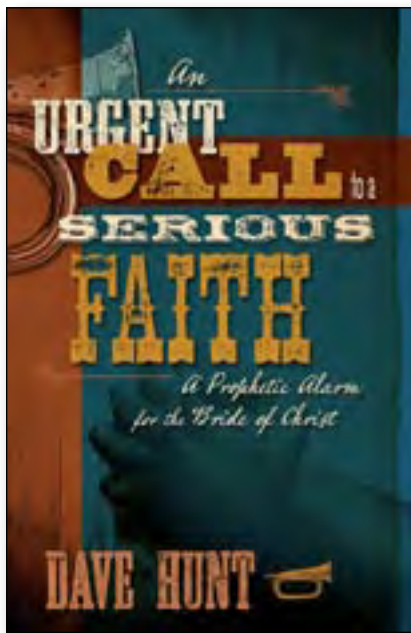


*The*  
**Berean**  
**Call**

JULY 2006

*O, JERUSALEM!*

by DAVE HUNT



*A bit of publishing history: This beautiful new hardback edition includes the revised and expanded content of **Seeking and Finding God** (Dave's favorite evangelistic book), which was originally derived from an earlier edition of **An Urgent Call**. This completely redesigned and expanded edition is aimed at believers who understand the times and who desire to be equipped from God's Word to minister effectively today. "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" — Ephesians 5:14-16.*

## AN URGENT CALL TO A SERIOUS FAITH: A Prophetic Alarm for the Bride of Christ

**NEW!**

**Hunt**—The awesome sense of the greatness of God and the cosmic and eternal proportions of the work that He is doing seems largely absent from Christianity today. Could this be why so many carry the self-imposed burdens of man-made "programs" they are trying to put into effect in order to "live victorious lives" or to "advance the cause of Christ"? When we see that the task is totally beyond our capabilities, then we cease from our striving and begin to allow Him to work in and through us by His mighty power. Many object to this heavenly/eternal perspective as "pie-in-the-sky in the sweet by-and-by" talk. There are warnings about being so "heavenly minded" that one is of "no earthly good." We must be practical, so the argument goes, meeting first of all the earthly needs of ourselves and of others and doing our best to make this world a better place for everyone. Yet Christ himself continually turned the focus of His followers from earth to heaven. Throughout Scripture, we are counseled to live at all times with the understanding that life on this earth is very brief and is followed by an eternal existence of either indescribable bliss in God's presence or unbearable agony in separation from Him. Peter declares that the knowledge that "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise...[and] the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10) causes us to live godly lives. And John adds that the hope of being transformed into His likeness when He shall appear causes us to purify ourselves (1 John 3:2,3). Many would have us believe that self-love is the answer to the world's ills. Both Christian leaders and the unsaved are teaching and preaching this lie. In fact, it is self-love that has wrought the ills of the world: greed, lust, envy, and strife. What we actually need is a passionate love for God and His Word, turning us from earthly ambitions to heavenly hope. Not even a kingdom ruled by Christ on this earth is our hope, but heaven itself.

**B00339**

(The Berean Call, 176 pages, \$21.99 retail)

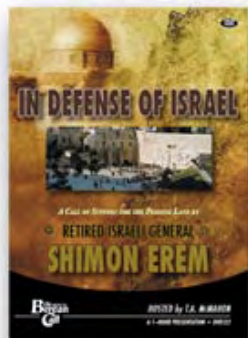
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### HAVE YOU EVER PRAYED, "LORD, HOW CAN I..."

- |                                      |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✧ deepen and defend my faith?        | ✧ refute false religions?            | ✧ "rightly divide" God's Word? |
| ✧ know and prove God's Word is true? | ✧ truly love God as He desires?      | ✧ understand Bible prophecy?   |
| ✧ share Christ with confidence?      | ✧ fulfill God's purpose for my life? | ✧ prepare for Christ's return? |

*This book will guide you to God's Word for equipping!*

## NEW! "IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL" — AN EVENING WITH RETIRED ISRAELI GENERAL, SHIMON EREM



**BEND, OR**—Last month, The Berean Call hosted a public meeting at a local high school auditorium where an estimated crowd of 600 came to hear retired General Shimon Erem, one of the most decorated soldiers in the history of modern Israel. TBC's executive director, T. A. McMahon, moderated the event, and we are pleased to present this professionally edited video production of that evening so that it may edify others and encourage Christian support of Israel around the world. Shimon Erem's service experience began in World War II as a member of the Jewish Brigade of the British Army, and continued from the 1948 War of Independence through virtually every war in the nation's history—including the Sinai Campaign, the 1967 Six-Day War, and the Yom Kippur War in 1973. General Erem recently met with key people in the Bush administration and in Congress, giving his perspective on the Islamization of Europe, the development of what the President of Iran calls "the Moslem Bomb," and issues of security in the face of worldwide terrorism. As president of Israel-Christian Nexus, General Erem has remained active in organizations and causes that promote the welfare of Israel and has dedicated himself to building bridges between Israel and the Jewish and Christian communities. This video presents an opportunity to hear from a highly informed source regarding the current plight of Israel and the spread of terrorism throughout the world today.

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**ON THE COVER:** At left is the symbol for "OM" — the "universal sound" of yoga and Hinduism. Interestingly, it seems to pictographically depict a posture of worship toward the sun and crescent moon. As symbols of spiritual enlightenment, both spirals and sunbursts (as seen in the title and the central graphic) are common to many different pagan religions, and are often used together or interchangeably—even the packaging of many grocery store products (from food to health and beauty) incorporate a spiral as a sun symbol. They are often used to represent energy and divine enlightenment or "christ consciousness." The spiral is also synonymous with the "inward journey" of self-discovery and, as hinted at by its coiled serpentine form, can represent secret knowledge or hidden potential. In this manner, the spiral is also related to the labyrinth, which is still used by neo-pagans today as a ritualistic "path" of prayer and meditation. Like yoga, this practice is being increasingly adopted by professing Christians, helping to pave the way for the coming universal religion of Antichrist.

# THE BEREAN CALL

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

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JULY 2006

## ***O, Jerusalem!***

*Dave Hunt*

Israel is the major topic of the Bible, occupying most of its pages. The many prophecies concerning its past, present, and future are vital in understanding God's Word. Sadly, they are ignored, explained away, or simply rejected by the vast majority of professing Christians, a growing number of whom insist that Israel has been replaced by the church.

Yet Jeremiah declares that Israel will never "cease from being a nation" (Jer 31:35-37); in just one sermon Paul refers to Israel as an ongoing entity three times (Acts 13:17, 23, 24); and on the twelve gates of heavenly Jerusalem are written the names of "the twelve tribes of the children of Israel" (Rv 21:12)—so ten tribes were not lost after all!—along with the names of "the twelve apostles of the Lamb" in the foundations (21:14). Unaware that "replacement theology" is one of several Roman Catholic doctrines that clung to Luther, Calvin, and other leading reformers, it is accepted by many as Reformation theology.

Jesus Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of all who believe on Him, is, of course, the most important subject in Scripture—yet without Israel, there would be no Savior. Jesus is a Jew, descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through King David, giving Him the right to rule Israel and the world. He was born in Israel, lived there all of His days on earth, and (with few exceptions) ministered solely to Jews: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Mt 15:24). He commanded His disciples, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles...but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Mt 10:5,6). After the Cross and Resurrection, however, He commanded them to take the gospel "into all the world" (Mt 28:19; Mk 16:15)—but the gospel remains "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom 1:16).

Last month we saw that the incredible vastness of space makes it impossible for mankind to penetrate even the fringes of the cosmos either by vehicle or radio. How staggering, then, that the Creator has selected this tiny planet and one small city on it to be eternally the center of the universe. Bypassing thousands of larger cities with greater beauty and natural resources, God chose Jerusalem, saying, "I will put my name [there] for ever" (2 Ki 21:7; 2 Chr 33:7).

God declared that in the last days He would cause Jerusalem to be "a burdensome stone for all people" (Zec 12:3). For

that to become true, there had to be a worldwide organization. The United Nations was formed in 1945 in time to vote Israel back into existence after 1,800 years of destruction and dispersion. And Jerusalem has become such a burden that the UN has spent one-third of its time debating and condemning Israel, a miniscule nation that represents merely one one-thousandth of earth's population. Finally, World War III will be fought over Jerusalem as Antichrist's armies seek to frustrate God's plans for her and to accomplish at last Hitler's "final solution to the Jewish problem" with the destruction of Israel and all Jews worldwide.

Twice in the Bible Jerusalem is called "the city of our God" (Ps 48:1, 8), twice the "city of God" (Ps 46:4; 87:3), eight times "the holy city" (Neh 11:1; Is 48:2; 52:1; Mt 4:5, etc.), and once "the city of the LORD of hosts" (Ps 48:8). God has decreed that never will

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THEY SHALL COME WITH WEEPING, AND... I [WILL] LEAD THEM: I WILL CAUSE THEM TO WALK BY THE RIVERS OF WATERS IN A STRAIGHT WAY, WHEREIN THEY SHALL NOT STUMBLE: FOR I AM A FATHER TO ISRAEL...

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—JEREMIAH 31:9

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there be a city to rival Jerusalem! It is mentioned 811 times in the Bible but not once in the Qur'an, showing the lie that it ever was sacred to Muslims. Only after Israel's rebirth was this bogus claim invented to justify Muslim attacks against Israel as an "occupying power." The USA, UN, EU, et al., accept this lie as the basis of a "peace" they intend to force upon Israel with Muslim neighbors determined to destroy her.

Jerusalem's entire history, including its destruction and ultimate restoration in the "last days," was pronounced by ancient Hebrew prophets and by Jesus Christ ("There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down"—Mt 24:2; "the city shall be built...it shall not be...thrown down any more for ever"—Jer 31:38-40). Still in process, in the face of fierce opposition from the world and Satan, the ongoing fulfillment of these prophecies (none of which could possibly apply to the church) is the greatest proof God gives of His existence and that the Bible is His infallible Word—a vital proof that replacement theology rejects.

That Christians would deny God's purposes for Israel is beyond comprehension. Equally incredible, throughout history Israel herself has rejected God and the blessings He

would impart. This rebellion has persisted in spite of spectacular displays of God's power and protection: the parting of the Red Sea, guidance by a pillar of fire by night and of cloud by day, water from a rock, fresh manna daily, hearing God speak with an audible voice, seeing the walls of Jericho come down, and the miraculous defeat of armies far superior to its own, etc.

This inexcusable unbelief continues today on the part of most Jews worldwide, as well as in the church. The vast majority of Jews persist in rejecting Christ as their Messiah in spite of His fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies that prove His identity beyond dispute. As their own Hebrew prophets foretold, the Messiah has come and has been rejected by His people and the world. Moreover, they even join heretical replacement theologians in refusing to acknowledge God's hand in preserving the Jews as an identifiable ethnic people and bringing them back into their land after 2,500 years of dispersion.

Nothing so exemplifies God's passionate desire to bless Israel, and her determined rejection of Him and the blessings He wants to bestow, as does Christ's anguished lament over Jerusalem. Viewing the city of God from the Mount of Olives, He wept over her: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" (Lk 13:34).

The New Testament records only one instance of Christ weeping over Jerusalem. How, then, could He claim to have wept over her countless times? Clearly, He was claiming to be the God of Israel, who sent His prophets repeatedly: "And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them... yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD" (Jer 25:3-7).

As for replacement theology, yes, there are many similarities between Israel and the church: both are called God's "elect" (Is 45:4; Mt 24:31; 1 Pt 1:2); both are called to be a "peculiar people" separated from the world (Lv 20:24-26; Dt 14:2; Ti 2:14; 1 Pt 2:9); both were to be hated and persecuted (even to the death) by the world (Ps 119:161; Ps 143:3; Mt 24:9; Jn 15:20; 17:14); and both are called to holiness (Lv 20:7; 1 Pt 1:15).

However, there are many distinctions: Israel is promised a country and a city on this earth, the church a home in heaven. Israel will be ruled by Christ; the church will rule Israel and the world with Him.



Two-thirds of all Jews on earth will be killed under Antichrist (Zec 13:8-9); but the church will not be on earth at that time, having been married to Christ in heaven (Rv 19:7,8). Israel will recognize Christ for the first time at His Second Coming; the church will arrive with Him from heaven in triumph (Zec 14:4,5; Jude 14) as His bride, never to leave His side.

Israel has always been in almost total unbelief, even in the days of Moses (Ps 81:8-13), but the church was faithful at the beginning and only goes into apostasy in the "last days" (Acts 20:29,30; 2 Thes 2:3). In spite of the complaint that the Israelis don't deserve to be there because of their rebellion and rejection of Christ, their unbelief is no worse now than when God first brought them into the land under Joshua. Israel constantly rebelled and worshiped idols even under Moses on the way to the Promised Land.

Israel will come out of apostasy in a total transformation and restoration on this earth (Ezk 36,37); but the church sinks ever deeper into apostasy until the Rapture (Acts 20:29-31; 2 Thes 2:3; Jude 3,4, etc.) and will only be perfected in heaven. Israel had already fallen away from the very beginning: the church began well but is in the process of falling away as the apostasy worsens in the last days. At my recent meetings in many places throughout England, a large percentage of those attending had fled apostate churches.

As Israel went into idolatry, adopting the gods of the nations around her, so the church, through the growing ecumenical movement, embraces false doctrine. Englishmen, whose forebears stood firmly against Rome's grievous heresies in spite of flame and sword, now boast of their unity with the whore of Babylon. While there I thought repeatedly of Hugh Latimer and Nicolas Ridley, in 1555, bound to the same stake at Oxford for refusing to accept the alleged "transubstantiation" of a wafer into the literal body of Christ. As the flames mounted, Latimer exclaimed, "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day by God's grace light such a candle in England as I trust shall never be put out." Tragically, that flame is barely visible. The 16th-century Reformation that transformed England and Europe is now repudiated by the vast majority of Christians and church leaders.

Billy Graham says his beliefs are basically the same as those of orthodox Roman Catholics. He claims that the Mass is "straight and true to the gospel" and boasts that the RCC has welcomed him everywhere. Chuck Colson, an architect of ECT, advocates joining Rome and attends Mass with his Roman Catholic wife. Rick Warren, James Dobson, et al., surely know better, yet work with Catholics and their Church and give no warning that Catholicism is the

road to hell. I'd like to see these men visit Lourdes, France (as Ruth and I have just done) without being grieved in their spirits and smitten in their consciences.

Our hearts broke for these poor deceived people arriving at Lourdes in a continual stream by the thousands each day, many in wheel chairs or on pallets. As the long line moves slowly through the grotto, where "Mary" appeared to Bernadette in 1858, hands reach out to caress its walls, hoping to receive a healing or blessing. Some are whispering under their breath the "Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes: 'O immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, you are the refuge of sinners, the health of the sick, and the comfort of the afflicted....By your appearance at the Grotto of Lourdes you made it a privileged sanctuary where your favors are given to people streaming to it from the whole world....Therefore I come to you with limitless confidence....Obtain, O loving Mother...my requests...I will endeavor to imitate Your virtues, that I may one day share in your glory.'" *Mother of Mercy...refuge of sinners...your glory?* What blasphemy!

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THE LORD HATH APPEARED SAYING, YEA, I HAVE LOVED THEE WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE: THEREFORE WITH LOVINGKINDNESS HAVE I DRAWN THEE. —JEREMIAH 31:3

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This Catholic "Mary" is the dominant figure everywhere one turns. Jesus appears only as a babe in her arms (even in heaven!), hanging on the Cross, or lifeless on her lap at the foot of the Cross. In the main cathedral, behind the altar hovers a huge "Mary," with the words, *Par Marie à Jésus* ["Through Mary to Jesus"]. Yes, Jesus is the acknowledged mediator with God, but Mary is the only way to Jesus. Any exaltation of Jesus is conspicuously absent. On hundreds of the stones with which the cathedral has been built are inscribed praises of and prayers to "Mary."

Thronged of deluded souls, bearing candles of many sizes (purchased nearby at varying prices), walk the 100 yards or so past the grotto to two rows of adjoining metal stalls, where candles are put into position and lit with the flame of another to add to the continual conflagration. Thousands of these candles burn simultaneously, day and night, the melting wax dripping down through the grill into metal boxes that are replaced with empty ones and wheeled back to the factory to be recycled into more candles to make more money for the Church. Above and behind the candles in each section are written the words in several languages: in French—*Cette lumière prolonge ma prière* ["this light extends my prayer"].

The devout followers of "Mary" can also

purchase Masses to be said for one's "intention" somewhere in the world. Outside the fenced grounds, the town streets are lined with shops whose cash registers are ringing up sales of indulgences, crucifixes, and all manner of holy hardware that the Church has devised for passing on blessings from the "Virgin"—at a price. Among the biggest sellers are varying sizes of plastic bottles shaped like the "Virgin Mary" to be filled with water from the sacred spring.

Israel's apostasy, including idol worship, is no worse than what Rome practices and with which evangelicals have joined in ecumenical partnership. The world is in rebellion against God, but so is the church. Proof of that rebellion is everywhere.

In one Normandy cemetery, I stumbled heartbroken through hundreds of the more than 9,000 stark white marble crosses marking, in perfect rows, the graves of men who died in the June 1944 invasion that freed Europe. Each marker bears the name, rank, outfit, and date of death. Unable to fathom such horror, I sobbed uncontrollably, my chest heaving, crying out, "Lord, why did you make man? You knew all the evil and suffering that would result. What is the point of these crosses? How many of these men believed in the Christ who died for their sins?"

Here and there was a white marble Star of David. A surprising number of these monuments had no names but only the caption, "Here rests in honored glory a comrade in arms known but to God." I thought of the many who were not resting but were in agony in the flames of hell. And once more, with heaving chest and irrepressible sobs, I gasped again and again, "Why, Lord? Why?"

I knew that God had created man to bestow His love and blessing upon him. This present evil world is not what God made and He cannot be blamed for it. This is the world man has made in defiance of God, by trying to act as his own God.

My sobs were only an echo of the cry of God's own heart—which should touch ours. The Father grieves over this world, whether for the centuries-long rejection of His love by His chosen ones, the Jews, or for the apostasy of today's "Christian" church, or for the lost who thumb their noses at His offer of forgiveness for their sins and eternal life in His presence.

Let us pray that true repentance will yet come to the church and to the world to gladden the Father's heart and that Christ will see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied.

We hear the lament *O Jerusalem!* echoing through the centuries undiminished, though Jew and Gentile crucified Him there. Now He weeps for the entire world. May we as envoys of His compassion do all we can to rescue as many as possible before it is forever too late.

—TBC

## Quotable .....

The church is a workshop, not a dormitory; and every Christian man and woman is bound to help in the common cause.

—A. MacLaren

Keep about your work. Do not flinch because the lion roars; do not stop to stone the devil's dogs; do not fool away your time chasing the devil's rabbits. Do your work. Let liars lie...let the devil do his worst; but see to it that nothing hinders you from fulfilling the work that God has given you....He has never bidden you to defend your character. He has not set you at work to contradict falsehood [about you] which Satan and his servants may start to peddle. If you do those things, you will do nothing else; you will be at work for yourself and not for the Lord.

—Anonymous

People need to be helped, not entertained....The Gospel that Paul preached was of "help" (Acts 16:9-10). When Apollos ministered in Corinth he "helped them much which had believed through grace..." (Acts 18:27). Apollos had eloquence, knowledge, courage, and zeal, but he could never have helped the saints except for the corrective ministry of the tent-maker [Aquila] and Priscilla, his wife (v. 26).

—W. Harrison, Assembly Testimony, Nov/Dec 1966

## Q&A .....

**QUESTION: In Isaiah 14:16, isn't the "king of Babylon" referred to as Lucifer? And in Ezekiel 28, isn't the "prince of Tyrus" being addressed? Yet I've heard these passages explained as being all about Satan. What do you think?**

**ANSWER:** It is clearly stated that the "king of Babylon" is addressed in Isaiah 14:4 and "the prince/king of Tyrus" in Ezekiel 28:2,12. So these passages are not "all about Satan," but they definitely concern these rulers. Satan, too, is being addressed, both separately and in the person of these kings.

For example, it could never be said of the king of Babylon: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning" (Is 14:12); nor could it be said of the prince/king of Tyrus, "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God....Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth" (Ezk 28:13,14). These words can apply only to Satan.

In fact, he is presented as the one who motivated and empowered these evil kings. Satan showed Christ "all the kingdoms of the world" and boldly declared that if Christ

would worship him, "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them..." (Lk 4:5,6). Jesus said, "Get thee behind me, Satan..." (v. 8), but He did not deny Satan's ownership of the world, nor his authority to give it to whomever he would.

So in these two passages Satan is identified as the one who put these rulers in power and was behind their evil deeds—and he as well as they will be punished by God.

**QUESTION: Do you think that in Genesis 10 and 11 Nimrod is a type of Antichrist?**

**ANSWER:** We are told, "the beginning of his kingdom was Babel" (Gn 10:10). As the apparent builder and first ruler of the city of Babel surrounding the Tower of Babel, the first world government, and first world religion, Nimrod could typify Antichrist. Yet we know almost nothing about him except that he was "a mighty one in the earth...a mighty hunter before the Lord" (Gn 10:8-10). He is a very limited type of Antichrist.

Many believe that Babylon, built around the Tower of Babel, must return to power and influence. I've given the reasons why I don't believe Babylon in the Iraqi desert will be the headquarters of Antichrist, so won't repeat them here. In *A Woman Rides the Beast* and elsewhere, I list the fourteen reasons the angel gives John as to why the great whore of Revelation 17 and 18 is Rome, the Vatican, and the false world church headquartered there.

The woman is not the Antichrist, and she is called "mystery Babylon." That alone is sufficient to remove any support for the idea of Babylon (which all agree will be destroyed by Antichrist) being Antichrist's headquarters. Why would he destroy his own headquarters? That makes no sense.

Babylon is that woman, whom Antichrist needs at the beginning but against whom he turns, and he and the "ten horns...upon the beast [i.e., the ten kings under him typified by the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image—Dn 2:44; 7:24]...shall hate the whore, and shall...eat her flesh, and burn her with fire....And the woman [mystery Babylon] is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. [S]he shall be utterly burned with fire" (Rv 17:16-18; 18:8). Rome ruled the world through the Caesars and, subsequently, through the popes, whereas Babylon in Iraq has been in ruins for 2,300 years, and thus fits none of the criteria given in this passage.

**QUESTION: What is your advice and opinion regarding Christians being active in the anti-abortion movement, i.e., picketing, demonstrations, etc.? Or do you recommend a different approach to this issue?**

**ANSWER:** Abortion should be opposed in preaching, writing, and speaking by

Christians. Even non-Christians ought to oppose it, and many do, for the purely moral reasons that have been written by God in every person's conscience (Rom 2:14-16). How could anyone ever have approved of partial-birth abortion, for example? The baby is turned around in the womb so that it comes out feet first, and, with a small part of the crown of the head technically inside the birth canal, an insertion is made and the brains sucked out. A few more inches and the courts would call it murder. And not to call it murder then—or earlier in the womb—is a wickedness for which America and this world will receive God's just punishment.

We are not, however, in favor of joining with Catholics, Mormons, atheists, humanists, or any other non-Christians in protest marches or other activism, whether against abortion or for or against anything else. We are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers in any endeavor.

Such alliances necessarily silence a real Christian's witness for Christ. Why? How can I witness to the Mormon on my right side and the Catholic on my left and the atheist just behind me, when to do so would offend them? Being true to Christ and His Word would break up the coalition I must join to engage in such activities.

We ought to stand against abortion in every biblical and effective way that we can as true believers without joining unbelievers in any "action" they wish to take. But our primary role is to preach the gospel and make disciples for our Lord—not to become absorbed in trying to make a godless world behave like Christians.

**QUESTION: George Mueller tells how God uses trials to increase our faith. But Abraham's life (for example) proves that notion wrong. Otherwise, God would be a child abuser!**

**ANSWER:** The command to offer Isaac was not a "trial" to help Abraham's faith grow; it was a test of his obedience (Gn 22:1), and he passed it well, confident that God would raise Isaac from the dead (Heb 11:17-19). Isaac's being bound on the altar was not child abuse. He was carrying the wood, so was more than a child, strong enough to have resisted and at least to have run away. There is no record that he attempted this, nor of any struggle. Isaac's willing submission to his father is a beautiful picture of Christ's willing submission to His Father's will, in allowing Himself to be mocked, scourged, beaten, and nailed to that cross—and then to bear the wrath of God in punishment for the sins of the world. Abraham seemed to have some comprehension of that great coming sacrifice. Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?" Abraham replied,

“God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt-offering.” (Gn 22:7, 8). What else could Christ have referred to than this statement by Abraham when He told the Jews, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad” (Jn 8:56)?

**QUESTION: I understand that our resurrection bodies will be glorious, whole, and entire, even if on earth we have suffered disfigurement, loss of limb, or other physical handicaps or deficiencies. And yet, we’re going to see the nail prints in Christ’s hands! This seems like a contradiction as well as totally unjust and inequitable. What is your opinion?**

**ANSWER:** The marks of Calvary that Christ will bear throughout eternity are not in any way disfigurements to be regretted or healed. They will seem exceedingly beautiful and attractive to us—the eternal reminder of His love and sacrifice and the cost of our redemption.

**QUESTION: How can the dead rise from their graves if they’re already in heaven?**

**ANSWER:** It is the bodies that are dead, not the souls and spirits. Paul declares that at death the believers are “absent from the body... present with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:8). The dead bodies of those who “sleep in Jesus” [i.e., whose bodies “sleep” in the grave but whose souls and spirits are in heaven] will rise to be reunited in immortality with the souls and spirits that return with the Lord from heaven (1 Thes 4:14-16).

**QUESTION: Will people be born throughout eternity and procreate?**

**ANSWER:** Jesus said that those “in the resurrection neither marry, nor are given in marriage” (Mt 22:30; Mk 12:25). Of course, there will be some who never died and were therefore not resurrected. He included them and all who will be in the new heavens and new earth when He said, “But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world...neither marry nor are given in marriage” (Lk 20:35).

**QUESTION: The Bible code continues to be popular and causes confusion in my own mind and for others. What do you have to say about this?**

**ANSWER:** We have dealt with this in the past (see *TBC* Feb ’98). If there are verifiable mathematical patterns in the manuscripts that could not come about by chance, they could constitute proof of divine authorship—but we don’t need it. Did God put them there to impress modern man, who would be the first to discover them? But why would He do that, when we have so much more that anyone may find and understand? We have

more than enough internal proofs by way of prophecy fulfilled and the unity of 40 different authors, most of whom had no contact with one another, etc.

As for hidden messages in the Bible, that is clearly *unbiblical*. How could anyone, past or present, live “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord” (Dt 8:3; Mt 4:4, etc.), if some of God’s Word is hidden and only accessible through a computer and special software? How could Jeremiah have said, “Thy words were found, and I did eat them” (Jer 15:16); or the man in Psalm 1 meditate on God’s Word day and night if some of it was inaccessible to him? Much that Psalm 119 (which is all about God’s Word) has to say would not make sense if parts of what God has said to man weren’t yet available and wouldn’t be until centuries later, with the advent of computers?

Christ’s rebuke to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus for not believing “all that the prophets have spoken” (Lk 24:25) is sufficient to prove this theory wrong. He surely would not have scolded them for not giving heed to all that the prophets had spoken if parts of what the prophets had said were hidden in a secret code that could only be read with computers. The idea that there are hidden messages in God’s Word contradicts that very Word.

**QUESTION: My husband teaches a men’s Bible class in a Baptist Church. He wanted to teach a separate Bible class on Prophecy and was told the subject would not be well received. Why?**

**ANSWER:** Nearly 30 percent of the Bible is prophecy, so to omit that is to miss a great deal! Indeed, prophecy provides the essential proof that the Bible is God’s Word and that Christ is the Messiah. It tells us of future events and is the backbone of the Bible. To avoid prophecy is to deliberately consign oneself to ignorance and is almost like thumbing one’s nose at God and His Word.

I don’t know why this church avoids prophecy, but I can give you some of the most common excuses offered by others. Some argue that prophecy is too confusing, creates speculation, involves so many symbols that it is impossible to understand, and could therefore only cause division. Of course, none of these objections is valid.

The greatest prophecy book is Revelation. It promises a special reward to him “that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein” (Rv 1:3). I would encourage your husband to persist in his biblical and God-honoring desire. Perhaps the church would discover that there is a prejudice against prophecy only because there is ignorance concerning it.

## News Alert .....

**MY HERO.COM 1/1/06 [Excerpts]:** Dr. Madan Kataria...[an] Allopathic Physician... at the Jaslok Hospital (Bombay) in Internal Medicine and Cardiology has thousands of people laughing their way to better health, more happiness and deeper friendships.

This jovial medicine man from India, has developed a new technique of Laughter Therapy based on Yoga called Laughter Yoga. Dr. Kataria explains that: “in a nutshell, laughter yoga is a combination of self-induced laughter, yoga exercises, yoga breathing and stretching exercises. With a little bit of playfulness it turns into real laughter. Our body produces a similar response to what we get from spontaneous laughter.”

He said the “idea of a laughter club came to me like a divine light. In 1995, I was writing an article for my health magazine and remembered that “Laughter, The Best Medicine,” from *Reader’s Digest* had always fascinated me.” During his research for the article, Dr. Kataria discovered a large amount of scientific literature on the benefits of laughter on the human mind and body.

“I was very impressed by the American journalist Norman Cousins, whose book *Anatomy of an Illness*, describes how he laughed his way out of an incurable disease of the spine—Ankylosing Spondylitis. Cousins said: ‘What was significant about the laughter...was not just the fact that it provides internal exercise for a person...a form of jogging for the innards, but that it creates a mood in which the other positive emotions can be put to work, too.’”

According to Dr. Kataria’s website, extensive research from all over the world has proven that laughter has a positive impact on various systems of the body. Laughter helps to remove the negative effects of stress, which is the number one killer today. More than 70% of illnesses like high blood pressure, heart disease, anxiety, depression, frequent coughs and colds, peptic ulcers, insomnia, allergies, asthma, tension headaches, stomach upsets and even cancer, have some relations to stress. Laughter helps to boost the immune system, which is the master key for maintaining good health.

[*TBC: We are told in Proverbs that “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones” (17:22). However, yoga is no laughing matter. It’s an ancient religious method of salvation from this world of maya in which the practitioner yokes himself to, or merges with, Brahman, the Hindu Supreme Deity. No matter how yoga is homogenized for the West, it remains demonic. See Yoga and the Body of Christ for documentation.*]

## Dave & T.A.'s Itinerary

<b>Aug 4-5</b> (Dave)	<b>Hope for Today Conference</b> Chino Hills CA (800) 752-4253 www.davidhocking.org
<b>Aug 6 am</b> (Dave)	<b>Calvary Chapel Golden Springs</b> Diamond Bar CA (909) 396-1884
<b>Aug 6 pm</b> (Dave)	<b>Liberty Baptist Church</b> Newport Beach CA (949) 760-5444
<b>Sep 8-10</b> (Dave & TA)	<b>Great Lakes Prophecy Conference</b> Appleton WI (920) 735-1242 www.ccappleton.org
<b>Sep 12</b> (Dave)	<b>Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa</b> Santa Ana CA (714) 979-4422
<b>Sep 16</b> (Dave)	<b>Midwest Hebrew Ministry</b> Arden Hills MN (612) 866-8014
<b>Sep 29-30</b> (Dave)	<b>Calvary Bible Chapel</b> Macomb MI (586) 977-1849
<b>Oct 1-2</b> (TA)	<b>Christliche Versammlung Thurstrasse</b> Frauenfeld Switzerland 41 (0) 52 720 48 57
<b>Oct 7</b> (TA)	<b>Centre Biblique Européen</b> Lausanne Switzerland 41 (0) 21 887 75 63
<b>Oct 4-6</b> (Dave)	<b>Winnipeg Prophecy Conference</b> Winnipeg MB (204) 853-7786 www.wpgpc.org
<b>Oct 18-22</b> (Dave)	<b>Midnight Call</b> Brazil 51 3241-5050 www.chamada.com.br
<b>Nov 3-5</b> (Dave & TA)	<b>TBC Conference (correct dates)</b> Bend OR (800) 937-6638 www.thebereanall.org
<b>Nov 10-11</b> (TA)	<b>Calvary Chapel Men's Retreat</b> Lynnwood WA (425) 672-4377

## Letters .....

### Dear Dave and T.A.,

I'm an ex-Roman Catholic and when we were first saved, my family and close relatives knew full well that the TBN lineup, Rod Parsley, Benny Hinn, Pat Robertson, Marilyn Hickey, et al., were preaching a gospel that was at odds with the Word of God. Now, after many years, I see TBN people creeping into my family....The mailbox is full of junk mail—all pleading for money. Hickey sends out magic cloths, another hustler sent a packet of rice that was going to change into a fifty-pound bag.... The relatives have a new response.... "If anyone criticizes any of these preachers, then they must be doing a great job for

Christ because it is Satan that wants them shut down." JK (CA)

### Dear Dave and team,

I had held a Calvinistic understanding of Scripture and never thought I would change. It seemed that most of the great preachers... were Calvinists, and I "saw" the doctrines of grace in Scripture....I had never come across a solid critique of Calvinism....Norman Geisler's *Chosen but Free*, and particularly your book *What Love Is This?* have helped to completely transform my understanding of Scripture with regard to these issues. You are right in saying that the very nature of God is at the heart of the debate. Your book, Dave, was superbly and passionately written [and] easily understood by the layman.... JH (United Kingdom)

### Dear TBC,

Dave has hit the nail on the head again! There is so much yoga in the church it is mindblowing.... "Emerging church" leaders and many Church of England and Church of Scotland churches are endorsing it here in the UK. It is a sad day indeed when the "church" is endorsing "Christian Kundalini" and leading believers into the Serpent-Power darkness of Hinduism. Thank you for your continued labor of love and for your uncompromising stand for God's truth. CL (Scotland)

### Dear Mr Hunt,

Before I was a born-again Christian I was an avid reader of horror stories, especially by Stephen King. I have read your book *A Woman Rides the Beast*, and I have just finished reading *Judgment Day*. I must say, no other book I've ever read compares to the "horrors" of these two books. How much God loves us all for withholding His judgment for so long. I'm sure our grief doesn't compare to His. Thank you for your books of "real horror." I hope they become bestsellers. MP (NV)

### TBC:

God bless you there. We appreciate all you do. Dave is to us as "Paul of Old"—we can depend on him to stand firm on the Word and fearlessly defend the faith as Jude 3 commands. RH (UT)

### Dear Dave and Tom,

I...want to thank you for your presentation of God's Truth....I got saved while in prison....My mom got saved at one of your meetings...and it was [due to] her faithfulness in prayer that I am now saved....My one encouragement to you...is...I know that you could do a great job of expounding on an aspect of the gospel, or looking at it through different scriptures....[I]f you were to devote just one page of your newsletter a month,

how great it would be....It is great to get a newsletter with your teaching on why things are wrong here or there—that is needed. Yet the Gospel is what we have been entrusted with and we are called to go into all the world and preach this gospel....I encourage you to...write a short presentation of the Gospel in each newsletter....Don't grow weary, brethren, but stand fast in the Lord. I am a newborn babe in Christ and I pray that in no way I have offended you. JJ (MN)

### Dear Bro.,

A brief note to say how very much we appreciate *The Berean Call* magazine. We have also come to realize how much we need it. Bro. T. A. McMahon's article on the dangers of psychology both startled and delivered us. DC (Northern Ireland)

## TBC Notes

### Suggestion for Seniors

I recently had a very disturbing—even scary—thought: what if the Lord delays His return for another generation or more? It hardly seems possible, given the anti-Christian state of the world and the rapidly developing apostasy in the church; yet He could tarry. It's scary for me personally because I have five children who will perhaps experience a generation heavily influenced by an apostate Christianity. That being the case, there's little doubt that persecution from professing Christians will become commonplace.

I could be wrong. Nevertheless, right or wrong, I have a biblical suggestion for fellow seniors who have some maturity in the Lord and who love His Word: spiritually adopt one or more young adults who want to grow in Christ and begin to disciple them. Older men minister to younger men, and older women minister to younger women. Keep your focus on the understanding of the Word, yet share your experiences of how the Living Word, Jesus Christ, has worked in your lives.

Hopefully, we'll all be around for the "shout" (1 Thessalonians 4:16) and will head home together. If not, at least we seniors will have, by His grace, helped to equip the young saints for what's ahead.

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## THE KUNDALINI CONNECTION: EVANGELICALS EMBRACE ENERGY OF THE SERPENT

—EXCERPTS FROM THE NEW BOOK *YOGA AND THE BODY OF CHRIST* BY DAVE HUNT

**T**HERE IS MOUNTING CONTROVERSY among Westerners involved in yoga as to how to practice it and the purpose behind it. Is it purely physical, or is something more involved—something spiritual? There are many proponents on both sides of this discussion. Much of the public, however, is not even aware of the issue. Nor can most of the disputants even agree to what is meant by “spiritual.” Clearly something nonphysical is involved. But what is it?

What is this “energy” to which Ken Harakuma (and others) are referring? Is this the ki, or chi, of martial arts, which has no physical explanation and clearly comes from the spirit world? Yet in spite of warnings backed with factual data about its dangers—and that it can even open the door to the occult—yoga continues to grow in popularity everywhere. What is behind the accelerating worldwide interest in yoga?

That non-Christians are engaging in yoga is not surprising. After all, it is being promoted in the West as purely physical stretching and breathing exercises beneficial for one’s health—even as a cure for cancer, with testimonials that supposedly back up that claim. That Christians, however, who say they follow Christ and His Word, would also jump on the bandwagon of Eastern mysticism is staggering.

Yoga was developed to escape this “unreal” world of time and sense and to reach *moksha*, the Hindu heaven—or to return to the “void” of the Buddhist. With its breathing exercises and limbering-up positions, yoga is promoted in the West for enhancing health and better living—but in the far East, where it originated, it is understood to be a way of dying. Yogis claim to possess the ability to survive on almost no oxygen and to remain motionless for hours, free of the “illusion” of this life. The physical aspects of yoga, however, which attract many Westerners, were, in fact, originally developed and practiced for spiritual goals.

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.” Few, if any, realized that the West had fallen victim to the largest and most successful missionary campaign in history.

Missionary campaign? 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). Of course, that’s acceptable to the media and the world—it is only Christian missionaries who are held in contempt and maligned.

Yes, Hindus have launched the largest missionary effort in history.... In January 1979, at the VHP-sponsored second “World Congress on Hinduism” in Allahabad, India, attended by about 60,000 delegates from around the world, a speaker declared, “Our mission in the West has been crowned with fantastic success. Hinduism is becoming the dominant world religion, and the end of Christianity has come near.”

In a frank interview in *Yoga Journal*, Ken Wilbur, a yoga expert who is often called the “Einstein of consciousness,” warns that Eastern meditation, no matter how carefully practiced, involves “a whole series of deaths and rebirths...some very rough and frightening times.”

David Pursglove, therapist and transpersonal counselor for decades, warns that those involved in Eastern meditation can encounter “Frightening ESP and other parapsychological occurrences...out-of-body experiences...[encounters] with death and subsequent rebirth...awakening of the serpent power (Kundalini)...violent shaking and twisting....”

Among the few who honestly warn the public is Dr. Walt Larimore. He explains, “Yoga has spiritual roots.... [Therefore] one could argue that promoting it in schools violates the...so-called separation of church and state....” He warns that the “deeply religious practice” of yoga, with its roots in Eastern mysticism, may put kids in a position to be influenced by elements that are not at all healthy.

Yoga opens the door not to true enlightenment but to demonic seduction of mankind. And in spite of the literally hundreds of exposés by those who have experienced the evil firsthand and barely escaped, yoga is gaining adherents among Christians and is being practiced in a growing number of churches, including those that claim to be evangelical. Christian leaders have naïvely encouraged this deadly practice. Robert Schuller was one of the first to give it his endorsement....

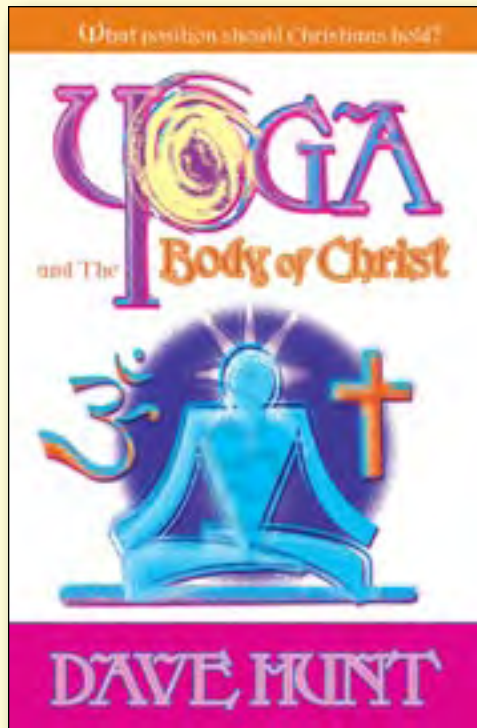
No matter what the various schools and forms of yoga being practiced in the West, however, there is no mistaking that if one is interested in true yoga, one must be willing to have that terrifying Kundalini aroused. What is this serpentine power that allegedly lies coiled at the base of the spine?

The texts by ancient yogis warn that the “Kundalini serpent force” often manifests itself in frightening and destructive ways. Unfortunately, those texts are scarcely known to yoga enthusiasts today and are certainly not heeded by their instructors. Kundalini is the “enlightenment” that the practice of yoga is designed to “awaken.” One yoga enthusiast writes, “The cobra that opened its fan over Buddha’s head is the metaphor for the field of energy, which...emits out from the head during and after sustaining Kundalini....” [Another] writes, “When the Kundalini awakens, tremendous power is unleashed. The resulting expansion of consciousness affects every element of our being, from our biological functions to our personal relationships to our concept of reality to our influence in the world.... Kundalini is Shakti, the Great Mother Goddess, the living energy that daily makes her vibrant presence known in my body and my psyche.... If Kundalini is to be invoked, it must be with care and better still, with reverence and humility. We are treading sacred waters here. To plunge in recklessly is to risk self-annihilation.”

This entire discussion always brings us back to the most fundamental fact about yoga. No matter what physical benefit might be derived from the exercises themselves, yoga inevitably involves Eastern meditation. And Eastern meditation, unlike Western contemplation or reflection, accompanies an intentional dissociation from our conscious minds. This shutting down of the mind is, in fact, a total abdication of our God-given responsibility that Jesus declared is the first and great commandment: to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind (Deuteronomy 6:5–6, Matthew 22:37). Thus, we are violating one of the true God’s most basic commandments every time we give our minds over to the intentional “nothingness” of yoga and associated “relaxation techniques.”



## NEW! YOGA AND THE BODY OF CHRIST: WHAT POSITION SHOULD CHRISTIANS HOLD?



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**YOGA** — a “happy” movement of *HEALTH*?  
— or an unholy movement from *HELL*?

**Hunt**—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 and the lifestyles of professing Christians. But is it simply stretching, as some Christians claim? Is it a way to “breathe out” the effects of sin and stress, allowing the believer to “breathe in” the Holy Spirit? Or is yoga one of the greatest Trojan Horses of our time? 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—which, literally defined, means an awakening of the “Serpent Power.”

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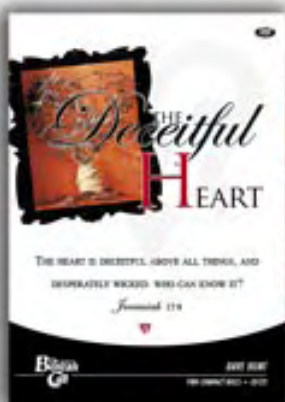
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| 1. What Is It About Yoga?   | 5. Beware The “Science” Of Yoga          |
| 2. Yoga For Christians?     | 6. “The Great Dragon...That Old Serpent” |
| 3. The Aquarian Conspiracy  | 7. Yoga’s Kundalini Serpent Power        |
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**Hunt**—As the few verses above illustrate, God has an opinion about the condition of the hearts of all mankind; indeed, it is a dire depiction of the horrible truth that is echoed in dozens of verses throughout His holy Word. Faced with the raw ugliness of our sinful state, man has the choice to rebel or repent—to futilely build his own stairway to heaven, or to fully receive the free gift of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. Whether by religion, global military conquest, or both, history itself shows man’s repeated failure to establish peace apart from his Creator. And as Bible prophecy further confirms, mankind’s

ongoing quest for utopia (whether by secular humanists or “kingdom-now” Christians) is not achievable or ushered in by created beings—but only by the King of kings and Lord of lords, Yeshua Ha Mashiach. Using a number of different examples from history and Scripture, Dave expounds on this theme, which is key to understanding our past, present, and future as individuals—and for believers, as the Body of Christ. This presentation is available on DVD video as well as 2-disc audio CD or 2-tape audiocassette!

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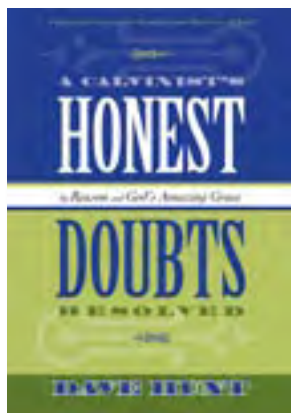
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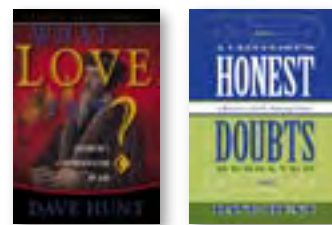


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NOTE: Conference dates listed last month in "Dave & T.A.'s Itinerary" were incorrect. The correct dates are below:

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