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PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH



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Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

The Phenomenon of Bayside

by Edgar L. Havaich

Sightings of the Virgin Mary have been recorded, some in great detail, through the last several centuries. Rumors of potential visits by the Virgin attract large crowds to the expected visitation site. In some cases only a few people see her. In others, she is visible to everyone present.

A common description is: The apparition identifies herself as the Blessed Virgin, the mother of Jesus, and says she has come with an urgent warning of imminent destruction and judgment. She tells people to shun this corrupt world. She emphatically condemns the corruption she sees in the Roman Catholic Church. She also promises a solution to the world's problems if people will heed her words.

If this Mary truly is a messenger of God, people need to heed her words. However, if these visitations are not divinely directed, then Christians should not heed them and even regard them as demonic.

In considering this issue, Christians first need to look at what is known about Mary and separate that from legend.

The Bible mentions the name Mary 54 times in 46 verses. Not all of these



references are to Mary, the mother of Jesus. There are other Marys mentioned in the Bible: Mary Magdalene, from whom Jesus cast seven demons, Mary, the sister of Lazarus, Mary, the wife of Cleophas' and Mary, mother of John Mark.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was the cousin of Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist. Mary is first mentioned in Matthew 1. There we learn she was

engaged to Joseph and hears from an angel that she is going to have a baby, who will be the Son of God, and so on. In other Gospel accounts, Mary attends a wedding at Cana. Another time, Jesus receives a message that Mary wishes to see him. She also is at the foot of Jesus' cross. She is mentioned in Acts 1 as being among the disciples. Luke gathered material from her for his Gospel. A brief study with a Bible and concordance will tell the reader all God has revealed about her in His Word.

Documents called the pseudepigrapha also mention Mary. Pseudepigrapha means "false writings" and refers to unauthentic books written in the centuries just before and after the birth of Christ. These books contain religious folklore and are not considered canonical by the Christian Church. Eusebius called them "absurd and impious." Orthodox Christian scholars consider them valuable only because they point out heretical teachings and record the fanciful lore of the early church.

Following is a summary of the two pseudepigrapha books that are essentially about Mary. After reading these you'll have a better understanding of the origin of some of the Marian myths, and why the Church rejected them.

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EDITORIALS

PUNISHED FOR MY FATHER'S SINS!

"I'm being punished for my father's sins!" was the first thing the troubled counselee told me. He said he was struggling with anger and another counselor had told him he must be "checked for anger demons." He was told that these demons were there because of ancestral sins.

The counselee had no way of knowing his ancestors. However, he suspected that everyone's ancestors struggled with anger. And he knew enough about the Bible to know that it presents anger as a manageable problem.

What really confused him was that the counselor exorcist used as a "proof text" Exodus 20:5, which reads "visiting the iniquity of the fathers unto the third and fourth generation."

We looked at the passage in its context and could not find any reference to demons, family demons, ancestral demons, or any other kind of demons. We wondered who would read demons or exorcism into this verse.

It is amazing what happens when a Bible verse is allowed to speak for itself. First, the verse is clear from the context that whatever the punishment is, it is for idolatry. In the first part of Exodus 20:5 we read, "Thou shalt not bow down to them." The "them" are easily identified in verse 4 as "graven images." To extend this to anger and other temperamental problems is to mix basketballs and grapes. The verse also has to do with "them that hate me." So then, this is pervasive, continuing and perpetual idolatry of father,

son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. This means there is a group of people to the fifth generation who all are liable for their sins. The punishment is traced to the foundation and course — "them that hate me." No demons here, just people who hate God and practice idolatry.

Linguists Kiel and Delitzch show that the Hebrew is very clear in that it cannot refer to the fathers alone (that is children punished for the fathers' sin) but refers to generations that continue to hate God. Their view is very helpful:

"Yet there is no fate in the divine government of the world, no irresistible necessity in the continuous results of good and evil; but there reigns in the world a righteous and gracious God, who not only restrains the course of His penal judgments, as soon as the sinner is brought to reflection by the punishment and harkens to the voice of God, but who also forgives the sin and iniquity of those who love Him, keeping mercy to the thousandth generation (chap. xxxiv. 7). The words neither affirm that sinning fathers remain unpunished, nor that the sins of fathers are punished in the children and grandchildren without any fault of their own: they simply say nothing about whether and how the fathers themselves are punished; and, in order to show the dreadful severity of the penal righteousness of God, give prominence to the fact, that punishment is not omitted, — that even when, in the long-suffering of God, it is deferred, it is not therefore neglected, but that the children have to bear the sins of their fathers, whenever, for example (as naturally follows from the connection of

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NEWS UPDATE

WATCHTOWER CHANGES DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES POLICY

Citing a January, unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision against Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, which ruled that the State of California could charge sales tax on certain items during crusades held in that state, the Watchtower Society has announced that it will cease selling its books and magazines.

A new policy, placed into effect March 1, allows Jehovah's Witnesses to distribute Watchtower literature door-to-door entirely on a donation basis. These publications will now be provided to members at no cost, which also reflects a change in procedures. Formerly members paid for the material and then resold the items in their door-to-door canvassing efforts.

The announcement, made at the Jehovah's Witnesses' Kingdom Halls across the country in late February, affects only members in the United States. Also stated was that the Watchtower Society had filed legal papers in support of Swaggart's ministry.

—MKG



RAJNEESH DIES IN INDIA

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the leader of a religious commune near Antelope, Oregon during the early 1980s, is dead at age 58. His death, reported to have taken place during the third week in January, was attributed to heart failure.

Rajneesh pleaded guilty to immigration fraud in 1985 and was deported from the United States. Following his deportation he was denied residency in numerous other countries, and finally returning to his native India.

—MKG



CHURCH OF CHRIST TEMPLE LOT LANDMARK DESTROYED BY FIRE

An 88-year-old building that was headquarters to the 2,300-member Church of Christ Temple Lot, a Mormon offshoot, was destroyed by fire Jan. 1, according to **The Kansas City Times**.

Jordan Smith, 25, an excommunicated member of the Temple Lot church, barricaded himself inside the building where he telephoned police, claiming to have weapons and hand grenades. Smith said his mission was to "cleanse the

historical Independence church." Following the arrival of local police, Smith, within an hour, agreed to surrender to authorities if he was allowed to perform a dance. A brief time later he appeared on the front porch of the building, his cheekbones painted with bright-colored strips and began to dance in a circle as smoke billowed from the roof of the church.

Police officers then arrested Smith as flames began to rise from the wooden structure. Firefighters were called in, but within 25 minutes the fire had engulfed the second story of the church. Both police and church officials hurried inside the burning building to retrieve church records. No weapons were found inside the church.

The Temple Lot sect of Independence, Mo., got its name from its ownership of the that land Joseph Smith Jr. said would be the site of a temple. Sect members follow the Book of Mormon and believe Jesus Christ will return to Earth on their property.

Smith, in addition to his association with the Temple Lot group, had been attending The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. A Temple Lot spokesman indicated that the discovery of Smith's affiliation with the other groups led to his dismissal from the Temple Lot church. Each sect claims to have inherited Joseph Smith Jr.'s authority to restore the true Christian Church.

Relatives of Jordan Smith say he had been doing "tremendous amounts of research in an effort to correlate world events with Scripture and develop prophecies of future events." Smith was arraigned in Jackson County (Mo.) Circuit Court on charges of second-degree burglary and second-degree arson. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

—MKG



MURDERS IN OHIO SPARKED BY BOOK OF MORMON

When an informant in Kansas City told investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of a person who knew about some murders in Ohio, the agents had no idea the tip would lead them to a Mormon splinter group led by a self-proclaimed prophet consulting the Book of Mormon.

Jeffrey Lundgren, an excommunicated member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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Further Reflections on Drugs, Demons & Delusions

Publisher Jack Chick Responds to Personal Freedom Outreach's Research

by M. Kurt Goedelman with G. Richard Fisher and Paul R. Blizard

Personal Freedom Outreach has received much response to our article on Dr. Rebecca Brown and Elaine Moses, a self-proclaimed former witch, two women featured in recent Jack Chick Publications. (See **The Quarterly Journal**, Oct.-Dec., 1989, "Drugs, Demons & Delusions; The 'Amazing' Saga of Rebecca and Elaine," pp. 1,8-15.)

Two books, **He Came To Set the Captives Free** and **Prepare For War**, along with two cassette tapes, **Closet Witches 1** and **2**, purport to tell the two women's battle against demonic forces. Their story tells how Rebecca Brown, an Indiana physician, encounters Elaine Moses, a former witch (who also claims to have been a bride of Satan) and recent convert to Christianity. The two women go on to claim that they teamed up to wreak havoc on what they call the second-largest assembly of occultists in the nation before being driven out of the state by these same dark forces.

PFO research turned up a different story. The details are too extensive to list here, but two points will be repeated. First, Dr. Rebecca Brown (also known as Ruth Bailey) had her medical license revoked because of "gross negligence in the practice of medicine." Second, PFO research found that investigations by the police, federal agencies, and medical authorities, not an occult conspiracy, caused Brown and Moses to flee Indiana.

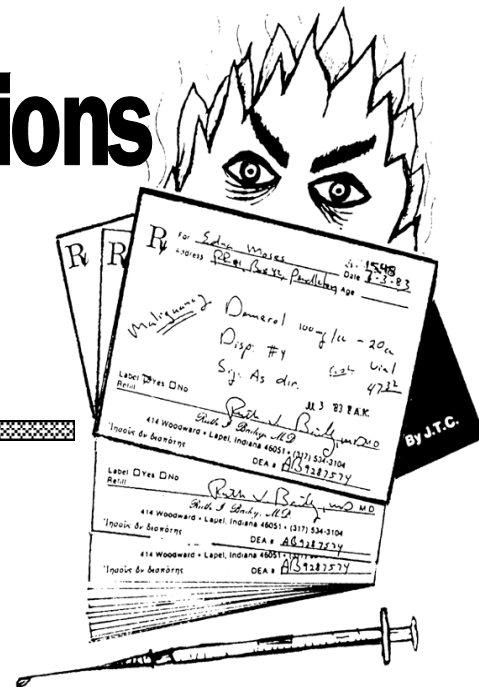
All the written responses to the article were positive, except two. Both these letters included a similar two-page reply from Jack Chick himself.

This article aims to respond to Chick's criticisms. Familiarity with the original article is probably essential to understand this response. Therefore we encourage the reader to review the initial findings presented in the October-December 1989 issue of **The Quarterly Journal**.

Chick contests several findings in the PFO article. But more telling is the number of PFO findings his response ignores. One can only assume that Chick is not challenging those. Nevertheless, the PFO staff feels compelled to answer those criticisms Chick did level at the article.

Chick's first question was why PFO "did not include any of the material submitted to the Medical Licensure [sic] Board in Brown's defense?" A key document concerning her defense which contains her deposition was mentioned in the PFO article on page 13. ("Answers Of Ruth Bailey To Request For Admissions") The article did not cite it in detail because Brown responded to the Medical Licensing Board's inquiries with either the word "Admit" or "Deny." These admissions or denials did little for her defense.

Had those responses been included, they would have damaged Brown's credibility even more. For example, the "Request For Admissions" reveals that Brown **denied** that she believed that Edna Moses [Elaine Moses] "is, or **has been possessed** by demons or evil spirits" and further **denied** that she and Edna are "spiritual sisters." These denials contradict the claims made in Brown's books. Either Brown lied to the Medical Licensing Board or is lying to those who read her books.



Chick's reply also said he has "seen all of those documents" (i.e., those cited in our article) and that they "included a complete physical exam and blood screen to prove that she [Brown] was NOT on drugs of any sort." While the blood screen did indicate Brown was not on drugs of any sort, the complete testimony must be analyzed. Legal records indicate that before the drug scan, Brown went to Florida for a week and the doctor who performed the scan stated "that if she was clean for 48 hours, the type of drugs some feel she is on, such as Demerol, would not show up." Testimony of eyewitnesses at the final hearing led the Indiana Medical Licensing Board to state: "That Respondent [Brown] has been witnessed routinely receiving nontherapeutic doses of at least 3 ccs of Demerol on an hourly basis by injecting herself in the backs of her hands, the inside of her thighs, or wherever she could locate a suitable vein."

Further cited by Chick is a document containing "A complete psychiatric evaluation which stated that she was NOT unbalanced mentally in any way." The document, to which Chick refers, probably is a letter from Dr. Larry M. Davis of The Davis Psychiatric Clinic in Indianapolis. Dr. Davis' findings are exactly as stated by Chick. However, a review of the all the evidence will bear out the article.

A later evaluation and report from Indiana University's Department of Psychiatry demonstrates Chick's citation of the initial Davis report to be a conclusion based upon incomplete testimony. The latter account reported, "Dr. Davis shared with me his original report suggesting she [Brown] was not psychiatrically disturbed, but subsequent information about her religious preoccupations and fears of persecution had made him change his mind, and that he now felt she was psychiatrically disturbed."

Further, this Indiana University Department of Psychiatry disclosure indicated that even on the basis of a "major disadvantage" of having no "information about the allegations which had brought her before the Medical Licensing Board," the Indiana University personnel conducting the interview with Dr. Bailey concluded, "Her beliefs may represent a form of paranoid psychosis, may be a reflection of a brain disease, or may just indicate deeply held eccentric views of religion which she shares with others in her church." (Board Exhibit #1 - Letter to the Medical Licensing Board Administrator from the Indiana University Department of Psychiatry, September 17, 1984)

Chick also contends "The psychiatrist's report that made it into the final hearing never even evaluated Rebecca!" That statement is false. The Indiana University Department of Psychiatry's report was submitted and marked as "Board Exhibit #1, 9/20/84" The report did "evaluate Rebecca" and in conclusion "strongly urge[d] that every attempt be made to persuade Dr. Bailey [Brown] to undergo a comprehensive physical, neurological and psychiatric examination in the very near future, preferably on an inpatient basis."

Chick's next objection is that PFO "neglected the little fact that the main accusation at the first hearing was that Rebecca had killed Elaine. Elaine appeared with Rebecca at that meeting and testified that she is alive." The "main accusation" made against Brown was not that she killed Moses, but was an investigation into "possible adult neglect" or abuse and "making false

prescription." While Moses was admitted into St. Vincent's Hospital (in Indianapolis) on October 11, 1983, in a near-death state, Brown never was charged with murder or manslaughter. The detective who spearheaded the investigation of Dr. Bailey, Samuel E. Hanna, told PFO that no murder or manslaughter charge ever was filed against Brown.

Chick next states "Rebecca also had copies of hospital records to prove that Moses was under the care of another doctor." The PFO article never challenged this. Moreover, this statement adds little to Brown's testimony. Citing the initial "Case-Complaint Report" by Officer Hanna, "Dr. Phil Goshert [stated] that it was he that told Dr. Bailey [Brown] to have someone other than her to treat Edna Moses because of their relationship and that Dr. Bailey herself needed psychological and medical attention." The report concluded, "the hospital felt that Dr. Bailey was a part of the condition [sic] that Edna Moses suffered from."

Chick next charges that PFO "neglected to include that many of the prescriptions [sic] for Demerol were obvious forgeries." The burden is on Chick or Brown to provide evidence that the prescriptions were forged. The legal investigation found that Brown had written over 100 prescriptions for Demerol from several pharmacies. Affidavits from the pharmacists confirmed Brown had written the prescriptions, many of them in the presence of the pharmacist. The "Case-Complaint Report" again hurts Chick's claim. The report says "All of the pharmacies are familiar with Dr. Bailey [Brown] and said she would come in almost all of the time that she wrote the prescriptions for Edna Moses and pick[ed] up the medicine herself."

Chick then claims that the reason Brown could not properly defend herself at the hearing was that she "did not have the money to hire a lawyer because her office manager had embezzled thousands of dollars from the practice." No evidence of this charge has been found, nor were such charges ever brought against the office manager.

Chick says the medical authorities "had ONLY paid off testimonies of people — NO photographs or hard evidence. The whole thing was an extremely good frame-up." It is Chick's statements, not PFO's, that are made without "hard evidence." PFO researchers examined hundreds of pages of state's evidence, including affidavits, submitted in the hearing against Brown. PFO researchers spoke to many witnesses, including police, hospital officials, medical licensing board authorities and family members. Their statements about Brown and Moses do not contradict one another. On the other hand, Brown and Moses have repeatedly changed their story.

Therefore, there is more reason to trust the testimony of the court witnesses than the accounts found in Brown's books and tapes.

Chick then states, "As for Chesterfield, [Ind.] all you have to do is pick any Road Atlas and you will find it listed as a 'Spiritualists Camp.'" That was exactly the point the article made. Brown's books, not the PFO article, call Camp Chesterfield a "witch camp."

He continues, "I also wonder why those folks make such a big emphasis that 'witchcraft is NOT connected to Satanism in any way.' Now isn't that interesting. Witches serve the same demons as the Satanist, no matter what they call them."

Chick has taken what the PFO article said and, by adding the words "in any way," changed what it said. The article did not say satanism and witchcraft were not connected "in any way." It is the belief at PFO that satanism and witchcraft both spring from the same source, Satan, but that the two belief systems are not the same practice. Spiritualism, while being occultic, also is a distinct practice.

Christians know the source of both Mormon and Watchtower theology is Satan, but these two are not the same.

The position set forth by PFO is documented and confirmed by experts in the occult. Other experts will concur

with PFO's perception of witchcraft and satanism. Further, even a casual reading of occultic literature produced by either group (witches or satanists) demonstrates the distinction that Brown, Moses or Chick fail to make.

For example, **The Truth About Witchcraft Today** states in its Preface that, "This book is an introduction to witchcraft, perhaps the least understood practice of our time. Witchcraft isn't a cauldron of human sacrifice, drug, orgies and devil-worship. Nor does it describe a supernatural world filled with unearthly dealings with demons." The petition made in this publication is by no means an isolationist's opinion, but reflects the general consensus of witches.

Chick's next defense of Brown consists of "you should know her strong stand for Jesus... I have known them (Brown and Moses) and watched the fruit of their lives for over four years now. I have personally seen them bring people out of Satanism to a deep commitment to Jesus Christ. And, I have watched those people, in turn, grow in the Lord and bring others to Jesus. This is not something witches would do!"

In spite of Chick's claims, Christians must not become so naive that they lose their understanding of Paul's warning to Timothy:

"If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, **who suppose that godliness is a means of great gain.**" (1 Timothy 6:3-5) Christians must not lose sight of this scriptural decree of honesty and integrity of character as well as purity of doctrine.

Chick also hints that PFO called Brown and Moses witches. The article simply does not say that. While some

people interviewed for the article believe the two women still practice witchcraft, PFO drew no such conclusion.

Chick's letter goes on to say, "Rebecca IS a legal M.D. I have seen her diploma from a valid university here in the U.S. She was set up and framed by the Satanists. The Lord allowed everything she had to be wiped out in one week by Satan. Brown refers to this in her second book. Her medical license was revoked in the State of Indiana. However, that does not revoke her medical degree. The license gives a doctor the right to write perscriptions [sic] in any particular state."

PFO never challenged her educational qualifications. On page 10 of the newsletter, her educational background was detailed. Nevertheless, it is not her medical degree that allows her to practice medicine. It is her medical license that allowed her to practice medicine. Chick's letter minimizes the importance of the license, saying only that it gives a "doctor the right to write prescriptions in any particular state." The license also gives a doctor the right to diagnose, order tests, treat disorders and perform procedures. These are the privileges which have been stripped from Brown, even though she still retains her medical degree.

Next, Chick says "Rebecca's books are scripturally sound and have brought many to Jesus Christ." PFO contends that they are unsound. Pages 281-283 of Brown's book, **He Came To Set The Captives Free**, provide one example:

"An incident with a familiar spirit happened in my own office just recently... That particular evening, one of my last patients was a fairly powerful local warlock. I do not think that at that point he had any idea I knew his true identity.

Somehow, that evening Joshua, my cat, got loose and came into the room where the patient was. I grabbed him up before the patient had the opportunity to touch him...

As I carried Joshua out of the room the Lord revealed to me that I was too late.

The patient had succeeded in putting a familiar spirit demon into him. One second, that all it took!

After all the patients were gone, I was sitting in my personal office talking with two friends. The change in Joshua was remarkable. Normally he is an extremely calm and quiet cat. But as we sat talking, he paced continuously from one to the other of us, looking up at each one of us as we talked. I explained to the others what had happened. The patient was using the cat's eyes and ears to monitor all that was going on. I picked up Joshua and looking directly into his now glaring eyes said:

'Now you listen to me, Jimmy (the patient's name). Your master Satan is a liar. He is **not** stronger than Jesus. Jesus Christ is **God** and He died on the cross for you as well as me. Jesus is the one you should be serving, not Satan. Now I'm going to prove to you that what I am saying is true. We are going to cast your familiar spirit out of this animal with the power of Jesus Christ. If Satan is as strong as he says he is, we should not be able to do this.'

I then took some oil and anointed Joshua and we joined in prayer asking our Lord Jesus to cast out the demon. Again, the change was immediate. The glare left his eyes, he stopped struggling and with a big sigh lay [sic] down and promptly fell asleep."

Brown then offers her readers the following advice:

"If you have pets, always be alert to the possibility of their having familiar spirits, but please be sure to briefly share the gospel before casting out the demon or asking the Lord to remove the human spirit. Usually you will not know if you are dealing solely with a human spirit or with a demon, and whenever possible you want the satanist involved to hear the gospel. We daily pray for special shielding of our animals.

Animals are usually easily cleared because they do not sin, therefore Satan has no legal ground in them in the same way he does humans."

Brown's stories are fiction. It is sad when believers put any faith in such nonsense. This type of theology has cheapened and made a mockery of the precious blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Other Christian writers have taken issue with statements made in Brown's books. Albert J. Dager, in a special issue of **Media Spotlight**, devoted four pages to the questionable theology espoused by "Rebecca and Elaine." His critique is worth reading. (A copy of the critique can be obtained from Media Spotlight, P.O. Box 290, Redmond, WA 98073-0290).

Dager finds several problems in the women's story:

"One problem with Rebecca's and Elaine's testimonies is their vagueness. For example, we are never told in what cities any of the alleged incidents occurred. Rebecca's 'Memorial Hospital,' could be anywhere in the world. [The] only understandable ambiguity is the changing of personal names to protect the innocent, which is reasonable in view of the possible consequences to people's lives.

Since their testimonies involve interaction with the spirit realm, however, and since [this] kind of interaction recounted has no precedent in Scripture, their ambiguous approach leaves readers with nothing more than blind trust upon which to base their acceptance of what they read. By the same token,

there is an equally justifiable reason to reject what is said as the figment of two women's imaginations."

Finally, Chick implies the reason Brown and Moses are being persecuted is because Satan wants to stop them. Chick says Satan "cannot discredit their message, so he is trying to discredit them, the messengers." He adds that he is not "surprised that the persecution is coming from within the professing Christian Church."

Brown's and Moses' message can be discredited by any discerning layman. Since the release of PFO's article, many Christians have contacted us thanking us for our research and the publication of our findings. Many of those who contact PFO said that upon reading Brown's books, they knew immediately that the books were full of unbiblical concepts.

It is not Satan who wants to stop Brown's message. It is Christians who love the truth. Brown's publications cultivate fear and present a distorted view of demonology, something Satan himself desires to implant within Christians.

It is time the Church stood firm on the Word of God and tested and exposed false authorities such as Brown. Her books unjustly incriminate Christians as occultists. This is nothing short of being an "accuser of the brethren," a label given to the devil himself. (Revelation 12:10)

Finally, PFO has been told that some objected to the article because Chick, Brown and Moses were not contacted before its publication. PFO chose not to contact them because Chick had ignored others who tried to warn him about Brown and Moses before he published their books. Chick reportedly turned on one friend, a pastor, who tried to warn him about publishing Brown's and Moses' story. He now considers the pastor an adversary. Chick even went so far as to include a caricature of the pastor in a recent publication.

With this type of response to friends who expressed concern for Chick's ministry, why would PFO's research and evidence be treated any differently? Even after the publication of the facts, Chick's attitude towards PFO's findings is one of indifference. The publication and sale of Brown's books have excluded it from being a private matter. To those who may charge that Matthew 18:15-17 should have been applied on PFO's part, need to realize that what has been done is publicly criticized public teaching. Matthew 18 does not apply, but Galatians 2 does. There is a difference.

In addition, PFO was asked to do something that Brown and Moses did not do. PFO researchers spoke directly with several people incriminated in Brown's books and tapes. None had been contacted before publication of those books. ❀

Mary

(continued from page 1)

The Gospel of the Birth of Mary begins by describing Joachim and Anna. Their lives are plain and right in the sight of the Lord. They vow that if God will give them children, they will devote them to the service of God. Joachim and some of his tribe go to Jerusalem for the feast of dedication. There, Issachar the high priest reproaches Joachim because he and Anna have no children. Joachim is ashamed.

Then an angel tells Joachim that Anna

is going to have a baby girl whom they are to name Mary. She is to be reared in the temple, and while she is a virgin, will bring forth the Son of God. Joachim is told to look for a sign, and the angel leaves.

Then the angel tells Anna she is going to have the baby. Shortly after, Anna conceives and has Mary.

At age three, Mary is brought to the temple. In the temple there are, "according to the fifteen Psalms of degree, fifteen stairs to ascend." Anna and Joachim set Mary on the stairs. While Anna and Joachim take off the

clothes they traveled in Mary ascends all 15 stairs unaided. "Thus the Lord did, in the infancy of his Virgin, work this extraordinary work and evidence by this miracle how great she was like to be hereafter," the "gospel" says. Mary's parents leave her with other virgins at the temple and return home.

Mary has daily conversations with angels and receives visitors from God. These keep her from all sorts of evil. At age 14, Mary is still above reproach and admired by all who know her. Then the high priest orders all virgins to go home and prepare for marriage. Only Mary refuses, because she and her parents

have devoted her to serving the Lord.

Faced with Mary's refusal to obey, the high priest calls all the important people of Jerusalem and they decide to seek the Lord's counsel. Immediately, there is a voice from the Ark of the Covenant. The high priest obeys the order and has all the men of the house and family of David to bring their rods to the altar. Mary will be engaged to the one who has the rod that produces a budding flower and that the spirit of the Lord sits upon in the appearance of a dove.

Joseph draws back his rod. Nothing happens and the high priest consults with God again. God tells the high priest that the one who didn't bring his rod is the one to whom Mary is to be engaged. So when Joseph does bring forth his rod, a dove from heaven perches on top of it, the sign that he is the one to take Mary.

Then the angel Gabriel appears and explains to Mary that she is going to conceive without lying with a man. Mary is acquainted with angelic visits and is not afraid. After a couple of questions about how it was going to happen, she submits.

Joseph returns to Jerusalem to marry the Virgin. When he finds out that she is pregnant, he wants to put her away. The angel of the Lord tells him that this is not the work of man, but of the Holy Spirit. So Joseph marries Mary but does not have relations with her.

The second book which provides additional information not found in **The Gospel of the Birth of Mary** is **The Protevangelion**. This writing purports to be an account the birth of Christ and the perpetual virginity of Mary. Its content is similar to that of **The Gospel of the Birth of Mary** with some notable additions:

Joachim is shown to be a rich man. A high priest named Reuben opposes him because he has no children. Joachim goes to the desert and fasts for forty days and forty nights.

When Mary is 9 months old, Anna puts her on the ground to see if she can walk. She takes nine steps and returns

to her mother. Anna says "As the Lord my God liveth, thou shalt not walk again on this earth till I bring thee into the temple of the Lord."

And the Protevangelion 8:2 says, "But Mary continued in the temple as a dove educated there, and received her food from the hand of an angel."

There is little wonder why the Church rejected these two books.

Despite that, notions of who Mary was and her place in God's scheme range far from the biblical truth. Hence, we have people who heed visions and purported visits by Mary as being direct messages from God.

For example, Estella Ruiz of Phoenix, has opened her back yard to Roman Catholics who believe she has seen the Virgin Mary. "The message of our Blessed Mother, more than anything, is people need to return to God and they need to return to the teaching of her son, Jesus; and that is love and respect each other," Says Armando Ruiz, a Democratic legislator and son of Estella. "Two months ago, Armando Ruiz said that the Virgin Mary has instructed his mother to build a shrine in the family's back yard." Mary told Ruiz that she is to be called "Our Lady of the Americas," A local pastor says he believes that Mary has been appearing and has been in contact with the Phoenix Diocese, but the apparitions have been neither condoned nor rejected." (**USA Today**, Aug. 18, 1989, A2)

Across the United States visions of the Virgin Mary have appeared in most unusual places. For example, it is claimed that she has appeared on the side of a garage in Toledo, Ohio. From 50 to 100 people have been lining the street to see the image of "Mary bowing in prayer with hands clasped." (**Cleveland Plain Dealer**, August 19, 1989)

In Lubbock, Texas, Mary reportedly visited St. John Neumann Catholic Church. Fifteen thousand people attended an open-air Mass on August 15, 1989, and many claimed that they saw 'images' in the sky. Catholic Church officials promised an investigation into the reported visions

and messages.

But of all those reporting Marian visions, few are as organized as the group at Bayside, N.Y., that has rallied around Veronica Lueken.

Lueken is in her early 60s. Her first vision came in 1968. St. Theresa started appearing to her and dictated to her poems and sacred writings.

Mary appeared to Veronica on April 7, 1970, and told her she would appear on the grounds of the old St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Bayside on June 18, 1970, ordered that prayer vigils be held there, that full directions be given to the clergy of the parish to prepare for her visit; and that a shrine and basilica be built there.

Lueken's background story is in almost every copy of **Roses**, a newspaper providing current information on the revelations at Bayside.

In her visions of Mary, Jesus is usually following His mother. Mary makes the sign of the cross, then blesses the people. She then places her finger to her lips, which means those who see her must listen and repeat. She then speaks. She has spoken out on a multitude of issues and subjects. These are just a few of her messages:

"My children, go to your Bishops and tell them that all Heaven is disturbed, and Our Hearts are torn by the laxity in attitude in pride and arrogance of the priesthood in My Son's Church." (**Roses**, May 26, 1979)

"My Son has sent Me to you, through the Father and the Spirit of Life, as a Mediatrix between God and man, to direct you and counsel you, that you may understand the knowledge given in the Book of love and life, your Bible. For many who read, they are just words, not to be practiced in the daily lives of many." (**Roses**, Sept. 7, 1979)

"My child and My children, the cross of your Christ is being trampled upon. And who will take this cross and carry it in reparation for the sins of mankind? I beg unto you as your Mother: Pick up your cross and carry it for My Son. Can you not suffer for My Son? Can you not

make reparation for the sins of man, to expect God the Father in Heaven may extend unto you a small measure of time to save your brothers?" (ibid.)

"Remember always, Veronica and My children upon the earth, that the eventual victory over Satan shall be with My Son. You, My child, Veronica, will not be given a heavier cross that you can carry." (ibid.)

"Make it known, My child and My children, to all mankind that all wars are a punishment for man's sins." (ibid.)

"You will all continue a constant vigilance of prayer: bead to bead, Rosary to Rosary going throughout the world, nation to nation. And with the cooperation of all good souls, there is still time — although very little time is left — there is still time to hold back the destruction." (Roses, Oct. 1, 1983)

Miracles are also attributed to Mary. Someone writes in to Roses and tells of a friend diagnosed as having cancer in her left breast. She is advised to have surgery. This person immediately sends her a rose petal blessed by "Our Lord and Our Lady." She is told to tape the rose petal to the affected breast and not to remove it. The tumor shrinks. Nevertheless, she has surgery and the tumor is benign. Even though Jesus and Mary are said to have blessed the rose petal, Mary alone is honored and thanked for the miracle. (Roses, Oct. 1, 1983)

Page 3 of the December 1989 issue of **Roses** contains testimonials from people around the world who say they were healed by rose pedals Mary and Jesus have blessed. These people have prayed to Mary for these healings. Some include Jesus and Mary. When the healing occurs some give thanks to Mary alone while others include Jesus.

Lueken has received messages from Mary about another organization she views as evil, the Watchtower Society.

"And now, My child, it has not been My policy to put down in strict perfect order those who are going throughout the world as deceivers, but I warn you

now to beware and protect your children from the groups that are forming that are false prophets and will take you from the true religions. One must be named now and it is called the Jehovah Witnesses. My children, they are not a church. They were not founded in the time of My Son's placement upon earth. They were founded approximately 55 years ago by a group of so-called learned seminar-ians, not of the true Christian Faith, but seeking to rewrite the Bible of God to suit their own human frailties and needs. It took a great deal of courage to come away from the true Faith and establish themselves, but this courage will be brought to naught. Except, My children, that there are many new souls that come also from the fold of the Eternal Father, the Roman Catholics, that are being taken in by this group of false prophets.

I do not wish to seek merriment on this, My child, but We, too, in Heaven must smile as they go about the world saying, that Jesus was not upon the earth as a Savior, nor is He the Son of God; no, He is Saint Michael the Archangel! My child, I see this brings a smile to your lips." (Roses, Sept. 27, 1986)

It brought a smile to this writer's lips, too. Jehovah's Witnesses love to correct people on this point. Many people think Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe Jesus is the Son of God. However, they do believe Jesus is God's Son and that He is the savior. They don't believe Jesus is God, equal with the Father, and that He can be their personal savior.

This writer sent a letter to Bayside asking for the references to Mary's declaration that the founders were former seminar-ians. The letter also pointed out what Jehovah's Witnesses believe about the person of Jesus Christ and requested that they ask Mary where she got her information. Several months later, the Bayside group replied that it still was looking for the quotes but that in the meantime the letter along and a note would be placed at Mary's feet during one of the vigils in hopes she would answer it.

Lueken also claims to receive messages from Jesus Himself. Here are some examples:

"I will repeat again for My Mother, that We wish that you all write to Cardinal Casarilli in Rome and beg him, if necessary, to put aside his false pride, and not mislead Pope John Paul II any longer. If necessary, if he does not listen to this counsel, We will be forced to remove him." (Roses, June 18, 1987)

"My parents of the world, I say unto you, as your God: This will not be tolerated much longer. For if you parents will not raise your children in the light, you will raise them in darkness, and they will eventually rise up and even kill you. There are many satanic institutions throughout the world now that are waiting for your children. Are you going to allow them to fall into their hands because you are too busy elsewhere to watch your children? Are you turning them over to the satanic tube, the television? Yes, My children, they are learning to kill by the television. They are learning disrespect for the parents. They laugh at you when you are not watching. That, My children of the world-parents, your children are to be lost." (Roses, Mar. 18, 1989)

"Be it known to Our bishops and cardinals: (I do not include Pope John Paul II at this time, because he is under the domination of his bishops and cardinals.) I look upon my Church at this time and I find gross errors. I tell you now, all bishops and cardinals of the world: My Church shall not be defamed. You shall not defame My Name. I will allow this to continue but for a short time. If you do not acknowledge Me properly before the world, I assure you, I will not acknowledge you before the Father; and you will not have eternal rest with My Father in Heaven." (ibid.)

Lueken also claims to have seen the God the Father, announcing: "I see a very wonderful Man. He is so grandfatherly, with a long white beard. And He is sitting with the most beautiful

cape on Him; He looks like a regal King. He's smiling. There is no way to explain Him. And He is so translucent and shining. I know it is the Eternal Father.'" (ibid.)

The Bayside messages have detractors. Several PFO staff members who visited the site of the Bayside apparitions noticed papers laying all around the Vatican Pavilion. The papers included letters from Jesus and someone called "Little Pebble." One paper corrected the message given to Lueken on June 18th, 1989. The paper said the messages at Bayside have been distorted and added to in order to suit some evil purpose. This paper purportedly was from Mary, who said the words transcribed by Lueken were those of neither her nor her son. Lueken, the paper said, has been tested and found wanting.

People can argue whether Lueken is a true bearer of messages from beyond, but the point is that the biblical Mary has no such role. Mary was a mortal woman whom God chose to be the mother of the baby Jesus, God clothed in human flesh. She conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit, gave birth to him and reared him as her son.

When Jesus turned 30 and began His earthly ministry, Mary's role was no different from that of any other mortal. She had no authority or primacy over Him.

John's account of Jesus' crucifixion provides telling evidence. Jesus placed Mary into John's care, saying "Behold your mother! (John 19:27). John took Mary into his home, not the reverse. We need not spiritualize this verse and say that John was symbolically receiving Mary for the whole body of Christ.

We cannot from this verse nor any other infer that Mary is our spiritual mother.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray He told them to pray to the Father. Prayer should be directed to the Father and Son. Mary cannot intercede for us.

Apparitions, dreams, and visions must all be judged according to Scripture. Further Christians must not confuse illumination with revelation. Without the Word of God as a guide there is no way to evaluate the revelations of the many seers, prophets, and gurus. The apparitions are, at best, the work of a fertile imagination, or, at worst, demonic. The Bayside revelations cannot be real because they have been tested by Scripture which has shown this "Mary" to be "quite contrary" to the Word of God. ❁

Editorials

(continued from page 2)

children with their fathers, and, as Onkelos was added in his paraphrase of the words), "the children fill up the sins of their father," so that the descendants suffer punishment for both their own and their forefathers' misdeeds (Lev. xxvi. 39; Isa. lxx. 7; Amos vii. 17; Jer. xvi. 11 sqq.; Dan. ix. 16, **Commentary on the Old Testament**, Vol. I, page 117

The deliverance teaching's view of Exodus 20:5 lacks understanding of the passage in its Oriental setting. Not to understand Oriental customs is to miss a vital element in the passage. The phrasing which encompasses five generations (father and children to the fourth generation) is an orientalism reflecting the times and God's accommodation to those people. God speaks the language of those to whom He speaks. James Freeman reminds us, "Though the Bible is adapted to all nations, it is in many respects an Oriental book." (**Manners and Customs of the Bible**, pg. 5)

Freeman says knowledge of Oriental customs is essential to a right understanding of many Scripture passages. One can understand Oriental customs and times by reading books like Freeman's and studying Oriental people in the Holy Land today. The Bedouin of Israel continue to reflect lifestyles and customs that trace back to Abraham's time. Abraham the tent dweller practices many customs seen today in Bedouin society. A recent study of that society by Dr. Joseph Ginat reveals similarities that illumine Scripture and clarify many scriptural passages. Entertaining strangers, to the extent one would cease work to kill a lamb for their guests, is a custom foreign to us, but happens in the Pentateuch.

Bedouin still practice this today. Having an "avenger of blood" as in Deuteronomy and Joshua still exists today among the Bedouin. There is also the uniqueness of the Khams that we know little about, but which illumines Exodus 20:5, Dr. Ginat explains:

"In Bedouin society the basic unit of the tribe is the KHAMS. Marx (1967) coined the term "co-liable group" to describe this unit, which is a group formed by all descendants of one ancestor to the fifth generation. A basic ideology of the co-liable group is collective responsibility — any act of omission by one individual reflects on the group as a whole in the sense that the group is responsible for and must accept the consequences of that act or omission. Collective responsibility manifests itself in two major ways: blood revenge and mutual aid. In blood disputes, mutual responsibility "constitutes the ultimate obligation of members of a co-liable group." (**Blood Disputes Among Bedouin and Rural Arabs in Israel**, pg. 16)

God, in addressing the co-liable group custom, was also saying, everyone was responsible. This is far from the modern notion that ancestral demons make us incapable of control and grips and drive us until an exorcist comes to our aid.

We assured our counselee that he was not haunted by his ancestors' demons and helped him in a biblical program for anger management. He is doing well and gratefully does not deplore the Scriptures of the church. He does, however, take a dim view of his former counselor.

May the Lord save us from the self-ordained exorcists who are so misusing His Holy Word.

—GRF

turned cult leader, has been arrested and charged with the murders of five people in Ohio.

What investigators have uncovered is the story of a man who allegedly sacrificed an entire family so his cult could go into the wilderness, find the sword of Laban, decapitate everyone around the RLDS Temple in Kirtland, Ohio, enabling Christ to appear to save his group and destroy everyone else.

The investigation has led Ohio authorities to believe that the killing of Dennis Avery, his wife and three children grew out of Lundgren's interpretation of a story in the Book of Mormon.

The story tells of God commanding a man named Nephi to seize his relative's Laban's sword and behead him. The Book of Mormon says that Nephi reluctantly obeyed. Lundgren apparently believed the command applied to him, too.

Lundgren, who had been a lay minister of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (RLDS) in Independence, Mo., moved to Kirtland, Ohio, in 1984 and persuaded several other church members to follow him. In 1985, he became a tour guide at the RLDS' 153-year-old landmark Kirtland Temple.

In 1987, he was dismissed as a guide because of alleged erratic behavior and preaching of "radical doctrines." In 1988, church elders withdrew his credentials as a lay minister and excommunicated him. However, by this time, he reportedly had assembled a group of devoted followers who would help him carry out what he believed to be his divinely inspired goal: to collect enough money to go out into the wilderness, find the sword of Laban and return with it to Kirtland and fulfill his mission.

Lundgren housed his followers in a barn outside Kirtland. Those who worked gave their paychecks to him. A former follower says Lundgren regularly led his group in paramilitary maneuvers and required members to participate in regimented calisthenics. Medical care packets were made up for combat first aid. Lundgren also purportedly beat his followers' children with a metal rod and threatened to kill those who spoke of dissension from the sect.

The Averys had followed him from Independence. They had become disaffected with the RLDS Church when it allowed women into the priesthood. They were attracted by Lundgren, but were not as committed as the others. They lived apart from the group in a nearby county. Their lack of devotion to Lundgren has been offered as a possible reason they were chosen to be the group's sacrifices.

On April 18, 1989, after the slayings allegedly were committed, Lundgren led his group to the woods near Davis, W.Va., where they set up camp and stayed until October. They were armed. Local authorities watched them, but considered them harmless.

In October, Lundgren moved his group to Chilhowee, Mo., near his mother-in-law's. The group again lived in a barn. Members worked in a nearby toy factory and gave their paychecks to Lundgren. By now Lundgren had decided to build Zion on Earth. He told a neighbor that he had been out in the world and didn't like it and that he was going to save enough money to buy a saw mill and some land and then build his own city.

Following the practice of the early Mormons, Lundgren took everyone's money and property and decided how it was to be spent. Former members say that dissension arose when it was discovered that he was spending money on favors for his son while others went hungry. By the end of November, the group had disbanded. It is believed that Lundgren, his wife, Alice, and 19-year-old son, Damon, left for California on Dec. 28.

After the breakup, one member told ATF investigators about the slayings. On Jan. 3 and 4, Kirtland authorities found the 4-foot-deep grave containing the bodies of the five Averys.

On Jan. 13, a Lake County (Ohio) grand jury indicted 13 cult members. Before the indictments, seven of the cult members had surrendered or had been arrested in Kansas City. Several days later, federal authorities arrested Lundgren, his wife and son in National City, Calif., about six miles from the Mexican border. Subsequently all members the sect who were held responsible have been arrested and charged with the murders.

The most serious charges are against Jeffrey and Damon Lundgren, Richard E. Brand and Ronald Luff of Independence, and Daniel D. Kraft, Jr., of Nauvoo, Ill. The five have been charged with five counts each of aggravated murder and five counts of kidnaping. If convicted, they could receive the death penalty.

While it is claimed that the Avery slayings were a sacrifice, a spokesman for the RLDS Church in Ohio said he did not believe the slayings were a sacrifice but probably came after a dispute over money, sex or fear the family would leave the cult.

—HRW

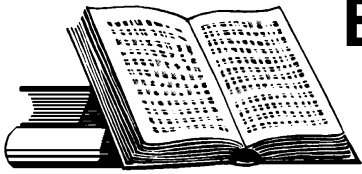


WITCHES' RIGHTS

United States District Judge Dan M. Russell, Jr., of Biloxi, Miss., ruled in January that the Salvation Army violated a woman's constitutional right to freedom of religion when it fired her because she practiced witchcraft according to a report by the Associated Press.

Jamie Kellam Dodge, 28, filed a \$1.25-million lawsuit against the Salvation Army. She sought reinstatement and compensation for embarrassment, humiliation, pain and suffering. Dodge was fired from the Pascagula-based Salvation Army Domestic Violence Shelter in August 1987, after she admitted using the agency's copying machine to photocopy Witchcraft rituals.

—PRB



BOOKS IN REVIEW

WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP?

by John Blanchard
Evangelical Press, 189 pages, \$6.95

Most books used in witnessing to cultists critically examine a particular sect and devote little space to defending Christianity. John Blanchard's **Will The Real Jesus Please Stand Up?** does the opposite.

It names no specific cult. Rather, it examines the person, nature and work of the biblical Jesus. It addresses other aspects of the Christian faith, such as the reliability of Scripture. Blanchard presents and refutes many challenges to Christianity's validity. Because the book names no specific group, it might be a less threatening book to show a cultist. The person can read the book without feeling he's being singled out for attack.

The chapter called "The Man Who Died Twice" might raise questions in some readers' minds. Here Blanchard devotes two pages of the 22-page chapter to present the belief in the "spiritual death" of Jesus. Although Blanchard's presentation of the subject differs greatly from the unbiblical notions espoused by many word-faith adherents, it is nonetheless a blemish on an otherwise exceptional publication.

Another drawback is that the book is published in England and probably will not be readily available in many Christian bookstores across the United States.

—MKG



FAITH MISGUIDED: Exposing the Dangers of Mysticism

by Arthur L. Johnson
Moody Press, 156 pages, \$6.95

Arthur Johnson's book issues a challenge to experience-oriented theology, which has gained widespread popularity in the Church today. In eight short chapters he defines Christian mysticism, gives examples, and correctly assesses its primary danger: the weakening and ultimate discarding of the authority of Scripture through extrabiblical revelation.

Johnson writes: "If God's special revelation to man is complete in the Scripture, then the mystics' claim to direct revelation must be rejected. This applies not only when it conflicts with biblical teaching, but also when it claims to be in line with the Word but goes beyond what the Bible teaches." (pg. 30)

Johnson poses many valid questions. Unfortunately, he leaves many of them unanswered. For example: While dealing with the issue of the forced distinction between "head knowledge" and "heart knowledge," he overlooks the issue of illumination vs. revelation.

The book's chief fault is its brevity. While it may have been that Johnson's primary aim was to challenge Christians to think in greater depth on the threat of mysticism, he could have covered some issues more thoroughly.

Despite that flaw, this book needs to be read and promoted in the Church. As we come to a better understanding of what mysticism is, we will be better-equipped to combat the rise of experience-validated "new truth" in the Church. Johnson has given us a valuable weapon.

—SFC



HEART TO HEART TALKS WITH JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

by Homer Duncan
Missionary Crusader Publications, 199 pages, \$4.95

The Watchtower Society is notorious for its denial of the major tenets of the orthodox Christianity. Homer Duncan's **Heart To Heart Talks With Jehovah's Witnesses** answers those denials.

Duncan lovingly, yet firmly, deals with the gross errors of Watchtower theology. Most Jehovah's Witnesses label any work critical of their organization as "hate literature," but this book addresses them with care and concern.

The book has three sections: practical Bible study methods, doctrinal issues and conclusions. Duncan examines biblical teachings on the Godhead and nature of Christ, Christ's atonement, bodily resurrection, second coming, the immortality of the soul, eternal punishment and more.

While the book is 18 years old (it first was published in 1972 and has been reprinted many times), its challenge to Jehovah's Witnesses and their beliefs is as up-to-date as the current issue of The Watchtower.

—AMG



Editor's Note: The above publications are available from Personal Freedom Outreach - Missouri. Please add \$1.00 to the price listed to cover postage. These books are also available to those who help to financially support us this quarter. Please see our funds appeal flyer for details.