

# Haven Newsletter

March 2005

www.havenministry.com

5785 South Lisbon Way, Centennial, CO 80015

(303) 766-3527, Honz1@msn.com

## Reducto Ad Absurdum

**R**educto Ad Absurdum- Reduce to the absurd. Immediately most of you are throwing down the newsletter in terror and running for the cover of softer reading! Please don't be afraid, come back and see a type of argument most have you have used since you were kids, but didn't know the formal name. A Reducto argument merely assumes the conclusion or premises of the other person, compares it to other premises, than sees where the argument goes. For example in witnessing to New Age types of all types, Hindu's, Buddhists, and some others- they all argue that the world is somehow "one", even though we don't normally experience it that way. They usually argue that the world of sense perception is an illusion or "Maya" the dream. This illusion hides or masks the "oneness" of all things. But they are often, at the exact time, activists for all sorts of causes. This contradiction is where the Reducto is applied. A real life illustration can be seen in many conversations I have had with people from Share International, which is a new age group that claims that



Benjamin Crème

Lord Maitraya (Head of the Heavenly Brotherhood) is channeled through a man named Benjamin Crème. Crème claims that Maitraya is waiting to take over the world when the United Nations is ready to give him control, etc, etc. Like most Asian religions, Share Int. claims that the world is illusory, but also says that the world should redistribute the world's goods (in Marxist fashion) to help the poor. I asked a member of the group named Zach why should one worry about the poor if in fact the "perceived" world is merely an illusion? Why worry about the poor if it is all a dream? His first response was to deny that they believed that, but when I showed him from his own tracts at their booth, that this was exactly the teaching of Lord Maitraya, he stammered and responded that while it is an illusion, we should still respond to it.

**A** year ago a group of Hindu's discovered my website and were sending me emails. The most curious one of all was a link to a site about "The Bhagavad Gita and Office Management". The Gita is the most popular book in Hindu circles and inspired Gandhi, Emerson, and others. I asked them how the Gita could be helpful in terms of office management when the whole point of the story is that



The Gita

the world of perception (including office management, politics and all the rest!) does not exist? Some called me names, others responded that the fact the office did not really exist only meant that one should be even more concerned about proper office management! That response leaves me shuddering to this day. The reducto is simple in these cases. If one of your most basic premises (we should have good office management skills) is violated by another of your most basis premises (the world is an illusion) than there is a contradiction in your framework of thinking. This used to be a sign of poor thinking and the need for serious reconsideration, but in some pomo type circles this becomes a sign of deeper and higher "understanding". "Death to Rationality!" is the new war cry of the bohemian left and new age and pomo types have jumped on board.

**A**s usual the sad thing is that this sort of poor thinking is not restricted by our church walls and has come down often through the very educational institutions that were given to protect the church from such silliness. One (now former) professor at Colorado Christian University told me that it was his intention to "dethrone" rationality at the University. The irony of that statement is worth tears if not outrage. He then told me that

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***Reductio Ad Absurdum, cont.***

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he taught his students that there were no moral absolutes and that God made a mistake when he gave the Ten Commandments. But when I asked him if there was ever a situation where force might be morally permissible to save someone's life, he responded (as a committed pacifist) that there is never a situation where force might be justified. Kind of sounds like a moral absolute doesn't it?...The sad thing is that he was the head of the Philosophy department and had a hand in the Bible classes as well. Faith and reason became enemies, and this is not a Biblical position!



A "world of illusion"

**I**n a more serious conversation, I asked a young Hindu once what he thought of the Gita. He responded that he loved the Gita, that it was his favorite book and that all of his family felt the same way. I then asked him if he thought it was wrong to murder someone. The

shocked look on his face and his instant protestations told me all I needed to know about him. "No" he cried. "I would never think of such a thing! " I

asked him then why would it be wrong when his Guru, Lord Krishna, as revealed in the Gita said that it was ok to kill since no ever really died?" His even more

shocked look told me that this was radically different than any approach to the Gita he had ever heard. But it is the central theme of the Gita that the world of perception is unreal, all that is really there is God, and since God never dies, then no individuals ever die. If Gandhi really loved the Gita, then he never would have been an activist. True social concern is not the appropriate response to the message of Maya - total inaction is and this has been the consistent interpretation of the Gurus for thousands of years. If ones position on anything, let alone something as important as the deeper religious questions, is easily destroyed by merely comparing premises one with another - than one needs to rethink. And maybe rethink again. Real Christianity is not afraid of deep thought.

**W**hat is our response? Before I was a Christian I was convinced that Christians were idiots and that one had to turn off one's mind to become a Christian. When

I became a Christian in the middle of my senior year in high school I was blessed to have a youth pastor who gave me Francis Schaeffer and thus turned me completely around on this point. I was stunned to find out that many of the worlds greatest philosophers and scientists had been Christians. I found out that God tells

us to love him with our heart, soul, MIND, and strength. (emphasis added duh!) It is His command that our minds serve him and that we use the gifts he gave us in the service of the Kingdom and in the service of others. Irrationality, poor thinking, blind leaps off a cliff never serve anyone. Godly thought is rational thought. Notice I did not say that all rational thought is godly, but certainly Godly thought is rational. There is

*I asked him then why would it be wrong when his Guru, Lord Krishna, as revealed in the Gita said that it was ok to kill since no ever really died?"*

not a single verse in the Bible that tells us to abandon our mind to serve the Lord. So our response is to study hard and well - to speak the Truth in Love and make straight paths for the feet of those who wander and wonder.

***Non Prophet Update***

**T**he Prophetic role is a serious issue. We are dealing now with some folks who believe that God is speaking through a Channeller to them, and the news is not good. "God" wants the people in the group to divorce their spouses, and come to the "commune". It is like a bad movie that is on a loop and will not go away! We have seen this so many different times and in so many places. It is so sad that it continues to happen. You would think we would learn...but there is the rub-sheep are the dumbest animals on this planet. That is why false prophets on TV, affinity ripoffs in churches and Traveler groups

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## Prayer Requests

- 1) Please pray for my family's salvation. I have had some good chances to talk to them recently and would covet your prayers for them. There has been some movement here, so we are thankful and excited about what is happening.
- 2) Pray for those whose marriages have been damaged by sin and destruction through cults and personal failure. Pray for Bruce and Diane, JJ and Marc, Don and Peggy, Mike and Cheryl, Jeanette and Brad, Michael and Pam and others.
- 3) Pray for our friends with chronic disease problems. As my wife Terri is now part of this request, please include her along with Rebecca, Sherri, Liz, Julie and Josh. Also I seemed to have picked up an auto-immune disease which is attacking my hair, what's left of it anyway. Your prayers are appreciated.
- 4) Pray for our troops at war. We have many young friends who serve our country and need your prayers. Please keep in mind Matt and Chris and the others.
- 5) Praise the Lord for his continual protection and provision. We are so blessed to have so many who take an interest in our ministry. Please pray that the Lord will raise up new supporters and encourage our existing ones to continue their help in this ministry effort. Thanks for the great help at the end of the year. We appreciate everyone and are thankful to represent and serve.
- 6) We have had some wonderful conversations with Mormons, JW's, Muslims, New Agers, Buddhists, Jews, Atheists and many other people in different religions lately. Recently we had some quality time with people from the Church Universal and Triumphant. Please pray that our efforts to share the Gospel will be fruitful and that we will be faithful in this work at all times.
- 7) I am on my third draft of my dissertation proposal. Pray that I get it right one of these times! Keep this one up. It has been busy and I have neglected my studies.
- 8) This has still been the busiest time I have ever been in regards to my speaking schedule. Pray that I will be faithful and be diligent to spend my time wisely with ministry and family concerns.
- 9) Pray for some individuals who are potential new members of Haven Ministry. We always are on the look for others to grab an oar

## Non Prophet Update, cont.

*(Continued from page 2)*

throughout the country have such success at ruining peoples lives, marriages and bank accounts. They hardly have to work-it is often too easy by far. That is why the Scriptures spend so much time telling us to watch out for False Christs, False Teachers, False Gospels, False Brothers, Counterfeit Angels and Ministers and so on. Do a little concordance search and you will see what I mean. But you would hardly know this was an issue at all at most of the larger churches in the country. Some of them, in their desire to be relevant-even invite heretics and false teachers into their pulpits! Schuller, Hybels and others have done this so many times it is hard not to see it as purposeful. The soon to be largest church in the country is pastured by a man, Joel Osteen, who makes a point of saying that he will never say anything that won't encourage and uplift. Ears are being tickled seemingly everywhere you look-but this is nothing new. The Scriptures warn of it and we are called to respond. How will you do so?

## Speaking Schedule

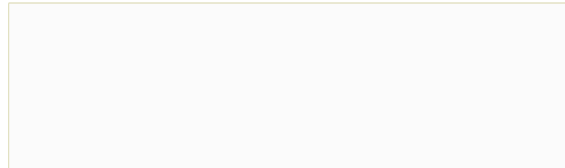


March 14-17 – World Religions Seminar at YWAM, Arvada, CO  
 March 22, 29 – Weekly Bible Study  
 March 21, 28 – World Religions Class at RMBI  
 March 20—World Religions Class at Calvary Chapel S. Denver  
 April 1-3 Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology.  
 Phoenix  
 April 3,10,17,24—World Religions Class at Calvary Chapel S. Denver  
 April 5-12-19-26—Weekly Bible Study  
 April 8—Missions Banquet at Foothills Fellowship Baptist Church, Littleton, CO.  
 April 9—Meeting of the Minds—Evangelistic Dinner—Highlands Ranch.  
 Why the Bible? What about the Others?  
 April 16—Colorado Spring Psychic Fair  
 April 17, 24—Parker Hills Bible Fellowship—Parker, CO—Islam  
 April 21-22—Grace University, Omaha, NE. Teaching several classes.  
 May 1,8—World Religions Class at Calvary Chapel S. Denver  
 May 5-8 Santa Fe Conference on Biblical Discernment, Santa Fe NM.  
 Why Not Burn Witches?  
 May 11-14 Midwest Conference on Cults and Culture - Discerning Truth in Our Time. Brooklyn Park E. Free Church Brooklyn Park, MN – Why Not Burn Witches?, New Age Spirituality  
 May 15 Grace Fellowship, Brooklyn Park, MN – Islam, Postmodernism  
 May 3,10,17,24—Weekly Bible Study  
 May 31 – June 2 – Ministry to Mormons in Independence, MO  
 June 4 – Peoples Fair, Denver, CO

As usual there are many other engagements pending. Don't forget to check the website for further information.

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Bill and Terri Honsberger  
5796 South Lisbon Way,  
Centennial, CO 80015  
(303) 766-3527, Honz1@msn.com  
www.havenministry.com



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### Address Note:

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

**W**e rejoice as we approach the great Resurrection day of the Savior. In the memory of that incredible miracle we are thankful that God has power for whatever small act that we can do. God bless you all and thanks for all that you do.

Bill, Terri and the Zoo!

