

THE HAVEN NEWSLETTER

THE CHRISTMAS DILEMMA

Lets get ready to RUMBLE!!! The fight for Jesus is ON! In one corner we have emergent socialists Shaine Claiborne, Tony Campolo, Brian Maclaren, Rob Bell and a host of others for whom Jesus is a community organizer, a social activist, a blesser of all things green or gay. In the other we have suburban church-growth "Jesus Makes My Teeth Straight and My 401K Better" types, like Joel Osteen, Peter Wagner, Rick Warren, Hybels and the like.

How can a fairly simple gospel be so confused? We sense something is missing with Americanized Christmas pageantry and Black Friday sales. What could it be?

A few years ago I stated in the newsletter that if Jesus came to feed the poor – he failed miserably. If he came to heal the sick – he dramatically fell short. Let me add to this: if Jesus came to bless "Truth, Justice and the American Way," then something has gone deathly wrong! If Jesus came to give you a life of comfort and peace here (you know – "Your best life now!") – then something is not only wrong, but twisted in the cruelest possible way. Anyone who thinks that should please go to Smoky Mountain in Manila (Google the images and be ready to cry!), and then tell me Jesus came to bless your Caddy or your portfolio.

I will tell you a little *not* so secret...wait for it...*He came to die*. There I said it. I can't take it back. Sorry to ruin someone's version of Christmas – but I had no choice. From the beginning of Jesus' ministry right up to the Cross itself, Jesus had been telling people that he had come to die. Look at Matthew 16 where the Lord has to verbally slap Peter, who had so grossly misconstrued what it *must* mean for Jesus to be the Messiah. He had come to die! When

Peter tried to correct him, Jesus flatly told that disciple he was now playing the devil's tune. *Oops*. Is it possible that to so misconstrue the reason for Jesus' coming is a dramatic instance of "YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG"?

The answer is obvious if you read the Gospels themselves. How is it that so many in the emergent circus call themselves "followers in the way of Jesus" or "Christ followers," yet choose to twist Jesus into a less disgusting version of Karl Marx? How can the largest church in America, right there in God's country (Texas!), be such an abomination – where sin is never mentioned? How, Joel, how?

He came to die: because WE kill, rape, lie, steal, blaspheme, covet, and hate – meanwhile proudly affirm we have no need for a savior! We are, in fact, "little gods," getting better and smarter every day, having even evolved into "co-creators" making our own reality! Such talk is standard enough at new age fairs, but sadly now Christians don't seem to need a savior either. We do, however, somehow need someone to "organize the food stamp protest" or "finance the new sound system" at the multi-million dollar theaters we call "church."

I have a different reason for the season. Let me tell you a couple of stories:

I met Ken at the Evolve Expo, which was in Denver last month. He had been a successful business and family man and looked that part. Now in his early 40's he had left corporate America to "give something back," working with youths in detention centers and other at-risk kids. Sounds wonderful doesn't it? Except there was a twist. Ken's liberating message to the young people was that the people who had abused them

sexually and physically, the people who had harmed them so grotesquely, had really done nothing wrong. The liberation would come through understanding that all of us are divine, that we all must learn through these horrible experiences; therefore we had chosen for these things to happen to us. The Penn State scandal (for those of you who don't know – please check out the story on the web or somewhere else – truly a nightmare) had just broken the week before, so I asked Ken whether we should punish that coach for raping those little boys. Since we are all god I asked Ken whether or not Adolf Hitler did a bad thing when he slaughtered millions of people. This is a standard conversation with new agers that I have had literally hundreds of times. Usually the new agers get mad because I take **their** wonderful liberating message and in a few seconds show how horrific it is. Was that just God killing God at Dachau? Ken's response, however, was not standard. He didn't back up an inch. He saw no problem because "We are all gods! We're simply being schooled."

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How does this relate to Christmas? God loves Ken and sent Jesus to die for Ken's sins. Don't think so?

Is Ken too far gone? Remember all you Jonah fan club members – didn't the Lord upbraid Jonah and remind him that He will have mercy on a people who don't know their left hand from their right? For sure Ken is a moral nightmare, twistedly thinking he's helping young people by teaching them nothing is wrong. Yes, Ken needs a savior desperately. Jesus came at Christmas for millions just like him.

Let me tell you another story:

I met a young man named Daniel around fifteen years ago. He had been raised a nominal Christian but had become an angry Satanist in his teens. He was a mess: sex, drugs, rebellion, and all the rest. His parents had found out about Haven and asked if I would meet with him. That started a relationship that lasted up until last year. Most of our discussions at first would basically spin around his attempting to shock me with some profane idea or some horrible thing he had done. (Remember I used to work with Middle schoolers and worked in a jail for three years – I can handle anything!) Then over time we discussed the difference between what he believed Satan wanted for him and what the Lord Jesus, by contrast, wanted for him. You could see the light come on at some point, when the Lord graciously grabbed Daniel's heart and mind and he believed the gospel. Everything started to change. His

relationship with his parents dramatically turned around; he quit with the drugs-and-sex time bombs, to be replaced by an amazing joy. For the next few years our talks became so encouraging to hear and see how the Lord had changed him inside out. You see, Jesus had come for Daniel. Jesus had come for all the Daniels who need forgiveness for their sins. What a blessing to have had a tiny role in passing along a message that so many years ago had changed me. What an unbelievable kindness that the Lord would use someone like me, also a stoned drunken angry kid once, and now am blessed to be in ministry to the Ken's and Daniels of this world.

Daniel went home to be with his heavenly Father last year. There was a mistake with a prescription drug. He went to sleep and woke up with his Savior Jesus. I grieve because it was a privilege to be part of his story and I miss him. I grieve for his family who sorely miss him even now and I ask that you pray for them. I grieve because our churches seem to have forgotten why the baby Jesus came at Christmas.

He came to die.

Coming Events

Jan 9-13 - Cult Apologetics at Ravencrest in Estes Park, CO.

Jan 16 - Haven Board Meeting

Jan 17-May 4 - Ethics, Intro to Phil, Comparative Religions at Community College of Aurora.

Jan 23 - The Book of Acts and Philosophy of Religion at Horizon College Denver.

Jan 17,24,31 - Home Bible Study - The Book of Genesis

Feb 6,13,20,27 - Classes at HCD

Feb - Tu/Thu/Fri - Classes at CCA

Feb 7,14,21,28 - Home Bible Study - The Book of Genesis

Mar 5,12,19 - Classes at HCD

Mar - Classes at CCA

Mar 6,13,20,27 - Home Bible Study - The Book of Genesis

Mar 16-18 - Psychic Fair at Denver Merchandise Mart.

Check back on our web event page as many different events will be happening but are not locked in yet as

Prayer Requests

We thank the Lord for the gracious giving that He has provided us through so many of you. We thank Him that even though there were some tight times this year He provided through His gracious people. Thanks to the Lord for so many of you who help us reach out to lost people. Please continue to pray if the Lord would have you help this mission. We still believe people need the Gospel and we trust you believe that as well. Please consider supporting Terri and I as well as our other staff.

- 1) We thank the Lord for so many good things that are happening. We still have pleasant interactions with the ministry in the Philippines. We have been helping some of the students with their dentist bill and we are truly looking forward to going back in the summer of 2013. Please pray that the Lord will provide for that trip.
- 2) Please pray for our family situation. Terri's health has been literally a pain as her kidney stones hit her again recently. Pray that she remains strong in dealing with Jonathan and I thank the Lord that she puts up with me! Pray that she has extra help for that monstrous task! Our son Scott is doing well with the Lord and is hoping that his time in the Army will increase soon as he is changing units to a much more active one. Shawn and Kelly are deeply involved with their church in Albuquerque and we thank the Lord for that. Andy is now working at a factory, playing and singing hymns and keeping us on our toes. Joe is not doing well (again!) and we pray that the Lord will protect him. Please pray for Gabe and Shaina and some health issues there. They are following the Lord and we thank Him again for that. Pray for Rose, CeCe and Tyler as Tyler continues to be an absentee husband and father; a very frustrating situation but Rose is holding up well in her faith and we rejoice in that. Pray for Johanna and Kevin as there is a lot going on there that is not good, but we see some hopeful signs. Always pray for the situation with Jonathan who is in another new school and still a major problem at home. We have learned that our family seems to be the target for serious spiritual warfare - as soon as ministry is going so well - one of the kids goes haywire! Please uphold all of them and us in your prayers.
- 3) Please pray for some friends and co-workers who have serious health issues. Pray for many who have pressing chronic issues such as Sherri C, Liz H, Sheila H, Gordon L, Rebecca G, Joanna V, Charlene E, Angie H, Lem and Marge M, and others.
- 4) Pray for the miracle of repentance and reconciliation in the marriages or now ex-marriages of Mike and Julie and others. Some of the others we have asked you to pray for have ended in divorce and it is heartbreaking. Pray for Rachel and Karina and for the repentance of the former spouses. Pray for healing in their families and for restoration of their walks in Christ.
- 5) Pray for the salvation for the Muslims, Gnostics, Mormons, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, as well as our homosexual transvestite nun friend, some Japanese Buddhists I talked to recently at the psychic fair (especially Robert Fukada) and a lady from Eckankar and many others wiccans, new agers and others. Pray for Eran - a Sephardic orthodox Jew who came over to the house again recently. Pray for the members of the Remnant Fellowship cult that we met with last year. Pray for Mustafa - an Imam that I talked to in Kansas City. Pray for Frank and Amber from the Goddess fair. Also pray for Sarah who has joined a nasty little cult up by Ft. Collins. Also pray for the Mormon leaders and chaplains we talked to in Kansas City. We also talked to the leader of the Hare Krishnan temple in KC. We pray the Holy Spirit grabs their hearts and minds and brings them into the Kingdom. Please continue to pray for all these people and also I have been meeting with two sets of Mormon missionaries this past fall and for the new ager Kevin that I talked to recently at the Evolve Expo.
- 6) Pray for the Haven staff. Pray for their support raising efforts. Pray for their ministry and for all of us as we go to different events. Pray for the Lord's grace and mercy to mark everything that we do.
- 7) Please pray for our many friends and children who are serving with our military. The reality of militant Islam is that we are now in what many think is another chapter of a very old war. Pray for soldiers like Carlos and Matt and Josh and Nick. Pray for John H who is currently in Iraq. Pray for sailors like Josh N. Pray for Tabitha Leyba and Ian who are in Afghanistan. Pray for our friend Chung who is in Afghanistan. Pray for Marines like our son Gabe, and Donovan and Matt. We thank the Lord for all of them and so many others who serve us all.
- 8) We are thankful to the Lord for a person who told us recently that they had included us in their will/estate. Others might prayerfully consider giving to Haven and to other ministries in this way. It saves money on the estate taxes and the money goes to Kingdom related ministries as opposed to bloated bureaucracies!

Non - Prophet Section - so many targets - so little space...

Once again we are reminded of our seeming inability to humble ourselves and admit that God is God and we are not. The winner again is Harold Camping who now has falsely predicted the return of Jesus three times in his "career," including of course two false predictions this year alone. As he has now "retired" without repenting of his arrogance, I pray that the millions of dollars he has taken are of some comfort - but I doubt it. The Lord has a way of dealing with his ilk - in this life or the next. Pray for his followers that they finally realize in whom they have trusted, and turn to the true Jesus instead!

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FROM:

HAVEN MINISTRIES

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December 2011

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