
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 24, Number 3

May/June 2013

So, What’s the Problem With Yoga?

By Terry Mulberry*

There is no question that the demands of our culture’s lifestyles cause stress and hardship for both our bodies and our spirits. The issue is not about whether or not we should take opportunities to de-stress, but in how we do so. Clearly Jesus took time away from the crowds. So, can Yoga practices help us—body, soul and spirit? Or can it deceive us by initiating us into New Age practices? Most church denominations throughout the centuries denounced Yoga as a heathen practice. What has changed? Have we come to better understand it, only to realize that it is not as bad as we originally thought? Can Yoga be redeemed so that Christians can enjoy its benefits? Can we transform it into a Christian practice?

DEFINITION OF YOGA

The word “Yoga” comes from the Sanskrit meaning “yoke.” The Hindu concept has to do with being yoked with the universal mind (not a personal God, but an impersonal force or energy). The ultimate result is to realize one’s own inner divinity. The Hindu idea is that our physical bodies hold our spirits in bondage. The goal of Yoga, then, is to release this inner divine spirit so that it may yoke with or unite with the universal mind. This dovetails perfectly with New Age thought that all humanity is evolving into one consciousness so that we may ultimately realize our own divinity (the “god within”).

There are various kinds of Yoga disciplines. The most popular in the U.S is Hatha Yoga. Christian researcher Marcia Montenegro¹ explains:

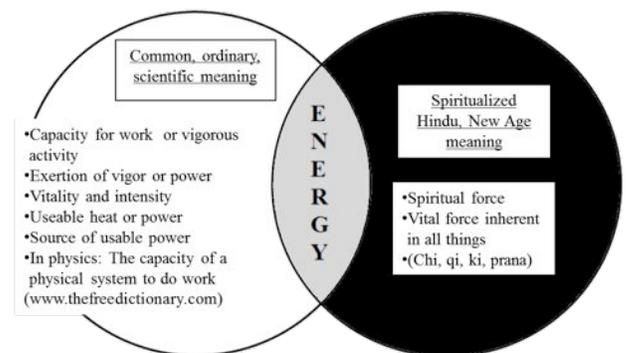
*Hatha Yoga can be thought of as the means of attaining union through developing control of the physical body (J. Gordon Melton, New Age Encyclopedia, p. 207). Hatha Yoga uses various postures called asanas. **Many asanas are based on postures that honor Hindu deities who manifest themselves in forms such as the sun, the tiger, the tree, the snake, etc.** Asanas were designed to aid in meditation and to strengthen the body for the strenuous mental exercises (Feuerstein, p. 24) leading to realization of the true divine self, and eventually to samadhi, union with the divine (Feuerstein, p. 34; Melton, p. 501).² [Emphasis mine]*

These Yogic postures were obviously designed to honor pagan deities and to foster the stamina needed for New Age meditation. As such, they can hardly be called “Christian.” But many believe that they can integrate Yoga with Christianity.

CONFUSION OF TERMS

How can Christians be persuaded that Yoga is okay? One reason may have to do with terminology. Practitioners of Yoga (and other alternative health disciplines), both “Christian” and Hindu, use common terms such as *energy*, *spirit*, and *meditation* but the meanings differ. It is in these common words with differing definitions where the confusion and deception take place. The technical term for this is the *dialectic*.³ We may use the term *energy* in a common ordinary sense, while the person we are talking with may be using the term in a New Age sense.⁴ We will erroneously think that we understand each other; however, a “shift” takes place. If we continue without realizing the differences, either we ourselves, or others with whom we have influence, will gradually adopt the new meaning. We know that Satan is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44), the master deceiver. From the very beginning He deceived by twisting God’s words (Gen. 3:1-14). He has had millennia to perfect his craft.

The illustrations that follow show the meanings of three terms used in yogic practices that cause confusion for many Christians – “energy”, “spirit”, and “meditation”:



and embrace the Gospel of salvation found in only in the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No man comes to the father but by Me”* (Jn. 14:6). Jesus Christ upholds all things by the Word of His power; *“By Him, all things consist”* (Col. 1:17). And Jesus holds the keys of life and death (Rev. 1:18).

A recent Herescope article, “Not Prana,” expressed the crucial distinction between the Holy Spirit and the New Age “life force”:

These two quotations below illustrate the mindset of eastern mysticism:

Prana is a **subtle invisible force**. It is the **life-force** that pervades the body. It is the factor that connects the body and the mind, because it is connected on one side with the body and on the other side with the mind. It is the connecting link between the body and the mind. The body and the mind have no direct connection. They are connected through Prana only.

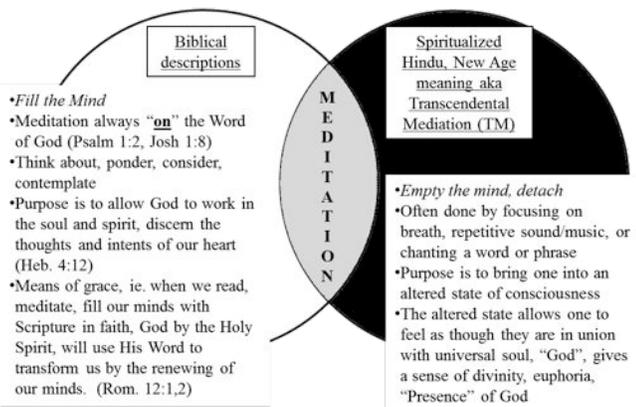
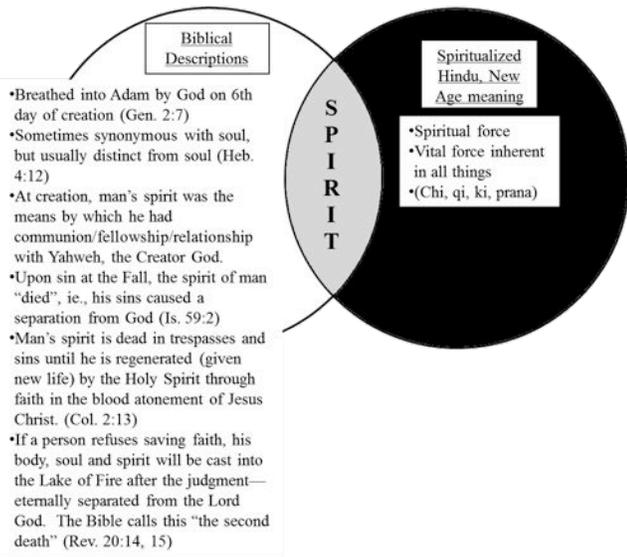
Yoga works primarily with the **energy** in the body, through the science of pranayama, or energy-control. **Prana means also ‘breath.’** Yoga teaches how, through **breath-control**, to **still the mind** and attain **higher states of awareness**. The higher teachings of Yoga take one beyond techniques, and show the yogi, or Yoga practitioner, how to direct his concentration in such a way as not only to **harmonize human with divine consciousness**, but to **merge his consciousness in the Infinite**.

The eastern worldview errs by attempting to connect with the divine through various mystical activities. The eastern mind uses meditative mechanisms to encounter the world of the spirit and become one with it. In the corruption that is called "Christian mysticism," the Holy Spirit becomes confused with a "force," something that can be manipulated by mystical pursuits in order to achieve a higher order of spirituality.

The Holy Spirit is downgraded from a Person in the Trinity to becoming a means of "connection" to spirituality itself, often presented as a chief "spirit" among many in the modern pantheon.⁵

BIBLICAL MEDITATION vs NEW AGE MEDITATION

Also significant is the opposition between New Age meditation (Transcendental Meditation or TM) and Biblical meditation. Rather than “emptying” the mind



THE HOLY SPIRIT vs “LIFE FORCE”

Notice some important distinctions about the diagrams. The New Age definition of “spirit” and “energy” are synonymous, but both are contrary to the Scripture. The Bible denies the impersonal “life force” of creation (*chi, ki, or prana*) inherent in Yogic teachings. The God of the Bible is a personal God—separated from His creation.

- He alone created the universe and is sovereign over it.
- He alone gives the breath of life and initiates that life.
- He has written all our days in His book (Ps. 139:16).
- Only God, through His Spirit, is able to regenerate fallen mankind when they repent

like Eastern practitioners, Christians instead “ponder” or focus their thoughts actively upon the written Word of God. God, through His Spirit, works through His Word to transform believers by renewing their minds. Christians who practice Contemplative Spirituality,⁶ however, teach that by repeating a word or phrase such as “Jesus,” “peace,” “I love you,” etc., and/or by passively “emptying” their mind, that they will reach a sense of union or communion with God and attain a “higher” form of spirituality. These practices are related to New Age meditation and TM. Simply switching out Hindu words and phrases for Biblical ones does not turn New Age meditation into a Christian practice. In reality, Contemplative Spirituality misuses the Scriptures and leads the practitioner into the same Eastern meditation utilized in Yoga.⁷

In Gaylene Goodroad’s short article, “Christian Martial Arts: Another Bad Branch on the Tree of the New Spirituality,” she shows the New Age meditation inherent in both the Martial Arts and Contemplative Prayer. Both unbiblical practices are connected to Yoga. Also, on page 16 of her e-book *My Life In “The Way”* she specifically links the Martial Arts with Yoga. While using different terms, both systems share the same breathwork and meditation *in motion*.⁸

Most definitely, Christians should take care of their bodies as good stewards of the life God has given them. We eat, rest, and exercise in order to maintain energy. In this sense we are feeding our bodies nutrients so that it may burn the calories into usable “energy” so that we may function physically. We rest, so that our organs may rest, further prolonging our lives and renewing our physical energy levels. We exercise to maintain and/or increase our strength. By working, stretching, and challenging our muscles we can push ourselves to increase our abilities, skills, service, etc. All of these aspects are physiological in nature, and are verifiable by scientific observation. They do not contradict Scripture.

The Bible does not, however, give instruction regarding any physical or spiritual activity in order to manipulate our spirit and/or soul for the purpose of increasing our health. Instead, believers are to focus on living righteously,

“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1 Tim 4:8).

PEACE THROUGH YOGA OR FROM CHRIST?

Many see Yoga as a way to exercise and de-stress. Some Christians who practice Yoga say that they do not participate in the spiritual aspects of Yoga. From the previous quote from Marcia Montenegro’s article, we have learned that “*Asanas were designed to aid in meditation and to strengthen the body for the strenuous mental exercises* (Feuerstein, p. 24) leading to realization of the true divine self, and eventually to samadhi, union with the divine (Feuerstein, p. 34; Melton, p. 501).”⁹ Note the phrase “union with the divine.”

Although Yoga emphasizes stretching and relaxation, it also incorporates levels of advancement. To gain more balance, flexibility, and strength the Yoga practitioner must push to each new level. In Yoga physical levels of advancement are interconnected with spiritual advancement. The concept of spiritual levels of advancement—that one can perfect oneself on earth and become more “illuminated” leading to divinity within—can be found in eastern religions (and also Gnosticism), but it cannot be found in Scripture. These religions do not teach repentance of sin, but rather that one can find within himself the power of redemption.¹⁰ For example, Swamie A.P Mukerji wrote in his 1911 book *Yoga Lessons for Developing Spiritual Consciousness* that “MEN are going up an ascending scale of existence” (p. 50) and “Each man is to himself absolutely the way, the truth and the life.” (p. 169)¹¹

Note that the ostensible attraction to Yoga is to de-stress. This is the justification many use for engaging in it. But the actual use of Yoga is to advance oneself and push through strenuous mental exercise involving physical contortions of the body. For the Christian, this runs counter to the Bible. The believer’s peace is not worked up or achieved through these mental-physical practices, but by faith through Christ. Jesus said, “*Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart and you shall find rest for your soul.*” (Matt. 11:28). Jesus also promised, “*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*” (John 14:27) Believers can be reassured by the verse “*Casting all our care upon Him for He cares for you.*” (1 Peter 5:7). Pushing oneself to each new level of physical, mental and/or spiritual ability becomes self-focused rather than Christ focused. Note

the difference: Engaging in a simple, healthy sports type situation such as doing push-ups is not the same as Yoga. This is because the promise in Yoga is peace and de-stressing—and enhanced spirituality.¹²

Additionally, it is impossible to divorce Yoga from its spiritual roots. Many Hindu proponents of Yoga are not at all pleased with Christianity's adoption and adaptations of Yoga. For example, Lighthouse Trails Research quotes Professor Subhas Tiwari of the Hindu University of America:

*The simple, immutable fact is that Yoga originated from the Vedic or Hindu culture. Its techniques were not adopted by Hinduism, but originated from it.... Efforts to separate Yoga from its spiritual center reveal ignorance of the goal of Yoga.... If this attempt to co-opt Yoga into their (Christians) own tradition continues, in several decades of incessantly spinning the untruth as truth through re-labelings such as "Christian Yoga," who will know that Yoga is—or was—part of Hindu culture?*¹³

In his article "YOGA: Posture to Apostasy,"¹⁴ Pastor Larry DeBruyn quotes the managing editor of *Hinduism Today*, Sannyasin Arumugaswami:

*Hinduism is the soul of Yoga 'based as it is on Hindu Scripture and developed by Hindu sages. Yoga opens up new and more refined states of mind, and to understand them one needs to believe in and understand the Hindu way of looking at God. . . . A Christian trying to adapt these practices will likely disrupt their own Christian beliefs'.*¹⁵

Pastor DeBruyn also quotes a Yoga instructor associated with the Classical Hindu Yoga Academy named Danda:

*Is Yoga a religion that denies Jesus Christ? Yes. Just as Christianity denies the Hindu Maha Devas such as Siva, Vishnu, Durga and Krishna, to name a few, Hinduism and its many Yogas have nothing to do with God and Jesus (though we do respect that others believe in this way). As Hindus who live the Yogic lifestyle, we appreciate when others understand that all of Yoga is all about the Hindu religion. Modern so-called 'Yoga' is dishonest to Hindus and to all non-Hindus such as the Christians.*¹⁶

It is undeniable that Yoga is a religious pursuit that is diametrically opposed to biblical Christianity. Would-be practitioners must decide which one to follow.

BROOKE BOON AND "HOLY YOGA"

The idea to write this article came about by a comment made on Brooke Boon's "Holy Yoga" website.¹⁷ Ms. Boon's webpage banner states, "Gospel Living" and "Grace Culture." But in no place on her website does she state what the Gospel is, nor how to find a relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

On her page, "God's Initiating Love," Boon writes of her encounter with "God" through a Yoga session. What she actually describes is entering into an altered state of consciousness¹⁸ through a New Age meditative technique. The Bible teaches us that there can be no relationship with God without the mediator, Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5). It is through faith in His blood shed in the place of our punishment that brings us to relationship with God. This is Biblical grace.

Earlier we mentioned the dialectical process of unifying opposites. This is often done through a gradual process of changing definitions. The word *grace* is being changed today from meaning God's favor toward us in providing salvation, which we do not deserve, into a universal salvation. Universal salvation teaches that God embraces all humanity apart from the Cross. Boon describes "encountering" God in Yoga sessions without any need for salvation and references "Christ in" everyone.¹⁹ This universal "Christ" is not the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible.

In a YouTube video²⁰ discussing the use of "*Ohm*" (or "*Om*"—spelled both ways) in Yoga, Boon likens the use of this vocal meditative syllable to prayer and says that it is the unifying vibration of the universe. She then reads John 1 and twists its true meaning to say that Jesus becoming the Word made flesh illustrates the principle of *Ohm*. How can this be when *Ohm* is described as "a sacred incantation to be intoned at the beginning and end of a "mantra" or an "invocation" to a Hindu deity ("god") "being sacrificed"?"²¹ Boon's false teaching totally denies Christ's unique incarnation and atoning death on the Cross!

In another YouTube²² video, Boon discusses the use of the term "*Namaste*," stating that it simply means to bow respectfully in greeting another practitioner. Later she mentions its true meaning—bowing to the divine light or universal "Christ" in the other person. To avoid conflict over these terms, Boon does not use them in

her Yoga classes—but does not deny the meaning behind them. So apparently she believes this, although she avoids teaching it to her Christian groups in order to avoid controversy. Also in the same video clip, Boon references the popular New Age “*chakras*.”²³ *Chakras* are pure Hinduism. They are supposed energy channels throughout the body that incorporate the occult concept of “*kundalini*.” *Kundalini* refers to a serpent power that is supposedly coiled at the base of the spine. The purpose of Yoga is to awaken the serpent power so that one may achieve enlightenment.²⁴ Not only is there no scientifically verifiable evidence that these energy channels exist, one expert notes, “In fact, there is no “standard” system of the *chakras*. Every school, sometimes every teacher within each school, has had their own *chakra* system.”²⁵

None of these things are remotely Biblical. Sadly, Boon is badly deceived and she is deceiving her Yoga students by claiming Yoga is compatible with Christianity. Her Yoga regimen is seductive and unbiblical. For those who desire to engage in physical exercise, there are plenty of wholesome healthful activities that a Christian can perform that have no relationship with the occult. And for those who feel that they need mental or spiritual peace, the Bible has all the answers. Jesus promised “*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*” (John 14:27) and the Gospel proclaims to us that “*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*” (Romans 5:1; see also Col. 1:20). In fact, one of the fruits of the Spirit is “*peace*” (Gal. 5:22) and believers are promised that “*the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*” (Phil. 4:7). Believers in Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, have rich promises from God’s Word. The good news is that we can meditate on Scriptures anytime, anywhere (Ps. 119:148)!

CONCLUSION

There is nothing wrong with physical exercise and stretching. There is nothing wrong with many activities that take us away from the stresses of life and relax us. Enjoying the fellowship of loved ones, the beauty of God’s creation, or a beautiful song are all legitimate ways to relax. None of these should replace or supersede turning to God and His Word.

There are great problems with adopting pagan practices and attempting to change them into Christian disciplines. This is called syncretism. God punished the Israelites for adopting their neighbor’s pagan ways. It is always easier to “do” religious rituals than to live out a relationship in obedience. We think of the Pharisees in terms of their legalistic self-righteousness in requiring the people to perform the traditions of men in order to gain the approval of God. But Jesus made an interesting statement about them. He said, “*...unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven*” (Mt. 5:20). The Pharisees were indeed performing righteous works. The problem was that it was not by faith (Rom. 9:30-32).

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6), but faith must have an object, and that object must be Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross for our salvation (Heb. 12:2). The Jews’ faith was in their works, and obedience to a sacrificial system rather than having a heart set toward worship of the God who required their worship. God says in numerous places throughout the Old Testament prophets that He hated the peoples’ sacrifices in worship because their hearts were far from Him (Is. 29:13, repeated by Jesus in Matthew 15:8, Mark 7:6). The Israelites did indeed worship in a physical way required by them, but it was not their physical worship that God was after. He required their hearts in obedience. In fact, to attempt to worship God by religious ritual with the expectation that He must respond in a particular way is witchcraft (sorcery, idolatry), not Biblical worship.

Yoga, Contemplative Spirituality and other similar practices are religious rituals **not** required by God and **not** found in Scripture. These methods are legalistic and of the flesh—meaning they are activities which one must “do” in certain prescribed ways. They seek benefits for the “self” requiring tangible fruit—balance, strength, flexibility, and feeling a “Presence” or sense of the “Divine.” They have a “*shew of wisdom*” (Col. 2:23) which can lead to feelings of spiritual superiority and elitism. This false sense of spirituality leads believers far away from the true Christ and His Word.

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:4)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23)

It takes faith and perseverance to read the Word, and trust that God will work out His good pleasure according to His will and timing as we live out our lives waiting on Him in faithful obedience. We cannot do this in our own strength, but through the Lord Jesus Christ as we abide in the Him, “*in the vine*” (John 15:5). This is the faith that pleases the Lord.

*A special thank you to Gaylene Goodroad for her input and assistance with this article.

¹ Marcia Montenegro was heavily involved in New Age spirituality. She was a professional astrologer in addition to being involved with various New Age, occult, and Eastern beliefs and practices such as Zen Buddhism, Tarot cards, spirit contact, seances, and astral travel. Since coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in 1990, Marcia has earned a Master’s degree in religion. She is a full-time missionary traveling throughout the US speaking in churches, community groups and on radio. She writes on the New Age at her website www.christiananswersforthenewage.org and is author of *SpellBound: The Paranormal Seduction of Today's Kids* (Cook, 2006).

² Montenegro, Marcia, http://christiananswersforthenewage.org/Articles_Yoga.html

³ Attributed to Georg W.F. Hegel, a German philosopher in the 1800’s. Also known as the dialectic process and the Hegelian Dialectic. Hegel was fascinated and greatly influenced by the occult. Karl Marx was also affected by much of Hegel’s philosophy. In short, the dialectic is a process by which one can bring two opposites into unity through thesis, antithesis and synthesis. It is inherent in the process of consensus building.

⁴ See Sarah Leslie’s chart “New Age Terms in the Church,” for example. <http://www.spiritual-research-network.com/f/NewAgeTermsintheChurch.pdf>

⁵ <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2011/01/not-prana.html>

⁶ “Contemplative Spirituality” or “Contemplative Meditation” are interchangeable terms used to describe a wide range of meditative practices that originate from the eastern mysticism as well as Roman Catholicism. These practices teach that one can attain a “higher” level of spirituality by engaging in certain ascetic (and other) “disciplines” including the type of meditation that we are discussing in this paper.

⁷ Marcia has an excellent article explaining the context of Ps. 46:10 and another article explaining about Contemplative prayer.

http://christiananswersforthenewage.org/Articles_MeditationPsalm.html,

http://christiananswersforthenewage.org/Articles_ContemplativePrayer1.html. More good pieces about Contemplative Spirituality from Pastor Larry DeBruyn

<http://guardinghisflock.com/2011/01/11/posture-to-apostasy/> and Pastor Gary Gilley,

<http://www.svchapel.org/resources/articles/133-spiritual-formation-movement/761-contemplative-prayer>

⁸ See: <http://www.mylifeintheway.blogspot.com/2010/02/christian-martial-arts-another-bad.html> (the e-book can be accessed from the same page or link:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B75yD6e-RzQENzYxODk2MTU0NGYyYi00MjA2LWJlODgtMDA0ODc4ZThmOWNm/edit?pli=1&hl=en#>).

⁹ See footnote 1.

¹⁰ See chapters 5 and 6 in *Strange Fire: The Rise of Gnosticism in the Church* by Travers and Jewel van der Merwe, posted online <http://www.discernment-ministries.org/StrangeFire.pdf>

¹¹ *Yoga Lessons for Developing Spiritual Consciousness* by Swamie A.P. Mukerji. Published by the Yogi Publication Society, Masonic Temple, Chicago, Illinois. This quote was also published on Herescope, “PSEUDO-MISSION: Meditation,” 8/18/06, <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2006/08/pseudo-mission-meditation.html>

¹² Note the following interesting article that details the dangers of physical injury due to Yoga even for the most advanced teachers. Far from a safe and relaxing activity as promised, it can do great harm. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/08/magazine/how-Yoga-can-wreck-your-body.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>. Of course, the article was vehemently opposed by Yoga advocates who countered that every activity has its dangers. But the point is that Yoga is promoted as a safe, gentle, stress-reducing activity. Interestingly, another article explores the sexuality of Yoga. This article talks about sexual stimulation during Yoga classes. This is not unique to our time and culture, but has been a characteristic of Yoga throughout the years according to the *NY Times* article. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/28/health/nutrition/Yoga-fans-sexual-flames-and-predictably-plenty-of-scandal.html?pagewanted=all>

¹³ <http://www.lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog/?p=2631>

¹⁴ Pastor Larry DeBruyn, “YOGA: Posture to Apostasy: Can yogic practices be integrated with the Christian faith?” Herescope, 8/15/11, <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2011/08/Yoga-posture-to-apostasy.html>

¹⁵ Ibid. Bordenkircher quoted by Darryl E. Owens, “Christian Yoga’ strikes a new pose,” DenverPost.com, Thursday, May 18, 2006. Online at:

http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyle/les/cj_3819655, quoting Sannyasin Arumugaswami. Apparently, Owens’ article quoting Arumugaswami first appeared in the *Orlando Sentinel*, May 14, 2006. See Laurette Willis, “Why a Christian ALTERNATIVE to Yoga?” Praise Moves. Online at: <http://praisemoves.com/about-us/why-a-christian-alternative-to-Yoga/>.

¹⁶ Ibid, citing Danda, of the Dharma Yoga Ashram (Classical Yoga Hindu Academy, www.classicalYoga.org) located in Manahawkin, New Jersey, in a personal e-mail to the Lighthouse Trails Research Project.

¹⁷ See brookeboon.com, “Holy Yoga.”

¹⁸ See “Altered States: A Different Gate: The sober Christian in a spiritually inebriated age,” by Sarah Leslie and Pastor Larry DeBruyn, Herescope, 4/28/11, <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2011/04/alterd-states-different-gate.html>

¹⁹ Ms. Boon takes Genesis 2 out of context referencing man being made in God’s image. This is a common misrepresentation of Scripture. Yes, man is made in God’s image, but we do not have a “divine light” or “spark of divine” in us. Because of the Fall we are

dead in our trespasses and sin. There is no good thing in our flesh. We are all destined for the wrath of God unless we by faith trust Jesus Christ for forgiveness of our sin.

²⁰ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82eQg6WHMJg>

²¹ See the description of *OM* at Wikipedia,

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Om>

²² <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoyxSZY9k4>

²³ See Wikipedia discussion, especially for history of Chakras in the New Age: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chakra>

²⁴ Wikipedia reports that "It is envisioned either as a goddess or else as a sleeping serpent, hence a number of English renderings of the term such as 'serpent power'. It is reported that kundalini awakening results in deep meditation, enlightenment and bliss. In practical terms, one of the most commonly reported Kundalini experiences is the feeling of an electric current running along the spine." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kundalini>

²⁴ White, David Gordon (2003). *Kiss of the Yogini*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. p. 222. ISBN 0-226-89483-5, from Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chakra#cite_note-8spine." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kundalini>

²⁵ White, David Gordon (2003). *Kiss of the Yogini*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. p. 222. ISBN 0-226-89483-5, from Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chakra#cite_note-8

New Opportunity in Zimbabwe

By Pastor Anton Bosch

"Thank you for your lectures. They have this dimensional span that gave me a new look at my walk with GOD and a new look at the use of the Bible!" This is a testimony from an Anglican official commenting on his studies with the Bible School in Zimbabwe. He is one of several Anglican and Catholic priests and officials who are studying through the Theological College of Southern Africa (TCSA). In addition to people from traditional churches, our student body of about 200 is also made up of students from almost every Evangelical and Pentecostal denomination in Zimbabwe.

The opportunities to make a big difference to the Church just as heresy begins to flood into Zimbabwe are huge. But so are the challenges. Our Bible School is a reflection of the country in that there is an extreme shortage of everything including books, computers, money and staff. What we are not short of is people who want to know God and His Word.

I often wish we had lots of money and skilled people so that we can just deal with all the needs and set the school up the way it deserves to be. But that is just not how the Lord has dealt with us and we are content in Him. At the same time, we feel we have to pick small areas where we can make the biggest

difference with the very limited resources we have. Recently the Lord has brought one such vital and critical opportunity to our attention:

In Zimbabwe, the Bible School has been exclusively staffed by pastors who volunteer their time. While they have had the best of intentions, this has not worked very well and we have fallen behind in scoring (marking) students papers and a number of other critical areas have been falling through the cracks. In the midst of this crisis, the Lord has brought the solution in the form of the ideal man to lead the Bible School into the future. He is Zimbabwean, educated in Zimbabwe, South Africa and the UK. His training is the perfect mix of theology, education and management. He is a part-time associate at one of the churches in Zimbabwe and has the ideal mix of skills, spirituality and motivation. He has been volunteering with the Bible School for the past few months and has already made a big difference.

So what's the problem? You guessed it. We have to find the money to pay him a salary so he can devote himself to this very important work. Any of a dozen international aid organizations would snap him up in a second but he has agreed to commit to TCSA for just over half what he could earn elsewhere. That is the reason for this article – to appeal to you, should the Lord lay it on your heart, to pledge a regular amount towards his monthly stipend. Please consider this prayerfully. But allow me to remind you that your first obligation is to your local church. But if you feel you could make a commitment over and above, I can guarantee that this is one of the best investments you can make in the Lord's work.

"Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together." (John 4:35-36)

If you wish to donate to this ministry, please send checks made **payable to "IFCB" and designated for "TCSA"** to:

Pastor Anton Bosch
9070 Sunland Blvd
Sun Valley, CA, 91352

Check out our book specials inside!

Visit us at www.discernment-ministries.org

Read our updates at <http://www.herescope.net>

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6

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