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 9. Ibid., pg. 250.  
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 13. Renald E. Showers, *What on Earth Is God Doing?* Bellmawr, N.J.: Friends of Israel, 2003, pp. 79, 80.  
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 15. Ibid., pg. 194.  
 16. Ibid., pg. 50.

17. *Understanding Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism*, op. cit., pg. 73.  
 18. David F. Wells, "The Word in the World." Document accessed at: [www.the-highway.com/wordworld\\_Wells.html](http://www.the-highway.com/wordworld_Wells.html). This online article originally appeared in John H. Armstrong, General Editor, *The Compromised Church: The Present Evangelical Crisis*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1998. The quotation is on page 27 of the book.



## EDITORIALS

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- There, too, may be within the seeker a deep dissatisfaction with life in general or in one's own life that creates great feelings of vulnerability.
- There also may be a desire for spiritual meaning and direction.
- Many have a desire for a cause to live for.
- Added to that, there may be a total ignorance of group manipulation.
- There often is also a desire to be accepted and loved. This is usually encountered in the cult's courtship phase (called "love-bombing"), but not sustained by the group over the long haul. Once in, it is all work and no play.
- The cult leader can also push our greed button with the aforementioned promises of hundredfold (or even a thousandfold) in return for our investment. It is sometimes called "sowing your seed." The old nature loves to gamble. This is one of the crafty schemes that has been working for many years. The cult leader gets the "seed" and we are left with an empty plot.

Now we can understand at least a little bit of the tricks men play and how they prey. Memorize Ephesians 4:14. Be aware of the "cunning and craftiness of men." We have been warned.

—GRF

## NEWS UPDATES

(continued from page 3)

Despite his believing that people have turned to the Bible because of his erroneous and, as he admits, sinful predictions, Camping fails to see how much damage his false predictions have done, including causing an unbelieving world to scoff at the idea that Jesus will return again, as He promised to do. Christians and the Bible are mocked and ridiculed because of Camping's failed predictions.

—JGS/MKG

## A RIVER OF RED INK

More than a decade following the last service of the famed "Pensacola Revival," the church staff and membership of the Brownsville Assembly of God are still feeling reverberations from this so-called spiritual outpouring. The meetings reportedly drew 5,500 people four nights a week and lasted six years. Yet the results — or more correctly, the aftermath — of the revival left the church on the brink of financial collapse; a fact little known outside the church family according to a recent Associated Press report.

By the time the revival, called "A River is Flowing," dried up, it had amassed \$11.5 million in debt. That figure has been reduced to \$6.5 million after the sale of property and expense reduction. The Rev. Evon Horton, the church's current pastor, hopes to wipe out the remaining debt through a donation campaign which he claims God gave to him in a dream. "We can be debt-free if just 7,000 of the millions of people who attended the revival help out" by giving \$1,000 each toward the debt removal, Horton said.

The AP article indicated that the "paid staff is down to six from around 50." Also it said Sunday attendance at the church's two services was between 800 and 1,000, and that "most pews go empty in the 2,200-seat sanctuary."

At the height of the revival services, it was more than Holy Ghost power that was flowing at Brownsville — large amounts of cash were flowing as well. Following months of investigative work, the *Pensacola News Journal* published a series of articles which included the financial benefits acquired by the revival's leadership. The newspaper estimated that for 1997, "the total revival revenue was between \$4.3 million and \$5.4 million for that one year." It reported that the offerings from the Friday evening services — said to be a weekly amount of \$20,000 — were given directly to the revival's evangelist Stephen Hill. The church's pastor, James Kilpatrick, as well as the revival's "theologian," Michael Brown, were also harvesting their own fiscal fortunes, purchasing homes and property in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The church itself began buying homes adjacent to its campus, then razing them for parking. Horton told the AP "he's still unsure what happened to all the money."

Kilpatrick resigned as Brownsville's pastor in 2003, eventually moving 50 miles west of Pensacola to Daphne, Ala., where in 2006 he founded the Church of His Presence.

From the start of the revival, PFO was critical of both the doctrine and practice of the leadership. Brown, in confronting the revival's critics, asked, "Are you totally and absolutely sure that you are right in attacking the current revival? Are you willing to wager your salvation on the fact that you are correct?"

—MKG

## SCHULLER OFF BOARD, AGAIN

The Rev. Robert H. Schuller, along with his wife, Arvella, announced in March that they were resigning from the board of directors of the Crystal Cathedral. The Schullers' resignations were the latest setback for the preacher of positive thinking and the Southern California church he founded more than 50 years ago.

In July 2011, Schuller was removed as a voting member of the board, but was quickly reinstated and the two members of the board responsible for stripping the founding pastor of his authority were ousted.

The resignations, according to the Schullers' daughter, Carol Schuller Milner, were a result of "an inability to agree on a deal for housing benefits and fees for using

the pastor's intellectual property, such as writings and sermons," according to the online publication, *onenewsnow.com*.

Immediately following the announcement that the Schullers were stepping down, the erstwhile pastor posted a four-minute video to his Facebook page in which he said that his "financial future may be at risk" because of the church's financial troubles which ended in bankruptcy. On the video Schuller said: "My family and I would never receive royalties on the revenue that my materials brought into the church; materials that were created on our own personal time. Then, when I stepped out of active management of the ministry in 2005, in exchange for continuing to use my materials, the ministry granted my wife and me retirement pay that was intended to provide for us the rest of our lives."

A breach of contract suit was filed by the Schullers along with their daughter Carol and son-in-law Timothy Milner. It is seeking "immediate cash payments in excess of \$5.5 million," according to a report in *The Orange County Register*. The battle between the Schullers and the church's board is said to be preventing payment of millions of dollars owed to a number of vendors who supplied the church with various services and merchandise — some of whom have been waiting for years to be paid.

In February, the church's campus was sold to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange for \$57.5 million as part of a bankruptcy deal.

—MKG

### PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- I. THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD: IT IS IN ITS ENTIRETY THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALL MATTERS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE.
- II. THE ONE TRUE GOD. IN THE ONE TRUE GOD THERE EXIST THREE PERSONS, BEING: THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- III. JESUS CHRIST: HIS DEITY, HUMANITY, VIRGIN BIRTH, SINLESSNESS, DEATH AND BODILY RESURRECTION; WHO WILL PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH.
- IV. THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- V. THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF SATAN, HIS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO GOD, AND HIS POWER OVER THE UNREGENERATE.
- VI. THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF ALL MEN WHICH MAKES THEM HOPELESSLY LOST WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH OBTAINABLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- VII. THE FINAL ESTATE OF MAN: FOR THE SAVED, EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND FOR THE UNSAVED, EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.
- VIII. THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED BEING SUMMED IN THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- IX. THE CHURCH BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSISTING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. A LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS UNITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST.
- X. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST BEING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL MEN, BAPTIZING AND DISCIPLING THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED.