
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

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

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Recent Trip to Zimbabwe

By Charlotte Stucki

Two months ago my vocabulary did not include words like *Bulawayo*, *Chipinge*, *Mutare*, *Masvingo*, *Gweru* and *Gwanda*. Nor *pan* (a water hole), *bore hole* (a well), *Ndebele* (a people group), *sudza*, *mealie meal* (the staple diet). Today, the mention of any one of those names or places brings with them a rush of sounds, sights, smells and tastes. The memories of the country and the people have engraved a special and eternal place in my soul!

With our suitcases and duffle bags filled to the brim with gifts for the babies' home and the fledgling Theological College of Southern Africa (TCSA), headquartered in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Morgan and I arrived in that country on August 24. It was my first trip to Africa, though not the first time I had visited a third world country. Because of this, the culture shock was almost nil. However, there were still many surprises, and I knew that a month of adventure, of learning, of both giving and receiving was in store for both of us. Morgan is a young member of our local congregation in Michigan and I have affectionately dubbed her my "Timothea." She was a great traveling companion and found her niche with the many babies that we encountered in our travels. We flew into Zimbabwe via Johannesburg, South Africa, where John and Julie Leo graciously hosted us, providing food and rest, on both our arrival and return flights. Thank you, dear friends!

We spent the first week with Jewel and David Grewe, recovering from the very long flight from Detroit to Bulawayo and getting acclimated to our new environment. This

included days filled with bright sunshine and mild temperatures from dawn to dusk—going several hours without electricity every day, trying to remember to enter the car on the “driver’s side” (which is really the passenger side in this country) to which the British introduced driving on the left side of the road, and of course, functioning on “African time” which could be anywhere from an hour or two later than the scheduled time.

One of our first meetings was held in the newly painted and refurbished room which houses the Bible College. Here I was introduced to many of the local pastors. I could not hold back the tears as they began to sing as only African believers can sing—without any instrumental accompaniment—simply voices blended together, powerfully, harmoniously, fervently, in prayer and praise to the Living God. It was an honor to meet these godly men who have endured much hardship in recent years, and yet they remain committed to their Lord and to the call that He has placed upon their lives to preach the glorious Gospel of Christ. It is also a privilege for me personally, and for our church fellowship in Michigan, to partner with these dear ones as they commit themselves to further training in the Word of God in order to even more effectively feed the flocks which God has given them.

Our first pastors wives seminar was held in the same room in Bulawayo. It was well attended and the Word of God that Jewel and I shared was warmly received. From there, we set off on a nine day circuit around the country in Jewel and David's little Toyota. Morgan and I bounced along in the rear seat with Jewel in the front. Pastor Tham was at the wheel most of the time, lovingly and joyfully driving us the many miles of this Zimbabwean odyssey! We had

meetings at each of the above-mentioned places. Many of the women traveled long distances, carrying their babies on their backs, riding in overcrowded “combies” (small vans). They were eager to receive the teaching that was geared to encourage them to become joint partners with their husbands in ministry.

The specific burden and teaching that the Lord had laid upon my heart was to help them to view ministry—as well as all of life, relationships, home, trouble, church life—in the larger context of God’s Eternal Purpose from even before the foundation of the world. We so often become discouraged by temporal and immediate circumstances that we lose sight of the Greater and Grander Picture in which the glory of God is being revealed to us, in us and through us; the Eternal Reality that He conforming us to the Image of His Son, the Lord Jesus, and that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us when He appears and we see Him face to face.

We also taught in depth that the character and life of Jesus the Holy Spirit forms in His servants is that of lowliness and humility, not of self-aggrandizement and exaltation. The true minister/servant of God is one in whom the mind of Christ rules, i.e., *“let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”* He Who was equal with God did not consider that equality something to be grasped, but gave up the independent use of His Divine attributes, made Himself of no reputation, humbled Himself, took upon Him the form of a servant, was made in the likeness of man, and being found in fashion as a man, humbled Himself (still further), and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.” He Who was the Highest became the Lowest, and in that lowliness revealed the true Glory of God, the Servant whose ear is pierced, Who has no will but His Master’s, who chooses the blood sprinkled Highway of Calvary, of death so that others may live. Paul, in his writings, echoed

that spirit when he refused the acclaim of men and acknowledged that he was nothing other than a messenger by whom others believed in His Lord.

In Zimbabwe, as in many other places around the world, the corrupted “gospels” of prosperity, of celebrity, of seeking “higher levels” of power, authority and spirituality, of proclaiming one’s own destiny in the heavens, of envisioning one’s own dreams, *ad nauseum*, are being imported at an alarming rate. We saw colorful posters pasted everywhere in the larger cities advertising great crusades featuring super-apostles who promise all sorts of “lying wonders and vanities” to the gullible, Biblically ignorant masses. Most, if not all, of this perversion comes from the USA, via Nigeria and Ghana. It is, of course, the ongoing perpetration of the deceitful satanic pride that convinced man in the Garden that he could be a god and that the way up was up.

My hope and prayer was that the Word that we shared with these precious women would remind them that God’s way is always to seek to know the power of Love (Love is not proud, does not seek her own), not the love of power. And to see in the Lord Jesus, the One Who embodied and demonstrated the life of a true Servant who came not to be served, but to serve and to give His Life a Ransom for many. Because He humbled Himself, God has highly exalted Him, and it is the joy of those who truly serve Him today to proclaim His Cross, His Resurrection, His glories, His Lordship, His Eternal Priesthood, His All Sufficient Grace for those who are poor in spirit, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, and willing to receive HIM as God’s perfect Provision for time and Eternity.

Our ongoing prayer is that the message of the true Gospel of salvation through the blood of the Lamb, of the life transforming power in the Book, and the expectation of the Blessed Hope, will be sounded clearly in the coming days

throughout Zimbabwe. May the voices of both His sons and daughters be heard prophetically, “forth-telling” the wonders of His Person and His Finished Work on Calvary's Cross.



The “tree house” where Jewel and David stayed.

From Zimbabwe, Jewel writes: Last week David took me to the Game Park for my birthday. It was quite fun. We saw 100 elephants at once at a water hole. Incredible! We stayed at a tree house. They served us dinner on a viewing platform—in the dark with gas lamps. Five huge bull elephants came to that watering hole.



Platform where Jewel had her birthday dinner.



A watering hole where Jewel saw the five bull elephants drinking the water.

Beware of *Mind Up*

By Lanette Irwin

Goldie Hawn of the Hawn foundation.org has unleashed a new curriculum called *Mind Up*. The curriculum has a long list of teachers, Ph.D.s, and a neuroscientist who have been working with her to promote a practice in the classroom that will calm the students. On *Nightline* (viewed 9/27/2011) Goldie Hawn said that “many children are depressed and do not have the skills to calm themselves down therefore this increases bullying and aggressive behavior.” She also claimed one out of three children are on medication. So they designed a curriculum from K-12 that teaches metaphysics and mind altering techniques as a solution to the problem.

In fact, one child experienced bullying, and when he tried to explain the other child’s behavior to his mother, the reason given was that “...the boy did not use his pre-frontal cortex to make good decisions and he often acted that way because of his amygdala. His mom was amazed.”

Hawn claims that there has been a 30-50% improvement in children’s behavior since they

have instituted this *Mind Up* program in the schools. On their website they claim 82% become more optimistic. The website also claims 100% of teachers thought *Mind Up* positively influenced the students. Hawn claims that “this is science” and says that she has been involved in the research of the brain for over ten years. However, in fact, it is not science but religion which is packaged in eastern metaphysics— from guided imagery, visualization, meditation, and connecting with the earth, and using the chime (a bell) as a way to get them re-focused.

There are two front scientific advisory council members. One is Amishi Jha PhD who is one of the featured teachers at the Upaya Institute Zen center. Then there is the second member of the board, Kimberly Schonert Reichl, and she is a featured speaker with the Dalai Lama Center.

What makes this so dangerous is the fact they are teaching the kids “neuroscience” as a reason to the why they need Buddhism in their life. This removes the “religious” aspect and places religion in the scientific mold. The *Mind Up* program has already been launched throughout many schools, the Boy’s and Girls Clubs, and the YMCA (such as Akron Ohio) according to the Foundation’s website. According to the *Mindbodygreen* website <http://www.mindbodygreen.com/0-410/Goldie-Hawn-to-Set-Up-Meditation-School-in-UK.html> the curriculum *Mind Up*

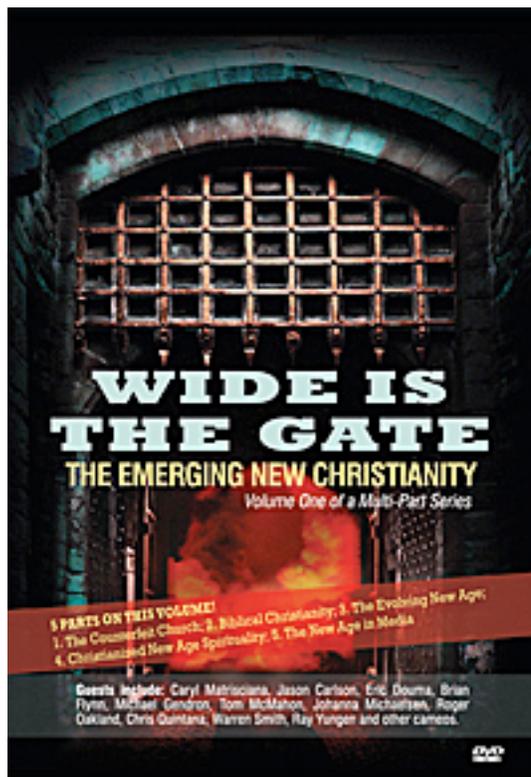
...is already used in over 1,000 schools in the U.S. and Canada and aims to improve concentration and incorporates eastern meditation. The curriculum is designed for children from K to 7 and includes fifteen lessons across four units which include titles such as "Quieting the Mind: Sharpening the Focus" and "Mindful of Ourselves in the World."

Scholastic is one of the main distributors of the curriculum. This program will only spread like wildfire. I suggest that as a parent you attend school boards and suggest to them that religion has been re-packaged under the name of

“science,” and “Buddhism” is what is being taught. Let them know as a parent and a Christian you will not just stand by but will remove your child from its influence.

THREE NEW FILMS

Reviewed by Sarah Leslie



Wide Is The Gate:
The Emerging New Christianity
Produced by Caryl Matrisciana

It gradually dawns on you, or comes suddenly. You recognize you have a problem going on at your church. You have noticed new teachings coming in. There are new terminologies, new concepts, and some unusual ideas about what it means to do ministry. The youth group is off doing strange new activities such as prayer walks, prayer furnaces or community service without the Gospel. People are reading books

that seem like New Age mysticism. Hip leaders are being quoted as exciting new sources of biblical insight, but you recognize these names as those from the Emergent movement. Materials from certain authors are being used, but you don't know anything about them, and when you start to research them on the Internet some red flags come up—you discover they have some questionable associations and they don't even believe what your church believes. Some of this new stuff seems so innocuous, even intriguing, perhaps even exciting. But you sense something is off, something isn't quite right. What is going on here? And how can you address it?

I recently became aware of a new resource for discerning folks who are experiencing troubling things like this. A month ago I was preparing to travel to the Women on the Watch conference in Cypress, California. In preparation I watched Part 1 of Caryl Matrisciana's new DVD *Wide Is The Gate: The Emerging New Christianity*. I was pleasantly surprised to see two good discernment friends on this DVD, Johanna Michaelson and Warren Smith. And there were other well-known godly discerners including Michael Gendron, Tom McMahon, Roger Oakland, Ray Youngen, etc.

But what really caught my eye was the exceptionally high quality of this production. It is professional, top notch—a well made film from start to finish. It captures the eye, the interviews are riveting, the graphic images are intense* and illustrative of the point at hand, and the message is based on solid biblical apologetics defending the faith against heresies in eastern mysticism.

This is about how the New Age (the old age occult) mysticism is coming into the church. Some of those being interviewed have had firsthand experience—their credentials are that they lived it, they know it, and they recognize it! And they are warning that it is coming into the church, and how this is happening. Caryl Matrisciana, whose own personal testimony has

to do with coming out Hinduism, has done a remarkable job of clearly explaining everything.

Immediately I recognized that this DVD with its 5 parts, each 40 minutes long, was perfectly suited for group viewing. This was the kind of DVD that could be shown to small groups, Bible studies, Sunday or Wednesday night church services, Sunday school classes, youth groups (especially!), friends, neighbors, family members... the list could go on and on. Grab some pop and chips and bake a pan of brownies. This is a good time to call up a few folks to watch it with you. Be prepared for some in depth discussion. This film will provoke it. And get ready for a few folks to repent afterwards. For those of you who welcome a chance for evangelism, this is a great DVD—it gives you some wide open doors to minister to people.

I actually watched this DVD piecemeal and out of order. Perhaps that was providential. I next watched Part 3, which Caryl showed to us at the women's conference. The conference, by the way, was held at the Calvary Chapel in Cypress where Chris Quintana pastors. He was one of the experts interviewed for the DVD. At the ending session of the conference I was excited to meet Paris Alexander, who had once worked with the [Tony Robbins](#) organization. Caryl had led this beautiful woman to the Lord and has been discipling her. Now Paris tells an amazing inside story about how these popular life coaches and self-help motivators are using occult techniques.

A few weeks went by. When I had a chance to watch again, I saw Parts 4 and 5 together. The basic message of *Wide Is The Gate*, as it unfolds, is that there is a New Age movement, its history and roots. There is a special focus on the Beatles movement and how its occult mysticism began to impact American culture. The film then moves on to show how this has entered the church. Names are named and the film is loaded with plenty of exhibits

documenting the progression. For those of us, like me, who came out of New Age mysticism, repented, and then lived to see the very same thing enter the churches, it is a hard thing to watch without some recollections and grieving. It explains why some of us do discernment work, because we care enough to warn others about the dark side of this enticing “New Spirituality.”

Finally, I watched Part 2 at the last. It is called “Biblical Christianity” and I watched it on a Sunday morning when I had a bad cold and stayed home from church. I had actually thought that maybe this section might be a little redundant or boring. I sure got that wrong! I came away realizing that this is the best section of the whole film! I can understand why Caryl put it as Part 2, but I really liked it better at the conclusion. This section clearly explains the vast difference between biblical Christianity and New Age “New Spirituality.” It is the most important part of the whole film. In particular, Warren Smith and Johanna Michaelson do a tremendous job of explaining the “god within” concept versus the biblical message of salvation that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins. It doesn’t get any clearer than this—they did a great job!

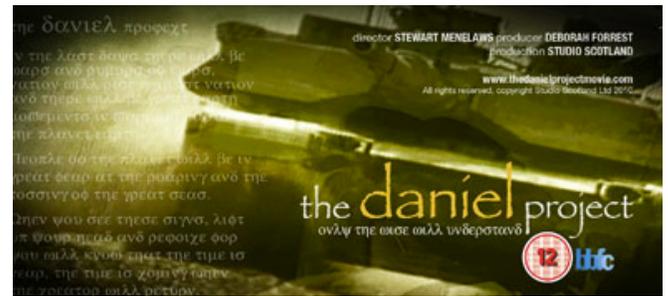
The simple subtitles don’t really do it justice. These five sections on this comprehensive DVD are jam-packed with informative material:

1. The Counterfeit Church
2. Biblical Christianity
3. The Evolving New Age
4. Christianized New Age Spirituality
5. The New Age in Media

Be sure to check it out. Save your pennies and buy a copy. It will be worth it. The following webpage links will get you started so you can order a copy for yourself:

Go to www.caryl.tv where you can find all of Caryl Matrisciana’s great films. Click on the *Wide Is the Gate* visual get information about the DVD. View a trailer for *Wide Is The Gate* <http://www.youtube.com/user/CarylTV>. Phone orders to 951-301-1101.

**Some graphic images are clear depiction of occult symbols, and they are so intense at times that they may be difficult for some people to watch.*



THE DANIEL PROJECT

Produced by Deborah Menelaws

This film was also shown at the women’s conference in California and it is the most inspiring look at biblical prophecy I’ve ever seen. The special dynamic of this film is that it was made for a SECULAR audience – this means that you can show it to unbelievers, non-believers, skeptics and fence-sitters. But this is also a very appropriate film to show to church groups, evening services, Bible studies or youth groups. Be prepared for interesting discussions.

The film gives an amazing factual countdown of already-fulfilled endtime biblical prophecy. Point by point, the film looks at each significant historical event that has brought the nation of Israel to the forefront of the international stage.

The perplexing question about why Israel is so controversial is examined from many angles. A number of interesting experts from very diverse perspectives are interviewed, including archeologists, several Hebrew scholars, an economist, an agricultural researcher, and several international global crisis experts. The film prominently features Jacob Prash, the director of Moriel Ministries.

Because it is solid biblically, this film provides an excellent countermeasure to dispute the false eschatologies by such various Dominionist groups, including the New Apostolic Reformation. In fact, it is a good reminder that biblical prophecy is still unfolding, and that there are many still-outstanding prophecies yet to be fulfilled. For the skeptics, this is a powerful witness to a literal fulfillment of some obscure Old Testament verses—verses that may not have ever made much sense unless the Jewish people were actually back in their land again. After nearly 2000 years, the phenomenal record of the emergence of a new (old) nation is one of the potent topics on this film.

The film producers issued a statement to explain their unusual aim for this production:

We believe that recorded eschatological events found within ancient biblical texts merit serious investigation primarily because of the impact they claim to present to the human race and its environment. If there is truth behind these claims, then the resultant concluding effect on every living creature on this earth will be significant, if not catastrophic. Our research into these claims, particularly historical prophecy fulfillment, offers the possibility, and perhaps even the likelihood, that such future events are inevitable.

The trend within the broadcast industry is to avoid this topic due to a lack of relevant knowledge, dealing with it in a less than rational approach ie sensationalist, just being afraid of the subject altogether or because it is seen as "religious" and therefore nonsensical. Studio Scotland has taken a bold challenge to present this subject the way it should have been presented, where previous attempts have fallen short. With all preconceived beliefs and arrogances put to one side, individuals should be given the opportunity to know the facts in a rational, easy to understand manner, making informed decisions about how they will deal with destiny should these future predictions become reality.

The film is narrated by Jeremy Hitchen, who approaches the task as a resident skeptic, but

reasonable, rational, teachable and with an open mind. His ongoing commentary as each successive prophecy is depicted, gives an added personal depth to the film. The extra segments are especially of interest. One segment has a clear and compelling presentation of the Gospel of Salvation, which makes it a great evangelistic tool. (Be sure to get the Bonus DVD version so you get all of these fascinating extras!)

To order *The Daniel Project*, visit: www.thedanielproject.tv or <http://www.thedanielprojectmovie.com/> Spend some times scrolling around the website and see all of the extra materials. Watch the trailer here: <http://www.thedanielprojectmovie.com/trailer.htm> A contact for e-mail is: info@thedanielproject.tv

DVD – The Battle against the Queen of Heaven on Mt. Everest

By Mike Oppenheimer, Let Us Reason Ministries

We watched this video and wrote about it on Herescope in an article titled “Spiritual Warfarers Battle Real Mountain,” 12/4/10. <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2010/12/spiritual-warfarers-battle-real.html>

This DVD is an expose of the incredibly bizarre false claims made by the International Spiritual Warfare Network of the New Apostolic Reformation that they actually scaled Mt. Everest to battle the Queen of Heaven. This is the story of how Ana Mendez under the approval of Peter Wagner went with Rony Chaves, Silvia Venezuela, Doris Wagner and others to Nepal. Doris and Silvia led a group in spirit warfare prayer at the Everest View hotel. Mendez and Chaves, with a few others, hiked Mt. Everest to Battle the Queen of Heaven and defeat her so Babylon would be overthrown. Did they really do this? Watch the amazing video and read the Let Us Reason website documents posted at:

<http://www.letusreason.org/Latrain64.htm>
<http://www.letusreason.org/Latrain65.htm>
<http://www.letusreason.org/Latrain77.htm>

To order this DVD go to this webpage:
<http://letusreason.org/DVDeverest.htm>