



# PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH

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## newsletter

# GETTING TO THE CRUX OF ROSICRUCIANISM

by Rev. G. Richard Fisher

The Rosicrucians are familiar to many who have seen their advertisements in national magazines. Spiritual secrets are waiting for anyone who will mail in the coupon and who is willing to apply himself, the Rosicrucians say.

The Rosicrucians explain themselves in this way:

"The Rosicrucian Order is, broadly, a world-wide fraternal organization, established and operating on a lodge philosophy intended to awaken the dormant, latent faculties of the individual whereby he may utilize to a better advantage of his natural talents and lead a happier and more useful life. It accomplishes this end by a method of personal instruction and guidance. The member is taught the significance and application of the cosmic and natural laws which are found manifest in the universe around him and in himself. It unites, into one *livable philosophy*, metaphysical idealism and such practical sciences as physics, chemistry, biology, physiology, and psychology. It also seeks, by its educational campaign, to rid society of the enslaving influence of superstition."<sup>1</sup>

The Rosicrucian Order also is known as the AMORC, an abbreviation of the words "Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis." The latter title is an Anglicized form of the Latin for "The Mystical Order of the Rosy Cross" referring to their symbol of a cross and a rose. The AMORC insists it is not a religion. Although the AMORC is set up in a way similar to the Masonic organization, Rosicrucians disclaim any connection with the Masons.

Rosicrucians claim to have roots back to Thutmose III, who ruled Egypt in the 16th century B.C. While there may be theologi-

cal relationships to ancient paganism, historical roots can be traced only as far back as 15th century A.D. German occultism. Christian Rosenkreuz, called a dabbler in oriental magic and mysticism, is considered the founder. There is no record of Rosicrucians in England until 1866, with the founding of the Societas Rosicruciana. When the AMORC entered the United States is unknown.<sup>2</sup>

Most mystically oriented movements originated by breaking away and borrowing from other mystical groups.<sup>3</sup> Eckankar's founder, Paul Twitchell, borrowed heavily from Julian Johnson, who dabbled with Rosicrucianism.<sup>4</sup> Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, founders of Unity School of Christianity, studied Theosophy and Rosicrucianism.<sup>5</sup>

Rosicrucianism is a good study of this process of offshooting. Rosicrucian teaching is a hodgepodge of Hindu beliefs such as monism and reincarnationism, with some mysticism, occultism and Gnosticism thrown in.<sup>6</sup> The god of the Rosicrucians is pantheistic. One Rosicrucian writer considers God to be "divine essence," not the personal God of the Bible.<sup>7</sup>

Harold O.J. Brown sums up monism when he says: "Monism presupposes that all reality is ultimately one. All is derived from the Absolute, or God – necessarily conceived of as impersonal. ... The religious form of monism is termed pantheism, the doctrine that God is all."<sup>8</sup> An atheist does not believe in God. A pantheist believes everything is god. But a biblical theist believes God to be distinct from His creation.

Jesus fares no better in the Rosicrucian view. To them, Jesus is a great philoso-

pher, but not God. Rosicrucians draw a distinction between Jesus and the Christ, thus falling into the ancient heresy of adoptionism. Adoptionism teaches that Jesus is not God, but a special man empowered by God.<sup>9</sup> In Rosicrucian teaching, Jesus at His death had the great sun spirit, Christ, released and liberated from His physical body.<sup>10</sup>

Regarding sin and salvation, W.H. Clark of the Rose-Croix University Faculty and spokesman for the Rosicrucians, teaches that all have a "spark of the divine" and that all can attain a "most excellent state of existence" through personal effort. Rosicrucians, because they believe in reincarnation, think they have as many chances as necessary to attain this "most excellent state of existence."<sup>11</sup>

Since Rosicrucians believe that all have inherent godliness in them and simply have to work on "cosmic attunement" and getting in touch with their "euphoric energies," the only hell Rosicrucians can envision is that experienced by the person who has "wandered from the God-consciousness he senses from within."<sup>12</sup>

The Christian sees God as a personal God who is distinct from all He created. God remembers (Isaiah 43:25), He speaks (showing subject-object relationship – Exodus 3:12; Matthew 3:17), He creates (Genesis 1:1), He sees (Genesis 6:5), He knows (Jeremiah 21:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:19), He is a personal spirit being who seeks our worship (John 4:24), He has a will (Matthew 6:20; Hebrews 10:7, 9) and He will judge (Ezekiel 18:30; 34:20).

The Bible is clear about Christ's status, too. He is God. He already existed in the beginning (John 1:1), when He created

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## MORE THOUGHTS ON PREVIOUS PFO ARTICLES

### THE DIVERSION OF DELIVERANCE

Many of the people who teach that a true believer in Christ can be possessed or controlled by demons use as source material the writings of Welsh mystic Jessie Penn-Lewis.

Some of these "deliverance" teachers, using adjurations akin to an exorcism, will either quote Penn-Lewis or quote those who depend on her.

Donald Grey Barnhouse, in his classic on the work of Satan, *The Invisible War*, notes this dependency when he states:

"Even though Satan may travel with the speed of thought and even though he be overlord to a vast host of subordinates that report to him, he can never be on the throne of God nor can he ever come inside the body or being of one who has been born again and whose body has become the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19). We put forth this statement categorically in spite of the works of the English group known as the Overcomers, whose bible is frequently Mrs. Penn-Lewis' book, *War on the Saints*. We know of no more insalubrious idea than that which would turn Christians to introspection, looking for attacks of Satan within, or to a circumspection that would have Christians seeing defilements in shaking hands, or touching in any way a person who might be possessed by the devil. There is no fellowship between righteousness and unrighteousness. There is no communion between light and darkness. There is no concord between Christ and the devil. There is no common dwelling ground for faith and infidelity. There is no agreement between the temple of God and idols (II Corinthians 6:14-16). Before these definite assertions of the Word of God we must stand firm. There may be attacks upon the Christian by the enemy, but the Christian may not be possessed" (pp. 166-167).

One question that arises is: Why do those who parrot Penn-Lewis' ideas fail to divulge all that she really taught? Perhaps they really don't know!

Jessie Penn-Lewis discredits herself because of many of the novel and unbiblical notions in her book, *War on the Saints*. Reading this book could make a sensitive believer paranoid. We will let Penn-Lewis speak for herself. Her basic premise (written in 1904, about six years after a nervous breakdown) is stated on page 10: "The world is now drawing nearer to the 'time of the end,' characterized by the deception depicted in the Apocalypse as being world-wide." She thought the Church was moving into the Tribulation and on the verge of an all-out assault by Satan's forces. She further states on page 55: "The fact to emphasize now, is, that 'honest' and **earnest believers can be deceived, and even 'possessed'** by deceiving spirits, so that *for a period* they go out of the main line into a bog of deception." And again on page 95: "**Multitudes of believers are 'possessed'** in *various degrees*, but do not know it, as they attribute the 'manifestations' to 'natural' causes, or to 'self' or 'sin,' and they put them down to these causes because they do not appear to bear the characteristics of demoniacal possession" (bold emphasis added, italic emphasis in original).

Then most incredible of all are these statements on pages 162-163, which tells "where evil spirits enter":

"Where evil spirits enter is the subject of the third column, and the list is very brief, since the widest ramifications of their workings in man can be covered by the words spirit, soul and body, for they bury themselves in the very structure of the

human frame, some acting directly upon the organs or appetites of the body, others upon the mind or intellect, sensibilities, emotions and affections, and others more immediately upon the spirit. In the body they specially locate themselves in the spinal column, nervous system, and deepest nerve centres, through which they control the whole being; from the ganglionic nerve centre located in the bowels, the emotional sensibilities, and all organs affected by them, to the cerebral nerve centre in the head, the eyes, ears, neck, jaws, tongue, muscles of the face, and delicate nerve tissues of the brain. They may obtain access gradually and insidiously, as already shown, but there are instances where they make a sudden assault, so as to rush the victim into involuntary surrender."

Certainly these are her own wild notions and cannot be supported by God's Word. How pitiful that we as believers, "In Christ," appear to be, according to Penn-Lewis, no better off than non-believers. Penn-Lewis ignores the biblical statements of our position in Christ (Colossians 1,2; Ephesians 1). Demon control of a believer is taught nowhere in Scripture. Some well-meaning people may mistake unbelievers for believers, or symptoms of sin or disease for demons, but only by the stretching and twisting of Scripture can they appeal to the Bible for support.

When speaking of the issue of deliverance, an important chapter in God's word that must be addressed is 1 Corinthians 5. Paul speaks to some important and serious concerns:

- A man is in gross public immorality (verse 1).
- The church is to immediately excommunicate him – not to perform an exorcism or "deliverance" of any kind (verse 13).
- He is to be delivered **to** Satan, **not from** Satan (verses 4-5).
- He is to be avoided (till repentance), not catered to or counseled (verses 7-11).
- His own repentance is the means of his delivery and restoration (2 Corinthians 2:6-10).

Independent counselors may in fact be usurping God's authority and the authority of the local church with the practice of deliverance. They may believe their way is better than Scripture. The Word of God is the only road map to use when dealing with patterns of sin.

Penn-Lewis' work is an example of the weird excesses that this view of demon possession can create. "Deliverance" is a diversion that should be avoided. It is a confusing labyrinth and perhaps a diversionary tactic of Satan that will unsettle believers and move them away from the biblical dynamics of responsibility, confession of sin, repentance, and progressive sanctification.

—GRF



### IS JESUS YOUR MEDIATOR?

Nearly 95% of Jehovah's Witnesses do not know that the Watchtower teaches Jesus is not a person's mediator if that person is not a member of the 144,000. Witnesses who do know prefer not to talk about it. All the rest have answered the question "Is Jesus your Mediator?" by saying, "Yes, the Bible says so."

Those who answer that way are biblically correct, but not in line with Watchtower theology.

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# NEWS UPDATE

## PFO STAFF UPDATE

PFO East Director Bill Cetnar recently suffered a slight stroke while working in the Pittsburgh area. Cetnar is undergoing therapy and the prognosis for his full recovery is encouraging.

We at PFO ask for your prayers for his full recovery. Cetnar has touched Jehovah's Witnesses and Christians around the world through his ministry. Those whose lives have been touched in some way by his testimony should take the time to drop him a line at Route 3, Weir Lake Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058.

Meanwhile, PFO Executive Director M. Kurt Goedelman became a full-time staff member on May 1. Goedelman said he believes he can better serve the Lord and PFO's supporters by working full time. He will spend his extra time doing more research, writing and lecturing. All of this should mean that PFO will become a more effective and informative ministry to those who are fighting the cults and trying to win people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

—KAM



## PROCTER & GAMBLE DROPPING MOON LOGO

Procter & Gamble Co. has given up trying to convince people that its trademark of a "man in the moon" and 13 stars is not a satanic symbol and will drop the logo from its products, the company announced in late April.

The soap manufacturer tried fighting back with libel suits and a toll-free telephone message campaign in an attempt to quell rumors that have cropped up repeatedly since 1980. Even the Rev. Jerry Falwell tried to help squelch the rumor, but to no avail.

Flyers published by unknown groups claimed that the P&G symbol was the mark of Satan and that the numbers 666 appeared in the beard of the character on the logo. Other flyers reported falsely that P&G officials had said on TV talk shows that the company tithed to the Church of Satan. Rumors also had linked the P&G logo to the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

—KAM



## LETTER ON SMITH'S "MAGIC" CALLED AUTHENTIC

An expert on Mormon documents has pronounced as authentic a letter that indicates LDS church founder Joseph Smith was involved in magic and treasure digging at the time he was said to have had the revelations that led to his writing of *The Book of Mormon*.

The letter, sometimes referred to as "the Salamander letter," was written by Martin Harris, Mormonism's first convert, and is dated Oct. 23, 1830.

It described Joseph Smith's encounter with a spirit in the form of a salamander who would not let Smith take the golden plates, from which *The Book of Mormon* purportedly was written. (See PFO newsletter, July-Sept. 1984).

In a paper presented at the Mormon History Association's May 2, 1985, meeting in Independence, Mo., historian Dean C. Jessee, a former church archivist and a consultant in handwriting analysis, said, "On the basis of the paper, ink and handwriting, the Harris letter appears authentic."

The official Mormon church reaction was cautious.

"At this point, we accept the judgment of the examiner that there is no indication that it is a forgery," said Gordon Hinkley, second counselor to church President Spencer W. Kimball. "This does not preclude the possibility that it may have been forged at a time when the church had many enemies. It is, however, an interesting document of the times."

Jessee and Ronald W. Walker, another historian commissioned to study the document, played down the occultic aspects of Harris' account, saying such beliefs were common in Smith's time.

—KAM



## WAY FOUNDER WIERWILLE DIES

Victor Paul Wierwille, founder of The Way International, died May 20 in New Knoxville, Ohio, home of his organizational headquarters. He was 68.

Way spokesmen did not disclose the nature of Wierwille's illness, describing it only as brief.

Wierwille had retired from the presidency of the Way organization in 1982. L. Craig Martindale, 36, is the current president.

Wierwille is best known among cult researchers as the founder of the *Power for Abundant Living* course and his book *Jesus Christ is Not God*.

—KAM



## YUPPIE "HIGH PRIESTESS" STEPS DOWN

The Rev. Terry Cole-Whittaker, leader of the LaJolla, Calif., First Church of Religious Science, stepped down from her position following an Easter Sunday service.

Cole-Whittaker, sometimes called the "High Priestess of Yuppies," attracted thousands to her services with the teaching "Prosperity is your divine right."

Among Cole-Whittaker's most noted followers were actor Gavin McCleod, of the "Love Boat" TV shows; comedienne Lily Tomlin; and Linda Gray, from the TV show "Dallas."

While Cole-Whittaker's church had all the appearances of success - she drew a \$180,000 annual salary and had a TV show aired in 15 markets - there were problems, church observers said. The church had incurred as much as \$700,000 debt and was unable to make ends meet even with a \$6 million annual income.

In March, Cole-Whittaker said she was leaving because she no longer wanted to be a religious leader. "I want to be myself," she said. In May, however, she admitted that the church's debt - which she claimed she had not been aware of earlier - contributed to her decision to leave.

—KAM

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# Who Changed Jehovah to Lord?

by Rev. Wesley P. Walters

The Watchtower leaders have blundered again. They recently published a 32-page pamphlet titled *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*. In it they accused an "apostate" Christian Church of removing the Divine Name "Jehovah" from both the Old and New Testament Scriptures and substituting the mere title of "Lord." They wrote, "while the Jews refused to pronounce God's name, the apostate Christian church managed to remove it completely from Greek language manuscripts of both parts of the Bible" (pg. 25).

They based this erroneous idea on some guesswork published by Professor George Howard in an article in the March 1978 *Biblical Archaeological Review* (pp. 12ff). Howard's article dealt in part with the use of the divine name in the Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint.

A number of manuscript copies of the Septuagint (LXX) dating after the time of Christ have been preserved, but only a few fragmentary pre-Christian copies have survived and only recently have they been discovered. The post-Christian copies all have either the word "Lord" or "God" (Greek: *Kyrios* or *Theos*) where the Hebrew Bible has the Divine Name "Yahweh" (Hebrew: YHWH, which the Watchtower prefers to pronounce "Jehovah"). Thus unquestionably the Greek-speaking Christians of the early Church used a Greek Bible that had substituted either "Lord" or "God" where the original Hebrew Bible had contained the name "Jehovah."

The key question here is: Was this substitution made by an "apostate Christian church" or had the original Jewish translators of the LXX introduced the substitution themselves when they made their translation about 200 B.C.?

Within the past half-century, badly deteriorated fragments of three pre-Christian Greek manuscripts of the Old Testament have been found. These at first appear to

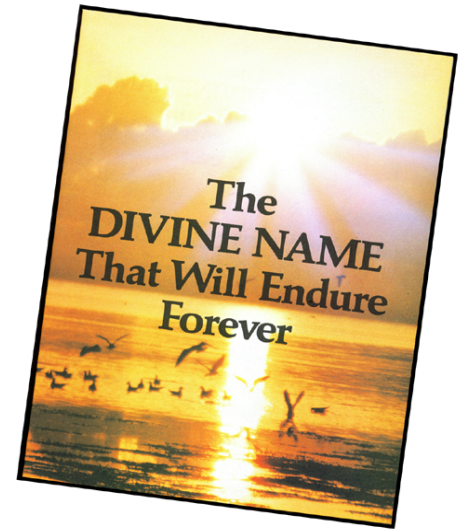
support the Watchtower's assertions. In the few places where the text is still readable, these three copies do not have "Lord" (*Kyrios*) where the Hebrew Bible has "Jehovah." Instead, in two of the copies the divine name itself is written out in Hebrew letters YHWH; in the third, an attempt is made to spell out in Greek letters the way the Name YHWH sounded to the Greek copyist. Accordingly, it appears as "IAO."

On the basis of this very slim evidence, Howard, in a more detailed article published in 1977 in *The Journal of Biblical Literature*, proposed "a theory" (pg. 63). He suggested that the original LXX translators had written the divine name into their translation in Hebrew letters wherever they encountered it in the Hebrew text. He further suggested that, if this guess were correct, then the New Testament writers, being Christian Jews, probably would have done the same thing when quoting passages from the LXX. Although there is no New Testament manuscript that contains the divine name written out in Hebrew — all use "Lord" and "God" in Greek instead — Howard thought it was possible that they originally had used the Hebrew. Howard conjectured that, gradually, as the Old and New Testaments were recopied by Gentile Christians to whom the name "Jehovah" would have little meaning, "Jehovah" was dropped in favor of *Kyrios*.

Thus, on the basis of Howard's largely theoretical reconstruction of the change from "Jehovah" to "Lord," the Watchtower leaders have issued a dogmatic assertion that a corrupt Church had introduced such a change.

The question that the Watchtower leaders never considered is whether Howard's guesses are supported by the evidence. This question was addressed recently by Dr. Albert Pietersma of the University of Toronto. Writing in *De Sepuaginta*, a collection of scholarly articles in honor of John William Wevers, Pietersma carefully reviews Howard's use of the three Old Testament manuscript fragments. He finds that a careful examination does not support Howard's theory.

The first fragmentary manuscript contains portions of the 12 minor prophets and was



found in a cave in Nahal Hever in the Judean Desert. One column of this manuscript containing Zechariah 8:19-9:4 and dating between 50 B.C. and A.D. 50 was photographically reproduced in his 1978 article. It clearly shows that the divine name was written out in a very ancient form of Hebrew called paleo-Hebrew at the places where later LXX copies read *Kyrios*. This is the fragment the Jehovah's Witnesses reproduced in their article. At first glance, this appears impressive and looks like conclusive proof that the original LXX translators did write out the divine name, and later post-Christian scribes substituted the title "Lord" in all those places.

However, Pietersma points out that this particular manuscript "is not itself an exemplar [example] of the LXX at all" (pg. 88). Rather it is a worked-over version made by some Jewish scribe who was trying to bring the LXX text into line with his copy of the Hebrew Bible, and who made changes in many other places as well to try to accomplish this. In this reworking process, he probably inserted the Hebrew name for God where the LXX text he was copying had read *Kyrios*. This is the type of thing the translators of the 1901 American Standard Version did when they restored the name "Jehovah" in all those places where the King James Version had translated the divine name by the word "LORD."

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**ROSICRUCIANISM**

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everything (Colossians 1:16). He is the image of God (Colossians 1:15, 2 Corinthians 4:4), who accepted worship (John 20:28, Revelation 1:17).

The Bible is equally clear about how one attains "excellence" – and it is only through Jesus Christ. "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me," Jesus said (John 14:6). The Apostle John said, "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life" (1 John 5:12). Salvation is by grace through Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9) and Jesus' salvation is sufficient (Romans 5:11). There is no need for second and third tries, and they are not provided. Hebrews 9:27 says, "Inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."

The words of the Spiritual Counterfeits

Project's Mark Albrecht provide a fitting conclusion:

"It is well worthwhile to contrast the uniqueness of the Bible's revelation of God against the logical and factual blur of monism. The oft-quoted passage of Genesis 1:27, 'God created man in his own image,' is generally held to refer to *personality*. While God is infinite-personal, people are finite-personal; and so despite the awful gulf between God's infinity and our finiteness, we communicate with, know, and are reconciled to God through personal relationship with him. Such a relationship is made possible by the atonement and forgiveness of God's unique and only incarnation, Jesus Christ – the living union of God and man."<sup>13</sup>

**Endnotes:**

1. *Who and What are the Rosicrucians*, Rosicrucian Press, San Jose, Calif., 1966, pg. 4.
2. *The Encyclopedia Americana*, Vol. 23, New York-Chicago, 1952, pg. 701. *The Encyclopedia*

- Britannica*, 1971, says that Rosenkreuz may be mythical.
3. *Spiritual Counterfeits Project Journal*, Sept. 1979, Berkeley, Calif., pg. 13.
4. David Christopher Lane, *The Making of a Spiritual Movement*, Del Mar Press, Del Mar, Calif.
5. Frank S. Mead, *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*, Abingdon Press, New York-Nashville, 1965, pg. 223.
6. Richard Wolff, *History of Rosicrucianism*, Back to the Bible Broadcast, Lincoln, Neb., 1973, pg. 5.
7. *The Rosicrucian Digest*, Jan. 1973, pg. 10. See also pg. 26 where Spencer Lewis defines the Holy Spirit as "a special form of Divine Consciousness."
8. Harold O.J. Brown, *Heresies*, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1984, pg. 40.
9. *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1973, pg. 26.
10. Wolff, op. cit., pg. 10.
11. *Reincarnation: Is it Compatible with Christianity?* This tract can be obtained from Personal Freedom Outreach.
12. *The Rosicrucian Digest*, Dec. 1972, pg. 17.
13. *Spiritual Counterfeits Project Journal*, Sept. 1979, pg. 35, italic in original.



**NEWS UPDATE**

(from page 3)

**SCP FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY**

Spiritual Counterfeits Project, a pioneer group in the Christian counter-cults ministry, has petitioned for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

SCP's filing for bankruptcy resulted from its legal battle with Witness Lee and The Local Church. Lee in 1980 brought a libel suit against SCP for its release of a German-language book which was critical of the Local Church's theology.

According to the April 5, 1985, issue of *Christianity Today* magazine, SCP co-founder Bill Squires "noted that the court fight had cost SCP more than \$400,000, and that SCP owed some \$80,000 in legal bills." Squires added: "Simply put, we ran out of money."

The petition will allow SCP to continue its operations and imposes a stay on the suit imposed by The Local Church. However, the Local Church said it would press forward with it's legal case against the book's primary author, Neil Duddy. Duddy, no longer with SCP, said "he did not have the financial means to provide for his defense and would concede the case by not appearing in court," the *Christianity Today* article also reported.

—MKG



**BAPTIST SCHOOL HONORS REV. MOON**

The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, leader of the Unification Church who is in prison for tax evasion, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree May 11 from Shaw Divinity School.

Moon's wife, Hak Ja Han, accepted the degree on behalf of her husband.

Moon was cited for his "humanitarian contribution and for his outstanding contributions in several areas: social justice, efforts to relieve human suffering, religious freedom and the fight against world communism," said E.B. Turner, chairman of the Shaw University board of trustees.

Shaw Divinity School, a North Carolina institution, is affiliated with that state's General Baptist Convention. The school received a \$30,000 gift from the Unification Church recently, but a school spokesman denied any connection between the gift and the awarding of the degree. A Shaw University news release said that the degree should not be taken as an endorsement of Unification Church beliefs.

—KAM



**LDS ELDER McCONKIE DIES**

Bruce R. McConkie, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, died of cancer April 19 in Salt Lake City. He was 69.

McConkie had been a member of the Twelve since 1972. Before that, he was 26 years a member of the First Council of the Seventy, another LDS governing body.

McConkie wrote several of the Mormon church's most important books. Among them were *Mormon Doctrine*, *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, and a multi-volume book on the life of Christ.

McConkie's last public appearance was on April 5, when he spoke at the church's 155th general conference.

—KAM



**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OPENS IN SLC**

Christians in Utah who want to study biblical theology or the biblical languages now can do so without having to leave their state.

The newly formed Utah Institute for Biblical Studies has opened its classes in the Indian Christian Center in Salt Lake City. Ken Mulholland, IVF staff worker at Utah State University, is the director and chief motivator behind the new school. New Testament Greek is being taught by Chris Vlachos.

Officials hope to have the school fully accredited soon.

—WPW

## WHO CHANGED JEHOVAH

(from page 5)

That a process of restoring the divine name in the LXX translations is going on is further evidenced by the second pre-Christian fragment. This is a small, still unpublished fragment of Leviticus, covering parts of chapters 2 to 5. It was found in Cave V at Qumran near the Dead Sea. This is the manuscript that writes the divine name out in Greek letters to mimic the name's pronounced sound "IAO." Professor Patrick Skehan, who was preparing the fragment for publication at the time of his death in 1980, regarded it as dating to the first century B.C. He considered it older than the fragments containing the divine name written out in Hebrew letters, and therefore concluded that it "antedates such devices" as the use of the Hebrew script itself. (See his quote both in Pietersma, pg. 91 and in Howard, pg. 65.) If Skehan's dating is correct, then this again argues that some Jewish copyists were busy putting the divine name back into the LXX translation from which it had been removed by the original Jewish translators of the LXX when they used *Kyrios* to translate "Jehovah."

That the process was one of inserting the Divine Name where the original LXX translators had simply used *Kyrios* or *Theos* is seen most clearly in Howard's third piece of manuscript evidence. This is a fragment of Deuteronomy found in Egypt and known as Papyrus Fuoad (or Fuad) No. 266. Dating also to the first century B.C., this

fragmentary text has the divine name written out in the contemporary Hebrew letters rather than in the paleo-Hebrew script found in the minor prophets manuscript. This suggests that various ways of writing the divine name back into the Greek Bible were being used in the first century B.C. That this is the case seems clearly established by Deuteronomy 31:27 of Fuoad No. 266. That verse speaks of the Israelites having rebelled "against Jehovah" (Hebrew: *im YHWH*). All post-Christian copies of the LXX translate this into Greek as "*pros ton Theon*" ("against the God"). The scribe who copied Fuoad No. 266 inserted the divine name after "*pros,*" but forgot to remove the "*ton Theon*" he was substituting it for, "thus creating a unique doublet" (as Dr. Pietersma points out, pg. 90). This presence of "Jehovah," followed immediately by its LXX translation, "*ton Theon,*" makes it evident that the scribe in the process of inserting the Hebrew name and removing the original Greek translation, forgot to remove the original translation at this point.

That the LXX had employed in its original translation both *Kyrios* and *Theos* where the Hebrew had the divine name Jehovah is confirmed with finality in the writings of the pre-Christian Jewish scholar Philo. This Egyptian Greek-speaking Jew died about A.D. 40 when the Christian Church was just beginning to take shape. Throughout his voluminous writings he quotes continuously from the LXX, using *Kyrios* and *Theos* and never the divine name itself. That this is the way his pre-Christian LXX read is established beyond doubt by his

attempts to explain why his Bible sometimes read *Kyrios* and sometimes read *Theos*. Philo concluded that his Bible used *Theos* when God's graciousness or mercy was being stressed and it used *Kyrios* when his "kingly" nature, or justice, was emphasized. Thus he wrote, "Now the name denoting the kind and gracious power is 'God' (*Theos*) and that denoting the kingly, ruling power is 'Lord' (*Kyrios*)" ("On Dreams", Loeb edition V, pg. 383, Sec. 163; cf. also "On the Changing of Names" V. 155, Sec. 23ff).

There is no way Philo could have set forth this explanation in these terms if his copy of the LXX had not already employed substitutes for the divine name. In his *JBL* article Howard writes that Philo may be "our earliest witness to **this particular Greek substitute for the divine name in an expositional reference**" (pg. 71).

Thus the Watchtower's charge that an "apostate Christian church" substituted a mere title "Lord" for the divine name "Jehovah" is refuted. Long before the Christian Church came into existence, the substitution had been made by the Jewish writers, as Howard's article shows. The Watchtower once again has erred in its statements. If Watchtower statements are the result of direct guidance of the leaders by Jehovah, as Society leaders appear to claim, then their "Jehovah" has shown himself once more in error. The Watchtower "Jehovah" is therefore not the Jehovah of the Bible, since the biblical Jehovah is perfect in wisdom from eternity to eternity, and does not fall into such outstanding blunders. ✱

## EDITORIALS

(from page 2)

These same people also have missed the fact that the Society teaches that Jesus did not shed his blood on Calvary for the "great crowd," those who are not part of the 144,000. This is just as bad as not having Jesus as a mediator because it means such people are not saved.

The Watchtower teaches that the New Covenant is only between "Jehovah, on one side, and the 'Israel of God,' the spirit-begotten ones in union with Christ, making up his congregation or body on the other side" (*Aid To Bible Understanding*, pg. 389). Thus, the New Covenant, according to the Society, applies only to about a half a percent of all Jehovah's Witnesses. Strikingly different are the words of Paul calling Christ the mediator between God and man, then emphasizing that the Lord "gave Himself as a ransom for all" (2 Timothy 2:5-6).

Christ's atoning death upon Calvary's cross is the covenant by which we are saved. "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness," Hebrews 9:22 says. The cancellation of the New Covenant for rank-and-file Jehovah's Witnesses leaves them without a way to have their sins forgiven. With this issue in mind, the Society said on page 21 of the Nov. 15, 1981, issue of *The Watchtower* magazine: "the witness yet includes the invitation to come to Jehovah's organization for salvation." What a contrast

to John 5:39-40, where we are told to come to Christ Jesus for eternal life. Again in the May 15, 1985, *Watchtower* magazine, on page 12, readers are instructed to come to the "organization" for salvation.

Witnesses, adhering to the distorted theology of the Watchtower, are totally unaware that it is sin that separates man from God. Isaiah 59:2 clearly states "but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you." Neither can the Jehovah's Witnesses gain forgiveness by book studies, door-to-door solicitation of the Society's publications or other works. "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight," Romans 3:23 says.

The Watchtower Society repeatedly demands its members come to its "organization" for salvation even though it has admitted that "The real ransom sacrifice, a human actually capable of removing sin, must therefore be perfect, free from blemish." It has further admitted that "The strictness of God's justice made it impossible for mankind itself to provide its own redeemer of *go'el*" (*Aid to Bible Understanding*, pg. 1373). Jesus has qualified on both accounts!

Even with all its twisted theology, the Watchtower has come close to admitting that the redeemer of men's souls is Jehovah (Yahweh) come in the flesh. One needs only read a few chapters of Isaiah to understand this Biblical truth and to expose the false doctrines of the Watchtower Society.

—SWI



# BOOKS IN REVIEW

## THE WATCHTOWER FILES

by Duane Magnani with Arthur Barrett

Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, Minn., 304 pages, \$6.95

Several authors who have researched Watchtower history and doctrines have published books full of reproductions of out-of-print documents and other condemning evidence against the Watchtower Society. The problem with most of them was that they were published by the authors and seldom available across the country. With Bethany House's publication of Duane Magnani and Arthur Barrett's *The Watchtower Files*, cult researchers across the country should at last have access to an authoritative work of this sort.

*The Watchtower Files* first analyzes the authority of the Watchtower organization. Then it examines major Christian doctrines that the Society denies, including the Trinity, the deity of Christ and His bodily resurrection. The Society's perversions of John 1:1 and John 8:58 also are examined. Finally, some minor points, such as Christmas and blood transfusions are presented. Each section of the book includes a dialogue format that shows the Christian how to approach a Jehovah's Witness with the Gospel. The book also gives the response a Witness most likely will give when a certain question is asked or a certain fact is presented.

Also included are reproductions of Watchtower statements that the Society would prefer remain hidden, along with testimony from the Olin Moyle and the Douglas Walsh court trials.

Magnani's expertise, gained from eighteen years in the Watchtower Society and 11 years in the counter-cult ministry, is evident in *The Watchtower Files*. Magnani and Barrett give the reader an accurate analysis of Watchtower doctrines along with the evidence to prove their conclusions. The authors'

observations and scholarly citations are completely within the grasp of both the Christian layman and the Jehovah's Witness.

—MKG



## JESUS CHRIST IS GOD

by Dr. Robert L. Sumner

Biblical Evangelism Press,

Murfreesboro, Tenn., 329 pages, \$11.50

Those familiar with the writings of Victor Paul Wierwille, founder of The Way International, may recognize the title of Dr. Robert L. Sumner's book as a response to Wierwille's thesis, *Jesus Christ is Not God*.

Sumner's book, first published in 1983, is not as widely known as it deserves to be. This reviewer has never seen it in any Christian bookstore. It apparently is available only from Sumner's group, The Biblical Evangelist, of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Sumner makes good use of the Bible, church history, the writings of the early church fathers and Wierwille's own distorted biblical interpretations in refuting the doctrines of The Way. Sumner outlines the history of The Way in a brief introduction, then tackles Way doctrine, point by point, in a series of chapters on Christ's deity; the personality of the Holy Spirit; salvation and soul sleep.

The book's information also can be adapted for use in dealing with Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists, followers of Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong and teachers of liberal thought within the denominations of Christendom.

—MKG

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**Editor's Note:** *The Watchtower Files* is available from PFO-Midwest for \$7.90 postpaid. This book also is offered as a gift to those who help support us financially this month. Please see the "Helping Us Help You" flyer for details.

*Jesus Christ Is God* is available for \$11.50 postpaid from The Biblical Evangelist, P.O. Box 1513, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37133.



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## NEWSLETTER

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