



CHURCH ARISE!

ISSN 1595-6342

Vol 7 No 6: November – December 2004

Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

Editorial

To the glory of God, a new edition of your spirit-stirring, Christian end-time newsletter is here again. There was hardly any of our editions over the past 7 years which the enemy did not furiously try to hinder. (And to tell the truth, the various desperate antics of the devil have been more to encourage us than otherwise in this privileged assignment of keeping the Church alert – like dutiful ushers at a Church service!). The current edition is however a unique one in that it has literally taken double the usual efforts to produce. As we were about adding finishing touches to the manuscripts, some burglars broke in into the home of the editor carting away the laptop computer. While we are trusting God for the recovery of this quite expensive and extremely valuable piece of equipment, it was necessary to begin production all over from scratch since there were no copies of the materials made! It was some valuable exercise in perseverance! PS. Please note our temporary new phone number 08033587882. (The phone set was also a casualty in the burglary).

Without vision, the people perish [“cast off restraint”, RSV]. For each individual, organization, nation, etc, God has a specific agenda which we will do well to seek, understand and run with, as we forge ahead in life. However, it is a sobering possibility that we could so get carried away by the intensity of the ‘personal’ vision to the extent of losing sight of the ‘general’ vision God has for the entire Creation. It is simple logic that the inferior must bow to the superior when the paths of the two cross. Many of the God-given visions we run with are only valid as long as “the Lord carries”. The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is the next event in God’s agenda and the big vision to always keep in view. It could be a very dangerous thing to lose sight of this, no matter the importance of the other visions or agenda we have received of the Lord. JO.

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief” - 1 Thess. 5:4

The Masterkey

Above is the theme for the next edition of the Holy Ghost Congress, an annual international, inter-denominational event organized by the RCCG since “Lekki ‘98”. This year’s Congress is scheduled for 13th – 18th Dec. at the →

usual venue: Redemption Camp, Km 46, Lagos- Ibadan Expressway. Pastor Enoch Adeboye who will be leading a team of other highly anointed ministers from Nigeria and abroad, said his Daddy has promised special and unusual breakthroughs for as many as would attend with expectations in their hearts. Don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate the Lordship of Jesus Christ and obtain the Masterkey to your future breakthroughs.

Worship and Die! Christian Fellowship banned at Federal Medical Centre, Keffi

In the last edition, we reported how a Bonkke Gospel Crusade at Ilorin was abruptly terminated on the instructions of the Kwara State government following threats by Islamic agents. It was more or less the same scenario all over again at the Federal Medical Centre, Keffi, as a faceless group identifying itself as “Islamic Fundamentalists” wrote to the Fellowship of Christian Nurses (FCN) at this Federal Institution to immediately stop all its activities or face chilling death. In the letter, (which was copied to the Hospital’s management), the Islamic Fundamentalists warned: “We are making it abundantly clear that our thirst for your heads/blood is mounting daily if you continue with your worship services in the hospital unabated.” → pg 2

‘Talibans’ invade Christian towns in Borno

More than a dozen Christians were killed and seven kidnapped when members of a militant Islamic sect recently raided towns in Borno State, North East Nigeria. Members of Al Sunna Wal Jamma, a group also known as the Taliban, are reported to have carried out the raids on the towns of Bama and Gwoza on September 20. According to news agency Compass Direct, the group went on to attack Christian communities, killing, raping and burning down homes. A police spokesman confirmed that 14 bodies had been recovered from areas targeted by the raids, but that there may be many more victims. Enquiries into the whereabouts of the kidnapped Christians are ongoing. (Compass News, 28/09/04)

Netherlands braces for ‘jihad’

Perhaps the most “tolerant” country on earth, Netherlands now has to face the sore reality that radical Islam is trying to take over the country. But the government has vowed to fight back and contain the threats from the “jihadists”. The first undeniable salvo from Islamic fundamentalists was the gruesome murder of a popular film maker, Theo van Gogh who was fatally shot and stabbed on Tuesday 2nd →

November, while cycling down an Amsterdam street. Attached to his body was a death threat addressed to a Dutch MP Miss Hirsi Ali an ex-moslem who scripted Mr Gogh's latest film, "Submission" – a film criticizing the treatment of women under Islam. Following the development, government has compelled political leaders to employ bodyguards. Also an emergency law which will enable authorities to revoke the Dutch nationality of dual citizens suspected of terrorist activity so that they can be deported is also being considered.

Deputy Prime Minister Gerrit Zalm agreed with comments by other politicians who called Mr. van Gogh's slaying a declaration of Islamic jihad, or "holy war" he confessed that "the increase in radicalization is worse than we had thought." (www.washtimes.com/world/20041105-111203-2756r.htm)

Islamic Fundamentalists at Keffi (from page 1)

The reaction of the Hospital management was to issue a letter suspending Christian religious activities at the Centre. End of the matter! Or is it?

Lamenting this summary withdrawal of their constitutional right to faith, secretary of the local chapter of the FCN, Christiana Shiaki revealed that while the FCN's request for land to build a chapel for health workers and patients has been ignored for the past 5 years, two mosques have been built in the hospital, using public funds. It will be recalled that at a similar Federal Medical Centre, (Azare, Bauchi state) all staff including Christian nurses were required to come to work only in Sharia garbs. See below for latest development on that issue.

Cheers for the Azare 11.

The Federal Government has finally announced the re-absorption of the 11 christian nurses whose appointments were terminated in April 2002 for their refusal (on religious grounds) to exchange their nurse's uniform for the Shariah garb of trousers and veil. (CA! vol 5 No 5). The nurses were among the 21 nurses who initially refused to comply with the orders given by the new Medical Director at the Centre, Dr Sabo. However, due to tough economic and other personal pressures, (including the withdrawal of contracts and termination of the employment of their spouses as well by the Bauchi State Government), 10 of the nurses capitulated, going back to their jobs in Islamic garbs.

We salute all 21 nurses for daring to arise to protect the integrity of the Kingdom of God as well as the Christian Organizations that stood by them all the way. All hail King Jesus! (Report from CSW Aug 5, 2004).

Have a Merry Christmas, and see you next year - if the Lord tarries!

Continued Frontal and Subtle Attacks on Christianity Worldwide:

In the United States, Council barred from praying in the name of "Jesus Christ"

Following legal actions taken by a Wiccan high priestess in 2001, The Great Falls Council was in August this year prohibited from opening its meetings with prayers made in the name of Jesus, despite unanimous agreement by Council officials on the matter. In his ruling, the judge issued an order prohibiting council from using the "name of a specific deity associated with any one specific faith or belief in prayers given at town council meetings."

The Council is heading for the US Supreme Court. (www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=2521438&nav=OraPSkzX)

In India, Christians Charged with "Wounding Religious Feelings"

An Indian court recently charged five Christians in Orissa state with "wounding the religious feelings" of Hindus with their preaching about the love of God through Jesus Christ. This is happening at a time the "reconversion" drive launched by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP or World Hindu Council) in the tribal belt of Orissa is gathering more steam. Between September and October, over 400 tribal Christians have been "reconverted" back to Hindu in public ceremonies arranged by the VHP. Under Indian laws, all tribal peoples are regarded as Hindu but placed at the lower level of the Hindu caste system. Tribal villagers who convert to Christianity are threatened with loss of job opportunities and they suffer several other deprivations (Culled from Compass report).

In England, School told to drop its "offensive" saint's name

A Church of England school has been told to drop the word "saint" from its name as it may offend other religious groups. The practice of calling schools after saints or bishops alienates people from other faiths and non-believers, say officials and councillors in Islington, north London.

The council plans to incorporate the existing St Mary Magdalene Church of England Primary School into a new City Academy and even though the Church is giving £2 million towards building costs, council officials insist that the name of the new school cannot be "religious".

James Kempton, children and young people spokesman for the council's ruling Liberal Democrat tries to justify this position: "Church-going is now a much less significant part of people's lives." Parents and teachers at St Mary Magdalene, however, are determined to keep the name. John Stewart, the head teacher, said: "We have been serving the community in the area since 1710 and there is no reason why we

should change our name. ...The name makes our Christian ethos clear to everyone ...”

<http://news.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/11/05/nschool05.xml&sSheet=/news/2004/11/05/ixnewstop.html>

US Air Force officially goes psychic.

An official report commissioned by the US Air Force has called for a \$7.5million study on “psychic teleportation”. The 88-page “Teleportation Physics Report” claims that psychic teleportation, moving yourself from location to location through mind powers, is “quite real and can be controlled.” To back this claim, the report appealed to a number of teleportation concepts and experiments such as Quantum Teleportation, Wormholes, and Psychokinesis, and cited UFO reports, Soviet and Chinese studies of psychics and US military studies of spoon-bending phenomena. Physicists are however deriding the report as “in large part crackpot physics”. The report has been posted on the Web site of the Federation of American Scientists (http://news.yahoo.com/news?templ=story&u=/usatoday/20041105/tc_usatoday/airforcereportcallsfor75mtostudypsychicteleportation)

Meanwhile in the UK, a Times report is gloating that “religion” is bound to be eclipsed by “spirituality” within the next 30 years. Citing figures to support increasing collapse of traditional religion and corresponding rise of mysticism, the report claims that: “Twice as many people believe in a “spirit force” within than they do an Almighty God without”; and that a finding that two thirds of 18 to 24-year-olds had more belief in their horoscopes than in the Bible” points at a revival of the Age of Aquarius. (www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7-342587,00.html)

Family

Pedophilia in Nigeria

Ever-charming Ruth Benamasia-Opia looked much distraught as she presented on NTA Newsline (31st October, 2004) the story of a man who was sexually molesting his own two daughters, one of them a baby of under one year. Most Nigerians joined Ruth in her recoil of disgust, at the incident. However, it is exactly this kind of response that the NGO Action Health Incorporated (AHI) no doubt considers uninformed and archaic; and therefore due for a change. AHI is really nothing more than the Nigerian front organization for the New York-based NGO, Sexuality Information and Education Council of United States (SIECUS), an off-shoot of Planned Parenthood in the USA. The current so-called Sexuality Education curriculum being rammed down the throat of Nigerians through the Federal Ministry of Education was drawn up as an international document by SIECUS, and it seeks, essentially, to promote and establish the sexual

values of the organization in whichever country is gullible enough to swallow the bait. SIECUS insists that the Sexuality Education curriculum must be implemented right from primary school level because she believes children’s sexuality must be developed right from that level. In a 1980 speech to the Association of Planned Parenthood Physicians, co-founder of SIECUS, Mary Calderone announced that: “*Providing today’s society with a ‘very deep awareness of the vital importance of infant and childhood sexuality’ is now the primary goal of SIECUS*”. Five years later, Dr Calderone came all out in support of pedophilia, asking rhetorically, “*What do we know about situation in which young children and older people, stronger people, had had a sexual relationship of one kind or another that has been pleasant, and the child feels good about it because it’s warm and seductive and tender?*” Wardell Pomeroy of Planned Parenthood stretches the logic a little further to include sex within a family (incest), declaring that “*... incest between adults and younger children can also prove to be a satisfying and enriching experience. Incestuous relationships can -- and do -- work out well.*” Hello Ruth!

In the past few months, CA! has been emphasizing the implications of the Sexuality Education Curriculum and calling on Nigerians to act and stop this evil from spreading further. If we allow ourselves to be paralysed into inaction by the spells of Action Health and her many sister-organizations, then we should not be surprised if children of this country should begin to wonder in the near future why pedophilia should be such a matter of outrage on NTA Newsline!

In Japan School bags with satellite tracking now on sale

Responding to a rise in crimes against children, a Tokyo manufacturer is joining forces with a security firm to create school bags with a global positioning system, or GPS. The high-tech bags, which we mentioned in the last edition, have now reached the market. The system allows parents to track their children on a website, and security guards can be automatically dispatched to the bag’s location. However, CA! observes that while this new technology would be totally useless in a situation as the unfortunate Beslan school hijack saga, it marks a further quantum jump in popularizing the concept of mass surveillance and deployment of forces which can be used against non-conformists in Society. The real problem to address is the wickedness of the human heart – an issue that the antichrist will eventually exploit to achieve his already fore-told goals.

As we have reported in several past issues, a similar device as the one being implanted in these high-tech bags are already being implanted directly under the skin of people, first for various applications such as security, finance, etc, and lately medical. Rev 13:16-17 written some 2000 years ago is literally leaping to life before our very eyes!

(www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=41332)

Abortion linked to later anxiety problems

“Women who abort unintended pregnancies are more likely to experience subsequent problems with anxiety compared to women who deliver their unintended pregnancies, according to a study published in the latest edition of Journal of Anxiety Disorders.”

“Using data collected from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), researchers examined a nationally representative sample of 10,847 women aged 15-34 who had experienced an unintended first pregnancy and had no prior history of anxiety. The results show that compared to women who carried the unintended pregnancy to term, women who aborted were 30 percent more likely to subsequently report all the symptoms associated with a diagnosis for generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).”

“Abortion advocates have frequently asserted that carrying an unintended pregnancy to term is more emotionally harmful to women than abortion. But this new study linking abortion to general anxiety disorder comes on the heels of nearly a dozen other studies published in the last three years linking abortion to increased risk of depression, substance abuse, suicidal behavior, and death from heart disease.”

(www.lifesite.net/ldn/2004/nov/04110408.html)

From the Mail Box

The work the Lord assigned you is a source of blessing and an eye-opener to me. I pray His grace will be sufficient to you, to carry the work through in spite of opposition to the pit of hell. Amen.
Segun Ogundele, Yahoo.

I came across your newsletter just of recent. It was a source of inspiration to me really. And I wish to be receiving all the editions.

Plangan S. Dawap, Mangu, Plateau State

Well done sir, in the vineyard. I read a copy of your magazine and I can see that it is very splendid.

Oginni Peter Olaniran, Ilesa, Osun State

I am very happy for what God is using you for in this end time. I pray that God will continue to help, strengthen and uphold you. Amen. If things like those you published could be happening around the

world and Christians are not aware, then I wonder how we would even remember the Great Commission placed in our hands by our Master Jesus Christ. I thank God for what He is doing through Church Arise!

Omikunle Bola F. Ibadan, Oyo State

I am interested in receiving your newsletter, Church Arise. I shall be happy to be enlisted on your mailing list..... God bless you real good.

Stephen Ayodele Ile Ife, Osun State

I came across your newsletter only recently. I have had the privilege of going through the last two editions and have discovered that your work is a very special and timely ministry to the entire Body of Christ. May the Lord continue to prosper your ministry of creating awareness and helping our understanding of the times in Jesus' name. I cannot afford to miss the subsequent issues of CA!

S.D. Aremu, Jebba, Kwara State

Thank you for the regular supply of every edition of your publication. I enjoy reading them times over... Church Arise is a glow in the thick of darkness. Keep it up and GOD bless the Ministry. Enclosed is my token.

“**A lover of Christ JESUS**”, Ile-Ife, Osun State

Our Bank is now on-line

We are happy to inform that our Banker, First Bank Plc Ile-Ife, is now online. This will make it much easier getting your donation across to us. Our new on-line account number is: 1992010018999. God bless and renew and replenish you as you give. Thanks.

Back issues of CA!

We do get many requests for back issues of CA! While we are happy to meet these requests, current postal costs make it impracticable for us to mail these bulk materials out. Those interested may simply walk in into our Library/Secretariat to pick these back issues (as are available). However many may find it easier downloading these back issues from our website (www.ChurchArise.org). Vols 1-3 of the past editions have been compiled into a book: The Time is Fulfilled – available in bookstores in major Nigerian cities.

John Challenger coming

The hard-hitting holiness preacher from the United States, Rev John Challenger is visiting West Africa in December, and plans are being concluded to have him in Ile-Ife during the period 22 – 26th December. Bro John, as he is affectionately called, first visited Nigeria in May 1999 to lead the first Bootcamp organized by Church Arise LivingWater Ministries. This second visit, will be co-hosted by some of the ministries that had benefited from bro John's first visit; and will comprise, essentially of a 3-day seminar for ministers around Ile-Ife. There might be some opportunity for bro John to speak at a number of local Churches. Interested pastors may contact us to arrange a schedule.

Middle-East Watch

With current developments in the Middle East, anything may well happen concerning the so-far intractable Palestinian-Israeli imbroglio. In this vastly complicated issue, one fact remains clear and undisputable: the main cog to the achieving of peace has been the PA leader Yasser Arafat. At the same time so powerful (commanding the respect of the Palestinian masses largely by virtue of his past achievements, and also enjoying a kind of dictatorial power) but at the same time so weak in the sense that many believe he is actually a puppet being controlled by various other forces. Bill Clinton will never forget how at the last moment possible, Yasser Arafat developed cold feet and refused to sign the carefully crafted peace treaty in 2000. Now with the reported grave condition of Mr Arafat (as at Press time), many understand that there is a real chance for an Israeli-PA peace treaty to be brokered soon. Bible students are well aware that the Church of Jesus may not be around on earth to witness the signing of the Middle East peace treaty – to be brokered by none other than the Anti-christ himself.

The Waitings are over: It's George W. Bush again

The last few months were truly tensed and momentous, not only within the United States, but all over the world, as John Kerry made a desperate effort to unseat incumbent George W. Bush from the White House.

And while the race heated up, the world literally came to a standstill, watching and waiting for the result.

The main issues in the US election were Terrorism and Family/moral values. The stakes were so high that many were not content to merely watch and wait for the outcome of the elections. They got involved and did all they could to influence the outcome. For instance the polls clearly showed that both the US and international Press were unabashedly pro-Kerry. Billionaire George Soros not only bankrolled the Kerry campaign to the tune of \$15 million dollars as direct grant to Kerry Groups, but, a few weeks to the election, he physically joined the campaign trail to campaign against G.W. Bush. On his weblog, he described defeating Bush as “a matter of life and death”! Another Group that demonstrated understandably high interest in the election was Al-Qaeida and Islamic fundamentalists in general. Days to the election, Al-Qaeida actually deployed her main weapon – threats, warning that any state that dared to vote for Bush will receive Al Qaeida's special attention. (As if anything can change Osama's total resolve to strike the United States wherever and whenever the opportunity presents itself!)

The one main supporter of George Bush was the conservative Christian Church flying the banner of Biblical Christianity. It is perhaps true that the Church's stance was really more of anti-liberalism rather than an endorsement of the person of George W. Bush *per se*. In one of the more bizarre events during the period of the elections, the IRS reportedly declared that it was illegal for Churches (being tax-exempt organizations) to pray for George Bush's success at the elections! The final outcome of the elections showed the reality on ground that despite attempts by the vocal Press to underplay the issue, most Americans still place lots of premium on traditional, Christian values and institutions.

And now that the waiting is over, it will be naïve to think that the battle is also over (e.g. will the Soros and Turners now demobilize?). Rather one should expect carefully pre-planned “Option B” course of actions to follow. Indeed, one should be forgiven if one declares what is coming as the Final Clash that will ultimately bring the New World Order into manifestation.

Based on Scriptures, we had maintained that the end is already in sight for US hegemony - Bush or Kerry. The difference will only be in matters of details. With a Kerry presidency, it would have been the soft option, involving the US being gradually assimilated into the new UN-EU – especially with the news report that Bill Clinton has his eyes on the post of UN Secretary General (www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=41038). With a Bush presidency however, a more raw deal should be expected. Since an outright war against the US is inconceivable at the present time, we predict that efforts to bring the US down on her knees will be pursued from the economic angle. Already, following the outcome of the elections, the downward spiral of the US dollar compared with the Euro took a new turn for the worse and the Euro is now clearly set to becoming the new world standard. With many enemies, even from within, and the precarious nature of the US economy at the present time (demonstrated by hasty, technically unsound withdrawals of US forces all around the globe – notably Germany in recent times) it really wouldn't require much efforts to engineer a Black Monday type of economic crash in the US (with global reverberations, necessarily) (See CA! Vol 1 No 6, 1998). Like several other empires before it, the US has no choice but to quit the stage as its time winds up. According to the Scriptures, the stage now belongs to an empire which will be world-wide in extent (think of UN) and which will be an offspring of the Roman Empire (think of EU). More importantly, the Bible says that this next world-wide empire will be the last man-made empire, for “in the

days of those kings the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom that will never end” (Daniel 2:44).

The Waitings are Over: Volcanoes erupting all over.

That the earth is witnessing some increased internal pangs is suggested by the increased activities of previously dormant volcanoes currently being recorded. Many still recall Mt St Helens, which exploded on May 18 1980 in an awesome display of power. Interestingly our last video outreach on Sept 22 had featured a documentary (by Institute of Creation Research) on the 1980 eruption. St Helens rumbled back to life the next day after our Outreach, on Sept 23! Molten rock first reached the surface on Oct 11 marking the resumption of dome-building activity that had stopped in 1986. Areas within 10-mile radius have been put on alert. Similarly, in South Iceland, at least 10 transatlantic flights had to be re-routed to avoid the 7-miles high plume coming from the Grims-Votn volcano which began eruption on Nov 1 (www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-1344811,00.html). Also, the Shiveluch Volcano in Kamchataka peninsula, North East Russia has become active again. Satellite pictures, provided by the Alaska volcanological observatory, showed an 85-km long ash cloud moving in southeast direction. Seismic stations in the vicinity of the volcano register ground shocks at the depth of 5 kilometers and intermittent volcanic vibration.

Time Running out for Evolution Theory

Evolution theory, postulating that life came about merely by accident from inanimate matter, without any design, purpose or a special Creator is hanging on only by the skin of its teeth! Superior arguments based on Science and Logics are producing massive cracks in the arsenal of the theory. Last edition we reported the furore created by the publication in a mainstream conservative journal, a sound scientific paper in support of the existence of the Intelligent Designer. An update on these historic developments: (please visit www.answersingenesis.org or www.icr.org for more details and links)

Science textbooks in suburban Cobb County in Atlanta now carry a disclaimer reminding students that evolution is “a theory, not a fact.” and that the materials should be “approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered.” www.apnews.myway.com/article/20041107/D8679FG80.html

Also, the school board of the city of Grantsburg, Wisconsin (USA) has revised its science curriculum to allow the teaching of creationism, arguing that the curriculum “should not be totally inclusive of just one scientific theory.” There have also been scattered efforts in several other states in the United States for other school boards to adopt similar measures. For

instance in October, the Dover Area School Board in Pennsylvania voted to require the teaching of alternative theories to evolution, including “intelligent design” -- the idea that life is too complex to have developed without a creator. Earlier in March, the Ohio Board of Education has approved a lesson plan that some critics contended opens the door to teaching creationism.

(<http://newsmax.com/archives/articles/2004/11/6/201758.shtml>). Outside the US, Serbia is another country that is already taking a hard and critical look at the issue of origin. Things appear to be dicey in the country as first the Education Minister announced that Creationism would now be incorporated into the school curriculum, only for her deputy to announce a reversal of that policy as she proceeded on some spurious leave (msnbc.msn.com/id/5932128/).

Meanwhile, several leading scientists are challenging the interpretations of the findings being interpreted by some Australian scientists as the discovery of a new species of humans – the so-called Flores Man. In Jakarta, Professor Teuku Jacob, chief palaeontologist from the state Gajah Mada University, said he will carry out tests to prove the fossils are really from a sub-species of homo sapiens - “an ordinary human being, just like us”. Jacob and his team believe the skeleton’s small “grapefruit sized” skull is related to mental defects rather than being evidence that it is a different species. Also in Australia, researcher Bert Roberts of the University of Wollongong told the Australian newspaper that the new skeleton sounded remarkably similar to the Ebu Gogo, strange hairy little people that legend says lived on Flores. (‘Flores man not a new species’ – www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=31&art_id=qw1099738261892B253)

Now, prepare for Headless, Mindless Humans!

The possibilities of creating headless human beings with capacity to keep organs functioning but no thinking mind is being discussed in scientific circles. P.B. Desai, former director of the Tata Medical Center, who addressed the issue in a speech titled “Conquest Over Mortality,” at a meeting of the Chicago-based International College of Surgeons in New Delhi predicts that the quest for immortality could lead to the creation of headless humans for commercial exploitation and plunder of organs.

“Science is moving at such a fast pace that scientists have proven that they can create headless mice through removal of genes in embryo that control development of the head,” said Desai. “But the body would have the capacity to keep the organs functional for use as transplants.” www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=41285

ECKANKAR (from back page): In Eckankar, the leader is the infallible “god-man” (Mahanta, the living Eck Master) who alone can show mankind the way out of the endless hopeless cycle of reincarnation and death which most occultists believe is their lot. Mr Twitchell who proclaimed himself “god-man” after the fictitious order of the Vairagi Eck Masters, died in 1978 and was replaced by one of his fellow Eckists, Mr Darwin Gross who suddenly became the new “god-man”. Mr Gross was married by Twitchell’s widow (who actually had chosen him as the new Mahanta despite his lack of experience in the movement) but the marriage hit the rocks 3 years later in 1981. A few months later Mr Gross was compelled by members of his council to renounce and resign his position, paving way for the current “god-man”, Mr Harold Klemp! The side-lined previous “god-man” would not relinquish his “divinity” so easily, however. He went ahead and found his own religion!

A tainted history apart, how could any sane person possibly subscribe to the obvious half-baked doctrines of Eckankar? Those ensnared into the group are so caught only as they embrace Eckankar’s fundamental principle of judging “truth” principally on the basis of personal “feelings”; while at the same time actively opening up those feelings to so-called “divine guides” - euphemism for demonic entities. It is then quite common to hear many Eckists retort, “I know it doesn’t make sense, but I believe it is true because I have experienced it”! It’s all the same familiar story as in all cases of spiritual deception – including those carried out in the name of the Church.

Soul travel, including absolute unquestioning submission to “spirit guides” is indeed a major pillar defining the religion of Eckankar and the opportunity for spiritual deception is as wide as the ocean! [Contrast this position with the Bible which stridently warns against spiritual deception and encourages that spirit beings be related to strictly as moderated by the Word of God, irrespective of feelings or perceived accuracies of the words brought. e.g. 1 Jhn 4:1, Gal. 1:8, 2 Cor. 11:14, Acts 16:16-17, etc)]. Coupled with other “benefits” such as adherents never needing to “dramatically alter [their] lifestyle”; a value-free sexual licence that includes endorsement of abortion (since an unborn child is proclaimed as not yet possessing a soul), etc Eckankar can now boast of some 50,000 members throughout the world. (Facts and figures from Eckankar official site, www.eckankar.org; but check also www.geocities.com/eckcult/, a site by an ex-member of Eckankar!)

Like all cultic religions, Eckankar has two faces to it – one for the public and the other for initiates. To the public, Eckankar is at peace with other

religions and indeed helps the individual to practice his religion better (whether christianity, islam or atheism!). To the initiates however, Eckankar is the only way of salvation:

“Eckankar is the highest of all paths to God... belief in anything except the Eck is false... it is not possible to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven except through the teachings of ECKANKAR”

(<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Cults/eckankar.htm>)

Of truth, the only fatal enemy Eckankar (like every other false religion) has, ultimately, is Biblical Christianity. The public façade of “tolerance” would not however permit a total all-out attack on Christianity; but the treatment of Christian concepts and values makes it clear to the initiates that Christianity is totally reprehensible. For instance Eckankar identifies the Lord God, Jehovah, as none other than Kal, the King of darkness - the nearest the religion dares go to admit the existence of a devil personality. The Lord Jesus is also identified a son of Kal Niranjan, (a wannabe Mahanta, who failed to fulfil his destiny etc) and of course, there was no “virgin birth”! Eckankar vehemently denies the existence of an “original sin”, which according to the Bible means that all men are born sinners and in need of the salvation brought by the Lord Jesus. Concerning “original sin” however, Eckankar teaches that “it’s one of the oldest pitfalls which [the Devil] could plan for keeping soul in ignorance of its true glory” – that’s straight from the mouth of the serpent at Eden, right? With approval given to teach this doctrine from the pit of hell in schools, it will be a relatively easy task luring young children – from all backgrounds – into Eckankar.

Most of Eckankar’s activities are in indeed directed at students; and in Nigeria, the few centres are located mostly at towns with some institution of higher learning. Eck worship services are held on Sundays 9 –10 am obviously to prevent attendees from considering going to Church (Many Moslem groups are now doing the same). It is sad that some highly placed officials at the Federal Ministry of Education believe that this kind of teaching is what is needed to improve the lot of Nigerian youths at the present time. In Britain, plans are underway to introduce “Atheism” as a course of study in primary and secondary schools to cater for children from “non-religions” backgrounds (CA! vol 7 No 2). Nigeria may well find itself on the same destructive path if Christians who are in positions of challenging these satanic moves will choose to prefer folding their hands and looking the other way. Here is the bottom-line: Should we allow our public schools become the mass recruitment centre for one of the fringe New Age religions? We say with Apostle Paul, “God forbid!”

EXHORTATION: BE DISCERNING

We are living in a time when history is racing toward a climax. The pattern of events which the prophets said would occur before the Second Coming of Christ are coming together rapidly. [A] great prophetic sign of the imminent return of Christ [is] the emergence of Satanic deceptions through the activity of counterfeit miracles and false prophets. The Apostle Paul prophesied that these counterfeits would be a part of the activities which would prepare the way for the great world dictator known as the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:9-10). The prelude to this dictator will be a build-up of supernatural phenomena through Satanic power.

Christian, be warned! You may see and be involved in acts which appear to be supernatural. You may be inclined to think "Wow, this must be of God; it's miraculous!"

Watch out.

Any time you submit yourself unreservedly to the spiritual realm, turn off your mind and cease to be discerning, you are opening yourself up to possible demon deception. As you study the Scriptures on this, you will find that even though you may be sincere, earnestly seeking God, not immoral or involved in some gross sin, this will not keep you from being deceived.

Jesse Penn Lewis tells how a great revival in Wales was completely neutralized by an invasion of demonic power. The demons began to get into this movement through people who sincerely wanted to know God in a deeper way and began to open themselves up for all kinds of spiritual contact and leading. You may say, "Well, if that's true, should I ever open myself up to God?" Of course you should. We are commanded to submit ourselves to Him. However, since there's more than one spirit which will try to contact us in the spiritual realm, we are warned to "try the spirits" to see whether they are of God or not. As we depend on the Holy Spirit and have the Word of God in our hearts, the Holy Spirit will never lead us contrary to His written word.

Hal Lindsey. Culled from Chapter 9 of his book: Satan is alive and well on Planet Earth*.

Church Arise! is published bi-monthly by the Church Arise! LivingWater Ministries (CALM), P.O. Box 1674, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.

This newsletter is mailed out free of charges to interested subscribers. To subscribe or for some reason end your subscription, simply send a note to that effect. **Books marked by * are available in our Library**

Financial donations are **most welcome** from children of God, as led by the Holy Spirit. Please address cheques to CALM, Ile-Ife. **Donations can be sent directly into our on-line account at First Bank Plc, Ile-Ife. Account No: 1992010018999.**

TOPICAL ISSUE: Eckankar for schools in Nigeria

While men of God like Bishop David Oyedepo are pushing hard for the re-structuring of the educational curricula in the country to ensure students graduate with definite practical skills relevant for the 21st century, government officials in charge of education apparently have different ideas.

The other time, it was "sexuality education" that was surreptitiously introduced into the educational curricula, right from Primary schools to University level in the country. Now, according to recent news reports, the Federal Ministry of Education "has already given approval" for the religion of Eckankar to be taught in Nigerian schools. According to Mr Francis Omidiji, Regional ECK Spiritual Aide for Nigeria, ECKANKAR will be introduced first to the "Unity Schools" where it will be taught alongside the traditional subjects of Christian /Islamic Religion Knowledge. (Punch Sept 17, page 8). This is another incredibly bold move by agents of the New Age Movement to take over the educational sector in Nigeria and eventually prepare the grounds for the antichrist, who most likely is patiently waiting in the wings somewhere. The excuse given to justify this move, with its serious social and costs implications, is simply "to counter the negative impressions the public may have on [Eckankar's] activities." Talk of trifling with education!

The bizarre history of Eckankar alone (freely available in the open literature, including the Internet) is enough to disqualify it from being mentioned in any serious circle, academic or otherwise. Founded in 1965 by maverick salesman, Paul Twitchell, the beliefs of Eckankar comprised of story lines from several occult traditions, weaved together on a Bhuddism backbone. Mr Twitchell actually had some running battle with fellow New Agers who accused him of plagiarizing several passages from other occult sources (including their grammatical errors, sometimes!) and claiming them to be divine inspiration personally received. However, there was at least one source Mr Twitchell gladly acknowledged as having provided "inspiration" for him: Helena Blavatsky! (Letter to Gail, book 2). [See Gary Kah's book: One World Religion* for further appreciation of who Blavatsky was to the occult world.]
→ pg 7.

Editor: Joshua O. Ojo

Editorial Board: Adesina Ademola Joanna Ojo

Dupe Adebajo Emmanuel Ariyibi Laja Osoniyi

Questions, comments and substantiated information of relevance to this newsletter are most welcome. We thank you for your continued interests and supports.

Library/Secretariat: 7 Conference Centre, OAU, Ile-Ife

Phone: 036-231387 or 0803 358 7882

e-mail: jojo@oauife.edu.ng Website: www.ChurchArise.org