

haven

THE HAVEN
NEWSLETTER



December 2007- The One Cult to Rule Them All! Apologies to J.R.R. Tolkien.

Sometimes in this field of ministry one can find oneself comparing various cults and false religions in a hierarchal way. "The Muslims are the biggest problem! No the Mormons are the one we need to concentrate on! No it must certainly be the Jehovah's Witnesses" and so on. While most of this is understandable in the sense that many people are deeply concerned with the cult or group that has affected them personally or professionally the most, I want to take a different tact on this. There is one "cult" that is the oldest and most persistent of them all. It has dragged millions to hell, and runs rampant to this day. This is the cult of the Self! This pervasive mindset can be seen in virtually all of the false religions and cults of the world. You can see it in Adam and Eve's first move away from the Lord. "We'll become gods? Really? Awesome!" (Honsbergerian Translation!) and trace its ugly footprints to the newest metaphysical group or guru. We are told by the Apostle that we have three enemies - the World, the Flesh and the Devil. The world, in the form of false teaching/thinking is what we have dealt with repeatedly in this era. Dealing with the Devil has made a comeback with all of the (sometimes pathetic - like Bob Larson) "exorcists" and alleged spiritual discernment groups. But perhaps missing from our equation on a serious level is a reminder that the Flesh/Self is just as potent as the other more prominent targets. We laugh at Gollum in his incessant "My precious, My precious" until we realize that he is not so different than any of us...The Ring of Power in the Lord of the Rings story, similar to the "Turkish Delight" of C.S. Lewis Narnia tales, is that which we desire more than anything else, and we will have it even though it kills us.

I got a reminder call myself dealing with someone that I know and love greatly. This person was not necessarily joining a cult or had not declared Tom Cruise to be the new Messiah, but the same symptoms were everywhere. She had decided that her faith and everything else of former value to her were not as important as getting what she wanted. It was kind of a twisted inversion of the Pearl of Great Price parable. No matter what the cost - she would get what she wanted. I talked to her over and over again

Which way will you go?



2008

There are only two simple things that we are all called to do: Love the Lord our God and our neighbor as well. Some of those neighbors are very different and very far away. The American retirement ideal is not for the Christian. The Apostle tells us in Hebrews that our rest is in heaven. Until the day he calls us home, let us be faithful serving in every opportunity that the Lord opens for us. Sometimes we seek and find what He would have us do and sometimes we hide and hope it goes away. Which way will you go?

and the facts were irrelevant, reason was abandoned and good sense was not allowed. I have had more success reasoning with Moonies and Mormons - although to be fair to her she was just learning how to abandon godly reason and sense. She had not learned how to lie or deceive to the same extent as most cultists.

Why the decision? Why give up so much to attain that which has virtually no value? The simplest explanation is that left to ourselves we will chase that which we want, even when we know how destructive it can be to us. In some ways this is much like being a drunk or drug addict - something I know sadly too much about. One illustration of this comes to mind with my youngest brother the musician. He is one of the most talented people I have ever been around, but his drug habits through most of his life cost him dearly. He has lost so many gigs (music jobs for those of you not in the know) because he was too stoned to show up or played poorly because of it. Yet his greatest desire (allegedly) was to succeed in the music world. He played with some of the top musicians in different genres in the world. But all of this was constantly undermined by his overwhelming desire to get high. After seeing this go on over and over again and through numerous attempts at rehab and counseling, he has basically cleaned up. I asked him how he could let this all happen in the way that it did. Didn't he know that the drugs were undermining the very thing that he loved? Of course he knew - that is what made it so frustrating to him and to us. He knew - but still chose to destroy the very things that he loved. This is perhaps seen in the scriptures in this way - The Apostle Paul said in Romans 7:19 "For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish". Paul is describing an ongoing war between the flesh and the law of God. That sin would so control him is his grief and frustration. The "war" that he describes is one known to us all. Many pastors and others have lost this war badly - they have destroyed their family and their ministry in order to commit adultery. They knew better than most how this would destroy everything they had worked for, yet they pursued it beyond all reason. The aftermath of the sin hurricane is devastating and yet it happens again and again. Many other pastors and ministers, including this one (!) have fought this fight and by the Lord's grace alone have survived. We have recognized the evil within us, and know that left to ourselves, we will destroy that which we love.

What can one do in light of all this? Paul ends his incredible painting of the struggle with the words "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" When we run from the Lord - we get stupid. We make choices that will do nothing but tear us to shreds. So our solution is not in self-will, nor in self-wisdom (especially since these are the things that got us into trouble in the first place!) but rather in seeking the Father's grace and wisdom. When we search God's word there is wisdom for all that we need and all that we could ever want. When we are weak, the Lord is there to give us strength to follow and obey.

The real Pearl of Great Price parable was given to people who were full of their own strength and righteousness, and saw no need for a savior. But the trap of self-righteousness is perhaps the deadliest one of all. All my real needs obscured by my religious activity. All my sins and rebellion masked by my public performances. This is what makes the Pearl so incredible. The kingdom of Heaven is present wherever the King of Heaven is. This is why Paul's declaration is mine - Thanks to the Lord who can rescue me from my own rebellion and stupidity. I am thankful for this every day - for I am usually rebellious and stupid every day! It is my prayer that my dear one will one day soon say this short declarative prayer as well. I pray for all of you that it is your prayer too. We need our Savior Jesus every day. As we think of Christmas this year - may the enormous gift to our rebellious souls be ever present in our minds. Thanks to our Lord for the incredible gift he gave: the one which truly does keep giving.

The Lord's blessing and Merry Christmas - Maligayang Pasco to Yall!

Uganda Opportunity!

I have been asked to go the Uganda this coming winter and speak around the country concerning the word faith and Benny Hinn heresies. Much like the Philippines, here some of the poorest people in the world are convinced that whatever is on American TV must be good, so give the little they have to support "ministers", who live in a manner the Rolling Stones would be ashamed of! I need to raise about \$3,000 to fund the trip. Lord willing, I will be on TV and radio there, speaking at the University and to Pastors. Please pray about this opportunity and if so moved by the Lord, then earmark the money for this trip.

Prayer Requests

1. Please continue to pray for our family, especially Joey and Scott and now Rose. We thank the Lord that Jonathan is doing better since this summer. We know that the Father loves them and our prayer is that they come back to Him. Gabe is almost done with boot camp and we are looking forward to his graduation. Please keep him and his platoon in your prayers. He has had the opportunity to share the Gospel with many of them.

2. Please continue to pray for the Filipino orphanages and the college we worked at last summer. Pray for the Agape girls and our potential ministry to them.

3. Pray for our extended families salvation and well-being. My stepmom's cousin, Robert McConnell, has a daughter who was kidnapped by her mother and taken to Indonesia. The little girl is now four and the state department holds out little hope for her return. Pray for all my relatives - parents, siblings, cousins etc who really need the Lord's forgiveness.

4. Please pray for many of our friends and others who are seriously struggling with cancer and many other debilitating conditions. Pray for Lorrie in the Philippines, Liz H, Sherry C, Rebecca G, Paul D, Joann V, Joan C, Sheila H, Josh H, Josh G, Glen, Phil, and for some dear friends whose very young children/grandchildren are

January

Jan - 7 - Haven Annual Board Meeting

Jan - 14-18 Apologetics class at Ravenscrest in Estes Park, CO

Jan - 15,22,29- Home Bible Study - The Gospel of Matthew cont.

Jan 21,28 - Legacy Bible College class - Bibliology

Jan 24,31 - Legacy Bible College class - Church History - Luther to Today

February

Feb 4,11,18,25 - Legacy Bible College - Bibliology

Feb 5,12,19,26 - Home Bible Study - The Gospel of Matthew

Feb 7,14,21,28 - Legacy Bible College - Church History

March

Mar - 3,10,17,24,31 - Legacy Bible College - Bibliology

Mar - 4,11,18,25 - Home Bible Study - The Gospel of Matthew

Mar - 6,13,20,27 - Legacy Bible College - Church History

March 6-8 - Evangelical Ministries to New Religions Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Hosted by Midwestern Southern Baptist Seminary.

March 14-16 - Metaphysical fair - Denver Merchandise Mart

Right now we are still waiting on funds for the Uganda trip. There is also now interest in me going to Cameroon and back to the Philippines. If the Lord would have you involved in one or more of these financially, please pray and let us know. Also this is only a skeleton and as always there will be many more speaking and ministry dates. Please check the website for updates.



having a tough time with their health, Reese, JinJae and CJ. We are thankful that Paul D and Joann V are both recovering well from their surgeries! Praise the Lord! Please continue to pray for my lovely wife's ongoing health issues as well.

5. Continue to pray for Gary Oliver and his surviving son.

6. Pray for many whose marriages have been marked by sin and cultic deception. Pray for Bruce, Diane, Cheryl, Mike, Brad, Jeannette, Michael, Pam and many others.

7. Please pray for our friends whose needs are many - Pray for Paul, Sheila, Josh, Aaron, and Dean.

8. Please continue to pray for Lee and Meg. The good news is that they have returned from India. But there is much spiritual confusion in the family.

9. Pray for many that we have witnessed to: Elder Lane and Elder Robuck, the Mormons who recently spent several hours at my house. Also pray for several Mormon neighbors that we have and that Terri has befriended. Numerous other JW's like Bruce and Bianca and other cultists that I have talked to over the years. As well as New Agers like Tim, Zach, Denver, Ian, Fausto, Jason, Anuttama (the head of PR for the Hare Krishna's that I talked to last summer), and so many others. Muslims in different parts of the country like Waheed and witches and on and on. Your prayers are so needed here. It really is a spiritual battle.

10. Pray for our missionaries and interns at Haven.

11. Thanks to our Father for the faithful support from so many of you. We are still in the summer slump mode that so many missions go through. Please continue to pray and support this ministry and others that do the Lord's work. We are short about \$800 per month in our regular support and love your prayers in this area.

Thank You!

The Haven Newsletter

Bill Honsberger
Writer

Shawn Honsberger
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Non-Prophet Update

Sometimes they make it too easy. It isn't enough for John Hagee to ditch his wife for his secretary years ago, but now his theology matches his lifestyle. Recently he has come out of the really bad two covenant theology that he has espoused for years (Jews don't need Jesus - they have their own covenant) but recently preached that Jesus was not the Messiah and never claimed to be. Has he ever read the Gospel of Matthew? The entire framework is designed to be - Jesus as fulfiller of Messianic lineage from the family of Judah, Messianic prophetic fulfiller born in Bethlehem, comes out of Egypt, comes from Nazareth (etc.), is preceded by John the Baptist, also predicted in Isaiah and so on. If the Old Covenant was all that was needed, why does the prophet Jeremiah say six hundred years before Jesus that a new covenant was needed? What was Jesus teaching at the Lord's supper about his blood being the new covenant? Which part of Yeshua ha Meschiah (Jesus the Messiah/Christ) don't you understand? So sad.

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