

# Y2K: Genuine Crisis or Over-hyped Circus?

by L.L. (Don) and Joy A. Veinot

**F**or the last several years, many of us who are involved in discernment ministries have been wondering what type of doomsday cults would surface to herald the new millenium. There is something about the turn of a new century that feeds people's fearful imaginations of the future. If a new century fosters such gloomy speculations, how much more hysteria will be ignited by the turn of a new millenium! We fully expect 1999 will turn out to be a banner year for doomsayers and end-time hysteria.

Eschatological errors in theology are nothing new, of course. The Millerites of the last century dressed in white robes and fled to a mountaintop to await the Second Coming. Nothing happened, and so they came down again. The pseudo-Christian groups that branched off of the Millerites, such as the Seventh-Day Adventists and the Jehovah's Witnesses, have been declaring Armageddon to be right around the corner with regularity ever since, all with the same result. But aside from their own members living in fear with their lives on hold, the rest of the world has been pretty much able to ignore their false prophetic shenanigans. Their own people have been the ones to bear the brunt of their erroneous claims. In other words, like people say about the weather: They talked a lot about Armageddon, but they didn't do anything about it! © But, today that is not always true. Quack theology in our day can cause grave harm to the cultist and to society at large. For example, cult leader Asahara (Aum Shin Rykyo) tried to bring on Armageddon by releasing poison gas into the subway system of Japan, and many people were killed or injured in that attack.

More recently, cult leader Monte Kim Miller led his band of

merry men and women (aka the Concerned Christians) to sell their homes and businesses and disappear one night last year in advance of Denver's imminent destruction which Miller had prophesied. Many of them went to Israel where "God" (i.e., Kim Miller) would be killed in Jerusalem and resurrected three days later. The Israeli government didn't waste any time giving this group their walking papers, because they fear this group and others like it may actually attempt to bring on some of the events they expect to happen.

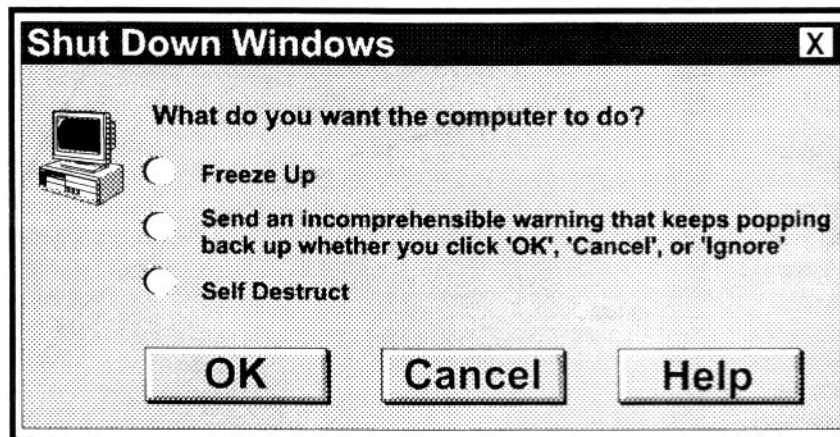
The aforementioned groups are genuine false prophets<sup>1</sup> (according to Deuteronomy 18:20-24), so I guess we should expect problems there. What is more disconcerting is to see some evangelical Christian leaders promoting Millennial hysteria — tying the much ballyhooed "Y2K bug" into speculations regarding the Second Coming of Christ. The Bible is clear that no man knows the day or hour of Christ's scheduled return, but there is one

detail we do know. Jesus took pains to inform us He would come when He was not expected! (Matthew 24:44) This makes us seriously doubt He will arrive when almost everyone is expecting something!

### The Sky is Falling . . . Pass it on . . .

It is true that it is not only some Christians who are obsessed with the Y2K bug; but we fear they will be the ones most remembered (and ridiculed) for it. Since it is indisputably a genuine problem (and one with unknown consequences, even to our gods of technology), it has become the "sky is falling" favorite of the decade. Even normally calm people are going over the edge on this one. We believe Christians are especially drawn to the Y2K dis-

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*Our computers are not waiting for Y2K . . . they're already driving us crazy!*

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**"Y2K" (Continued from page 1)**

ter scenario because we are well aware of how far our society has slidden off its God-centered foundation . . . and it grieves us. We have to admit: The idea that God would use our technological hubris to bring our pagan culture to judgment is appealing to our sense of justice. However, if there is one thing we've learned in our walk with the Lord, it is that He does not often go along with our timing of events.

We do not at all take a cynical view of Bible prophecy. We believe, in fact, that it is quite possible we are living in the last days of our age. After all, Jesus is going to return someday, *and we do so hope He comes in our lifetime!* Also, we think, very interesting are the events happening in Israel and the Middle East, and around the globe. But, whether we believe that we are living in the last days of this age is really beside the point when analyzing the Y2K situation. It must be considered upon its own merits. And whatever our opinions of end-time events, we should approach the entire subject with a sense of humility, *without dogmatism*, remembering that lots of folks have misjudged issues in Christian history before. At the very least, we must be careful not to unwittingly provoke a hysterical reaction to our prognostications, which could be detrimental not only to ourselves but to society as a whole.

Far from exercising such care, however, the evangelical Y2K "experts"—Chuck Missler, Michael S. Hyatt, Jack Van Impe, Hal Lindsay, Grant Jeffrey, Larry Burkett, and Theonomist Gary North, among others—have been declaring everything from the end of civilization as we know it to financial collapse and/or everlasting recession. In their view, the tick of the clock from 11:59 PM December 31, 1999 to 12:01AM 2,000 will stop all computers in their tracks. Electrical plants will come to an unexpected screeching halt, and our world will go black, not for days but for months, or perhaps, years. Overwhelmed banks will close their doors. Planes will fall out of the sky. Nuclear bombs will launch of their own accord.

For example, the cover of Michael S. Hyatt's book, *The Millennium Bug: How to Survive the Coming Chaos*, has the following bullets:

- 12:01 am, January 1, 2000. Your electricity goes off.
- Phones aren't working.
- The computer at your local bank crashes.

● Police and 911 are nowhere to be found.

● The illusion of social stability is about to be shattered . . . *and nothing can stop it.*<sup>2</sup> (emphasis added)

Writes Hyatt,

"The Millennium Bug is a sort of 'digital time bomb.' *When the clock strikes midnight on January 1, 2000, computer systems all over the world will begin spewing out bad data — or stop working altogether!*"<sup>3</sup> (Emphasis in original)

He continues,

"When this happens, it will be similar to a giant hard disk failure: It's inevitable, and it's going to be terribly ugly when it happens. The only difference is that it is going to be a *billion times worse* than the worst microcomputer crash you have ever experienced—or could ever imagine. It will affect almost every mainframe computer on earth, many microcomputers, and even embedded computer chips in various appliances, instruments and other devices."<sup>4</sup> (emphasis in original) "Unless the Millennium Bug is tracked down and squashed, you, your family, your friends, and your friend's friends are at risk."<sup>5</sup>

Ah, **UNLESS** . . . Dare we hope maybe someone will, indeed, squash that bug before disaster strikes? No—the situation appears hopeless. ☹ Several pages later we read,

"If you are like most people, you are probably thinking, *Surely someone, somewhere will write a program that will fix the problem.* Right? Wrong."<sup>6</sup> "We know exactly what the problem is and how to fix it; we just don't have enough time."<sup>7</sup>

And to make sure the readers understand the great likelihood of the bug squashing us, rather than vice versa, we read in bold letters,

**"Even if all programmers did nothing except work on Y2K projects, they could not fix the problem in time."**<sup>8</sup>

Jack Anderson, who has been part of Larry Burkett's ministry (Christian Financial Concepts) for 20 years, says there are up to 40-billion embedded computer chips— some compliant and some not. He states,

"There's one in every trans-



former, by the way, on the power poles out here . . . [and] what about the 27 million of them that are in the Alaska pipeline? If one of those shuts down and the pipeline is stopped for one hour in January it will not be operational until August because it will take that long to thaw it out. There are another several million chips in the oil wells in the North Sea, same problem there."<sup>9</sup>

We are happy to report that Larry Burkett and his organization appear to be softening their position as the year progresses.

Christians are advised, by some of our experts, to consider moving to rural areas to avoid the desperate and hungry mobs that will pour out of the cities resolved to loot and kill us. We are *seriously* stockpile food—perhaps a year's supply or more—plus guns and ammunition (to defend ourselves from the aforementioned marauding masses). Hyatt suggests we move to an area with

"A small population . . . A volunteer fire department . . . Slack zoning laws . . . An armed citizenry."<sup>10</sup>

Hyatt poses the question,

"Would you be willing to hurt someone—perhaps seriously? Would you be willing to shoot him? Even kill if necessary?"<sup>11</sup>

Some questions must be asked at this point. How reliable are these experts? Do they, perhaps, have a past record of prognosticating future events that we could examine?<sup>12</sup> Is it possible the crisis they are heralding has been blown up out of all proportion to likely eventualities? What is a Christian's responsibility in this world: Is our first duty to take extraordinary and extreme measures to look out for number one, even if it means abandoning our mission and ministry?

### *Separating Fact from Fantasy*

As most who are reading this are aware, through the volumes of Y2K information in both Christian and secular media, the Y2K problem is simply "century perception." In other words, when the computer clocks roll over from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000, will the computers "realize" it is the year 2000 or will they "think" it is 1900 again? The fear is if it is the latter, the computers will become confused and shut down. People have been given the impression that until our "Y2K brigade" began sounding the alarm, no one was working on this potential problem. This understanding is incorrect. In an interview we recently did in preparation for this article, Russell Lowe,<sup>13</sup> founder and president of The Earlsfield Corporation (a computer consulting firm in the Chicago, IL area), stated that this is ill informed. In fact, he said the projects he had worked on in the 1980's included four-digit-year storage in the programming they were doing. We [Don and Joy] have been aware of the problem since 1994, when our friend and Advisory Board Member Al Axelson (who worked for Lucent Technologies) told us about it. He wasn't worried but only hopeful the IRS would be forced to simplify the tax code or go bust! Well, you can fageddaboutit, friends. No such luck, it seems. . .

What are the myths and what are the facts of Y2K? The myth most promulgated by the gloom and doomers is that this problem is primarily focused on the roll from 12/31/99 to 01/01/00. The

facts are that this is a multi-year process. The computers in various industries look ahead days, weeks, months, and even years to perform their various calculations and functions. For example, in 1997, there were rejections of credit cards with the 00 and beyond dates. However, for the most part, this problem already has been rectified and many of us have received updated cards with expirations in 2000 and beyond. In some cases, this inconvenience may rear its ugly head again due to a problem with the card reader. But even in those cases, if the account number is manually typed in, the transaction works just fine. Steve Hewitt,<sup>14</sup> founder and president of *Christian Computing Magazine*, pointed out that as of January of this year, 58% of the companies that will have Y2K-related computer failures have reported said problems *already* have occurred and have been repaired. The majority of the funds going into Y2K compliance are spent testing the systems to see if there is a problem. When one is discovered, it generally takes less than two hours to make the repairs and have the systems running again.<sup>15</sup> Most of the failures that have occurred to date have not adversely affected our daily lives.

### *Planes, Power, Panic and Provisions*

One of the nuttier scare-narios our popular speakers posit is that when the clocks tick over the magic hour, jet planes will shut down and fall from the sky. Although this is admittedly a great film plot, it is not going to happen in the real world. The airline industry has recently published a report of their Y2K testing. Their test results? All systems are go.<sup>16</sup>

Others have said automobiles built after 1964 will stop running due to imbedded chips. Jim Mateja of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote in his December 10, 1998 article in the auto section,

"In checking with the automakers, we're told no problems are expected because computers in cars are programmed to run on cycles, not dates."

With the exception of the clock, the automobile doesn't know what time of the day, what day of the week, what week of the month, what month, or even what year, much less, what millennium.

The biggest scare-nario, by far, is the threat of power failure. We love our electricity, don't you? Our pessimistic experts push the point that even if everything else is taken care of, it won't matter because there will be massive power failures and nothing will work anyway. Michael Hyatt, in his book *The Millenium Bug*, says this will result in reverting back to the nineteenth century dark ages. He lays out three scenarios called "Brownout" (two weeks to three months), "Blackout" (four months to three years), and "Meltdown" (four to ten years) and attempts to assess the likelihood of each coming to pass.<sup>17</sup> His conclusion is we will experience a catastrophe that falls between his "Brownout" and "Blackout" options<sup>18</sup>—or three months to three years.

To buttress their gloomy claims concerning massive power failures, some are pointing out that the power companies are not *guaranteeing* power for January 1, 2000. Several things come into

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play here:

The power companies never guarantee power. In fact, when we have a heavy storm in our area, we are fairly confident we will lose power for at least several hours. As a result, if a bad storm is predicted, we fill buckets with water for flushing the toilet and have flashlights, candles, and lanterns on hand in case our justifiable fears are realized.

Steve Hewitt points out that there are approximately three power outages per month somewhere in the country. These are usually resolved in a matter of hours.<sup>19</sup>

The misinformation is communicated that if power goes down in one area, it will cause the entire power grid to go down. Again, this is false and misleading. Power company representatives for Commonwealth Edison (our local source) told us if power outages occur in other places, they will stay in the grid to help supplement power to those other locations *only until such time as it begins taxing their systems*. At that point, they will simply disconnect from the grid. And, it is worth considering this: as Steve Hewitt points out: If the power company isn't sending us power, we aren't sending them money!

### **Embedded Chips: Our Hidden Doom**

Jack Anderson, Michael S. Hyatt, and others assure us that even if the computers, by some miracle, were brought to Y2K compliance, embedded chips could prove to be our downfall. In the earlier quote by Jack Anderson, he mentioned there were

"up to about 40-billion embedded chips"

some of which would be compliant and some would not. Michael Hyatt continually warns that even if the computers are repaired, the embedded chips will cause massive failures.<sup>20</sup> Grant Jeffrey flatly states,

"Billions of hidden embedded chips will fail!"<sup>21</sup>

Sounds pretty scary, huh?

In discussing the "embedded chip problem" and the proposal for massive systems failures related to this, Russell Lowe maintains that

"As the Project Director for the Piper Bravo Project of Occidental Oil in the North Sea, I can say that the safety systems mandated by the oil industry was [sic] for triple redundancy. In 1990 we installed Y2K compliant systems which monitored each other as well as the processes. In addition, there is nothing put on any petrochemical establishment worldwide which cannot be manually overridden."

Christopher McHarg, a programmer for Lucent Technologies, was startled at the claims of Hyatt, Anderson, and others, regarding embedded chips. When McHarg read Hyatt's breathless assertion that one firm with "approximately 10,000 embedded systems buried in the North Sea," will need to spend "approximately \$75,000 to check *each chip* under the seabed,"<sup>22</sup> his first response was:

"Why would we go to the seabed to check each chip? A visual inspection wouldn't tell us anything. Any intelligent programmer would go to the chip that is *not installed yet* and look at the actual programming to assess compliance. Also, for the most part, *the chips have no need to know the time, day, week, month, year, decade or millennium.*"

As he explains it, the very reason the Y2K issue arose in the first place was to save programming space in the computers, which had very little available memory at that time. For the same rea-

son—lack of space—date-specific information would not be put into chips which range from .5k to about 32k of available memory. A good programmer would only program functions which keep track of dates if it was absolutely essential to the operation that particular chip performs. The "Y2K Facts Repository" website (<[www.home.inreach.com/bolson/y2kfacts.htm](http://www.home.inreach.com/bolson/y2kfacts.htm)>) reports that as of May 24, 1999, there have been NO confirmed failures of *any* devices related to embedded chips.

### **Bank on This . . .**

The banking industry is also ready. The doom sayers of the Y2K brigade have been promoting the idea many banks and bankers are idly sitting by as Y2K approaches. Think about it: How many bankers do you know who would be sanguine about a return to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century? Can you picture your bank president hunting for food or killing and plucking chickens? Contrary to that view, we are finding tremendous strides have been made in the last few months.

But how could the banks get prepared so fast? The alarmists have been confidently asserting there is no "silver bullet"—no programs (according to them) can or will be developed that can avert the impending crisis. They have pointed out some banks have between 500-800-million lines of code to go through, and there is no way this task can be accomplished in time. Well, that pessimistic outlook may have been justified before the "silver bullets" which *could not be invented were invented!* Dave Hunt, in his excellent book *Y2K: A Reasoned Response to Mass Hysteria* writes:

"Then along came StepWise Solutions with a system that automatically zips through software and hardware at the rate of 4 million lines per hour. So 800 million lines of code would take less than two weeks. Not enough time? That dirge doesn't frighten anymore."<sup>23</sup>

Boeing, Oracle and others have developed software programs that repair in 60 days what would have taken years before.<sup>24</sup>

### **A More Likely Potential Banking Problem . . .**

Many banks are now issuing notices to their clients stating they are Y2K compliant. In a recent edition of *Computerworld Magazine*, there was an article titled "Banks Confident About Y2K, Worried About Customers." Melon Bank Corp. will have many of its banks open on New Year's Day in order to alleviate its client's fears.<sup>25</sup> Why are the bankers so anxious about customer confidence? They know a major financial crisis *could indeed occur if* people panic and withdraw their funds from financial institutions. That's the terrible irony about this situation. Since our entire economy is based upon public confidence in its soundness, these dire predictions could become a *self-fulfilling prophecy*. Dave Hunt points out that if everyone were to follow even the relatively mild advice given by Larry Burkett (who is one of the calmer voices of the Y2K brigade) to keep a month's supply of cash on hand, such action "*would break the banking system,*" because "*there simply isn't a month's supply in print for everyone.*"

### **Panic in the Grocery Aisles . . . Leggo my Eggo!**

What about the food supply? Panic, if not averted, could be a factor there as well. Steve Hewitt predicts there, indeed, may be food outages due to Y2K. Says Hewitt,

"Of course, these will only be found during the last week of December 1999, and will be due to those who clean out the shelves because of fear of Y2K. The interest-



ing thing is that I predict that if you stood outside the grocery store and took a poll, you would discover that those who are purchasing last-minute food supplies are doing it because they believe there will be a panic and not because of Y2K. So in a weird sort of way, we will probably have a three-day shortage of food in our stores because everyone believes that everyone else might panic."<sup>26</sup>

We feel this underscores the major flaw in these "stock up, store up, buy up" scenarios, friends. There simply are not enough "stockpile-sized" supplies of life's necessities on our market shelves for EVERYONE. And MOST PEOPLE do not have the financial capacity to stockpile as the "experts" suggest. If they DID, that action could cause a REAL crisis in reaction as people fought over available supplies. Would there be an ethical problem then, if Christians were to hoard extreme amounts of supplies that are needed for all?

### **The End is Near . . . Get Ready to Rule**

One of the most egregious Y2K alarmists is Gary North. *Time Magazine* said of North that he:

" . . . not only hopes that America will fall; he believes that it's part of his duty to bring it down, to be replaced by a Bible-based Reconstructionist state which will impose the death penalty on blasphemers, heretics, adulterers, gay men and women who have had abortions or sex before marriage. So it's a fine line for him between warning against a calamity and encouraging panic."<sup>27</sup>

*Time*, although generally a liberal-biased news source, in our view is accurate in their analysis of North. Gary North, being a Reconstructionist, firmly believes Christians are to take over the world. So it makes perfect sense (if you hold to that view) for Christians to organize and stockpile goods to prepare for ascension to power. But, the odd thing is many of the Christians who are listening to North do not hold to his dubious theology. So why are they giving North so much credence?

### **Making the Pieces Fit the Puzzle**

There are many that have been looking furiously in Scripture to see how Y2K disasters might align with end-time prophetic scenarios. Frankly, we do not see how a worldwide computer meltdown fits into Bible prophecy. But, current events usually can be shoehorned into prophetic speculation. In fact, it seems every five to ten years a new flock of prophetic speculations spring up. Many people believed Adolph Hitler was the anti-Christ; and for some Christians over the years, "pin the tail on the anti-Christ" has been a favorite pastime. Henry Kissinger seemed to fit the bill for awhile as did Gorbachov after him. Poor Gorbachov was unlucky enough to have a noticeable birthmark on his forehead that became, in popular Christian imagination, the Mark of the Beast. To err is human, and to forgive divine; but to keep on making the same blunder over and over is just plain dumb.

On his May 30, 1999 telecast, Jack Van Impe let his audience in on a little secret he had recently stumbled upon. You see, if you just take the alphabet and assign numerical values to the letters, A=6, B=12, C=18, etc.— the word "computer" totals up to 666! He was suggesting, of course, the computer is the beast of Revelation 13, although he did say he was not dogmatic about it. Well, friends, this is a game you can play at home! If we assign the same numerical values to the alphabet that Jack did, and add the seven

letters in the name "Rexella" (his wife), and then add the number 19 to make Louis Farrakhan happy, "Jack Van Impe" also adds up to 666! Try it yourself! By the way, we're not dogmatic either . . .

We tuned into the broadcast specifically to hear what Van Impe had to say on how Y2K "fits" with his interpretation of end-time events. We don't wish to be unkind, but we found his position to be illogical and contradictory. On the one hand, he teaches that a world dictator (the anti-Christ) will come to power and control the masses through the computer. Well, okay, we can understand a computer would be invaluable in controlling the masses as Revelation 13:16-17 teaches regarding the anti-Christ. But then Jack strongly suggests, based on what the "experts" are saying about Y2K, the world may soon be in total chaos because of a massive computer crash which, he claims, will lead directly into the tribulation-era events. Huh? How does one fit with the other? How can computers control every aspect of our lives if all the computers crash, setting our society, and any would-be dictator's ability to control us, back 100 years?

Irresponsible speculation is not likely to evaporate, however, because there's gold in them thar' hills! And Y2K is the mother lode! Prophecy experts can make big money as they travel on speaking tours at a cost of \$60.00 per attendee and market their Y2K preparedness videos, tapes, books, and other assorted paraphernalia. Some churches have climbed onto the bandwagon storing up food and other provisions for the anticipated crisis. Proponents of this view offer the argument that we will need lots of food, so that non-believers can come to us when they are in need, and we can feed and evangelize them. That is not a bad motive certainly. But in all honesty, we think this argument is mostly a Christian-sounding cover for panicky self-interest. Those Christians who are interested in caring for people in need can find plenty of those available right here and now; and those Christians who are interested in evangelizing the lost aren't waiting for 2000. Who knows if we'll even get there? NOW is the day of salvation, so the Good Book says (2 Cor. 6:2). Also, to think gratitude for being fed will magically turn unbeliever's hearts to the gospel is not realistic. It does not do so now; it will not do so then. It is sobering to reflect on a fact Dave Hunt brings up that

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"many whom Christ had previously fed and healed were later in the mob that screamed for His crucifixion."<sup>28</sup>

It is not our desire to make Christians who have bought into the Y2K panic feel bad about their God-given desire to provide for their families. After all, we love Christians. ☺ Our desire is to calm their fears by offering them a somewhat brighter outlook on the problem than they may have been exposed to thus far. We also wish to reassure them of the Father's care in whatever circumstances may lie in the future. God is, as always, our Refuge and our Strength, and our Provider, is He not? We are not to trust only when the good times roll. Spread the word . . . God is trustworthy in the dark times too.

### What about Joseph and Noah?

Some are using the life experiences of Joseph and Noah as examples that Christians should emulate today. Steve Hewitt addresses the arguments of those who are calling Christians to prepare like Joseph and Noah did. He writes,

"In the first place, God *personally* instructed these two men that a disaster was coming, and they were commanded to prepare. I was on a recent radio show with a person that stated 'God has historically warned us before disaster strikes.' After stating this twice, I asked him to clarify his statement. He used Joseph and Noah as his examples."<sup>29</sup>

Hewitt continues,

"If God historically informs His people before disaster, why did Christians as well as the lost die on the battleship *Arizona* when Pearl Harbor was attacked? Did Christians get advanced notice before the great San Francisco earthquake? Did Christians get a chance to flee Chicago ahead of everyone else before the great fire? Did our prophets warn us about the Great Depression so that Christians could be prepared for a great time of ministry? The answer as far as I know is NO."<sup>30</sup>

Using Joseph and Noah to justify stockpiling seems to be a case of proof-texting—drawing out examples from Scripture to make one's case—without respect for the different times and circumstances involved. We believe it is a mistake to correlate Y2K with the circumstances of Joseph and Noah. They clearly are not the same case. Who stockpiled the food in Joseph's day? The Egyptians! Do you see the glory of it? God saw to it that *pagans supplied His people* with sustenance; not the other way around! And, although Noah certainly warned the pagans of his day of a coming disaster, once the disaster was upon them, it was too late for conversions. Jesus said that His Second Coming would be "*as in the days of Noah*" (Matt. 24:37-39). People were eating, drinking, marrying, and partying until disaster struck. By then, though, the Ark had pulled out of the station.

Dave Hunt makes a great point regarding this issue as well. He points out there is a New Testament situation in which God revealed to His prophet, Agabus, who then warned the early Christians that a terrible famine was coming on the entire Roman Empire in the near future. What did the Christians do about this life-threatening crisis that had been indisputably revealed to them ahead of time? Did they stockpile provisions to feed the unbelieving masses so they'd "be open" to the Gospel? Did they tell everyone, so when it came to pass, the world would know they were speaking for God? Did they wait until the disaster hit before they evangelized their pagan neighbors? Did they make piles of money sell-

ing videos and books? No, they took care of their own. They collected money to send to the Jerusalem saints. That's it. What were they thinking? Couldn't they have done something more noble, more 20<sup>th</sup> Century American?

One more thing . . . Noah, Joseph, and Agabus were genuine prophets to whom God's will was *explicitly* revealed. If God has warned us of this impending doom, who is the prophet(s) to whom this message was revealed? Are they willing to stand up to the test of a *true prophet*, which requires 100% accuracy? If so, we fear they will join the long list of prophet wannabes such as the Mormons and the Jehovah's Witnesses in their folly of *false* prophecy.

### Should Y2K Be Different from Other Potential Emergencies?

How should Christians respond to other potential dangers we face every day in this world? Is it really possible to prepare for every eventuality? Should we, if we could? Currently, two nuclear powers (Pakistan and India) are shooting down each other's war planes and amassing troops on their shared border. Can we not "foresee" this situation may quite easily erupt into a terrible world war? Should we be building bomb shelters in preparation? Should we also be preparing for the possibility that a rogue nation might steal some small pox bacteria and put it in our water supply? Should we load up on vaccines for every biological weapon? Should we be learning Chinese? Are Christians to lead lives of hoarding and hyper-vigilance because of all the terrible things which *might* happen? We are *not* saying that some preparation for unforeseen circumstances is a bad thing. Individual Christians should prepare for such things as loss of employment, floods, televangelist-induced panics, and other natural disasters such as tornadoes, snowstorms, etc., *as they see fit*. That is just normal Christian stewardship. We *are* of the opinion that extremely costly and time-consuming preparation for an over-hyped crisis is a waste of precious resources. And yes, we are also saying that any organized Christian "feed the Egyptians" campaign is nowhere to be found in the Bible!

### Fear of the Unknown. . .

Russell Lowe believes the problems associated with Y2K are less computer related and more related to

"fear of the unknown. People have the illusion of control over their own lives."

We would agree with him on that. The UNKNOWN aspect of Y2K is, we believe, what has scared people the most. For too long, the flood of negative information to be found on the Internet and elsewhere has overwhelmed calmer voices. There were those who scoffed at the wild predictions, but not many refutations were offered.

The January 18, 1999 *Time Magazine* article we quoted earlier, while seeming to hold the stockpilers up to derision, did not refute their pessimistic picture of events. Why? We surmised, as we're quite sure the Y2K stockpilers did, it was because they had no refutation to offer. Can you guess what effect scoffers (especially scoffers without contrary evidence to cite) have on convinced believers? Yep. It tends to *confirm them in their belief* the end is near. After all, didn't Peter say that in the last days, scoffers will come and cast doubt on the Second Coming? But Christian friend please consider: Just because there are scoffers, it doesn't mean it *is* the end! Don't forget there have been scoffers on the scene for a long while now, and they are batting a thousand so far!

We do not enjoy criticizing Christians, and we do not mean to



be unnecessarily harsh toward those Christian leaders who are warning people of a disaster they sincerely fear will take place. And, although we are not prophets, we can "foresee" this article is likely to set some people's hair on fire! But we made the decision some time ago to call it as we see it, and let the chips fall where they may. We are well aware most of those who are preparing feverishly for Y2K are doing so out of natural human desire to preserve their families. But, perhaps, some should take another look at the situation and see how much progress actually has been made while they were not looking.

Mainframe programmer and analyst, Stephen Nielsen, is one of those addressing the Y2K issue. What he has to say should be of great interest.

"We thought Y2K jobs would last a long time, and that we would be kept steadily busy until 2002 at least. But the market is incredibly soft right now, and many programmers from other countries are now out of work and being sent home. The companies that are going to address the issue already have, and are merely mopping up now, and those who haven't, mostly smaller companies without resources to spend on the problem, are adopting a wait and see attitude."

It is certain some companies will fail in the year 2000, whether due to Y2K or other factors. After all, companies fail every year, while other companies benefit from their demise. It is the way of capitalism.

When 69 CEOs of Chicago's top 100 public companies were asked how satisfied they were with their company's progress in preparing their computer's software for the year 2,000, 78% were very satisfied, while 22% were at least somewhat satisfied.<sup>31</sup> ZERO PERCENT were selling their homes and moving to Arkansas. ZERO PERCENT reported taking chicken plucking classes or crash courses in home dentistry. Nielsen believes there will be problems associated with Y2K, but he does not foresee Armageddon. He strongly encourages people to keep hard copies of financial transactions, since he feels that is where headaches are most likely to arise.

... *Do Not Be Anxious For Your Life* ...

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus cautioned His followers to ". . . *not be anxious for your life, as to what you will eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?*"

He started this passage off with these words, "*For this reason I say to you . . .*"

For what reason? For the reason stated in Matthew 6:19-24. Whatever we are focused on is what our treasure really is. I am not saying, nor did Jesus say, we should act irresponsibly. We go to work each day to earn a living and provide for our daily and future needs. We have health and life insurance, retirement plans, and so forth, in order to be good stewards of both our present and future resources; but that should not be our primary focus.

It is okay if people want to put by a moderate amount of provisions in case of glitches or a possible panic, such as they would for a coming storm, as long as they do it in such a way that does not exacerbate any problems that may arise. Just use common sense, and do not be afraid. God will be there with us same as He is now. Most of the preparations we should be making for Y2K are things that should normally be done as good stewards. A paper trail of bank accounts,

owed bills, birth certificates, etc. Occasionally, Y2K or not, banks and creditors make mistakes and hard copies of our business affairs ease the process of clearing up discrepancies.

But, *by no means* should we allow our time, energy, and money to be gobbled up by our "storm preparation." If we neglect our mission to reach out to the lost, while we are busy doing *what we have not been called to do*, that is *wrong*, my friends. The spiritual needs of people are far more important than their physical needs. How much of our time and treasure is allocated to preparation to share with outsiders the Gospel of Peace? How can we show the world how to trust God, if we continually give in to our fears?

Rather than focusing on Y2K which, according to Senator Bennett in the last Senate report, will be a "bump in the road," believers need to focus on those things having eternal value. Jesus *did say* to prepare for the future,

*"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . ."*  
(Matt. 6:20).

We should not have "bigger barn" mentality. After all, like the rich man in Jesus' parable, we cannot know if we will be here to use the things we have carefully hoarded. All we will be taking with us to eternity are the people we have touched for God. Where is your treasure? That's where your heart will be. ☪

*Don Jay*

Y2K Endnotes on Page 15

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# An Examination And Evaluation Of The Brownsville Revival

by Jeffrey M. Spencer

## INTRODUCTION

The "Brownsville Revival" began at the Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida on Father's Day (June 18, 1995) under the direction of Pastor John Kilpatrick and visiting Evangelist Steve Hill. From the very start, this movement has been overflowing with bizarre manifestations and uncontrollable behavior such as laughing, shaking, barking, roaring, and temporary paralysis. While supporters believe this is a true move of God, critics are hesitant to make such a claim.

Many apologists have set out to expose this revival as false, centering their critique on the unusual phenomena exhibited in the services. I contend, however, these manifestations are not the primary problem. The primary problem with the Brownsville Revival is the false doctrine. Just as the presence of a disease produces certain warning symptoms in the body, the false doctrine produces the revival manifestations—barking, roaring, shaking, etc. Thus, in order to approach the heart of the issue, the false doctrine must be exposed.

This article deals directly with Brownsville's false teachings that depart from the Christian faith in points of vital importance. For instance, the Brownsville group preaches a false Jesus. They pass on a false spirit. They preach a false gospel. The Apostle Paul addressed a similar problem within the Corinthian church, warning them

*"For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted; you may well put up with it" (2 Cor. 11:4).*

Many believers and seekers alike have "put up with it." Not only have they erroneously embraced Brownsville as a true revival, they also have received the false Jesus, passed on the false spirit, and believed the false gospel of the Brownsville teachers.

## THE FALSE JESUS OF BROWNSVILLE

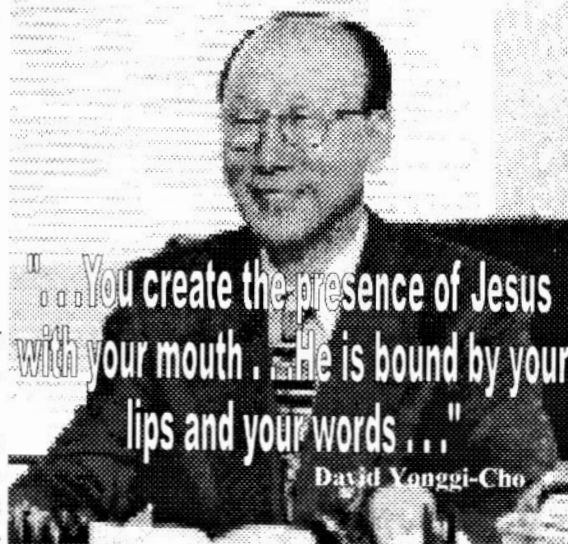
The evidence seems to indicate that the doctrine of Jesus taught by the revival teachers is, at the very least, problematic. Following is a presentation of what three men involved in the current revival movement teach about Jesus. To be sure, each man is not *equally* involved, but each is closely linked to the Brownsville Assembly of God. The three teachers are David Yonggi-Cho, Rodney Howard-Browne, and Brownsville Pastor John Kilpatrick.

### David Yonggi-Cho

A Word-Faith pastor from Korea, David Yonggi-Cho is intimately affiliated with the Brownsville Revival.<sup>1</sup> Cho supposedly prophesied the revival in 1991. In fact, the leadership of Brownsville Assembly of God has placed the story of Cho's prophecy on the Brownsville website and mentioned the prophecy in a book by Kilpatrick.<sup>2</sup> By accepting the testimony and prophecy of Cho, Brownsville is, in effect, endorsing what he teaches. In his book, *The Fourth Dimension*, Cho claims about Jesus,

"There is a reason to use the power of the spoken word: through it you create and release the presence of Jesus Christ . . . Jesus is bound to what you speak forth . . . You create the presence of Jesus with your mouth . . . He is bound by your lips and your words."<sup>3</sup>

In short, Cho's view of Jesus (which was spoken directly to him by a spirit) is derived from a pantheistic world view that teaches God is all and all is God. Therefore, man (being one with the All) is divine and can create or change his own reality. If one wants something, then simply think or speak forth the reality-changing words. This same teaching is found in witchcraft, occultism, and the New Age.<sup>4</sup> It also is prevalent in the Word-Faith Movement which refers to it as "Name-it, Claim-it" health and prosperity teaching. In essence, this teaching has elevated man to the status of God and demoted Jesus to a mere





errand boy summoned to accomplish our whims and fancies. This view of Jesus is heretical, and those who accept it and promote it, accept and promote a false Jesus. There is no doubt Brownsville falls into this category.

#### ✓ **Rodney Howard-Browne**

Rodney Howard-Browne, another Word-Faith proponent, is the man responsible for the "Laughing Revival" of the Toronto Airport Vineyard. Subsequently, the revival was taken from Toronto to Brownsville by the leadership of the Brownsville Assembly of God.<sup>5</sup> Rodney Howard-Browne teaches Jesus was not God while here on earth. In his book, *The Touch of God*, Howard-Browne says, "Nothing Jesus did was because He was the Son of God. The Bible says He laid aside His royal robes of deity and when He walked the earth He did so as a prophet under the Abrahamic Covenant."<sup>6</sup>

This statement — claiming Jesus laid aside His Deity while on earth — is a denial of the Deity of Christ, which is serious heresy. Thus, Howard-Browne, a man directly responsible for the current revival movement, also teaches a false Jesus.

#### **John Kilpatrick**

Brownsville Pastor John Kilpatrick, in his book, *When the Heavens Are Brass*, denies the Deity of Christ in a manner similar to Howard-Browne. Although in one place Kilpatrick affirms the full Deity of Christ, in other places he makes very confusing and, I submit, contradictory claims. Kilpatrick claims that Jesus, "did not move in omnipotence on the earth."<sup>7</sup>

While this statement could be interpreted as meaning — though Jesus was omnipotent, He voluntarily did not use His omnipotence on earth — Kilpatrick does not mean it as such. Taken in the context of the chapter, this statement by Kilpatrick means Jesus did not have omnipotence. In other words, Jesus was not all powerful when He was on earth. Next, Kilpatrick claims that Jesus, "did not move in omniscience on earth. Had Jesus been omniscient, He would have known when He was coming back."<sup>8</sup>

Now, Kilpatrick claims Jesus did not have omniscience. Finally, Kilpatrick strips Jesus of His Deity by claiming,

"Jesus was not omnipresent on earth . . . Jesus could be only in one place at a time because He was not omnipresent."<sup>9</sup>

Thus, the Jesus of Kilpatrick, at the very least, is not omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent.

There are several problems with such Christology. First, when Jesus took on flesh, He was 100% God and 100% man. The Incarnation did not subtract from His Deity but *added* a human nature to the Divine Being. The infinite, eternal, unchanging Divine Person, without changing or giving up any attribute, took on a new nature — a human nature. Thus, Jesus has two undiminished natures in one Person. He did not become less-than-God as Kilpatrick and Howard-Browne suggest. Second, Jesus did not give up any of His divine attributes. The subtraction of even one divine attribute would mean that Jesus was not God, because the attributes of God, "are essential characteristics of His being. Without these qualities God would not be what He is—God."<sup>10</sup>

In other words, God minus even one attribute equals non-God. Apologist Dr. Norman Geisler explains that,

"God is by his very nature an absolutely perfect being. If there were any perfection that he lacked, then he would not be God."<sup>11</sup>

Third, Jesus did not give up attributes, but submitted to a *voluntary non-use* of His divine attributes while on earth. He did, however, display His divine attributes at times.

It is incontestable that Brownsville's leadership has serious Christological problems. From the pantheistic Jesus of David Yonggi-Cho (the man who prophesied the revival), to the merely human Jesus of Rodney Howard-Browne (the man who started the revival), to the confusing statements of Pastor Kilpatrick (the man who sustains the revival) the Brownsville Revival is preaching a false Jesus. Therefore, this revival *cannot* be a move of God. As apologist Dr. Ron Rhodes has correctly stated,

"A counterfeit Jesus who preaches a counterfeit gospel yields only a counterfeit salvation."<sup>12</sup>

#### **THE FALSE SPIRIT OF BROWNSVILLE**

The Brownsville devotees not only preach a false Jesus, they impart a "different spirit" rather than the Holy Spirit. The spirit of Brownsville is localized, transferable, and imparted through various occult techniques. Furthermore, it causes un-Christlike behavior such as barking, roaring, vomiting, shaking, and paralysis.

#### **The spirit is localized and transferable.**

The spirit of this revival is contained in one place—Brownsville. Therefore, in order to encounter this spirit, one must visit the "power center" where the spirit operates. To receive the spirit of Brownsville, one must go to Brownsville. Thus, Brownsville Evangelist Steve Hill can be heard touting the "value of a pilgrimage"<sup>13</sup> in order to "receive a fresh touch from God." In other words, one must travel to the power center where the spirit is manifesting if an impartation of the spirit is desired.

The spirit does not necessarily remain localized. Once one visits the power center and receives the spirit, one can take that spirit back to his own congregation and start another power center. Hill claims,

"People from all over the world have been touched by God's Spirit, either as they come worship with us, or as they visit others who have been here."<sup>14</sup>

(Continued on next page)

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### "Brownsville" (Continued from page 9)

Thus, the spirit is passed on exponentially from Hill to seekers and from seekers to those in their home churches much like one candle lights a second, then the second one lights a third, and so on. The point is: You cannot receive this spirit unless someone who has it gives it to you.

In contrast, the Holy Spirit of the Bible is omnipresent (everywhere present). Moreover, He is all-powerful everywhere. In other words, the Holy Spirit is omnipotently omnipresent and omnipresently omnipotent. Surely, by claiming the power is localized, Brownsville denies both the omnipresence and omnipotence of the Holy Spirit. The notion the Spirit is more powerfully located in one place (and, thus, only can be encountered by pilgrimage) is thoroughly occultic. One can meet the Holy Spirit anywhere at all in Bible study and prayer. One need not visit a "power center" in order to encounter the Holy Spirit. Finally, the Holy Spirit is not invoked by means of a pilgrimage but sovereignly indwells a person the moment a person believes the Gospel. God is the Divine Person we encounter through a loving relationship. He is not a spiritual entity we invoke through various deeds of worship (cf. 1 Kings 18:17-40).

### The Spirit Is Received Through Various "Techniques."

The spirit of Brownsville is transmitted by various techniques such as touch, repetition of words, or turning off the mind (meditation).

One technique for imparting the Brownsville spirit is touch. This differs from the biblical practice of laying on of hands to impart the Spirit, because only the Apostles had such ability.<sup>15</sup> That was one of the ways God showed new believers the Apostles were the chosen leaders of the Church. Common believers did not engage in this activity. Yet, night after night, Brownsville leaders touch seekers to impart bizarre manifestations. Steve Hill enthusiastically moves from seeker to seeker touching forehead after forehead. The result is always the same—the spirit is imparted, causing seekers to shake, laugh, roar, collapse, etc. There is absolutely no biblical basis for this practice, yet it is very common in occult practice.

This technique (touching to impart power) finds no support in Scripture. Touching in order to impart a spirit, however, is very common in occult practice. For instance, Swami Baba Muktananda imparted "guru's grace" to followers through touching foreheads. This is a Kundalini Yoga technique called "shaktipat," which produces various "physical and emotional awakenings" such as "laughing, roaring, barking, hissing, crying, shaking, etc."<sup>16</sup> Guru Shri Dhyanyogi Madhusudandasji, a Kundalini expert, says of shaktipat,

"Another technique of great importance is Shaktipat, the transmission of energy. A powerful yogi can transmit energy to an aspirant and awaken the Kundalini [power in one's body]. This is accomplished in one of four ways: by touch, gaze, sound or thought. The yogi may touch the disciple and transmit energy through physical contact, or gaze at the disciple and energy flows from the yogi's eyes. The yogi may utter words which carry energy or, more subtly, energy can be

transferred directly by the yogi's thought or will."<sup>17</sup>

Surprisingly, this occult transmission of power from the leader to the disciple, so popular in non-Christian religions, is being emulated and embraced by the Christian community.

Another technique employed by Brownsville leaders to impart the spirit is the repetition of words. This causes a spirit to be passed from those who have it to those who want it. This is a Hindu technique called "mantra." According to *Harper's Dictionary of Hinduism*,

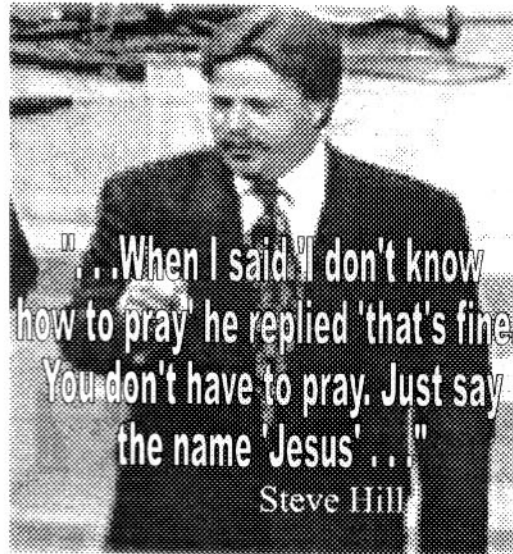
"The mantra is a formula comprising words and sounds which possess magical or divine power."<sup>18</sup>

A person simply repeats a word or phrase over and over to bring about a desired spiritual effect. This is very common in eastern religions and the New Age.

Shockingly, Steve Hill describes his salvation in terms of mantra. In his testimony, Hill claims during a low-point in his life, he was visited by a Lutheran minister.

"The Lutheran Vicar who led me to the Lord did not share with me the four spiritual laws (although I thank God for them). He did not share with me 'the Roman road to salvation' (and I thank God for those too). That man didn't even explain the cross to me. He just came into my bedroom and said, 'Steve, just say the name Jesus'. . . When I said 'I don't know how to pray' he replied, 'That's fine. You don't have to pray. Just say the name 'Jesus'.'<sup>19</sup>

The minister never presented the Gospel but merely told Hill (then an atheist) that he must repeatedly say the name "Jesus" in order to be delivered from his degenerate lifestyle. Hill complied, "The sound of that name again and again seemed to bring hope from nowhere. The confusion and fear faded slowly as I looked to the ceiling and began to utter, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!" A peace, a warmth such as I never felt before, flooded my body. This power rushed in like a river and took command of everything. I kept crying out His name, louder and louder: ("Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!") The more I said it, the greater was my deliverance."<sup>20</sup>



In short, atheist Hill uttered "Jesus" repeatedly and consequently was overcome by a spiritual power. What is the problem here? The experience Hill described is *not* Christian salvation for several reasons. First, Hill's testimony does not correspond with biblical testimony of how one must be saved. The Bible claims that one is saved by *believing* on the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. However, Hill was "saved" through the spoken repetition of a name. Which "Jesus" was the Lutheran minister advocating? Certainly not the Jesus of the Bible. He is not magically summoned through the repetition of a word but received through *believing* the Gospel. Second, by Hill's own admission, the Gospel was *never* presented! The Lutheran minister never presented evidence for the existence of God, nor did he even mention the work of Christ on the cross. The preacher only instructed Hill to speak Jesus' name — that would bring about a changed life. There was nothing mentioned about putting one's faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In fact, when this took place, Hill did not



even believe in God! Third, Hill's experience (the use of a mantra) is widespread throughout Hinduism, occultism, and the New Age. Yet, this is exactly how Hill describes his conversion! He repeated words and was overcome by power. Unless salvation can occur apart from believing the true Gospel and apart from the true Jesus Christ, Steve Hill cannot be saved. According to *his own testimony*, he was not presented with the Gospel, nor was he presented with the facts about the person and work of Jesus Christ. Hill is using the mantra technique, repeating "More, Lord!" and "Fire! Fire! Fire!" to pass on the spirit at Brownsville. For instance, Brownsville's altar call prayer team is instructed to impart the spirit only through touch and repetition of words. Dr. Herb Babcock, former prayer team member recounts,

"While on the prayer team, we were instructed to NOT pray in Jesus' name. We were told to NOT pray for the needs of people. The only thing we were to do was touch people on their forehead and say, 'More, Lord!' and keep repeating that until there was an 'impartation' of the spirit being promoted in these meetings. If the person did not respond in a reasonable time, move on to someone else. Any deviation from the limited procedure would result in being removed from the prayer team, which did happen to a few individuals."<sup>21</sup>

Dr. Babcock separated from Brownsville Assembly of God over this issue. To forbid prayer in the name of Jesus is *anti-Christian* as is the practice of imparting spirits through occult techniques.

Additionally, *any* words will suffice as mantras — even "Christian" words such as "Jesus" or "Lord." One occultist, Michael Balarama of the Bhaktivedanta Meditation Society, advises the use of a number of mantras, saying,

"You can choose one that appeals to you. They are all effective. The Vedas say there is no need of understanding the language of the mantra, nor is there any need of mental speculation, nor intellectual adjustment"<sup>22</sup>

Remarkably, two of the mantras recommended by Balarama are, "Lord Jesus have mercy upon us," and "Hail Mary mother of grace, blessed is thy name and the fruit of thy womb, Jesus."<sup>23</sup>

Thus, in order to conjure the magical effect of a mantra, even "Christian" words such as "More, Lord!" and "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!" will work. This is confirmed by the fact that even occultists and pantheists use the name of Jesus as a mantra. Hence, even if the name "Jesus" is used as a mantra, that does not make it "Christian." *Any* use of a mantra is occultism. By repeating the words "More, Lord!" or "Fire!" with the intent of imparting power, Steve

Hill has unequivocally departed from the teachings of the Historic Christian Faith and is practicing full-blown occultism.

Another technique used to pass on the spirit of Brownsville is to lead the congregation to turn off their minds and succumb to an altered state of hypnotic meditation. The Brownsville requiem is "Turn off your mind and let the Spirit do what He pleases!" Rodney Howard-Browne instructs his audience to "tune out," saying,

"You can't understand what God is doing in these meetings with an analytical mind. The only way you're going to understand what God is doing is with your hearts."<sup>24</sup>

In other words, "Don't think. Turn your mind off and let God take control!"

Thus, Brownsville instructs a seeker to clear one's mind in order to conjure the spirit. The mind is the enemy of true spirituality. Steve Hill instructs the crowd at Brownsville,

"Now, let yourselves go. Don't even think about what you are doing. Forget about those around you and what they are doing. Release your mind. Release your spirit and let the mighty river of the Holy Ghost take you wherever He wants you to go."<sup>25</sup>

Notice the similarity of Hill's command to the commands of several New Age/Hindu teachers,

- Withdraw your mind from all created things (thinking about no thing). Such withdrawal of the mind is not the same as simply becoming unconscious, because there is a new focus of awareness . . . your mind will eventually become naturally quiet and still.<sup>26</sup>

- You must achieve elimination of the mind, which is the arch obstacle in the spiritual path.<sup>27</sup>

- Do not listen to your mind [but . . . to my voice. . .] Give [your minds] to me . . . but it must be a complete handing over; no reservations; the mind is the source of delusion.<sup>28</sup>

In contrast, Christians are *commanded* to think. The God of the Bible demands His followers to "*love the LORD your God with all your . . . mind*" (Matt. 22:37). God, the ultimate rational Being, desires His people to be rational beings. To turn off the mind for even a moment or to fail to use it to the best of your ability at all times is disobedience to God. The mind is an essential ingredient of the Christian life. The mind is the main battleground of spiritual warfare, and Christians grow in Christ-likeness primarily through disciplining the mind. The Apostle Paul commands the church to

"*be transformed by the renewing of your mind. . .*" (Rom. 12:1-2).

(Continued on next page)<sup>30</sup>

## KUNDALINI YOGA AND THE BROWNSVILLE REVIVAL

	KUNDALINI	BROWNSVILLE
IDENTICAL MANIFESTATION	" <i>Kriyas</i> " Shaking, trembling, roaring, barking, weeping, laughing, paralysis, heat.	" <i>manifestation</i> " Shaking, trembling, roaring, barking, weeping, laughing, paralysis, feelings of heat or coldness.
IDENTICAL TECHNIQUES	" <i>Shaktipat</i> " Transferred through touch, mantra, meditation.	" <i>impartation</i> " Transferred through touch, repetitive prayer, emptying the mind.
IDENTICAL INSTRUMENTS	" <i>Guru</i> " Transferred by a guru who is "on fire" (i.e., he has had someone impart the power to him).	" <i>Anointed one</i> " Transferred by minister who has also been "touched" and received this "spirit" from someone else.
IDENTICAL RESULTS	" <i>Transformation</i> " Surrendering to the power; inner peace; feelings of love; closeness to the deity; purification from doing evil; changed life.	" <i>A Changed Life</i> " Surrendering to the spirit; peace; feelings of love; cleansed; renewed commitment and intimacy with God; changed life.

**"Brownsville" (Continued from page 11)**

Truly, without our minds, we cannot discern truth from error. This is precisely why so many errors—a false Jesus, a false spirit, and a false Gospel—are being accepted by revival attendees. Brownsville says, "Out with the mind!" but Christianity says, "Transform your mind!"

**The Spirit Causes Un-Christlike Behavior.**

The spirit imparted at Brownsville causes behavior such as shaking, roaring, barking, and paralysis. In an article about the current revival phenomenon, Diana Doucet claims the manifestation is, "a transferable anointing. In its most visible form it overcomes worshippers with outbreaks of laughter, weeping, groaning, shaking, falling, drunkenness, and most recently, even sounds and behaviors described as a 'cross between a jungle and a farmyard'."<sup>29</sup>

Contrast this behavior to the behavior produced by the Holy Spirit in a believer. The Holy Spirit will produce the "fruit" described in Galatians 5:22-23:

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*

The Holy Spirit will also empower believers to employ spiritual gifts such as giving, mercy, teaching, service, and evangelism in order to minister to those in need. The Holy Spirit leads a believer to be others-centered, while the spirit imparted at Brownsville leads the seeker to be self-centered. In other words, the Holy Spirit leads believers to minister to the needs of others, while the spirit of Brownsville leads seekers to pursue increasingly intense and bizarre experiences for themselves. There is a dire contrast between true Christian spirituality and the out-of-control behavior of Brownsville.

In summation: the leaders of Brownsville are using techniques from non-Christian religions to invoke and impart spirits to revival attendees. Whether by touch, mantra, or hypnotic meditation, Brownsville leaders are unquestionably practicing occultism, and, in their ignorance, giving those occult practices Christian labels (i.e., mantra = persistent prayer; emptying the mind = letting God take over; invoked spirit = Holy Spirit). To be sure, revival leaders are invoking a power that yields desired results—lives are changed. Yet, because the doctrine is false, the power imparting the results cannot be the Holy Spirit but ultimately is Satan him-

self, who will gladly give someone a mystical experience and a changed life in order to keep one away from truth. Notice the resemblance between occult practice and the revival.

**THE FALSE GOSPEL OF BROWNSVILLE**

The Brownsville Revival is fueled by the preaching of a faith-plus-works gospel. Ultimately, the factor that determines one's standing before God is how one lives instead of one's faith in Christ. In order to have eternal life, Brownsville claims one must: 1) turn from sins, repent, clean up one's life; 2) make a public confession of faith; 3) live a holy life from that day forward; and 4) be baptized in water to cleanse one's sins. The following is an analysis of the "good news" preached by Brownsville Assembly of God.

**To Be Saved, Clean Up Your Life.**

The gospel according to Brownsville claims a person must give up all sin in his life to be saved. Then and only then will Jesus consider saving that person. Steve Hill lays out many conditions for salvation, but his basic message is this:

"God wants to set you free but you have to do your part."<sup>31</sup>

And your part is to clean up your life. For instance, in his sermon, "The Silence of God," Hill states,

"There is also a pardon for you, but only after you confess, repent, and submit your life to Him."<sup>32</sup>

In another sermon, "The Rebel's Reward," Hill further preaches his clean-up-your-life-Gospel as he says,

"If you don't repent of your rebellion, if you fail to obey God and get right with Him, then your wicked heart won't be cleansed."<sup>33</sup>

Furthermore, in his sermon, "The Violence of Revival," Hill adds,

"Since Jesus did His part, you must wage violent warfare against sin. If you want Jesus Christ to touch you and forgive you today, then you had better get violent about it. Get up and shake the devil off your lap."<sup>34</sup>

Pastor John Kilpatrick also denotes similar life-cleansing requirements for salvation,

"Even harlots, thieves, backsliders, and little children can release Heaven's incredible power by repenting, obeying, and submitting to God."<sup>35</sup>

Thus, according to Brownsville, one must do his part by confessing, repenting, submitting, obeying, shaking the devil off, and getting violent about sin. Only then will Jesus "do His part" and save the person. This is very different from the "gift of God" found in Ephesians 2:8-9.

**To Be Saved, Make a Public Confession of Faith.**

Brownsville preaches that salvation is genuine only if there is a public confession of faith. Hill claims that one of the many steps to salvation is,

"Confess Him publicly as our Lord and Savior."<sup>36</sup>

In his sermon "Counterfeit Conversion," Steve Hill states this very plainly,

"I believe people need to come to Jesus Christ the same way he died for them on the cross—publicly, boldly, and in front of everybody. It has to be real. Anything less is going to be counterfeit."<sup>37</sup>

Thus, if one does not make a bold, public confession of faith when he cleans up his life, the conversion is counterfeit!

**Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc.** works with several other ministries that operate help lines. The information on these lines is changed on a weekly basis. Individuals can call anonymously and simply listen, or they can request additional information. If they desire to speak to someone immediately, they are referred to our LIVE line.

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<b>LIVE LINE:</b> ☎ (630) 627-9028	



## To Be Saved, Live a Holy Life Until the End.

Not only must one turn from all sin and respond publicly to be saved, the person must live a sinless life *until he dies* if he wants to go to heaven. In fact, Brownsville maintains that if a person who claims to be a Christian has *any* sin in his life, he cannot be a real Christian.

In contrast, 1 John 1:8 states,

***"If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us."***

In a recent sermon on the steps of the Governor's Mansion in Montgomery, Alabama, Steve Hill yelled,

"If there is sin in your life and you are calling yourself a Christian, change your name! You are a heathen—at best a backslider!"<sup>38</sup>

Consequently, the presence of sin means the absence of salvation. Brownsville Evangelist Dick Reuben illustrates,

"We [at Brownsville] don't differentiate between those that have never received Jesus and those who are backslidden, because, you see, there's no difference between a backslider and one who's never known Jesus. They're both sinners on the way to hell. If you don't think you can backslide and miss heaven, then you didn't read the same book I've read."<sup>39</sup>

Kilpatrick teaches the same thing,

"I'm not so sure that everyone who is in the Body of Christ will be in the Bride of Christ!"<sup>40</sup>

In fact, Kilpatrick claims that,

"The Lord said to me when I was in prayer, 'Not everyone who is in My Body will be in My Bride.'<sup>41</sup>

Thus, the factor that determines whether or not one goes to heaven is how one behaves . . . not one's trust in Jesus. According to Brownsville, there are those who have believed the Gospel who will never see heaven because they misbehave and allow sin into their life. Heaven is only for those with clean lives. Sinful behavior separates one from God forever. This is *entirely different* from the Gospel of the God of the Bible who declares that,

***"neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*** (Rom. 8:38-39).

Eternal life is a *free gift*, and it is exactly that — *eternal*. We did no work to receive eternal life, and we can do nothing to lose it.

## To Be Saved, Be Baptized For the Forgiveness of Sins.

Steve Hill believes,

"transformation . . . comes as a result of water baptism."<sup>42</sup>

Remarkably, in the chapter about water baptism in *The Pursuit of Revival*, Steve Hill clearly declares that cleansing of sin comes through water baptism. Hill claims:

"When an individual encounters the living God, like Paul did on the road to Damascus, he or she is changed in no small way. And the lives of those around him are

affected as well, especially by the cleansing of sin that comes through baptism."<sup>43</sup>

Thus, Brownsville teaches that unless one is baptized, one cannot be cleansed of sin. The Bible, though, declares the cleansing of sin comes from the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:28; 1 Jn. 1:7).

## A Brief Response to the Brownsville Gospel.

If the gospel of Brownsville is true, then salvation by faith alone in Christ alone is false. Brownsville leaders are teaching a works-centered gospel that is little more than a contract between man and God in which man promises to behave, and then God fulfills His promise to save the man. This is very *different* from the biblical teaching on salvation. The overwhelming testimony of the Bible points to the fact that, for a person to be saved, he must simply believe (or trust) in Jesus. Jesus did the work for salvation on the cross, and we simply trust in Him (John 3:16, 5:24, 6:47, 20:31; 1 John 5:1). Salvation is a free gift (Rev. 22:17), not a contractual obligation.

Must a person fulfill all the Brownsville requirements in order to be saved? Absolutely not! In fact, if a person tries to do works in order to beseech the favor of God,

***"... Christ will profit you nothing"*** (Gal. 5:2).

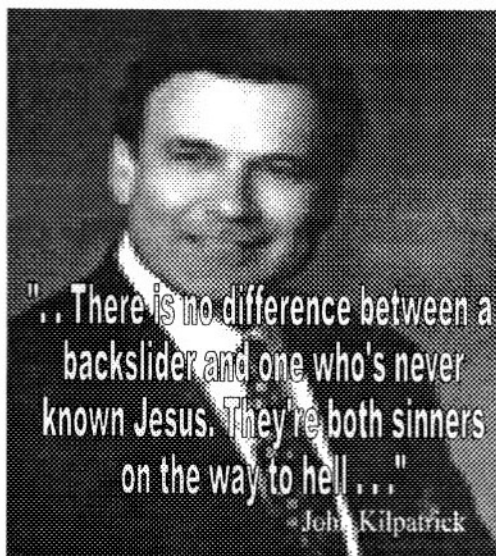
In other words, those who work for salvation do not receive salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 emphatically states,

***"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."***

Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. Thus, we have no need to "get violent" about our sin in order that we might be saved, because *Jesus* got violent about sin in order that the world might be saved. He was tortured, crucified, and died on a criminal's cross thereby providing an atonement for our sin. We must simply trust in Him as the atonement for our sin. Since

He dealt with our sin, "once-for-all," we do not "deal" with our sin *in order to be saved*—whether it be by confession, repentance, obedience, lifestyle, or baptism—we simply trust Jesus. Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross, and to imply we need to clean up our act or repent of sin in order to be saved is to deny the sufficiency of the atonement for sin that Christ made on the cross!

The gospel according to Brownsville is a false gospel, and a false gospel yields a false salvation. Therefore, even though Brownsville claims 138,000 souls have been saved, this claim must be categorically rejected on the basis that the 138,000 people have not responded to the true Gospel, the true Spirit, or the true Jesus. They have responded to a false Jesus, a false spirit, and a false gospel—something that Scripture warns about over and over again (cf. Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Cor. 11:4; Matt. 24:23-24; 2 Pet. 2:1). Tragically, people will spend eternity separated from God because of the revival being held night after night in Brownsville, Florida. Not only that, true believers are being swept up in the Brownsville phenomenon leading them into apostasy from the faith.



**CONCLUSION:**

**BROWNSVILLE—APOSTASY FROM THE FAITH**

Many revival supporters claim Brownsville is the spark that will ignite a great end-times revival. Yet, the Bible does not speak of end-times revival but of a great end-times *apostasy* of believers. 1 Timothy 4:1 says,

*"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."*

Furthermore, speaking of the last days, Paul states,

*"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4).*

The unequivocal testimony of Scripture is that there will be a great apostasy among true believers. Could this revival movement be the end-times apostasy Scripture describes? I believe it very well could be.

The end-times apostasy of believers occurs because of a great satanic deception among believers. What would such a deception look like? It certainly will not be something very obvious. Satan is not going to waltz into the church on Sunday morning and say, "OK everybody! Listen up! I'm Satan and this is the great apostasy, so get in line and follow me!" No, his end-time deception will be through a subtle twisting of biblical Christianity—mixing biblical truth with demonic error. So close is this mixture, in fact, that many believe it to be biblical Christianity and fall away from the true faith. Thus, many believers will be deceived and led away from the faith through false doctrine—a subtly different Jesus, different spirit, and different gospel. Consequently, because of Satan's disguise as an "angel of light" and his ministers' disguise as "ministers of righteousness" (2 Cor. 11:14-15), everything they do looks and sounds very Christian. In other words, the great apostasy from the faith will be orchestrated by ministers who, on the surface, appear righteous and godly. Their teaching will be so close to true biblical Christianity that many will follow the false "angel of light" and the false "ministers of righteousness" away from the true Jesus, the true Spirit and the true Gospel.

This type of deception is what I believe is going on in Brownsville. As I have established above, Brownsville is indeed preaching another Jesus, a different spirit, and a different gospel than orthodox Christianity, and true believers are falling for the lies and near-truths which seem so close to Christian truth. Yet, the difference is subtle enough to deceive many believers. As Charles Colson has pointed out,

"I have spoken of frontal assaults and the sneak attacks. There is something worse . . . The enemy is in our midst. He has so infiltrated our camp that many simply no longer can tell an enemy from a friend, truth from heresy." <sup>44</sup>


So, beware. True Christianity is under attack. Stand firm in sound doctrine. Test all things to see if they are biblical (1 Thess. 5:21) and, if not, defend the Faith (Jude 3). Follow Peter's decree and "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet. 3:15).

You could very well be the instrument Christ uses to snatch deceived believers from the gates of death (James 5:19-20).

In this article, I have attempted to show how the Brownsville Revival is fueled by false doctrine. If the essential doctrine is false, then the whole movement is necessarily false. God does not work through a false Jesus, a false spirit, and a false gospel; if He did, He wouldn't have warned us about the dangers of false Christs and false gospels over and over again. However, there is a sense in which God is working in Brownsville. His work can be seen in the testimonies of the many former Brownsville members who have left that church because of its false doctrine. . . a group which is steadily growing in number.

It has been said that,

"Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it." <sup>45</sup>

And love the truth we must . . . or else. This new counterfeit form of Christianity, complete with its counterfeit Prince of Peace, is poised at the door, knocking. And many are welcoming him with open arms. 

See Endnotes on opposite page.

Jeff is the Associate Pastor at Maranatha Bible Church in Salisbury, NC. He earned his B A in Biblical Studies (Cum Laude, 1995) from Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, MS and a Master of Divinity in Apologetics (Summa Cum Laude, 1998) from Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, NC. Jeff also served on the research team which updated and revised Josh McDowell's classic Evidence That Demands a Verdict. He and his wife Sherry have been married for seven years and have two children.

## For Your Information

The Evangelical Philosophical Society (EPS), a society of over 300 philosophers founded in 1978, will hold its 1999 annual meeting in suburban Boston (Danvers), November 17-19, 1999, in conjunction with the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) and immediately prior to the convention of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, at which a joint EPS session will be held.

The current president of EPS is William Lane Craig. Past presidents include W. David Beck, Gary R. Habermas, Norman L. Geisler, Paul Feinberg, R. Douglas Geivett, Michael Bauman, and Francis J. Beckwith.

Those interested in either membership or attending the 1999 meeting should inquire with W. Gary Phillips, EPS Sec/Treas, Box 7708, Bryan College, Dayton, TN 37321-7000. email: phillips@volstate.net



## Y2K ENDNOTES:

1. Biblically, a false prophet is a person who claims, first of all, to be God's prophet (God's channel) speaking directly for the Almighty (so all must listen) and then issues prophecies which do not come to pass. Unless one calls oneself God's prophet, one cannot be labeled a false prophet. To offer opinions as to what is going to occur in the future, without claiming prophet status, is everyone's prerogative. To dogmatically do so is just plain old dumb. If Johnny says, "I think the world is gonna end tomorrow," and it doesn't, Johnny made a mistake in judgment. If Johnny says, "God says 'the world is gonna end tomorrow,'" and in fact, it does not end, God would be the one who was wrong; or what is more likely the case, Johnny is a false prophet and has not had a genuine word from God on the subject.

2. Michael S. Hyatt, *The Millennium Bug: How to Survive the Coming Chaos* (Regnery Publishing, Inc., 1998), cover. 3. *Ibid.*, p. 3. 4. *Loc. cit.* 5. *Ibid.*, p. 5. 6. *Ibid.*, p. 8. 7. *Ibid.*, p. 12. 8. *Ibid.*, p. 23. 9. Jack Anderson, "Y2K Disaster Preparedness" audio cassette of talk given at the Bend Ministerial Association meeting, 25 October 1998 (available from Westside Church, 2051 NW Shevlin Park Road, Bend, OR 97701). Quoted in Dave Hunt, *Y2K: A Reasoned Response to Mass Hysteria* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1999), p. 22. 10. Hyatt, p. 188. 11. *Ibid.*, p. 190. 12. Some of the very folks who are scaring the daylight out of Christians today with the Y2K bugaboo, scared the daylight out of them in the past over other issues . . . and were dead wrong in their gloomy predictions. Hal Lindsay strongly suggested Armageddon would occur in the 1980's. It did not. Jack Van Impe led his listeners to believe the rapture would occur in 1993. It did not. Larry Burkett scared the daylight out of many, a few years back, with his dogmatic assertions of imminent financial collapse. The economy boomed instead. Grant Jeffrey (with Hal Lindsay right behind him) has recently been "decoding" the Bible and looking for eschatological clues. 13. Russell Lowe has over 40 years of experience in the electronics field, 30 of

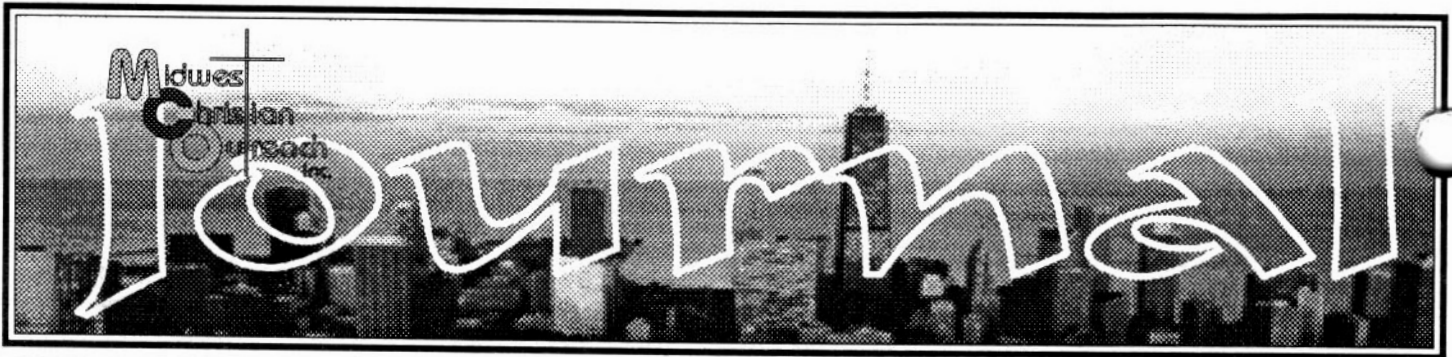
which have been with mainframe, mini-frame, micro- and personal computers. For 20 years, he has specialized in PCs for industry, commerce, and personal use. He also acted as the Queen's Advisor to Her Majesty's (the British) Government on Industrial Process Control and Instrumentation, DCS & ESD Consultant from 1975-1985. For the past 10 years, he has been in private practice and is currently a computer consultant to companies such as: Unisource, Aurora Public Schools (Aurora, IL), Hitachi, and Publishing Business Systems.

Mr. Lowe can be contacted at P.O. Box 331, Winfield, IL 60190, 1-630-790-4100. Visit his web site at <[www.TECPC.net](http://www.TECPC.net)> or e-mail him at [RBLowe@TECPC.net](mailto:RBLowe@TECPC.net). 14. Steve Hewitt can be contacted at *Christian Computing Magazine*, P.O. Box 198, Raymore, MO 64083, 1-800-456-1868. You can visit their web site at <[www.gospelcom.net/ccmag](http://www.gospelcom.net/ccmag)>. 15. Steve Hewitt, "Y2K: The Challenge Ahead" video cassette, (*Christian Computing Magazine*, 1999). 16. *Associated Press* in *The Daily Herald* (12 April 1999), sec. 1, p. 3. 17. Hyatt, pp. 176-179. 18. *Ibid.*, p. 180. 19. Hewitt, video cassette. 20. Hyatt, p. 29-30. 21. Grant Jeffrey, *The Millennium Meltdown* (Frontier Research Publications, 1998), p. 64. 22. Hyatt, p. 28. 23. Dave Hunt, *Y2K: A Reasoned Response to Mass Hysteria* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1999), p. 221. 24. *Ibid.*, p. 220-221. 25. "Banks Confident About Y2K, Worried About Customers," *Computerworld Magazine* (5 April 1999). 26. Steve Hewitt, "Editorial," *Christian Computing Magazine* 11, no. 4 (April 1999), paragraph 3 of on-line article <[www.gospelcom.net/ccmag/articles/edit499.html](http://www.gospelcom.net/ccmag/articles/edit499.html)>. 27. Richard Lacayo, "The End of the World as we Know It?," *Time Magazine* 153, no. 2 (18 January 1999), p. 70. 28. Hunt, p. 162. 29. Steve Hewitt, "Y2K: The Challenge Ahead" Part 7 *Christian Computing Magazine* 11, no. 3 (March 1999) paragraph 1 of on-line article <[www.gospelcom.net/ccmag/articles/msty399.html](http://www.gospelcom.net/ccmag/articles/msty399.html)>. 30. *Ibid.*, paragraph 2. 31. David Greising, *Chicago Tribune* (Sunday, 2 May 1999), sec. 5, p. 1.

## BROWNSVILLE ENDNOTES:

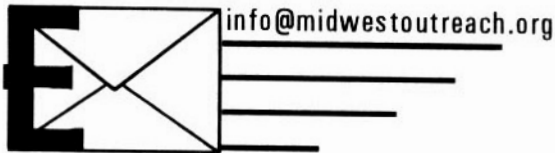
1). For an example of the Christological heresies of the Word-Faith Movement, see Hank Hanegraaff, *Christianity in Crisis* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1991). 2). John Kilpatrick, *When the Heavens are Brass*, xiv. The Brownsville Web-site is <http://www.brownsville-revival.org>. Cho's prophecy is found at <http://www.brownsville-revival.org/choprop.html>. 3). Paul Yongji Cho, *The Fourth Dimension* (Plainfield, NJ: Logos International, 1979), 81-83. Dr. Cho was named Paul when he wrote this book. However, he claims that God later told him to change his name to David. He also claims the doctrines in this book, which are undeniably occult, were taught to him by a spirit. 4). For an excellent discussion of the infiltration of this occultism into the church see Dave Hunt, *The Seduction of Christianity*. (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1985). 5). The fact the Brownsville Revival is a direct descendent of the Toronto Blessing (or the Laughing Revival) is incontestable. The staff at Brownsville readily admits the connection. Brownsville has sent leadership from their church to Toronto many times. In a video-taped service I have, Kilpatrick admits to sending his wife to Toronto so she could learn how to minister "Toronto-style." See Marcia Ford, *Charisma Reports: The Brownsville Revival* (Lake Mary, FL: Creation House, 1997), 75-80. 6). Rodney Howard-Browne, *The Touch of God*, 13-14. 7). *Ibid.*, 20. While this is an ambiguous statement, other statements Kilpatrick makes in the same context show he means Jesus did not have certain divine characteristics when He came to earth. 8). *Ibid.* (Emphasis mine). 9). *Ibid.* In all fairness to Kilpatrick, he does claim Jesus was divine, which is totally contradictory to the statements in the text above. At best, Kilpatrick's statements are contradictory, and thus, by teaching unsound doctrine, he has disqualified himself as a church leader (cf. 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9). 10). Walter Elwell, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1984), 451. 11). Norman Geisler, *Creating God in the Image of Man?* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1997), 28. 12). Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Mormons* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1995), 291. 13). Steve Hill, *The Pursuit of Revival* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 1997), 105. 14). *Ibid.* 104. 15). For a good discussion of Apostolic authority, see John MacArthur, *Charismatic Chaos* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1992), 120ff. 16). Warren Smith and Danny Aguirre, "Some Examples of Holy Laughter in Other Religions," *SCP Newsletter* 19, no.2 (Fall 1994), 14. 17). Shri Dhyanyogi Madhusandasaji, *The Path of Kundalini Maha Yoga*. On-line article, <<http://www.dyc.org/path/index.html#Shaktipat>>. 18). Margaret and James Stutley, *Harper's Dictionary of Hinduism: Its Mythology, Folklore, Philosophy, Literature and History* (New York, NY: Harper & Row,

1977), 180. 19). Steve Hill, *The God Makers* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 1997), 62-63. 20). Hill, *The Pursuit of Revival*, 30. This same story was also told when Steve Hill appeared on the television news program, *20/20*. 21). Dr. Herb Babcock, "That's How They Do It In Toronto!" *The End-Times and Victorious Living*, 11, no. 2 (March/April 1997), 18. 22). Michael Balarama, "Bhaktivedanta Meditation," On-line, <<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/8612>>. 23). *Ibid.* 24). Larry Thomas, *No Laughing Matter* (Excelsior Springs, MO: Double Crown, 1995), 48. 25). Jimmy Robbins, "Pensacola Experiences," *The End-Times and Victorious Living*, 11, no. 2 (March/April 1997), 16. 26). Deb Platt, *Mysticism in World Religions*, <<http://www.-digiserve.com/mystic/>>. 27). Samuel Sandweiss, *Sai Baba: The Holy Man and the Psychaitrist* (San Diego, CA: Birth Day, 1975), 206. 28). Sathya Sai Baba, *Sathya Sai Speaks*, (Bangalore, India: Sri Sathya Sai Publication and Education Foundation, n.d.), Vol. 4, p. 15, and Vol. 7, p. 50. 29). Diana Doucet, "Toronto: God's Meeting Place," *Spread the Fire* Volume 1, no.1 (Jan.-Feb. 1995), 4. 30). Kurt Keutzer, "Kundalini Frequently Asked Questions" and "Siddha Mahayoga Frequently Asked Questions," <<http://www.execpc.com/~libra/kund/kundalini-faq.html>> accessed 14 January 1998. 31). Steve Hill, *White Cane Religion* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 1997), 21. 32). *Ibid.* 93. 33). *Ibid.*, 80. 34). *Ibid.*, 159. 35). Kilpatrick, *When the Heavens Are Brass*, 138-39. Notice the works-salvation mindset of the Brownsville teachers. A person must do something in order to invoke the blessing of God. If a person will do such-and-such, then God will save. This is very different from the biblical doctrine of salvation that presents eternal life as a free gift to those who simply trust in Christ. 36). Hill, *The Pursuit of Revival*, 45. 37). Hill, *White Cane Religion*, 37. 38). Hill, *The Pursuit of Revival*, 143. 39). Dick Reuben, Brownsville Assembly of God Evangelist, 11/21/97 [audio-tape]. 40). Kilpatrick, *When the Heavens Are Brass*, 71. 41). *Ibid.* Like Cho, Kilpatrick receives "new revelation" from spirits while in prayer. It goes without saying that if the doctrine is false, then the spirit giving the revelation is not the Spirit of God. Moreover, the practice of receiving new revelation is very problematic because it reduces the Bible to merely a part of God's Word. Orthodox Christianity claims that the Bible is God's full and final special revelation to man. A common characteristic of cults, however, is the reception and use of revelation other than the Bible. 42). Hill, *The Pursuit of Revival*, 113. 43). *Ibid.*, 122. 44). Charles Colson, *The Struggle For Men's Hearts and Minds* (Prison Fellowship, 1983), 16. 45). Blaise Pascal, *Pensees*. <<http://members.aol.com/KatharenaE/private/Philo/Pascal/pascal.html>>



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**From The Editors:**  
Here is your Spring 1999 issue of the  
Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc. *Journal*.  
The production staff apologizes for the lateness of this issue  
and will make efforts to avoid such delays in the future.

## ***IN THIS ISSUE!***

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