
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

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

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HEDONISTS AND MARTYRS

By Pastor Anton Bosch

While reviewing church history recently I was reminded of some of the things we should learn from history. But before I share those with you, I want to remind you that what normally passes for church history is the history of the apostate church (lower case “c”). The history of the true Church is not normally taught in Bible schools and seminaries except for a passing mention to the little groups of true believers that were a thorn in the side of the institutional churches.

The following are the central truths we learn from Church history:

- Even in the darkest hours of the last 2,000 years there have always been true believers and true Churches in this world.
- The real Church has always been small in numbers and poor in political power, finances and popularity.
- True churches and believers have always been persecuted.

It is on this third point I want to dwell for a few minutes: Persecution has come from many different sources, even though the ultimate source remains Satan and his forces.

The Jews, initially under the leadership of Saul of Tarsus, persecuted and killed believers beginning with Stephen. Of course Jesus was the first “Christian” martyr, and before the New Testament many prophets were also brutally killed by Israel because of their message.

The Roman government persecuted and brutally martyred the believers for almost 300 years until Constantine in 312 A.D.

Immediately after 312 the Roman church took over from the Roman government and began to persecute believers who did not submit to their authority. Persecution under the Church of Rome continued for the next 1700 years right up to the present, reaching its peak during the inquisition (c. 1200—1600). It is very difficult to find an accurate estimate of the numbers of people killed by the Roman church but the best studies

indicate a number of around 80 million Christians in addition to witches and others killed by Rome!¹

Even while Rome was killing Protestants, the Reformation leaders were torturing and killing Anabaptists and other believers who disagreed with them. Just one of many to die at the hand of the Reformers was Michael Sattler, a true believer. “He was shamefully mutilated in different parts of the town, then brought to the gate, and what remained of him thrown on the fire, His wife and some other Christian women were drowned, and a number of brethren who were with him in prison were beheaded.”² Most of the Protestant leaders, including Luther and Zwingli, engaged in the most severe and cruel torture and murder of anyone who disagreed with them but the most vicious of all was Calvin. In Geneva he institutionalized torture and death as a legitimate means to change people’s views and purge the “church” of dissenters.

In addition there are the massive persecutions of Christians, many still ongoing, by Muslims, Chinese Governments, Communists and all sorts of other unbelievers right across the world. Just recently I was shocked to hear that a friend, and former colleague, as well as two women, were brutally killed and mutilated by Satanists in South Africa, making them (as far as I know) the first martyrs to die for the faith in South Africa. It is estimated that today³, more Christians in the world are being persecuted than are free to worship the true God. A comprehensive Pew Forum study last year found that Christians are persecuted in 131 countries containing 70 percent of the world’s population. Other studies indicate that between 100,000 and 200,000 Christians are being martyred for their faith every year⁴ and that around 200 million Christians are denied fundamental human rights because of their faith.

All this should not come as a surprise since the New Testament is replete with statements that

¹ David A Plaisted. *Estimates of the Number Killed by the Papacy in the Middle Ages and Later*. 2006.

² E. H. Broadbent. *The Pilgrim Church*. Gospel Folio Press. Grand Rapids,

³ October 2012

⁴ David B. Barrett, Todd M. Johnson, and Peter F. Crossing in their 2009 report in the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* (Vol. 33, No. 1: 32) say the figure is about 200,000 per year and rising.

persecution would be the norm for Christians. In Jesus' first mention about the Church he spoke of the war that would be brought against His Church. "...on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matt 16:18). Paul said: "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." (2 Tim 3:12). And Peter said "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you" (1 Peter 4:12).

In spite of the evidence of history and the plain teaching of the Bible, the vast majority of Christians in the so-called "Free World," still believe that it is the right of Christians to be popular, fairly treated and respected and that a "happy" life should be the norm for believers.

But as I read again about how most true Christians have been mistreated and how they lived as vagabonds and fugitives throughout the last two millennia, I began to think about my own life and how easily I complain about the relatively minor inconveniences and rejection I experience because of the truth. I felt ashamed that I dare complain when thousands, right now, are experiencing the most extreme physical pain, emotional anguish and death for the sake of the Gospel. Who am I to grumble when I am free to come and go, live in relative comfort and enjoy the company of my wife while others are in prison, being tortured and killed?

But I also thought about how easily many stay away from the gathering of believers because it is too hot, too cold, or they are too tired because of watching TV or partying too late on Saturday night. I struggle to reconcile this picture with the one of men and women being torn apart by dogs, their limbs pulled from their bodies on the rack and the smell of burning human flesh on the fires of the persecutors. I struggle to understand how some are unwilling to give up their sinful pleasures when millions have to give up their very lives.

I struggle to understand how the pleasure-centered and self-centered "Christian" of the West can claim to share a common faith with the martyrs. I struggle to understand how preachers who preach a gospel of happiness, prosperity and popularity believe that their message is the same message that was preached by the faithful minority of the last 2,000 years, who like the prophets of old: "...had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted,

were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth." (Hebrews 11:36-38).

Can the faith that results in persecution, torture, and death be the same faith that promises carnal happiness, a new Mercedes and popularity? Can the faith that pursues pleasure, comfort and earthly happiness be the same faith that counts it a privilege to suffer for His name? Will the hedonist⁵ and the martyr share the same heaven?

BACK TO ZIMBABWE

By Jewel Grewe

Zimbabwe is a country of 94% unemployment. It is a beautiful land that has suffered through droughts and hardships of many years. People face many daily challenges just to survive. The politics continue as the constitution is written. Much time is spent with parties who never seem to reach real conclusions for the good of the country.

We are thankful for the time we spent there in 2011. The Bible School is developing and new students are participating. Pastor Anton Bosch has been faithfully working on the curriculum modules with some help from several others who have volunteered their services. His goal is to have the modules completed by the end of 2013 – just ahead of the first graduates. Charlotte Stucki, a pastor's wife from Michigan, joined us last year for the pastors' wives seminars.

Here is an updated report for your perusal and prayers regarding our upcoming trip to Zimbabwe and the continuing progress in the Bible College.

Women's Ministry

In January, Charlotte Stucki and Bonnie Cullen from Pennsylvania will be traveling with me to Zimbabwe. The annual "school" for the pastors is held at a central location in Gweru during that time. We have been invited to hold seminars for the pastor's wives. Last year we traveled quite a bit between the

⁵ Hedonist = a person whose life is devoted to the pursuit of pleasure and self-gratification.

different areas. The women would come by bus from their remote villages into the areas where we held the meetings. Gweru has a large "convention center." This will enable the meetings to be focused in one setting and we will be able to divide into sessions for the classes. We are taking materials that can be duplicated in Zimbabwe so that the ladies will have ready access to what they will need when they go back to their respective churches. This year our focus is going to be on Discipleship. We will also have materials for the youth and the children.

Charlotte Stucki sent me the following report describing her "vision" for the upcoming trip:

Nearly 100 years ago Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." Over 2000 years ago Christ repeatedly issued the invitation to come to Him, to take up the Cross and to follow Him. His final instructions to the Eleven who had heard that call, was, "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." The commission was *not* about (1) giving them a ticket to heaven; (2) giving them the keys to prosperity and material blessing; (3) telling them about the best life they can have in the meantime, or (4) telling them to go and build a religious institution called it "the Church."

The call of Jesus was to "learn of Him" (disciple-*mathetes* (a learner) and this is the core of the Christian life. Everything else must flow from that supreme passion. It is well to remember that the early believers were called disciples and understood what that meant. It was not until many years after Christ that "the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch."

In recent years some have shied away from the subject of "discipleship" because of the errors and abuses of movements that have distorted this truth. The shepherding movement of several years ago comes to mind. During that time men usurped the authority that belongs to the Chief Shepherd alone, and in the process wounded many of God's children. This we reject entirely. The role of an undershepherd is to simply be a signpost and saying, as Paul: "Follow me (only) as I follow Christ." However, the claims of Christ are often diluted by what Bonhoeffer called the preaching of "cheap grace." Cheap grace is without the daily Cross, without the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, and without consistent personal abiding in Christ. The result is churches that are filled with people who seem to desire nothing more than the loaves and the fishes.

As we travel to Zimbabwe, as earthen vessels we look forward to a time of ministry. We are challenged by the Lord to issue this call afresh to those to whom we are sent. Our purpose is not even primarily to 'make disciples' for that is the work of the Holy Spirit alone. But we will endeavor to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the One Who invites men and women into the fellowship of a relationship that transforms us into His likeness. (Luke 6:40: "*The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.*") Some of the topics that we hope to cover are:

- The Call of Jesus to a life of discipleship. Matthew 11:28-30 (the yoke)
- The Motivation of a disciple John 1:14 (the glory)
- The conditions of discipleship Luke 14: 26-33 (the cross)
- The process and pain of discipleship Hebrews 12; 5:14 (the rod)
- The importance of God's Word in the life of a disciple John 8:31(the staff)
- The outcome of a disciple's life. John 15: 8 (the fruit)
- The evidence of discipleship John 13:35
- The attitude of the world towards a disciple John 15:18-23
- Discipling children in home and church. Isaiah 54:13
- The Commission to disciple others Matthew 28:19-20

In these last days of what an atheist in Russia once called a "weak and palliated message of Christianity," our desire is to reaffirm that Jesus Christ never made it that way. We have too often diluted the Gospel and watered it down until it is difficult to say "*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God.*" But Jesus Christ never minced words. His claims were absolute. When we throw our lives into His hands in total committal to His will (which is what discipleship is) the Gospel becomes the dynamite of God in our lives. Our desire is to embrace that Truth in our own lives and to declare it without compromise as we share it with the dear ones in Zimbabwe.

Please do pray for the three grandmothers as we set out to give the Word of God to those who are in such need!



Theological College of Southern Africa

Junior Nyatsana (pictured above) is a student at the Bible School. He found Christ in 2005. He was seeking spiritual growth and guidance in his life. He realized his hunger would only be satisfied by God's Word. Junior found that our studies are "affordable" and the material is very thorough. He is thrilled that now he knows how to use a concordance and Bible references. The greatest challenge he faces in his studies is the power outages (which happen regularly). When there is no power, he can't see to study or to listen to the CDs (which have many of the modules recorded). In his words, "I would like to say, 'thank you' to the TCSA College and all the partners for their contributions in building God's kingdom."

Dumisani Mathe, another student, said that she found Christ after a Jesus Film was shown in her village. She told us, "The college has been a great help in her life and ministry." She is thrilled that now she knows as the result of the studies how to manage her time well. "The college instigated diligence."

The studies do require a lot of studying and searching the Scripture as well as commentaries. The greatest problem facing students is the lack of access to a computer since some of the classes require extra research.

There are now six centers for the Bible School throughout the country of Zimbabwe. We started registering the College with the government over a year ago. They are requiring a computer lab and a well-stocked library. Pastor Ken Myers from Grand Rapids,

Michigan, has been working diligently on acquiring the necessary books with help from others that share this burden for a Bible school. So far we have supplied the school with three computers, and we are hoping to each take a computer with us on this trip that we can leave there for the students to use.

As the Bible school grows, the greatest need is to have staff in the centers that can oversee the ongoing progress of the students, grade the papers and assist in the studies. A fulltime Principal is needed. The school has endeavored to keep the costs for the students' courses at a minimum so that finances does not keep the students from being able to study. These students are eager and are the hope for Zimbabwe. They are being trained to be thoroughly equipped for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Bible school sends detailed reports and is managing their affairs in a godly manner—seeking to be accountable in every way. Any donations to the Bible School will be focused directly on helping them get solidly established on a firm foundation. There is a great need and every bit of help is appreciated. The churches in Zimbabwe also reach out and help the orphans in their congregations and minister to the needy in the many villages. Do pray for us as we reach out in this mission field.

Contributions to the Bible School can be sent to:

**Discernment Ministries
PO Box 520
Canton, TX 75103-0520**

Designate the funds to go to the Bible School in Zimbabwe.

New Book available!

The Harbinger: Fact or Fiction?

by David James

"...David James has clearly demonstrated that The Harbinger falls far short of meeting the biblical requirements for such a message from God, being based on the mishandling of Scripture, faulty theology, misleading statements, the selective use of historical facts and unsupported speculation."

Book description at amazon.com

"James has written this book not merely to expose error but to keep God's people from being led astray by false teachings and improper hermeneutical approaches to Scripture. I believe he has accomplished these goals."

Gary E. Gilley, Sr. Pastor, Southern View Chapel

DAVID'S TENT, D.C. AN EXERCISE IN DISCERNMENT

Last issue, we reported on the upcoming David's Tent, D.C. political/prayer event. Here is a follow-up report by the four discernment ladies who visited it.

Seeing David's Tent in person was an interesting exercise in discernment. At first glance everything seemed very innocuous. This area of town is nothing but one large complex of stone office buildings and monuments...except for this very large, park-like area on which sat David's Tent. The location is incongruous with the rest of the surroundings – it was almost out of time and place. It's too simple, too laid-back. The rest of the area was frantic, business, high-powered, political Washington DC.... And then there was this "land that time forgot," almost idyllic, dreamlike. There was, however, one other prominent building directly in our view: for we were on the Ellipse at 1600 Constitution Ave. with an unobstructed view of the White House. As we would discover, "location" was very important to the sponsors of David's Tent. We would also come to the conclusion that appearances can be deceiving.



David's Tent DC is part of the Tabernacle of David heresy of the Latter Rain. Many e-mails had been sent out by the NAR to their lists about the important significance of David's Tent as part of Cindy Jacobs' prophetic "Bridal Canopy," the conclusion to John Benefiel's "Divorcing Baal," agenda, and the fulfillment of a Cindy Jacobs' dream about America. That is the reality of David's Tent... but it is not what we witnessed that day.

What we witnessed instead was the humility of a young man named Jason Hershey, the organizer of this

event, as he gave all the glory to God for having provided this scenic space. It was a joy to listen to him - there was no boasting, no egotism, just sheer amazement at what the Lord had done. He said that each day there were people in attendance, more at night than during the day, more on weekends than on weekdays. There were no signs, no banners. There was a plain tent, a simple stage, a communion table. Groups from diverse denominations had reserved different nights to worship. These groups came various and sundry states, and on the last night included a worship team from the Pacific Rim.



This was what we saw and what we were told.... But additional information we heard there and discovered in our research did not coordinate with this picture. The people associated with David's Tent could not have been sweeter and they were obviously devoted to the Lord. But why did they talk so much about the importance of location? Why talk about how Namaan *had* to wash in the Jordan as if the location was *so* significant in itself instead of simply an act of obedience? Why discuss the fact that Michal was, "in all probability" (as we were told by those at David's Tent) standing on the balcony observing King David as he entered Jerusalem bearing the Ark "just as those at the White House can stand on their balcony and witness us"? Why this emphasis on location? The emphasis on location continued even during Hurricane Sandy when the worship was moved to a safer locale. The comment was made on the David's Tent website:

The worship continued through the storm at Faith Tabernacle, where we were strategically located right behind the Supreme Court.¹

This is a problem because in John 4 Jesus told the woman at the well that "place" no longer matters now

that He has come. Now we worship Him in spirit and in truth. The centurion did not need Jesus to come to his house in order for his servant to be healed. That healing could be done long-distance because location doesn't matter in the New Testament era. The Holy Spirit does matter. But to those involved in David's Tent location seems to have a higher priority.

This preoccupation with location had another aspect to it that was even more troubling. Prepare the Way Ministries International posted a prayer in mid October whose terminology was of questionable doctrine:

Synergy of Intercessions -

We are asking every intercessory group in the nation to link their intercessions through the blood of the Lamb to and **through** our dear friends worshipping in David's Tent on the Ellipse in Washington, District of Christ.

We have legal access in the spirit through the Blood, the Spirit, and the Word to release our decrees, declarations, and proclamations from around the nation **through** this blood redeemed group on site in the District.

We are thereby magnifying their intercessions and synergizing the strength of the body of intercessions throughout the nation! Release the blood revealed mercies of God from your state through David's Tent to every heart, home, town, city, and state in the Union. [emphasis added]

There is a mystical, New Age quality of channeling to this prayer. If read clearly, it clarified their belief in the need for David's Tent to be so close to the White House in this election year that all the power of the synergistic prayers would be directed to that nearby edifice.

Remembering also the emphasis on location, and the link between the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) and the Latter Rain movement recalled to mind the deception of the Brownsville incident in Pensacola, Florida, where they believed that the only way that the "impartation" could be experienced was through an actual physical touch at that exact location.

Interestingly enough, the terms used at Brownsville like "impartation" and "soaking" also appear in the "prophetic glossary" section of *Fire and Fragrance*.² This was one of the bands that performed at David's Tent in early November under the leadership of Sean Feucht. This is yet another church affiliated with IHOP and the NAR that became involved in David's Tent DC.

One other point needs to be considered in relation to this "synergy" in intercession. Synergy is assumed to be the cumulative force of a multitude of people uniting in effectual prayer. However, 1Kings 18 notes that it takes only the short, fervent prayer of one righteous man to move the heart of God. Elijah's prayer – noteworthy for its simplicity – brought down the prophets of Baal and rescued a nation. That was all that was required.

Another problem we encountered was this: why was there a seeming contradiction between the visible humility of the young people (and they were all young) at David's Tent DC and the "powerhouse" utterances we have come to expect from the NAR? We felt like we were looking at two different portrayals of the same picture. On the day we attended David's Tent DC, we experienced glowing first impressions. However, later each of the four of us independently discovered that we had become increasingly troubled by what we had witnessed. When we shared our concerns with one another, we found that we were all in agreement. There was a problem!

Ultimately we concluded that the precious people we met at David's Tent that Friday at noontime were most certainly sincere in their deep-felt devotion to the Lord, but they were also, sadly, believing doctrines not in line with the Bible. In fact, one of us was in a position to know – basically first-hand – about these doctrines because her daughter is a member of Grace Church in Fredericksburg VA and attends the IHOP-sponsored "Prayer Furnace" there. The Tabernacle of David heresy is taught at Grace Church and exclusively promoted at the Prayer Furnace. We quickly began to realize that things were not as they seemed.



The NAR & David's Tent DC

See: <http://vimeo.com/50323670>. This video is of opening day of David's Tent, Yom Kippur. Does it seem strange to you that there are relatively few people in attendance for the beginning of such an auspicious event that had been touted by so many major ministries like 24/7 Burn, IHOP, and other NAR affiliates? The pitched tent seated about 80 maximum; and the stage took up about 1/3 of the tent. Jason Hershey, the organizer, told us that nighttime attendance was really good – but does he call this attendance of perhaps 40-50 people really good? Where are the crowds you might rightly expect?

The day we were there was a Friday about the noon hour. There were perhaps a dozen people, including us – but at least 4-5 were staff. At the Yom Kippur meeting the ram's horn was blown, then the worship leader and praise band began and the name of the group was put on the screen. It was David Bradshaw and the Praise band from the Prayer Furnace of Fredericksburg, VA. David Bradshaw is also the Director of the Prayer Furnace – the exact group from Fredericksburg, VA that we were personally familiar with.

Looking at the list of David's Tent Board of Directors, we noticed Scott Bradshaw, Prayer Furnace, David Bradshaw's father. Scott Bradshaw was co-founder, and at one time he was co-pastor of Grace Church. He is now with the Prayer Furnace. The others on the Board of Directors of David's Tent are Jon and Jolene Hamill of Lamplighter Ministries and Mike and Cindy Jacobs of Generals International. These two couples are the intercessory vanguards for the entire Peter Wagner NAR conglomerate! (One can read on Herescope about how the Hamill's were a key part of the very strange “divorcing Baal” NAR agenda.³)

Another video at <http://vimeo.com/50536899> shows Mike and Cindy Jacobs with Jason Hershey near the tent. Cindy Jacobs is talking about her vision in the 1990's. She refers to the tent as a “bridal canopy” – a Latter Rain-type doctrinal heresy that many are believing. The only logical conclusion to reach, therefore, is that David's Tent is closely affiliated with the IHOP/NAR movement.... No matter how innocuous it looked to us that beautiful, sunny day in early Fall!

That last week before the elections, David's Tent DC was visited by Island Breeze Ministries of Hawaii. This group is under the auspices of YWAM. This

struck a chord with me since it was through my local Healing Room run by YWAM directors that I discovered that 24/7 Burn is linked to IHOP, which is linked to the NAR, which is now linked to David's Tent. Interesting how everything gets woven together if you just connect the dots.

And this fact leads to a simple question: isn't one of the basic tools of discernment training to do exactly that – follow the dots, find out what the teachings are, see what other organizations your own organization is linked to? 1Thess. 5:21 says we are to “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*”

Dutch Sheets was the guest the final week also. He is part of the Peter Wagner Institute, the Apostles and Prophets Movement. This is one final example of the true affiliation of David's Tent. He related a dream his daughter had:

Dutch Sheets, one of the top apostles of the NAR, arrived to refocus everyone in their worship in the final days of David's Tent. He told about a dream that his daughter had over month ago that, in so many words, revealed the “music lady” (or the worship movement) to be the key to the revival that we want to see in America in these coming weeks. **As we seek change in our country, we must look to Jesus as our hope. He is worthy of our worship and, in His arms, there is no fear!**⁴ [emphasis added]

Conclusion:

Those last two sentences were the only thing we could agree with – “in His arms, there is no fear!”

Look to Jesus. Look simply to Jesus, the only One Who can be trusted!

This special report was authored by Barbara Wilhelm. A special thanks to the other women who took the trip to DC so that we could have this firsthand report.

¹ http://dchop.org/heard-around-the-tent-blog/?doing_wp_cron=1352564726.3451330661773681640625

² <http://burn24-7.com/about/>

³ <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2011/07/divorcing-baal.html>
<http://herescope.blogspot.com/2011/07/divorcing-baal-for-dominion.html>
<http://herescope.blogspot.com/2011/08/baal-covenant.html>

⁴ http://dchop.org/heard-around-the-tent-blog/?doing_wp_cron=1352564726.3451330661773681640625