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THE RIVER IS WIDE, BUT THE WAY IS NARROW

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Part I

When the whole earth was of one language they said,

"let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven. . . . and the Lord said, Behold the people is one. . . nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do . . . let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one anothers' speech. . . Therefore is the name Babel. . . from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth. Genesis 11:1-9

In this century, as never before since the Tower of Babel, man is again building to reach God... the "confusion" of many languages is being overcome as man is again attempting to speak with one voice. This is apparent in our social structures, government agencies, education facilities and in the Church.

An article from the SHREVEPORT Journal, March 31, 1962 by Edith Kennit Roosevelt gives clear insight into what was being laid out already at that time.

WORLD CITIZENS SEEK FUNDS FOR 'SPIRITUAL U.N.'

New York - A Temple will be erected in Washington, D.C. for the "citizen of the world" to develop "Universal understanding" in place of his "nationalist limitations",. . . . In New York City the "Friends of the Meditation Room" have long met regularly in the United Nations' Meditation Room. In the center of this shrine a beam of light plays on

polished ore. On April 24, 1957, when the Meditation Room was reopened, the late Dag Hammerskjold, U. N. secretary general, described this pagan stone as an altar to universal religion.

'The Altar is the symbol of the God of all' he said.

. . . . It is interesting to note that for some time now a group who call themselves "the New Group of World Servers" have been holding "full moon meditation meetings" at the Carnegie Endowment International Center in New York

On Dec. 21, 1961, this writer attended one of these meetings where pamphlets were distributed describing "the New World Religion". One "World Goodwill" booklet described what some of the backers of The Temple of Understanding may have in mind.

"A new type of mystic is coming to be recognized. . . he is distinguished by his lack of interest in his own personal development, by his ability to see God immanent in all faiths and not just in his own brand of religious beliefs".

[Note: For a day of "enlightening" research, access the INTERNET, using a search engine on each of the above underlined headings].

Without a doubt "unity" is the desired aim of today's church. This unity is a false unity because it is not based on truth. Deceiving spirits have entered in by many doors. Discernment has been sorely lacking' as a materialistic church has been caught up in a ""feel-good" gospel that has enraptured the emotions and blinded the eyes. Again tile-word to the Church at Laodicea rings out loud and clear:

So then because thou art luke-warm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Revelation 3:16, 19.

A global united church would like to establish a pseudo Kingdom of God on the earth. As "mysticism" is the common ground of this global church, it is of deep concern to see so much of what is being called "revival" today having deep "mystic" roots. Final authority is placed on experience rather than in the trusted true revelation of the Word of God.

The prayer of John 17 "*that they all may be one*" has become a theme for many in the Christian community. This has been interpreted as a prayer to be answered by all Christians worshipping together - under one banner - love. They have 'forgotten another "banner" in the same chapter, vs. 17 "*Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.*"

The "global village" concept has flourished on the world's landscape. This idea has flooded the church as well, and parachurch organizations are connecting internationally to strengthen efforts to bring millions of "converts" into the kingdom.

It seems to matter little that their understanding of *conversion* has changed. There is a determined drive to change the goal and desire to not just bring *individuals* to Christ; but to rather *plant a church in every village*. It is being taught that to win a convert to the Lord out of an ungodly home would only jeopardize the new Christian's life and estrange them from their family. The words of Christ grow dim:

... *Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*
Luke.14:33

How much more effective to *christianize* or *disciple* the whole family or the whole village.

Over the Internet this week there was an example of a whole village being "baptised" because it had rained as an answer to prayer. Were these people truly born again? One is led to suppose to assume that this is the case. In view of the number and variety of parachurch organizations united in global missions, the gospel may or may not be presented. The goal of planting a church in every village of the world is a lofty goal. However; when we hear; "if there is any church in a village, they do not need another church", one wonders what is becoming the real goal of World Missions. Is the Gospel of Jesus Christ being presented according to the Word?

Since Evangelization 2000 has become the "rallying cry" of both Catholics and Protestants alike" the lines have become blurred in a new ecumenism which has produced a new politics soon that will soon make its' presence known to the whole world. Traditional Catholics are bemoaning the loss of the old Mass. They call the *Novus Ordo* (New Order) a "bogus Catholic Mass." Some believe that the great idea out of Vatican II was to make Catholics more Protestant-minded over time. The AD 2000 movement that Catholics and Protestants are enthusiastically supporting does seem to be the Mother of all ecumenical movements. A high ranking denominational official wrote of a vote in last year's PCUSA General Assembly.

(We recognized) in an official way that Presbyterians, want to be part of the largest ecumenical movement in the world. The AD 2000 Movement is larger than Lausanne. It is THE emerging ecumenical movement of the 21st century. Missions Frontiers, Jan - Feb, 1997, Vol. 19, #1-2.

ECUMENISM DEVELOPING. In the 1960's, Billy Graham had already endorsed and contributed to the ecumenical process even though he was personally preaching a clear message of salvation. By 1981 he enthusiastically described the Pope as the "greatest moral leader of the world".

Luis Palau has worked with Catholics right along in his crusades. The first time the Catholic Church backed a major evangelical mission was at a Luis Palau crusade in New Zealand in 1987.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones parted company with evangelical leaders including Jim Packer and John Stott over the issue of ecumenism. He told congregants at Westminster Chapel:

"I remind you that Protestant Reformers were not just bigoted zealots or fools. Their eyes were opened by the Holy Spirit, Luther, Calvin, Knox, all of them. They saw this horrible monstrosity depicted in the Bible and the warning against it. At the risk of even losing their lives they stood up and protested . . . there is only one thing that can counter it and that is a Biblical, doctrinal Christianity..." Bible League Quarterly, Oct-Dec 1981

The following letter appeared in England in THE TIMES, Nov.11, 1988 in reference to an impending visit by Billy Graham:

The Ecumenical movement which you praise is the greatest disaster to affect the Christian Church this century. It has reduced the professing churches of this country to a collection of bloodless, spineless and boneless organizations which can hardly whimper on the side of Christ and His Truth. You appear to regard a body of professing Christians, of sober conduct, and deep spirituality of mind as fanatical and bigoted.

Instead of heeding the cries of the reformers, modern day ecumenists pull out their love banners and wave their white flags lost in a euphoria of peace and unity.

THE NEW ECUMENISM EXPLAINED. Michael Harper of Middlesex, England wrote a very interesting book in 1978 entitled THREE SISTERS, *A Provocative Look at Evangelicals, Charismatics & Catholic Charismatics and Their Relationship to One Another*

According to Michael Harper, the THREE SISTERS are: Evangeline (Evangelicals), Charisma (Charismatics) and Roma (Catholics). In 1971, Harper became involved in reconciling the "sisters" Charisma and Roma. Discussions were held in Rome with leaders of the Charismatic movement and leaders of some Pentecostal churches. In 1974 a dialogue was set up between the first two sisters, Evangeline (Evangelicals) and Charisma (Charismatics) in order to reconcile differences. In 1977 in Venice, Italy, conservative evangelicals began to dialogue with Roman Catholics.

CHARISMATIC CONNECTION. The Charismatic movement (a relative latecomer on the church scene) has so fully penetrated into the Evangelical and Roman Catholic

kingdoms that it actually has acquired the role of a BRIDGE BUILDER to the 21st century.

The Charismatic movement began in the 1950's - a direct result of the New Order of the Latter Rain movement of the late 1940's. There was no formal organization or structure at its inception. Much of its early influence came through the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International (FGBMFI). This group had a non-threatening approach in that it always met in a hotel or secular institution rather than a church. Doctrinal issues were sidestepped by having personal testimonies rather than Bible-teaching.

By the 1970's other influences were emerging. The Roman Catholic charismatic renewal had started in 1967. It soon began to be felt throughout the world as they organized themselves. Other Charismatic groups within other denominations also organized themselves and began holding conferences. By 1987 a conference was held in New Orleans and the conferees included the Baptists, Conferences on the Holy Spirit, National Catholic Charismatic Conference, Episcopal, Lutheran, Mennonite, Messianic Jews, Presbyterian and Reformed, United Church of Christ, United Methodist and Wesleyan Holiness. Also included were the different streams of the independent Charismatic groups. The popular FGBMFI chorus, "I don't care what church you belong to" gave way to "We are one in the Spirit. . . and we pray that all unity may one day be restored." There were many of us who linked arms and swayed to those strains!

The Roman Catholic charismatics organized themselves in Ann Arbor as the Word of God community. Something very powerful took place soon afterward. The Fort Lauderdale Five (or the Shepherds as they came to be known - Derek Prince, Charles Simpson, Bob Mumford, Em Baxter, Don Basham) joined with this Word of God community and signed a "covenant" relationship. This relationship would have far reaching effects for the Charismatic movement of the 1970's in their efforts towards BRIDGE BUILDING.

The Holy Spirit Teaching Mission was formed. It later became Church Growth Ministries. This group out of Ft. Lauderdale

". . . faced controversial issues squarely, made up their own minds what was true, and then taught it to Christians by every possible means. Thus, the Fort Lauderdale leaders acted for many years like a major fault beneath the earth's surface, periodically sending seismic short waves through the charismatic movement." The Three Sisters. pg. 30.

There were a number of "small" seismic reactions that occurred. Water baptism became an issue of contention, then exorcism, and soon the deliverance ministry came to the fore. However, the major earthquake that erupted was the Discipleship issue. The Roman Catholics' and Fort Lauderdale leaders had been in covenant relationship for some time. Their "discipleship" methods cut across the grain of the "individualistic" American way of life. They were instead, resembling a Christian Socialism.

The Ft Lauderdale Five admitted to some heavy handed practices and disbanded. Each of them individually formed their own ministry with different emphasis of teaching. It is my view that the skin was simply shed and restructured to reappear in different forms, but still to accomplish many of the same goals, more of which will be discussed.

Individual Charismatics started to gain prominence in the late 1970's through the medium of television. There were those who became "stars" overnight as they were "beamed" across the nation. New teachings continually came across the "tube" which were reinforced by the sale of tapes and the publication of glossy magazines. For a culture accustomed to sports stars who make millions of dollars, and music stars who have the youth eating out of their hands, television evangelists simply followed the same pattern and lived above accountability. The elderly and lonely were especially susceptible. As they filled up the coffers, the "stars" were able to increase their television stations and bring the Charismatic movement into a new dimension.

As a result, the Charismatic renewal has bred a new generation of stargazers. As the "stars" trek around the earth; their followers gather in large numbers to see "the great things that has come to pass." Ibid Pg. 83.

Most serious, however, has been the departure from the Word of God. From its inception, experiences have united the Charismatics. Large crowds will gather to hear leaders who are saying what people want them to say. This can be attested to by the cheering and hand-clapping that accompanies the large gatherings. The departure from the written Word of God has given way to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils which can be witnessed to as we follow the sister; Charisma, through the 1980's and to the present time.

The 1980's saw television evangelism soar to unprecedented fame and then to embarrassing dishonor. Stars lost their glitter overnight as one after the other had a "great fall".

Another force was developing in the Charismatic world that would soon sweep all of the others into its flow. This force took on a form and shape of its own. It has been referred to as The Third Wave. Most of the people who are reading this can only find a reference point with this phase of the Charismatic movement. This is one stream (that interestingly enough did not consider itself even to be "charismatic"), yet it has probably been the most influential because of the connections with Fuller Theological Seminary where many of today's professors' and pastors furthered their education.

Out of this stream came church Growth, Power Evangelism, new music and new popularized Spiritual Warfare teaching. These concepts have imploded upon the consciousness of the church at large through the influence of the converging of all the streams. C. Peter Wagner (Fuller Seminary) in 1989 said that he received a prophecy regarding three-strand cord not easily broken. This cord was comprised of conscientious Liberals, Evangelicals and Charismatic Pentecostals. This cord to him was the Third Wave.

It has been amazing to again witness teachings that were prominent in the Latter Rain movement of the late 1940's resurfacing in the conciliatory climate today. Since none of the heresies had their origin at that time, but were a rehash of the same lies Satan has used down through history, it should not be surprising.

When "experience" becomes the criteria for truth there can be no standard. In one service after another, experiences are used to justify the veracity of what is perceived as "fresh wind" of revival. By using experience to validate more and more experiences, we will become captive to the supernatural realm and find the Word of God to be tasteless manna. People travel thousands of miles to plug in to an experience that gives them a spiritual "jolt". In the meantime they have in their possession the only connection to God - His precious Word.

Some of the strangest examples of historical revivals are being used to give credence to what is now happening. It was appalling to hear even the Shakers being used to justify the shaking and twitching. The Shakers began during the Quaker revival of 1747. The leader was "mother" Ann Lee who believed the second coming was fulfilled in herself and that Christ's Kingdom on earth began with the Shaker Church. She claimed she could speak in seventy-two languages. They spoke in tongues in Shaker meetings and had times of ecstatic dancing and euphoria.

Mormonism denies salvation by the grace of God, the Trinity, the absolute authority of the Scriptures and the reality of hell! Yet, the seventh article of faith says they believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, etc.

David du Plessis, former General Secretary of the Pentecostal World Conference was quite strong regarding manifestations:

I consider it heresy to speak of shaking, trembling, falling, dancing, clapping, shouting, and such like actions as "manifestations" of the Holy Spirit. These are purely human reactions to the power of the Holy Spirit and frequently hinder, more than help, to bring forth genuine manifestations. THE MODERN TONGUES MOVEMENT; Robert G. Gromacki, *Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co.*

The present "revival" is to be commended when the Word of God is preached in boldness. The kingdom of heaven rejoices when each soul is born again. The danger lies in the Gospel "plus". When experiences start to replace "truth", disillusionment will set in. When visions, dreams and revelation knowledge become the standard fare, then souls will be spiritually undernourished and eventually fall from the faith once delivered to the saints. That is "another gospel".

The sister Charisma is coming to her own as the millennium approaches. How are the other two sisters, Evangeline and Roma fitting in with the final scene as we rush toward AD 2000?

This n That

This newsletter was written with a sense of definite tracks developing from the subject of "ecumenism". This past century has seen this develop in various forms. The World Council of Churches was on the forefront with many other different streams developing. The very nature of the "beast" always seemed to cause its demise. With the advent of computer networks, the latest form has "webbed" its way into being without anyone hardly the wiser. The backbone of the Church" which has historically been the "pray-ers" have even been seduced into "cosmic warfare prayer" where they join the theatrics of Star-Wars. Spiritual leaders have become Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) and have resorted to monitoring the indexes instead of checking the pulse. Because of the urgency of the hour, the day for playing church is over.

There is so much to research that it is impossible to take on a task like this alone. Gratefully, the Lord has sent wonderful people into my life who help ease the burden! Their help and encouragement have been invaluable. To write on these subjects is not easy. I always hope that this will be my last newsletter! However, as *more* and more unfolds, we realize that we can not rest until Jesus Returns - in all His Glory!

We want to always remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Show us from the Word of God if we deviate in any way. It is very frightening when one is ridiculed and mocked if they question if something is of God. We all need to be like the Bereans who checked out if what they heard was indeed true!

My daughter, Charissa and I will be leaving for South Africa in August where we will spend several months helping Discernment Ministries there get established. We will be also making materials available there from other ministries. That takes quite a bit of organization and coordination. While we were in South Africa last year, we were amazed how quickly the materials would vanish off the tables during the services. People would ask if they could receive their own newsletter because by the time they received one it had been copied so many times it was illegible.

We will be in touch while we are away with our office at home via the computer and the newsletter will continue to be published as the Lord provides. Please keep us in prayer!

The newsletters always go out when the funds are available: Printing and postal costs have skyrocketed since we started the newsletter. It now costs \$1,000 each time a newsletter is published. We attempt to cut down our mailing lists, then more are added! Please take the time to go over our new and updated book and tape list. We desire to make books available that will be a help to you as you become a "discerning" Christian. Please especially note the new video by Dave Hunt which is professionally done: *The Woman Rides the Beast*. The back newsletters have also proven to be more up-to-date now than when they were written. They are available in a bound-indexed set.