

Haven Newsletter

April 2004

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Child Proofing The Mind

In our last newsletter I talked about the bad marriage between Christianity and modernity - between the Bible and Kant, Hume and Descartes. The fruit of that marriage still haunts us today. Now we look at the equally ungodly marriage between Christianity and post modernity. Simply put, post modernity is a denial of objective truth and all perspectives which claim to encompass all of reality.

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Post Modernity is a denial of objective truth and all perspectives which claim to encompass all of reality. This would include everything from science to Christianity, Meta-Narratives (all encompassing world view claims) and Meta-Ethics (absolute moral claims binding upon all people) are viewed as "totalizing", or types of intellectual/moral imperialism. Each culture has within its language certain understandings which are a result of and bound by the language. As a result of these presuppositions (admittedly we can only barely describe them in a short article!) it is believed that religion is a construction of and from a particular culture, formed from a particular language and that any exclusive claims of "true" or "valid" are therefore arbitrary, arrogant, or worst of all - intolerant.

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Most philosophers within the American academy dismiss Pomo thought as hopelessly self-refuting. If all one has are individual perspectives or opinions, then the view itself is merely a perspective and not binding on anyone in anyway. Many point out that this view which derides all big stories, seems to have conveniently excused itself from the same totalizing arrogance by which it attacks other views. Now all are called to recognize the truth/perspective that no one has knowledge about the true epistemic state of the world, with the exception of some French neo-Marxists and some American compatriots. And of course the majority of the MTV audience! Even in Pomo departments (like at my university for example!) many are recognizing the pit of eternal deconstruction and are looking elsewhere

for answers. I even took a class at the University of Denver a few years ago on "Beyond Postmodernism", and the class looked at several ways out or around the post modern abyss.

As usual though, the Church tries to keep pace and is eternally behind the larger culture. As the culture starts to see the intellectual vacuity of Pomo thought, many within the Church believe that this is the direction the church needs to go to "save" the Church. Post modern "Christians"

believe that this move is a distinct improvement over the modernist age, with its hubris and debates over knowledge, evidence and certainty. Instead this "offers" the believer the option of merely "sharing my story" and not having to worry about proving the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus or the existence of God, or other such mundane concerns. Why, Pomo

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Christians are all about community and caring, not facts or "truth." Problems abound here, but simply put, once you share your story and the Buddhist shares her story - what do you do now? The Gospel includes several specific claims - including that of the resurrection. Do we really want to ignore the questions people have about the event? Many Pomos claim that this position (anti-position?) is much more humble than that of the modernist, but actually it suffers from the opposite hubris. To claim that all knowledge is accessible through science and or humanism is arrogant. But is it really "humble" to argue that you know that no one has any true picture of reality? Regarding "community" and "caring", this is hardly the property of the newest generation in the church. All Christians of all time are called to and commanded to observe both, and this they have done with varying levels of success.

With the death of the meta-narrative, comes also the death of the meta-ethic or moral ab-

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Child Proofing continued...

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solite. This is where the crime of Pomo thought really shines through. Ironically many Pomo Christians claim that it is the concern for the "other", those deprived of their place at the table, which really drives Post modernism. Unfortunately the logical extension of Pomo thought is the destruction of the "other". If all morals are the construction

of a particular community, and have no binding value on anyone not in that culture (the heartbeat of most cultural anthropology classes everywhere), than one rules out by fiat the prophetic voice of the Church. For example, we have competing moral constructions from different communities. Community A says that we should love and respect women. Community B says that we should beat women. Since no one community's standards are universally applicable for all cultures, than we are forced to "tolerate" the diversity of the other culture and therefore the entire multicultural world. Intolerance of divergent opinions becomes the only sin left. One cannot logically and consistently criticize the Nazis, or the Klan, or the ante-Bellum south. After years of this stuff in schools, is it surprising that even some Jewish people now argue that you can't say that what Hitler did is wrong, but only that you as a individual wouldn't do it!!! (Based on very real conversations I and others in my field have had) Wouldn't want to be judgmental ...

We all know what it means to "childproof" a room. Cover all the sharp edges and outlets which might cause harm to the child. In the Postmodern world, all is gray, all is fuzzy and as seen with some ac-

demics like Stanley Fish and Noam Chomsky, even 9/11 cannot be described as being "evil", since the Muslims were merely acting in their own communities understanding of the "good". In its irrationality, Post modernism "childproofs" the intellectual room, removing all the sharp edges that might cause one to actually make mature judgments, to be discerning and God forbid, even say that some things are right and others are wrong.

But is it really "humble" to argue that you *know* that no one has any true picture of reality?

The consistent view of the Bible is that unbelievers and believers, crossing all national boundaries, are judged equally for doing the same things. One look at Isaiah 10 and following, destroys the idea that God tolerates all diverse cultures. How close minded of Him! The fact that the pagans were slaughtering their own children to get a corn crop might be a clue as to why God doesn't care about our cultural perspectives!

To the extent that the Church embraces the Pomo mindset, we lose the prophetic voice. One has to ask "Do we have any salt left?" (Matt 5:13)

Book Note

I still am encouraging everyone to read this book. It is heartbreaking in a way but sometimes harsh medicine is good for the soul. The book is entitled "A Matter of Basic Principles - Bill Gothard and the Christian Life" It is written by Don and Joy Veinot and Ron Henzel and published by 21st Century press. You can find it at the website for the Midwest Christian Outreach at www.midwestoutreach.org. Though



again I know many of you respect Bill Gothard and were influenced greatly by his teachings, there are both personal and theological reasons to see him in a different way. Before you react, I would encourage you to read the book, check out the facts and then make your decision.

The Passion

Like many of you, we were deeply touched by "The Passion". I remember being struck by my own sin and how I am culpable for the crucifixion. Anyone who takes this and attacks Jews knows neither the Bible nor the Lord. The movie makes it quite clear why this happened. I think that is why so many are upset with it, alleged anti-Semitism notwithstanding. The reality is that most people, especially those of a liberal bent, refuse to face up to their own inherent evil/sin/corruption/whatever you want to call it. The atonement is hated by new age types of all sorts, and facing up to sin is no fun. That is why the Passion is a stunning work of art - it forces one to wrestle with the WHY. Tell someone who doesn't understand the WHY and do it today!

Non-Profit Update

It is always so disturbing, as I so often state, that the kinds of "Christianity" that most of the world sees on alleged Christian TV are the money grubbing word faith teachers like Benny Hinn and ilk, and the lame heresy dished out by Robert Schuller. Multiple greed (the great heavenly ponzi put out by TBN and Daystar) or multiple heresies (Islam and Christianity and other religions are all on a par - Schuller), don't leave the non-believer with many media options. That makes it even more incumbent upon us as Christians to do

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Prayer Requests

- 1) Please continue to pray for my family's salvation. Our son Scott seems to be doing much better so we are very thankful for that. But as always, please keep him in your prayers.
- 2) Please pray for marriages that have been destroyed or damaged by sin, selfishness and cultic activity. Included here are Bruce and Diane, Don and Peggy, Mike and Cheryl, Paul and Sheila, Jeannette and Brad, and many more.
- 3) Please pray for many friends who suffer from chronic sickness, like Sherry, Rebecca, Liz, Julie and others. Our young friend Josh has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. Fourteen months after Terri's initial diagnosis of Lupus (false!) we still do not know what is happening. She has been through so many exams over the last several months. Please continue to pray for her and for the doctors to figure it all out.
- 4) By the time you get this, the American part of the adoption process will be complete and the kids are home for good! If you would like a new prayer card, please let us know. The picture is really great.
- 5) Praise the Lord for all of your help with our giving. Giving for many ministries has been down since 9/11 and so we continue to ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this ministry. We seem to be already down to the level we usually are at the end of the summer. We are so thankful for all of you and pray that we honor you with our effort to serve God's Kingdom. Please consider joining with us in this effort. And pray lots too!!!
- 6) Please continue to pray for those that we are talking too. Pray for Habib, an Egyptian Muslim I have been talking to. Also pray for Amy and Laura, two new age types we spent quite a bit of time with at the psychic fair. Plus many others we have talked to online and in different situations.
- 7) I just passed my third comprehensive exam. This means no more tests! The Dissertation no longer looms, but is upon us. Pray that I don't get lazy in my old age.
- 8) Pray for our summer trip. We are in the business of lining up churches in Nebraska, Missouri and California.
- 10) Our Bible study is going quite well. Pray that we can better minister in that venue.
- 11) Pray for our soldiers at risk across the world. Especially for Matt R., Chris C., Matt C. and others.
- 12) Praise the Lord for Daniel, a Satanist whom we led to Christ a few years ago who is growing rapidly and is excited about the possibility of being called into ministry himself!
- 13) We thank you again for your help and care in so many ways. Pray that Terri and I will mature as Christians, as husband and wife, and as parents. (We will always keep this request going!

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the work of evangelists, spread the Gospel, and disciple those who respond. The enemy may never sleep, but our Lord is always with us.

Major Prayer Request

 I have just been invited to teach and preach in Guam for the month of June. After prayer and discussion Terri and I both agree that this would be a wonderful opportunity to minister in a needy place. Because of the financial situation there, this will be a mission trip and so we need to raise probably around \$2000 to make this happen. Please prayerfully consider whether God would have you help in this matter.

Speaking Schedule



There are numerous other speaking engagements and ministry opportunities in the works. Please be in prayer for all of these.

April 4,11 - Foundations class at Calvary Chapel S. Denver

April 17 - Psychic Fair in Colorado Springs.

April 22-24 - Personal Freedom Outreach Conference, St. Louis, MO.


May 2 - Legacy Calvary Chapel in Westminster, CO.

June - Pacific Island Bible College and several churches in Guam. Also a church in Manila, Philippines. (Still developing)

July - Nebraska, Missouri and California - (still developing)

All of these plans should be finalized soon. So please periodically check the website for further updates and information. Also we have a new prayer request button for those people that we have just talked to, etc.

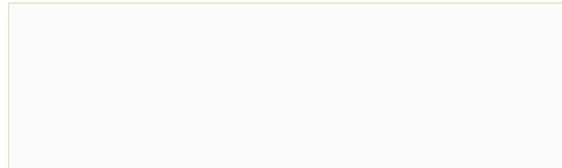
Website Update

 We have included some new papers and talks on the website every few weeks. One of our goals this year is to fill out the index with the files which now clog up my garage, and make them accessible for any who visit the site. We also hope to have many more of my seminars and sermons on the site soon.



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Again please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry this coming year. We won't give you tiny vials of alleged "holy" water, not little bits of cloth or packages of dirt allegedly blessed by the "prophets" you so often see on TV. We won't even promise you that you will get 100% returns on your "seed" gift! Ugh. But we do promise that we will do our best to faithfully fulfill our part of the Great Commission and seek out those with whom we can share the Lord's life changing Gospel. Thanks for your consideration in this.

Address Note:

Address for Ministry Support:
 Haven Ministries
 P.O. Box 460366
 Aurora, CO. 80046-0366

Address for Adoption Fund:
 Hand in Hand International
 Adoptions
 Lynn Klint
 6523 S. Kearney Circle
 Englewood, CO 80111

We are still being blessed by all of you. This year shows much promise for ministry and for our family. Continue to pray that we as a couple, as parents and as ministers of the Gospel grow in obedience and love. We thank our Lord for you and we pray that His blessing and love is abundantly clear in your lives. Remember, Resurrection day is soon and we remember that the Passion is not the end of the story! God's blessing on you all,

Bill and Terri and the kids.

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