

PERSON to PERSON **SOUL CARE**

Bear ye one another's burdens...

—Gal 6:2



The
Berean
Call

JUNE 2014

HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH COUNSEL?

by T. A. McMAHON

NEW! BIBLE SURVIVAL DVD VOLUME ONE



Bible Survival - Volume One

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Seven years after publication of the controversial ground-breaking bestseller *The Seduction of Christianity* in 1985, its authors, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, joined forces on another front. TBC was formed under the direction of Dave Hunt for the purpose of encouraging spiritual discernment among those who regarded themselves not just as “evangelicals” but as *biblical* Christians. The primary vehicle for this endeavor was through the publication of the newsletter *The Berean Call*. The ministry and newsletter name is taken from Acts 17:11, in which the writer of Acts commended those in the synagogue of the Greek city of *Berea* for being more fair minded than those in Thessalonica—because not only were they eager to receive the Word, but the *Bereans* also checked it against what the Apostle Paul taught them in order to see if his teaching was according to the Scriptures. Through the publishing and multimedia efforts of The Berean Call (TBC) believers are exhorted to get back into the Word of God instead of being “carried about by every wind of doctrine,” and are equipped with materials to help them walk in the truth. TBC’s stated mission is to:

- ALERT believers in Christ to unbiblical teachings and practices impacting the church
- EXHORT believers to give greater heed to biblical discernment and truth regarding teachings and practices being currently promoted in the church
- SUPPLY believers with teaching, information, and materials that will encourage the love of God’s truth, and assist in the development of biblical discernment
- MOBILIZE believers in Christ to action in obedience to the scriptural command to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3)
- IMPACT the church of Jesus Christ with the necessity for trusting the Scriptures as the only rule for faith, practice, and a life pleasing to God

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THE BEREAN CALL

"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so."—Acts 17:11

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How Does Your Church Counsel?

T. A. McMahon

How does your church provide counsel for its fellowship? That's a critical question for the body of Christ. The answer ought to be "God's way." Yet for more than half a century, due primarily to the influence of so-called Christian psychology, the church, with rare exceptions, has been counseling *man's way* in one form or another. The consequence has been that many believers have little more success in overcoming sins that are related to problems of living than do unbelievers. Indeed, even when the flesh is well-meaning—it profits nothing. Jesus declared, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10), but this lack of success would seem to deny His words. Furthermore, looking to worldly sources for help in sin-related mental, emotional, and behavioral problems is a rejection of the authority and the sufficiency of God's Word.

The Bible is absolutely clear regarding its authority and sufficiency for every believer. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as *his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness*, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:2-4).

In addition to the instructions the Scriptures supply for every believer, God's Word also supplies *power* for every believer who obeys its instructions: "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, *according to his glorious power*, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness" (Colossians 1:10-11). "For the word of God is quick, *and powerful*, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing

even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

So, the body of Christ has at its disposal the teachings of God's Word, the empowerment of the Word itself, and the enablement of the Holy Spirit to carry out its instructions. Why then would believers turn elsewhere? That's what every Christian, especially every church leader, those who shepherd the sheep, must consider. More often than not, even among fellowships that consider themselves to be biblical, the counseling techniques they use have little to do with scriptural teachings; instead they favor the methods with which the psychologized world has been mesmerized.

My hope in this article is that believers in Christ, especially those in leadership, will evaluate biblically how they and their fellowship are fulfilling the scriptural mandate to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). I want to present a list of practices that deviate from the biblical way and have been implemented as an aid to facilitate in counseling. Some miss the mark by miles, while others introduce subtle errors that nevertheless can contribute to serious problems. My list is hardly exhaustive and simply represents what I have observed personally, what I know biblically, as well as the extensive studies from psychological researchers supplied by Dr. Martin and Deidre Bobgan in their many volumes addressing the biblical way versus psychotherapeutic concepts and methods.

The most obvious counseling error is for a church to refer a believer to a professional counselor, be it a clinical psychologist, marriage and family counselor, or a psychiatrist who practices psychotherapy. Psychotherapy, if you are not aware, *does not deal with medical issues*; rather it is "talk" therapy drawn from some of the more than 500 concepts that professional counselors employ. We, and others, have written extensively about the anti-biblical theories and the pseudoscience of psychological counseling, which can be found in our website resource materials and in the book and DVD *Psychology and the Church: Critical Questions, Crucial Answers*. Yet here, in brief, are our fundamental problems with referring believers to those trained in psychological counseling: 1) The basic

concepts were conjured up by those who were atheists and anti-Christians. Scripture tells us in Psalm 1 that believers are not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly. 2) The foundational belief of psychological counseling is that mankind is inherently good. Jeremiah 17:9 states the opposite. 3) It is an intimidating myth that psychological counseling is scientific and that only professionals are equipped to counsel. 4) Since nearly all issues related to counseling are symptoms of sin, psychological counselors have no basis for addressing sin. 5) All Christian psychologists attempt to integrate psychotherapeutic concepts with the teachings of Scripture. 6) Referring believers to professional counselors is a shameful denial of the authority and sufficiency of God's Word. It is a matter of shepherds turning their flock over to hirelings at best—wolves in disguise at worst.

Some churches that recognize the problems with referring their members out to professional counselors have one or more professional or trained counselors on staff. That approach solves nothing. It simply brings the inherent problems of psychological counseling under the roof of the church. The fellowship is still being subjected to professionals trained in psychological counseling and who counsel psychologically or attempt to integrate their professional training with biblical teaching, which always corrupts God's Word. The method of setting up an individual as the counselor (e.g., an academically degreed professional or a certificated biblical counselor) for a fellowship is foreign to New Testament ministry. Moreover, it undermines body ministry within a fellowship as a function of the *members* rather than a particular individual. Too often it mimics methodologies of professional counseling that feature procedures that are contrary to what the Bible teaches.

What then does the Bible teach about how believers in a fellowship are to go about ministering to one another? How are believers to deal with everyday issues that adversely affect their walk with the Lord and consequently their relationship with others? First of all, ministry is required of all the believers in a fellowship. Scripture does not say that only a select individual is to "bear another's burdens." It says "ye," a plural form of "you," meaning *all* are to be involved in ministering to fellow believers.

Every true believer is indwelt with Jesus, who is our Counselor, and the Holy Spirit, who is our comforter and teacher.

Even as a babe in Christ, a believer can be used in ministering. Furthermore, every believer has a gift or gifts of the Holy Spirit that he is to utilize for the building up and edification of the body of Christ. These gifts are essential to effective ministry. Since the gifts are a function of the Holy Spirit as He wills, their implementation is not dependent upon the maturity of the believer. Nevertheless, when it comes to someone who has walked with the Lord for many years, who has experienced His deliverance through trials and tribulations, who knows and has obeyed the instructions of His Word, the Holy Spirit certainly has much to draw upon in using that person to minister to other believers.

Halting a specific sin issue in a fellow-believer's life should *not be* the primary goal of those who minister. Sin is nearly always symptomatic of a believer's having distanced himself from Christ. All ministering must therefore begin with where a believer is in his relationship with Jesus—and a recognition of where he needs to be. That includes one's submission to our Lord, reading His Word, obedience to what it says, time in prayer, fellowship with other believers, and one's service in fellowship. As should be apparent, such things are the substance of being steadfast in the faith and resisting iniquity: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but *yield yourselves unto God*, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:12-13).

There is no sin that cannot be prevented when a believer is walking in obedience to God's Word. Moreover, the increased spiritual growth of the believer is the ultimate prevention program to resist sin and advance fruitfulness: "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10). "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Although many Bible-believing fellowships would agree with what is stated above, rarely does their approval mean that they have put those principles into practice. Too often, very little discernment is used in biblically evaluating their approach to counseling. Most would claim that they provide "biblical counseling"—meaning

they disdain professional psychotherapy in favor of counseling from the Word of God. Yet a worldly leaven is too often introduced as churches reject psychotherapeutic concepts but fall prey to "the way the professionals do it." In the spirit of 2 Corinthians 13:5 and 1 Thessalonians 5:21 ("Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."), we would encourage fellowships that desire to be faithful to the Scriptures to consider these biblically contrary practices:

1) If counseling in a church becomes the function of an individual or a select few, that procedure rejects the biblical instruction that all should be involved in ministering to one another. It also puts a tremendous burden on the counselor (pastor or trained biblical counselor), and it erroneously sets that individual up as the one to go to in order to have life's problems solved.

2) If an individual has been selected as a church's "biblical counselor," does he or she betray the biblical way in practice? Does what takes place involve any of the following:

- a) Counseling by hourly appointments over an extended period of time
- b) Charging a fee or soliciting donations for services rendered
- c) Avoiding fellowship with counselees outside of the counseling sessions
- d) A male counselor counseling a female, or a female counselor counseling a male
- e) Searching a counselee's past to "discover" supposed issues that determine or influence present behavior
- f) Allowing counselees to "unload" on spouses or those with whom he or she has a relationship issue
- g) Attempting to know the heart of the counselee with regard to the veracity of what is being admitted
- h) Encouraging a counselee to be "transparent"

As you may have perceived in this list, all are compatible with professional psychological counseling and are contrary to God's instructions for believers to minister to one another. They are also rife with problems, according to studies by research psychologists themselves. Counseling by appointments of usually an hourly duration for a fee turns the counselor into a "paid friend." Friendships "outside the office" between counselor and counselee are considered a breach of professional ethics. Counseling between males and females has often led to sexual involvement. Delving into the past is a Freudian concept known as "psychic

determinism," which has led to the inducing of destructive beliefs, such as the creation of false memories. "Unloading," or "venting," has been shown to be more emotionally damaging than holding something within. Denigrating a spouse or someone in a relationship "gone bad" greatly inhibits reconciliation. Transparency is nearly always selective, lacks honesty, and is biased in favor of the counselee. Obviously, if such concepts don't work for secular counselors, they won't work for "biblical" counselors. Pragmatism, however, is not the standard for a follower of Christ. Doing things His way is.

How the body of Christ goes about ministering to one another in their fellowships is exceedingly significant beyond the practical considerations, although we can thank the Lord for seeing much fruit borne through our obedience to His instructions. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul writes what I believe is specifically directed at our generation, which even the world has recognized as our psychologized society, the "me" generation. Prophetically, he declares that "in the last days perilous times shall come." In verses 2 through 5 one could not identify the "perilous" consequences of psychological counseling any more clearly than the results of an epidemic of humanity's being "lovers of their own selves," generating those who are "covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

Counseling, when reflecting the way the world does it, indeed has "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Therefore, we, as believers, must heed Paul's Holy Spirit-inspired exhortation that "from such turn away." Our repentance, our turning away, must be followed by our turning *back* to God's way, as we are told in Jeremiah 6:16: "Thus saith the LORD, Stand you in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." That is the only antidote to being seduced by the "perilous times" in which we live. Let us, as the church of Christ, *not* end up like those in the times of Jeremiah who boldly declared "We will not walk therein."

For more detailed information regarding our concerns as well as biblical input regarding how fellowships go about counseling we recommend the following books by Martin and Deidre Bobgan: *Person to Person Ministry, Christ-Centered Ministry, and Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!* **TBC**

Quotable

You'll never get relief from worry until you confess it as sin. Worry doubts the goodness of God; it says He doesn't care. Worry doubts the wisdom of God; it says He doesn't know what He's doing. Worry doubts the power of God; it says He cannot deliver me from the thing that's causing me to worry.

—William MacDonald,
"The Revolutionary
Teachings of Jesus Christ"

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

—Psalm 18:2-3

Q&A

QUESTION: You confuse me. You seem to be very much opposed to psychology yet you quote some psychologists favorably and seem to rely upon the research that psychologists supply.

RESPONSE: You may be confused because you have missed some of what we have said in the extensive writings we have done on psychotherapy. We have stated that the American Psychological Association (APA) has more than 50 distinct divisions of psychology, of which only a few are scientific or lend themselves to the scrutiny of science. As an undergraduate in college, I majored in industrial design and used the research provided by psychology as it related to perception, signing, and ergonomics (man-machine interface).

The psychology we address critically in our ministry is psychotherapy (psychological counseling, clinical psychology), which is clearly not scientific. We often quote research psychologists and psychiatrists who supply studies demonstrating that psychotherapy is not scientific. There is a great gulf between those who do research on the effectiveness of psychotherapy and the practitioners, who generally disregard the research.

We could certainly address the problems with psychotherapy from only a biblical perspective and establish how contrary to the Scripture it is, but we have found that it is helpful for some Christians when we supply the abundance of evidence against psychological counseling from secular researchers.

QUESTION: My daughter, who is a committed Christian, is a high school junior who would like to attend a Christian university and major in counseling. She loves people and has a heart to serve others. I believe she has the gift of counseling. Could you recommend a good school for her?

RESPONSE: We hate to be blunt in responding to your daughter's hope for a career in counseling, but biblical truth demands it: there is no good school for her and there is no gift of counseling. The reason there is no good school is because all school programs for counseling are either psychological or a mixture of psychotherapy and the Bible. Even degreed or certificated programs that claim to be strictly biblical are not biblical. Why do I say that? Because the Bible does not support the belief that an individual is to be the counselor (i.e., problem solver) within a fellowship of believers. The Bible describes no counseling techniques like those presently used by those who call themselves "biblical counselors." Counseling, or, to be more correct, *ministering*, according to the Scriptures is to be a function of all believers in a fellowship. That being the case, it is not a valid career for a Christian.

In their Jan/Feb *Psychoheresy Awareness Letter*, Martin and Deidre Bobgan supply more information that a Christian who is considering a career in counseling needs to be aware. They write:

Psychologically trained and licensed counselors, marriage and family therapists, psychotherapists, and psychiatrists are chained to their training and licenses, both of which determine much of their practice. Not only do "Christian psychologists" dip into the same cisterns of psychological theories and therapies; they are also bound by law to practice in a similar manner. What does this mean? This means that licensed "Christian psychologists" must follow the codes of their state license. For instance the "Non-Discrimination" clause from the "Code of Ethics for Marriage and Family Therapists" states: "Marriage and family therapists do not condone or engage in discrimination or refuse professional service to anyone on the basis of race, gender, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic, or marital status." These restrictions are also espoused by all the national associations for psychologists and psychiatrists, and they are included in much of the state licensing.

Consider the reference to "sexual orientation." Every state has its own licensing

requirements for clinical psychologists and marriage and family therapists, as well as other therapists such as psychiatric social workers. We decided to ask our two state licensing offices here in California questions with regard to a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) person coming to a licensed counselor. Could the psychologist or marriage and family therapist (MFT) refuse service to such a person? Could the psychologist or MFT attempt to talk the person out of his/her orientation? If the LGBT person desires to live more peacefully as an LGBT person, would the psychologist or MFT be obligated to assist with this objective? Of course the answers to these questions apply equally well to a Christian licensed psychologist and MFT. In each case the answer from our California State offices was that if an LGBT person filed a complaint because of the refusal to serve him/her, or an attempt to talk the person out of his/her sexual orientation, or failure to assist, an investigation would surely follow. Although we were not told what the outcome would be, it doesn't take much imagination to see that at minimum there would be a reprimand and a need on the part of the licensed Christian psychologist or MFT to follow the "Non-Discrimination" section of the "Code of Ethics" or lose his/her license.

These anti-discrimination rules also apply to university psychology and counseling programs, which are subject to the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics. There have been at least two cases of students being dismissed from counseling programs, one because of referring a LGBT individual to another counselor and the other because she expressed her biblical beliefs about sexuality and refused the university's "remedial training," which she contended would be against her beliefs.

Other requirements for licensed Christian psychologists and MFTs, about which we will not elaborate, have to do with abortion and same-gender marriage. In addition, Christian psychologists and MFTs would be required to assist atheists, occultists, Satanists, and individuals of all faiths without being able to proselytize, persuade, or dissuade in matters of faith and practice. In summary, Christian licensed counselors are obligated by the bounds of using their psychological methodologies within the framework of a professional code of ethics, absent their Christian beliefs, no matter how contrary their counselees' beliefs and practices are to the Bible. *That is one more reason why we recommend against Christians becoming licensed as psychological counselors of any kind.*



IN
DEFENSE *of the* FAITH
BIBLICAL ANSWERS *to* CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

Where Does Prophecy Fit In—And Why?

QUESTION: I have heard it said that the prophecies in the Bible are worded in such a way that their alleged “fulfillment” could fit almost anything. Is this true? And if not, what is the purpose of prophecy? It seems to me that for the Bible even to be involved in prophecy puts it in the realm of speculation and detracts from its credibility and reliability and its excellent teaching on morals.

RESPONSE: The Bible is about 30 percent prophecy, and for this reason alone it is absolutely unique. There are no prophecies in the Qur’an, in the Hindu Vedas or the Bhagavad-Gita, in the sayings of Buddha and Confucius, in the Book of Mormon, or anywhere except in the Bible. Nor are there any prophecies concerning the coming of Buddha, Krishna, Muhammad, Zoroaster, Confucius, or the founder or leader of any other of the world’s religions. The Jewish Messiah is absolutely unique in this respect. His coming was foretold in dozens of specific prophecies that were fulfilled in minutest detail in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There are a number of reasons for biblical prophecy: to prove God’s existence by telling us what will happen in advance; to identify the Messiah by specifying numerous details concerning His coming, including even when and where; and to warn the faithful of conditions and dangers in the last days. (We deal with these elements of prophecy in other books.) As for being “worded in such a way that its alleged ‘fulfillment’ could fit almost anything,” that simply is not true, as any examination of biblical prophecy proves.

An Impeccable Prophetic Record

Inasmuch as fulfilled prophecy proves conclusively both the existence of God and that the Bible is His Word, the Bible’s prophecies have been critically examined in many strenuous attempts to disprove them. For example, so many factual details are given in the book of Daniel concerning the Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires that the skeptics tried hard to prove that these prophecies had actually been written after the events had occurred. Otherwise, they would have to admit that the Bible had indeed foretold the future. The date of Daniel was therefore attacked from every imaginable angle over the past two centuries. Every assault failed, however, and the book of Daniel stands impregnable today.

It was, of course, a complete waste of time to attempt to prove that Daniel had been written after the rise and fall of the four world empires of which it foretold. Even the most critical skeptics had to admit that this book had been part of the canon of the Old Testament at least before the coming of Christ and that events subsequent to Christ’s birth were presented accurately. The book of Daniel, for example (as we shall see later), foretold the very day (April 6, 32 AD) that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem

on a donkey (as Zechariah 9:9 had prophesied) and be hailed as the Messiah—the day that is now celebrated as Palm Sunday. Daniel foretold the splitting of the Roman Empire into two parts (East and West) centuries before it occurred. Politically and militarily, that split between East and West came in AD 330, when Constantine moved his capital to Constantinople. Religiously it came in AD 1054, when Pope Leo IX excommunicated Michael Cerularius, Patriarch of Constantinople.

We will go into specific prophecies later. Before moving on, however, let us consider one brief quote concerning prophecy from the fascinating book *A Lawyer Examines the Bible*:

The prophecies about the Jews—as about the coming Messiah...[are] specific (in contrast with the Delphic and other Pagan oracles who...hedge[d] against mistake[s])...[and are] so numerous as to make accidental fulfillment almost infinitely improbable...[and] of such nature that the events predicted seemed beforehand mutually destructive and were and are unparalleled in human history....

[Consider] the fact that the Jewish Passover has been celebrated continuously... [for] 3,500 years (although the sacred fires of Persia and those tended by the Vestal Virgins of Rome which were to be kept burning forever have been out for centuries)...in the light of the words we find in this same old Book:

And...ye shall keep it [the passover] a feast to the Lord throughout your generations... forever. (Exodus 12:14)

TBC NewsWatch

RICK WARREN'S PRAISE OF CATHOLIC TV

EWTN.COM, 4/14/14, "INTERVIEW WITH RICK WARREN ON EWTN" [TRANSCRIPT EXCERPTS]: Rick Warren interviewed by EWTN host Raymond Arroyo.

Arroyo: Tell me about your—the little breather you take in the day when you watch television—[Warren laughs] which surprised me. When we first met...I couldn't believe you watched this show...

Warren: You know what, I'm an avid fan of EWTN [Catholic TV]. I-I make no bones about it, I probably watch it more than any Christian channel...because I happen to like...

Arroyo: Why?

Warren: Well, you know what, because you have more—more, uh, uh, uh, shows that relate to history. And, and, if you don't understand the roots of our faith, that God has been working for 2,000 years—regardless of what brand of believer you are, God has been working for 2,000 years in his church. And if you don't have those roots, you're like the cut flower syndrome—or you're a tumbleweed. Um, ah, one of my favorite shows which you replete (sic) [unintelligible] is "The Chaplain of Divine Mercy" -

Arroyo: Really?

Warren: Which, um, I love, and when I've had a very stressful day, I'll come home, I've got it taped, and Kay and I will both listen, we'll put it on and just sit back, relax, worship, and, and in that, in that time of reflection, meditation and quietness, I find myself renewed and restored, [Warren leans forward] so thank you for continuing to replay "The Chaplain of Divine Mercy."

Arroyo: Thank Mother Angelica.

Warren: [Laughing], Thank you, Mother Angelica.

(<http://goo.gl/UhdZPp>)

30,000 JEWS PREPARE TO FLEE ODESSA

DAILYMAIL.COM, 5/5/14, "30,000 JEWS PREPARE TO FLEE ODESSA OVER FEARS OF MASSACRES AS UKRAINIAN TROOPS MOVE IN ON PRO-RUSSIAN MILITANTS" [EXCERPTS]: The leader of the Jewish community in the Ukrainian city of Odessa has spoke[n] on plans for a mass evacuation amid mounting fears of violence and anti-Semitism.

Rabbi Refael Kruskal told the *Jerusalem Post* he was concerned about "provocations" against the Jewish community and was ready to move children first, and

possibly more people, if the 30,000-strong community was targeted.

He and other Jewish community leaders said there had not been any evidence of anti-Semitism so far but said next weekend could be a flashpoint, as it marks 8 May, the day of victory over Nazi Germany.

"When there is shooting in the streets, the first plan is to take [the children] out of the centre of the city," Rabbi Kruskal told the newspaper.

"If it gets worse, then we'll take them out of the city. We have plans to take them both out of the city and even to a different country if necessary, plans which we prefer not to talk about which we have in place.

"The next weekend is going to be very violent."

Rabbi Kruskal heads the organisation which runs orphanages, schools and social services for the elderly for the city's Jewish community.

Other Jewish organisations have also drawn up evacuation plans, including the ultra-Orthodox Hasidic community, which has more than 1,000 families affiliated to its main synagogue.

(<http://goo.gl/NUFjj7>)

STUDENTS SURPRISED TO FIND NOAH'S ARK FEASIBLE

ICR.ORG, 4/11/14, "Students Surprised to Find Noah's Ark Feasible" [EXCERPTS]: Advanced physics students at Leicester University were tasked with determining if the Biblical dimensions of Noah's ark—assuming it was properly constructed—could have supported the mass of 70,000 animals. Student Kayie Raymer told UK's *The Telegraph* that after other "more serious" assignments, this one was "something different." What did they find?

The students used 48.2cm (almost 19 inches) as the length of a cubit to estimate the total dimensions of the ark. Using the density of water and Archimedes' principle of buoyancy, they calculated the total mass the ark could contain without sinking.

"Previous research has suggested that there were approximately 35,000 species of animals which would have needed to be saved by Noah," according to *The Telegraph*, though they cited no source for this estimate. Doubling this number to account for a male and female of each species, the student group estimated that the ark needed to have held approximately 70,000 creatures. To the students' surprise, they found that this amount did not exceed the total mass the ark could contain. Physics

student Thomas Morris told *The Telegraph*, "You don't think of the Bible necessarily as a scientifically accurate source of information, so I guess we were quite surprised when we discovered it would work." The students published their results in Leicester University's *Journal of Physics Special Topics*.

The students' results at the ark having 70,000 creatures actually exceed biblical expectations, giving further assurance that the ark could hold all that it needed—including food and even water.

Creatures change within the boundaries of their own "kinds" or fundamental forms, so Noah certainly did not need to take on board all "species," a modern term that seems to bear as many definitions as there are researchers who use it.

(<http://goo.gl/42Yv07>)

'I WILL SELL THEM,' BOKO HARAM LEADER SAYS

CNN.COM, 5/5/14, "I will sell them,' Boko Haram leader says of kidnapped Nigerian girls" [EXCERPTS]: Fears for the fate of more than 200 Nigerian girls turned even more nightmarish...when the leader of the Islamist militant group that kidnapped them announced plans to sell them.

"I abducted your girls. I will sell them in the market, by Allah," a man claiming to be Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau said in a video first obtained by Agence France-Presse.

"There is a market for selling humans. Allah says I should sell. He commands me to sell. I will sell women. I sell women," he continued, according to a CNN translation from the local Hausa language.

Boko Haram is a terrorist group receiving training from al Qaeda affiliates, according to U.S. officials. Its name means "Western education is sin." In his nearly hour-long, rambling video, Shekau repeatedly called for Western education to end.

The outrageous threat means the girls' parents' worst fears could be realized. Parents have avoided speaking to the media for fear their daughters may be singled out for reprisals.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the video "does appear legitimate."

(<http://goo.gl/vLaoFD>)

PLEASE NOTE: NewsWatch URLs are shortened versions of the original website links and are case sensitive.

T. A.'s Speaking Schedule

- Aug 29-31** **TBC Conference**
Bend, OR
(800) 937-6638
www.thebereanall.org
- Sep 6** **Midwest Hebrew Ministries**
Arden Hills, MN
(763) 427-7162
- Oct 17-18** **Discern for Life Youth Conf.**
Niles, MI (near S. Bend, IN)
www.discernment-ministries.org

STS 24/7 Broadcast Schedule

- June 6/13** **Matt Ferguson**
Jehovah's Witnesses
- June 20/27** **Carl Kerby**
The Noah Movie

Listen to Search the Scriptures 24/7 at:
www.thebereanall.org/radio
(Schedule is subject to change.)

Letters

Dear Tom and staff,

We thank God for you all and for the excellent work you do. We have been following your ministry for years and... you have kept us awake to the false gospel and wayward ministries out there. More importantly, your faithfulness to the Lord and the call He placed on you has served believers like ourselves immensely. You have kept us focused on the One True and Living God because you have kept us aware of the deceit.... A&FP (NY)

Dear Brethren,

This letter is to thank you for your response to one of the Q&A topics in the October '13 newsletter. The question was actually an accusation toward TBC having "predictable apostasy and blindness...once Dave was gone"The response given to such a harshly antagonistic accusation was one of the most gracious answers I have ever read in any publication....Thank you for your response, and your seemingly acute awareness that there will be those who are watching for TBC to stumble instead of coming alongside it in prayer and support. In all fairness, these very same souls may not be watching with hopefulness that TBC will fail, but rather with fearfulness that it might. Beloved brethren, your kindness in not rebuking the writer, but rather simply answering the accusation is further

evidence of the gracious gentleness of our Lord's Spirit at TBC.... JM (VT)

Dear Brother McMahan,

The Berean Call has always been wise and biblical to warn believers about so-called "Christian Psychologists." Our Christian family has been totally wrecked by a "Christian Psychotherapist." He lost his state license but still practices under a Christian umbrella. AG (SW)

Dear Sir,

There is so much Babylon/confusion going on in the religious world. I'm a believer that God has a dislike for religion. He wants a personal relationship with His people. He wants us to love Him and obey Him. He wants us to trust Him, rely upon Him, and cling to Him. I've learned that many people place their trust in a name rather than the One who owns the name. MB (CA, prisoner)

Dear Berean Call and Brother McMahan,

Many praises to the Lord for the April issue, "The Bible According to Hollywood 2." May the Lord bless greatly your sounding the alarm on all the unreality flooding the church today....Your work is not in vain in the Lord. I am a former Hollywood idolator and know the power of evil coming out of there. Don't back down. Don't be intimidated. May the Lord multiply your prayer base....May the Son of God be revered in your work. DC (AR)

TBC,

Just a comment on your article [*Is Heaven Is for Real for Real?*]. How can pulling more people to a love and following of our Lord make them into idolators? The picture of Jesus is a *picture*. We have millions of pictures of Jesus in our churches and elsewhere. So many people are trying to divide the church (no matter what religion) and say there is no God. To me [this movie] is a positive thing, not a negative as you are leaning toward. If this message gives people of faith joy instead of fear of what awaits them after death, how can that be bad? DB (email)

Dear Mr. McMahan,

This is just a line or two to encourage you and the staff at TBC to continue doing what you have been doing; you are providing a very valuable service to those who have ears to hear within the Church that our Lord Jesus Christ laid down His life for. I know that you must miss brother Dave a great deal, but be encouraged, you are pressing on with the battle, bringing truth that counteracts the apparent fantasy world that a large part of the Church lives in. If we

shed tears over the state of the Church today how must our Lord feel about the distance it has shifted from its foundations. The voice of TBC is very much needed. RB (Israel)

Dear TBC,

I cannot tell you how much this newsletter about Hollywood's attempt to portray Christ resonates deep in my heart. It has grieved me that so many Christians are running after these things with the argument, as you say, "conversation starters." May I add, as my friends have said, "God can work through anything." While I will not limit God, I cannot knowingly, as a mature Christian, take someone to see that movie and then need to fill in the gaps afterward, explain what the Word really says, etc. God gave us His Word as He did, why He did, when He did, with as much as He wanted us to know. As I have been saying on FB lately, "Why see the movie when the Book is not only better, but accurate? Why see an interpretation of God when you can read God for what He really says. Does anyone care about what God thinks about these things?" HO (email)

Dear Brother McMahan,

I appreciated your article *Is Heaven Is for Real for Real?* [TBC note: We have re-featured the article on our website.] This message is very important because Christians have so many distractions and so little encouragement toward discernment. It is so important to encourage believers to use the Bible exclusively for spiritual enlightenment. The teacher is supposed to be the Holy Spirit.

Thanks, Tom, for writing this and allowing me to share it with others! DL (email)

TBC Notes

Keeping Your Soil Fertile?

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:1-3

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Grace AND SIN:

WHY THE MEANING OF WORDS MATTERS *by David James*

TBC: Increasingly, we read of evangelical leaders dipping into the muddy waters of Catholicism for what they claim is a deeper or more meaningful experience in their Christian walk. For example, Rick Warren was recently interviewed on EWTN [Catholic TV], where he praised the religion highly for its history and claimed that he watches this program more than any other “Christian channel” [see TBC NewsWatch p. 6]. Author and Bible teacher Dave James of the Alliance for Biblical Integrity wrote the following in an exchange with a TBC staff member. We believe that it helps to shed light on the very real differences in the meaning of two words, “Grace” and “Sin,” that are used by both evangelicals and Catholics but have vastly different meanings.

CATHOLIC DOCTRINE has twisted the meaning of a number of concepts creating a paradoxically hopeful—yet hopeless—human condition. Let’s look at two: “Grace” and “Sin.”

GRACE – As believers, we understand that grace is not a physical thing but an abstract concept, which nevertheless exists. It is similar to “love” in this regard. Love is not a thing; it’s an abstract concept that can be manifested. Furthermore, it isn’t a “thing” that is transferred from one person to another but rather is an act that involves a particular way that one person behaves toward another. Biblical love includes the attitude and behavior that always has the best interests of the other person as the priority, even if it costs us something. *For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another....Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren* (1 John 3:11,16).

Likewise, in biblical Christianity, grace is an act of God in which He bestows a blessing rather than what a person deserves. *But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many* (Romans 5:15). *Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt* (Romans 4:4).

In Roman Catholic theology, however, although grace is an abstract concept, it is *also a thing*—a thing that can be transferred from God to humans. For such a transfer to take place, there must be a means by which to accomplish this. In this case, grace is literally transferred through the mediation of Mary using primarily the conduit of *the sacraments*—they confer the grace that they represent. And as a thing, grace, i.e., sanctifying grace, gives and sustains spiritual life in a very literal way—much as food is the vehicle through which the vitamins and minerals needed to sustain physical life are transferred.

SIN – the Bible teaches that all humanity has a sin nature. *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* (Jeremiah 17:9). *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned* (Romans 5:12). *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members* (Romans 7:23). *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness* (Romans 8:10). *But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe* (Galatians 3:22).

Many Christians make the mistake of thinking that “original sin” in Roman Catholic theology equates to and is just a different way of describing the sin nature. This is an utter misconception with eternal consequences.

According to the RCC, Adam and Eve were created possessing “sanctifying grace”—which was “something” that was lost when they sinned against God. Likewise, their descendants *inherit* original sin—but they don’t believe it is something that people are born with. Rather, there is something that people are born *without*—namely, sanctifying grace. Therefore, the solution to the original sin problem is to transfer sanctifying grace back into the soul—which takes place through the vehicle of the sacraments, the first of which is the sacrament of baptism. This is why the baptism of infants makes perfect sense within Catholic theology.

Interestingly, this meshes perfectly with Augustine’s theology that we aren’t inherently evil; we simply lack sanctifying grace—a problem that is easily solved through receiving the sacraments. Unfortunately for the Catholic, over time sanctifying grace diminishes—and can be partially lost (through venial sin) or completely lost (through mortal sin). And it is this matter of venial and mortal sin that reveals one of the most tragic aspects of Catholic theology.

We understand that the Bible teaches that although sins have varying degrees of consequences, any and every sin makes us sinners before a holy God and unfit for heaven. Yet, the Bible also teaches that we are cleansed and forgiven of every sin the moment we trust in Christ for salvation.

In contrast, Catholic theology teaches that although Christ’s death made salvation possible, it is up to each individual to earn the right to enter heaven. Those who die with only venial sin on their soul must spend time in the fires of purgatory, literally paying the penalty for their own sins, after which they will eventually make it to heaven. However, if someone dies with a mortal sin on their soul, meaning they have lost all sanctifying grace, they will spend eternity in hell.

But it gets worse—no one (not even the pope) can tell you whether or not a sin is a venial or mortal sin. There is no list. It depends not only on the seriousness of the sin but upon a number of other factors, including the circumstances and attitude at the time the sin was committed. And in fact, no one can know until *after* they die which were which. This is why Catholics are slaves to the sacramental system and why they can have no assurance (which the Bible provides) of eternal salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

CHRIST-CENTERED MINISTRY **VS.** PROBLEM-CENTERED COUNSELING

An excerpt from the book by Martin and Deidre Bobgan

CHRIST-CENTERED ministry encourages spiritual growth and depends on the Lord to do the work in each individual through His Word and Spirit. Therefore, one can confidently assure believers that this ministry is more effective, long lasting, and spiritually rewarding than problem-centered counseling for those who are willing to go this way. For those who follow this Christ-centered ministry there will be spiritual growth, even if certain problems at hand are not resolved.

Because Christ-centered ministry utilizes all that should already be available in every Bible-believing church where Christians are growing in the Lord, it avoids what we call the “onerous ones” that typify problem-centered counseling. We briefly touched on these onerous ones earlier. However, we will expand on them here to clarify some major differences between Christ-centered ministry and problem-centered counseling for the purpose of encouraging believers to take courage in exercising their gifts, talents, and responsibilities for ministering to one another without fear or intimidation from the counseling world.

⇒ ONE TO ONE ⇐

Problem-centered counseling is typically a one-to-one relationship. Sometimes couples and families are involved, but the relationship is generally artificial and restrictive. The counseling relationship itself usually does not extend outside the counseling room. The relationship lasts as long as counseling is being provided and normally does not extend to other involvement, even in most biblical counseling centers. Problem-centered counselors commonly do not involve themselves with counselees outside the counseling room. That is why both psychological and biblical counselors sometimes use intake forms requesting a great deal of personal information. Because this relationship is generally isolated, the counselor and counselee can be selective as to what they want to reveal about themselves. In fact, as we mentioned earlier, research shows that counselees often lie to their counselors and protect themselves by concealing important information.

The great advantage of Christ-centered ministry is that it is not limited to an artificial one-to-one relationship where one has the problem and the other supposedly has the solution. In the Body of Christ all are growing together. There are many opportunities to know one another and to interact in genuine relationships. When a believer is experiencing problems, more than one person may be involved in ministering to that individual. One may be teaching. One may be reminding. Another may simply be extending support and fellowship. Another may be helping in practical ways. Another may be exhorting. Another may be admonishing. And, in a few cases, some may be exercising the responsibility of disciplining a fellow believer for the sake of restoration. But, all can be praying and encouraging the individual in the direction of the Lord. And, through all this, all are growing together and the relationships may deepen with one another as well as with the Lord.

⇒ ONE DAY A WEEK ⇐

Problem-centered counseling is generally one-to-one, one-day-a-week, but rarely outside the office. Someone pointed out the paradox of the counseling relationship by saying that while the relationship is extremely intimate at times, the counselor has no interest in seeing the counselee outside the office. Many problem-centered counselors, including biblical counselors, avoid other contacts with their counselees, who cannot see the counselor outside the prescribed one-day-a-week, unless additional appointments are made.

In Christ-centered ministry the possibilities of seeing one another and communicating by phone are only limited by the number of individuals available. As mentioned earlier, Christians can choose when and how often to meet together for personal ministry. In the body of Christ this can be done freely without the one-day-a-week time constraints of problem-centered counseling.

⇒ ONE HOUR ⇐

In addition to the one-to-one and one-day-a-week errors in most problem-centered counseling, there is generally the fifty-minute hour limitation. Why a fifty-minute hour or similar restriction? The time restriction is a device to meet the needs of problem-centered counselors to regulate the flow of counselees for convenience and sometimes for income. This relationship governed by the clock benefits the counselor, not the counselee. And, if the counselee is late, the already reduced hour is further reduced; if the counselee is desperate and needs more time, it is already taken by other counselees.

Christ-centered ministry is governed by love rather than the clock. Giving time to a fellow believer is a way of saying, “I care about you.” And because the ministry is shared among believers, it supersedes what is available or affordable in problem-centered counseling. A local church is not bound by the one-to-one, one-day-a-week, one-hour relationships of problem-centered counseling.

⇒ ONE WEEK AFTER ANOTHER ⇐

One-to-one, one-day-a-week and one-hour shortcomings of problem-centered counseling are amplified by one-week-after-another....Today many problem-centered counselors continue to retain counselees over numerous weeks, months, and even years in spite of research that shows no advantage of long-term counseling....People in problem-centered counseling often become dependent on their counselors rather than on the Lord.

In contrast, Christ-centered ministry emphasizes dependency on the Lord Himself, and in a church where the ministries are functioning and the gifts are operating, the mutual care and encouragement of fellow believers are there to assist all believers in their ongoing walk with the Lord. Rather than a long-term artificial counseling relationship there is a relationship of mutual

care in which believers are available to encourage one another as they are growing together in Christ.

⇒ ONE FIXED PRICE ⇐

The one-to-one, one-day-a-week, one-hour, one-week-after-another errors of problem-centered counseling lead to one fixed price that is charged (or a donation that is expected). Some biblical counselors charge fees or request donations for their services for some of the same reasons as psychological counselors. The establishing, billing and collecting of fees (or encouraging of donations) are a significant aspect of most problem-centered counseling. Because of salaries to be paid, the one fixed price (or donation) becomes a necessity that limits the relationship. If one cannot pay his bill (or contribute) the relationship is usually over. The money paid (or donated) must match the mark in the appointment book and the hand on the clock. After all, a problem-centered counselor who charges a fee must fill enough appointments to make a desirable income.

⇒ ONE RIGHT AFTER ANOTHER ⇐

One right after another fits right into the one-to-one, one-day-a-week, one-hour, one-week-after-another and one-fixed price onerosities. In problem-centered counseling there is usually a progression of one person right after another. Counselees know others have preceded them and others will follow. No one has set a limit on how many counselees per day one counselor can effectively manage. Counseling eight hours a day, five days a week, with large numbers of people always has and always will lead to superficial relationships lacking genuine compassion, even in the biblical counseling office. There is no biblical example for one-right-after-another, problem-centered counseling. No, not even the example of Moses, since he was judging disputes between people, rather than getting into the pattern of problem-centered counseling as practiced today.

In Christ-centered ministry, the personal ministry load can be spread among many believers. There is no need for one-right-after-another or the other onerous ones. There is often a temptation for the pastor or a paid staff member to carry the load of personal ministry. When this happens, one right after another can weaken the overall ministry, overburden the pastoral staff, and be affected by the onerous ones. Believers need to learn to minister to one another and to receive ministry from each other rather than depending on the pastor or a staff counselor for such help.

⇒ ONE UP/ONE DOWN ⇐

The one-to-one, one-day-a-week, one-hour, one-week-after-another, one-fixed price, one-right-after-another are eclipsed in problem-centered counseling by the tragic onerosity of the one-up/one-down relationship, with the counselor considered as the expert with the gnosis to perform the cure...Rather than an expert being responsible to fix the problem, Christ-centered ministry draws both the seeker and the helper to the Lord for wisdom and transformation. When the Lord calls one believer to minister to another believer, both are seeking the Lord in meekness and humility. Believers may be especially gifted to minister to one another in the faith, but all (even those in leadership) stand on an equal plain at the foot of the cross. Indeed, it is the Lord who truly accomplishes the restoration and sanctification of the believer.

⇒ OUR GOAL ⇐

Our goal is to remind believers of their call and empowerment to serve in the Body of Christ. Obviously not all the necessary information regarding Christ-centered ministry is in this short book, but the Lord will bring forth what is missing through the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the Body of Christ as you seek to serve Him. He will give you opportunities to grow spiritually and serve according to His will, through His Word, and by grace through faith.

We seek to encourage ministry and to discourage the use of problem-centered counseling. We seek to encourage the dependence on the Lord and His Word to minister to one another in the Body of Christ, without intimidation by or dependence on biblical counseling manuals, workshops, seminars, degrees, or certificates. We hope to see ministry shared among believers in their local fellowships with their focus on Jesus Christ and the Word of God. The Lord will enable them to serve as they are constant in prayer, diligent in Bible study, and marked with the humility of a servant's heart and as they are ready to serve without having to be in a superior position or to have a title of superiority.

Ministry among believers should be constant and ongoing, which will result in souls beset with problems seeking the Lord through His Spirit, Word, and Body rather than turning to counselors trained in psychological or biblical counseling... What a privilege to be included in the mighty, miraculous work of God in one another's lives. All believers have opportunities to minister to fellow believers to encourage them along the way.

If you are one who is experiencing problems of living and looking for assistance, find someone in your local church who can minister to you. Find someone who is mature in the faith and is walking with God the way you desire to walk. Ask that person to come alongside, minister the Life of Christ, speak forth the truth of God, encourage you in your walk with the Lord, and earnestly pray.

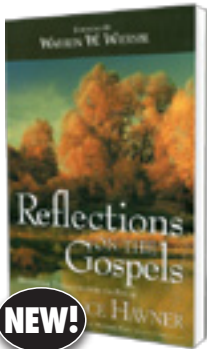
If you are a Christian, know essential biblical doctrines, are walking according to your new life in Christ and growing in the Lord, you already have what it takes to minister the Life of Christ to a fellow believer. You have a living God, the source of all life and healing. You have His living, enduring, abiding Word (1 Peter 1:23-25), which ministers truth to the mind, direction and encouragement to the will, and grace for the emotions. Christ-centered ministry is not a position of expertise (one-upmanship) but one of side-by-side seeking the Lord. It does not lead believers into the downward spiral of problems, but rather upward to the Life of Christ and the Word of God through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Can you think of anything more worthwhile than to serve God in your own family, in the Body of Christ, and in the world? Every person in whom the Holy Spirit lives is enabled to serve and can say with Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13)? Take courage! God will indeed work His own good pleasure in and through His children.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

See page 12 to purchase
Christ-Centered Ministry vs. Problem-Centered Counseling

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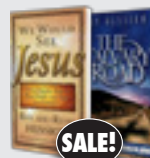
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Bobgan—*Christ-Centered Ministry* delves into the origins and faults of problem-centered counseling, describes Christ-centered ministry and how it differs from problem-centered counseling, and encourages local congregations to minister as God has called them to without the influence of the psychological or biblical counseling movements. The radical proposal is to overthrow intimidation from the psychological and biblical counseling movements, and thereby free believers in local congregations to minister to fellow believers without psychological or biblical counseling manuals, workshops, seminars, degrees, or certificates. Eastgate Publishers, 134 pp. Retail \$12.00

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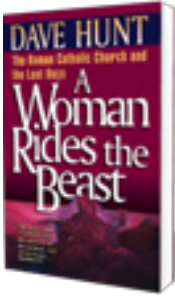
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Bobgan—*Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!* tells why Christians should be opposed to counseling and literally Stop Counseling! and Start Ministering! Reasons are revealed why counseling, because it is problem-centered, inevitably involves sinful conversations. Central to ministering is helping individuals in need to overcome their fixation on their problems and encouraging them to become Christ-centered on a daily basis. This book provides ways of equipping those in need with the truths of Scripture and encouraging them to live the daily life in a way that will be honoring to the Lord and beneficial for meeting life’s problems without sinfully talking about them. Eastgate Publishers, 325 pp. Retail \$17.99

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A Woman Rides the Beast

Hunt—Are you missing half the story about the last days? Virtually all attention these days is focused on the coming Antichrist—but he is only half the story. Many are amazed to discover in Revelation 17 that there is also another mysterious character at the heart of prophecy—a woman who rides the beast. Who is this woman? Tradition says she is connected with the church of Rome. But isn't such a view outdated? After all, today's Vatican is eager to join hands with

Protestants worldwide. "The Catholic church has changed," is what we hear. Or has it? In *A Woman Rides the Beast*, prophecy expert Dave Hunt sifts through biblical truth and global events to present a well-defined portrait of the woman and her powerful place in the Antichrist's future empire. Eight remarkable clues in Revelation 17 and 18 prove the woman's identity beyond any reasonable doubt. Harvest House Publishers, 549 pp.

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A Woman Rides the Beast - DVD

The Berean Call—Most "end-times" discussions focus on the coming Antichrist—but he is only half the story...there is another mysterious character at the heart of prophecy—a woman who rides the beast. Join Dave Hunt on this hour-long journey through history as he presents an overview of end-times prophecy and explains why he believes that a revived Roman Empire and the church of Rome are major players in what lies ahead. 56 min.

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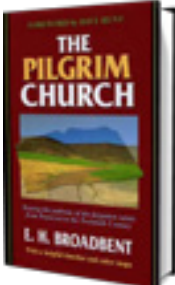


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JUNE 2014



CONFERENCE UPDATE!

We're pleased to announce that Ray Yungen will be a featured speaker for our summer 2014 Bible conference! Remember, the conference is **FREE** but pre-registration is required. Sign up as soon as possible to help us prepare for this year's event.



BBQ CHICKEN LUNCH!

Please join us on August 31 for what has become a delightful annual tradition: BBQ and open house at the offices of The Berean Call! Served just around the corner from the TBC offices, this optional lunch will be prepared by Bend's award-winning Country Catering.

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RAY YUNGEN

Ray Yungen is an author, speaker, and research analyst who has studied religious movements for nearly thirty years. In fact, some of his earliest research was for Dave Hunt! Ray's love for Jesus Christ and for people and his exuberance for life are reflected in his writing and speaking. We look forward to welcoming Ray as he shares his expertise on the history of the New Age movement and how it continues to impact the church.

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