

HAVEN

NEWSLETTER



MISSION TO THE AMERICAS
"A vision for the harvest"

BILL & TERRI HONSBERGER SEPT 97

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HOLLOW CHRISTIANITY

"Having a form of godliness,
but denying its power"
(2 Tim 3:5)

Much of what I do involves issues of deception and truth. It is all good and well to focus on the deception of the lost who are Muslims, or Hindus, but sometimes the issues come very close to home. A recent newsletter from prominent new age author Betty Eadie, cites a letter stating, "You bet...you can count on me as one of your prayer warriors," and was signed, "Love in Christ." Now if this was someone telling Betty he was praying for her repentance of her false teachings, then great. Unfortunately it was someone praising her for her stories. This is indicative of a much larger problem in our country than the "cults." That is, what is the status of the Church and are we prepared to evangelize a pagan world?

"We seem less discerning than ever, less willing to confront error than ever...at the time of greatest need."

I do not think we are ready. Worse yet, we seem less discerning than ever, less willing to confront error than ever, and all this at the time of greatest need. The Scriptures warn us repeatedly about the danger of false brothers, teachers, prophets, ministers, apostles and even false christ! Do you notice the

(2 Thes 2:9), and (in an interesting comment by the Lord in John 16:2) where false believers will put disciples of Jesus OUT of the synagogue, killing them in order to serve "God"! This strongly infers that false believers will be present within the church. In Mt 24:10-11, 23-24, Jesus adds that the presence of deceiving messiahs would be almost overwhelming (I am not saying we're in the endtimes, nor that we're even close...we might be, but I am in no position to say so).

"Many people now say they are not into religion, but into 'spirituality'"

What makes this all more striking is a cultural shift towards "spirituality" in our country. Many people now say they are not into religion, but into "spirituality". What this means is usually vague and confusing, but it is marked by pantheism, monism, reincarnation, karma, and so on. Sound familiar? Remember the war cry of the Christian right 17 years ago, warning us about the rise of secular humanism? Well forget it. It is truly hard to find a real atheist these days. By contrast, spirituality of all stripes is in. Movie stars, politicians and soccer moms are all delving into psychics, UFOs, feng shui, alternative healings and so on. I want to emphasize that this vague spirituality is almost certainly antichrist. This may offend some, but to relegate Christ to one of many mutually acceptable options, is

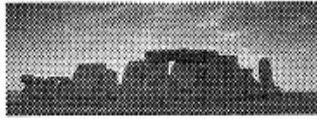
Notice for example the show "Touched by an Angel." The fact



that so many Christians love this show, really tells us more about ourselves and the state of TV today. I agree that by comparison to the overwhelming flood of garbage coming through the TV and other entertainment forms, "Touched" is a bright and peaceful spot in a storm - but it may be where the greatest deception comes in. Through all the moral and spiritual notions which surface during the show, the name of Jesus is noticeably absent. That is, the gospel of Jesus, the death, burial and resurrection, the heart of the Christian faith, is noticeably missing. Why? Because the producer, who claims to be an evangelical Christian, feels it might offend people if the show were conspicuously Christian. I believe when Christians watch the show, we often do so through our "Christian lenses", implicitly supplying Jesus and the Gospel, when it is not present within the show itself. Why the problem then? Because Buddhists, Mormons, Channelers are also watching the show through their "lenses" and seeing Buddha, Joseph Smith, Ramtha, and so on. Spirituality without Jesus is not just Christianity Lite, it is antichrist in itself. At least atheists usually put their sin in your face (i.e. Playboy). But deception is more dangerous than open sin. We may run from the obvious frying pan, into the deceptive warmth of the fire. "Little Children, keep yourselves from idols." (1 John 5:21).

common denominator? All of these appear inside the church, not on the outside. This plays well with a theme often repeated in the Scriptures; that of the end times will be marked by a false christianity. This false faith will be marked by a false god (2 Thes 2:4), false miracles

anathema to God. Christ is central to Christian faith; if our spirituality is not based on Him, it is a mockery.



"Spirituality without Jesus is not just Christianity Lite, it is antichrist in itself."

PRAYER REQUESTS

For our family's salvation. We did have a great trip and I had the first friendly talk about serious issues, concerning God and creation, with my middle brother that I have ever had. For New Ager Betty Fadie, author of the book Embraced by the Light, to whom I gave some Christian responses. Pray also for New Agers Sukkacitto, Anikka, Flora, Ian, John, Steve, Jeremiah, Michael, John, Mike, Denver, Rho, Kathryn, Cindy, and others; For

Mormons Dale and Jeff, for JWs Al, Deane, and Bonnie; For Muslims Ashrif and Waheed, and for many others that I have talked to. A special prayer for Randy M., who is the local director of Transcendental Meditation. We just met recently for the third time, with plans for a fourth, and he is disturbed by some questions I hit him with. Pray for the healing of Steve Z., Conrad H., Patty W., Connie B., and Paul F. All are deeply in need. Pray for a possible adoption situation with us. More details to follow. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Non-Prophet Enterprise:

Just a quick note on Kim Miller of Concerned Christians. Please continue to pray for the spiritual deception to be broken in the lives of his followers. We continue to hear from new families, who are being torn apart by this evil deceiver. Pray that Kim himself would come to repentance.

Praise the Lord we are now at 86%. Please continue to pray that we would reach the 100% level, and prayerfully consider what role you could play in this. We really look forward to this being behind us. Thanks for all that you do.

In the name of Yshua our Saviour
Bill and Terri Honsberger and boys

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