



PERSONAL
FREEDOM
OUTREACH

VOL. 2, NO. 4

OCT.-DEC., 1982

EDITOR: KEITH A. MORSE

newsletter

BACKWARD MASKING



... & backward priorities

It's become a hot topic among Christians today. A radio call-in program stretches from an hour to 3½ hours when it is discussed. A California assemblyman and a California congressman want to pass laws warning people of its existence. Christian TV shows and secular news shows alike have covered it.

What is it?

Secular Humanism?

No! Backward masking — the alleged practice of placing backward messages, which some believe can be picked up by the subconscious mind, in the music on rock 'n' roll records. Some people claim that any backward message heard three times is accepted by the mind as fact.

Take the song *Stairway to Heaven* by Led Zeppelin. Make a tape and play it backward. And sure enough, popping up from the gurgle of backward-sounding guitars and drums are the words, "Here's to my sweet Satan" and "Power in Satan." Hearing it, once someone has pointed it out, can be an eerie experience.

Songs by other groups such as the Electric Light Orchestra and Styx contain "messages" that sound something like "Christ, you're the nasty one; Christ, you're infernal," and "Satan, move in

our voices."

Many Christians look upon backward masking as just one more objectionable feature of an entire form of music. Now, not only can a frontal assault on Christian values be found in rock, they say, but a satanic message sneaking around the back as well.

Christians have a right to be concerned about this. If Satan is trying to undermine us subconsciously through the songs we hear on the radio and on our stereos, we ought to know.

Unfortunately, much of the concern by Christians has come in the form of premature, summary judgment.

Several questions on this topic came to mind as news of this phenomenon surfaced. Of course, the first question was answered upon hearing one of the songs played backward. The messages come through, if one knows what to listen for. Other writers investigating this phenomenon have noted that these messages are not shining examples of elocution. Vowels are elongated and consonants blurred. Many of the messages, barely discernible, are all but buried under the burbling of backward music.

(continued on page 6)

NEWS UPDATE



A group from the Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus Convention, held in Dallas, spent time witnessing at the Watchtower's "Kingdom Truth" Convention.

DALLAS XJW CONVENTION

An Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus Convention was held July 2-4 at Colonial Baptist Church in Dallas while a Watchtower Convention was being held nearby at the State Fair Coliseum.

A group of 30 people from the XJW convention spent their lunch breaks passing out tracts and witnessing for the Lord Jesus at the Watchtower convention.

"When the Watchtower officials saw us with our signs and tracts, they 'shooed' their people inside as if they were chickens. 'Don't take that material ... These people are evil slaves' they said," said Joe Hewitt, chairman of the XJW convention.

"Most of the Jehovah's Witnesses obediently refused to accept our tracts," Hewitt added. "One lady accepted a tract from me and one of the Watchtower officials who shadowed me all the time I was there took it away from her."

In another incident, a man accepted a booklet from Watchman Fellowship Director David Henke, stating that he was free to examine any material presented to him. However, upon re-entering the Watchtower Convention, he was surrounded by Watchtower elders who forced him to throw away the material he claimed he was so free to examine!

Press coverage of the XJW's witnessing efforts caught the eye of the press in Dallas and the 3-minute message line for Jehovah's Witnesses in the Dallas area has been receiving 150 calls a day.

Testimonies of former Jehovah's Witnesses and presentations on how to effectively share Christ with Jehovah's Witnesses made up the bulk of the convention activities.

Dr. Ken Matthews said that the Old Testament of the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* was clumsily translated by people who "knowingly changed" Scripture to fit their doctrine that Jesus Christ is not God. Matthews, a professor of Old Testament and Semitics at Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, said the work was "not a translation," and "not Scripture." It should not be called a Bible, but rather "The Book of Jehovah's Witnesses."

Those who missed out on the Dallas Convention can still make plans to attend the "Witnesses For Jesus Convention" October 22-24 in New Ringgold, Pennsylvania. For further information contact convention chairman Bill Cetnar, Route 3, Weir Lake Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058, or Personal Freedom Outreach.

—MKG

REV. MOON UPDATE

The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church, was given a prison term and fine for his convictions on tax charges, but will not be deported.

Moon was sentenced on July 14 to 18 months in prison. Moon was convicted of conspiracy to evade taxes on about \$162,000 in personal income. He was also fined \$25,000.

An appeal of the conviction is planned, according to Moon's lawyer. Moon is currently out on appeal bond.

On August 10, a federal district judge in New York ruled that Moon will not be deported, saying that the prison term was sufficient punishment.

Meanwhile, Moon's image problems continue.

One Unification Church member was forced to drop a lawsuit against a deprogrammer when some of Moon's testimony began to get too embarrassing. Moon invoked the Fifth Amendment several times, but did testify on other things, such as his "visions" of Jesus, Moses and Buddha.

Recently, a poll commissioned by Moon revealed that he ranked with the Rev. Jim Jones as being among the most detested religious figures in recent years, according to an article in the May 3, 1982, issue of *Newsweek* magazine.

—KAM



Jehovah's Witnesses from around the world gathered at over 130 district conventions during the summer months. Over 12,000 gathered at the Checkerdome in St. Louis.

JW 1982 KINGDOM TRUTH CONVENTIONS

Faithful Jehovah's Witnesses gathered at more than 130 District Assemblies in four countries this year. The assembly theme was "Kingdom Truth."

Two new publications for use in Witnesses' door-to-door visitations were released at the conventions.

A hardbound book, *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*, made its debut with an initial printing of 5 million copies — the largest of any hardbound Watchtower book.

Forever in Paradise is similar in content to the Witnesses current all-time best-seller, *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life*, which is a compilation of Watchtower Society theology.

While Witnesses have said that *Forever in Paradise* will not totally replace the *Truth* volume, it will often be used in its stead.

NEWS UPDATE

Forever in Paradise is geared toward even younger and/or less educated prospects than most Watchtower books.

Ironically, the *Truth* book has had to undergo changes in order to keep up with the Watchtower's "new light."

One notable change is found on page 9, where previous editions quoted former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson's statement that "in fifteen years from today, this world is going to be too dangerous to live in," in order to lend credibility to their prediction that Armageddon would occur by 1975.

Newer editions (printed in 1981 or later) shorten the quote to "soon 'this world will be too dangerous to live in'" — proof that the Witnesses are trying to cover up the fact that their prophecy about 1975 was false.

The necessity of such changes could be the motive for publishing the new book. It also extensively uses the updated Watchtower printing presses as full-color illustrations are found throughout the book.

Also released during the conventions was a 32-page, full-color pamphlet, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever*, which appears to be only a condensation of *Forever in Paradise*.

Forever in Paradise sells for \$2.50. *Enjoy Life* sells for 25 cents. Both should be appearing in Goodwill stores at significantly lower prices within a few months.

Witnesses who were canvassing neighborhoods during the conventions used a flyer titled *Are We Nearing Armageddon?* to solicit subscriptions to their bimonthly journals *Awake!* and *The Watchtower*.

—MKG



MORMONS STRIKE BACK

Ex-Mormons for Jesus have been carrying the battle against the lies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the very gates of the Mormon center of propaganda — the Salt Lake City Temple Square.

Several hundred thousand visitors pass through the gates of the temple square each year and each becomes a prospect for conversion. Ex-Mormons and Saints Alive, a similar group, have been distributing tracts to these visitors.

These tracts expose the doctrines of Mormonism and reveal the nature of temple rituals in which Mormons symbolically indicate their willingness to have their throats cut in the event that they leave the Mormon Church.

While Ex-Mormons have passed out tracts on the public sidewalk, their presence has angered some Mormons.

Bob Jones and Ed Decker of Saints Alive report that on one recent occasion, several of their colleagues were attacked by these angry Mormons.

One young woman was hit in the mouth by a temple guard, angered by one of the tracts, who rushed from the temple grounds, knocked her down with the blow and reportedly began kicking and cursing her, Jones and Decker said.

The two also reported that in the south entrance, a young Ex-Mormon was attacked by a temple employee who grabbed him by the throat and tried to choke him after the two had a verbal exchange. A third young man was attacked by a man who jumped from a car and began beating him, Jones and Decker said. The attacker then shouted, "What do you think of that?" to which the young witness replied, "God loves you and I love you."

Although the license number of the car was obtained, no arrests have been made to date, Decker said. Charges have been filed in the other cases and the LDS Church is reportedly going to settle out of court.

—WPW



PROCTER & GAMBLE RUMOR

Most Americans never believed the widespread rumor that Procter & Gamble Co. was linked to satanism, a survey by *Advertising Age* magazine shows.

Only 3 percent of the people surveyed said they ever believed the rumor. Only 32 percent of those questioned had heard the rumor. Of those, 94 percent didn't change their buying habits.

P&G started a major media drive to dispel the rumors, which apparently were started over the company's symbol — a crescent moon with 13 stars.

The rumor grew to include stories of P&G corporate officials appearing on television talk shows, proclaiming that they were satanists.

Another rumor that circulated was that the Cincinnati-based soap manufacturer had been taken over by followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon of the Unification Church.

P&G solicited statements of support from the Rev. Jerry Falwell, the Rev. Donald Wildmon, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The firm also filed lawsuits against seven people, seeking to prevent them from further circulating the rumor. Among those sued were a TV weatherman, an Amway distributor and a Shaklee Products distributor.

P&G reports that phone calls to the firm about the rumor have subsided since the suits were filed and the statements from clergymen were made public

—KAM



PFO TRACT SAMPLES

Personal Freedom Outreach has currently 20 assorted tracts dealing with Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and The Way International. While we are happy to send out samples of a specific title at no charge, we must ask those who request a sample of all 20 to enclose \$2.00 to cover printing and postage costs.

PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH

OFFICERS

Wesley P. Walters	Director
M. Kurt Goedelman.....	Director
Angela M. Goedelman	Secretary
John J. Pagano	Treasurer
Keith A. Morse	Newsletter Editor

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Beth Morse.....Copy Editor

BOARD OF REFERENCE

Prof. Edmond C. Gruss	Newhall, CA
Mr. William I. Cetnar	Kunkletown, PA
Dr. Robert E. Werner	St. Louis, MO
Rev. Philip H. Lochhaas	St. Louis, MO
Rev. John P. Juedes	Rosemead, CA

Beth Heitmann

Art Director

Published Quarterly by PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH • P.O. Box 26062 • St. Louis, MO 63136 • (314) 388-2648

“THE ERROR OF POSITIVE CONFSSION”

by Chuck Smith

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1 John 5:14-15).

The word “confidence” in the Greek literally means “the boldness of speech.” When we talk to the Lord we can be *bold!* We can be free, open, and honest. If we say something wrong, it doesn't matter. God isn't going to throw it back at us. If we say something foolish, He understands. We can pray with real boldness of speech. Praying with confidence is an exciting thing!

The boldness of speech that we have is in *asking*. The Scripture has encouraged us to come boldly to the throne of grace that we might receive mercy in our time of need. That is proper and correct. There's nothing wrong with coming to God under pressure. I can't help but feel that maybe God at times has created the pressure just to get us to call on Him! There's nothing wrong with coming to God and asking. In fact, the Lord tells us to. Jesus said, “Ask, and it shall be given you” (Matthew 7:7). Again, Jesus said, “Ask, please ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24).

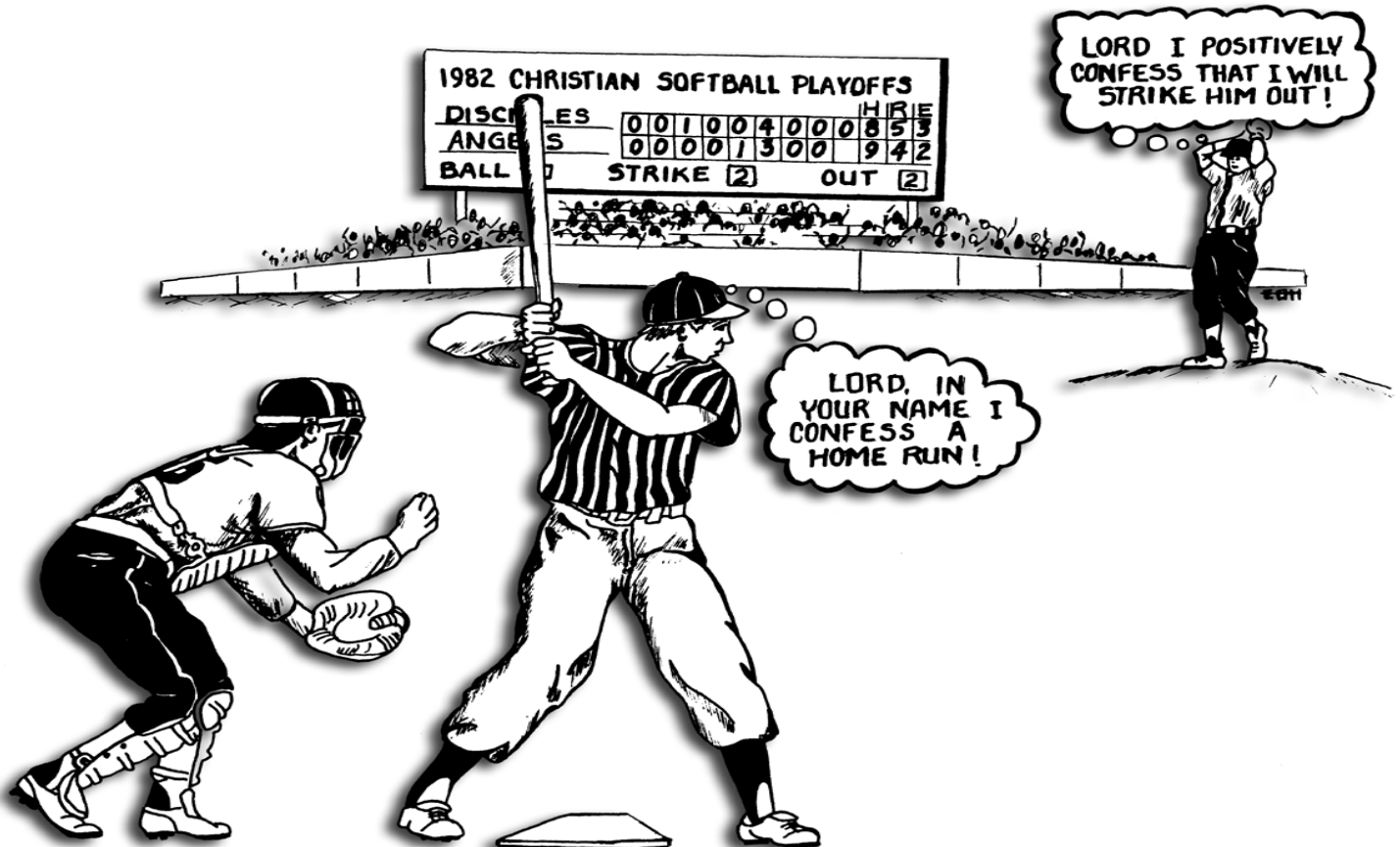
When I come to God, I can come boldly. I can ask God for my needs. I don't have to worry that He'll misunderstand me. I don't have to be afraid that He'll be rude or rough with me. I don't have to worry that I might be asking the wrong thing.

We have this confidence in Him, “If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” I'm so glad that qualification is there! I'm glad that this Scripture doesn't say, “Whatever we ask we receive.” I'm very grateful that He inserted “according to His will.” Had God answered all of my prayers, I wouldn't be here today. I would have destroyed myself a long time ago!

I have prayed for a lot of ridiculous things that would have totally ruined me. “According to His will” keeps a proper perspective between God and me. Any other way would remove the authority of God over my life. It would then mean that I was the master of my fate, the captain of my destiny. My life wouldn't be governed by God; instead, it would be governed by me.

If I can demand that God does anything, if I can lay out demands to which God must acquiesce because I'm demanding it in Jesus' name; or if I can just make positive confessions and start laying claims to things and, by my positive confessions, create situations and things for my life, then God is no longer in control of my life. I take control by the demands that I make upon God and by the confessions I make out of these things. And God becomes the magic genie! I rub the lamp and God must come out to follow my orders.

Not so! God is far too loving for that. He loves you too much to let you run your life. When you put the “I” in run, you've got the true picture: you'll *ruin* your life when you try to run it.



Paul tells us that we don't always know what the will of the Lord is. That's one of our problems in prayer. From past experience, I realize that I made so many mistakes in the analyses of my own needs that if God had answered some of those prayers, it would have been absolutely tragic!

What if I were in control? What if God were acquiescing to every confession that I made? People say, "Be careful not to make a negative confession! What you say is what you get." That's ridiculous!

David said, "I know one day Saul is going to kill me." *Don't say that, David! That's negative confession. Now it's going to happen, because what you say is what you get! And now one day Saul is going to kill you.* But Saul didn't kill David.

I have a good friend who's been saying for years, "I'll be a monkey's uncle." To my knowledge he hasn't become one yet.

If I could have things by just making a positive confession, if God *must* yield to my demands, do you see what that immediately does? It elevates me to the position of God and puts God in the subservient position. I'm no longer serving God, but God is serving me and my every whim.

To put God in this kind of position, as Paul declares in Romans 1:21, is to fail to glorify God as God. It doesn't make God "God" anymore but some kind of servant who has to run around and do my will, follow my commands, and fill out my confessions. It puts me in control and God in the servant's seat. To exalt my demands, wishes, and my will above God's will is audacious, perverted, and insane.

Certainly, the greatest prayer any of us can ever pray is, "Not my will, but Thy will be done." That isn't a spiritual cop-out as some people would accuse. It's glorifying God as God and recognizing that He's a lot smarter than I. I may *think* that something is best for me, but He *knows* what's best for me.

Behind every prayer I offer is an understanding with God that if I'm making a stupid request, He should *please* not honor it or answer it. I want God to do what's best for me or whatever is wisest in each situation. If you accuse me of a spiritual cop-out because I pray "Thy will be done," then you must also accuse Jesus Christ of a spiritual cop-out because He's the source of the prayer!

"Not my will, but Thy will be done" is the wisest prayer I can offer to God, That's the way I always want it to be. Though I don't always articulate it, that submission to His will is always the background of every prayer I offer to God.

"God, this is what I want. This is what I think I need. But, Lord, you know what I need better than I know myself. Your will be

done in my life. Your will be done in this illness. Your will be done in this financial problem. Don't listen to me. I'll mess it up worse than it is. You do what is best for me, God."

A person who's afraid to pray "Thy will be done" is a person who doesn't truly understand or know God. If you really know God then you have no problems praying that way at all. Unfortunately, many people have a lot of false concepts of God.

Satan has done a tremendous job of lying about God and His nature. So many people think that God's will is the most terrible thing that could ever happen to them. They think that whatever you don't want to do is just what God will make you do when you say, "Thy will be done." If you say, "I don't want my nose rubbed in the dirt," the first thing that's going to happen is that God will rub your nose in the dirt. Oh, what a blasphemous concept of God to think that He would do some horrible, ugly thing just because you've submitted to His will. God's will for our lives is so glorious and marvelous that I'm afraid to have anything *less* than God's will for my life!

If God should come to me and say, "Chuck, I've been thinking about you lately. I'd like to do something special for you just to show you how much I love you" — what would I ask Him for? Oh, what will it be? Let's see ... I might pay off the mortgage on my house. "Lord, what about twenty grand?"

No. Before I got that far I'd stop and say, "Lord, just give me whatever You want." You see, I might be thinking of twenty grand, but He might be thinking five hundred thousand! Why should I cut Him short?

God delights in giving good gifts to His children. He's more anxious to give than we are to receive! If you can have the proper concept of God then you can, with confidence, totally cast yourself upon Him and say, "Here I am, God! It's Your problem now! Take care of it. Whatever you want, whatever you wish. My life is Yours. You work out all the details and circumstances. I'm going to relax and let You do it!" You won't be able to believe those things He desires to do for your life — just because He loves you! No way am I afraid to say, "Lord, Thy will be done in this situation." That's all I want.

We must remember that there is a limitation to our asking: "any thing according to His will." The Scripture isn't just a blanket promise. God has put a limitation to our asking — a *blessed* limitation!

© 1979 by THE WORD FOR TODAY. Reprinted from THE ANSWER FOR TODAY by CHUCK SMITH by permission of THE WORD FOR TODAY, PO Box 8000, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.



to the Editor

Dear Friends,

I have just discovered your delightful newsletter in my seminary's library. How refreshing to read about relevant issues for a change! Keep up the good work.

I would like to subscribe, but could find no info in the issue I saw. I would also like to obtain back issues — please advise me as to the cost, A.S.A.P.

R.B., Ft. Wayne, IN

Editor's Note: For those who are interested in joining our mail list to receive all future issues of our newsletter, simply drop us a note to that effect. There is no charge or subscription fee. For those who wish to obtain back issues, we will be happy to send them to you via first class mail. The cost for each back issue is 50 cents. Please specify the issue you need.

—KAM

CUT IT OUT!

To help us keep people informed of cult activities worldwide, we would appreciate receiving any cult-related newspaper or magazine clippings.

Many cult activities escape the attention of the national news media but are found in local papers. They are of interest to our newsletter readers. Subjects could range from local judges ordering Jehovah's Witnesses to receive blood transfusions to deprogramming stories or cult members assaulting Christians trying to witness. The possibilities are wide-ranging.

A good rule of thumb is, *When in doubt, send it anyway.* Please supply us with the source and date of publication. This is essential for accuracy.

Now Available In Tract Form:

Charles Taze Russell: Disfellowshipped! (Tract No. WT-120)

The feature article from our last newsletter, now in tract form, deals with contradictions between current Watchtower theology and that of their founder, Charles T. Russell. As the tract points out, times have changed in the Watchtower Society -- so much that its first president would be disfellowshipped for apostasy if he were to come back today. Cost: \$5.50 per 100.

The next two questions are: "Is this intentional or even possible?"

These questions were put to Kerry Livgren of the popular rock band Kansas, one of the many groups accused of backward masking. (If Kansas' 1978 hit, *Dust in the Wind* is played backward, the truly imaginative listener can pick out the words "Commit suicide.")

Livgren stands out from most performers in the field of secular rock music because of his personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. If anyone were to admit to having done this in his pre-Christian past, Livgren would seem a likely candidate. (A capsule version of his testimony appears in the adjoining article on this page.)

Did Kansas ever do backward masking?

"It's never been done," he said. "I've done some research into it and I've heard a couple of things that are fairly strange. There may be something going on. But I will say this very adamantly: I know of no case where it was done intentionally."

"Actual backward masking I don't believe is even possible to do intentionally. Now to record something backwards is very easily done and has been done. None of the instances I know where something has been intentionally recorded backward had anything to do with Christianity or anything particularly spiritual."

"However, when you actually say something forwards, and backwards it has coherence and says something of a spiritual nature, there may be something going on that nobody knows how to explain. Now I'm pretty skeptical of that."

The skepticism grows when backward phrases that don't refer to Satan turn up on rock records. The June 6, 1982, edition of the *Chicago Tribune* carried a story in which a reporter found the following phrases on rock records played backward:

"I'm in the arms of sabbath, arms so wide," on Gene Vincent's *Race with the Devil*. "Master, not my son," "I could descend into there," "I wouldn't ask nothing of him," and "I wouldn't ask that I wait up for him," on ZZ Top's *Jesus Just Left Chicago*.

The significance of any of those phrases is dubious.

Could it be that, by chance, some words and sounds played backward take on their own coherence? If this is the case, it

would follow that in some of these instances the word "Satan" could be heard.

Christians naturally will be more sensitive to a phrase such as "Here's to my sweet Satan" than they would be to something like "Let's fix the tire." But it would appear that the chances of the latter statement occurring on a record are about the same as the former. The latter just doesn't stir the emotions as much.

A recent show on radio station KILA-FM in Las Vegas lends weight to the argument that these phrases occur unintentionally.

Two songs were played backward, and the words "Sin, lord of you" and "Satan, all powerful" could be heard. Was this Ozzy Osbourne? Kiss? Black Sabbath?

No. It was George Beverly Shea singing *How Great Thou Art* and *The Love of God*. It would seem that no one is immune from the laws of chance.

One question remains. That these backward phrases — however they got there — occur on records is proven.

But do they have any effect on the listener? They are hard enough to discern when played forward; can the mind unravel them when they are heard backward?

The only thing we know for sure is that we don't know for sure. At present, there is more speculation on the subject than there is documented research.

If people want to play it safe, they will have to listen to every record backward before keeping it in their collection. Not only rock records, but country, gospel, easy listening — anything with lyrics. It would seem an unhealthy and wasteful practice to sit around listening for hidden references to Satan on records.

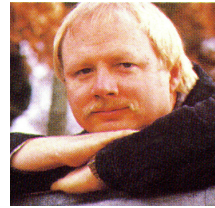
But maybe that's just what the Adversary would like us to do. In his own subtle way, Satan may have made himself the center of attention for some Christians.

A Christian's attitude toward Satan must strike a proper balance between a healthy respect for him and awareness of our victory over him in

Christ. If we believe that we are helpless in the face of subliminal satanic messages from records and radio — many of which are played in public areas and beyond our control — we have already been defeated without any effort by Satan.

If we remember that our protection comes from Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we can rest assured that we are protected from such psycho-spiritual attacks — if this backward masking indeed has any effect on the listener.

PROFILE: KERRY LIVGREN



Kerry Livgren, a member of and chief songwriter for the popular rock band Kansas, is a man who saw that there was more to life than selling 10 million records. He searched relentlessly for spiritual truth until he found it in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I went through basically every religious and philosophical process a person can probably go through, all the major world religions, and it sort of centered on the Eastern patterns of thought — the Americanized versions of those — via some philosophers like Hegel, Kant and Nietzsche....," he told Personal Freedom Outreach in a recent interview. "And I eventually ended up in a position where in order to make sense out of this input overload, I tried to syncretize it all into my own little mishmash of a religion. Livgren said that he settled upon *The Urantia Book* as the "focal point" of his syncretistic efforts.

Livgren called *The Urantia Book* a "very complex, demonic revelation," which incorporated and appeared to explain many different worldviews.

He said that the book's complex, scientific orientation appealed to him and he swallowed it "hook, line and sinker." "I did not believe that the amount and complexity of material revealed in there could have possibly come from any individual or group of men. ... So I made the mistake of attributing the supernatural to the Divine," he said.

Livgren said he was convinced that *The Urantia Book* was the ultimate truth and he began proselytizing others.

This missionary zeal eventually led to his conversion to Christianity.

While on a tour in 1979, Livgren met Jeff Pollard, a Christian and a member of the rock band Leroux. Kansas' opening act.

"Any time you get two spiritually oriented people in the same environment, they gravitate toward one another," Livgren said. "I think I had heard that he was a Christian and I wanted to talk to him with the intent of turning him on to *The Urantia Book*

because I thought, 'Oh Boy, have I got something for him. He's only involved with the Bible and I have a much superior revelation.' Boy, was I in for a surprise."

Livgren's conversion to Christianity didn't dull his investigative spirit. Because he was without any Christian fellowship within the band, he spent a year "entrenched in books, and trying to grow from being a babe before I started to try getting into a lot of witnessing."

Among the books that most impressed Livgren were some by author Ken Boa. Livgren tracked him down (they both live in the Atlanta, Ga., area) and they became friends. (They have collaborated on a book about Livgren's spiritual search, called *Seeds of Change - The Spiritual Quest of Kerry Livgren*. It will be published in November by Crossway Books.)

While Livgren considered leaving the rock music world, and is aware that some would consider that the only thing for a Christian to do, he pointed to several "divine appointments" that have convinced him he is where God wants him.

In 1981, Livgren was given some fellowship within the band. Bassist Dave Hope became a Christian.

As time went on, Livgren said, he and Hope began to feel that there was no future for them in the group. They began praying for a new direction from God.

But, Livgren and Hope never left. Instead, Steve Walsh, Kansas' lead singer, left the group in a dispute over Livgren's new Gospel-oriented lyrics. Kansas held auditions for a replacement. Two new members were added — singer John Elefante, who joins Livgren as the other major songwriter and keyboards-woodwinds player Warren Ham. Both are Christians.

Livgren and Kansas stand as an example of God taking the world's devices and turning them to His advantage. Through Kansas' lyrics, rock fans who wouldn't dream of attending a "Christian" concert, or buy "Christian" albums are hearing the Gospel.

Indeed, if there is any danger at all from this phenomenon, it is to be derived from spending too much time dwelling on it and looking for a demon under every rock, so to speak.

If Christians aren't consciously dwelling on satanic matters, Satan can do nothing to them.

Put simply, if we're not asking for spiritual trouble, we're not going to get it.

Concern for the non-Christian is proper. Such a person cannot claim the same spiritual protection and many non-Christians do have a tremendous interest in occult matters.

However, Christians must remember that the non-Christian's spiritual condition would be no better if these messages didn't exist and they did prove able to affect the human mind. People died unsaved and went to hell long before there were phonographs and tape recorders and rock 'n' roll. The non-Christian is still in need of the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Christians can attempt to clean up the non-Christian's environment all they want — and usually incur the non-Christian's wrath for trying to do so — but they are getting their priorities mixed up.

As Jesus said of the Pharisees, "For you cleanse the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity ... first cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside may also be clean" (Matthew 23:25).

If we are to help people escape the ravages of sin and Satan, we must begin by changing people by showing them how to experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

No warning sticker on a record jacket is going to put a person into heaven.

It boils down to priorities. As Christians, how do we minister to those around us?

Glenn Kaiser, a member of the Resurrection Band, a Christian rock group affiliated with the Jesus People USA in Chicago, put it best:

"I think it's very, very sad that recently there was a radio show out in L.A. on backward masking. It was going to be an hour show. It went to 3½ or 4 hours by the time they finally finished it. The switchboard lines were jammed, they got so many calls on backward masking. Everybody got out their Bibles and everybody got out their patented raps on it and what it's all about."

"The next day they had a program on world hunger and not one call! The show lasted an hour and the poor guy went home."

"If you want to get an audience, talk about rock 'n' roll. If you want to get an audience, talk about backward masking."

"We have got to grow up as a body of believers. We've got to start dealing with the real everyday problems of our lives and the

lives of our brothers and sisters. I think by that, the world's gonna realize that 'Hey, these aren't these Christians floating from the roof. They deal with the same issues I deal with every day and they've got some biblical answers. They have a real relationship with this God they talk about."

"Now I'm afraid that a lot of unbelievers make harsh judgments on us because we do get so fluffy and flaky and shallow. Saved or not, we can't afford to have that kind of personality projected to the world around us."

If Satan is behind backward masking, it's only as a diversion to take our minds off the real issues. We know that the cults are stealing hundreds of souls every day. We can't afford to spend any more time chasing down or running from something as shadowy as some obscure phrases of dubious origin and uncertain effect that pop up out of a few records. Heed Paul's advice in Ephesians 5:5-17:

"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

KEITH A. MORSE

(Special thanks to Jesus People USA and Bud Carr Management for interviews with Glenn Kaiser and Kerry Livgren.)



Micah Kenneth Goedelman, the latest addition to the PFO staff, helping in the backward masking research by skillfully playing songs in reverse.

NEW WITNESSING MATERIAL

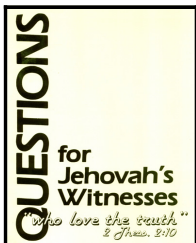
QUESTIONS FOR JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WHO LOVE THE TRUTH

BY BILL CETNAR

A new 68-page book which examines the creditability of the Watchtower Society in light of their own standards as well as in the light of Scripture. Contains many valuable photocopies of Watchtower letters and statements. Also this publication contains the testimony of its author.

This booklet has proven to be a most effective tool in active witnessing to members of the Watchtower Society. Price: \$2.95.

When ordering, please include 65¢ for postage and handling.



Witnesses Were Looking Forward To 1975. In addition, a presentation of the Gospel is made as a closing segment.

This program may be used for Christians who wish to learn ways in which to better approach the Jehovah's Witness or for direct viewing by members of the Watchtower Society. 88 Frames. 48-minute Cassette Narration Tape.

Price: \$18.95 - Filmstrip (FS-105) • \$45.00 35mm Slides (SP-105) (Please add \$1.25 shipping and handling to each order.)



PERSONAL
FREEDOM
OUTREACH

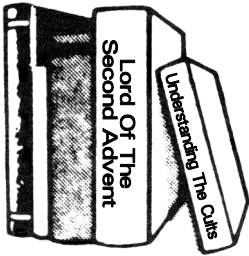
presents... **BILL CETNAR**



FALSE PROPHETS (VT-100) Vaccinate against the cults. Cetnar, who was a Jehovah's Witness for 22 years, tells how to deal with today's many false prophets. This 58-minute program, recorded live at the First Baptist Church of Ferguson, Mo., is great for Sunday School classes, home-study groups and youth activities. Permission may also be obtained for television broadcasts. Price: \$39.95. (VHS: Beta cassettes can be ordered specially.)

CRACKS in the WATCHTOWER

A new program dealing with massive inner conflicts of the Watchtower Society. This presentation examines Doctrinal Changes; Misquotations and Misrepresentations; Jehovah's Witnesses and Johannes Greber; Is the Watchtower President Franz a Scholar? and Why Jehovah's



BOOKS IN REVIEW

“LORD OF THE SECOND ADVENT”

by Steve Kemperman
Regal Books, 175 pages, \$8.95

The Unification Church of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon has received plenty of bad publicity over the past few years.

Many “Moonies” have escaped the cult and told their tale of being brainwashed into blind obedience to an organization that is dedicated solely to the aggrandizement of its Korean leader.

Steve Kemperman’s story is similar to many others: He was deceptively sucked into the Moon cult and spent over three years as a Moonie, selling flowers and candy on the street to raise money for Moon’s financial empire. He escaped one attempt at deprogramming but was caught again. That time, he stayed away from the Moonies for good.

Many Moonies’ stories end there. Kemperman’s has a happier ending. He found Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Kemperman tells how he was caught in the “love-bombing” that Moonies use on recruits and illustrates the ways in which they mask the identity of their leader and the motives of their organization.

From his own experience Kemperman documents the deception of the Moonies’ fund-raising tactics and tells how he rationalized the lying and law-breaking that he used to raise money for Moon.

Kemperman’s writing sometimes lacks polish and is overburdened with similes, but he keeps the pace fast and the story interesting. Best of all, is the happy ending.

Lord of the Second Advent is a must for anyone who wants to understand, from a firsthand source, the awful experience of being enslaved to an egotistical cult leader and a demonic doctrine.

“UNDERSTANDING THE CULTS”

by Josh McDowell and Don Stewart
Here’s Life Publishers, Inc., 205 Pages, \$5.95

Campus Crusade for Christ apologetics expert Josh McDowell and minister Don Stewart have collaborated on a cults reference book that breaks no new ground, but does give a good introduction to the subject.

Perhaps the best part of the book is the last two segments -- where counter-cult ministry referrals and a bibliography can be found.

The book is one in a series of books on understanding such subjects as non-Christian religions and the occult.

The book begins by defining a cult, naming its characteristics. It goes on to define orthodox Christianity in order to give the reader a standard by which to judge all religions.

The following 12 chapters summarize the history and basic doctrines of 12 major cults, including Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Way, and Hare Krishna.

For those whose interest has been piqued, the authors then devote four pages to the names and addresses of cult ministry groups (such as Personal Freedom Outreach) from which more information can be obtained.

The authors also include an 11-page annotated bibliography telling the reader where a wealth of detailed information on the cults can be found.

Helping Us Help You

If you’d like to help support Personal Freedom Outreach and pick up a couple of handy witnessing tools, read on!

For every \$10 donation, we will send a cassette tape of Bill Cetnar’s talk on “False Prophets” and a copy of his latest book, *Questions for Jehovah’s Witnesses Who Love the Truth*.

The cassette is an audio-only version of the videocassette we are offering for sale. The 68-page book is a collection of photocopied documents proving the false doctrines and deceptions of the Watchtower Society.

For every \$50 donation, we will send the VHS videocassette of Cetnar’s “False Prophets” talk or a copy of *Walter Martin’s Cults*

Reference Bible. All those who send \$50 will also receive a copy of Robert and Gretchen Passantino’s *Answers to the Cultist at Your Door*.

Your tax-deductible donation to Personal Freedom Outreach goes toward publishing this quarterly newsletter, writing and researching articles and tracts, producing audio-visual material and defraying office expenses.

Personal Freedom Outreach draws no financial support from any church or denomination. Instead, it depends upon the prayers and gifts of those who believe in the ministry that the Lord has given us.



PERSONAL
FREEDOM
OUTREACH

NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 26062 • SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63136

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 4130
Saint Louis, MO