

# Conferences, Seminars, Ect.

## From SPIRITUALIST to Spiritual TWIST?

THE COALITION ON REVIVAL'S CHURCH COUNCIL  
STEERING COMMITTEE

By Cynthia Weatherly  
& Lanette Irwin

As the road winds into the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains of southern California, a blanket of silence surrounds the traveler. Sound is absorbed by the waving grasses and dense foliage. No echoes can be heard, but at Arrowhead Springs Christian Conference Center memories speak loudly from the photo display in the lobby of the old resort hotel and the pages of *This Way to Arrowhead Springs* by Richard D. Thompson, a history of the development of Arrowhead Springs. According to its history, the naturally-occurring arrowhead shape on the south-face of the mountain, hovering over a valley filled with medicinal hot springs, was discovered and first developed by a man to whom a "vision" appeared of "healing vapors" and an "arrowhead shape," David Noble Smith — a self-professed "spiritualist." Smith was later joined in partnership to develop Arrowhead Springs by another "spiritualist," John Brown, Sr. What an auspicious beginning for a site which would almost 100 years later be the center of the "visions" for worldwide Christian evangelism, Bill Bright's Campus Crusade for Christ International.

During the month of August this year, associate-proclaimed "visionary" Jay Grimstead of Coalition on Revival (COR) hosted an on-going working session of the Church Council Steering Commit-

tee, a group of theologians and religious activists working as an associated division of COR, to plan for a series of church councils to be held between 1998 and the year 2000. In the summer issue of COR's magazine, *Crosswinds*, Jay Grimstead wrote of the projected church councils as his "vision" of an effort to arrive at a "consensus" on "a pure gospel for the next millennium." Dr. D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries in Florida has consented to moderate the debate forums for the North American Church Council for 1998, the Western Hemisphere's Church Council in 1999, and the World Council in 2000, as proposed by Grimstead and the Church Council Steering Committee.

A "consensus, pure gospel for the next millennium"? Points of doctrine to be "debated" to determine those which will stand? A proposal which certainly calls for much consideration among Bible-believing Christians. Do all denominations or individual Christians believe that to be considered a member of the "true church" or to be a "true Christian" one must agree on a standard compendium of positions regarding issues such as:

- Biblical Inerrancy
- Biblical Hermeneutics
- Essentials of a Christian World View
- The Kingdom of God
- Omniscience of God and Human Freedom
- The Pelagian Controversy
- Judicial and Substitutionary Nature of Salvation
- Eternal Fate of Unbelievers
- Lordship of Christ
- Unity of the Body of Christ
- Government of the Church
- Church Discipline
- Israel and the Church
- Culture, Contextualization and the Gospel
- Christians' Civic Duties
- Biblical Economic Systems
- Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage
- Biblical Distinctives Between Males and Females
- Concerning Homosexuality
- Biblical Approach to Counseling, and
- Position on Universal Human Rights (This position may

be re-ordered to address the persecution of Christians in foreign and developing countries)?

This list is quite a spiritual "twist" from Christians being followers of Jesus Christ.

During the six-day working session, the primary focus for those in attendance was refining of the above position papers and developing of "Affirmations and Denials Concerning Essential Doctrines of the Church" (A & Ds). The ultimate results of this effort will become the basis of the debates around which the Church Councils will revolve.

Convening around a "squared doughnut" of tables covered with crisp white linens in the Gold Room of Arrowhead Springs Conference Center's main hotel on Sunday, fifteen members of the Church Council Steering Committee's Executive Board thrashed and re-thrashed the above-mentioned proposals. During the morning, groups of three to five would convene in other locations throughout the hotel to work on the A & Ds of each position paper. After a corporate convening at midday for an overall discussion of the progress, the afternoons would consist of more small group sessions.

In the early evening there was another general convening of participants, complete with anthem singing and prayer, and then more discussions into the night. At some point in the wee hours of the morning, Grimstead or his wife, Donna, would type up any changes that had been adopted during the day's work. Copies were made the next morning and distributed to the participants.

This was the order of each day until suddenly, on Wednesday afternoon, Garry Moes, editor of *Crosswinds* and acting secretary for the Executive Board,

informed me and my associate that the committee was going into "closed session" to deal with a "disciplinary matter" and internal business related to COR. This "closed session" remained convened for the better part of the next forty hours!

Attendees participating in these proceedings included:

**Dr. Gleason Archer:** Professor, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; author; Language specialist; serves on boards of interpretation for many new Bible versions, Illinois.

**Dr. David Ayers:** Assistant Professor of Sociology, Grove City College, PA

**Mr. Calvin Beisner:** author; Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Covenant College, TN

**Mr. Art Cunningham:** Manager, Hughes Aircraft; Convener Hughes Aircraft Bible Study, CA

**Dr. Jay Grimstead:** Director, Coalition on Revival and Church Council Steering Committee, WA

**Mr. Robert Hieronymous:** Director, San Antonio Foundation, TX

**Rev. Craig Hill:** Author; President, Family Foundation, Inc.; founding Pastor of the Harvest Ministries, a cell-based church, CO

**Dr. Daniel Juster:** author; President, Tikkun Ministries; Chairman of the Board, Messiah Biblical Institute; Senior Pastor, Beth Messiah Congregation, MD

**Dr. Henry Krabbendam:** Professor of Bible, Covenant College, TN

**Rev. Bill Mickler:** President, Evangelistic Association; Missionary, South Africa

**Dr. Garry Moes:** Editor, Crosswinds magazine, CA

**Dr. Bernie Ogilvy:** Director, Visual International; Producer, The Visual Bible Series; Director, Youth With A Mission, New Zealand

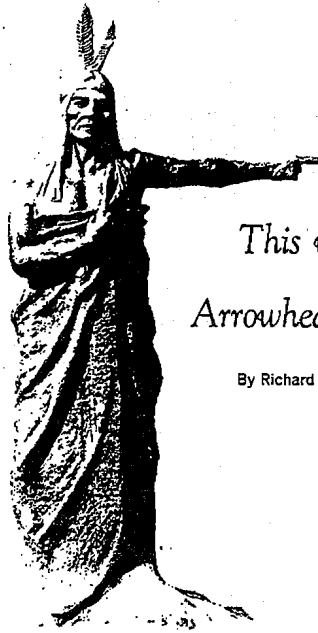
**Dr. Stephen Schlissle:** Pastor, Urban Nations Church; Director, United Nations Missions; author; contributor, Chalcedon Report, NY

**Mr. Daniel J. Smithwick:** President, Nehemiah Institute, Inc.; Producer, The PEERS Test, KY

**Dr. Curran Tiffany:** Consultant and lobbyist, National Association of Evangelicals, VA

While many characteristics may be held in common among those to whom Jay Grimstead refers as "my men," a few bear highlighting. According to Grimstead: all are inclined to be Calvinists; most are Presbyterians or Reformed by denomination; many are adherents to Reconstructionist or Theonomist positions, or at least believers in "Kingdom-building"; a few are charismatic, and all are activists in the political, social, and religious arenas.

Several relationships among the committee members were formed years ago, including that between Grimstead and Gleason Archer. Archer was a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary during the time Grimstead was working on his masters and doctoral degrees at Fuller in the mid 70s. While Grimstead's doctorate was acquired in the psychology department at Fuller, Archer had been a professor of his and became a long-time associate. Dr. Henry Krabbendam is also a long-time associate, having contributed two chapters to the publication of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy, an early 1980s effort by Grim-



## This way to Arrowhead Springs

By Richard D. Thompson

The story of the world famous resort spa since its founding in the mid-1800's.

stead which led to the formation of Coalition on Revival. Curran Tiffany is also an associate of long-standing of Grimstead's, bringing the COR perspective to his dealings with the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and NAE's influence to COR and the Church Council Steering Committee.

Grimstead maintains a wide circle of relationships, many dating back to the days when he served as National Director of Young Life, a high school-based, non-denominational youth ministry reaching out to churched and unchurched, saved and unsaved youth in much the same manner as does Fellowship of Christian Athletes — a peer-to-

peer ministry orchestrated by adults. Grimstead also holds a minor degree in music, playing the trumpet and other instruments and singing, as well.

This multi-faceted man contributes even a comedic entertainment quality to his gatherings. By his own admission, Grimstead "relates well to young people and forges fast friendships" with children of those in whose homes he has been a guest or those to whom he has played host, staying in touch with many of them through annual Christmas cards and tapes. The founder of COR has established a broad base of support in the religious community through several means and sheer force of personality.

At this point in his efforts to bring a diverse group together and hold them to a "humongous" task such as launching the proposed church councils to adopt "a pure gospel for the next millennium," Jay Grimstead has received chastisement from his troops.

"Being a 'visionary' does not necessarily mean being a good manager," according to Grimstead. "This group wants to accomplish great tasks, so we need more organization. They've become a little impatient with me and my lack of managerial skills," confesses Grimstead.

So, the forty-plus hours of "executive session" for the committee has led to proposals for a reorganization of COR's structure and whatever further changes that may entail. A small sub-committee made up of Art Cunningham, Dan Smithwick, Dan Juster, Bernie Ogilvy and Garry Moes worked to formulate a proposal for COR board members to consider. Reports from this effort will be forthcoming in the near future.

While the Arrowhead Springs area of the San Bernardino Mountains in southern California has been the birthplace and center of many "visions" and dreams of "spiritualists" and "spirit-filled" alike, it may also have played host to a "visionary" with a new spiritual "twist" — doctrinal unity. †