
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

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

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Women In Discernment

Susan Conway and Sarah Leslie

It sometimes feels awkward to be a woman involved in discernment ministry. It seems like exercising discernment should be the duty of pastors. But in this day and age everyone must exercise discernment, if we are truly following Jesus and His Word.

Our discernment work began nearly three decades ago when we simply tried to understand what was coming into our homes and churches.

We are two oddballs – women who stay at home and take care of our families, who also happen to spend our “free” time doing historical and theological research. It didn’t start out that way. We both went to college and our education was to influence us for years to come. Sue majored in history, and then got a master's degree in education in an experimental program that trained her in how to be a change agent. Sarah majored in elementary education, where she was trained as a facilitator, and then went on to get a master's degree in counseling. In the 1970s, Sue went on to become a missionary overseas in Africa and Sarah set up a private counseling practice. Even at this time, both of us knew that something was wrong, and we began to question things.

In the early 1980s changes in American culture began to impact our families in troubling ways. We noticed the numbing, deadening influence of entertainment. Another troubling sign was the influx of occult toys and videos for children. In order to protect our children we had to learn to discern pagan signs and symbols and keep them out of our homes. And we avoided entertainment-style learning methods.

Then we began to see families begin to disintegrate under the pressures of modern life – the rising divorce rates, the feminist movement, the rush for riches. Our families made hard decisions to live simply without lots of extra material goods so that we could stay home and be with our children. Because of our backgrounds, both of us began paying attention to education reform, and we recognized that the plans, programs and methods were not Christian. So we made the decision to homeschool our children.

We also noticed as new things came into the evangelical world, and not always for the better. Both of us went through trying times in churches that began to enthusiastically embrace new theologies and new methods. Perhaps it was because we were young mothers that we first became concerned about the new styles of doing “business” as a church that seemed onerous and burdensome, particularly on young families. We were already up to our eyeballs in diapers and playdough. We didn’t need

extra programs. We were utterly incapable of performing to purpose-driven “results,” much less devising them for others to be implementing. It was all we could do to just snatch a few winks of sleep once in awhile. The new requirements for being “effective” and “successful” and becoming great leaders/influencers were taking their toll on our husbands, too.

Over the ensuing years Sarah received a heavy dose of Dominionist teachings. Sue was exposed to the leadership and purpose-driven models. By the late 1980s we knew that something had gone terribly wrong with our Christian walk. We were constantly being told that we needed to have new methods, new practices, new beliefs and new doctrines. But when we tried to incorporate these new things into our faith, it resulted in losing Jesus as our first love. It stole our joy. It caused turmoil and conflict. And it took us away from the simplicity of the Gospel. We both raised questions. Why was this new teaching coming into the churches? Where did it come from? What was behind it?

This questioning led us on a relentless search, first to examine our Christian walk, then to examine the truths of Christianity and Jesus, and then to try to find out why these new methods, practices, teachings could so seriously erode the Truth of the Gospel of Salvation. It seemed like another gospel. The Lord had uniquely gifted both of us with a passion for doing historical research so we began to dig. The more we dug, the worse things looked. What on the surface might appear like a tasty nugget of new doctrine or a “fun” activity isn’t new at all! We learned that many of these ideas, philosophies, theologies and doctrines actually had roots in the occult, especially by way of the social sciences and psychology.

By this time, we realized that our background and training, which we had left far behind, had uniquely qualified us to understand the rising heresies. We have learned a lot over the years, and we are still learning. We have a burden to warn others. And the Lord has permitted us to do this in amazing ways in this era of technology. Some of our research is posted on the Herescope blog, a project of Discernment Ministries at <http://www.herescope.com>. We are grateful for the many other researchers with whom we work who contribute time, materials, advice, insight, research, encouragement and sustenance.

As wives and mothers, we recognize that we approach discernment research differently from men. First of all, we are “keepers at home” (Titus 2:6), and that must be a priority for how we spend our time. Second, the Word of God must be the final authority in all that we say, do and believe. Third, we must be in submission to our husbands. And fourth, we pray daily that the Lord would continue to break our hearts over the terrible heresies in our midst. We do not ever want to grow callous or hard-hearted.

Perhaps it is because we are women at home that we see things differently from men. Men often design big plans and programs that seem sound from an engineering or business point of view. But we women often see the REAL consequences of these schemes, measured in the damaging consequences to the lives of those among us who are the most weak, feeble, infirm, handicapped, young or old. When an ambitious program lacks compassion and mercy, it takes its toll on the weakest among us.

Each day we are aware of 1 Timothy 3, which says in the *“last days perilous times shall come”* which is evidenced by, among other things, *“without natural affection”* (vs. 3). Women who follow after apostasy and false teachings are prone to behaviors that are *“without natural affection”* – especially in how they treat their children and their husbands. The Old Testament prophets describe a particular downhill course of degradation in which women who follow after idolatry become lascivious, immodest and promiscuous – behaviors which can have terrible consequences on marriages and children.

2 Timothy 3:6 warns that those who have a *“form of godliness”* are of the *“sort”* who *“creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts.”* In our days of feminism, it isn't popular to admit that women can be more gullible, naïve and vulnerable than men when it comes to deceptive teachings. But it is a biblical fact that goes back to the Garden of Eden.

How much more, then, should we women take to heart 1 Peter 4:7 – *“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”* Many women have trouble being *“sober-minded,”* but that is indeed how the Scriptures tell us to live.

As *“keepers at home”* we mothers are uniquely positioned to be the day-to-day *“guards”* for what comes into the home. Women serve their family well, who protect their children from occult toys and books, rock music, TV shows, videos, Internet, cell phones, and all other forms of questionable pastimes and entertainment. But in these perilous times, even that is not enough. There is a new influx of false doctrines and heresies into the home via evangelical books, music, media and influences – some especially targeting teens through sophisticated marketing techniques. It is no longer safe to assume that the lyrics to Christian rock music are truly biblical. We can no longer trust the writings or materials of respected evangelical leaders. We have reached the point where evangelical bookstore shelves are filled with the new heresies. Many homeschool curriculums (and leaders) teach Dominionist doctrines. And most so-called Christian television programming is full of Latter Rain and New Age heresies.

We are often asked for help with discernment research. Many Christians in these last days are floundering around in the water, unable to swim, grasping for lifesavers and assistance in the treacherous waters of heresy. We have a simple answer: READ YOUR BIBLES! Be filled with the Spirit. Walk in obedience to the Lord. And begin to exercise discernment.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

Register for the first **Women of Discernment** conference to be held in the U.S. on November 2 & 3, 2007 in Lafayette, Indiana at **Calvary Chapel** 2111 State St. Lafayette, IN 47905. This conference will deal with areas of concern for the Christian mother, wife and ladies in the workplace, school and church. There will be workshops to enable more discussion.

Pastor Joe Bell will be speaking on end-time prophecy in the evenings and all are welcome.

Workshop speakers will include: Sarah Leslie, Susan Conway, Dorothy Bauss and Jewel Grewe. Other workshop leaders will be announced as soon as confirmed.

A full program will be sent upon receiving the registration fee of \$20.00 per person with a list of motels in the area.

The Ongoing Need for Discernment

Prof. Johan Malan, Middelburg, South Africa

Discernment means *insight* or *good judgment* (*Concise Oxford Dictionary*). In the secular world, discernment refers to the ability to understand, evaluate, and judge different practices, statements, arguments, or belief systems in terms of culturally accepted criteria for determining good and bad, right and wrong, true and false. These criteria differ widely as they are derived from human wisdom as it functions in various cultures, ideologies, and religious systems.

The Bible says that humanity is spiritually dead and morally depraved (Rom. 1:28-32; 5:12), and therefore alienated from the only true source of knowledge and wisdom – God Himself (Prov. 9:10). From His perspective, human wisdom of the depraved world is foolishness (1 Cor. 3:19). We need to be spiritually enlightened by God through His Word and His Holy Spirit in order to properly understand and discern the spiritual and moral realities that confront us (Eph. 1:18). This is where true knowledge of good and evil begins.

The realization of our own sinfulness, as well as the righteousness of Christ which is offered to us through His

atonement death, is foundational to our decision to turn to Christ for salvation (John 16:8). Obviously, Satan tries to keep people from biblically discerning their spiritual and moral problems, as well as God's solution to these problems, and therefore continues to blind the minds of unbelievers by ignorance, unbelief and a distorted understanding of God's promises (2 Cor. 4:4).

Once divine wisdom has been imparted to us by faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we start with a long journey of increasing conformity to God, while dying to the sinful principles, practices and thought patterns of the world. On this journey to spiritual maturity, our discernment needs to be developed to its full potential as the devil and his false prophets will never give up trying to deceive us. The warning of Christ should ever resonate in our hearts: *"Take heed that no one deceives you"* (Matt. 24:4). This warning is specifically related to false prophets who will use distorted messages as well as signs and wonders to deceive believers (Matt. 24:11,24).

The Bible clearly states that spiritual maturity is characterized by the ability to discern deception, *"that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive"* (Eph. 4:13-14). The only defense against deception is a sound knowledge of the Word, which must be accepted in faith in order to strengthen and enlighten the inner man: *"Beware lest you also fall from your steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Pet. 3:17-18).

Our discernment can increase to the level of completeness as far as our needs as Christians are concerned. Paul says that the Father grants us to be strengthened by His Spirit in the inner man so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, to enable us to comprehend with all the saints the width, length, depth and height of His love (Eph. 3:14-19). It is indeed possible that we may be *"filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding"* (Col. 1:9).

In a position of full surrender to the Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth, we will be able to live fruitful lives and to resist all forms of deception: *"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and more comprehensive discernment, so that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value – recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences; and that you may be untainted and pure and unerring and blameless, that – with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied – you may*

approach the day of Christ, not stumbling nor causing others to stumble" (Phil. 1:9-10; Amplified Bible).

It is a sad fact that many Christians fall far short of this high standard of spiritual discernment. That is the reason why so many of them still distort and wrongly interpret aspects of God's Word and His counsel. They lack proper discernment when confronted by deception. Paul says: *"I marvel that you are turning away so soon... to a different gospel... [because] there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ"* (Gal. 1:6-7).

We are in an ongoing struggle against Satan's spirit of error, which is the driving force behind all forms of deception (1 John 4:6). There is only one solution to this problem, and that is to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to rightly divide the word of truth and to keep on preaching it in season and out of season, *"for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine"* (2 Tim. 2:15; 4:2-3).

Even some of the most devout Christians sometimes proclaim views and doctrines that are at variance with biblical truth. In most cases their judgment has been clouded by the theological traditions of men (Mark 7:7). Such people are rebuked by Christ: *"All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition"* (Mark. 7:9). It is indeed possible that one's interpretation of biblical truths may be influenced or even determined by one of the many and long-established traditions such as Calvinism, Pentecostalism, or other commandments of men. They usually represent a mix of truth and error.

These theological tenets become so deeply entrenched in the minds of people that they are carried over from one generation to another without ever being questioned and objectively reexamined in Scripture. We should not allow these humanly-imposed tenets to rigidly guide our thoughts and determine our convictions. We need divine wisdom (Jas. 1:5) and enlightened eye of the mind (Eph. 1:18), as well as the willingness to be guided only by the word of truth: *"And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free"* (John 8:32). Christians who are not ignorant or deceived can discern the truth and adjust their lives and beliefs accordingly. They will never stumble.

But those who are unable to rightly understand the word of truth, either through wrong teachings or ignorance, always entertain wrong ideas and expectations. One of the many examples of erroneous interpretations of biblical truths is Dominionism. Such people are ignorant of dispensational distinctions in the Bible and wrongly expect the revelation of a Christian kingdom on earth before the second coming of the King, Jesus Christ. They run after signs, wonders and other dramatic manifestations of the emerging kingdom, and are led astray by self-proclaimed apostles and prophets.

Spiritual discernment is lacking among the majority of Christians in the last days, and for that reason the love of many will grow cold (Matt. 24:12). They will not be able to discern the signs of the times (Matt. 16:3), neither the serious theological errors that are characteristic of this time of great falling away from the truth. Many will even “*depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons*” (1 Tim. 4:1).

We should be involved in a contrary movement of increased righteousness and holiness, while discerning the signs of Christ’s soon return. Fellow-believers should be assisted to correctly understand biblical doctrines. That is the only way to become discerning Christians who will not be deceived by the many wrong doctrines of our time.

Check your attitude

Anton Bosch

“But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”
(2Timothy 2:23-26 KJV).

These verses are a clear and unequivocal command: The servant of the Lord is to avoid disputes and *must not* quarrel but be gentle *to ALL MEN*, including the heretics and “those who are in opposition”.

These verses from Timothy are a direct command, equal to the Ten or any other direct command in the New Testament. Those who claim that the Bible sanctions ungracious, vindictive and rude behavior are blatantly disobedient the Word. Such disobedience places them at the same level as those whose doctrine they condemn. We had better remove the splint first.

Paul lists four aspects of our attitude that need to be in place when we try to correct someone else’s doctrine.

First, we are to be *gentle* to all. The Greek word for “gentle” in this passage is also used by Paul to describe his attitude to the Thessalonians: “*we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children*” (1Thessalonians 2:7). That’s right – Paul expects us to display the same kind of gentleness towards those who are in opposition as a mother does towards her baby!

Second, he expects us to be “*able to teach.*” This is the same requirement he places on those who wish to be overseers in the church. (1Timothy 3:2). There is a huge difference between those who are skilled in teaching and those who know many facts. One cannot be a teacher without ever coming face-to-face with students, learners or disciples. You cannot be a teacher in a vacuum, your study, or your academic ivory tower. You can only be a teacher when you impart wisdom (not knowledge) to disciples.

Unfortunately it is my observation that many (not all) who get involved in apologetics ministries are not skilled at teaching. They live in isolation since they believe that they alone have the truth, and often find it hard to relate to other people let alone impart wisdom to others. Thus many such sit in glass houses, discern error and point fingers at those around them.

No one who is not involved in a local church (no matter how small) and who does not regularly teach the **Truth** has the right to teach against error! There is no mention of a fault-finding, or critical ministry in the Bible. It is those who are “*apt to teach*” the Truth, who also point out the error.

There is nothing like the struggle to impart Biblical truth to ordinary believers to keep us aware of our own frailty and dependence on the Lord. Every spectator on the sidelines of a sports game knows better how to play the game than those on the field! But there is no room for arm-chair critics in the church – only for those who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty with the vomit and diapers of new babes.

Third we are to be “*patient.*” Patience is vital when dealing with those who are in error since it takes a long time to turn a ship around that is on the wrong course. Teaching babes is relatively easy as they are often a “blank slate.” But when dealing with those who are in error, we must first delete the error before we can begin to write the truth. If you do not have the patience to teach young Christians, then you will also not have the patience to correct heretics.

The **fourth** essential is gentleness or meekness. Meekness flows from a life which is fully surrendered to the will of God. Those who strive in their own strength, trying to establish their own purposes are not meek, but are constantly agitated, arrogant, aggressive and antagonistic. Jonah is the best example of such a man.

Those who are meek have firstly recognized their own weaknesses, are broken before Him and have come to a point of full surrender to the Lord. They do not have to prove anything but are simply instruments in the hands of the Almighty. *“Put them in mind to... speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures...”* (Titus 3:1-3 KJV).

Secondly meekness flows from an awareness of our own potential for sin and error. We should never strive with others as though we never make mistakes or have all Truth: *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted... For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself”* (Galatians 6:1,3 KJV).

Thirdly, meekness is a result of recognizing that we cannot change other people’s minds, theology or attitudes. It is God alone who can do so. When we think that we can win the argument, and change the other person’s thinking – we are arrogant and far from meek. This is typical of the schoolyard bully who twists his opponent’s arm behind his back, forcing him to submit.

Those who are in opposition (to the Truth) are *“in the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will”* (2Timothy 2:26). They are not free to change their minds, but are trapped in a web of deceit, lies and error. The Bible says they are imprisoned and bound. To get angry with such people is a waste of time; they sold their freedom for expediency, popularity or money. They cannot change unless the Lord intervenes.

Why did Jesus not debate Pilate? Surely He could prove His innocence. Yet, He said nothing. The key lies in Jesus’ words: *“You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above”* (John 19:11). Jesus recognized where the true power lay. Those who fight with men have forgotten that *“we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”* (Ephesians 6:12).

This does not mean that we should not do anything. The Lord uses men as His co-workers. Some of us plant, others water but the Lord gives the increase –

and unless He does, nothing will happen. *“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain”* (Psalm 127:1).

In dealing with those in error, we need to give a sound, logical and Biblical reason for the Truth. But the rest is up to the Lord: *“...if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil”* (2Timothy 2:25).

We cannot claim that God *must* deliver them or that he *has* to honor our word and cause the seed to grow. The word *“perhaps/peradventure”* indicates that it is up to Him. Once they find repentance, they will know the truth and will need to come to their senses and escape the Devil’s trap. Sadly, many do come to know the truth but choose to stay in the snare of the Devil for the same reasons they were entrapped in the first place.

Thus there are three in the equation: The speaker of Truth, God, and the individual in error. Even if the first two do everything necessary, the person in error may still choose to remain in bondage. The speaker of Truth is only one third of the equation and thus cannot force a desired outcome.

Our true attitude and motive is often revealed when people decide to continue in error once they know the Truth. Only those who weep and mourn for those who choose to remain in error had the right to speak in the first place. Those who hurl accusations, malign and feel a sense of justification had no right to speak.

Should we then *not* point out error and name those who propagate error? What about Jesus cleansing the temple and his comments about the Pharisees? Those are questions for another time. But for now, let’s check our attitude. Are we speaking from a heart of brokenness, humility, love, compassion and pity or from a platform of pride and superiority? – *“God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector”* (Luke 18:12).

This article is a condensed part of a series. The unabridged version of this series can be found at: www.herescope.com

Why Discernment?

Jewel Grewe

The meaning of that word simply means, “distinguish, perceive difference (between). Recognize, perceive distinctly (with mind or senses).” You may say, “isn’t that what we do every day?” Basically, it is indeed. Each time we make a decision we use “discernment.”

Jesus asked: *“When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering, O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”* (Matthew 16:2&3).

Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees who had the Son of God in their midst and did not recognize Him. They were the ones who were supposed to be learned in the Scriptures – the leaders of the people. But yet they were not discerning the times. They did not *discern* from the Scriptures that they were looking up on the very One that had been prophesied.

The discerning Christian does not become obsessed with the “falling away” of the church. This Christian does not lie in bed at night worrying about the global government arising, embedded chips, etc. The discerning Christian is at peace. The Word of God has become their comfort and joy. They can join with the Apostle Paul in saying:

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Romans 8:35-37)

The reality is that Jesus is the HEAD of the CHURCH. He is the CORNERSTONE. Come, let us DISCERN the Lord’s Body! (I Cor. 11:29) We are the BODY OF CHRIST fitly joined together! The REALITY of the Kingdom of Heaven came through time and history into our midst in the person of Jesus Christ. Outside of knowing HIM – there is only wrath, corruption and eternal damnation.

John (who came to bear witness) said, *“In him was life; and the life was the light of man.”* (John 1:4)

Jesus is the Revealer of Truth. In reading and loving His Word, you get to KNOW Him. You understand the very Mind of God. The Holy Spirit delights to lead you into Truth. Open your hearts, my friend, to the joy and delights of His Presence.

Discernment Ministries came into being as a result of my late husband Travers van der Merwe’s quest to understand

what was going on in the church in the U.S.A. We had arrived here from South Africa in the early 1980’s and were bombarded with “Christian television.” The churches we pastored had members who were taken up with buying tapes and books from their favorite evangelist or teacher. Questions started to arise from church members who were disconcerted by some of the things they heard and knew “something was not right” but couldn’t “put their finger on the problem.” As the result, with a few of the leaders of the church, Travers started comparing the teachings that were being widely proclaimed with the Scriptures.

Not long after this, Dave Hunt and Tom McMahon’s book, *Seduction of Christianity* was published. After reading this book, and checking out the Scriptures, the leadership in the church realized that there was indeed another gospel that was making enormous inroads.

I must admit that it took me a bit longer to truly understand what they were so adamantly studying. They would try to explain, but I would “switch them off.” I had many wonderful experiences with God from my childhood and thought they were trying to take those experiences away from me. Little did I realize that by “switching them off” I was missing the point. They were not taking away “my” experiences, but only trying to tell me that we must base doctrine on the Word of God – not on manifestations and experiences. Truth is irrefutable! When I comprehended how glorious indeed the Word of God is, and how it is the plumbline for everything that pertains to life and godliness, the desire to let everyone know this became the catalyst for writing a newsletter.

The first several years the newsletter just seemed to be indeed on the “cutting edge” of the direction things were moving. The information for the next newsletter would be right there at the moment it was time to go out. At the time I was working full time as a legal secretary, had children at home and also was a pastor’s wife. My husband would take what I had written and pour over it for days and add or subtract as necessary. We had no finances to send out a newsletter, but when it was time to go out – the funds were there.

The first newsletter went out in 1989. In 1990 Travers was diagnosed with colon cancer. He went through three major surgeries in six months, then chemo for a year. Yes, those were difficult times. I became the major provider for the family and kept my job – many miles from home. et, the newsletter never missed a mailing. Calls would come in from around the country. Fortunately, when Travers felt well enough he could take care of the phone calls and was blessed greatly. He tried to keep up with the ministry as much as he could right up and until the last few months was still doing some home Bible studies. During that time I even had letters from “friends” who said it was my fault that Travers was ill.

If I had not started writing a newsletter, Travers would not have cancer.

Travers was determined, however; that nothing stop the ministry. He encouraged me to keep going. "All that matters is the Glorious Gospel," he used to say over and over again. After his death in 1995, the ministry did continue. Dr. Opal Reddin came into my life as a dear friend and encourager in the Lord for the next ten years. Also in 2000, David Grewe became my husband and partner in the ministry.

Opal called one day in October, 2005 and urged me to come to Springfield, Missouri immediately and pack up all her books and materials for the library – which I did with the help of my assistant, Hester van Boven. Opal was such an encouragement in spite of her severe illness. She had a desire to see her work continue, and Discernment Ministries has the commitment to carry that out with the help of the Lord. The next month, Opal went to be with Jesus. Her library is now located in Naugatuck, Connecticut at the Pinebrook Assembly of God church. The library has a website www.opalreddinlibrary.org and will be updated with materials from Opal's wonderful collection of articles and teaching notes. If you knew Opal, leave a message on the site.

God has graciously brought different ministries to work with Discernment Ministries. Lynn and Sarah Leslie have served on the Board, travel to conferences and write faithfully with others of the Discernment Research Group on the www.herescope.com blog (which is also accessible on the www.discernment-ministries.org website). We are grateful for the contributions of scholars in the Word like Johan Malan and Anton Bosch. They are both South Africans (as was my late husband). John Marston has made a tremendous effort to accommodate the library in beautiful surroundings at the church he pastors in Connecticut. He also serves on the Board of Discernment Ministries. Susan Conway is an excellent research addition and Steve Muse has been our webmaster for a number of years already. There are others who join with us in the conferences and add variety and are a blessing to the ministry.

It is always a joy to hear from you. This newsletter is mailed out as the Lord provides the funds. Each time the newsletter is sent out (bi-monthly) in the U.S. the costs are now well over \$1,200.00. In the U.S. the average monthly donations to the ministry is around \$300.00. We sell tapes and books to augment the costs so that we have enough to send out the newsletter. Our staff (small as it is) has labored faithfully for many years with no remuneration from the ministry. It has been a ministry unto the Lord. In South Africa, each newsletter easily costs R10 for you to receive. The newsletter will only go out as there are the funds to send it out. I am making this known to you through this newsletter as there now there is a need. We do not have any

fund-raising program or "event". It is only through our readers that these materials can be provided. Those in South Africa and in the U.S. who have the responsibility of making the newsletter available take that responsibility seriously and have endeavored to do their part. We are not able to do the part which the Lord has given you. Many have received a newsletter for many years and have not contributed towards the costs. We will be reviewing our mailing list and eliminating the names from which we haven't heard. (The South African office is calling it a "purging"). Every month many newsletters are returned "undeliverable" as people move and do not let us know. The newsletter is put up on our website as soon as it is printed. Also, you can receive the newsletter via e-mail in the same format in which it is mailed. As the mailing costs increase, it is important that you let us know if you would no longer want to receive the newsletter or if you can read it on-line. Every donation to the ministry is appreciated and enables the newsletter to keep going out.

This is an urgent appeal – which you do not hear very often from Discernment Ministries, if at all. And it is simple, if the funds are not here, we will not send out any more newsletters. God has always provided when it is the time and we know that if it is His desire for us to continue, the need will be met.

Missions. We have been supporting missionaries that work with children that are the victims of AIDS in South Africa. We will also be supporting a Bible School in Kenya that is in great need. This school has been in existence for many years and has remained faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Any donations designated to "missions" are sent directly to the missionaries involved.

Mission Trip. My husband, David and I are scheduled to leave for South Africa and Ghana on August 15th where we will be speaking at an African conference. In South Africa, we will be visiting the mission areas and preaching where I was a missionary in the 1970s. What a joy it will be to see workers in that area of the Lord's Vineyard after 30 years.

I am also scheduled to be in Australia during the month of September. Additional information for the scheduling in Australia will be sent out. So far the following is confirmed:

September 9-15 – CWM Conference (Mantra on Salt Beach, Kingsclif, NSW) **Enquiries:** Maureen O'Brien – (03) 5146 0280

September 26-28 – **Enquiries:** Pastor Robin Lillicrapp – (04) 11596538 lillr@iprimus.com.au

September 29th - (Women of Discernment conference) – Devonport, Tasmania

Enquiries: Rosalie (03) 6424 8182 during office hours.