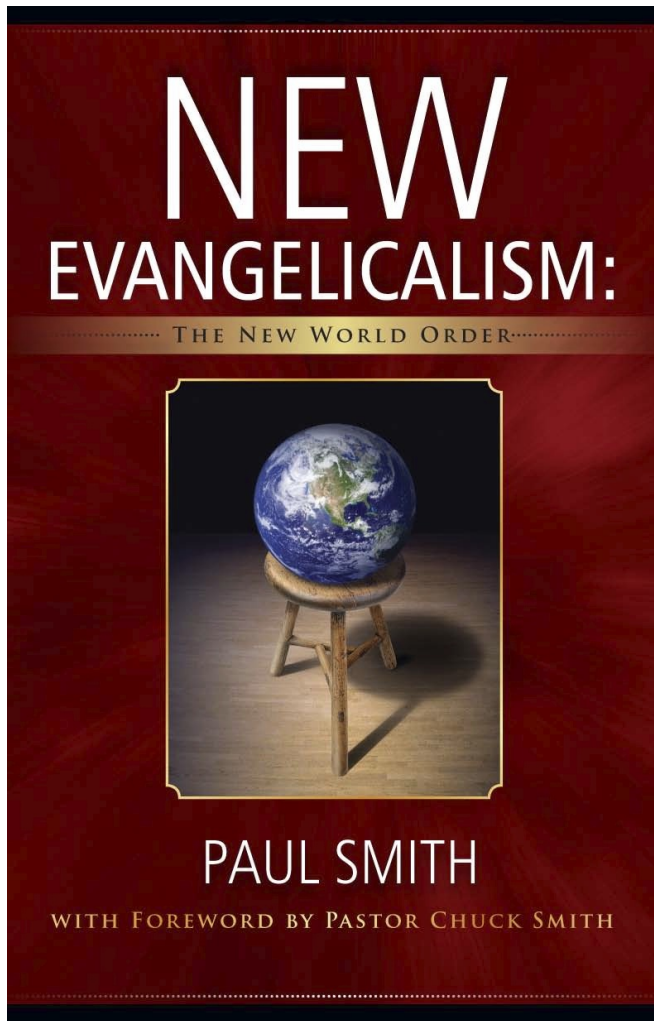

DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

“...how is it that ye do not discern this time?” Luke 12:56

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A Book Review

By Sarah H. Leslie

"In a nutshell, Harold Lindsell found himself walking on eggs. The seminary was growing. Daniel Fuller, the only heir to the founder, was on the faculty. Young Fuller was on leave and abroad studying corrupted theology that denigrated the view of biblical inerrancy. The acting seminary president, Edward Carnell, was unable to act due to health. Negative tension was growing between Ockenga, the founding president, and Charles Fuller, founder of the seminary. Charles Fuller, of course, loved his son and grandchildren. Charles Fuller was

conflicted over whom he could lean on for advice. And, as he was growing old, his health and energy were significantly decreasing.

"So by 1960, irreparable changes were in the making at Fuller Seminary, just thirteen years after its beginning. Early that year Harold Lindsell and Charles Fuller exchanged correspondence concerning the thrust and outreach of the seminary. . . ." (p. 80)

One day, several years after I co-authored the monograph *The Pied Pipers of Purpose*,^[1] I received a telephone call from Pastor Paul Smith. He was quite fascinated by our factual information about Peter Drucker, the business guru who developed the 3-legged stool paradigm for societal transformation. He told me how Peter Drucker was actively wooing megachurch leaders during the 1980s to persuade them to join up with his giant social experiment. The story of Peter Drucker's pervasive influence is told in Paul Smith's new book *NEW EVANGELICALISM: The New World Order* (Calvary Publishing, 2011). The Foreword is written by Pastor Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel, Paul's brother.

This book is an historical account of the deep compromises of the past several generations of evangelical leaders. These concessions have left the current church in a state of "crisis and confusion." Pastor Paul traces "the seminal seeds that corrupted not only the major denominational churches, but specifically the conservative believing folks in these churches" (Introduction). This is a book about the history of the postmodern movement within evangelicaldom, and especially the roles that Fuller Theological Seminary and Peter Drucker played in shaping the leaders that would guide the

Emerging (Emergent) Church Movement. Pastor Paul observed firsthand how

“The rise and development of the Emerging (Emergent) Church Movement became both a significant collaborator and delivery system for the major paradigm shift that has affected and infiltrated the mindset of many evangelical pastors. The shift includes the new evangelical notion that the church must become postmodern in order to reach secular America. The shift includes a definitive move away from belief in absolute truth. The shift, sadly but most importantly, includes the accommodating and compromising retreat by many from the belief that the Bible is without error.” (Introduction)

While writing this book, Pastor Paul gained access to rare old files and letters documenting deep compromises certain evangelical leaders made with liberalism and the steps they took to abandon the doctrine of biblical inerrancy. He traces the rise of the modern neoevangelical movement and its downward slide into the neo-orthodoxy of Karl Barth. He observes that Harold Ockenga, in his desire to free himself from the term “fundamentalist” with its disparaging connotations, “envisioned a new generation of non-militant conservatives who were pursuing intellectualism, non-judgmentalism, and appeasement; applying the gospel to the sociological, political, and economic areas.” (p. 88) This “appeasement” opened the door to the vast modern-day “social gospel.” Neoevangelicalism “differed from fundamentalism in its repudiation of separatism and its determination to engage itself in the theological dialogue of the day.”[2] In hindsight we now know just how far down the slippery slope the leaders were willing to take this “repudiation of separatism” creed in order to become acceptable and accommodating to the world.

Fuller Theological Seminary played a key role in abandoning the doctrine of biblical inerrancy, and this opened the floodgates for every sort of new doctrine and practice. Pastor Paul observes:

“Fuller Seminary’s compromise and accommodation were the twigs and brushwood that became the nest for aberrant practice, where workers are prepared for the twenty-first century postmodern Emerging church.” (p. 102)

Pastor Paul documents the step-by-step accommodation with the world that happened at Fuller, including the rise of the social gospel, Mysticism, Feminism, the Emergent Church and Church Growth movements, the new missiology, and the influence of C. Peter Wagner. Pastor Paul sets forth the thesis that in the context of this fertile Fuller seedbed of postmodernism, Peter Drucker’s ideas found sustenance, grew strong and began to bear a terrible fruit. Pastor Paul explains that

“Drucker was intrigued with the megachurch from a specifically sociological and economic point of view. Any megachurch would do just fine; as long as it was pragmatically meeting the felt needs of people. The spiritual beliefs of a particular megachurch were really not a concern for Drucker. So it made sense to him that the ambiance of the megachurch should be, above all, seeker friendly. After all, his personal pursuit of spirituality was fulfilled in Kierkegaard and Eastern mysticism.

“The downhill ride on the slippery slope picked up more influential people in America and evolved into a most ominous unbiblical Emerging movement....” (p. 123)

The chief strength of *New Evangelicalism: The New World Order* is that Paul Smith accurately cites Peter Drucker as the father of both the Emerging and also the megachurch purpose-driven movements. Bob Buford's Leadership Network hatched both of these agendas

which dovetail seamlessly into the postmodern Emergent paradigm shift, and Pastor Smith delivers a factual account of this with historical precision. His own personal experience with Drucker and Buford is divulged on page 149:

“Chuck Fromm arranged for me to spend three days at the Hilton Hotel in Ontario, California in the mid-eighties, where Peter Drucker addressed a group of church leaders and seminary professors. Bob Buford sponsored the meeting. At that meeting Buford explained to us that leadership communities are small groups of innovators and thought leaders pursuing a common ministry outcome, sharing ideas, developing strategy, and benchmarking measurements. Leadership Network discovered Emerging ministry initiatives and carefully invites strategic leaders into these communities of peers who are seeking to improve their personal and organizational performance in the focused outcome areas.”

Pastor Paul explained to me that in this time period the Calvary Chapel movement had over 50 megachurches of over 1000 members, so it was a prime target for the machinations of Peter Drucker and Bob Buford. But, to their credit, the Calvary leadership refused these woings. There would be a heavy price to pay in the future, however. Those who compromised with the Druckerian vision of the church as an "optimum sociological community" that could transform "the nature of man and society" (pp. 127-8) were rewarded with success and the accolades of men.

Rick Warren, for instance, went on to purpose-driven fame, driven by Drucker who mentored him, and coddled at Fuller Seminary where he received his DMin under the tutelage of C. Peter Wagner, head of the New Apostolic Reformation.[3] After building his purpose-driven empire, Warren began to work on the mountains for world governance, his Global P.E.A.C.E. Plan scheme, which would begin to create

an international purpose-driven new world order. Rick Warren's high level cavorting with high level globalists is the fascinating topic of Chapter 11, "New Evangelicals in the New World Order." In this chapter Pastor Paul describes how "Emergent church leaders are focused on unity and a worldwide oneness reflected in the growing union between Eastern and Western cultures and thinking." (p. 168)

This book is highly recommended.[4] It is very easy to read and digest. It is one of those rare books that can comfortably be given to pastors. It is based on solid research and there is a clear Gospel message. It is written with the heart of a pastor, who cries out a warning to believers in these last days to not be deceived.

This book is available through Discernment Ministries.

The Truth:

"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."
(Mark 13:22)

"These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you." (1 John 2:26)

Endnotes:

1. Lynn D. Leslie, Sarah H. Leslie, Susan J. Conway. *The Pied Pipers of Purpose: Part 1: Human Capital Systems and Church Performance* (Conscience Press, 2004). Available [HERE](#).
2. John Ashbrook, *New Neutralism II*, citing Dr. Ockenga's foreword to Dr. Harold Lindsell's book *The Battle for the Bible* published in 1976, p.
3. Available [HERE](#).
3. <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2006/01/reinvention-of-rick-warren.html> "The Reinvention of Rick Warren, 1-9-06, see <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/addendumNAR.html>
4. I have an obvious bias in recommending this book. A good deal of our Discernment Research Group's original research on Peter Drucker is included in this manuscript.

This book report was originally published on the Herescope blog, April 26, 2011, at <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2011/04/new-evangelicalism-new-world-order.html>

A BIBLE SCHOOL!

Two Reports on Exciting Developments in Zimbabwe

Jewel Grewe's Report:

In the late 1970's my late husband, Travers van der Merwe was a pastor in Zimbabwe. It was just before Independence and there were many challenges ahead. The work with which we were affiliated was the Assemblies of God which was in fellowship with the Assemblies of God of South Africa. Before we had left Zimbabwe a new constitution for the church had already been drawn up in the knowledge that soon the work would be standing on it's own. Travers had worked closely with the leaders and, in fact, had been the first Chairman elected by the Fellowship. At that time excitement was in the air and a vision for a Bible School came into being. As we searched for a location for the school, we were driven around Bulawayo by a close friend and fellow minister, Geoffrey Mkwanzazi.

Bible School training was all done through the Theological College of South Africa and the students would have to travel to South Africa for Bible Training. Eventually that school closed down and one of the students asked for permission to bring the school to Zimbabwe and it became the Theological College of Southern Africa and operated as a correspondence school. Unfortunately, they have never had the funds to even register the college.

But the school has been kept alive—only by the Grace of God! The school operates out of four centers in the country so that it is available to the local churches. Because of the extreme hardship conditions over the last few years it has barely managed to struggle through, but faith and confidence in the Lord have kept the church and school vibrant and hungry for the Word.

When my husband David and I visited Zimbabwe two and a half years ago, we found

conditions in the country unspeakable. There was absolutely no food on the shelves. Cholera was spreading as a result of unsanitary water conditions and the inflation rate was the worst ever experienced by any country. Yet, we found the church was giving glory and testimony to the Lord with great fervency!

On our return to Zimbabwe this year, we found that the living conditions have improved. Unemployment is very high and the people still experience great hardship. Yet, there is still an incredible hunger and fervor for the things of the Lord. We consider it a privilege to be here among these people for the greater part of this year.

Pastor Anton Bosch, who is on the Board of Discernment Ministries, for four years has had a burden for a school in Africa in order to train young pastors and evangelists. He wanted to reach them before they got into churches and become ensnared in the money-making cycle of the false prosperity gospel racket that runs rampant across the continent of Africa.

After his last trip to West Africa in August, Anton felt it was a waste of time to go where the pastors didn't seem to even be interested in hearing the Truth of the Gospel message. At that time he was sure that the thing that was needed was to establish a school. Then he learned that the school he had attended in South Africa forty years ago was the very same school that had been moved from South Africa back to Zimbabwe. (The College had started in Zimbabwe, moved to South Africa and now has returned to Zimbabwe.)

After hearing from Anton, I approached those involved with the Bible School in Zimbabwe about Anton's vision for a school and the possibility of our becoming involved. They were very excited and Anton began communicating with the leadership.

Malcolm Harris, a pastor from South Africa picked Anton up in Johannesburg and together they drove to Zimbabwe and spent a very busy week. First they met with the education leadership from the various centers, then the Executive of the

Assemblies of God and then all the pastors who were present in Gweru for the Easter Convention. The response was overwhelming! God's timing is so remarkable. I was deeply touched when the leader had everyone stand who remembered Travers (30 years ago) and a little over a third of the pastors stood.



Anton Bosch (left) with Malcolm Harris at "tea"

We drove back from Gweru and the students had come in from outlying areas ready for a full day of teaching. Anton and Malcolm took turns throughout the day. The two men left the next day to return to their homes. I went into the office this week and found the Africans very excited. They told me they had decided to wind up their present syllabus in six weeks and are ready to start with a new curriculum.

We know that God is working and all who are involved right now want to be faithful and sensitive to His Leading. Please pray with us that this will not only become a supply of well-trained leaders for Zimbabwe but for all of Africa. To this end, the men have changed the name of the school to Theological College of Southern Africa. There are many needs and challenges, but our confidence is in the Lord.

We certainly do not want to take over the school. It should be run, owned and managed by the local church. But we will act as a support to them. We hope to help them with establishing a solid curriculum and infrastructure and help to

raise funds.

The plan is for local pastors to do the day-to-day teaching, supplemented by folk from outside in the form of concentrated courses or intensives. In these concentrated courses, for example, there would be 6 to 8 sessions a day for a week. In that way in (50-60 hours) an entire book (verse-by-verse) or some other major topic would be covered.

The vision is to get others from the U.S. and from South Africa to come to Zimbabwe and do likewise. In that way the students will get excellent teaching.



Malcolm Harris (right) preaching and teaching

Anton Bosch's Report:

Before leaving for Africa I wrote to my newsletter list. I explained how the Lord had opened the opportunity for us to explore the possibility of getting involved with a Bible school in Zimbabwe called the Theological College of Southern Africa. It seemed that the best time to visit Zimbabwe was over the Easter weekend when the Assemblies of God (AoG) in Zimbabwe would hold their Easter Convention at Gweru.

So, I set out from Los Angeles early on Monday morning and arrived in Johannesburg (South Africa) on Tuesday night. The next morning Malcolm Harris picked me up in his car

after he had driven 1200 km (745 miles) from the Cape. We arrived at the Zimbabwe border seven hours and 540 km (335 miles) later, only to discover that we did not have all the documents to cross the border. We had no choice but return to Johannesburg and set out the next day again. This time we crossed successfully and finally arrived at Bulawayo on Thursday afternoon.

In Bulawayo we renewed fellowship with David and Jewel Grewe who had been our liaison with the AoG in Zimbabwe. On Friday we drove the two hours to Gweru where we began a series of meetings with the various parties involved with the College.

First came a meeting with the board who oversees the college to see if we had sufficient basis for cooperation. At this meeting it became evident that we shared much in common and that there was a great need for what we had to offer. After this we had to meet with the Executive of the Fellowship and then with all the pastors in order to share our vision and to get their blessing on the project. At every step we were aware that the Lord was in this and not a single negative from either side hampered the progress of the discussions. More meetings with the leadership and teachers of the school followed where we hammered out a plan of action.



Many attended the conference

During the meetings with the teachers it became abundantly clear that the task was much

bigger than we had anticipated. They are currently using another school's materials which are not suitable for their needs and situation. The whole curriculum will have to be re-designed. Not only do we have to redesign the curriculum, but we have to produce all the study guides and materials for the various courses as students in Zimbabwe do not have access to theological books or other materials.

This is a tremendous task, yet it provides us with an enormous opportunity to get the school on a doctrinally sound foundation. But as a result, we also realized that once we complete the design and writing, we will have the material to launch sister schools in the USA, South Africa and elsewhere. I am very excited by these prospects.

Because of the challenges, we have come up with a multi-media method of teaching in the form of printed study guides, MP3 lectures, discipling by local pastors and intensives. The intensives will be in the form of concentrated lectures for short periods by qualified teachers from South Africa and the USA. We anticipate that it will take about 2 years to complete all the material. However, we plan to have about six-months of courses completed and to start running the new curriculum in January, 2012. After that it will be a race to stay ahead of the students, producing new courses, as they study the completed modules.

While our vision is to maintain as high an academic standard as possible, our ultimate goal is to equip people for ministry—as opposed to training theologians. The emphasis will therefore be on teaching people God's Word and the skills they need to minister to the lost as well as to the churches. Our emphasis will also be on teaching skills for life-long learning, rather than just a few facts.

The needs are huge but we know the Lord will provide everything we need to do His will. The necessities are for finances to purchase books, and equipment and pay staff; time, energy and wisdom to produce the teaching materials; and willing and skilled teachers from within and without Zimbabwe.

I am absolutely convinced that the Lord has uniquely positioned and prepared each of those involved, especially Malcolm, Jewel and myself for this task. Many things, which we cannot share here, have just fallen into place miraculously. This leaves me with absolutely no doubt that this is the Lord's doing.

After all the discussions and meetings Malcolm and I were privileged to minister in the final session of the conference. For me, hearing that huge crowd singing that simple song "Africa Back to God" was extremely moving – I was instantly taken back to the conferences in Witbank where I had last heard that song thirty years ago. Symbolically, the Lord was taking all of us back to the old paths.



Jewel Grewe addressing the conference

From the conference we returned to Bulawayo where about 30 students had gathered from across the country to be taught a (very) short course on Hermeneutics. We were scheduled to teach for two hours but ended up teaching for almost seven! This will give you an idea of the hunger of these folk for sound teaching.

From there we returned to Johannesburg and our homes. I had covered 24,600 miles (40,000 km) by air and 1,900 miles (3,000 km) by road in ten days.

During our stay we saw and heard first-hand evidence of false teachers making inroads into

Zimbabwe. I believe we have a very brief open window to establish a beachhead of Truth before the error begins to flood into this country—a country which has been isolated by the war, political struggles and economic woes for the past almost 40 years. Please pray with, and for, us that we may find grace to complete this enormous, and glorious task the Lord has set before us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To watch Anton preaching see:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zj4pRogApQ>.

View "Africa Back to God" at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUu49Dhaadc>.

If you would like to contribute to this work, checks can be made to the "International Fellowship of Christian Believers" (IFCB) and mailed to 9070 Sunland Blvd, Sun Valley, CA, 91352. Designate "SATC" in the memo line. IFCB is a 501(c)3.

International Fellowship of Christian Believers is a fellowship of Christian leaders and churches who are not aligned with any denomination. Members reside in many different countries in both the developed and developing worlds. Members share a common commitment to the Scriptures, the centrality of Jesus Christ and integrity amongst leaders. While IFCB does not exert any control over its members, members hold themselves mutually accountable to one another. Mission trips to West Africa and Zimbabwe take place under the auspices of IFCB and are partly funded by IFCB. Malcolm Harris, Jewel Grewe and Anton Bosch all serve on the board of IFCB.

PRODUCTS PAGE

Our products webpage:

<http://home.etcable.net/hestervanboven/index.htm>

now has a Speakers Bureau listed. See

http://home.etcable.net/hestervanboven/speakers_bureau.htm.

Pastor Larry DeBruyn of the Discernment Research Group is recently retired and now scheduling speaking engagements.