

## Haven Ministry Newsletter

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### Non-Prophet Update

One group that has made inroads into some Denver Churches and some outside the area is the Marked Men for Christ. Mark and I have had several opportunities to interact with the group and we find the group problematic both theologically and sociologically. The group was founded by men who were involved in the Mankind Project (see Mark's paper on our website), an extreme New Age group that promotes homosexuality and other things. Marked Men does weekend encounters that are virtually similar with the Mankind Project meetings, with a very thin veneer of Christianese language over the exact same types of practices of mind control. It is our recommendation that Churches not allow MMFC to recruit within their churches and by all means discourage their men from attending the weekend retreats. We will soon have a complete report on MMFC on our website.

### Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray for our Scott, who in some ways is doing better, but still is far from the Lord. Sadly our son Joey has chosen to go the same direction and is involved in many destructive behaviors. Please pray that the Lord will bring both of them back to Himself. Jonathan is still very difficult to work with and so we ask yall to pray for Terri and I as we deal with him. The rest of the kids are doing well, but pray anyways as the family is undergoing some serious attacks.
- Please continue to pray for many friends whose marriages have been destroyed by sin and cultic influence. We ask yall to pray for Bruce, Diane, Mike, Cheryl, Brad, Jeannette, Michael, Pam and many others.
- Pray for many who are chronically ill – especially my wife Terri and for friends like Rebecca, Sherri, Liz, Julie, Josh H, Sheila, Josh G and others. Pray for Lorrie from Precious Jewels in the Philippines, who is both sick and has had some serious injuries lately.
- Please continue to pray for our soldiers who are at war. Also pray for our police and firefighters who along with the soldiers put their lives on the line for all of us.
- Keep praying for many Christians in countries where the church is under severe persecution. Many of our family with Gospel for Asia have been assaulted recently and the governments have persecuted many others where they live.
- Please continue to pray for the people we have been witnessing to. Pray for the Mormons in Independence, JWs like Bruce and Bianca, Good Ground members Bruce and William, New Agers like Tim, Zach, Denver, Cathy, Fausto, Ian, Jason and the PR director of the Hara Krishna's whom I spent several hours with this past summer. Pray for the Muslims whom I talked to recently as well.
- In this same vein, I recently heard from the mother of two young people, Lee and Meg whom I witnessed to some nine years ago. They were both involved with some Hindu Guru and were leaving to live in India. The mother told me that they were both walking with the Lord now - Praise the Lord forever!
- Please pray for our staff and interns at Haven Ministry. We have had two missionaries leave for different reasons and we pray that they do well. Pray that as we continue to minister that the Lord will raise up more people committed to the harvest.
- Please continue to pray for our support situation. We thank the Lord for some new commitments, personal and church, but we still need to raise at least \$1,000 per month to avoid the situation of last summer. Please prayerfully consider the need and the ministry and see if the Lord would have you become part of the ministry.
- Please continue to pray for the overseas ministry opportunities. The Ukraine trip is not going to work out at this time

but we are still planning, Lord willing, for the Philippines and Serbia/Moldavia. We need several thousand dollars to pursue these plans. Please consider giving for these trips. If you can help, please earmark the funds for the trips as mentioned.

#### The Perfect Storm

We apologize for the mess of the last newsletter. Our computer program completely messed up the labels. We think that there were hundreds of mistakes. We have had to get back to an older version of the list to salvage the list itself. This may mean we have some old addresses; some people who are not on the list and even those who wanted off the list will still be on it. Please be patient with us and inform us of any changes again. Sorry for the inconvenience.

#### Eat the Poor!

Makes a catchy bumper sticker doesn't it? Perhaps a movie, in that Soylent Green (For those not sure of the reference, the point of Soylent Green was that in an overcrowded world people were resorting to eating recycled food which was made of people!) sort of way. Or more of a Dickens timepiece, you know Bah Humbug and surplus population and all that. Perhaps it could be turned into a song – you know the tune – everybody chime in now “All we are saying is give Green a chance.” Obscene? Disgusting? Perhaps but...

Why would one so garishly offend? Could it be to make a point? And here it is – as the voice of the Lord is muffled by even the church – then it the weakest among us who will suffer. Let me explain.

I have been writing and speaking about the Emerging Church, the emergent/the conversation or by whatever name it wants to be known, for some time now. While notoriously hard to pin down, one point consistently made by the most well known among them, is that the Bible is up in the air, that the meaning is dependent upon interpretation at best, and no interpretation is better than any other. Forget the meaning that the author had in mind – the Author is Dead- and the Reader is born. Known formally as Reader response theory, this view stems from the postmodern contention that one cannot know the meaning intended by a given author and so meaning is found only in the interpretation of the reader, whether individually or corporately. The reader's interpretation rules supreme, and none can object. (As a brief side note here, as many have remarked, once the author is dead and the reader is born, the text soon dies as well – as the Reader just seems to tell their own story – The Birth of the Narcissist reader would perhaps be a better title here.)

The inconsistent point of the EC leaders is that they stress social justice. The new buzzword is “missional”, which means everything and nothing all at the same time. Simply put, most describe it as the need for the church to get out of the pews and into the neighborhoods and live the Christian ethic. What could be wrong with that you say? Nothing if they were not at the same time undercutting the very ethic they claim to serve. Many of the leaders such as Tony Jones, Brian Maclaren, and Doug Pagitt are on record that all of Christian orthodoxy is up for grabs and needs to be rediscussed, rethought and cast aside if not useful in our current situation. If orthodoxy or right teaching/belief is up in the air, then on what basis is orthopraxy (right practice/living) sacrosanct? The same Jesus, who demanded that we take care of the poor, also demanded that one must follow him and him alone to be saved. He told us to take care of the sick, the hungry and thirsty and also that many would go to hell for not believing in him. He railed at those who cheated their parents out of support and yet affirmed that marriage was between a man and a woman and that forever! If the latter clauses are all up in the air then why not the former? Given that like the post moderns, the EC crowd despises all “foundations”, or epistemic basis for knowledge, then how can one cling to the social ethics of the Bible, while dismissing the theological teachings from the same source? One might be tempted to quip here “Why do you call him Lord, if you do not believe what he says?”

Historically it took several decades for the premises of the enlightenment, especially Hume and Kant, to undermine the soon to be Liberal Churches in a systematic way. But the joys of the information/internet age have speeded up the process dramatically. The alleged wisdom of Derrida, Foucault and Rorty have become the new wise ones for the church. An example of this, one of the most revered in the EC is Andrew Burke, sponsor of the Ooze, perhaps the oldest EC website/blog. Burke has renounced the Trinity, the personhood of God and is an ardent Universalist and yet still considered an accepted member of the Conversation! Maclaren is near to universalism and affirms homosexuality and decries the “certainty” he hears from Christian preachers. How can he then be certain that we should be missional? Hence serve the poor, eat the poor – its all just interpretation.

“Whatever” has become the byword of the times. Meant to acknowledge that there are zillions of lifestyles, choices and beliefs about virtually everything, it sums up how the EC is serving the purpose of killing the prophetic voice of the Lord to the church, and then to the world. The Voice that thundered and condemned Israel for its treatment of the widow, the orphan and the stranger in their midst, has been reduced to “Well I mean I don’t think that it would be right, but then I can’t tell you what to do, but I mean we wouldn’t do that, but you have to do what you think best, but oh well whatever” How inspiring! How insipid! How has the voice of God fallen so far? One is reminded of Nietzsche’s line about the death of God – “Who has wiped the sky clean?”. Given that Nietzsche is considered by the post moderns as one of the profound influences of its thinking, it is not a surprise that Nietzsche as the grandfather intoned that since “God is dead” then there is no more absolute good or evil. His most strident admirer Martin Heidegger, considered the father of the movement, was a stone cold Nazi and wrote virtually nothing on ethics. How is it that the grandchildren like Derrida and Foucault are seen as ethical paragons? Is it an accident that all the best-known theorists of postmodernism are communists and hard-core men of the left? Does any of this even matter to the EC?

The strong will always fend for themselves in this fallen world. It is the weak that need the protection of the prophetic voice and that voice is being muted. It is the Bible where the Lord himself tells us how to think and act in regards to the weak. But if the church is lost in the swamp of multiplicity of interpretations and layers of purported meanings, then the Lord’s voice can/will be lost. Those who still have ears to listen, there is only one voice to listen to hear, and it is not found among the incoherence of postmodernism or its “Christian” tag alongs of the EC, but rather it in clear clarion calls of the Scriptures, where the Lord reveals both his nature and his will and calls us to understand and obey.

## Purpose and Doctrinal Statements

[Statement of Faith](#) - [NAE Statement of Faith](#) - [Cambridge Declaration](#)