

# THE HAVEN NEWSLETTER

**I AM OFTEN AMAZED AT HOW LITTLE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE. CONSIDERING MY OWN BACKGROUND, I SHOULDN'T BE, BUT YET I AM. FOR SO MANY DETRACTORS, THE BIBLE IS FULL OF FAIRY TALES ABOUT HEAVEN AND PEOPLE PLAYING HARPS ON CLOUDS AND THAT SORT OF SILLINESS. IN FACT THE BIBLE RARELY SPEAKS ABOUT HEAVEN, AND EVEN WHEN IT DOES IT DISCLOSES VERY LITTLE INFORMATION. IN CONTRAST WITH THIS THE BIBLE SPENDS THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ITS TIME ON WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS WORLD. SO MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IS FOCUSED ON THE "INVASION" OF AN ALL-MIGHTY CREATOR INTO THE LIFE AND FABRIC OF COUNTRIES, CULTURES AND INDIVIDUALS. THE LORD'S INTRUSION INTO THIS WORLD IS VERY DESTABILIZING - HE TOLD US HOW TO LIVE IN RELATION TO EACH OTHER AND TOWARDS HIM. HE RUDELY INTERRUPTED OUR EVIL AND CALLED US CONSTANTLY TOWARDS HIM THROUGH REPENTANCE. HE CONTINUALLY SHOWED HIS LOVE FOR US BY REACHING OUT TO US, EVEN THOUGH WE WANTED NONE OF HIM. THEN HE REALLY WENT AND DID "IT" - HE SENT JESUS TO DIE FOR OUR SINS. COULDN'T HE HAVE JUST LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE? COULDN'T HE JUST WISH ALL THE BAD STUFF AWAY ? (TO THE CORN FIELD FOR ALL YOU TWILIGHT ZONE FANS!)**

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT THERE IS A POINT TO ALL OF THIS - SO MUCH OF CONTEMPORARY "SPIRITUALITY" IS ALL ABOUT WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN OR HEARD. AS THE NEW AGE WORLD RECYCLED OLD BUDDHIST AND HINDU CHANTS, MANTRAS AND OTHER MYSTICAL PRACTICES OR TOOK PEOPLE INTO OUTER SPACE TO MEET LORD XENU, THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, TRUE TO FORM HERE, ALSO STARTED TO RECYCLE THEIR OWN VERSIONS OF MYSTICAL MADNESS. THROUGH PIED PIPERS LIKE THOMAS MERTON, (WHO WHILE HE PRETENDED TO BE ROMAN CATHOLIC, WAS MUCH MORE DRIVEN BY ZEN AND SUFISM) RICHARD FOSTER AND OTHERS, SPIRITUALITY NOW FOCUSES ON CONTEMPLATION, LABYRINTHS AND CANDLES. WORSHIP BECOMES FOG MACHINES, BANNER WAVING AND MEGA - AMPAGE. MANY WITHIN THE SO CALLED EMERGING CHURCHES DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO BE SUBTLE - PASTORS HAVE BECOME YOGA LEADERS! NOW IT IS ALL ABOUT "EXPLORATION ALONG THE JOURNEY" AND FOR SOME - THE GOAL OF GODLINESS IS NOT ABOUT SANCTIFICATION (BEING MADE HOLY BY THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVERS LIFE)- BUT MORE ABOUT DISCOVERY OF MY TRUE ALREADY- PRESENT GOODNESS. "DIRECT COMMUNION WITH GOD" WHICH WAS THEN FOLLOWED BY ABSORPTION INTO GOD, WHICH THEN LED TO SELF-IDENTIFICATION WITH GOD. OLD TIME BLASPHEMY DRESSED UP IN CHURCH ROBES. THE WORD FAITH CHURCHES ARE ONLY REPEATING AN OLD HERESY.**

**IN MY PAPER ON ADVAITA VEDANTA (NON -DUALISTIC KNOWLEDGE) WHICH I DID SEVERAL YEARS AGO (AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE) I QUOTED NOTED HINDU SCHOLAR ANDREW FORT. HE WAS REFERRING TO THE RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENON OF SOCIAL REFORM WITHIN THE VEDANTIC TRADITIONS, SEEN MOST NOTABLE IN GANDHI. HE POINTED OUT THE NON-VEDIC (HINDU SCRIPTURES) FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL REFORM. THE VEDAS POINT TO THE WORLD AS ILLUSORY (MAYA THE DREAM) AND THEREFORE TO GET INVOLVED IN SOCIAL CONCERNS WAS ONLY**

**ONE OF THE SEEMINGLY LOST PARTS OF THE REFORMATION IS THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS. LUTHER QUOTES PETER (FIRST PETER 2:9) IN NOTING THAT WE DON'T NEED SPECIAL VOCATIONS TO SERVE GOD, WHICH HAD MARKED ROMAN CATHOLICISM FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS. YOU CAN SERVE THE LORD AS A FARMER, SOLDIER, FISHERMAN, OR FOR THAT MATTER A GARDENER, ELECTRICIAN OR COP. ALL VOCATIONS CAN BE HOLY IF ONE SERVES THE LORD IN THEM. IN THIS, REAL SPIRITUALITY IS VERY "EARTHY". NO GETTING LOST IN OTHER UNIVERSES OR SPIRITUAL LEVELS OR STATES OF MIND.**

**CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROBLEM. REAL RELEASE (MOKSHA) CAME THROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE ILLUSORY STATUS OF THE WORLD AND WITHDRAWAL FROM IT, NOT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD AND ITS PROBLEMS. IRONICALLY THIS MESSAGE IS MOST CLEAR IN THE BHAGAVAD GITA (SONG OF THE LORD) WHICH GANDHI REVERED. FORT THEN NOTES HOW GANDHI AND THE REST OF THE SOCIAL REFORMERS HAD ALL GONE TO BRITISH SCHOOLS. I FIND THIS MORE THAN INTERESTING - IF THEIR OWN TRADITION UNDERMINES SOCIAL CONCERNS, AND THEY END SOCIAL REFORMERS ANYWAY, THEN IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THEIR EXPOSURE TO CHRISTIANITY, EVEN IN A FLAWED CONTEXT THROUGH THE ENGLISH COLONIAL PROJECT, HAD MADE AN IMPACT ON THEM. GANDHI LATER WAS KILLED BY A HINDU ACTIVIST WHO RIGHTLY PERCEIVED GANDHI HAD ACTED IN "UNHINDU" WAYS BY UNDERMINING THE CASTE SYSTEM.**

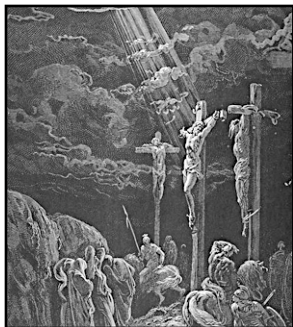
**BUDDHISM HAS THE SAME MINDSET ABOUT MAYA AND BUDDHIST LITERATURE MAKES IT QUITE CLEAR, TO THE EXTENT THAT ANY OF IT IS CLEAR, THAT SOCIAL REFORM AND CONCERN IS A MISTAKE. NIRVANA IS NOT ACHIEVED THROUGH CARING FOR OTHERS - BUT RATHER IN ABANDONING THE CONCERN FOR OTHERS. IT IS THE CONCERN OR ATTACHMENT TO THE THINGS OF/IN THIS WORLD THAT CAUSES OUR SUFFERING. THE NOBLE TRUTHS WALK ONE THROUGH THIS IN SOME DETAIL.**

**IN LIGHT OF THIS, HINDU AND BUDDHIST SPIRITUAL TRADITION IS OVERWHELMINGLY BASED ON MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES THROUGH CHANTING, MINDLESS REPETITION OF WORDS AND PHRASES , BREATHING EXERCISES AND OTHER CONTEMPLATIVE EXPERIENCES. THESE WERE INCORPORATED WITHIN THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF SYRIA AND GREECE WITHIN A CENTURY OF THE TIME OF CHRIST. HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER THEY WERE ADOPTED INTO THE WESTERN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND TODAY THEY ARE GETTING INTRODUCED INTO THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES. MUCH LIKE WHAT HAPPENED IN HINDU AND BUDDHIST CULTURES, THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS "SPIRITUALITY" WILL DIRECTLY CORRESPOND TO A LESSENING OF BIBLICAL SPIRITUAL PRACTICES. LITTLE THINGS LIKE READING GOD'S WORK, FEEDING THE POOR AND SO ON. IT REALLY IS A SIMPLE EQUATION - TO THE EXTENT THAT ONE IS MEDITATING ON ONE'S NAVEL OR WHATEVER - ONE WILL CORRESPONDINGLY NOT BE CONCERNED WITH OTHERS AROUND YOU. DO THE MATH - ITS NOT TOO HARD TO SEE.**

**THIS IS WHY CHRISTMAS AND THE ACCOMPANYING YEARS HEADING TO THE CROSS AND THE RESURRECTION ARE SO CRITICAL TO OUR FAITH. THE LORD CAME HERE. HE LIVED HERE. HE DIED HERE. HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD HERE. IT WAS NOT A DREAM, NOR A VISION, NOR A MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE. IT WAS A REAL PHYSICAL ENCOUNTER BETWEEN CREATOR AND CREATION AND VIRTUALLY EVERY RESPONSE WE ARE CALLED TO IN THE BIBLE IS TIED TO THE CREATOR AND CREATION. WE LOVE GOD AND WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR. AS EXEMPLIFIED THROUGHOUT GOD'S WORD, WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES. WE ARE CALLED TO TAKE CARE OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS. WE ARE CALLED TO FEED THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY AND TAKE CARE OF THE DEFENSELESS. BIBLICAL SPIRITUALITY CAN BE SUMMED UP IN THE APOSTLES WORDS IN FIRST CORINTHIANS 10:31 - WHETHER THEN YOU EAT OR DRINK OR WHATEVER YOU DO - DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD! CONTEMPLATIVE OR MYSTICAL COMMUNION IS NOT REFERENCED ONCE IN THE BIBLE, EXCEPT PERHAPS WHEN JESUS CONDEMNS REPETITIVE CHANTING IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.**

**I AM REMINDED OF A FAMILY CIRCUS CARTOON I READ MANY YEARS AGO. YOUNG BILLY WAS ANNOUNCING TO HIS FRIEND WHAT HE WOULD DO WITH HIS CHRISTMAS MONEY. "I AM BUYING MYSELF A BASEBALL GLOVE AND GETTING MOM A SPIRITUAL BOUQUET OF FLOWERS!" AS THE CHURCHES RUSHES IN WHERE HINDUS AND BUDDHIST HAVE ALREADY TROD, OUR FAITH AND PRACTICE WILL BECOME AS EMPTY AND OTHERWORLDLY AS THEIRS. MAY IT NEVER BE THE CASE WITH US. READ WHAT THE LORD SAYS, AND THEN DO IT. ALL THE SPIRITUALITY THAT ONE WOULD EVER NEED IS FOUND RIGHT THERE.**

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**Christmas led to this - God's purpose and love on display.**

### PRAYER REQUESTS

1) Please continue to pray for Scott. We have seen him lately and he has been quite pleasant to be around. We do love him and pray that the Lord will free him from the childhood issues which can only be forgiven, not relived. Also pray that Jonathan will be under control, especially for Terri. Keep praying for Joe and Gabe at school. Pray for the rest of the kids - that they survive Me!

2) We ask that yall would continually lift up marriages of many who have been destroyed by sin and cults. Some are doing better - Don and Peggy praise the Lord. Others are still struggling so pray for Bruce, Diane, Mike, Cheryl, Brad, Jeannette, Michael, Pam and many others.

3) Pray for those who are chronically ill - such as my dear wife Terri, and our friends Rebekah, Sherri, Liz, Julie, Josh, Sheila, Brent and others. Pray for Pastor Paul Scazzafazza in Sante Fe who has a mysterious ailment that is severely handicapping his ministry.

4) Please continue to pray for our soldiers at war. The Lord is doing some amazing things with the troops - many are coming to Him. Lift them up as often as you can. Please pray particularly for Nick Gibson and others who are there in Iraq right now. In the same vein lift up our police and firefighters for the very same reasons.

5) Keep praying for Christians around the world who live in cultures where they are despised, like China, Pakistan, the Sudan and elsewhere. So many Christian pastors and their families have been martyred and brutalized by the "Religion of Peace" We need to life the third world Church up every day. Check out the Voice of the Martyrs website for specific examples.

6) We have had wonderful ministry opportunities over the past several months. We have had many Conversation and Cuisine dinners and have more to come. One recent outcome of this has been extended meetings with a hard core New Ager named Flint. Pray for the Temple Lot Mormons and Remnant Mormons that Mark and I just talked a few months ago in Independence, MO. The talk with the Scientologist and with a oneness person is still ongoing. As always pray for those we have mentioned in the past - Good ground members Bruce, William and others. JW's like Bruce and Bianca, Mormons all over the place. New agers like Tim, Zach, Denver, Cathy, Fausto, Jason and others.

7) Continue to pray for the staff and interns at Haven Ministry. That the Lord would bless the ministry's efforts and many would come to the Lord through the faithfulness of our people.

### calendar:

Dec 1st. Conversation and Cuisine - Who is God?

Dec 9th. Third Annual Haven Christmas Party. See extended entry for details

January 8-12. RavanCrest in Estes Park - Apologetics Seminar.

Jan 16,23,30 -Home Bible Study at our Place. Starting to wind down in 2 Corinthians.

Jan 22,29. New Religious Movements class at Denver Seminary. (If I get enough students!)

Jan 15,22,29. World Religions Class at Legacy Bible College. (Contact me for class and registration info.

Jan 18,25. World Views Class at Legacy Bible College. Based on the book "Total Truth" by Nancy Pearcy. Again contact me for class and registration info.

Jan 22. Haven Board Meeting

Jan 13,20,27 - Civilian Emergency Response Team training.

Feb 3 - Civilian Emergency Response Team Training.

Feb 6,13,20,27 - Home Bible Study at our place. Working on the book of Joshua.

Classes at Denver Seminary and Legacy Bible College are still ongoing.

Feb 8-10 EMNR national conference in Birmingham,AL. Please go to [www.emnr.org](http://www.emnr.org) for info on this excellent event.

March 19-22 - World Religions Seminar at YWAM in Arvada, CO.

March 17 - Psychic Fair in Denver.

March 15-17 Ligonier Conference in Orlando, FL.

8) Pray for our support situation. Some of you know about our recent mini-crisis. We are way below our average giving and we ask for your prayers and consideration of this issue. We need to raise at least \$1,500 per month on average to get the support levels to where we won't run out again. Please prayerfully consider joining our ministry team and having a part of what we do.

An Update to Honor the Lord! have been asked to go out of the country this upcoming year for the privilege of serving our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine, the Philippines, Guam and Croatia/Serbia. This is all in the Lord's hands and we seek his guidance in the ongoing projects. This mission trip would be to teach at Bible Colleges in the aforementioned countries, for several weeks at a time respectively, particularly on subjects that they need help in and in which I have some good understanding and experience. If this is His will, then we are counting on Him to provide the money to go. Unlike Benny Hinn, I cannot conceive of going to one of these countries and asking them for a single nickel. We will obviously need a lot of extra support to make this happen. And as usual we ask people who are giving to the ministry to not replace their regular giving, but please consider if an extra gift for these trips would be in line. There is a tremendous need for useful information and training on world religions and cults in these countries and it is my hope that you see this need and would consider responding. If you would be willing to help out with this worthy project - please earmark the funds for the trips. And please - yall be praying that the trips will honor God and that I can be a servant who blesses and strengthens the faith of the students who are preparing themselves for ministry someday.

#### MAIL UPDATE:

Please notice our new address and even more importantly, please let us know if you have moved. It is expensive to hunt you and track you down - but we have the dogs and the extra men if we need it!

Just kidding - sort of...? OK from now on I am not kidding!!!

Also if you want to switch from old fashioned mail to email versions of the newsletters - let us know that as well.