
THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

Vol. 1 No. 2

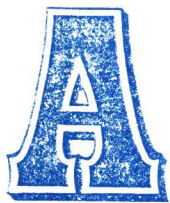
Holding faith and a good conscience... 1 Tim. 1:19

February 1995

CULTURE WARS!

How Will Outcome-Based Education Affect Home and Christian Schools?

PERVERSIITY IN DIVERSITY: Infusing Gay Rights in Des Moines, Iowa



A is for Aaron
with wonderful
rod,

Who proved to the heathen that
he was of God. Exod. 8:19.



PLUS:

- ◆ The "Giggle" Revival
- ◆ Jim Crow in the Schools
- ◆ NEWTonian Morality
- ◆ FernGully Reinvents Christmas

THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

Vol. 1 No. 2

February 1995

Publisher
Lynn D. Leslie

*Associate
Publisher/Editor*
Sarah H. Leslie

Art Director
C. A. Leslie

Research Consultant
Marla Quenzer

Columnists
Berit Kjos
Dr. Dennis Cuddy

Contributors
Cynthia Weatherly
Ed Tarkowski
Dr. Michael Bauman
Marla Quenzer
Jan Mickelson
Judith Danford Tank

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Contents

Departments

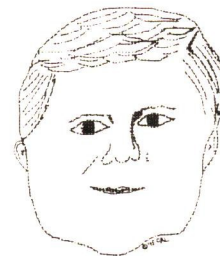
- 4 **From the Publishers**
Welcome to our 2nd edition! This issue we cover some interesting aspects of the escalating culture wars .
- 4 **Letter to the Editor**
One pastor raises objections to a book review and article in the last issue.
- 6 **Quintessential Quotes**
Meaty quotes, including a surprisingly relevant 18th century essay!
- 45 **Classifieds**

Features

- 9 **How Will Outcome-Based Education Affect Home and Christian Schools**
Marla Quenzer & Sarah Leslie combine their expertise to demonstrate how education reform could potentially encroach upon our freedom of private education.

Columns

- 21 **Herescope**
The Laughing Phenomena
A new "giggle" revival is sweeping the church in America and abroad. Is it a move of God, or is it something else? Part 1 of Ed Tarkowski's penetrating analysis.



NEWTONian Morality
See page 40

No student would be able to leave high school without a certificate.
See p. 9

Cover: *Our Darlings' ABC Book*, circa 1903

Vol. 1 No. 2 © 1995 *The Christian Conscience*

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- 27 **Counter to the Culture**
Jim Crow in the Schools
 How should Christians respond to the culture wars? Not by apathy or indifference says Dr. Michael Bauman.
- 29 **The Emperors Closet**
The Myths of Privatization
 The big "buzz" word in Washington these days is "privatization". Cynthia Weatherly points out some of the pitfalls.
- 31 **Conscience Clause**
"Just Love One Another"
 Should Christians love one another and experience unity at the expense of truth? What do the Scriptures say? Read Ed Tarkowski's thoughtful message.
- 38 **Berit Kjos**
The Celestine Prophecy
 The hottest New Age book to hit the store shelves this decade promotes pagan spirituality and global harmony according to expert writer Berit Kjos.
- 40 **D.L. Cuddy**
NEWTonian Politics and Morality
 The shift of power in Washington is to the right, right? Not necessarily, says political analyst Dr. Dennis Cuddy.

Special

- 34 **Perversity In Diversity**
Jan Mickelson
 The Des Moines, Iowa, school district recently issued a proposal to infuse teaching homosexuality throughout the curriculum. Radio talk show host, Jan Mickelson, helped to blow the whistle. His analysis cuts to the core of the issue. Is this a new national agenda of the gay lobby?

Reviews

- 42 **Book**
 Judith Danford Tank reviews *Culture Wars* by James Davison Hunter, the best book around to define the issues, she says.
- 44 **Movie**
FernGully is a video, children's book and curriculum. Berit Kjos examines how it replaces the story of Christmas with a new (old) pagan story.

Policies of sexual liberation tend to make centralized, oppressive government more likely.

See p. 34.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired and only infallible, authoritative, inerrant word of God; the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21)

We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that Jesus Christ is God and that He became man, without sin, for the purpose of giving His own life as a payment for the sins of those who would be saved (1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Pet. 3:9, Gen. 1:1, Matt. 28:19, John 3:17-18; 10:30; 10:37-38, Romans 5:10). There is no other name given among men whereby we can be saved. (Acts 4:12)

We believe in the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth (Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:23, Luke 1:35), in His sinless life (Heb. 4:15; 7:26), in His miracles (John 2:11), in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross (1 Cor. 15:3, Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14 Heb. 2:9; 9:12), in His bodily resurrection (John 11:25, 1 Cor. 15:4), in His ascension to the right hand of God the Father (Mark 16:19), and in His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Rev. 19:11-16).

We believe that man is sinful by nature (Romans 3:23) and that the Holy Spirit regenerates and indwells the Christian, enabling the believer to live a Godly life. (Acts 1:8, 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20, Eph. 4:30; 5:18, Titus 3:5-7)

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: They who are saved to eternal life in the presence of God and the lost to eternal damnation. (John 5:28-29)

We believe in the creation of man by the direct act of God. (Gen. 1:26-28, Gen 5:1-2)

We believe that the family is the first God-given institution established in the Garden of Eden. God gives parents stewardship and primary authority over their children. (Deut. 6:4-9, Psalm 127:3-5)

We believe that the ministry of the local church is to be a called-out, separated people, belonging to the Lord; that the church is designed to glorify God (Eph. 3:21), to edify its members (Eph. 4:11-12), to be purified by the Lord (Eph. 5:25-27), to provide Godly associations (1 Cor. 5:4,7), to evangelize the world (Matt. 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-18, Acts 1:8), and to retard corruption in the world (Matt. 5:13, Eph. 5:11); and that it meets for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and providing for the needy as outlined in Acts 2:42-47.

We believe that government is not responsible for the education or welfare of our families or our children. It is the responsibility of government to reward good and punish evil judiciously. (Romans 13:1-4) †

FROM THE PUBLISHERS

WELCOME!

Welcome to the second edition of *The Christian Conscience*. If you have never seen this publication before, you're in for a treat. Each month we will cover the tough issues from an in-depth perspective—issues that are impacting our culture and the church today. You will find our perspective to be different, refreshing, and sometimes controversial.

The name *Christian Conscience* comes from our stance. Where there is no room to compromise, we will hold the hard line. We are separatists, but not isolationists. You won't agree with everything you read in our pages, but you will come away challenged with a fresh perspective.

In case you missed the first issue, we covered the dangers of compromise in education reform, the politically correct new national history standards, the controversial aspects of the Promise Keepers ministry, and the home health visitors concept.

The Christian Conscience quickly learned about one of the major intramural fights of this century. Because of our favorable review of Riplinger's book, *New Age Bible Versions*, we got reader feedback about a firestorm of controversy over various Bible versions swirling around the seminaries and theological enclaves of churchianity. It is not the intention of this magazine to become entangled in this type of intellectual/theological battle, although you may find us debunking some sacred cows occasionally. We do believe that the Christian laity is perfectly equipped to discern things that fall outside the bounds of traditional Christianity. (2 Tim. 3:16)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

In this issue we cover some pertinent aspects of the current culture wars. Marla Quenzer and Sarah Leslie examine how the education reform movement could impact home and Christian schools. Berit Kjos reviews the hottest new New Age book: *The Celestine Prophecy*. Dennis Cuddy takes an intriguing look at Newt Gingrich. And you'll read about the gay rights agenda—could what happened in Des Moines enter your community?

HERESCOPE Read about the latest rage that is hitting our nation with great force—the “giggle revival”—one of the most divisive and controversial movements of our time.

EMPEROR'S CLOSET Read about the hidden dangers of privatization, a hot item on the new Congressional agenda.

COUNTER to the CULTURE offers a refreshing point of view on the culture wars in our country and challenges people to engage in the great debates of our times.

CONSCIENCE CLAUSE takes a new look at loving one another from a biblical perspective. ☩

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear CC:

It was a delight to speak with you this morning and sense your deep commitment to Christ and His truth. I enjoyed much of the content of “Christian Conscience”; however, I have profound concerns concerning the ideological and reactionary entrapments your magazine could be ensnared with. I make these suggestions as a committed biblical scholar, theologian, historian and, even more importantly, a pastor living among the precious sheep God has entrusted to me.

Regarding the perfidious work of G.A. Riplinger and William Grady, I can only issue the strongest condemnation of their conclusions concerning the superiority of the KJV and the “New Age” associations of modern translations. Neither the review nor the books themselves address the critical issues of “lower criticism”, i.e. textual analysis which all scholars, regardless of theological persuasion, are concerned with. Westcott & Hort were part of a larger, positive world of scholarship which has been of immeasurable help to the Church by reinforcing the accurate transmission of ancient MSS. Riplinger assumes that Westcott & Hort's personal flirtations with the occult automatically disqualifies them from scholastic accuracy. This is the scholastic equivalent of repudiating Sabin or Salk's work on polio vaccine because someone discovered unsavory personal habits! Your chart is biased, English-based and anachronistic. Please consult Dr. William MacDonald or Dr. Gordon Fee or a host of other conservative scholars regarding the NIV. Translation is a dynamic process; with every new discovery we come closer to the inerrant, inspired autographs, not further away!

The article on Promise Keepers is an unfair treatment on a Christian movement which has changed the lives of scores of personal friends and thousands in the USA. Hicks' works have never been part of any discussion I have ever had. I agree with the concerns regarding Hicks' model; however this book is not the heart of a godly movement calling men to be servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The works on OBE, U.S. History, and health care are excellent. Please continue to voice these concerns with accuracy and compassion for those trapped by such ideological strongholds. (2 Cor. 10:1-5)

Again, keep up the good work. My family and I join you in prayer and practiced action to see truth clearly and cohesively presented.

Pastor Charles E. Self, BA, MA, MA, PhD
Keizer, OR

Fabulous Fasting Fridays

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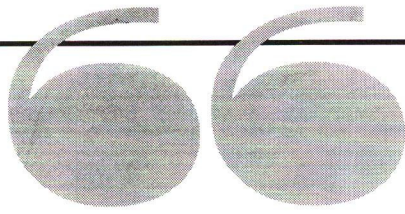
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Let no man deceive you with vain words... Eph 5:6

NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

When I think of the 25 million babies aborted in this country and all the lost people who are going to hell, I don't understand why multitudes of Christians are laughing. Why are millions of Jews weeping and millions of hellbound, disillusioned sinners crying themselves to sleep while charismatics are laughing? When the revival comes, the joy will be because of repentance and because of the ingathering of the last harvest of lost souls.

DAVID WILKERSON COMMENTING ON THE "GIGGLE REVIVAL" IN HIS NEWSLETTER, 12-19-94

THE HISTORY OF PHONICS

For more than 3500 years, since the Phoenicians utilized the alphabet to expand commerce and trade with their neighbors, learning an alphabetic language has always been accomplished by teaching an individual the sounds of the written symbols we call

letters. From the ancient Hebrews to the present, phonics has been taught in order to make the written language more accessible. Phonics was not taught for its own sake, but for the sake of learning to read with accuracy, comprehension, fluency, and enjoyment. That's it. Back then we didn't have lengthy debates about empowerment of teachers, or multicultural differences, or what the economic status of an individual happened to be. Children were taught to read, often before they entered school. Almost everyone who had attended school for any reasonable length of time could read.

ROBERT W. SWEET COMMENTARY, "WHO IS THE ANTI-PHONICS MOVEMENT?" NATIONAL RIGHT TO READ REPORT, NOV./DEC. 1994, P. 7.

COMMON GROUND

So desperate to save liberal Superintendents' jobs, they (AASA) have formulated what appears to be a sincere national "Task

Force to Find Common Ground", with Christian/conservative parents and public schools. This peace initiative could bring a dialogue we have tried to get for nearly twelve years. We met on August 22, 1994 and are meeting again on November 14, 1994 in Washington, D.C. with the U.S. Department of Education, and twenty-five other major school players, searching for "common ground... To assure our CEE entry into all school districts, we have organized a new entity called, the "National Center for Reconciliation and Reform." I met with officials of the University of Northern Colorado, in Greeley, October 31, 1994, to negotiate free housing for the center. Our own CEE partner, Dr. Arnold Burron, will serve as director. Dr. Bill Spady will go with Arni or I, and we will present a reconciliation process between parents and schools by presenting two Models for education... My first presentation with Harvard's Dr. Bill Spady will be at the Colorado Association

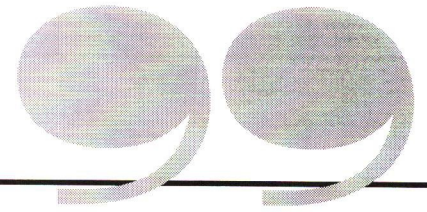
Religion the Only Basis of Society

1. Religion is a social concern; for it operates powerfully on society, contributing in various ways to its stability and prosperity. Religion is not merely a private affair; the community is deeply interested in its diffusion; for it is the best support of the virtues and principles on which the social order rests. Pure and undefiled religion is, to do good; and it follows, very plainly, that if God be the Author and Friend of society, then, the recognition of him must enforce all social duty, and enlightened piety must give its whole strength to public order.

2. Few men suspect, perhaps no man comprehends, the extent of the support given by religion to every virtue. No man, perhaps, is aware, how much our moral and social sentiments are fed from this fountain; how powerless conscience would become without the belief of a God; how palsied would be human benevolence, were there not the sense of a higher benevolence to quicken and sustain it; how suddenly the whole social fabric would quake, and with what a fearful crash it would sink into hopeless ruin, were the ideas of a Supreme Being of accountableness and of a future life to be utterly erased from every mind.

3. And, let men thoroughly believe that they are the work and sport of chance; that no superior intelligence concerns itself with human affairs; that all their improvements perish forever at death; that the weak have no guardian, and the injured no avenger; that there is no recompense for sacrifices to uprightness and the public good; that an oath is unheard in heaven; that secret crimes have no witness but the perpetrator; that human existence has no purpose, and human virtue no unfailing

Quotes



of School Boards at Colorado Springs, on December 5, 1994.

DR. ROBERT SIMONDS, PRESIDENT OF CITIZENS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, WRITING TO "THE PRESIDENT'S INNER-CIRCLE OF FRIENDS", NOVEMBER, 1994.

MICHIGAN MIRACLES

VISION: We, the Michigan State Board of Education, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, do earnestly desire to secure these blessings undiminished for our children. A blessing of freedom is to reaffirm an important truth. Religion, morality, and knowledge re necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, so therefore schools and the means of education all forever be encouraged. Good government entrusts citizens to conduct a great experiment in freedom to seek excellence in providing a quality education for their own families and other children in their communities.

PHILOSOPHY: We, the Michigan State Board of Education, believe that to teach a child created by God is a noble calling; that throughout life, parents are a child's first teachers with the primary right and responsibility for their child's education. A quality education is rooted in character and academic excellence. It seeks to help a child develop to his or her fullest potential in heart, mind and body. It encourages a child always and everywhere to seek truth, to know what is good, to develop a disciplined mind and a wise, kind and discerning heart and be a self responsible citizen who leads a full and good life as a productive and contributing member of a free society.

PORTION OF A STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE NEWLY ELECTED MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 1-19-95.

THEN: KEEP THE STANDARDS

Last April... President Bush and Education Secretary Lamar Alexander set for the their "America 2000" strategy. Prominent

among its elements are "world class standards" for student achievement, "American Achievement Tests" to monitor progress and the voluntary use of test results by colleges and employers... Clear standards can be the centerpiece of radical change.

CHESTER E. FINN, WALL STREET JOURNAL, 3-23-92.

NOW: KEEP THE DATABANK

It's time—past time—to "send education home," in Mr. Alexander's phrase. The schools cannot be fixed in Washington. They are the proper work of states, localities, teachers and parents...

What should remain in Washington? Not a lot: statistics; perhaps a bit of research; the assessment of student performance at the international, national and state levels...

CHESTER E. FINN, ARCHITECT OF GOALS 2000, COMMENTING IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "A PRIMER FOR EDUCATION REFORM," 1-13-95.

friend; that this brief life is every thing to us, and death is total, everlasting extinction; once let them thoroughly abandon religion, and who can conceive or describe the extent of the desolation which would follow?

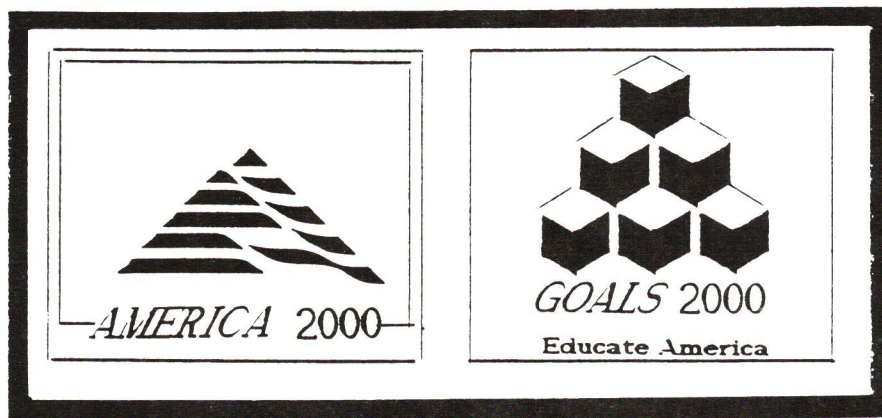
4. We hope, perhaps that human laws and natural sympathy would hold society together. As reasonably might we believe, that were the sun quenched in the heavens, *our* torches would illuminate, and *our* fires quicken and fertilize the creation. What is there in human nature to awaken respect and tenderness, if man is the unprotected insect of a day? And what is he more, if atheism be true?

5. Erase all thought and fear of God from a community, and selfishness and sensuality would absorb the whole man. Appetite, knowing no restraint, and suffering, having no solace or hope, would trample in scorn on the restraints of human laws. Virtue, duty, principle, would be mocked and spurned as unmeaning sounds. A sordid self-interest would supplant every feeling; and man would become, in fact, what the theory in atheism declares him to be,—*a companion for brutes.* †

William Ellery Channing (b. 1780, d. 1842) an eminent divine and orator, was born at Newport, R.I. He graduated from Harvard with the highest honors in 1798, and, in 1803, he was made pastor of the Federal Street Church, Boston, with which he maintained his connection until his death. Towards the close of his life, being much enfeebled, he withdrew almost entirely from his pastoral duties, and devoted himself to literature. Dr. Channing's writings are published in six volumes, and are mainly devoted to theology.

From an original McGuffey's Fifth Eclectic Reader, Revised Edition, Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co., Cincinnati, 1879, p. 284-86.

Research Manual



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HOW WILL OUTCOME-BASED EDUCATION AFFECT HOME AND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS?

By Marla Quenzer and Sarah Leslie

The education reform agenda in the United States isn't just for public school children. It could easily be applied to home educators and Christian schools.

Have you ever played the game "Pin the Tail on the Donkey"? In order to play this game you must be blindfolded. Then someone spins you around. In this dizzy condition you must try to pin the tail on the proper part of the donkey's anatomy. The public has been somewhat blindfolded and "spun around" by the media in regard to Outcome-Based Education (OBE). And OBE is tough to "pin down". Exactly what is OBE? It can be found in federal bills H.R. 6 and S. 1150, and is sometimes referred to as America 2000 or Goals 2000. The plan for educational reform in America is based upon OBE. OBE has now become a generic term to describe the education reform method, or process, which runs the education reform machine.

This article will explain and illustrate some potential areas of concern for home and Christian educators as education restructuring gets underway. Many of the plans for reform are implemented voluntarily at present, but planners envision full participation in the future. We challenge the reader to research the issues for themselves. To assist in this process we have included extensive footnoting and explain how to obtain documentation.

Parents are charged in the Bible to be God's appointed stewards for their children. Psalm

127:3 says *Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.* It is the responsibility of parents before God to *train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it* (Proverbs 22:6). The state has no biblical authority to raise children.

THE "TRANSFORMATION" OF EDUCATION

OBE is recognizable by three major shifts away from traditional education:

1. The role of the school. The school is becoming the new parent, the steward of the child. There is a marked shift from home school to school-home, i.e. the school replacing many of the traditional roles of the home. Educators are calling this new school the "hub" of the community¹ where seamless social services are offered to the children,² and if parents refuse those services they are deemed to be at risk.³

2. Educational mechanisms. This is the logical next step as the state assumes parenting duties. There is a decisive shift from focusing on the objective to the subjective—from facts to feelings. Students' worldviews will be transformed by teaching new, government endorsed, feelings, opinions, attitudes and beliefs. This is the **content** of OBE, which has been the focus of many grassroots battles in recent years. The **process** of OBE is equally objectionable, but less understood. It is based upon behavior modification techniques. Testing, measuring, and scoring these feelings is based on a reward and penalties system, which means that children

There is a decisive shift from focusing on the objective to the subjective—from facts to feelings.

"My family will have no more than two children."
—Simplicity Survey

could be penalized for holding a biblical worldview. Another word for this is indoctrination.

3. Legal Mechanisms. Education is moving from freedom to bondage. In April 1994, on the day before April Fools Day, appropriately, President Clinton signed into law Goals 2000, a restrictive new federal mandate for "transformation"—a code word for education reform. This bill, and other federal and state legislation, including some court orders, lay the legal foundation for education reform. In the background private and quasi-governmental organizations are promoting and propelling OBE to the forefront.

Goals 2000 is the current Democratic version of the earlier Republican effort called America 2000. (See box, page 11) Goals 2000 sets forth eight national goals or standards. Under this legislation, new politically correct testing will change the measure of success for all learners. Goals 2000 is a top-down-control design from our Federal Government, yet it is being presented as locally driven, unique to the needs and expectations of the parents in each community.

How will this affect home or Christian schools? At issue here is definition. If children are taught at home, for example, is the home school a public school? *According to the America 2000 booklet, the definition of public school should be broadened to include any school that serves the public and is held accountable by a public authority.*⁴ [emphasis ours] Which schools are excluded? None, because modern government sees itself as the steward of every child. The mechanism to ensure this will be Outcome-Based Education.

WHAT IS OUTCOME-BASED EDUCATION?

OBE is a four-step process. First, children may take a pre-test toward the exit outcomes. This pre-test has a predetermined, desired scoring response or rubric. Step number two is the thematic teaching unit, i.e., curriculum. Teachers in OBE schools are designated as facilitators. Despite bland denials, teachers in reality must teach to the test to ensure student success and obtain the desired rewards, or to avoid the penalties.⁵ Step three is a post-test, which can be the same or different from the pre-test. After the

thematic teaching unit, the post test measures the retention of cognitive information as well as the updated state of the child or learners attitudes, values, and beliefs. Step four is remediation. Those who do not achieve the desired state and national outcomes are remediated by going back through steps two, three, and four again as many times as necessary.

Outcome-Based Education Loop

1. Pre-test
2. Thematic
3. Post-test
4. Remediation

OBE is recognizable by this 4-step process. A local superintendent, the director of the state department of education or governor may say, "Oh, we're not doing OBE. We aren't doing that. Everybody knows that." But if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it is a duck!

A vivid example of this 4-step process can be seen in a "Simplicity Survey" administered to a 1992 Sophomore English class in Riceville, Iowa, as part of a unit on Thoreau called "The Thoreau Project." The instructions state:

Add up all your responses. The closer your total is to 75, the more **committed** you are to the principles of voluntary simplicity. Following this unit, your teacher may ask you to **retake** this survey in order **to see if the unit changes your commitment.** [emphasis ours]

This pre- and post-test formula records the change in the beliefs and behaviors of the students. What beliefs are being altered? Several sample questions from the survey reveal the politically correct nature of the desired attitudinal and behavioral change:

My family will have no more than two children.

I and/or my family will own only one automobile.

I and/or my family will own no more than three sets of clothes and three pairs of shoes per person.

My house will have no more than three bedrooms and one bath, and be less than 1,500 square feet in size.

The New Standards Project was set up in 1992 with a \$2.5 million grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts to fund a national examination system. This examination will be "used as the basis of entry to jobs or further education..."⁶ This sets the stage for a national exam based on OBE.

Our proposal is fundamentally different. We for an examination which sets a high standard of mastery for **all** students, and permits them to take the exam as often as they like until they pass it. Some components of the exams might be optional, but those that are not must be passed at least at the criterion level and the criterion level would be the **same for everyone**.⁷ [emphasis ours]

Therefore, success for all is possible, given enough time. The process does not have a defined duration, as opposed to traditional K-12 schooling. Faster learners are assigned to slower students as mentors. Ultimately, the goal is a 90 percent graduation rate, but some students could stay in school for a very long time.

And how about those brighter students? What happens to the traditional competitive process of selecting and educating those students who are clearly gifted? Why should these students have to become teachers of slower students (peer teachers), rather than progressing further themselves? The answer is that the floor becomes the ceiling when the criterion level is the same for everyone! This is the new definition of "success."

Is outcome-based education for all learners, even the Christian and home schooler? Accord-

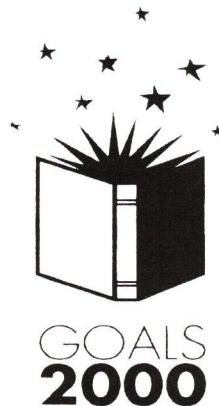
ing to another federal entity, the National Education Goals Panel, any system designed to assess progress toward the National Goals

must take into account those **students who do not attend** public elementary and secondary schools... It simply does not make sense to exclude such schools and programs, and the children and youth who attend them, from our measure of progress. In keeping with the spirit of the voluntary student record system that we have described, we hope that independent and other private schools and adult education providers will choose to participate.⁸ [emphasis ours]

This National Goal Panel recommendation is for an all-inclusive educational system, top-down, with measures of progress toward federally prescribed national standards, somehow locally derived. All learners will willingly participate in this package labeled "choice". There really isn't any choice. It is a bait and switch. Taking government money inevitably leads to government controls. *The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is the servant to the lender.* (Proverbs 22:7) Remember the old adage, "He who pays the piper calls the tune."

Who set these outcomes and the goals? The national goals concept was first embraced in the 1989 Education Summit convened by former President George Bush. This National Governors Association meeting was chaired by Lamar Alexander (who was appointed by Bush to head the U.S. Department of Education, and who is responsible for launching America 2000) and vice-chaired by Arkansas Governor, Bill Clinton. The executive director of the National Education Goals Panel, Wilmer S. Cody, wrote

The floor becomes the ceiling when the criterion level is the same for everyone.



DON'T BE FOOLED! Bush's America 2000 = Clinton's Goals 2000

"Local control has been the most durable myth... of educational governance in the United States."

—ASCD

in a memorandum to his colleagues in August, 1992:

As you know, the Goals Panel's charge is to decide on the indicators, both at the national level and the state level, used in measuring progress toward these goals.⁹

This is top-down control.

Despite bright public assurances of local control of educational curriculum, goals, and assessments, a darker side exists. A 1994 yearbook from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) entitled *The Governance of Curriculum* states "indeed, local control has been, and continues to be, **the most durable myth**, or operating principle, of educational governance in the United States."¹⁰ [emphasis ours] ASCD, an international organization with over 100,000 members which publishes *Educational Leadership* magazine, is admitting that local control is a myth. Yet, education reform advocates use local control language to hook in the public to their federal plans. While local districts may be able to vary the content and style to some degree, the process is still the same. The final product, measured in terms of student outcomes, will be uniformly required.

Bolstering the federal control over local education are eight new federal mandates. The Goals 2000 Educate America Act codifies the education of every child in America through these eight national Goals. How will this affect Christian and home educators?

GOALS 2000: THE EIGHT NATIONAL GOALS.

1. All children ready to learn. Because the goals are driven by the exit outcomes of OBE, they are inextricably linked. Who is going to define readiness? How will readiness be ascertained and evaluated? How will this be applied to home educated children who may be late bloomers or slow learners? Does this mean that your child will be scrutinized by a government official? (See goal 7)

2. 90 percent graduation rate. Modern methods include lifelong learning, remediation through the four-step OBE process, watering down the curriculum, and lowering the test scoring. Note that some have referred to children who are taught at home as dropouts or truants.¹¹ The flack over the recent national

history standards is evidence that the new graduation requirements are steeped in political correctness, a global worldview. Children will be required to learn about McCarthyism, but Albert Einstein is not mentioned.¹² High school diplomas (called Certificates of Mastery under the new system) will mean that the student has mastered the new "outcomes". Do Christian and home school parents want their children mastering these new outcomes, some of which will likely conflict with fundamental Christian beliefs?

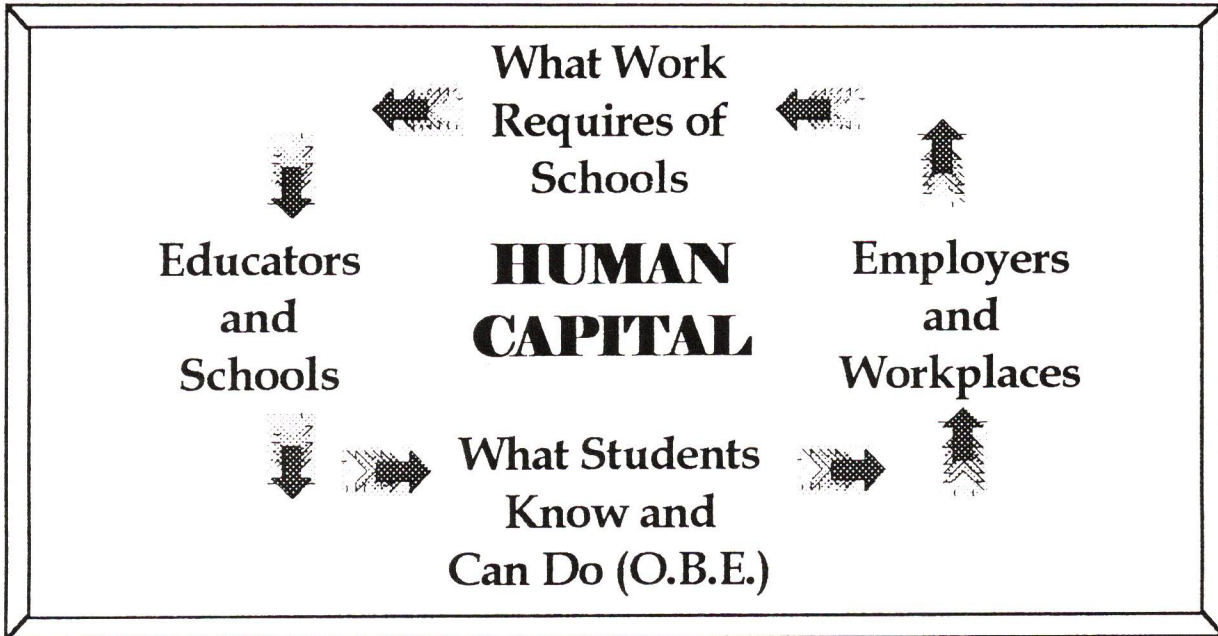
3. All children competent in core subjects. By what measure and by which world view? These new frameworks of core subjects are politically correct. Further, children will be given "authentic" assessments to measure the desired outcomes. Authentic assessments are tests that evaluate a student's behavior. Such as, can students demonstrate that they know how to access reproductive health care services in their local community?¹³ One leading educator recommends a new global curriculum:

The long-term goal of a universal or world core curriculum is to assure peaceful and cooperative existence among human species on this planet. To accomplish this goal, the curriculum elements originally proposed by United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Robert Muller provide a useful model.¹⁴

Robert Muller is a well-known New Age leader whose world core curriculum is full of occult and esoteric teachings. Is this the model that sets the standard for the new national core curriculum? If so, Christian parents will not want their children learning the new core curriculum. *And who shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. but whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.* (Matt. 18:5,6)

4. First in the world in math and science. This means subscribing to "world class" standards, which are actually international education goals.¹⁵ "The model science and mathematics reform project focuses on teachers as the means of achieving **profound and enduring systemic change** in science and mathematics educa-

Learning a Living “Loop” (Supply and Demand)



tion.¹⁶ [emphasis ours] What is this change? It isn't a return to the basics. There is a profound shift away from cognition or thinking (such as the multiplication tables) towards dependence upon technology (pushing buttons on computers and calculators). Students will learn "workplace" skills¹⁷ without understanding the underlying mathematical principles, thus ensuring that future technology advancement will significantly be impaired. The shopkeeper math that enabled 4000 years of western civilization to progress to this point is now deemed obsolete.¹⁸ Handicapping future generations with mere technological skills does not sound like the kind of "first in the world" math and science that took America to the moon in the Sputnik generation.¹⁹

5. **Every adult literate and able to compete in the work force.** "Literacy" now has a number of definitions and no longer simply means being able to read.²⁰ This goal brings adults in the system. OBE outcomes are linked to adult workforce skills. There is growing evidence that all adults will be required to undergo this re-educat-

tion and re-training. First, there was a Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) report.²¹ This report was put out by the Secretary of Education? No. The Secretary of Labor. This established criteria, job descriptions, for the workforce. Then, there was a report called *America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages?* which Hillary Clinton and Ira Magaziner (of health care reform fame) had a hand in. This document links school performance to job performance through a series of examinations. The final graduation exam is referred to as the Certificate of Initial Mastery.²² These assessments occur at regularly scheduled intervals throughout one's childhood that parallel the administration of the NAEP test. In other words, one must master OBE in order to graduate and be employable. There's a phrase in capitalist theory—human capital—that some people apply to children.²³ This offensive term reduces the value of man to that of a cog in the wheel in the workforce of the future.

6. **Safe, disciplined, drug-free schools.** Doesn't that sound good? The strategy of the

"The curriculum elements originally proposed by... Robert Muller provide a useful model."

—Gordon Cawelti.

Teachers will have to demonstrate that they know how to refer students to the local Planned Parenthood

education reform agenda has been twofold: **change** and **ambiguity**. Ambiguous terminology and euphemisms are basic propaganda tools. What does "safe" mean? How could there be any question? Creating a safe place could refer to setting up "a state program... to protect the rights of gay and lesbian students in public schools from the classroom to the locker room... This one-day workshop sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education's **Safe School Program** for Gay and Lesbian Students is part of the first comprehensive state program in the country charged with creating safe environments for homosexual students in the public schools."²⁴ [emphasis ours] Private and home school parents must remember that their tax dollars fund this type of public program.

7. Parents as teachers. Parents As Teachers (PAT) is law in every state now because of Goals 2000. What could be wrong with Parents as Teachers? The PAT program provides an at-risk list to their social workers. These workers are trained to go into the homes and do surveillance of families with young children zero to age three. The PAT worker will then identify problems with compliance, such as: "Inability of parent to cope with inappropriate child behavior." Isn't that ambiguous and unclear, as well as broad and unfair? What right do these people have to be the judge of another's childraising and parenting skills? This is an invasion of privacy. "At risk" indicator number 7 says, "Overindulgence, undue spoiling on part of the parent." How is this measured and who decides? Indicator number 12, "Other", allows inclusion of everyone—all could be at-risk.²⁵

8. Teacher preparation programs. An example of this is seen in a new textbook, *Civics for Democracy*.²⁶ Albert Shanker, President of the American Federation of Teachers, wrote, "instead of helping students learn how to think, this book tells them what to think."²⁷ A startling admission from the leader of a teacher's union! Many education reform plans state that all teachers will need retraining.²⁸ In what? There are some disturbing indications that teachers will now have to manifest politically correct behavior in order to be re-certified. A draft of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) calls for new standards for teacher certi-

fication. For example, teachers will have to "refer students and their families to available in-school and community support services agencies... **in-school health clinics**, counselors, and school-based assistance teams... multi-service centers, drug and **pregnancy prevention programs**, employee assistance services and recreation center..."²⁹ [emphasis ours] In other words, teachers will have to demonstrate that they know how to refer students to the local Planned Parenthood.

The new National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has both strings and money attached: "The certification program, which has been developed over the last eight years with \$55 million in Federal and philanthropic support, has broad support among educators, business leaders, governors and the presidents of the nation's two largest teacher's unions."³⁰ How will this affect home school parents who think they are safe because they are certified, or Christian schools that rely on teacher certification for accreditation? "To be eligible to apply for the new national certificate, teachers must have at least three years of teaching experience, a bachelor's degree and either a state license or a job in a state-accredited school."³¹ There are some indications that all teachers will eventually need to seek this national certification.

ASSESSING POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

These eight goals summarize the publicly proclaimed basis of education reform. How will the government measure progress toward these goals? One mechanism is the National Assessment of Educational Process, the NAEP test. "These tests would be tied to world class standards that will be developed in conjunction with the National Education Goals Panel."³² Students, teachers, and schools will be rewarded or penalized based on their performance on this type of test.³³

The NAEP tests the cognitive domain (two plus two equals four). It also has tests the affective domain, meaning how one thinks and feel. There is an entire survey in the NAEP test for the student to complete about the family. NAEP asks 4th graders: "Are there more than 25 books in your home?" and "How often do you discuss things you have studied in school with someone at home?"³⁴ So far, the NAEP test has been

REFERENCE SHEET FOR KEY DOCUMENTS

SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Education,

Washington, D.C. 20202-0498
(800) USA-LEARN

COMMUNITY UPDATE, GOALS 2000,
EDUCATE AMERICA A FREE
monthly newsletter.

SOURCE: U.S. Government Printing

Office, Superintendent of
Documents, P.O. Box 371954,
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

Washington, D.C. phone # (202)
783-3238 fax (202) 512-2250

WHAT WORK REQUIRES OF SCHOOLS--
A SCANS REPORT FOR AMERICA
2000. 6/91. \$3.25.

LEARNING A LIVING-- A SCANS
REPORT FOR AMERICA 2000. April
1992. Full report. \$6.50.

SKILLS AND TASKS FOR JOBS-- A
SCANS REPORT FOR AMERICA
2000. Full report. \$27.00

TEACHING THE SCANS
COMPETENCIES. 1993. \$11.00

SOURCE: National Center for
Education Statistics, 555 New
Jersey Ave NW, Washington, D.C.
20208-5653. (202) 219-1761.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF
EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS
(N.A.E.P.) Booklet, 1991. ? Cost.

SOURCE: Hudson Institute, P.O. Box
26-919, Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 545-1000, fax 545-9639.

MODERN RED SCHOOLHOUSE
information. Free.

WORKFORCE 2000: WORK AND
WORKERS FOR THE 21st CENTURY.
By William B. Johnston and Arnold H.
Packer. Cost?? call 1st.

SOURCE: National Education Goals

Panel, 1850 M Street, NW, Suite
270, Washington, D.C. 20036.
(202) 632-0952. Fax (202) 632-
0957.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR LONG-
TERM INDICATOR DEVELOPMENT.
(Reports of the Technical Planning
Subgroups.) Sept. 1991. Was free, call
1st.

SOURCE: Association for Supervision
and Curriculum Development,

1250 N. Pitt St., Alexandria, VA
22314. (703) 549-9110, fax (703)
549-3891 or 836-7921.

ASSESSING STUDENT OUTCOMES.
Performance Assessment Using the
Dimensions of Learning Model. By
Robert A. Marzano and others. ASCD
stock # 611-93179. \$13.95.

SOURCE: The Knowledge Network for
All Americans. Call 1(800) 736-
4877 to order. (703) 522-3535
executive offices, fax (703) 522-
4143.

KNOWLEDGE REVOLUTION FOR ALL
AMERICANS. Winning the War Against
Ignorance. 77 pp. 1992.

SOURCE: United States House of
Representatives Document Room

(write or call)
B-18FHOB, Washington, D.C.
20515 (202) 225-3456

SOURCE: United States Senate
Document Room (must write to request
documents)

SH-B04, Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-7860

“The assumption is made that the child would join the organization under some circumstance. It is the duty of the testers to find out what the circumstance might be.”
—Bev Eakman

administered to volunteers, that is, if a child refuses to take the test, he is not supposed to be forced. Parents may or may not be informed that the test will be given. Parents should not let their children take the NAEP test. It is an invasion of their privacy, and the information can potentially be used against them.

The Iowa home school law currently allows the Department of Education to dictate which tests home educated students must take (from a list of approved tests). In the future, will home and Christian school students be required to take this type of test? Under Iowa law a student who does not score above the 30th percentile is considered to be ineligible for home schooling. Will home schoolers be able to pass the new OBE-based tests? If they can't pass the test in Iowa they may be deemed truant and subject to state child welfare intervention. In the face of this kind of pressure, some curriculum companies may alter their curriculum to fit these new OBE tests.

William Spady, the father of OBE, says “demonstration is the key word; an outcome is not a score or a grade, but (is) the end product of a clearly defined process that students carry out.”³⁵ OBE is a process. It is a series of exams given over time, administered to a numbered student whose scores are entered into a data bank. By continually retesting and monitoring, compliance with outcomes is improved. That is why the NAEP test is given strategically in fourth grade, eighth grade and twelfth grade. When compliance is inadequate, remediation, rewards, and penalties are used. Many of the concepts are

measured using threshold level testing, which measures what stimulus is required to obtain a certain response from a student.

The Pennsylvania EQA test, a forerunner to the NAEP, provides an excellent example of threshold testing:

There is a secret club at school called the Midnight Artists. They go out late at night and paint funny sayings and pictures on buildings. A student is asked to join the club. In this situation, I would **join the club** when I knew: (a) my best friend asked me to join, (b) the most popular students were in the club (c) my parents would ground me if they found out I joined.

The child is provided with no option to separate himself from this sinful activity. The goal of this question is to determine where his threshold is—what would it take to make this child engage in this activity? As Beverly Eakman points out, in her book *Educating for the New World Order*, “The assumption is made that the child would join the organization under *some* circumstance. It is the duty of the testers to find out what the circumstance might be... A ‘yes’ answer [to situation b] demonstrates conformity to group goals, a bowing to group consensus, and that makes it the preferred response.”³⁶ The implications of subjecting Christian children to this type of testing should be obvious.

Who decides what the standards should be? What does a child have to do in order to graduate under OBE? How will a home or Christian schooled child be remediated? How is decision-making remediated? How is “understanding self” remediated? Is there a correct understanding of self for all learners?

WHOLE LANGUAGE TEACHING

EARLY PRIMARY

LOTS OF

Big Books
Invented Spelling
Reading to Children
Sketching/Drawing
Reinforcement of Approximations
Textless Books
Expert Demonstrations
Shared Book Experiences

BUT NOT MUCH

Phonics
Formal Testing
Readiness Sheets

The Mason City School District Natural Literacy Program

HOME SCHOOLING UNDER THE NEW LAWS

The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, more commonly known as H.R. 6., includes, within its 901 pages, Section 9505, page 758: “Complaint process for participation of private school children.”³⁷ Why is there a section about complaint process for private school children? Page 762 of H.R. 6 discusses, “Prohibition against funds for religious worship or instruction.” Which aspects of Christian education will be excluded?

According to Goals 2000, the assessments or tests are aligned to the content standards.³⁸ This

means teach to the test. Teaching to the test means that one will succeed. If a teacher does not teach to the test, the student will fail. How will children be remediated to meet the exit outcomes in order to graduate? The Arney amendment adds, "Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the certification or regulation of teachers in any private, religious, or home school."³⁹ While this sounds appealing, it doesn't do anything to change the outcomes, the assessments, and the measures of success. So even if the federal, state, and local authorities leave home schoolers alone, the students will not meet the new goals. The only way to reach these goals will be to teach to the test, and that depends upon world view.

In June 1991, Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts signed an education bill into law in which the state legislature declared a state of emergency for the "immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety."⁴⁰ This legislation introduced the CIM and the CAM, the certificates of initial mastery and advanced mastery. Page 10 of the bill states that "A certificate of initial mastery shall be required for entry into college preparatory and academic professional technical progress leading to the appropriate endorsement." Another source reports that

Oregon is more advanced than any other state in the development of the certificate of mastery... legislation has ensured that the certificate of initial mastery will be offered to all students by 1997. Assessments will be linked to the certificate with the use of student portfolios.⁴¹

There are nationwide plans to replace the high school diploma with the CIM.⁴² Instead of receiving a diploma that shows completion of four years of high school, students will now receive a CIM that demonstrates satisfactory completion of OBE outcomes.

Instead of measuring credits completed or number of years in school, it would require a demonstration of the deep mastery of core academic subjects as well as the capacity to apply this knowledge to the complex problems that characterize modern life and work... But no student would be able to leave high school without a certificate. The theory behind the certificate of mastery is that, given enough time

and effort, all students can reach high standards."⁴³ [emphasis ours]

The CIM is the ticket of eligibility for student advancement into higher education or employment.⁴⁴ An earlier version of the Oregon bill would have made it illegal for employers to hire anyone without the CIM.⁴⁵ In Mississippi legislation the CIM was termed the Certificate of Employability.⁴⁶ It is just a matter of time before parents will see the results of this maneuver. Will Christian students be able to graduate or work in the future? Will they be deemed in need of remediation until they can demonstrate the political correctness and values change needed to get this ticket to full participation in society?

The National Education Association (NEA) believes that home schooling programs cannot provide the student with a comprehensive education experience. The Association believes that if "parental preference home schooling study occurs—that means parents pick the curriculum students enrolled must meet all state requirements... Instruction should be by persons who are licensed by appropriate state education licensure agency, and a curriculum provided by the State Department of Education should be used."⁴⁷ This is control of the teacher, of the curriculum, and of the home. So much for local control!

The new buzz word "accountability" means contracts, i.e., more control. Beware of IEP's, Individual Education Plans, where parents and students in schools sign up to be measured, molded, and transformed. An IEP can "spell out the student's education goals and responsibilities and set appropriate milestones to gauge the student's progress."⁴⁸ Iowa home school portfolio assessments call for "progress toward outcomes", including asking children "how they felt about the outcome."⁴⁹

IEP's are a part of the record data system and electronic portfolio measuring of your children. The National Education Goals Panel prescribes "[a]n identification number that uniquely identifies each child in a State [which] is an essential aspect of student level record-keeping."⁵⁰ There is a national databank which includes a code for a student who has been withdrawn from public school in order to attend a nonpublic school or home school.⁵¹ Do parents want their children to be part of this national databank?

The child is provided with no option to separate himself from this sinful activity.

“Newtonian science does not offer answers or solutions to the complex social and cultural challenges faced by our youth today and in the future.”

—David Brown

What are they teaching in public schools? A school in Mason City, Iowa uses a curriculum called natural literacy.⁵² This school admits to being an ODDM school, Outcome Developmental Driven School, another experiment in OBE. They are very proud of that. A document from their whole language natural literacy program explains why children cannot read or write or spell. (See box, page 16)

Under the Goals 2000 agenda, rote learning is *passee*. Columnist Cal Thomas explains:

Consider this line in the Goals 2000 legislation prohibiting the use of phonics (learning to read by sounding out groups of letters as opposed to memorizing the pronunciation of words) and other methods designed to help children develop and think for themselves: “The disproven theory that children must first learn basic skills before engaging in more complex tasks continues to dominate strategies for classroom instruction, resulting in emphasis on repetitive drill and practice at the expense of content-rich instruction, accelerated curricula and effective teaching to high standards.” Disproven by whom?⁵³

According to the *Right to Read Report*, “experimental studies conducted in classrooms and laboratories over the past 70 years have found that systematic and early instruction in phonics produces better readers who are more skilled at word recognition, decoding, spelling, oral and silent reading, and comprehension.”⁵⁴

Most home schoolers are teaching their children at home to get away from education approaches that don't work. Competition has been the American engine. But now we will have cookie cutter schools, cookie cutter teachers and cookie cutter kids. In the drive to abandon the American industrial age legacy, schools are implementing “mass production” methods for children. Sure, there will be a choice. There will be chocolate, vanilla or strawberry cookies. But the “break the mold” schools are cut out of one model, the same national/international plan.⁵⁵ Under America 2000/Goals 2000 all schools, all teachers and all students will achieve the same outcomes.

How will schools compete under America 2000/Goals 2000? For money, for students, for higher test scores (new measures of test), community service projects, using approved teach-

ers, by experimenting and risk-taking, and by performance-based accreditation. These are the new measures of “accountability”, i.e., control.

OBE means lifelong learning, birth to death; no grade levels; non-traditional levels; pass/fail, non-competitive grading; cooperative learning, students get a group test score; testing of the affective domain, feelings and attitudes; all learners pass, given enough time and remediation. But the Scriptures make it clear that there is really only one exit outcome that matters: *For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?* (1 Peter 4:17) This is the exit outcome that parents need to be concerned about.

Parents who have selected home or Christian schools for their children have already begun to apply this exit outcome by exiting the public schools. For those who haven't, listen to the advice of Cal Thomas:

How should parents respond to this latest government power grab? Just as they would if they knew their children's school was on fire - they should get them out, fast.⁵⁶

Jude 23 says, *And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

Ironically, the solution to the potential threats to home and Christian schools is in the hands of parents who become convicted to pull their children out of public schools. The more parents who pull their children out, the greater the numbers of children in the home and Christian school movement. The growth of this movement is significant enough to have caused some language change in H.R. 6 last spring. The more this movement grows, the more political might it has, and the more potential to stop the OBE onslaught from hitting their children.

But the growth is also fraught with danger. Sinful compromises are possible every step of the way that could endanger the rights of parents and the ability to educate children freely and unrestrained by government edicts and mandates. Those leaders who focus on the offensive content of OBE “outcomes” (while ignoring the far more dangerous and complex “process” of OBE) and seek to find consensus with OBE advocates may not have the best interests of home and Christian educators in mind.⁵⁷ There are

many points along the way where Christian parents can resist intrusive and restrictive new state and federal mandates that could be broadly applied to private education. Home and Christian school parents must be ever vigilant, understand the issues, and stand against the current tide of evil. The purpose of this article is to help these parents understand that the education reform agenda could be easily applied to all children in America, even the ones who aren't in public education. Pray, read the documents for yourself, and stand in Christ.

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. (Colossians 3:23-4)✠

Endnotes:

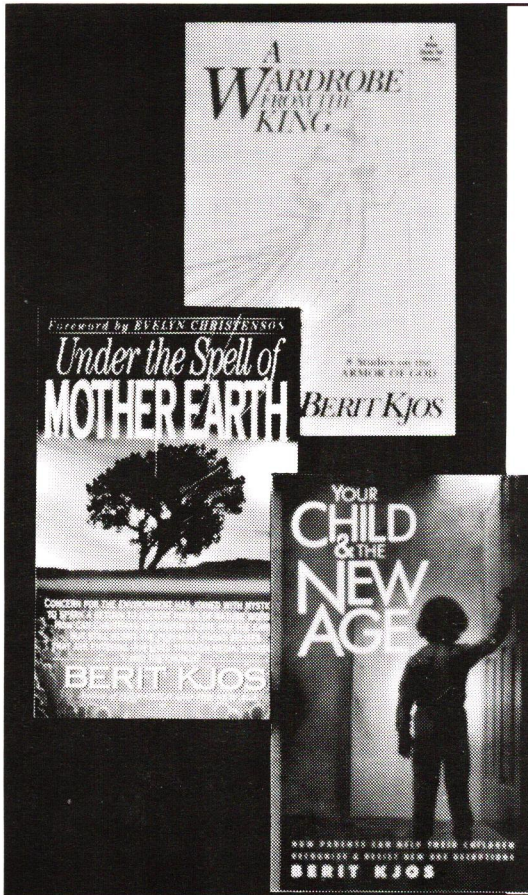
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3. Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc., "Revised Risk Factors Form".
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41. "High School Graduation Requirements," Policy Study 94-2, Iowa Department of Education, Oct. 18, 1994, p. 44.
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43. "High School Graduation Requirements," *op. cit.*
44. SCANS *Learning a Living* p. 65 & 66. Hypothetical Resume, Exhibit 5, lists SCANS Workplace Competency, Core Academic and Elective Courses, SCANS Personal Qualities (Responsibility, Self-Esteem, Sociability, Self-Management, Integrity/Honesty), Portfolios, Points Toward Certificate of Mastery, etc.
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46. Mississippi House Bill 630 and Senate Bill 2862. Both defeated. To develop a Certificate of Employability, to be used in the 95-96 school year. Supplement to the diploma.
47. National Education Association, 1992-93 Resolutions, Sept. 1993 p. 11 of article, p. 29.
48. Brochure for the Modern Red Schoolhouse, a project of Hudson Institute, sponsored by the New American Schools Development Corporation, Indianapolis, IN.
49. "Portfolios in the Home." presented by Dr. Doris Toettger and Dr. Michael Szymczuk of the Heartland Area Education Agency. Handouts for teacher training at the IHIA Portfolio Training Session, 11/3/92.
50. National Education Goals Panel, "Statewide Student Record Systems: Current Status and Future Trends", March 26, 1992, p. 3. "An identification number that uniquely identifies each child in a state is an essential aspect of a student-level record system."
51. SPEEDE/ExPRESS page 130.010.57, March 31, 1992. "Student withdrew to attend a non-public school or home education program".
52. Mason City Community School District, "Natural Literacy" handout, Iowa Association School Board Conference, November 21, 1991.
53. Cal Thomas, "Parents Should Test Goals 2000, 4/4/94.
54. "Who Is The Anti-Phonics Movement?" Robert W. Sweet, *National Right To Read Report*, Nov./Dec. 1994, p. 7.
55. Charlotte Iserbyt, *op. cit.*
56. Cal Thomas, *op. cit.*
57. Letter dated Nov. 1994 from Robert Simonds, President of Citizens for Excellence In Education, to "President's Inner Circle of Friends" about the National Center for Reconciliation and Reform and his own form of OBE - Enhanced Basics-Based Education. Dr. Simonds is working on common ground with Dr. William Spady, "father" of OBE.

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The Laughing Phenomena:
Its history & possible effects on
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PART I: FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO ST. LOUIS TO TORONTO TO YOUR CHURCH

Sooner or later, every Evangelical, Fundamentalist, Catholic, Charismatic/ Pentecostal, Reconstructionist, Restorationist, and mainline Protestant will be faced with a decision to follow either Jesus Christ or the new breed of prophets in the Church. For the hundreds of thousands from every segment of Christianity who've already observed the so-called "fire of God" manifesting in every conceivable way during "Holy Laughing" services, that point has already been reached. Prepare your hearts, people of God, in the valley of decision.

Up Close 'n Personal

"You want to know how strong the 'force' of it is, Ed? Even we came away from it wondering if perhaps we had missed something. To be the only two adults not caught up in this in a crowd of roughly 300 other adults makes you wonder if your own ears have become dull of hearing! At least for a moment or two you kind of do a double-take."

My friend Debra, a mature Christian apologist of long-standing, well-experienced in debating cult devotees and members of non-Christian religions, was describing her encounter with the laughing phenomena now racing across the

world. A friend had asked her to see this "new anointing" at her church, and they'd both been taken aback by its power: "Have we gone utterly mad," they wondered, "or is it them? Is something wrong with us, or is there something wrong with them?"

This phenomena, variously referred to as "a time of refreshing," "another Pentecost," "Holy Laughter," and the "Toronto Blessing," is described as manifestations of "the Spirit," uncommon to orthodox Christianity. Hundreds of

angel pouring hot oil over him as he lay "nailed to the floor," and in another, a man acting as a roaring lion pawed at the chest of the pastor's wife.

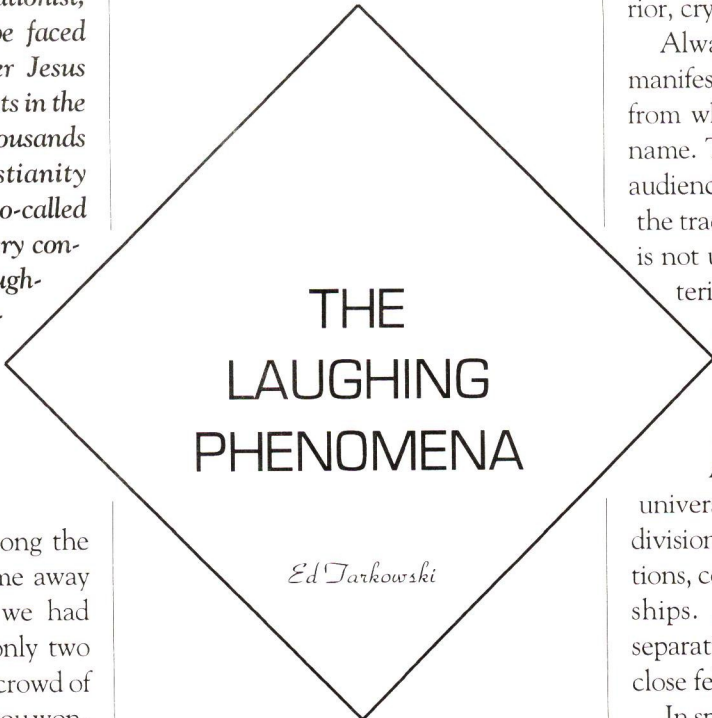
Even the four living creatures before the throne of the Lamb, as seen in Revelation 4, have supposedly been manifested during a service. In that incident, one man acted like an eagle flying around the room; another roared like a lion; a third pawed the ground and snorted like an ox. The person manifesting as "the man" took the stance of the mighty warrior, crying "Aaaaahhhhh!"

Always accompanying these other manifestations is the hysterical laughter from which the phenomena derives its name. This laughter often pervades the audience to such a degree that it disrupts the traditional portions of the service. It is not uncommon to hear that the hysteria made it impossible for preachers to continue sharing the word of God on serious subjects, such as the death of Stephen or the reality of hell.

Another serious consequence, as universal as the phenomena itself, is the division it is causing within denominations, congregations, families and friendships. Many are experiencing deep separation from those they once knew in close fellowship with the Lord.

In spite of these and other grave problems with the laughing phenomena, many church leaders and opinion-makers have jumped onto the bandwagon to help toot its horn. In their new book, well-known authors Charles and Frances Hunter praise the movement:

The Spirit of God is swiftly moving in breathtaking and sometimes startling new ways, and people of



THE LAUGHING PHENOMENA

Ed Tarkowski

thousands of people have already been affected by this spirit, some paralyzed in place in various positions, some frozen to the floor for hours on end, and some, unable to walk, having to be carried to their cars following the service. Many feel the "fire of God" within becoming so hot they are forced to remove some of their clothes. In one report, a person saw an

every tongue and every nation are letting out what is on the inside of them... they are running at a fast pace to "Joel's Bar" where the drinks are free and there is no hangover!... one of today's signs in the earth beneath is the "holy laughter" which is supernaturally overcoming people in services all over the world!¹

Apparently the Hunters see the laughing phenomena as one fulfillment of Acts 2:17-21, in which Peter quotes the prophet Joel: *In the last days, God says, ...I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below.*

But is it? Does it matter where this movement originated and who started it? Is the division it's causing really so serious that there will be permanent ramifications?² Is it possible that the force behind these manifestations is intent on leading the Church in a new direction? Many Christians think so. One of these, my friend Debra, wrote me:

This "thing" is unlike anything else I've ever seen, Ed, and it's not like I've never attended charismatically-oriented churches with friends before... After what I saw "up close 'n personal" last night, where do we, that is, the "church universal" go from wherever it is we are now?

Rodney Howard-Browne: The Falling Evangelist

*There are many people that just think these are laughing meetings, when really, in reality, we have more people falling down than laughing. They want to call me the laughing evangelist. Why don't they call me the falling evangelist?*³—Rodney Howard-Browne

The person most responsible for the global laughing phenomena is 33 year-old South African evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne. In 1979, the man who would become known as the Holy Ghost

Bartender "spent hours praying for a deeper experience with God."⁴ Browne describes his resulting experience with "God's fire" in his book, *The Touch of God*:

Suddenly the fire of God fell on me. It started on my head and went right down to my feet. His power burned in my body and stayed like that for three whole days...

My whole body was on fire from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Out of my belly began to flow a river of living water. I began to laugh uncontrollably and then I began to weep and then speak with other tongues.

I was so intoxicated on the wine of the Holy Ghost that I was literally beside myself. The fire of God was coursing through my whole being and it didn't quit... Because of that encounter with the Lord, my life was radically changed from that day on.⁵

Two years after this encounter, Browne helped pioneer a RHEMA church (Kenneth Hagin/Word of Faith) in Johannesburg, and in 1987 he made two trips to the United States. While speaking at an Assemblies of God church in April, he prophesied that God would send missionaries to America for revival, which he has defined as manifestations of "supernatural signs and wonders."⁶ He announced that the Lord told him to return to America to stay, and in December of that year Browne began his evangelistic ministry in Orlando, Florida.

Pastor Bill Randles, author of *Making War in the Heavens*, describes the first signs of the manifestations now seen during all of Browne's services:

In April of 1989, Browne's traveling ministry had him in Albany, New York, when an unusual manifestation occurred. As he was preaching, he and others in the service felt a "sensation like a heavy blanket coming over him..." People began falling out of their

seats; some were laughing and others were crying. The noise got so loud that Browne had to interrupt his sermon. "Lord, you're ruining my meeting," the evangelist complained. He says God replied, "The way your meetings have been lately, they deserve to be ruined. I will move all the time if you will allow me to move."

From that time on, Browne increased in demand as a speaker. The greatest turning point occurred in the Spring of 1993. Browne held a four week meeting in Lakeland, Florida, at Carpenter's Home Church. The 10,000 seat auditorium was filled almost every night. People were reported to have been drawn from as far away as Africa, Great Britain, and Argentina. What were they drawn to? The unusual phenomena of laughter. As *Charisma Magazine* reports, "No matter what Howard-Browne did or said, hundreds who attended the daily sessions always ended up on the sanctuary floor in helpless laughter. When the services were broadcast on the radio, more curious seekers showed up to join the fun."⁷ Curious? Fun? The article goes on to report that the church added 800 new members, and its income went up 30%. They baptized 2,200, according to the Pastor Karl Strader.⁸

Browne now holds over 500 meetings per year in the United States, and has scheduled numerous meetings in other countries. Furthermore, some of his videotaped services are run on Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), reaching a potential 60 million viewers.

Those who attend his meetings or tune into the broadcasts encounter a ministry like they've never seen before. Rodney Howard-Browne paces heavily around the sanctuary, sometimes mumbling in tongues. He waves his arms at a section of seats and all the occupants fall down. Sometimes he stands in place,

chuckling to himself. He makes his way between rows of fallen bodies, and on at least one occasion stopped to have a conversation in tongues with a woman flat on her back beating her arms frantically on the floor. He deliberately asks questions of people struck by the spirit, holding the microphone to their mouths for agonizing minutes while they stutter and stare glassy-eyed into space. Invariably, the audience is convulsed by hysterical laughter at the sight, and Rodney Howard-Browne chuckles. Pointing to a group of people, he announces that the "fire of God" is on them, and they obediently go forward into the sanctuary where most fall down.

Sometimes Howard-Browne has to work at opening people up to the power. During a videotaped service in England, when the congregation hadn't yet responded in the usual manner, Browne resumed his pacing and commanded them to "look at me!" Eventually, the spirit had its way and the meeting proceeded according to the pattern.

From Browne To St. Louis to Toronto Vineyard

1994 was a very good year for the spirit promoted by Browne. It managed to emigrate into Canada and from there, to skip over oceans. The catalyst for this movement was a man named John Wimber, currently Pastor of Vineyard Christian Fellowship (VCF) in Anaheim, California. Wimber also heads Vineyard Ministries International (VMI), and The Association of Vineyard Churches (AVC). In a recent newsletter, Wimber reported that on 27 occasions God confirmed to him that he should go to the nations in what would be "a season of new beginnings." He believes God was saying, "I'm going to start it all over again. I'm going to pour out my Spirit in your midst like I did in the beginning."⁹ He writes,

But I looked at myself (suffering from cancer), and I'm out of energy. In my spirit I was just murmuring "Oh God, oh God." And at

that point (mid-January) the Lord gave me a word. I heard myself say: Shall I have this pleasure in my old age? The very words that Sarah laughingly said to herself when she overheard the LORD say she was going to have a son from her 90-year-old womb by her 100-year-old husband. (Gen. 18:10). This was a word of life from the Lord, and it touched me deeply.

I had brought this message of new beginnings to our AVC National Board and Council meeting in November of 1993 at Palm Springs. Then the Lord confirmed this word in the hearts and minds of our national leadership. They laid hands on Bob Fulton and me and they blessed us to go, and stir up the church.

...the Holy Spirit had recently powerfully renewed and refreshed Randy Clark (VCF St. Louis) in a meeting conducted by evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne in Tulsa, Oklahoma... Randy began seeing similar outpourings of the Spirit [laughter/manifestations] in his home church and elsewhere as he had occasion to minister. It was as if the "times of refreshing" had begun.

So John Arnott [Toronto Vineyard Fellowship], knowing that a season of new beginnings in the Vineyard was near at hand, and hearing about Randy Clark's transformed ministry, invited Randy to come to Toronto to minister in his church, as well as those folks from the surrounding area that would like to attend. This occurred on January 20, 1994. Four days of meetings turned into five months of almost nightly meetings in numerous locations in Ontario. It has since poured out through those who have visited there into similar renewal meetings all over the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and even Europe.¹⁰

From South Africa to Florida to St. Louis to Toronto, the spirit was on the move—one just had to go to the Toronto Vineyard church to "get IT" and take "IT" back to one's own congregation. As of this writing, so many have come to get "IT" that it's obvious the phenomena isn't something that will rise and then fade away into the pages of Church history. It is now a global experience, with manifestations being reported in churches in Canada, Britain, Ireland, Argentina, Cambodia, Germany, Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, and China. With new countries being touched every month, it seems that Vineyard's John Wimber is finally seeing his promised "new beginnings."

Laughing Pastors: It's Not Just For Pew Sitters

Unlike traditional services in which the pastor conducts the liturgy and preaches and the congregation partakes in an orderly manner, there is little order in these meetings, and pastors are as susceptible to the spirit as those in the pews. Rodney Howard-Browne attributes the disorder in his services to God taking control of the service, bypassing the minister assigned:

Order for some is control. [Some say,] "The meeting is out of order," meaning, "I cannot control the meeting anymore. I'm not the head honcho in this service anymore. Someone bigger than me has come into the service and caused a disruption, taken away the attention from me, and I don't like it and I want order back in the service so that people will look at me rather than what God is doing."

I remember one service where I just went and sat down for an hour and a half. I just went and sat down. Well, there was nothing else I could do. Total pandemonium—people falling off of their chairs, people crying, people laughing and some were wailing—some were shaking. So, I just said to the peo-

IS HOLY LAUGHTER A DELUSION?

DELUSION Defined

The word "delusion" is used only once in each Testament:

- **New Testament** (used once): 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12:

9 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and wonders, 10 and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God shall send them a STRONG DELUSION, that they should believe a lie; 12 that they might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

DELUSION defined:

Strong's Greek 4106: fem[inine] of 4108 (as abstrac[tly]; obj[ectively] *fraudulence*; subj[ectively] a *straying* from orthodoxy or piety: -deceit, to deceive, delusion, error.

All the manifestations of Holy Laughter have certainly strayed from orthodoxy and piety.

- **Old Testament** (used once): Isaiah 66:3-4:

3 *He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol.*

Yes, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. 4 I ALSO WILL CHOOSE THEIR DELUSIONS [compare with 2 Thess. 2:11], and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear; but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.

DELUSION Defined:

Strong's Hebrew 8586: from 5927; *caprice* (as a fit coming on), i.e., *vexation*; concr[etely] a *tyrant*: -babe, delusion.

In both usages, God had a hand in either sending or choosing delusion for those who would not hear and walk by His word.

CAPRICE—"a sudden change of mind without apparent or adequate motive; a whim; also, mere fancy; susceptibility to various or freakish impulses; freakishness; also, a fantastic production." (*New Century Dictionary*)

Many experience the holy laughter on a whim, going to the meeting "just to check it out." Freakish impulses hit people while they are doing so. Many of the manifestations could easily be labeled "caprice," as a fit "coming on." †

Biblical order in a meeting seems in itself to be out of order.¹² In this case especially, Browne admits the meeting ended in "total pandemonium" with "people falling off of their chairs, people crying, people laughing and some were wailing—some were shaking."¹³

This becomes even more perturbing when we consider a recent report in *The 700 Club Fact Sheet* that in some areas, pastors from just about every denomination are allowing the phenomena into their church:

Since January 20, 1994, Airport Christian Fellowship, a small Vineyard church in Toronto, has had services six nights a week for the last 10 months that have sometimes lasted until 2:00 a.m. Over 100,000 people have attended, and nearly 40,000 of those have been visitors from all over the world who come for what is being called the "Toronto Blessing."

This Spring, the "Toronto Blessing" hit the Holy Trinity Church in London, one of the largest Anglican churches in England, and England's Stoneleigh Bible Camp, an annual event sponsored by "New Frontiers" ministry which oversees 100 churches in England and around the world.

"It's not confined to any one denomination or any one person," says Sandy Miller, Vicar of Holy Trinity. "Quite the reverse. It's happening across the board—free churches, house churches, Church of England, established churches, all over the place."¹⁴

During an October 1994 pastor's meeting in Toronto, it was reported that 6,000 of the foreign visitors were pastors from all over the world, who had most likely taken the phenomena back to their own churches. Also reported during the same meeting was that 2,000 churches in the United Kingdom, and the same number in the United States, have been affected.

ple, I said, "Look, just come up when you're ready and lift your hands and God will touch you." I was sitting on the platform—just sat there and watched them for about an hour and a half. People came right up, got to the front, lifted their hands—BAM!—on the floor. I just sat there. I didn't even pray. You say, "What'd you do?" I just sat there and twiddled my

thumbs. I thought, "Lord, I wish every meeting was as easy as this." Now I had preached the word already and taught the word of God, and then I went and sat down. And they came walking up, got to the front, lifted their hands—BAM!—under the power of God.¹¹

The idea that God would take control away from the minister whom He Himself put in charge of maintaining proper

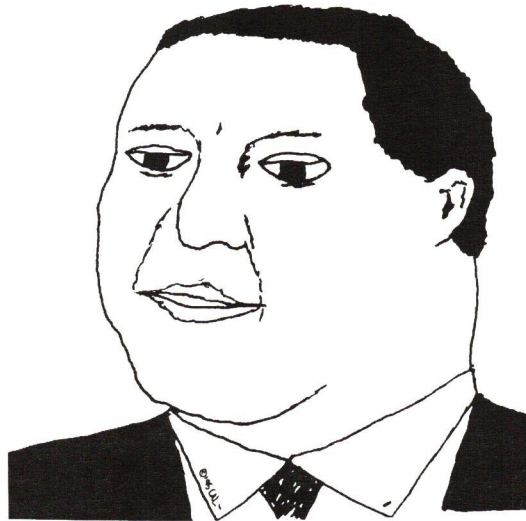
The Hunters describe a typical Rodney Howard-Browne meeting during which the church's pastor and an internationally known ministry leader were affected:

Pastor Karl Strader of the Carpenter's Home Church in Lakeland, Florida, started excitedly calling us and telling us about this most unusual sign and wonder which was occurring in his church... He... said that he had spent six weeks on the floor of his church laughing... Marilyn Hickey had been there and he said that Marilyn had spent the entire time on the floor laughing. Then he shared with us how Rodney had called Marilyn to the microphone and she just laughed and laughed and then fell under the power of God without saying anything!... We saw demonstrations of power with Rodney just pointing at people who would then fall under the power of God. We saw people trying to crawl away from the power, but they couldn't get up off the floor.¹⁵

In an article in the *Spiritual Counterfeits Project Newsletter*, Warren Smith relates how the "revival" came to Oral Roberts University. Richard Roberts, son of Oral Roberts and President of ORU,

...explained how he had canceled classes for two days so that his four thousand students could personally experience the "joy of the Lord" and receive the "gift" of "Holy" laughter. I was not surprised to learn that the "revival" Roberts was describing had come through the person of Rodney Howard-Browne.¹⁶

Roberts also shared his testimony in *The Word of Faith* magazine: "[I] went to preach in a church where revival had broken out in laughter and the joy of the Lord. Ever since that service, I have also been laughing, engulfed in the joy of the Lord."



Rodney Howard-Browne

Well-known teacher and writer Kenneth Hagin (RHEMA) preaches this "joy of the Lord" too, and writes that "the Spirit" brings about similar manifestations at his meetings.¹⁷

Frances Hunter describes her own encounter with the power:

We went to a Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship banquet in Houston... The man [the speaker] said, "Well, Jesus, bless Frances!" Down I went faster than you could blink an eye, followed one second later by my precious husband!... I tried to get my hands off of the floor, but nothing happened. I couldn't believe what had happened to me, because it was physically impossible for me to move... I felt as though someone had given me a divine alka seltzer because way down deep in the very center of my being I began to feel a most peculiar type of "bubbling." ...then it abruptly came out of my mouth in the form of the loudest laugh I have ever heard... no pressure on my mouth could keep the laughing back. I laughed, laughed, laughed and laughed... I stopped laughing just as quickly as I started, and suddenly I was released from the

bed of Holy Ghost glue in which I had been resting!¹⁸

Obviously, influential ministries are being overtaken by this spirit. Other supporters of the Laughing Revival are Paul and Jan Crouch (TBN), and Pat Robertson and Ben Kinchlow of The 700 Club, who we will discuss later. Newsletter publisher Tricia Tillin of Great Britain reports that Kenneth Copeland has also spoken out in favor of the "great move of God" occurring today. But instead of focusing only on "the Lord's joy," Copeland predicts ominous future ramifications for the Church. Tillin writes,

Toronto is rapidly becoming a test of loyalty and doctrinal orthodoxy. Kenneth Copeland, for instance, has suggested that those who resist God's move could fall over and die! "One of these days, you may just be talking to someone, asking them how things went at church last Sunday, and they may say, Oh it was great! The glory of God was so strong it healed ten cripples, opened the ears of thirty deaf people, cured seven cases of cancer and killed Brother Bigmouth and Sister Strife."¹⁹

A Christian has a vital choice to make, Copeland says: "When the fire of God begins to burn and the rivers of the Spirit start to flow, he'll have to do one of two things: he'll either have to yield to the Spirit and let go of that sin by repenting, or he'll have to resist the flood of God's Spirit and be swept away."

What is this sin that puts Christians in danger of death? It is resisting the move of God! Those who unite one with another in revival power can "have a wonderful time" Copeland tells us. After telling the story of Ananias and Sapphira, Copeland says that the Christians in that meeting "were having such a glorious time that even when Ananias dropped dead right there

in front of the preacher, they just went right on worshipping." The sin of Ananias, in fact, was not lack of submission to his elders or quenching the Spirit, but "lying to the Holy Spirit"—see Acts 5:2-6: *And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?... You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.* Not much sign of a Toronto-style meeting in progress there! However, Copeland nonetheless teaches from this passage that those who resist the last-days outpouring are in mortal danger. The message seems plain. Yield or die!

This sort of teaching about judgement upon opponents has been building up for some time. It was prominent in the prophecies and teachings of the Kansas City Prophets, probably because of their connection to the Manifest Sons doctrines which taught that denominational Christianity was Babylon, and that only the perfected saints of the New Order would emerge in the endtimes as the Chosen of God, while Babylon suffered defeat and death during the Tribulation to come. However, any doctrine that brings a certain elite group into prominence as World Saviours, will inevitably have to tackle the problem of dissenters.²⁰

Kansas City Prophets? Manifest Sons of God? Christians being swept away by the judgement of God? Babylonian denominations? All this may seem strange to you, but these ideas have been around

since the 1940s and are not new to some of the leaders in the laughing movement. Tillin recently stated that:

Very little is being said about the doctrine, origins, purpose and goal of the "new move." It is my belief that most churches and leaders do not know those things. Some leaders, however, are promising an escalation into world revival, but are cagey about how the transition will take place. Others hint at "something being birthed in the Church" and "God is raising up an Army." The truth is, the present events and the way they are being handled by leaders points unerringly in the direction of the Latter Rain teaching."

Never heard of Latter Rain, either? Then most likely are not familiar with the Passion & Fire Conferences now being held internationally. But all of these various and sundry beliefs and factions within the universal Church are beginning to coalesce. We will discuss this aspect next month. †

Next Month: Part II: The Fiery New Breed: Source and Goals of a "New Pentecost"

Suggested Resources For Further Reading Or Viewing:

Pastor Bill Randles, *Making War in the Heavens: A Different Look at Spiritual Warfare*. Available by writing Bill Randles, 3336 Prairie Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, or calling 319-366-0884 or 319-366-7208.

Albert James Dager, *Vengeance Is Ours: The Church in Dominion*. Available by writing Sword Publishers, P.O. Box 290, Redmond, WA 98073—0290, or calling (206) 391-7315. Good reference on Manifest Sons, Latter Rain, etc.

The Good Life, 2-hour videotaped interview with Rodney and Adonica Howard-Browne with excerpts from various Browne services. Ask for vide-

otape GL93-0420. Available for a gift of \$20 or more by writing The Good Life, P.O. Box 6922, Clearwater, FL 34618.

Endnotes:

1. David W. Cloud, "Happy Hunters Ministering Holy Laughter," *O Timothy* magazine Volume 11, Issue 9-10, 1994 citing Charles and Frances Hunter, *Holy Laughter*, (pp. 5-7).

2. See 1 Corinthians 1:10-12 and 11:17-19 on Paul's viewpoint on divisions in the Church.

3. TBN video-taped service, broadcast May 1994.

4. Warren Smith, "Holy Laughter or Strong Delusion?," *Spiritual Counterfeits Project Newsletter* (SCP), Fall 1994, p. 5 citing *Charisma* magazine, August 1994.

5. Pastor Bill Randles, *Making War in the Heavens: A Different Look At Spiritual Warfare* Appendix One, "Rodney Howard-Browne: An Analysis of the Laughing Revival," p. 91 citing Rodney Howard-Browne, "The Touch of God," RHBEA Publications, pp. 73-74.

6. Christian Television Network (CTN - Clearwater, FL), *The Good Life* program. Hosted by Bob and Molly DeAnrea. Guests: Rodney and Adonica Browne, 2 hour video, broadcast April 20, 1994.

7. Randles, p. 92-93 citing *Charisma*, p. 24.

8. Randles, pp. 92-93. (

9. Because this "move of God" is so vast, it's important to note that Jesus called the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost "the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4), and "another Counselor [Comforter] to be with you forever" (John 14:16). The central purposes of His coming were to guide us into all truth, glorify Christ Jesus (John 16:12-14), and convict the world of sin, and righteousness and judgement" (vv. 8-11). These necessitate the Holy Spirit being active in a consistent manner in the world and in the Church throughout the entire Church age, and negates the promise of another outpouring of the Spirit.

10. John Wimber, "Seasons of New Beginnings," File NEWBEG.TXT, 23879 Bytes, Compuserve, CIN-4 Lib 2. Originally published in the May/June 1994 edition of *Vineyard Reflections Newsletter* published by Association of Vineyard Churches. John Wimber, Publisher; Bill Henderson, editor.

11. TBN video-taped service, broadcast May 1994.

12. Such action by the Holy Spirit would nullify the purpose of Christ establishing ministries (Ephesians 4:9-14), and the responsibilities of overseers in the Church (1 Timothy 3).

13. We must judge, not the minister, but whether such manifestations fit the criteria of Scripture. Paul told the Corinthians that *God is not a God of disorder, but of peace* and to *Let ALL things be done decently and in order* during meetings (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40). In discerning the source of such manifestations, we must consider God's wisdom (James 3:15-18).

14. *The 700 Club Fact Sheet*, "HOLY LAUGHTER: Bringing Revival To The Church?" as featured on the *700 Club Newswatch*, October 27, 1994.

15. *O Timothy*, Cloud, citing ["Holy Laughter"], pp. 35, 38.

16. Smith, p. 4 citing videotaped local TV program.

17. *The Word of Faith* magazine, October 1994, p. 11.

18. *O Timothy*, Cloud, citing ["Holy Laughter"], pp. 21-23.

19. Tricia Tillin, *Mainstream* newsletter (Banner Ministries - U.K.) citing *The Voice Of Victory* magazine, October 1994.

20. Tillin, *Mainstream*

Counter

to
the

Culture

And be not conformed to this world... Romans 12:2

In the face of our culture's impending disaster, if you are a bystander, you are not innocent

I just finished reading *Heather Has Two Mommies*, a book approved for grade school use in New York City and elsewhere. The plot is simple: Two lesbian lovers decide to have a child by artificial insemination. That child is Heather.

You know, of course, that it's a lie.

Heather doesn't really have two mommies. She's got only one. The other lady is just the woman mommy has sex with. Having sex with mommy doesn't make you a mommy. Otherwise, what would daddy be?

But daddy is the one person missing from this book. And not daddy only, because no adult male directly appears anywhere in its pages. Not one adult male is even named. The closest this book gets to identifying any adult male is in passing references like those to Stacy's two nameless daddies. (Yes, two.) Heather, you see, lives in a man-free zone, a gender-cleansed ghetto built and patrolled by feminazis.

This book is proof that Jim Crow has come back to school. But whereas the signs over the doors, the water fountains and the restrooms used to read "whites only," they now say "women only." Men need not apply, especially daddy.

Even that's not quite accurate.

The signs in Heather's book don't say "women only." They say "lesbian, peacenik women only." One of Heather's female caretakers wears a T-shirt upon which the words "No Nukes" are prominently displayed. It makes me wonder, what would the knee-jerk secu-

larists of the radical left say if New York schools approved a book about Henry, a midwestern boy of 8, whose churchgoing parents had full-color, autographed pictures of Ronald Reagan and Barry Goldwater on the walls and who wore T-shirts that said "Peace through Strength" and "Impeach Clinton," two ideas whose time has come?

It seems never to occur to the educationists that they work at odds with their own principles. They approve books like this because they want to promote tolerance. But tolerance is the one ingredient

ive notion of moral equivalence. They enforce the idea that, regardless of their makeup and conduct, all families are created equal, which is a monstrous lie. If you do not agree with such decrees, you will not be tolerated. Only the tolerant are tolerated. Only those who capitulate to the prevailing moral relativism of the educational establishment are welcome.

But to tolerate only the tolerant is to tolerate only those who are like you, which is the definition of bigotry. Did you think I was joking about Jim Crow?

In other words, Pat Buchanan is right. There's a culture war raging around us, one in which those who advocate traditional moral values need to fight back. If we do not, we squander the patrimony of freedom, of redemption and of hope left us by the towering figures of the past, those amazing men and women who created the world of liberating and enduring ideas into which we were fortunate enough to be born. We no longer have the luxury of standing on the edge of culture, trying to fine tune it at the margins. We must face the hard and demanding fact that to be an innocent bystander is impossible. In the face of our culture's impending disaster, if you are a bystander, you are not innocent.

Every one of us who believes that our culture itself hangs in the balance ought to make it a personal quest or crusade to become expert on at least one issue of moral or social significance, whether it be abortion, education, racism, euthanasia, reverse discrimination, welfarism, relativism or what not. Whatever issue you choose, you must make it your aim to expose error whenever you find it and to push back the frontiers of evil wherever they are. You must give no quarter to depravity or illusion. You must speak

JIM CROW IN THE SCHOOLS

Dr. Michael Bauman

missing from such books and from the school boards that approve them. While a teacher is free to read *Heather Has Two Mommies* to her young students, she cannot read the Sermon on the Mount or the Gospel of John.

School board decisions like this are fascists decrees that impose upon their young victims the fallacious and destruc-

plainly and accurately. In the letters you write to editors and to congressmen, in the calls you make to radio and television talk shows, in the discussions you have with family, friends and neighbors, you must learn to call things by their real names. You must remember that truthful, well-reasoned, withering critique is to public discourse what justice is to law—it's a way of giving things what they deserve.

We have dragons to slay, or they will slay us. We must do to ignorance and moral corruption what the radical left dishonestly says we are doing to the rain forests—slash and burn. We must stand in the middle of the public square and proclaim with a clear voice and irrefutable reason the prophetic message that, as long as we have strength and breath to combat them, ignorance and vice shall never stand unopposed.

Of course, the enemies of traditional values want us to be quiet. They want us to be nice. They want us to sit quietly in the corner of the room, hands folded and mouth shut. They want the friends of beauty, truth and goodness to speak only when spoken to and, when we do speak, to speak only those things that offend no one. That they have offended us seems not to matter. They want us to stick to the script. They want us to keep our views to ourselves and to act as if our views were not true, indeed, as if there were no truth. They want us to be nice.

Nice has its proper place. But nice out of its proper place is not nice. It's evil.

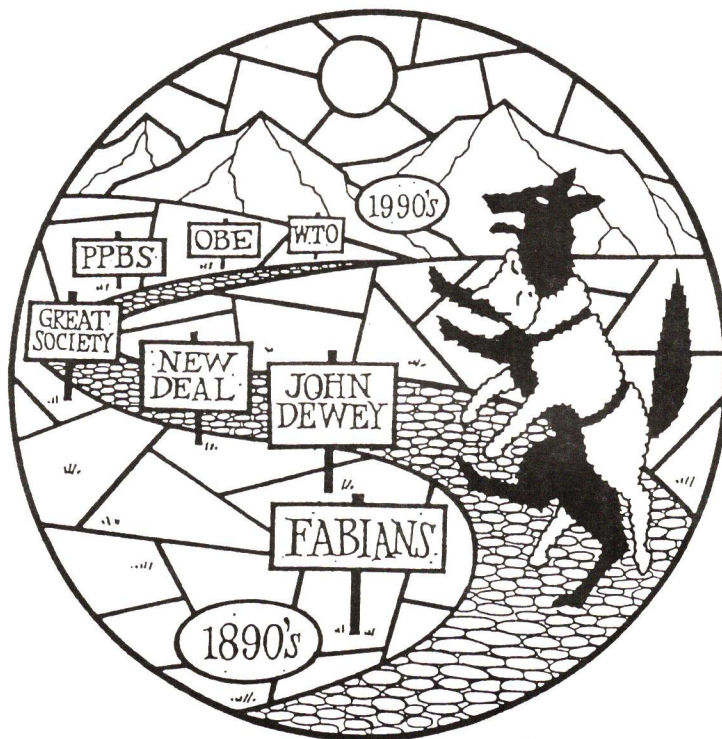
Resist.

And if you think *Heather has Two Mommies* is bad, just wait until you read another book approved by New York schools: *Daddy's Roommate*, a book that leads me to propose a new law: **Homosexual couples are permitted to adopt only those children conceived by homosexual union, just as heterosexual couples now are permitted to adopt only those children conceived heterosexually.** †

Dr. Bauman is a professor of Theology and Culture at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

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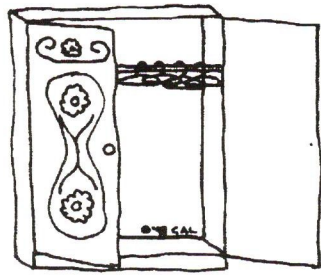
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The Emperor's Closet

...bring to light the hidden things of darkness... 1 Cor. 4:5

Proposals circulating throughout the country advocating "choice" alternatives in funding for education such as vouchers, tuition tax credits, and charter schools are misleading and faulty.

It is essentially illegal to use public funds without accountability; accountability requires regulation; regulation requires and expansion of government bureaucracy for administration—these proposals do not decrease the size of government but increase it. Private, Christian, and home schools cannot avail themselves of any of these "choice" proposals without losing their independence of government control. This is true whether the funds are given to the student, family, or the school.

Arguments abound that attempt to defend the "choice" proposals, which are said to be just like "other government programs that don't regulate." Such programs are non-existent. Two such popular examples are the G.I. Bill and Social Security. Both examples are wrong. The G.I. Bill is very strictly regulated; it is given only to those who have served on active duty or overseas and is payment for services rendered, not redistribution of tax monies. There are very strict guidelines as to the availability and continued use of G.I. Bill funds. Social Security funds are not allocated as a redistribution of taxes, either; they are a

result of payroll deductions based on work you perform and are returned upon your retirement or other very specific circumstances. In both cases these funds are very strictly regulated and available within narrow guidelines. Their comparison to the funding schemes put forward to finance private education with public money is without merit.

Another point that should be made

is not "privatizing" schools as many are suggesting. This is merely a backdoor socialization process. The government is not giving up control or regulation of the service, but merely allowing a private entity to perform the service for payment with public money. When government joins with private business to provide public service this begins to look a lot like socialism.

Applying for charter school status is especially dangerous for any group of private, Christian, or home schoolers. At the present time these groups are not under the regulatory mandates and privacy-invading recordkeeping, equity, and assessment regulations from the federal and state levels. These groups are free to provide strong, academically-

based curriculum in a structured, productive environment. To become a charter school requires that privately provided education become a part of the education bureaucracy. While charter schools do not have to comply with many of the locally-imposed regulations applicable to other public schools, they are subject to all federal and state goals and regulations.

Additionally, charter schools are giving up local governance through locally elected officials for federal bureaucratic mandates enforced by the state. Remember, the goal is control. Charter school status causes any private schooling entity to become a publicly-controlled school. This is a dangerous option for those who are feeling frustrated or overburdened by the weight of home schooling or paying tuition for private/Christian schooling.

THE MYTHS OF PRIVATIZATION

Cynthia Weatherly

regarding public funding for private education is that those circumstances where it is proposed that a private contractor, like where the New America School Development Corporation or its subsidiaries provide a tax-supported government service, it is nothing more than a private contractor sub-contracting for a governmental body, such as a school board. This

The price of liberty is often great, but the alternative is even more costly.

We are also misled when we believe that education is a commodity or service to be "purchased" by "consumers." This tends to make the public believe that education is market-driven. Compulsory attendance laws make education anything but market-driven! More importantly, the concept of consumer/purchaser does not correlate to our elected officials who are legal overseers of the process. Have we lost sight of what our relationship to government is? Education is a trust, not a commodity. These are our children and their futures; parents are not "shopping" for education, but are fervently searching for someone to whom they are willing to entrust the task of helping shape their children's minds and characters.

As charter schools develop, the temptation will be for private industry to take a more direct role in funding and developing programs for these schools in order to produce workers who can fill the corporation's needs. These schools, then, have the potential of becoming "corporate academies" with a narrow focus and limited curriculum base. This is accomplished through the school-business partnerships growing into corporate funding to accomplish its task. As this potential reality develops, the specter of true socialism—the combining of the private and public sectors to produce goods and services—takes on discernible size and shape, imposing itself on what had been a noble experiment—public education.

B.F. Skinner once mused that the functions of government in the future would be educational. In the above scenario we see that the reverse of that prediction can be true as well. In the future the functions of education will be governmental. Let us remember that the true purpose of education is the intrinsic enhancement of the individual. Let us not reduce education to the limited learning for lifelong labor, and our great country's heritage of freedom to a footnote in history. ☩

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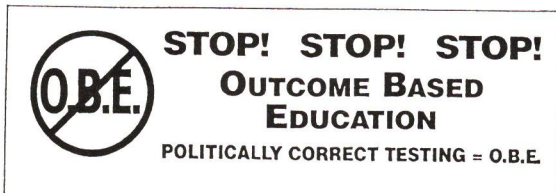
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CONSCIENCE CLAUSE

Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 1 Tim. 3:9

Are we compromising truth by simply “loving one another”?

The most important one [commandment] is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 31 (Mark 12).

How often we have heard these verses quoted in Christian circles as the standard for the life of the Christian today. But many don't realize that there are great dangers associated with these commands when they are not taken in their proper context. These dangers lie, not in what these verses say, but in what they don't say. The common tendency is to take what they do say as the only designated standard for the Christian life without examining the Scriptures in a deeper way. Let us take a look at the hidden dangers in having the mindset of “Let's just love one another.”

LOVING THE LORD OUR GOD IS TO OBEY HIS COMMANDS

According to Proverbs 3, love has a complementary partner:

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

Jesus certainly loved everybody—the Pharisees and the hypocrites and the sinners in the street and also those who followed Him—He died for them all. But He never allowed His love for them to compromise His faithfulness to what the Father said He should say or do:

49 For I do not speak on my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. (John 12)

28 ...I can do nothing on my own but speak what the Father has taught me ...If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. (John 8)

One of the things the Father commanded Jesus to say is found in our Lord's words in John 13:

34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By **this men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.**

So, though Jesus said men will know

but remaining in His love by holding to all His commands given by the Father:

9 Now **remain** in my love. If you obey my commands, you will **remain** in my love just as **I have obeyed** my Father's commands and **remain** in his love. (John 15)

In order to remain in God's love, we must obey His commands just as He obeyed the Father's. If we don't obey His commands as our priority, we will not remain in His love and we will be unable to love one another:

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (John 15)

LOVING ONE ANOTHER AND OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES

2 This is how we know that we love the children of God, by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. (1 John 5)

How do we know we are truly loving our brothers and sisters? By loving God, and these two verses describe what it is to love God: “**obey his commands.**” If we do that, “*we know that we love the children of God.*” One cannot say,

20 “I love God,” yet [hate] his brother... For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. (1 John 4)

The commands to be obeyed and the love manifested toward our brothers and sisters because we love God are also covered by John, and they hang directly upon the truth of God's word. First, John says,

3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who

“JUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

Ed Tarkowski

His disciples by their love for one another, He also gave a standard to determine who His disciples really are: those who held to His teachings because they loved Him, and His teachings involved much more than just loving one another. Holding to His teachings, in fact, was the prerequisite to loving one another. So it is not just a matter of loving one another,

says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2)

Then John brings in the aspect of obedience to the word of God:

5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him.

So obedience to the commands of God's revealed truth perfects our love, and it is the truth that completes God's formation of Himself in us. This conforming us to the image and likeness of Christ is God's main goal in our lives:

28 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brothers. (Romans 8)

So, we can't be conformed to Christ without obeying the

So we must obey His commands to remain in his love. It would not be loving the Lord our God if we didn't. And it is faithfulness to the command that keeps us from going astray into loving one another at the expense of truth. Matthew 24:10-13 and John 16:1-4 demonstrate the results of departing from faithfulness to His commands:

10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

1 All this I have told you so that you will

Church stood in the grace of salvation filled with the love of God by the Spirit of God. But to them, He was not just a Spirit of love, but a Spirit of truth, as well:

2 We have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand... 5 God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit he has given us. (Romans 5)

16 And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. (John 14)

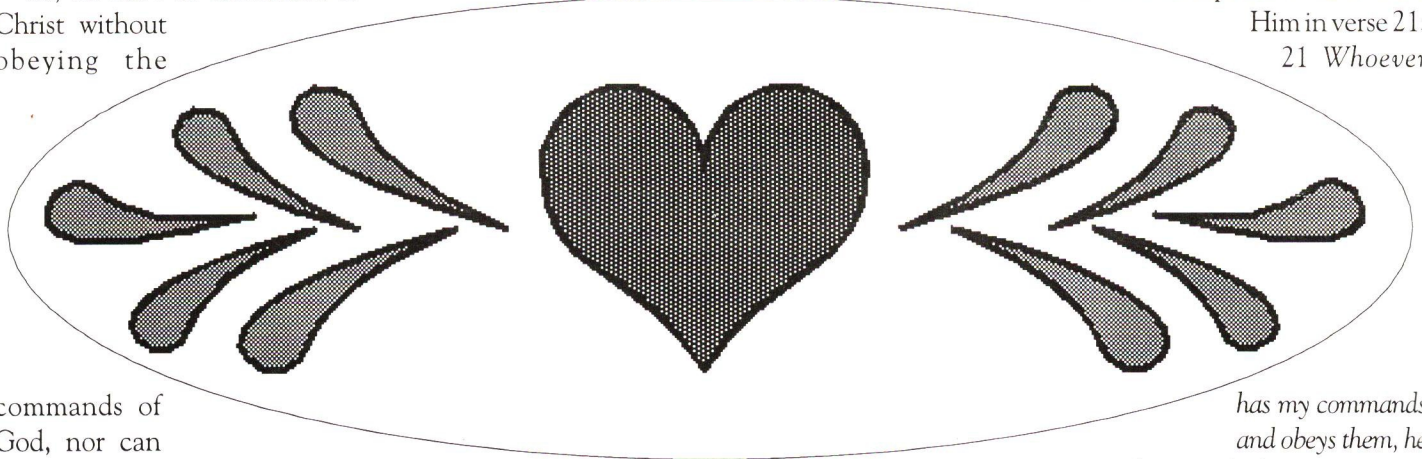
They understood the connection in these words of Jesus:

15 If you love me, you will obey what I command. (John 14)

So, first we had the command to love Him by obeying what He commands. Jesus further qualifies our love for

Him in verse 21:

21 Whoever



commands of God, nor can

we love like Jesus did unless we adhere to the truth. We cannot have one without the other. All of this comes to the point in the second part of v. 5 and also v. 6:

This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

So, all of this finds its full meaning in Jesus, who came because He loved His Father and us, but He came and walked, not just in love, but in truth. Indeed, He was and is the expression of the truth of God's love for us all, and when we walk in His image and likeness, we too walk in the love of God.

LOVING ONE ANOTHER AT THE EXPENSE OF TRUTH IS DANGEROUS AND A DOOR TO DECEPTION

not go astray. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering services to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not know the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you.

"Many will turn away from the faith... The love of most will grow cold." Why would their love grow cold? Because they listen to the false prophets, because they failed to heed all His commands right up to the end, because they forsake the truth. I have watched the "Let's just love one another" gospel for years—over twenty in fact—and it always—always brings destruction of one sort or another. Jesus commanded His Church: "Love one another." Then He sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to do so. The early

has my commands and obeys them, he

is the one who loves me.

The commands of our Lord Jesus Christ are so intertwined that to "just love one another" falls way short of what the Scriptures really say. Even Paul reiterated this same pattern in Scripture:

6 The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Gal. 5)

But this cannot negate walking in truth because we do disagree with one another—quite often in fact. Just loving one another will only leave us loving one another without any way to overcome our differences and divisions. Those differences are, I believe, a doorway to the deceptions of the enemy, and that is why John emphasizes truth first and then adds loving one another to it. In this way we overcome the enemy's attempts at infiltration:

14 *I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.* (1 John 2)

The foundation comes back to God's word: **obey His commands and thus perfect our love and thus overcome the enemy.** And John gives other reasons for us walking in the truth:

1 *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* (1 John 4)

7 *Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray.* (1 John 3)

Loving one another alone doesn't, in fact, cannot accomplish this. Truth completes and protects the love we have for one another and keeps us from the deceptive "Let's just love one another" message of the false prophets who do not walk as Jesus did and are void of truth. Since truth is wanting in their words, love can gain no foothold in their hearers and what is ultimately manifested is not love, but hate. Without truth, we will end up hating one another, which is what our adversary wants:

14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers...*

15 *Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.* (1 John 3)

This only leads us back to what I said before, that a Church that just loves one another, apart from clinging to the truth of God's word, will end up doing just this:

10 *At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ...12 the love of most will grow cold.* (Matthew 24)

2 *...in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering services to God.* 3 *They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.* 4 *I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you.* (John 16)

Love, the truth, knowing God, walking as Jesus walked in the fullness of the Holy Spirit—Jesus talked of these same things as necessary parts of a whole life. They are the essence of laying down our

lives for first the God who saved us, and second, for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Unless we stop and hear the whole counsel of God in regard to one another, we will fall to the spirit of error and be led astray. We need to recognize this situation. We need to speak the truth to one another, and we need to do that in His Spirit of love.

WE MUST LEARN THAT LOVE WITHOUT TRUTH IS HELPLESS, WHILE TRUTH WITHOUT LOVE SLAYS.

We must listen to one another out of a love for the truth and the reality of the body of Christ God in which God has placed us:

6 *We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.* (1 John 4)

Every day there are greater and greater divisions in the end-time Church, and part of the reason for this is that the enemy has brought a very nice thought to the Church: "Let's just love one another." By having accepted such attempting idea, truth has often taken wing and the Church split into factions. Why? Because it is the last hour, because part of the Church has decided to love without adherence to the truth about experiences and phenomena. Thus 1 John 2:18-19 is playing an important part in the life of the Church:

18 *Dear children, this is the last hour, and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.* 19 *They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.* (1 John 2) ✠

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Perversity In Diversity

Jan Mickelson

Only those cultures liberated from sexual deviance by God's law and grace can sustain civilization.

The current plan to teach gay rights in the classroom has ignited the community of Des Moines, Iowa. What's behind this new agenda?

Des Moines, Iowa seems an unlikely flash point in the culture war. However, late December last year, reports surfaced concerning a proposal to "infuse" homosexual values into the curriculum of the Des Moines schools throughout the system, K-12. The debate here over traditional values versus the gay agenda has been fierce ever since.

More than three thousand people attended a meeting at a local church to plan resistance to the proposal. Then, more than a thousand folks attended a fiery school board hearing. The board listened into the wee hours as gay activists argued that this issue is one of "compassion and justice". Opposition parents argued against a forced, tax-supported, gay agenda they find personally immoral and repugnant.

The school board views this issue as a conflict between special interest groups; that is, the religious conservative "community" versus the "cognitive elite", religious liberal/gay "community". The likely resolution of the issue will be some sort of administrative compromise which "gives something to the gays and gives something to the opposition". Even though the opposition to the gay agenda represents a huge majority, the factions are given equal weight within the deliberation process.

How did this happen? This is simply the logical result of "multiculturalism". Iowa's legislature has mandated a multicultural standard. The gay establishment argues that sexual orientation issues be infused into the Multicultural Nonsexist Education Plan. Gays see themselves

as another minority group seeking recognition and protection. Along with age, race, creed, color, sex, marital status, national origin, religion, disability, now sexual orientation seeks addition to the list of the officially protected.

The moral-cultural relativism of the new multiculturalism has no internal compass with which to resist the claims made upon it by sexual activist groups. How could it, since it self-consciously rejects the claims made upon it by the former Judeo-Christian consensus?

Does it matter that most parents and taxpayers don't want the gay agenda "infused" into their children? In the short term, perhaps yes. The votes are there. But gay activists call this controversy "Scopes Trial Two". Just as Science overthrew Faith in the classroom concerning the evolution/creation debate, Science will overthrow Faith again concerning sodomy. Science says homosexuality is OK, therefore—even if most people disagree. Science has spoken. With Science, "all things are possible". Therefore, even majoritarian claims against the gay agenda aren't enough to settle the issue over the long term.

Homosexuality In History

It is important to realize that for most of human history, the Judeo-Christian understanding of homosexuality has been the minority position.

The short history is this. The Laws of God, given to Moses, protected the Jews from mimicking surrounding pagan sexual norms. (Usually.) Only the Jews, because of the Torah, were able to build a culture based upon the covenantal model of the family. Protected from aberrant sexual distraction, the family—man, plus woman, equals children—regulated the sexual energies of their people. God's law defined proper sex roles and prohibited deviation. Fam-

ily and social stability is based upon a view of time which is inter-generational. Family commitment defers sexual license. The result? A civilization which endures. The longest existing culture in history, is defined by family and creed (covenant)—the Jews. Time, persecution, hostility and holocaust, haven't destroyed the people of the covenant.

The Christian West inherited this view of sex, family, time and covenant. To the degree Christianity has influenced culture, sodomy is less tolerated. When paganism increases, so does the influence of homosexuality. Sexual deviation seems to be directly proportional to the world view most encouraged by the spirit of the age.

Paganism (Godless lawlessness) produces sexual liberation (from God's law) and therefore increases sexual perversity. It is ironic that ideas and policies which strengthen the family structure make centralized government less necessary, and that policies of sexual liberation tend to make centralized, oppressive government more likely.

Christopher Check, associate director of the Rockford Institute Center on the Family in America recently noted:

Total sexual license, observed both G.K. Chesterton and Aldous Huxley, is the only freedom the totalitarian state offers its masses, because it is a cheap and effective method of reducing them to slavery. Give us pleasure without consequence, and in time our consciences will dull sufficiently that we will not protest as the state takes our property, our wives, and our children. We will not even notice, in our endless flight from suffering and our perpetual pursuit of the right to feel good, that the hands gradually tightening the irons around our ankles are our own.

Powerful government, paganism and poverty are historically linked. Professor Edward Banfield, a Harvard political scientist wrote about this in his book *The Unheavenly City*.

...the individual's orientation toward the future will be regarded as a function of two factors: (1) ability to imagine a future, and (2) ability to discipline oneself to sacrifice present for future satisfaction. The more distant the future the individual can

imagine and can discipline himself to make sacrifices for, the "higher" his class...

At the present-oriented end of the scale, the lower-class individual lives from moment to moment. If he has any awareness of the future, it is of something fixed, fated, beyond his control: things happen to him, he does not make them happen. Impulse governs his behavior, either because he cannot discipline himself to sacrifice a present for a future satisfaction, or because he has no sense of the future. He is therefore radically improvident: whatever he cannot consume immediately he considers valueless. His bodily needs (especially for sex) and his taste for "action" take precedence over everything else...

Sexual immorality, especially homosexuality produces a now-oriented, shortened view of time. Therefore, pagan, sexually lawless cultures consume themselves—always have, always will.

Jewish scholar Dennis Prager notes that the real sexual revolution was waged thousands of years ago by Judaism. He says that, "As Martha Nussbaum, professor of philosophy at Brown University wrote, 'the ancients were no more concerned with people's gender preference than people today are with others' eating preference... boys and women are often treated interchangeably as objects of [male] desire'."

Prager writes, "To appreciate the extent of the revolution wrought by Judaism's prohibiting homosexuality and demanding that all sexual interaction be male-female, it is first necessary to appreciate just how universally accepted, valued and practiced homosexuality has been throughout the world. The one continuous exception was Jewish civilization—and a thousand years later, Christian civilization. Other than the Jews, none of the archaic civilizations prohibited homosexuality per se." He concludes, "It is Judaism's sexual values, not homosexuality, that historically has been deviant."

Prager reviews the sexual history of the non-Jewish and non-Christian world in his study, *Judaism, Homosexuality, and Civilization*.

The civilizations of Pre-Columbian Americas, the ancient Near East, the Ancient Greeks and Romans, the English, the Asians, the Scandinavians, the Japanese and the Arab and Muslim ancients and not-so-ancients, all welcomed homosexuality and worse.

Policies of sexual liberation tend to make centralized, oppressive government more likely.

The real sexual revolution was waged thousands of years ago by Judaism.

Summarizing the ubiquitous nature of homosexuality in the pagan world, David Greenberg (*The Construction of Homosexuality*, University of Chicago Press) wrote, "With only a few exceptions, male homosexuality was not stigmatized or repressed so long as it conformed to norms regarding gender and relative ages and status of the partners... the major exceptions to this acceptance seem to have arisen in two circumstances. Both of these circumstances were Jewish."

So, what's the conclusion? Perversion follows paganism. Only those cultures liberated from sexual deviance by God's law and grace can sustain civilization. America's civil order was built loosely on a Christian moral consensus. Even though many Christian sects were influential at America's founding, there was nearly unanimous assent concerning the source of man's limitations (including sexual), God's law.

John Locke wrote:

The law of Nature stands as an eternal rule to all men, legislators as well as others. The rules that they make for man's actions

"Infusing" Gay Rights Into the Schools

According to a 1/6/95 article in *The Des Moines Register*, "The three-page proposal that has ignited a citywide debate over teaching Des Moines students about homosexuality includes recommendations taken from a gay advocacy group [known as Project 21] based in San Francisco." The Des Moines proposal supposedly originated from a Sexual Advisory Committee that met since 1991 to discuss how to **infuse** homosexual issues into the curriculum. Although the committee members claimed that they had no hidden agenda in this proposal, the *Des Moines Register* article reveals that "[b]ackground documents used by the committee show that at least 14 examples of how to include homosexuality in the curriculum were taken verbatim from materials provided by Project 21... a national group that promotes the inclusion of information about gays in school curriculums and textbooks. It was started in 1990 by the San Francisco Bay-area chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation."

The Iowa Human Growth and Development Manual also calls for **infusing** and **integrating** sex education across the curriculum. Of course, when sexuality is taught in math, science, literature, and every other subject, this makes it nearly impossible for parental notification to take place, thus ensuring that parents cannot pull their children out of classes covering offensive or explicit material. According to the *Des Moines Register*, here is some of the material from Project 21 that ended up in the Des Moines' proposal:

- A discussion of the dynamics of individual autonomy vs. institutionally imposed social or political conformity.
- A discussion of the nature of families including same-gender families and parenting.
- A presentation of information on gender/sexual orientation and the natural diversity present in human beings.
- The influence of industrialization and urbanization on changing gender roles and rise of urban same-gender-oriented communities.
- Information on the post-World War II persecution of homosexual people and the political use of homophobia.
- Information and discussion of the 1948 Kinsey Report and the issue of scientific "objectivity," political influence on scientific inquiry and social conservatism.
- The use of homophobia to discredit the women's movement and civil-rights movement.
- A discussion of the mid-1950's and the 1960s counter-culture movements and the influence of gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the Beat movement, etc.
- A discussion of the organized homophile movement and similarities and differences with other social change movements.
- Information on the Stonewall riots of June 1969.
- A discussion of the influence of the gay-liberation movement on the history and cultural life of America and the world.
- A discussion of the Bowers vs. Hardwick case and the right to privacy.
- Information on the National Marches on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.
- Information on the civil-disobedience demonstrations at the U.S. Supreme Court in 1987. †

must... be conformable to the Law of Nature—i.e., to the will of God. (*Second Essay Concerning Civil Government*)

Sir William Blackstone, contemporary of the Founders, wrote:

Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator... This will of his Maker is called the law of nature... This law of nature, being coequal with mankind, and dictated by God, Himself, is of course superior in obligation to any other. It is binding over all the globe in all countries, and at all times: no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this. (*Commentaries on the Laws of England*)

The Current Culture War

Declining post-Christian America has almost no institutional memory of our Godly heritage, nor the inclination to embrace the legitimacy of God's jurisdiction. Historically, whenever the underlying Godly foundations of a culture weaken, paganism makes a run on the institutions of government. That's what is happening here in Des Moines. The pagans are after our children and are trying to capture a larger piece of the educational establishment with which to advance their agenda.

Act Up spokesman Steve Warren proclaims the gay lobby's most non-negotiable demands when he wrote in *The Advocate*, the nation's most "prestigious" homosexual magazine:

You will also instruct your young people in homosexual as well as heterosexual behavior, and you will go out of your way to make certain that homosexual youths are allowed to date, attend religious functions together, openly display affection, and enjoy each other's sexuality without embarrassment or guilt.

You will also make certain that all of the prestige and resources of your institutions are brought to bear on the community, so that laws are passed forbidding discrimination against homosexuals and heavy punishments are assessed.

Finally, we will in all likelihood want to expunge a number of passages from your Scriptures and rewrite others, eliminating

preferential treatment of marriage and using word that will allow for homosexual interpretations of passages describing biblical lovers.

Then Steve Warren issues a warning:

If all these things do not come to pass quickly, we will subject Orthodox Jews and Christians to the most sustained hatred and vilification in recent memory. We have captured the liberal establishment and the press. We have already beaten you on a number of battlefields. And we have the spirit of the age on our side. You have neither the faith nor the strength to fight us, so you might as well surrender now.

Up until now in Des Moines, Iowa, Steve Warren has been right. A long time ago, for many reasons, the church gave up its moral authority to "infuse" Godly values into the public square. Pagan philosophies aren't so modest or toothless. The gay establishment is now thoroughly entrenched at the university level. Under the guise of multicultural diversity, the gay agenda already has open access to our schools, the YWCA, even 4-H. Spousal equivalency health benefits have been granted to gays at our state universities; plus, an official non-discrimination policy protecting sexual orientation already exists within the Des Moines public schools.

With all of these things sailing through the infrastructure virtually unopposed, the gay lobby felt confident enough to grab for the whole thing at once with this proposal to infuse the gay agenda into the whole school system, K-12. The current outrage amongst parents is a good sign, but pagans sustain a more passionate commitment to cultural dominion than do Christians. Until Christians pursue their mandate, Matt. 28:18-20, with as much vigor as do their pagan adversaries, we can expect to lose more ground.

Maybe we should start an organization...let's call it **ACT RIGHT!** †

Suggested Resources:

Prager's study *Judaism, Homosexuality and Civilization* is highly recommended. Write "Ultimate Issues" 6020 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232. or call 213-558-3958, or fax 213-558-4241.

Informed Answers to Gay Rights Questions, Roger Magnuson, Multnomah Books.

Jan Mickelson is a radio talk show host in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Give us pleasure without consequence, and in time our consciences will dull..."

—Christopher Check



The Celestine Prophecy

Berit Kjos

"All that any of us have to do is suspend our doubts and distractions..."
—James Redfield

When a self-published, self-distributed book is picked up by the powerful publishing arm of Time-Warner and soars to the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list, you know it has a message the world wants to hear.

Has humanity entered a new stage in its spiritual evolution? Is it time to revive ancient mysticism, grow in consciousness through communion with nature, connect with universal energies, and empower one another through love? Could the ancient Mayans have risen to such vibrational heights that they were actually raptured into an invisible spiritual state, leaving only a few mysterious clues to their superior wisdom?

Yes, answers James Redfield's top-selling thriller, *The Celestine Prophecy* (Warner Books, 1993). Its huge enthusiastic readership proves the appeal of its New Age message. After all, why shouldn't humans take charge of their own evolution? Why not seek telepathic connections with plants and people? Why not believe that today's anger, self-centeredness and "profound sense of restlessness" are merely symptoms of a universal awakening to higher spiritual realities. As Redfield shrewdly argues, the church people who resist this spiritual transformation simply don't understand. Afraid of losing authority, they refuse to accept today's psychic discoveries as tools that would clarify biblical truth and broaden spiritual experiences.

By disguising occult concepts in Christian terminology, New Age books have lured masses of so-called Christians into New Age and Neopagan circles. Just look at America's fascination with Betty Eadie's deceptive visions in *Embraced by the Light*. Notice the soaring de-

mand for counterfeit angels and feminist distortions of God. Since most contemporary "truth-seekers" have neither the facts nor the will to resist these seductive illusions, a paradigm shift—a massive change in America's view of reality—is transforming our culture. "Progressive" educators, writers, entertainers, and media leaders are fast replacing America's "narrow, obsolete" Biblical world view with a utopian New Age/Neopagan paradigm. In his introduction, Redfield summarizes his view of this process:

For half a century now, a new consciousness has been entering the human world, a new awareness that can only be called transcendent, spiritual... We know that life is really about a spiritual unfolding that is personal and enchanting—an unfolding that no science or philosophy or religion has yet fully clarified... [O]nce we understand... how to engage this allusive process and maximize its occurrence in our lives, human society will take a quantum leap into a whole new way of life... All that any of us have to do is suspend our doubts and distractions just long enough... and miraculously, this reality can be our own.

It sounds tempting. Simply suspend your doubts and flow with the tide. Trust Redfield, a child therapist raised a Methodist, as he outlines the path to global perfection through a set of ancient "Insights." Identify with his fictional characters in their pursuit of the sacred Mayan Manuscript. Follow their growth in consciousness as they experience each new insight. After all, this teaching is validated by history (as interpreted by Redfield) and carefully researched by sincere scientists. But watch out for the conservative leaders of the religious and scientific establishments. They have initiated a murderous

witch-hunt for the keepers of the Manuscript, the true saviors of the earth.

The Manuscript's nine Insights are worth noting, since they illustrate today's steps to social transformation. They beckon young and old through classroom encounter groups, multicultural curricula, earth-centered movies, and New Age books. Blending psychology, pseudo-science, occult spirituality and utopian visions of the future, they teach fantasy instead of facts, and disguise their deceptions in subtle imitations of biblical truth:

1. Be open and alert to the spiritual forces guiding seekers from behind the scenes.
2. Re-imagine history. Realize that the old values no longer fit.
3. See the universe as a vast energy system responsive to human thoughts and expectations.
4. Realize that wrongful manipulation of this cosmic energy causes all human conflict.
5. Resolve conflicts by drawing energy from a higher source.
6. Discover you true selves through oneness with the universal energy.
7. Seek guidance in dreams, thoughts, coincidences....
8. Stay centered. Project energy to others for mutual empowerment.
9. Envision a spiritually evolved humanity living on a planet radiant with health and energy. Live and share the message.

The Ninth Insight predicts global transformation. In the next millennium, humans "will voluntarily decrease our population so that we all may live in the most powerful and beautiful places on the Earth... we will intentionally let the forest go uncut so that they can mature and build energy... Our needs will be completely met without the exchange of any currency, yet also without any overindulgence or laziness... Guided by their intuitions, everyone will know precisely what to do..."

"Once we reach the *critical mass*," continues Redfield, "the human race will... see trees and rivers and mountains as temples of great power. We'll demand an end to any economic activity that threatens this treasure... someone will intuit alternative [solutions] as they seek their own evolution."

Strange as they sound, these illusions have taken root in mainstream America. They permeate today's global, multicultural and environ-

mental curricula. World-class education—the aim of international leaders as well as President Clinton and the NEA—call students to save the earth from wars and pollution by embracing a global spirituality, a seductive blend of the world's earth-centered religions. Al Gore calls it a "panreligious perspective" based on "the wisdom distilled by all faiths."

In his book, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*, our vice-president points his readers toward a global spirituality that would restore "our feeling of connectedness to the rest of nature" and lead us into a better world. Quoting excommunicated Catholic priest and scientist, Teilhard de Chardin, whose message of humanity's spiritual evolution echos Redfield's, Gore writes, "The fate of mankind, as of religion, depends upon the emergence of a new faith in the future.' Armed with such a faith, we might find it possible to resanctify the earth, identify it as God's creation, and accept our responsibility to protect and defend it..."

That pace-setters like Redfield and Gore promote pagan spirituality as the path to global harmony should come as no surprise. As always, when God's people neglect biblical truth, they drift back to earth-centered religions. Americans may hide their pagan beliefs behind Christian terminology and, like Redfield, voice sincere sentiments about love and unity, but they cannot fool our sovereign God. He has warned us that "other gods" and "deceiving spirits" lead to death and destruction, not peace and perfection.

As the masses trade truth for myths in a feverish search for power without accountability, God's people need the unchanging, uncorrupted word of God. As our nation rationalizes sin and idealizes paganism, Christians had better heed the warnings of scriptures and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. As schools become mission stations for global spirituality, our children had better know the strategic truths of God's armor (Ephesians 6:10-18), which can equip them to discern and counter every deception of the enemy. Remember, our Lord has promised to "supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Those who accept his provisions for victory in today's intensifying battle for truth, can count on His promise in Romans 8:37: *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us!* †

"Our needs will be completely met without the exchange of any currency."

—James Redfield



NEWTonian Politics and Morality

D. L. Cuddy, Ph.D.

*"I want to shift
the entire
planet."
—Newt Gingrich*

Newt Gingrich may not have the traditional conservative agenda that people hope for. His high-placed New Age associates have other ideals...

New speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich has been a close friend of futurists Alvin and Heidi Toffler for many years, and his Progress and Freedom Foundation has just published the Tofflers' *Creating a New Civilization: The Politics of the Third Wave* describing the Second Wave's (industrial society) origin with (Isaac) Newtonian science. Perhaps the Tofflers' Third Wave (information society) should be described as NEWTonian (Gingrich) science.

Although Gingrich is perceived by most to be conservative, is NEWTonian politics really that? Actually, he is a "Rockefeller" Republican, who coordinated Nelson Rockefeller's presidential campaign in the Southeast in 1968. Over the years, he has also expressed his admiration for President Franklin Roosevelt.

In the 1970s, as a professor at West Georgia College, he was viewed as a young liberal who didn't mind if people smoked a little dope (he's tried marijuana). During the mid-1970s, he said "I'm not a very strong (religious) believer," and this showed in his early Congressional campaigns, the first 2 of which were run by Chip Kahn. Kahn's wife, Mary, has stated that "Newt uses people and then discards them as useless. He really is a man with no conscience. He just doesn't seem to care who he hurts or why."

Similarly one of Gingrich's closest friends (until a falling-out in 1979), L.H. Carter, explained:

Newt is amoral. There isn't any right or wrong, there isn't any conservative or lib-

eral. There's only what will work best for Newt Gingrich.

These quotes are found in a November 1984 *Mother Jones* article, by David Osborne, in which the author asks:

If (Gingrich) preaches on thing and does another when it comes to moral issues, his constituents have a right to ask how far his views can be trusted on other subjects.

Perhaps relevant in this regard is that during the 1992 House banking scandal, Gingrich had run 22 overdrafts on his checking account.

As for his being against big government, Gingrich in 1979 voted for the establishment of the U.S. Department of Education. In 1984, he voted for the infamous Civil Rights Act that was even criticized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Baptist Joint Committee and many other groups. And in the same year, on July 7, *Human Events* reported that "for mystifying reasons," Gingrich had decided to go along with the National Peace Academy Campaign.

Also in 1984, Gingrich's *Window of Opportunity: A Blueprint for the Future* was published, in which he proposed at least a dozen new or enlarged federal programs. Over the years, He has consistently voted to send huge amounts of foreign aid abroad, but on March 10, 1994 he voted against an amendment by Rep. Gerald Solomon (to a budget bill) to balance the budget by 1999 through \$698 billion in spending cuts over 5 years.

The Washington Post (January 3, 1985) quoted Gingrich as saying, "I have an enormous personal ambition. I want to shift the entire planet. And I'm doing it." This fits with what his former chief of staff, Frank Gregorsky, said on C-Span (January 2, 1995):

Newt is first and foremost a political visionary, a futurist, and a historian. He's not becoming Speaker to preside as Speaker. He is carrying the essential core of himself into an incredibly visible podium with a lot of opportunity and a lot of responsibility, but he's not there to be the Speaker.

Gingrich has networked with New Agers for many years, and in the *Mother Jones* article referred to above, he is described as "this new-age Republican." He's been on the Executive Committee of the Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future, chaired for many years by "hug-a-tree" Al Gore with his Third Wave Gaia gospel (following the Second Wave social gospel). Gingrich has also been a member of the World Future Society for years, and with Alvin Toffler he helped form the Committee on Participatory Democracy.

Concerning the Tofflers' *Creating a New Civilization*, Gingrich said on C-Span, "In this 100 pages you'll begin to sense what the 21st century America, the 21st century Government, and the 21st century Congress need to be." In the book, one reads that the Third Wave new civilization will be "based on new, non-nuclear families," and that:

- it is futile to speak of Second Wave values, as though one could return to the values and morality of the 1950s...
- We will need to prepare people for work in such fields as human services (domestic workers, child care, etc.)...
- Majority rule is increasingly obsolete...
- The Constitution of the U.S. needs to be altered...
- the system must die and be replaced...
- Nationalism is (Second Wave)...
- as economies are transformed by the Third Wave, they are compelled to surrender part of their sovereignty."

It would seem that all of this will be like a global castle with a techno-feudal elite having the rest of us as their global serfs.

Perhaps this is why according to the NEWT World Order (Gingrich is a member of the globalist Council on Foreign Relations), he could vote for the General Agreement on Tariffs

and Trade/World Trade Organization (GATT/WTO), even though in the Ways and Means Committee, he said regarding the GATT/WTO:

We are transferring from the United States at a practical level significant authority to a new organization... This is not just another trade agreement. This is adopting something which twice, once in the 1940s and once in the 1950s, the U.S. Congress rejected... It is a very big transfer of power. Now, yes, we could in theory take the power back... But the fact is we are not likely to disrupt the entire world trading system (by pulling out).

When Newt Gingrich was selected as GOP which in the U.S. House of Representatives, he wrote on a Sunday early in April 1989 in *The Washington Post* that his selection was "not a narrow triumph of ideological conservatives." And later in the same year, he said in an interview published in *Human Events* (December 30) regarding homosexuality (including homosexual sodomy):

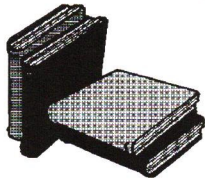
If it's committed in private between consenting adults, I don't think the state has any business intruding.

Similarly, *The Washington Post* reported on November 24, 1994, that Gingrich believes the Republican Party's position on homosexuality should be "toleration." This is certainly not the position of an "ideological conservative," nor is his listing as a priority the need for a national databank for gun purchasers (see Associated Press story by Janis Magin, December 1994). Neither would his membership in the NAACP nor his support for Nelson Mandela and the radical African National Congress be considered as on the political right. NEWTONian politics simply cannot be considered that of a traditional conservative, nor can NEWTONian morality (there's a steamy out-of-wedlock love scene in his soon-to-be-released novel). Therefore, Americans should reject *Creating a New(t) Civilization* based upon the new House Speaker's aforementioned values and positions on issues. ☩

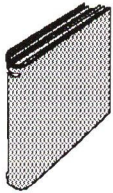
D.L. Cuddy, Ph.D. is the author of The Road to Socialism and the New World Order (available from Pro Family Forum, 813-644-6218) and Secret Records Revealed regarding Bill Clinton and the New World Order (available from the Plymouth Rock Foundation, 800-210-1620).

*The Third-Wave
new civilization
will "be based
on new, non-nu-
clear families."*

—The Tofflers'



Reviews



Culture Wars

CULTURE WARS: THE STRUGGLE TO DEFINE AMERICA
BY JAMES DAVISON HUNTER

By Judith Danford Tank

WARNING!! If read, this work might provide the reader with the necessary understanding, perspective, insight and vocabulary to intelligently discuss the major cultural and moral issues in which all of the social institutions in America and all Americans currently find themselves immersed. The reader also might be able to make sense out of many seemingly senseless debates which permeate our judicial system involving the political, economic, religious, mass media, and educational arenas.

James Davison Hunter's work *Culture Wars* presents a basically unbiased picture of the cultural and moral conflicts currently inundating all facets of American life. As Hunter himself writes in the Preface: "This book is mainly concerned with understanding and interpreting both the surface issues and the underlying realities of the contemporary culture war, as well as its historical significance and political implications." (xii), so he does in the body of the work.

Initially he moves the reader through "Stories from the Front" as he presents controversial issues like domestic partnership rights, abortion, the "Scopes Trial II" issue, flag burning, etc. as seen through the eyes of the orthodox in such characters as Chuck McIlhenny, Yehuda Levin, Mae Duggan and through the eyes of the secularist in such characters as Richmond Young, Bea Blair, and Har-

riet Woods. Although individually identified the philosophies, beliefs, and behaviors presented by each are collectively representative of the opposing perspectives on the controversial issues mentioned above. Hunter's ability to relate "both sides" in a fairly accurate and unbiased, non-judgemental way is refreshing.

Concerning the "underlying realities of the contemporary culture war, as well as its historical significance and political implications" Hunter writes with an intense, interrelated, in-depth scope and understanding making it necessary for the reader to read every word, sentence, and paragraph in order to "understand, interpret" and grasp the "realities, significance, and implications". Hunter's highly developed vocabulary makes it possible for him to succinctly address the information enveloping the culture war issues, on which numerous volumes have been written, in a single work. Each succeeding thought hinges on the information given previously. Although each topic is discussed singularly, collectively they are interwoven to form the completed culture war scenario.

Individually, Hunter writes about the "Anatomy of Culture Conflict" where he addresses public and private culture; the "historical roots of the cultural war and competing moral visions"; the "warfare" itself including "the grammar of contemporary hostility" and the "technology of public discourse"; and the social institutions where the battles are being waged.

As Thomas Byrne Edsall of the *Washington Monthly* wrote as an endorsement: "A rare book... It succeeds in both informing the reader and enlarging a debate that has become central not only to politics, but to such fundamental matters as dealings between man and woman, orthodox and secularist, and liberal and conservative." James Davison Hunter's

ability to combine all of the complex social issues facing America today without passing judgement, without labeling, without name calling, without using inflammatory vocabulary, and without espousing personal judgement for or against one or the other belief systems contributes to this work's rareness.

His neutral approach is enhanced through documentation. Not only does he show where changes, historically and politically, have occurred, but he also supports each perspective by quoting from conservatives such as Beverly LaHaye (CWA), Bob Simonds (CEE), Tim LaHaye; Phyllis Schlafly, James Dobson and then from liberals such as people from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, People for the American Way, Norman Lear, the ACLU. In addition, he often cites Supreme Court cases and records, plus surveys from conservative and liberal groups alike.

In his 50+ pages of footnotes he factually discusses groups like the Freemasons and the Illuminati (351-353); he discusses the historical facts of the "cult of reason" and "The Enlightenment and its impact on orthodox religion during the incipency of America" (353-355); he discusses the rise of secular humanism.

In the chapter on law when discussing "how religion is defined by the legal establishment" Hunter writes:

(it) is not merely a matter of academic curiosity but an issue linked directly and practically to the interests of opposing sides of the contemporary cultural conflict. It was clearly in the interests of progressives (and secular progressives in particular) for the courts to recognize a broader functional definition of religion in the early 1960s, for it guaranteed rights that had not previously or (at least

formally) been recognized. These court decisions represented a significant achievement for secularist organizations and intellectuals who had been working for nearly three decades to have humanism recognized as a religion or at least as a functional equivalent of religion. (260)

Hunter continues to explain how the

interests in the establishment cases are precisely the opposite of what they are in the free exercise cases" and cites the "widely publicized test (case) in the 1986 'Alabama Textbook Case' (*Smith v Board of School Commissioners*), a case that pitted a coalition of Evangelical Protestants, conservative Catholics, and other "theists" against the Mobile Board of Education, which was backed by among others, the American Civil Liberties Union and the People for the American Way.

In Hunter's footnoting he explains the use of "theists" (#29—380), that he was an expert witness called to testify in this case (#30—380) and that the "repudiations... made by an expert witness, Paul Kurtz, an apologist for the secular humanist movement, who claimed that secular humanism was not a religion—in open contradiction to contentions he had made earlier, advocating that it was in fact a religion." (#31—380-381). The reader is "informed" and the "debate enlarged".

It is this type of discussion that so impressed my students and myself. As an adjunct politically incorrect sociology instructor in a politically correct local junior college teaching can be disheartening and academically confining. The challenge is to bring to the classroom a "balanced" view of the social issues which face America today; thus providing an avenue for *free academic* discussion. Hunter's ability to write clearly and concisely not only helps the reader/student crystallize, categorize, and organize the cultural and moral issues with which he

or she may be vaguely familiar but incapable of thoroughly understanding, but also this unbiased work helps me to establish a congenial atmosphere for discussion which leads students to a greater understanding of the issues in America's culture war. As students understand the issues, they are able to discuss them with others; thus, they have an opportunity "to make a difference."

James Davison Hunter's book allows the readers to see the controversial cultural and moral issues and to understand the "opposition's" view point; thus, helping us to break the barriers which keep us from understanding the cultural war in which all Americans are engaged. He provides a non-inflammatory vocabulary for intelligent discussion which helps us to persuade another and to stop the labeling, the stereotyping, and the deadlock which so commonly occurs in discussions. Ultimately it helps the reader, as Hunter himself writes, make "sense of the battles over the family, art, education, law, and politics."

The logical question now is how will this conflict be resolved or can it be? This will, in my opinion, depend upon each reader's beliefs. As for Hunter, he writes about "Toward Resolution" in Section V. The reader will have to assess on his or her own whether he or she believes Hunter is correct or incorrect. Regardless of which it is or isn't, this work is a tool to be used to make a difference in the outcome of this country's "struggle to define" itself.

*CULTURE WARS: The Struggle to Define America—sociology/religion—by James Davison Hunter, copyright 1991. BASIC BOOKS, a division of Harper Collins Publishers, 10 East 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022-5299. 392 pages. Paperback. \$15.00. (other work: *Evangelicalism: The Coming Generation*, 1987.)*

Judith Danford Tank is an adjunct sociology instructor at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, MI. She has previously taught English, history, and Spanish on the high school level in the public and private setting in NJ.

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FERNGULLY—VIDEO, BOOK & CURRICULUM

By Berit Kjos

Christmas in the rainforest? Fairies instead of angels? A celebration of earthy magic rather than heavenly peace?

Viewers who hoped to find Christmas cheer on the Fox television network on December 25 would have been disappointed to discover the mythical 1992 movie *FernGully*. But they shouldn't be surprised. Long before Christians celebrated the birth of their King, pagans around the world filled the days surrounding Winter Solstice with earth-centered feasts. This generation is simply reviving its ancient roots, and the media reflects the shift. Having shed the cool secularism of recent decades, television—along with schools—now leads the march toward the hot new global spirituality. Any religion that celebrates oneness with nature and tolerance toward all but Christians will do.

The story of *FernGully*—sold as a video, children's book, and classroom curriculum—fits the formula. Environmentally and politically correct, the story pits evil American exploiters against a beautiful rainforest with its fun-loving fairies. Its mythical message rings loud and clear: only a revival of the earth-centered religions and their ancient magic can save the earth from greedy humans.

"Since the beginning of time, we have been the guardians of this forest," said Magi Lune, a goddess-like fairy. "But we have grown lazy. We have forgotten the magic of nature. The time has come to call on it again."¹

Magi Lune echoes a growing chorus of voices demanding the return of earth-based spirituality. Many schools have already traded our Christmas songs for Winter Solstice and Saturnalia celebrations. Public parks are replacing nativity

scenes with pagan gods. Americans, who once pledged obedience to their Lord, now crave a more "inclusive" spirituality designed to please people rather than God. And globalist educators seek non-Christian models for spiritual unity in a multicultural world. *FernGully* fits.

To answer those who challenge our concerns, consider the following points:

1. *FernGully* promotes occult practices common to earth-centered religions.

"Each ritual begins with the creation of a sacred space, the 'casting of a circle,'"² wrote Wiccan leader Starhawk in her witchcraft manual, *The Spiral Dance*. She recommends an assortment of chants, then shares the secret behind spells and magic: "To cast a spell is to project energy through a symbol... [Symbols] require the combined faculties of relaxation, visualization, concentration, and projection."³

Compare Starhawk's simple formula with *FernGully*'s message:

- **CASTING A CIRCLE:** "Gather everyone in the circle,' Magi Lune commanded."⁴
- **RITUAL CHANTS:** "she began to chant, and the seed glowed... Its dazzling light flowed through Magi..."⁵
- **VISUALIZE and CONCENTRATE:** "She concentrated her energy."⁶
- **TRUST SYMBOLS** that contain and transmit power: "She dug into her magic pouch and took out the seed Magi Lune had given her. It glowed in her hand."⁷
- **PROJECT** the power within yourself: "She knew she must now tap into her own hidden power."⁸

2. Their suggestive messages tend to bypass rational scrutiny.

Fiction is often more persuasive than facts—but its power to persuade come from desirability, not reliability. When

children relax and wait to be entertained, movies like *FernGully* can fill their unguarded minds with an enticing blend of pseudo-science and pagan beliefs. Few make the effort to resist the timeless allure of "natural" forces that can be manipulated through ancient rites and magical formulas according to human will.

3. Most children lack the knowledge needed to resist today's idealized paganism.

Only a generation ago, we viewed myths about fairies and tree spirits as interesting fables from the past. But our time-tested filters for reality—biblical truth and historical facts—are being replaced by wishful speculation and personal opinions. Few remember the terrors that characterized past pagan cultures. As the line between myth and reality blurs, anything becomes believable if it feels right and supports a person's views.

4. *FernGully* feeds the myth that paganism can restore our original harmony with nature and each other.

To save the earth, says eco-theologian Thomas Berry in the Sierra Club book *The Dream of the Earth*, "a new descent into a more primitive state must come about."⁹ He suggests that we look to the world's pagan cultures, learn from "the wisdom of tribal peoples,"¹⁰ then write "a new story"¹¹ that will guide us back to harmony with nature.

FernGully provides just such a story. Both the book and the movie demonstrate the biases of today's most popular forms of paganism:

- Matriarchal leadership.
- Men are insensitive and destructive to nature.
- Women are sensitive and wise guardians of nature.
- Everything is spiritually connected.

- Anyone can manipulate this force through ancient magical formulas.

In the past, Christian homes offered safety from this deception. Now television has eroded that freedom. In the past, our holidays inspired worship that honored God. Now it is politically correct to honor nature. When families get caught in the middle, holidays may bring division instead of peace—painful reminders that God-given truth will always clash with the man-made values of the world.

What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? asks Paul. *For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them..."* Therefore come out from them and be separate... (2 Cor. 6:14-16)

Only He can show us how follow Him in a world that is fast trading true peace for the seductive illusions in *FemGully*. †

Endnotes:

1. Diana Young, *FemGully* (New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1992), 110-111.
2. Starhawk, *The Spiral Dance* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979), 28. Starhawk, 124.
3. *Ibid.*, 107.
4. *Ibid.*, 111.
5. *Ibid.*, 113.
6. *Ibid.*, 121.
7. *Ibid.*, 122.
8. Thomas Berry, *The Dream of the Earth* (San Francisco: The Sierra Club *The Dream of the Earth* (San Francisco: The Sierra Club, 1988), 201.
9. *Ibid.*, 48. *Ibid.*, 87.

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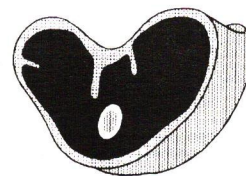
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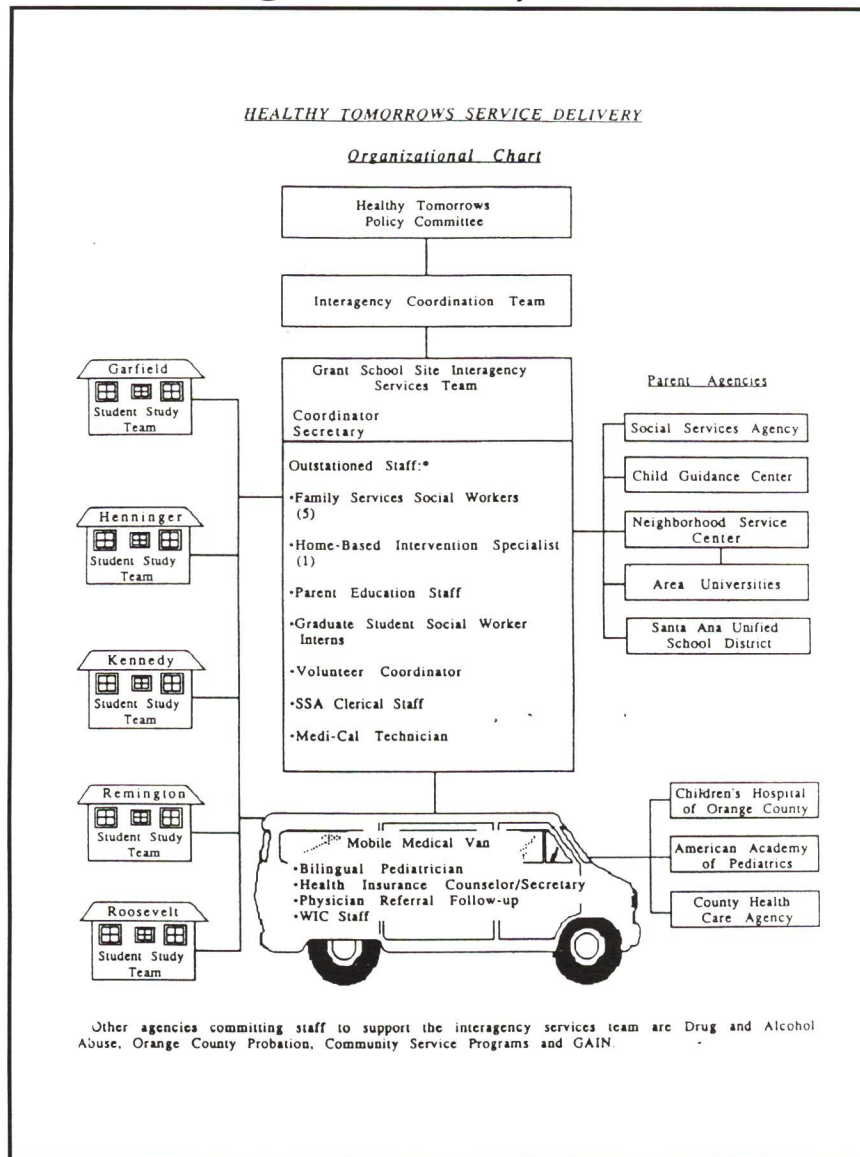
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*1 Tim. 1:19

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