelis."

"We're sending our guys there during Apartheid Week to engage with students exposed to these carnivals of hate," Deri says... When anti-Israel activists hold a "die-in" at Berkeley to protest Israel, Reservists on Duty show up in IDF medic shirts with medical equipment, and announce, "We are IDF medics, there's been a Hamas terror attack, and we are here to treat wounded regardless of their race or religion."

The creative disruption is part of what Deri calls a "chutzpah" strategy.

"UC-Irvine is the most dangerous place for Jews today," Deri mentions. And pauses. California campuses are "the most hostile and violent." At SDU and UC Irvine, they encounter the same activists every year. "They never graduate from college," he observes. His mission is reaching the actual students.

(<http://bit.ly/2QTrVC0>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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

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WHY AREN'T WE AT THE RIVERHOUSE?

The Riverhouse could not give us the dates we wanted for this year.

DO WE HAVE ANY DISCOUNTED HOTEL ROOMS?

The Riverhouse has a limited number of rooms. Prices vary based on what room you want. Mention "The Berean Call" group for the special rates!

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

FOR OUR 2019 CONFERENCE – AUGUST 22-24

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

Jay Seegert, Elijah Abraham, Greg Durel,
and T. A. McMahon.

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

The Conference Will Be at Calvary Chapel Bend!

The conference is free to attend, but registration is required. You can register online or by calling our toll-free number. You can also watch the conference live, online, for free and we encourage you to sign up for that as well. **For more info visit** www.thebereancall.org/conference or call 1-800-937-6638.

WILL THERE BE ENOUGH ROOM AT CALVARY CHAPEL?

Calvary Chapel is a smaller facility than The Riverhouse. We can accommodate 200 people in the main meeting room, plus there is limited overflow seating inside. In addition, there will be a covered area outside on the patio and grassy area with plenty of seating (for about 200 people), and from which all the conference sessions may be heard via audio! If you plan to come, please sign up right away to reserve your seats. We're looking forward to seeing you!

WHAT ELSE WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

This year's location is much more child-friendly! There is a nice grassy area right outside, with a playground. Feel free to bring your outdoor games! There will be more time for fellowshiping during the meals and in between conference sessions. There will not be a Saturday barbecue like we've had in the past since there will be more food opportunities at the Conference. There will be a book store—location to be determined. Calvary Chapel Bend is just minutes from The Riverhouse Hotel!

IS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HELPFUL OR HARMFUL?



Dave & Tom Classic STS 24/7 - Are 12-Step Programs Occultic?

Hunt/McMahon—In this 2-part *Dave & Tom Classic* our hosts discuss the problem of alcoholism. Part one is titled: *Are 12-Step Programs Occultic?* and Part 2: *Is Alcoholism a Disease?* Aired October 27 and November 3, 2017. 1 CD, 53 min.

CD1743

wt .2 \$5.00



The "Spiritual" Truth behind Alcoholics Anonymous...

Lanagan—This booklet takes a closer look at Alcoholics Anonymous and explains why Christians should think twice about joining A.A. Christians in Alcoholics Anonymous may not see it this way, but in their participation of A.A., they are standing in agreement with a belief system that lifts up strange gods. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

LTP04

wt .1 \$1.95



12 Steps to Destruction

Martin & Deidre Bobgan—*12 Steps to Destruction* is written for those who are suffering from the trials of life and for those who want to help. It is for those who are thinking about joining a recovery group or entering a treatment center for codependency or addiction. It is for those who have tried 12-Step programs and recovery treatment centers and found them lacking. And, finally, it is to encourage Christians who offer such programs to return to the faith. Eastgate Publishers, 260 pp.

B00054

wt .9 \$12.00



12 Steps to Destruction

McMahon/Bobgans—This special 2-part audio presentation with T. A. McMahon and Martin and Deidre Bobgan discusses the growing trend in the evangelical church of turning to 12-Step programs to remedy everything from alcohol abuse to sexual perversions. Is this trend compatible with what the Bible teaches? 2 CDs, 112 min.

CD085

wt .2 \$9.75 SALE \$5.00

SET192

Set includes all four resources featured above — a savings of \$8.70!

wt 1.2 \$20.00

NEW! READING FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND FAMILIES**Boyhood and Beyond**

Schultz—Boys who are on the road to becoming men of honor, courage, and faith will greatly benefit from the heartfelt encouragement and sound advice offered in this book. Wisdom and common sense are gleaned from short chapters covering topics such as authority, inventiveness, and honesty as well as learning to overcome things like fear, laziness, and temptation. *Boyhood and Beyond* can be read alone, used with a journal, or read aloud in a group. There are discussion questions at the end of each chapter. Great Expectations Book Co., 219 pp.

B49101 Ages 8-18 yrs wt .6 **\$11.00****Children's Stories**

Moody—A little girl makes up her mind to visit President Lincoln of the United States of America. Find out how you too can meet with someone truly great and powerful, the Lord God, through stories of children who have gone before. D. L. Moody's collection of stories will thrill both boys and girls as they find out about children who lived a hundred years ago but who needed Jesus in the same way that we do! CF4K, 156 pp.

B15508 Ages 6-12 yrs wt .3 **\$8.50****Speak Truth in Your Heart**

Mally—Many girls try to change their wrong actions but never learn to discern the wrong thinking behind their actions. In this new book, Sarah Mally challenges girls to identify the lies that are the root issues behind struggles they face. Including thought-provoking cartoons, stories, biblical teaching, and practical steps of action, this book teaches girls to replace lies with the truth and align their thinking with God's Word. *Includes study guide!* Tomorrow's Forefathers, 278 pp.

B08430 Ages 9+ wt 1.2 **\$16.00****Little Pilgrim's Progress**

Bunyan/Taylor—For more than a half-century, little Christian and Christiana have captivated children in their quest to reach the Celestial City. A journey fraught with danger, pitfalls, and temptation, Helen L. Taylor's retelling of John Bunyan's classic allegory, *Pilgrim's Progress*, celebrates more than 60 years. The anniversary edition of *Little Pilgrim's Progress* contains the best of the many illustrations used to depict the highs and lows of the Christian journey through life. Moody Publishers, 323 pp.

B49263 Ages 6-13 yrs wt .8 **\$9.00****Children's Stories**

Ryle—Looked up to and loved by children in his congregation, J.C. Ryle took their spiritual lives very seriously. Here is a collection of stories for children by this great communicator including "The two bears." J.C. Ryle encourages us to teach the whole Scripture to children and not just parts of it. Children will enjoy reading these stories, but this is also an interesting and intriguing book for any who are involved with children at home or church. CF4K, 141 pp.

B16138 Ages 4-13 yrs wt .3 **\$8.50****Robinson Crusoe**

Defoe/Lindskoog—For more than 270 years, readers everywhere have been fascinated by the young fool who ran away from wealth, security, and family for a rough life at sea—and came to his senses too late, alone on a tropical island. Alone except for cannibals, that is—and God. Crusoe's adventure takes place on an island near Venezuela. Adjusting to the primitive conditions, he learns to survive. More important, he becomes a Christian. Modern editions often leave out Crusoe's long struggle with God and his slow transformation as he studies and applies God's Word. P&R Publishing, 187 pp.

B97353 Ages 9+ yrs wt .6 **\$9.00****NEW! GETTING THE GOSPEL WRONG BY J.B. HIXSON + OTHER GOSPEL RESOURCES****Getting the Gospel Wrong**

Hixson—The good news of salvation in Jesus Christ that the world must hear is being muddled by the influence of postmodernism within the evangelical church. *Getting the Gospel Wrong* sets forth the unchanging biblical standard of the gospel and then proceeds to analyze six aberrations of the gospel prevalent in evangelicalism today. These include the Purpose-Driven Gospel, the Prosperity Gospel, the Pluralistic Gospel, the works-based Performance Gospel, and the Promise-Only (crossless) Gospel. Grace Gospel Press, 320 pp.

B27797 wt 1.0 **\$19.50****James Dobson's Gospel of Self**

Martin & Deidre Bobgan—In spite of the pluses of his ministry, self-esteem and psychology are two major thrusts that too often supersede sin, salvation, and sanctification in the teachings of psychologist Dr. James Dobson. In fact, contrary to his claims, much of Dobson's work originates from secular psychological theorists whose opinions are based on a godless foundation—which unfortunately have become the central focus of Focus on the Family. Eastgate Publishers, 247 pp.

B00160 wt .8 **\$15.00****The Gospel of John**

Hunt/McMahon—These discussions were compiled from nearly four years of *Search the Scriptures* Daily radio programs. Dave and Tom engage in an in-depth, verse-by-verse examination of the Gospel of John. You will be challenged and convicted as you listen to these insightful, exegetical discussions. 3 MP3-discs, 35.5 hrs.

MP3075 wt .3 **\$26.00****The Gospel that Saves**

Hunt—This is Dave's heartfelt and passionate exposition of the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Listeners will find this message both edifying and convicting. 1 CD, 60 min.

CD069 wt .1 **\$5.00****God Is Love**

Hunt—Renew your convictions with this impassioned reminder of how we should relate to the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. 1 CD, 56 min.

CD102 wt .1 **\$5.00****What Is the Gospel? Understanding What It Is and What It Is Not**

Ironside—The Gospel is God's good news for sinners. The Bible contains the Gospel, but there is a great deal in the Bible which is not Gospel. H. A. Ironside presents clearly and in detail what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is and what it isn't. Lighthouse Trails, 15 pp.

LTP39 wt .1 **\$1.95**



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JULY 2019

TBC'S 2019 Bible CONFERENCE



Our speakers this year are
Jay Seegert, Elijah Abraham,
Greg Durel, and T. A. McMahon!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.thebereancall.org/conference
or call 800-937-6638

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