
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

“...how is it that ye do not discern this time?” Luke 12:56

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From Zimbabwe

By Jewel Grewe

David and Jewel Grewe are in Zimbabwe for the next 10 months. David is the recipient of a Scholarship and will be teaching at the University and Jewel will be helping in various mission endeavors as will David during the week-ends. They will be sending regular reports on their ministry and work there.

Arriving in Zimbabwe again was like “returning home.” The people are so warm and friendly. When we visited here just over two years ago, the situation throughout the country was desperate. The shelves in all the grocery stores were empty. Petrol (gas) for the cars was scarce and very expensive. The Zimbabwean dollar had inflated beyond control and the citizens of the country found that their savings had dwindled to nothing. Cholera was starting to spread around the country also at that time.

However, we were pleasantly surprised to find once again the stores well stocked and most necessities readily available. The exchange rate is mainly in the U.S. dollar. When you get change, it will more than likely be in South African Rand, which is 7 Rand to the dollar at the present time. The prices are quite high for anything that has been imported from South Africa, etc. Bread is a bargain at \$1.00 a loaf for lovely homemade tasting bread. Unfortunately cigarettes are also very cheap at fifty cents a pack. For the most part, the Africans struggle as school fees for their children are quite high. They live simply off what they can grow. Many come to town and spread out vegetables to sell to earn a little here and there.

The only shortage now seems to be the power which is quite intermittent. For the past two days it has been wonderful as it has been on through the days until about 6:00 p.m. Once it goes out in the evening, we just wait until it is dark and put the generator on. The generator is not too powerful, so it cannot be used for the stove or refrigerator, but it can charge our computers and give us light until bedtime.

Last evening we had an interesting experience. We were both sitting in the living room reading with

the windows wide open when all of a sudden I saw something fly by. Soon the room was filled with many flying insects who would drop to the floor and lose their wings and crawl around. It was pouring rain outside and suddenly I remembered the “flying ants” that sometimes come in with the rains and realized we should have shut the windows quickly. It was a new experience for David and he was quite fascinated with watching them and “analyzing” their uniqueness. Needless to say, this morning there were many, many “wings” to clean and not a sight of any more with the sun shining brightly.

There are large hospitals in town but we hear that there is a serious shortage of equipment. In the remote villages there are many mission hospitals where many times people barter peanuts, chickens or whatever they may have to get medical attention. We have been in Bulawayo just over a week and have heard such sad stories from people who work with orphans and very sick children. The contacts in the church are precious and we are anticipating a wonderful time of fellowship with so many dear friends in Christ. No matter where you go in this country you ask someone if they “love Jesus” and their face will light up and say, “He is my best friend” or “I love Him so much.”

The Charismatic churches have had a huge impact in Africa. Other groups are involved as well. At the end of our street there is a Jehovah Witness Hall. We pass a Seventh Day Adventist on the way to town and on our bus trip from Harare to Bulawayo we saw a number of Mormon churches. The “limited” television programming we receive includes GodTV and also a channel that focuses on teaching the Koran with Clerics that go through the teachings very carefully.

The University is short on teachers and has asked David to fill in for some of their classes. Twice this week they have said they will send a driver (who hasn't shown up). So, David calls the school telling them he will be late... and proceeds with the 40 minute walk. So many things daily remind us that we just can't take anything for granted!

We arrived in Harare on New Year's Eve and on Sunday morning at our hotel we turned on the radio to hear an Anglican Priest say: "Many of the young people are going to Charismatic churches where they focus on singing and dancing but have forgotten the basic teachings of the Word." The day before a dear friend Bessie (a Zimbabwean whom we knew from West Lafayette, Indiana) had visited us. We had asked her if she had found a church. Her answer was a disappointed cry, "Oh, all they do at church is sing and dance."

Culturally Relevant... But Without the Gospel of Salvation

This music issue continues to be very controversial in many denominations as the trend is to become "relevant to the culture." When reading the book of Acts, the Apostle Paul stood firm against the culture of his day: "...*fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty pieces of silver. So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed.*" (Acts 19:17b – 20).

The culture today needs the Word of God just as desperately as in Paul's time. Books have proliferated the market place. Man's ideas know no boundaries. Being "spiritual" is also "in." In Paul's time the occult was strongly denounced. Today, it is viewed by many as another "door" to "hidden knowledge." There is a revival, but not the kind of revival that calls the church to repentance and holiness. The "revival" movements of the past 20 years have taken many into mysticism, where "experience" has replaced the wonder and glory of the Word of God.

When the Word takes a back seat to "so-called worship" – God is not given His rightful place. When His Word is not the high point of any service, there will be a falling away from the Gospel. "...*When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*" (Romans 1:21)

It is sobering to realize that God does not recognize our good works. "*But we are all as an*

unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6)

Another sobering thought: new churches are started every week with "cool" names to bring in the "seekers" and the "wanderers." Coffee bars invite the visitors to try their flavored latte. A service soon starts with the proper acoustics and latest instruments and equipment on a stage, "to appeal to the youth" they say. As more and more young people are "dumbed down" – the droning of any mindless tunes doesn't make them wonder why they are actually sitting there.

What has happened to Holy Passion? Could it be that "*When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God... and have become vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart darkened?*" This is serious because verse 24 of the same Chapter in Romans 1 says that "*God gives up such a person to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts.*"

It is impossible to know God through connecting with the Cosmos, have a mystical experience or be a part of the latest Christian Rock Band. Giving all your goods to feed the poor will not give you favor in the sight of God either.

The Old, Old Story

God only recognizes the merits of His Son! God created you for one reason and one reason alone. For fellowship with Him! Adam and Eve had a beautiful garden carefully laid out for them by God and they blew it. God knew that they wouldn't be faithful and He had already provided the Plan for mankind's salvation to restore him to the fellowship for which he was created.

God sent His Son, in the likeness of sinful man, at the appointed time to redeem mankind from the Fall. Throughout the Old Testament there were faithful witnesses. The Law had been given to Moses to make clear God's Plan for his chosen people. But the nations of the world continued to sin and wage a war against God and His Way. God's Chosen people also rebelled and forgot the God who led them faithfully through the wilderness. Psalm 2 describes the situation so aptly, "*The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against*

his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us.” (Psalm 2:2-3). And yet, in the 12th verse of the same Psalm, David says, “Kiss the Son lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.”

It is so incredible that the cord of God’s Plan threads throughout earliest time. Just as Rahab, by faith, did not perish with Jericho when the walls fell, she believed God and hung out the scarlet cord! And by faith Moses, who had every opportunity to be a prince, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, forsook Egypt, kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood on his doorpost. It is that incredible faith that God has required for our salvation.

Our faith is based on God’s marvelous grace and mercy, which we do not deserve. His grace has been given to us through His Son, Jesus who was born at the appointed time in human history. Yes, it is the old story – but it is ever as new as each new day because His grace and mercies are new every morning.

The only way to pass from death (an eternity without hope) to life (a new life here on earth and an eternal home) is received by faith because of the Grace and Mercy of God. Jesus is on the right hand of the Father continually making intercession for the saints. That is why we can carry on. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (I John 1:9).

Yes, it is the old old story... but tell it again and again. It is the story that will give the believer eternal life. This is the repetition that we need to hear today and the praises from our lips to be to our Redeemer and Saviour of our souls.

Tragically the Word of God has been set aside in many churches – not only in America. It is the burden of our hearts to stand for Jesus and lift up His name.

Being in Zimbabwe we are able to witness first hand the struggle that many that are standing firm for the Lord are facing. We want to be a blessing. If you are led to support the work here, just mark your contribution as “missions” and the funds will be solely for the needs amongst the African laborers in the vineyard who have been so faithful for so many years.

[Note to our readers: While David and Jewel Grewe are out of the country, Discernment Ministries will continue to operate as usual. If you need to contact us you can reach us at Discernment Ministries, PO Box 520, Canton, TX 75103- Phone (903) 567-6423. E-mail discernment@earthlink.net.

Our main website is still undergoing reconstruction at www.discernment-ministries.org. Our Herescope blog is regularly publishing new material at www.herescope.net.

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It's that simple!

By Pastor Anton Bosch

We often get questions relating to some new teaching that a pastor or some book is promoting. Sometimes the subject is a really complex one which flows from different interpretations of various Scriptures. But many times the answer is very easy and very simple.

One recent example relates to a pastor teaching about pyramids and how they predict certain end-time events. In another case, the pastor was teaching a “Daniel Fast,” which is basically bringing the Catholic Lent into a “protestant” church. In both cases we can wax very eloquent about the meaning of these things, their demonic or humanistic origins and so on. (Many times such doctrines do have real demonic sources.) But the answer to these and most other questions is really very simple: If it is not taught in the New Testament then we should have nothing to do with it.

Yes, it's that simple!

But why do I say the *New Testament*? Because we have to be very careful about how we use the Old Testament to formulate doctrine. All our doctrine is, and should be, clearly taught in the New Testament because the New Testament is the key to the Old Testament. Now stop before you accuse me of rejecting or minimizing the Old Testament. The Old is just as much part of the Bible as the New, and Jesus Himself said that heaven and earth will sooner pass away before the smallest part of the Old Testament will fail (Luke 16:17). But at the same time, the Old Testament can only be interpreted in the light of the New. In the Old Testament things are shown in

shadows and types that could easily be misinterpreted without the explicit teaching of the New Testament.

So, for example, Daniel's fast (Daniel 9:3) must be interpreted in the light of the New Testament teaching on fasting. Yes, Daniel did fast and it was a right thing for him to do. But where in the New Testament do we have an instruction to do the same? Quite simple: Nowhere! So can we form some teaching saying that Christians should fast for three weeks? No. We may fast if the Spirit leads us to do so, but we cannot establish a rule that we must fast. Besides, if you are going to follow Daniel's example then you had better dress in sackcloth and pour ashes on your head, because that is what he did. But Jesus clearly taught that we should not in that manner (Matthew 6:17—*"But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face"* NKJV).

The reality is that we can hardly go wrong by simply following the clear teaching of the New Testament. But the problem is that most Christians have not even begun to obey the New Testament, yet they spend their time searching the world for some esoteric teaching that makes them look clever or feel good.

This is exactly why Jesus was angry with the Pharisees of His day. They had added to the Scriptures, layer upon layer of man-made teaching. So for example, in the Talmud, they added to the simple command *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy"* (Exodus 20:8 NKJV), hundreds of rules and laws until it consumed a whole tractate consisting of 24 chapters, under 39 headings. All these rules were man-made but became as authoritative as God's Word. Jesus said *"you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition"* (Matthew 15:6 NKJV).

When we move away from the simplicity of God's Word, we do not get more light, but rather we obscure, confuse and obfuscate the Truth. In the case of the Bible, more is less. And the book of Revelation pronounces a serious curse on all who dare add to the words of the Book. *"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book"* (Revelation 22:18 NKJV).

The wonderful thing about the Bible is that everyone can understand it. You do not have to be a Bible scholar to talk to your pastor or teacher about his

fancy new theology. All you need to do is say: "Show me where it is written."

It's that simple!

If he cannot open the Bible and show a clear and obvious teaching that Christians should fast for three weeks a year, or if he cannot find the word "pyramid" (or something resembling the word) in the Bible then he should not even be mentioning those things, let alone build an entire doctrine on it.

It's that simple!

I am flabbergasted by people who have to find material in things other than the Bible. God's Word contains so much vital information, that we could not exhaust it in ten lifetimes, let alone put it all into practice. Anyone who has taken the time to study even part of the Bible will be overawed with the wealth of material contained between its covers. There is simply no need to go beyond it. Any teacher who feels the need to preach from something other than the Bible (including Christian books and Apocryphal books) has obviously never read God's Word, does not love the Word of God and does not fear the Lord.

Such people have fallen into the same sin as the Israelites, who craved the flesh of Egypt and who said of the Manna *"our soul loathes this worthless bread"* (Numbers 21:5 NKJV). In the New Testament the Lord warns that this is *"tempting Christ"* and that this could lead to our fall (1Corinthians 10:9, 12). This is a most serious warning because when we despise God's provision it shows that we are carnal and lust for what is worldly rather than what is spiritual. By no means is extra-biblical teaching a sign of intelligence or of depth; it is a sign of foolishness and stupidity, because we call God's wisdom foolishness and we elevate man's foolishness above God's wisdom (1Corinthians 1:18-31).

It is exactly this kind of pseudo cleverness that Paul addressed when he said of the Corinthians (and of us) *"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ"* (2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV). The task of teachers and leaders is not to impress or entertain people with intellectual niceties, it is to teach God's Word in simplicity and truth.

Just in case I have not been clear up to this point: If your pastor, teacher or guru has to look *outside* of the

Bible for things to preach, he is a false prophet and you are in danger listening to anything he has to say.

It's that simple!

Rather, let's resolve "*not to go beyond the things which are written*" (1 Corinthians 4:6 ASV).

It's that simple!

Follow the Path

By Sarah H. Leslie

*"Make me to go in the **path** of thy commandments; for therein do I delight."*
(Psalm 119:35)

Why would a Christian want to warn about the dangers of heresy? Are discerners just being busybodies, acting like know-it-alls, minding other people's business, looking for trouble, trying to agitate, or being contentious? (We should work very hard to not be like this!)

A good motive for warning someone about the dangers of heresy is because we love them and we are concerned for their walk with the Lord. Another good reason for warning is because it is a duty found in the Scriptures. The Apostle Paul provides a good example to us of a loving warning in Acts 20:31: "*Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to **warn** every one night and day **with tears**.*" Another good reason to warn is because we may happen to understand the dangers of a particular heresy. We may have a prior firsthand experience that cannot be easily discounted or dismissed.

I've noticed that the Bible often connects the avoidance of heresy with the idea of walking in the right path. Our Christian life is often described as a walk. For example, Romans 6:4 says we "*should **walk** in newness of life*" and Romans 8:4 reminds us to "***walk** not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*" Romans 13:13 and 1 Thess. 4:12 both say to "***walk** honestly.*" Several times we are reminded to "***walk** worthy*" of the Lord (1 Thess. 2:12; Col. 1:10; Eph. 4:1). Proverbs 4:14 warns us to "*enter not into the **path** of the wicked, and go not in the **way** of evil men.*" And Psalm 1 begins with "*Blessed is the man that **walketh** not in the counsel of the ungodly....*"

When I was a young parent, I learned that warning about danger is part of natural affection. When toddlers and young children begin to crawl, walk and run, we parents cry out warnings: "Don't touch that!"... "Stop, or you could get hurt!"... "Quit doing that!"... "Slow down!"... "Stay here by me!"....

I've observed that when a believer warns a brother or sister in the Lord with similar admonitions, "Don't touch that!"... "Stop, or you could be hurt!" the warning isn't always appreciated or heeded. In fact, it is a common experience for warnings to be rebuffed or dismissed as the hypersensitivity of an overly-cautious saint. Sometimes the manner in which the warning is delivered isn't perfect, and this shortcoming is then used as an excuse for not listening to the warning. Why is it so hard to hear a warning? Well, some of it has to do with our human nature, our carnality. It isn't pleasing to our flesh to be corrected, reproved, warned or cautioned. One must have a teachable spirit in order to accept warnings. It also requires a willingness to check out the warning in the light of Scripture to see if there is some merit to it. (See Acts. 17:10-11.)

Sandstone Paths

I have often meditated on the Scriptures about "paths" and how they relate to biblical discernment. I grew up in central Illinois, not far from a state park called Starved Rock. Starved Rock is a sandstone cliff with a very unique history and geology. The cliff overlooks the Illinois River and offers a magnificent view. The reason for its name is that, according to native legend, a group of Illini Indians were pursued by other tribes to this large butte where they were held and starved to death.

During my childhood I spent many hours hiking along the paths of this park. My parents, who also grew up in Central Illinois, were very familiar with this park and enjoyed taking us there. Mom and Dad would often warn me and my siblings to "stay on the path" when we walked through this park. Mom told us sad stories of people who had strayed from the path and fallen to their death. She lost a good friend this way. And once she almost fell off the cliff; she was grabbed by the arm and pulled back at the last minute. My father, who was always very concerned about safety, would point to the signs along the path. These signs simply warned us to stay on the path. But Dad said we needed to know the reason why. He explained that 1)

sandstone is very slippery, and 2) sandstone is a very fragile rock and an outcropping can easily break off.

I also spent many summers attending a camp not too far from this park. It was full of the same beautiful geological features of sandstone cliffs and caverns. I learned very quickly that sandstone is one of the most treacherous types of rock to walk upon, that the slightest bit of moss or moisture can make it extremely slippery. More than once I fell on the path, slipping from a rock upon which I had thought I had a sure footing. It didn't seem to matter what kind of shoe I was wearing. I learned that walking on sandstone required not only good dexterity and balance, but often some sort of outside support like a tree limb, a root, or a walking stick that we could grab onto. At times I had to resort to crawling on all fours.

Veering off the marked sandstone paths could be treacherous and perilous. Sadly, my brothers lost a good friend at Starved Rock. He had been a difficult child, rowdy, very disobedient to his parents, and always in trouble at school. He joined the military at a young age and everyone hoped that the discipline of the military might help him settle down. When he got back from the service he visited Starved Rock where he began to clown around. He ignored the warning signs and went near the edge of the cliff. He fell to his death.

Slippery Paths

Psalm 17:5 says, "*Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.*" In my teenage years I got involved with meditation, eastern religions, mysticism and all of the other things that came with the hippie culture of the late 1960s and early 1970s. I didn't heed the warning signs and took every opportunity to stand as close to the edge of life's cliffs as I could. In fact, I adopted a credo called "kicks." I would do anything for "kicks" just once. Well, "kicks" proved to be a terrible philosophy.

I explored the mystical paths. I was a slow learner (what the Bible calls "a fool") so I began to know all of these paths by heart, making the same mistakes over and over again. I learned just how far one could walk along the path of meditation or altered states of consciousness before encountering evil spirits. I soon found out that searching into the occult produced terrible fruit. Every other world religion eventually leads to darkness, despair and emptiness. And I discovered that mystical kinds of peace, joy, love and

beauty were dangerous mirages. Sadly, I lost some friends on these paths, fellow seekers who got too close to the cliff and fell off to their death. My own life was miraculously preserved.

It wasn't very long before I realized that many of the old occult paths upon which I had formerly trod were being treacherously and deceptively converted into "Christian" appearing walkways. Billed as some "new thing" that would make believers more "spiritual," or promising some sort of higher self-esteem or deeper self-fulfillment, these paths all started out by looking quite benign, even helpful.

I began to warn believers when I saw them entering into the same mystical realms that I had once left and repented of! Why? Because I had inside knowledge about these trails! I knew from prior experience that a path along a beautiful vista could become horrifyingly unstable. I knew where there were weak and vulnerable spots, deep caverns just off the established trail where slippery sandstone lurked, often hidden underneath green moss. Sadly, over the years I have lost many Christian friends on these same paths, believers who thought they could play with a little bit of heresy or sin. They got too close to the cliff, and some even fell to their death!

Sometimes the warning to stay on the path just doesn't seem all that dangerous from our own limited viewpoint (Gen. 3:6). But Scripture informs us that just off the main path there are all sorts of allurements that can entice the senses. Leaving the narrow way quickly leads to perilous rabbit trails. These side routes rapidly diverge from biblical orthodoxy. A few little detours, a bypass here and there, a couple of extra steps onto a rock overhang.... What could be the harm in that? Who could object to exploring just a bit outside the boundary? Why not mosey closer to the cliff for a grander view? Why not roam over to grassy edges? What could be wrong with tiptoeing across sandstone rocks to see tiny little wildflowers?

God's Word posts warnings along all of the pathways of a believer's life. There are plenty of "don't do" type messages warning us not to stray off of the narrow way. The Bible even warns about "slippery" paths, like the sandstone paths at Starved Rock (Ps. 35:6; 73:18; Jer. 23:12). Scripture also offers blessings for those who stay obediently on the narrow path. Psalm 23:3 says, "*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*" In the New Testament we learn that we should

follow Jesus on this path: “*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps*” (1 Peter 2:21) and “*Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good...*” (3 John 1:11a). Hebrews 12:1-2 says our eyes should be “*looking unto Jesus,*” not at the sideshows.

Job 24:13 warns us: “*They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof.*” 2 Peter 2 graphically warns believers about following the wrong ways: “*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*”

My favorite Scriptural passage about following God’s “way” is found in Psalm 119. A study of this lengthy Psalm reveals that learning and following God’s Word, His testimonies, precepts, law, commandments, statutes and judgments in Scripture, will preserve and protect us along the path of life. The familiar verse 105 reminds us that:

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

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Friday: 8th April, 2011

8:30am - Registration

9:00am to 10:00am - Pastor Jeff Whittaker
Primer on Postmodernism and the Emergent Church

Break

10:30am to 11:30am - Lynn Leslie
Separation from the New Emergent Church

Break - Luncheon Provided / Book Tables

1:30pm to 2:30pm - Pastor Larry DeBruyn
Dialogue with Deception

Break

3:00pm to 4:00pm - Sarah Leslie
Confessions of an Ex Mystic

Break

7:00pm to 9:00pm - Pastor Jeff Whittaker
Truth about the Holy Spirit vs. the Deception

Saturday: April 9th, 2011

9:00am to 10:00am - Pastor Larry DeBruyn
Evolving into Utopia

Break

10:30am to 11:30am - Pastor Jeff Whittaker
The Old Problems with the New Apostles

Break - Luncheon Provided / Book Tables

1:30pm to 2:30pm - Pastor Larry DeBruyn
Bewitched! Evil Eye over Evangelism!

Break

3:00pm to 4:00pm - Sarah Leslie
The Story of the Rise of a New Social Gospel

4:00pm to 5:00pm - Panel Discussion
Lynn & Sarah Leslie, Pastor Jeff Whittaker,

Pastor Larry DeBruyn

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Discerning the Times Conference

The New Foundation Church

April 8-9, 2011

Holiday Inn

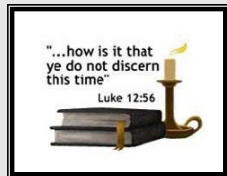
1-83 & PA Turnpike
148 Sheraton Drive
New Cumberland, PA

Reservations: (717) 774-2722

Speakers: Lynn & Sarah Leslie, Pastor Jeffrey Whittaker & Pastor Larry DeBruyn

Contact person for questions about the area: Lynn Bennett – 717 975-2556
Nearest Airport: Harrisburg International (30 minutes from venue)

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Complete the form below to register for this conference, and mail to Discernment Ministries at address below. **The cost will be \$20.00 per person per day** and will include a luncheon.

The deadline for registration will be Friday - **March 25, 2011**

Full Name of each attendee: (Please print clearly - Name badges can be picked up at the conference)

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.

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