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Finances, Fraud and False Teaching The Troubled History of Don Stewart

by G. Richard Fisher

"An overseer must be blameless, the husband of one wife. ... of good behavior ... not greedy for money" (1 Timothy 3:2-3).

"Through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you" (2 Peter 2:3).

It is happening! Though Christians may say, "Make merchandise of me, exploit me, make profit from me? — No way," it is happening all over. The multimillion-dollar lifestyle and blatant materialism of many televangelists screams the point as a reality. It is in our face. "Miracles," mesmerism, and magic sell, and sell big.

Because of its dependence on emotions, and with little regard for the Scripture, the Charismatic movement has a long history of spawning false doctrines and strange personalities. J. Stephen Lang writes:

"Charles F. Parham, one of the 'founding fathers' of the Pentecostal revival in the twentieth century, claimed that annihilationism was 'the most important doctrine in the world today.'"¹

In an amazing turnaround, Parham denounced the Azusa Street move-



ment he helped to create.² Parham also was an avid supporter of the Ku Klux Klan.³

Things have not changed, and strange personalities and strange teachings keep cropping up on the Charismatic circuit. Don Stewart has a

long history in televangelism and a long history with the long arm of the law. He also has a long history of an extravagant lifestyle on par with any Hollywood mogul or movie star, though he is not very photogenic. His broadcasts are a smaller, slower version of Benny Hinn's. His claims are as excessive as is his lifestyle. Little has been written about him (even by countercult ministries). He has managed until now to "fly beneath the radar."

During his services, Stewart sings off key to people just before they are "slain in the Spirit" by his touch. He warbles and croons songs (partially Scripture and partially positive affirmations) that sound like he is just making them up as he goes along. His broadcasts feature highlights of past meetings interspersed with dialogues with his current wife, Brenda, who is so emotionless and monotone she

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