

Promoting Strange Fire – Evans Nicholson www.ctmin.org

Part of the title for this article comes from the book Beware of “Strange Fire” by Clayt Sonmore, one of the 17 founding members of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI) in 1952. On page 20 Clayt states that, “The Charismatic/Ecumenical/Renewal was invented on July 26, 1956 at the 3rd annual FGBMFI convention”. From that date onward Clayt chronicles successive movements building upon spiritual compromise up to the June 24, 2008 appointment of Todd Bentley as an evangelist. On this date Todd was anointed as one of the Apostles commissioned by Peter Wagner, Rick Joyner, Bill Johnson, Bill B. Miller, Patricia King, Che Ahn, Stephen Stader and other contemporaries prophesying that Todd's ministry would expand throughout the world culminating with the return of Jesus. In a matter of weeks the fruit of this prophetic proclamation televised to millions around the world began unfolding in the lives of millions around the world. The spiritual body count continues as each faction involved in false prophecy shifts blame ignoring repentance for the remission of sin, one of the foundation tenets of Christianity.

As the fruit of the Charismatic/Ecumenical/Renewal movement (CER) invented in 1956 gained spiritual momentum on an international scale within the FGBMFI Clayt Sonmore resigned in March 1964. In his book he shares making this decision being led by the grieving of the Holy Spirit. Motivation for this article comes from people like Clayt Sonmore, Russell Stendal of Columbia Para Cristo Ministries, Arne Bryan the founder of Prayer Canada and David Wilkerson, just to name a few of the voices exposing doctrines of demons in these end times. In the mystical climate of these end times self-appointed prophets endorse each other providing validation for every new spiritual seduction contrived from mystical enchantment. In the midst of self-glorification the example of David Wilkerson often referred to as America's Prophet is ignored. As a humble servant of Elohim he rejects these titles that self-appointed prophets seek and bestow upon each other. The words of Yeshua clarify this matter in Luke 18:13-14, “But the tax collector standing at a distance would not even raise his eyes to the heaven, but was beating his breast, saying 'Elohim show favour unto me, a sinner'. I say to you this man went down to his house declared right, rather than the other. For everyone who is exalting himself shall be humbled, and he who is humbling himself shall be exalted”. Servants like David Wilkerson, Arne Bryan, Clayt Sonmore and Russell Stendal walk in the favour of Elohim seeking His esteem versus the self-appointed prophet. The choice is listening to those who exalt themselves or those who exalt Elohim.

Expanding on the Charismatic/Ecumenical/Renewal movement invented in 1956 I would include compromise with these words - Charismatic/Ecumenical/New Age/Mystical/Occult/Christianity. While all these words involve avenues for the infiltration of the doctrines of demons the spiritual forces promoting doctrines of demons can be summed up by one word - witchcraft. Recently I attended a weekend retreat, which has traditionally been a time to rest and receive. This year was different. Our main speaker was a proponent of the mystical. Although this speaker was a man of integrity with a sincere desire to promote the gospel, his view of the gospel was compromised through the influence of a variety of self-appointed prophets and mystics. On Friday evening, to validate the spiritual authority he stood upon he began by endorsing Rodney Howard-Browne, Rick Joyner and Bob Jones. This group represents a sample of the self-exalted prophets and mystics introducing an occult agenda into the purity of the gospel. With Rick Joyner we had the added influence of his membership in the Knights of Malta, an organization with alleged affiliation issues involving both the Roman Catholic Church and Freemasonry. Elements of prestige and pride, explained in Luke 18:13-14, may be a factor in spiritual seduction affecting self-exalted prophets. Later this same evening our speaker told us all to stand. It was time to wrap our arms around a huge glass for our drink from the river. Although I understood earlier why Todd Bentley wasn't mentioned in his list of endorsements I was now in a Todd Bentley meeting. The only difference was that Todd Bentley had instructed us to wrap our arms around a kegger. (See Contemplative Spirituality the New Age Ecumenical Party at the back of this article). As in the Todd Bentley meeting, some of us chose not to partake. Despite the spiritual climate, there was peace through fellowship with those of us who understood the spiritual dynamics activated this weekend. In particular, one of the brethren recommended that each of us should consider casting off all demonic attachments when leaving the retreat. By Saturday night a few of us had decided to leave.

On pages 182 – 183 Kevin Reeves shares the following in his book The Other Side of the River. “There David

Wilkerson had said what I'd been feeling for a very long time...The October 1999 issue of Charisma magazine lay open with the side-by-side faces of David Wilkerson and Rodney Howard-Browne staring up at me... He encouraged those of his flock in possession of Word of Faith literature to burn it; warned them to stay away from Rodney Howard-Browne's July 7 – August 14 'Good News New York' crusade; and exploded the myth of God's moving in the River, with it's manifestations of wild laughing, drunk in the spirit and animal posturing. He roundly condemned them all ...” With several pages devoted to Rick Joyner the following is found on page 99. “Rick Joyner is another seer who has had great impact on the Christian prophecy scene. For years a favourite among those of my former congregation, his book *The Final Quest*, took our leadership by storm... A super-spiritual elite group of prophets and apostles will be raised up, Joyner states and will transform the world of these last days, doing greater miracles than even the apostles who walked with our Lord. Whole nations will tremble at the mention of their names. Interesting. Sounds a lot easier to deal with than Jesus' prophecy that “[Y]e shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake” (Matthew 24:9) In Joyner's book, the spirit of a deceased saint, who claims to be one of the foolish virgins, equates outer darkness with a passing punishment after death””. On page 100 Reeves summarizes this contradiction between Scripture and Joyner stating, “Clearly, God would not send the spirit of a deceased saint to talk with Rick Joyner in his vision when the very practice itself is forbidden by God”. A brief comment on Bob Jones is made on page 187. “For instance, Bob Jones' teaching about his colour-changing hands was a matter of record, documented in the 1989 audio tape *Visions and Revelations with Mike Bickle*”. To understand the spiritual platform self-appointed prophets and mystics stand upon go to the in-depth resources provided by Lighthouse Trails Publishing at www.lighthousestrailsresearch.com. These are resources needed to understand what the doctrines of demons look like in these end times.

I understand there will be those disturbed by the content of this article including some of my fellow members of the FGBMFI when terms like witchcraft have been used. The FGBMFI is a good organization with incredible outreach ability when untainted by those operating under occult influence despite good intentions. My initial response is if it was just me saying these things there would be a legitimate cause to express justifiable displeasure. However, when people like David Wilkerson, Arne Bryan, Clayt Sonmore and Russell Stendal are saying these same things with even greater expertise, there's a problem that does in fact involve nothing less than the endorsement of witchcraft. When was the last time you went to a meeting where the word of Elohim brought conviction of sin leading to repentance for the remission of sin? When was the last time you were reminded from Scripture to beware of false prophets and doctrines of demons or to test the spirits operating in a meeting? As a former member of the occult I rely on the elders in the faith, who defend sound doctrine, for guidance in these mystical driven end times. There is wisdom in doing this.

“Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, listening to spirits of error and doctrines of demons”, 1 Timothy 4:1. Despite the implications of this Scripture there are few able to recognize what the 'spirits of error and the doctrines of demons' actually are. As a result the Christian community has become a means to distribute various forms of witchcraft under a variety of labels. We now have things like Spiritual Directors, the Emergent Church, labyrinths, Christian yoga, contemplative spirituality being promoted by self-appointed prophets and mystics in our congregations. By way of their endorsement many of us end up becoming ineffectual for the gospel due to spiritual deception. For others this deception becomes a salvational issue for believers who 'depart from the faith'. “Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of the heavens, but he that doeth the will of My Father who is in the heavens. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? And in Thy Name cast out many devils? And in Thy Name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them I never knew you; depart from Me ye that work iniquity”, Matthew 7:21-23. Is it possible that you could be identified in this Scripture having endorsed mysticism to weaker brethren in the faith towards their departure from the faith? To answer these kinds of questions Ray Yungen's book, *A Time of Departing*, listed under Resource Materials is an exceptional examination of mystical seduction to help avoid becoming a victim of witchcraft within the Church. Another potential issue occurs when we remain silent to the various forms of mysticism from within. There is a possibility of being identified in the above Scripture when our silence serves as an endorsement to promote rather than expose (Ephesians 5:11).

Scriptural Reference Sources

The Scriptures, 1998
Institute For Scriptural Research
P.O. Box 1830
Northriding 2162 South Africa
www.messianic.co.za
isr@messianic.co.za

The Holy Scriptures, Jubilee Bible 2000
Ransom Press International
10160 Main Dr
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

Apartado Aereo 95.300
Santafe de Bogotá, Columbia

Translated from the Scriptures of the Reformation into Spanish by Casiodoro de Reina (1569) when Hebrew was a living language prior to the Inquisitions.

Translated into English by Russell Stendal of Colombia Para Cristo.

Electronic version for PC available.

Article Reference Sources

Clayt Sonmore. Beware of "Strange Fire" 2009. Thy Kingdom Come Ministries, 12100 Marion Lane, Suite 6106, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305 USA. In association with Ransom Press International, Apartado Aereo 95.300, Santafe de Bogotá, Columbia.

Contemplative Spirituality the New Age Ecumenical Party. Choosing Truth Ministries www.ctmin.org To locate this source article go to the Articles page. In the right hand column click on New Age Party (web section)

Kevin Reeves. The Other Side of the River. 2007. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, PO Box 908, Eureka, Montana 59917 USA www.lighthouse Trails.com

Resource Materials

Clayt Sonmore. Beware of "Strange Fire" 2009. Thy Kingdom Come Ministries, 12100 Marion Lane, Suite 6106, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55305 USA. In association with Ransom Press International, Apartado Aereo 95.300, Santafe de Bogotá, Columbia. As declared by the Bible great apostasy and deception will precede the return of Jesus. Former founding member of the FGBMFI Clayt Sonmore traces the inception of the Charismatic/Ecumenical/Renewal movement in 1956 up to the present. Invented in 1956, this movement opened the door to deception and turned the Court of Pentecost away from God's order.

Choosing Truth Ministries www.ctmin.org

Lighthouse Trails Publishing www.lighthouse Trails.com www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com

Ray Yungen, A Time of Departing. 2006. Lighthouse Trails Publishing. www.lighthouse Trails.com A Time Of Departing, an extraordinary book, explains labyrinths, breath prayers, centering prayer, the silence, yoga, the Desert Fathers, contemplative prayer and ancient wisdom practices. Through which avenue has this new spirituality entered the church? Purpose Driven * Emerging Church * Spiritual Formation * Spiritual Directors * Youth Ministry * Seminaries and Christian Colleges.

Warren Smith, The Light That Was Dark; From the New Age to Amazing Grace. 2005. Lighthouse Trails Publishing www.lighthouse Trails.com. As a sincere spiritual seeker Warren Smith experienced some profound lessons in deception. Concerned that today's Church is being seduced by the same false teachings and the same false christ that drew him into the New Age, Smith provides a warning to the Church from the lessons he learned.

Warren Smith, Deceived on Purpose. 2005. Lighthouse Trails Publishing www.lighthouse Trails.com. What was supposed to be a quick read of the Purpose Driven Life, turned into a lengthy process including the writing of this book. Because of his experience in the New Age, Smith wrote this book to specifically address some of the New Age implications leading Christians onto a path of spiritual deception.

Warren Smith, A Wonderful Deception - The Further New Age Implications of the Emerging Purpose Driven Movement. 2009. Lighthouse Trails Publishing www.lighthouse Trails.com Warren Smith examines church concepts and beliefs that are the same as those used in New Age doctrine. Biblical prophecy is being minimized to prepare the church to accept a New (Age) Spirituality and the false New Age christ.

Kevin Reeves, The Other Side of the River. 2007. Lighthouse Trails Publishing www.lighthouse Trails.com. Topics in this book deal with questionable worship practices including holy laughter, experience versus Scripture, repetitive chanting and singing. A personal account of Kevin Reeves' plunge into a movement called the River that claims to be spreading the kingdom of God through signs and wonders. Overtaken by counterfeit manifestations, false prophecy and esoteric revelation, divine retribution is used to keep adherents in bondage.

Ray Yungen, (DVD) The New Face of Mystical Spirituality

Bob De Waay (DVD) The Dangers of Mysticism and the New Spirituality

Roger Oakland, (DVD) Another Jesus?

Roger Oakland, (DVD) Road to Rome

It is claimed that the Ecumenical movement is an opportunity to build relationship with Roman Catholics. Based on good intentions there are problems when the Ecumenical movement is used to endorse Roman Catholic doctrine within Protestant denominations. As a result we now have a bridge to end-time deception with various forms of mysticism being introduced into the Christian community.

Roger Oakland, Tim Tetlow, Another Jesus? www.lighthouse Trails.com. The Roman Catholic Church is calling for a New Evangelization focused on the Eucharist. In addition, the Queen of Heaven has stated that she will soon usher in the Eucharistic reign of Christ.

Roger Oakland, Tim Tetlow, Brad Meyers, Queen of Rome, Queen of Islam, Queen of All. Published by Eternal Publications www.eternal-productions.org. the Marian apparitions' plan to unite all religions under the Roman Catholic Church. Scripture tells us that the activities surrounding the Queen will affect the entire world.

Roger Oakland - www.understandthetimes.org

www.bereanbeacon.org

[Richard Bennett's Testimony](#)

www.morebooksandthings.blogspot.com

www.erwm.com

www.christianresearchservice.com