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## **AGENTS OF CHANGE** by Jewel van der Merwe

With trepidation we enter the year 1994. A new year brings new hopes, new challenges and, yes, change. We are ever hoping that the changes that transpire will be to the good of mankind. However, as we see which changes are rapidly occurring today, we realize that we are again on the brink of a virtual REVOLUTION. Technology is an even greater Agent of Change through its development of a global networking information Super Highway. The Super Highway already exists, and for \$10.00 per month you can have a full E-mail connection to the world! Developments are moving at such a fast pace, it is impossible not to realize that monumental changes are on the horizon which will profoundly influence every aspect of our lives. Many of these aspects will experience revolution overnight.

The new Personal Computer will actually become an appliance which every home will have. Merging of telecommunications and computers is creating a capability that you could not have predicted in even your wildest imagination! You will have the ability to design a kitchen and even create an entire dream house on your PC. Have a stomach ache? Just describe your ailment to a computer program and you will be guided through a diagnosis! The evening newspaper will be obsolete! This information explosion will change life completely. You will take phone calls from your television set, or be able to order a concert ticket from a cash machine, as all of these computer systems start to interact on the Super Highway.

AT&T is developing a system to help in our understanding of this new information "revolution". In their developing system, "robots" are sent out onto the "highway" to help glean the information needed. Shopping Centers will be at your fingertips. Hardly a question

will escape your mind and you will access the answer. Museums, with their vast libraries of information, will be on-line. While many of us are still studying manuals trying to comprehend the workings of our first computer, the interactive computer networking highway is suddenly exploding with information at such a dizzying speed that one is left gasping at the side of the road.

There is one specific Agent of Change who has been working diligently behind the scenes to bring in this sweeping change. This is Agent AI Gore. Under the guise of being a "Southern Baptist" who is welcomed into "Christian" circles, he has methodically set in motion the "conspiracy" of all times to bring about the "convergence" that is to "harmonize" every aspect of our society and life as we know it.

Our youngest generation is especially targeted to be brought up in the "new society". The Agents of Change are starting with our children even before they are born! Walter Cronkite recently hosted a program over PBS detailing that 29 state's programs where they assign a worker to a family before a child's birth, and "work" with that family afterward. Even before pre-school, the little ones are being bombarded with new concepts and understanding of life. Instead of being rocked in mother's arms and read a Bible story, babies sit in front of an electronic baby sitter. One Agent of Change among the young is a purple dinosaur who is molding their tender minds. What? Barney? "Now you are going off the deep end," you may be thinking.

A pastor noted that, "Barney teaches a host of different things, but nothing comes through louder than the New Age idea of using our minds to create miracles." He finds it unsettling that "When he (Barney) leads the way, everything is A-OK! Children need heroes, but they need real life heroes. When we create characters out of the world of fantasy and make them the emotionally satisfying personality for our children, we do them a disservice... heroes should be people who teach us about the real world." (Barney "The Purple Messiah", Joseph R. Chambers, Charlotte, NC 28266)

"A newscast aired from WBTV in Charlotte (Nov. 16, 1993) introduced a special report on Barney by calling him 'the Purple Messiah'. A reporter, L. A. Smith, who had just visited the Barney Headquarters in Texas, along with her young daughter, shared that visit with viewers. She said her daughter acted like she was at 'a tent revival.' The young lady was then shown before Barney with her hands raised just as Christians often do in worship to the Lord Jesus. It was clearly a 'religious atmosphere'." (Ibid)

Barney also seems to be casting a spell on the young mind of the daughter of a WASHINGTON POST correspondent that he finds perturbing:

"...Barney is a big, purple dinosaur who starts each half-hour show as a tiny, stuffed dinosaur. He 'lives' at what appears to be a Midwestern elementary school but what may in fact be some sort of reeducation center or internment camp. He is relatively harmless in his miniaturized state, but whenever one or more of a small group of juvenile acolytes gets sad or depressed or scared or bored, he springs to life...using lots of imagination, Barney is able to right wrongs, teach lessons...make everybody feel as warm inside as a Frosted Pop Tart...Barney knows that repetition is the quickest way to mind control. There are only about four melodies on Barney & Friends. They are recycled endlessly with different lyrics...they immediately worm

into your brain and start playing and replaying like a broken jukebox...Barney is the Pied Piper of toddler television.. .Colleagues report that their children wouldn't brush their teeth until Barney showed them how...If Barney were to instruct his young charges to slit the throats of their sleeping parents, you could kiss 30 million yuppies goodbye.

The fact is, Barney is driving a wedge between my daughter and me and I feel jealous, threatened and wary." (DETROIT FREE PRESS, John F. Kelly, 2/20/93)

Education is-undergoing broad changes as educators try to bring children into a "new world". It is being restructured by the introduction of an international curriculum. This restructuring is aimed at alienating children from their parents, country and God. A new set of values is being instilled in the minds of the children apart from and opposed to the absolutes of Scripture, thus, parents will find the disciplining of their children is becoming more difficult as the authority is shifted to the "new parents" - those who hold your children most of their waking hours.

Parents are wondering if the politics of the day is insinuating its way into school curricula under the banner of "multiculturalism", "environmentalism" and "diversity". What does "progressive education" really mean and what is it producing? According to an article in the FLINT JOURNAL, (January 10, 1994), it is producing PC (politically correct) Brats.

"Your baby may end up a bona fide brat, but not the kind you think: a crusader of the politically correct faith, a '90s-style acolyte force-feeding everyone a piece of the PC pie"... "In Brookline, Mass., a class of pro-choice third-graders, led by their teacher, besiege the only pro-lifer among them with demands that she defend - and reverse - her opinion...the problem with PC begins when those impulses are twisted into rigidly defined and imposed dogma. Now, the imperious side of PC is working its way down from college campuses into secondary, elementary and even nursery schools, retaining all the way its doctrinaire flavor."

So what is this producing? According to the same article, "We have a whole generation of children unable to make an Informed and educated decision on a whole range of issues...because the materials are blatantly political. "What is very interesting is that this article states that liberals have joined conservatives in attacking the politicization of the curriculum. For instance, civil rights leaders in New York City took the lead in criticizing that school system's Rainbow Curriculum's heavily PC content. Michael Meyer, director of the New York Civil Rights Coalition said, "Political correctness is manifesting itself as sheer demagoguery, mysticism about race, recycled primitivism. We have to object to it...and protect our children from it." (The term "acolyte" again is used. This word just means a "follower" but the connotation is usually a religious follower.)

As we are being bombarded with 'change' in this electronic age, we realize that we are indeed on a path that has not been trod before. We are walking down a new avenue for the human race. If the change has been so dramatic in our lifetime, what changes will our children confront in the shadowy unknown future?

The term "Agents of Change" is thrown loosely about. Down through history there have always been Agents of Change. At certain points in history, one action of one man many times over has changed the course of human events!

Today, some of the most prominent Agents of Change host television talk shows. They will introduce a subject for mass consumption that decent folk wouldn't even speak of not long ago. After the initial shock their audience becomes captivated by the subject and before long it no longer shocks them. This method has developed to the point that now there is virtually no subject these purveyors of change will not tackle. It is amazing how a Bible believing Christian is now caricatured as a Bible thumping, narrow minded fundamentalist. Yet filth, degradation and sinful practices are considered worthwhile topics, not in the least derided or rejected because of their immoral basis. Derision and jeering will follow any remarks that in the least smack of gospel "truth", but applause and acceptance follows perversity, immorality and moral sickness.

During the last election the Clintons promised to be Agents of Change. As the President and First Lady move forward with their agenda, it is not surprising to see suddenly implemented many "changes" that have been on the back burner for years. Homosexuals in the military, the use of the aborted fetus for medical research, the implementation of a socialist agenda all bodes ill for a country that used to call itself "Christian".

A magazine entitle *COMMON BOUNDARY* explores "the Common Boundary between Psychotherapy and Spirituality". In their recent advertising they stated that, "There's a revolution in the making". This revolution is obviously in the field of psychotherapy. The advertisement continues, "... You and others like you - are the agents of this change." The change they are talking about is slowly infiltrating into our churches through big name speakers and popular seminars promoting "Christian psychology".

The "Christian Therapists" who have radio programs all seem so understanding and kind. They reach right down inside of their hearers and comprehend, as no other, the complex situations that develop in people's lives in today's world. Yet, many of these same complexities have been developed by these same therapists. Following the lead of the new "pied pipers", pastors have allowed counselors in their churches that have led unwary souls far from the God of Scripture. There are even churches encouraging therapy that leads people to "recall" memories of early childhood. Instead of this being a help, more problems develop! Marriages are torn apart and children alienated from their parents as these "memories" are brought to the fore. The medical field has come to realize that most of these "memories" are induced by the therapists and are a great cause for concern.

It was disturbing to hear one prominent Psychiatrist recently on "Christian" radio state that the altar was for feeble and immature Christians. His feeling was that you come to the altar for salvation and then for the deeper seated problems in your life, you must take them to a professional psychiatrist.

There are people who have written very good books and articles exposing many of these pernicious errors. Yet, many Christian radio stations will not allow these authors time (even to buy) because part of the main source of advertising revenue on Christian radio today is done by "Christian Psychologists". It is very dangerous when the opposing point of view can not come to the notice of the public. The truth will always stand unashamedly!

A Political Science professor recently taught my son's class that all that is right about America came from its Puritan roots. Although not a "believer", he stated that the Puritans taught that man is a sinner and depraved! Therefore when our fathers set up the Constitution they wrote into it a system of checks and balances! The professor acknowledged that the God-fearing Puritans did put our country on a firm foundation.

In contrast to the belief that man is depraved and in need of a Saviour, many homes have *GUIDEPOST* magazine placed sitting in the bathroom or beside the living room couch for easy reading. The founder of *GUIDEPOST*, Norman Vincent Peale, blended Christian and psychiatric principles in a "new message" of "positive thinking". He was an Agent of Change. His books which have sold in the millions have influenced many worldwide. The pure water of the Word when blended with psychiatric principles becomes polluted and therefore ineffective as a means a presenting the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As if this wasn't enough, other changes are sweeping through the church. Sincere and devout Christians unwittingly become involved in practices that they believe are advancing the cause of Christ. Others have moved to the reasoning that, "If it works, it must be all right". Success has become the motivation for many of the changes within the church. Over and over we hear the call, "we must just love everyone". The "love" that is meant is a sticky sweet kind of love that casts a blind eye on sin, refuses to confront disturbing issues, and tries to maintain a balancing act between popularity, ratings and financial gain.

Assembly of God churches that were once marked by their "detachment" from the world have opened their doors to many worldly changes. One well-known church sent out invitations for a rip-roarin, toe-lappin, foot-stompin, square dance. They called in a professional caller to call the dances. What a sharp contrast to the call of Thomas Trask (the General Superintendent) of the Assemblies of God for a Sacred Assembly:

"You should not come to the Sacred Assembly for the sake of coming or for the fellowship. But we are in need of God, and this is going to be a time given to seeking Him..." (Exclusive Release to Assemblies of God Ministers)

This is the scriptural approach - to call people to humble their hearts before the Lord. God's Word demands a humble and contrite heart before Him. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture. We can only be obedient to Him through His Word. All of the methods that man devises will come to naught. God commanded the children of Israel to march around the walls of Jericho seven (7) times. On the seventh day He told the people to shout because the Lord had given them the City. The walls of the city certainly did not come down because of their shouting. Yet today we have a strange belief arising in the church that somehow, by connecting geographical areas in prayer at a certain time, we can form a "power grid" and receive answers from God in this way. (Akin to harmonic convergences in New Age circles?? And akin to Al Gore's desire for convergence via the Super Highway?)

People go to large meetings and are awestruck at the "power they feel" in these services. The SHEER FORCE of the numbers causes a dynamic that many interpret as the presence of God.

Rick Joyner even equates power surges that sets off alarms, overpowers power systems and burns up equipment as a sign of the validity of the ministry of Paul Cain. He says, "Every time this happens the Lord confirms to us that we need more of His power..." He comes to the conclusion that people need to seek the Lord so that they can somehow handle this power (rather than seek His Word to know Him.)

When this particular power surge occurred, Paul Cain and Rick Joyner thought the interruption in the service was an attack from the enemy. However, the next day a staff member watching the video connected what Paul said before the surge, to it, so then their interpretation changed. Now they know "that we (the church) are on the verge of possibly receiving unprecedented spiritual authority. . . we do not intend to stop seeking Him until we are able to properly handle the next level of power that He wants to give us." (THE MORNING STAR, Prophetic Bulletin, January 1994, R. Joyner).

There is a spirit accompanying "handling a level of power" that is very frightening. The sounds coming from the different streams of the "prophetic movement" are sounding more and more militant. We know that they reject the "Rapture of the Church". This alone is a dramatic change from the historical view of the Blessed Hope. They are not looking forward at this time to the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Rather they are looking forward to the Church coming to great power and authority. This power and authority structure splashes over into the political arena as they unite with the Dominion side in the cries for "unity".

On January 25, 1994 John Hinkle was interviewed by Paul Crouch on TBN. No doubt John Hinkle loves the Lord with all of his heart. He was telling about his vision from March 14, 1993. According to this vision, the Lord awakened him with an awesome Voice- that was louder than a trumpet blast. This Voice told him that on Thursday, June 9 evil would be ripped out of this world. Somehow Rev. Hinkle knew that this was a cleansing of the earth and since June 9th falls on Thursday in 1994 he came to the conclusion that was the date this would transpire. He saw a blanket of darkness over the world and then saw it rip. He said that it would be the most cataclysmic experience the world has known since the resurrection. He also stated that June the 9th was That Day of the Lord - or the Day when the Son of Man would be revealed! Yet he was quite clear in stating this was not the Coming of the Lord. The Scriptures tell us that:

*"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." (I Thess. 5:2)*

- and -

*"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (II Pet. 3:10).*

If it be so, coming as a "thief in the night", how can they be setting a date? How did they verify this "vision"? Not from scripture. It was verified quoting from several others who had the same vision.

When he tried to verify the vision from scripture, he drew a scripture (Isaiah 25:6-9) from out of context, then applied it to the vision. However, this scripture is in reference to the literal Coming of Christ.

What was being promulgated was pure Manifest Sons of God doctrine, i.e. a coming of Christ without the literal presence of Jesus Christ.

Yes, indeed these "prophets" are Change Agents. They are manipulating the truth of the Gospel to fit a particular theological position that is increasingly taking hold as we draw closer and closer to the literal Coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This change takes the truth of God and turns it into a lie so that man worships the creature more than the Creator. As the focus turns away from the personal appearance of Jesus Christ and instead shines upon the "Church", in a subtle way the church is listening to that old lie, "eat this fruit and ye shall be as gods."

Yes, this teaching is riding in on another wave touted to be "a new thing". On this wave there will be many signs and wonders... There is such a preoccupation with the "supernatural" that anything is passed off as the Holy Spirit. Mass hysteria is gripping crowds as people fall down in fits of wild and uncontrolled laughter. The acolytes who seem to follow this brand of "filling of the Spirit" are unable to discern they are being manipulated and controlled by a spirit rather than being led by the Holy One.

As the crowds are being hyped up to expect something "big", the Word of God warns us that there will be a great falling away.

*"Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come), except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" II Tim. 2:3.*

*"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if [it were] possible; even the elect." Mark 13:22.*

Instead of jumping on our spiritual surf board to ride yet another wave, let us listen to the words of Jesus: *"if any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink, He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."* John 7:37, 38.

As we serve the Christ of the Scriptures, we find that we are secure. For with Him there is no changing! We can sing with utmost sincerity:

**Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee.**

God does not change nor does His Word accommodate 'our pleasure. It is for Him that we were created. We are the sheep of His pasture. He leads us besides the still waters, for His Name's sake.

*"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phi 2:13.*

The work that He has begun He will perform until the Day of Jesus Christ.

## USING ART TO CHANGE BELIEFS

by Berit Kjos

All across the land, the basis for a new earth-centered culture is being cast. Artists and poets are turning back to the earth as a source of inspiration... (Brian Tokar in *The Green Alternative*) 1

Art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it. (Bertolt Brecht) 2

When the artist has been awakened in every student, there will be a renaissance of aesthetics in our country which will enable us to understand more deeply the native peoples of our land, and bring us into harmony with the earth. (Andy LePage in *Transforming Education*) 3

The family of art produces...ugly babies as well as beautiful ones, but we have to embrace all of that family. (Clinton's NEA chairman Jane Alexander) 4

The headline for a full-page article in the San Francisco Chronicle fits our times: "Puppets for Social Change--the art of protest on S. F. streets." The top picture showed a gigantic puppet named Rage swaying above the mass of demonstrators, its mouth contorted in a scream, its fist gripping a sign proclaiming "NO!" Marching with Rage were a surrealistic crowd, a sun Goddess, and various mythical monsters. Together they composed "a walking gallery of feelings that collective members want to express--need to express." 5

Pagan expressions are *in*. Mythical and mystical art permeate art galleries, museums, theaters and cultural centers. Dancers imitate tribal fertility rites. Drummers summon ancestral spirits. Sculptors revive pagan goddesses as city symbols. Community art fairs popularize occult artifacts used to manipulate pagan spirits. Public schools teach tribal maskmaking and ritual chants. Together these timeless expressions evoke one overriding vision: a mystical world where humans once again seek animal powers and spiritual connections apart from God.

This explosion of occult stimuli desensitizes us to evil, distracts us from reality, molds our minds and--unless we have a firm Biblical foundation--shapes our beliefs. Most of us don't argue with a painting--we simply store the image. A Chevron ad said it well: "Art is not only a reflection of our culture; it also serves to shape and define who we are."

While some wonder how our culture can survive this onslaught, others cheer the revolution. "Artists can play a unique role in raising our consciousness about the changes that must be made for the healing of our planet," said Andria Diaz, faculty member at Matthew Fox's Institute.<sup>6</sup> Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers agree. In the popular PBS television series, "The Power of Myth," they discuss the artist's crucial role in social transformation:

*Moyers:* Who interprets the divinity inherent in nature for us today? Who are our shamans?

*Campbell:* It is the function of the artist to do this. The artist is the one who communicates myth for today...

*Moyers:* So shamans functioned in earlier societies as artists do now. They play a much more important role than simply being....

*Campbell:* They [the shamans] played the role the priesthood traditionally plays in our society. <sup>7</sup>

President Clinton seems to appreciate the transforming power of art. He and Hillary have commissioned actress Jane Alexander, the new head of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), to make sure that "arts are part of the life of every single American in the country." <sup>8</sup>

"Let me get into the fray here," said Alexander, who is eager to re-invent the image of a politicized agency seared by controversy. Following Clinton's campaign style, she will criss-cross the country, using her fame to prove the vital importance of the arts.

Her primary focus will be arts in education. "She plans to work closely with Secretary of Education Richard Riley...to make the arts as important in classrooms as history and science," wrote *New York Times* editor Karen De Witt. <sup>9</sup>

"And I'm not talking just about pumpkins at Halloween or bunny ears at Easter," added Alexander. "I'm talking about a lot more in terms of daily expression." Like global-minded educators within the National Education Association (the *other* NEA) who listen to parental concerns but allow nothing to hinder their agenda, Alexander is prepared to *hear--but not heed--those* who question the NEA's choices: "Oh, I don't think I'm going to necessarily try to put out the fire," she said. "These are people you have to listen to. Many of them come from deep religious feeling. I just don't want them to drown out the hall." <sup>10</sup>

In her interview with De Witt, Alexander shrewdly restrained her comments on controversial issues such as the recent use of NEA funds to pass out \$10 bills to illegal immigrants. There are a lot of people--particularly on the border in California--who are very, very sensitive to the issues of undocumented workers to begin with," she explained cautiously. "And handing out tax-payers money to them, that complicated the whole issue for many, many people." <sup>11</sup> Apparently, she saw the problem as a lack of understanding among those who opposed the government give-away, not as a misuse of government funds.

To prevent opponents from chipping away at the \$174 million that President Clinton has requested for the endowment, Alexander must divert our attention from the abuses. "There's

been so much attention focused on being in a defensive position. I'm going to get into the offensive position," she said, sounding more like a football coach than a public servant. "So I'm going to get out there and try to tell the truth...with regard to... 100,000 grants in 27 years." 12

But telling the truth doesn't mean talking about specifics. She refused to say how she would change the agency or evaluate federal grants. Nor would she comment on Clinton's decision to appeal a court ruling that canceled the mandatory decency standards established by the Bush administration.

Is there a need for such a standard? Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice who replaced Frohnmayer as head of the NEA seems to think so. Astonished at what she observed during Frohnmayer's rule, she asks, "How can you run an arts agency and not evaluate the art you fund?" 13 For her refusal to bow to demands from political and militant art groups--many of whom were using their NEA funds to lobby--she faced smears, threats and attempted blackmail.

Dr. Radice hampered--but couldn't block--the radical agenda of the art establishment. Jane Alexander, on the other hand, is fortifying it. Her inordinate power to influence culture is exposed in the October *Phyllis Schlafly Report*: "The NEA functions as a sort of Ministry of Culture from which the Art commissar decides which art should be endorsed and subsidized and which should not. That doesn't sound very American, does it?"

In her newsletter, Mrs. Schlafly documents some of the 1992-93 grants: 14

- \$13,000 to New York's fashionable Kitchen Theater for video-related expenses, including ex-prostitute Annie Sprinkle's obscene video, "The Sluts and Goddesses of Transformation Salon." An earlier live performance had featured Sprinkle chanting prayers to the "spirits of ancient sacred temple prostitutes" and inviting her audience to examine her private parts. The ecstatic Annie had uttered the immortal line, "*Usually I get paid a lot of money for this, but tonight it's government funded.*" 15

- \$25,000 toward the production of *Poison*, a film glorifying homosexual acts.

- \$20,000 to the Arts Complex. Attractions included Annie Sprinkle performing "the story of my sexual evolution, into goddess/sex-educator/healer Anya."

- \$170,105 to La MaMa Experimental Theater Club, "the venue for Lesbians Who Kill... from the Three-Lesbian team of Split Britches." 16

- \$20,000 to Joel-Peter Witkin--his fourth grant from the NEA. His photographs include *Testicle Stretch* and *Woman Castrating a Man*. His picture of a corpse's head sliced in two sold for \$27,000 at Sotheby's in 1990. 17

In October 1993, the NEA funded three gay film festivals in Pittsburgh. It contributed \$17,000 toward movies showing masturbation, oral sex between two men, and a man licking the inside of a toilet. 18

If the NEA supports this twisted and depraved form of "art," what kind does it reject? In his article, "Art Censors: A Closer Look at the NEA," James Cooper suggests that it spurns

any expression of the "aesthetic criteria that are the foundation of Western culture." For example, the NEA refused to fund artist Frederick Hart who created the Three Soldiers for the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial, one of Washington's most popular attractions. Hart worked three years in an unheated studio to complete the magnificent Creation sculptures now adorning the main facade of Washington's National Cathedral.

"The NEA told me what I was doing wasn't art," he explained. 19

Why such upside-down values? The work of all artists--Christian or Pagan--promote personal values. While our "traditional" art illustrates the truth, beauty and moral order of Bible-based cultures, pagan art promotes the myths, rituals, oppressions and natural inclinations of earth-based cultures. In stark contrast to the rising clamor for unconditional tolerance, contemporary leaders who extol self-expression and envision a unifying all-inclusive global spirituality can neither tolerate nor understand the expressions of those who follow God.

As always, Satan seeks to distort God's gifts to fit his plans. Art and truth enhance each other, but so do art and pagan myths. The latter union can fashion an imaginary world filled with false hopes, untamed passions, counterfeit gods and deceiving spirits. Since they have always been used to *establish* polytheistic religions, God told His people long ago, "*The images of their gods you are. Do not covet...do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the Lord you God.*" 20

God's Word describes this timeless drift from truth and order into myth and decadence in Romans 1:21-29: "*...although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God or gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animal and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over...to sexual impurity...to shameful lusts...Men... were inflamed with lust for one another... They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.*"

The best forms of art should remind us of God's greatness. If they fit the criteria of Philippians 4:8 (*Whatever is true...noble...right...pure...*), they will turn our spiritual eyes to the Creator with thanks and adoration--and He will receive the glory.

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1 Brian Tokar, *The Green Alternative* (San Pedro, CA: R. & E. Miles, 1987), 150.

2 From poster distributed by Syracuse Cultural Workers, Syracuse, New York.

3 Andy lePage, *Transforming Education* (Oakland: Oakmore House Press, 1987), 129.

4 "Congress Delays Vote on Arts Funding", *Family Issues Alert*, Focus on the Family, October 14, 1993.

5 "Puppets for Social Change", *San Francisco Chronicle*, 3 March 1991.

6 Adriana Diaz, "The Earth's Alive! Festival," *Creation* (May/June 1990): 35.

7 Joseph Campbell, *The Power of Myth* (New York: Doubleday, 1988), 207.

8 Karen De Witt, "Alexander Strides to New Center-Stage," *New York Times*, October 16, 1993.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

- 11 "NEA chief pledges to spread the good word on arts agency", San Jose Mercury News, October 14, 1993.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 "Blackmail at the NEA: An Interview With Anne-Imelda Radice," COMINT (October 23, 1993): 49.
- 14 Eagle Forum letter from Phyllis Schlafly, October 1993.
- 15 James F. Cooper, "Art Censors: A Closer look at the NEA," New Dimensions (June 1991): 16. Ibid.
- 17 "Shenanigans of the Clinton Administration," The Phyllis Schlafly Report, October 1993.
- 18 Congress Delays Vote on Arts Funding," 1.
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Deuteronomy 7:25-26. See also Romans 1:18-32.

## **AGENTS OF CHANGE IN HEALTH**

**by: Ray Yungen**

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ warned in Matthew 24:3-5, to "Take care that no man deceive you" because many will deceive many at the time right before His return. It is my firm conviction that those He forewarned about are actively at work right now in what is known as the New Age Movement. As one who has closely followed and studied this movement for the last ten years, I can declare the evidence shows it has begun entering a very decisive phase. One that could very well put every man, woman and child in America in its direct grasp.

The New Age Movement faces the following difficulty. It has been able to attract only limited numbers of people to new age spirituality. Therefore, its dilemma is how to get the majority to respond, those who are resistant or skeptical. To overcome this obstacle it has found the ideal channel to persuade the general population to eagerly swallow its mystical practices!

New Age author, Lilly Andrews, divulged the means by which they plan to make their techniques "legitimate and desirable" to the average American - - the HEALTH CARE SYSTEM! In her book, A Guide to Channeling and Channel Material, she states:

"It is through this type of work [the healing professions] they [The New Age Movement] can accomplish the most good."

The goal is to use illness as a catalyst for getting average people into the practice of meditation as a "medical tool" This view is gaining wider and wider acceptance in the medical field under the innocent sounding title "MIND-BODY Medicine." Therapist Lynne D. Finney explained this proposition very concisely in her book, Reach for the Rainbow:

"Meditation is no longer for mystics. Western society has discovered that the old gurus really had something, that the ancient eastern wisdom works, and that meditation is not only applicable to our modern society but may be its savior." (page 240)

One of the most well-respected and influential proponents of this viewpoint is Dr. Dean Ornish. He has recently gained the willing ear of First Lady Hillary Clinton and her health reform committee and has even been invited to the White House to discuss his work on health care with her. Dr. Ornish has already experienced some major successes. Mutual of Omaha (nine million insured) has now incorporated Ornish's program and Blue Cross-Blue Shield, in some states is "reviewing" his material. (*Sunday Oregonian*, Sept. 19, 1993, LIVING Section, pages 1 & 6). Behind all of his talk of "health enhancement" there lies the philosophy of the New Age one-world religion. Sound far out? On page 231 of Dr. Ornish's highly acclaimed book, Dr. Dean Ornish's Program for Reversing Heart Disease, he admits that the "stress management methods" he is promoting to thousands are really "tools for transformation" and explains that "When your mind is quiet [empty]...you may even encounter your 'higher self' [spirit guide]" page 246. Dr. Ornish is not alone in this mounting effort. A number of highly popular authors such as: Dr. Bernie Seigel, Dr. Deepak Chopra, Bill Moyers, Louise Hay and Joan Borysenko echo Ornish's mind-body message. Support for these meditative practices are also starting to emerge from some very unexpected and influential sources. A few examples are:

- The Readers Digest Society has recently published a book entitled Reader's Digest's Family Guide to Natural Medicine. On page 100 they picture H. B. Blavatsky and Annie Besant, two of the founding figures of modern occultism. On the opposite page is the leader of TM, the Maharishi Mehesh Yogi. The accompanying text explains that meditation leads to "spiritual rewards" and "oneness with the Universe" (the occult concept of God) on page 102.

- In his book, Making Miracles, Dr. Paul Roud claims that meditation is the "most important commitment a person can make" and recommends Hindu guru Ram Dass' book Journey of Awakening as a "good source" for learning meditation (page 220). Well-known radio personality Paul Harvey says on the back of Dr. Roud's book that what he is presenting in the book is a "formula for self-healing".

- New Age trainer, Jack Hawley, has received the open endorsement of David M. Lawrence, chairman and CEO of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc. He praises Hawley's Hindu-based views and practices as being "a vital subject for all leaders" and that Hawley has "insights,.. into the meaning of life itself." (back cover of Jack Hawley's book, Reawakening the Spirit in Work the Power of Daharmic Management).

On February 19, 1993, the ABC new program 20/20 did a feature segment on New Age style meditation for medical health. The segment was narrated by 20/20 resident physician Dr. Timothy Johnson who gave meditation his stamp of approval as something the average American needs to practice. Anchors Hugh Downs and Barbara Walters were very supportive of the piece and gave the impression that they endorsed its content.

This is not a "fundamentalist subversion myth": The subtle, yet weighty fact is that one can not engage in this type of mind-emptying practice without serious spiritual side-effects.

What is being passed off as "stress reduction" is, in reality, the gateway straight into the demonic realm.

Mind-body researcher, Bernard Ward, writes in his book, *Think Yourself Well* that "newcomers" to these practices find "to their absolute amazement" that what he calls "presence" is waiting to "help and guide them" when they enter the meditative state. He acknowledges that mind-body teachers "are not surprised" when these spirit guides appear because "spiritualists and mystics have known about this presence for centuries" (page 65). In the New Age publication, *Spirit Speaks*, one of these "guides" explains that when a person's mind is active and thinking it "stops" them from "coming through." But, when the mind is emptied of thought it creates a "communicating channel" for them. (*Life in the Spirit World*, issue 7, page 38). You can tell when they have gotten through and established a connection when you see people like Dr. Dean Ornish declaring in his book that "everyone and everything is God..." (Reversing Heart Disease, page 247.) This is why Alice Bailey, the person who coined the very term "New Age" stated, "The emphasis in all esoteric [occult] schools is necessarily, and rightly, laid upon meditation." (Externalisation of the Hierarchy, page 17.)

It is a chilling reality that Mind-Body practices are TAKING AMERICA BY STORM. If you haven't already, you or a family member may soon be confronted by this meditation explosion. You will need to be equipped with a solid biblical response to show those who approach you (or others being approached) that there is a deeper agenda behind this effort. Please do not let a friend, relative or co-worker find themselves in the same position as the poor deceived person who proclaimed with amazement after starting meditation, "It opened a window for me that I did not even know was there."

Ray Yungen, Author of MANY SHALL COME IN MY NAME available through DISCERNMENT MINISTRIES or your local Christian bookstore. Also see the order list for a video tape available.

### **Letter to the Editor**

Dear Discernment Ministries:

A spectacle crossed my television viewing screen recently which is difficult to dismiss from my mind. It depicted many people in a church congregation laughing uncontrollably while a South African evangelist attempted to deliver the Word of God. He acknowledged the phenomenon to be peculiar to his ministry and associated it with the 2nd Chapter of Acts where the Spirit fell upon people while the apostle was speaking and they APPEARED "drunk". He equated the inappropriate laughter with "the joy of the Lord" and the Holy Spirit. As a "Berean" who "searches the scriptures whether those things be so," I re-read Acts 2 and found that nowhere was laughter attributed to those receiving the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The only laughter recorded came from the "mockers" who made fun of the believers and ACCUSED them of being "drunk with new wine".

Yes, joy is a fruit of the Spirit and laughter can be associated with joy, but laughter and joy are not synonymous. Joy is pleasure, happiness, delight or gladness which is inwardly

silent and calm (GR=chara, from which we get the word "character"). Laughter is provoked. Solomon said of laughter, "it is mad and of mirth, what doeth it?" (Eccl. 2:2).

Excessive, inappropriate, uncontrolled laughter is a sign of foolishness. There are more than 200 negative references in the Bible warning against fools, folly, and foolishness. Scorn, mocking, ridicule, derision, scoffing and buffoonery (GR=morologia or moronic) are types of laughter to be avoided. The Galatians were called "foolish" by Paul for being fleshly and mixing the carnal with God's Word. (Gal. 3:1-3). The Ephesians were told to stay away from foolish talking and jesting (Eph. 5:4, 6, 10, 15) and to "prove what is acceptable unto the Lord." Further they were told "to walk circumspectly, (perfectly) not as fools."

The word "drunk" appears in the book of Acts, but it also appears three times in the book of Revelation (17:2 and 18:3) where it says all nations and inhabitants of the earth will be made "drunk" with the wine of the harlot church's adultery. Here "drunk" comes from the Greek word "methistemi" which means to turn away or seduce through trickery or travesty. Rev. 17:6 says the harlot church will be drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus.

Drunkenness is like a sedative. It puts people in a stupor. They use bad judgment and get confused. Our God is not the author of confusion. If excessive laughter is like drunkenness, is it too a sedative? Wine is called "spirits" in the secular world. In the Bible it is called "a mocker". (Prov. 20:1). What spirit are those laughing Christians being joined with...the Holy Spirit or un-holy spirits?

When born again Christians give license to the Holy Spirit to control their emotions, would He use "uncontrollable" laughter to be a sign of His presence? Even "tongues", "interpretations" and "prophecy" are "subject to the prophets". (I Cor. 14:32). Would He motivate a believer to snicker and cackle when God's Holy Word is being spoken? It is dangerously close to blaspheming the Holy Spirit to attribute this disruption to Him? The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus. How can our Savior be glorified in the "foolishness of fools which is folly" (Prov. 14:24)? "Be not deceived, God is not mocked..." (Gal. 6:7).

What anointed, creditable evangelist would tolerate erratic outbursts of uncontrolled laughter while delivering the precious Word of God? Inappropriate laughter in a public assembly is, at least, disturbing and irritating and at most, disruptive and offensive. Any discerning leader would rebuke the deviant "spirit" or have it ejected before its contagion spread like leaven and "silenced" his message. "Let all things be done decently and in order." (I Cor. 14:40).

The phrase, "laughed to scorn" is used nine times in the Bible. Sanbalat laughed Nehemiah to scorn when he tried to rebuild the wall. (Neh. 2:19). Sarah laughed when God told her she would bear a child in her old age and God rebuked her for it. The people laughed Jesus to scorn when He said the "maid is not dead but sleepeth." (Matt. 9:24). Luke 6:25 Jesus says, "woe to you who laugh now for you will mourn and weep."

Euphoria is an abnormal feeling of buoyancy. It can be induced through excessive or contrived laughter. Hysteria is a psychiatric condition variously characterized by emotional excitability, excessive anxiety, sensory and motor disturbances and the stimulation of organic disorders such as blindness or deafness. Mass hysteria is the contagious outbreak, in a group

of people, of wild, uncontrollable excitement or feelings such as fits of laughing or crying. If hysteria can cause temporary physical blindness can group hysteria in a church promote spiritual blindness and deafness to God's spoken Word?

According to the "Modern Synopsis of Psychiatry/II" by Freedman, Kaplan and Sadock, Hysteria "is often elicited in certain fundamentalist, revivalist sects...mystical trance states have been described frequently... In some revivalist services even today, trance states are deliberately induced." The book further describes "euphoria" as an "altered state of consciousness," the first, moderate level in the scale of pleasurable effects likened to ALCOHOL ABUSE, followed by "Elation", the second level, "Exaltation" with DELUSIONS of grandeur, the third level and "Ecstasy", the fourth level which represents a peak state of "RAPTURE". A great DELUSION IS coming (2 Thes. 2:11). A literal RAPTURE IS COMING. (I Thess. 4:16) BEWARE OF THE COUNTERFEITERS! We are told to be sober, the exact opposite of giddy or heady, which can be intoxication either through excessive wine or excessive laughter, (see "heady" II Tim. 3:4; "silly women" and "folly" in II Tim. 3).

Ever since court jesters entertained kings, there have been stand-up comedians and satirists who captivate their audiences by using gesture, facial expressions, body language and timing to disarm them and manipulate their emotions. Their audience become participants in a farce. Is it coincidence that laughter in the church is coming at a time when off-based ethnic humor, insulting jokes, situation comedies on TV and offensive satirical cartoons have reached an all time high in the secular world? Paradoxes, absurdities and exaggerations are on every page of today's news. Mingling the sacred with the profane is common in erotic artwork. Laughing at oneself and others is "in". Laughter is said to ease stress, stretch boundaries and give an emotional high. It is the therapy for the 90' s. May God protect His church from the leaven of the world.

The South African evangelist says his ministry is to prepare the people for the coming revival. An apostasy is also coming. He said that the people are hungry for the supernatural'. Tapping into the supernatural can also result in "un-holy alliances". God's people should be hungry for sanctification and prayer. The dark clouds that are coming toward America are not clouds of judgment he said, but the "dark cloud of the Holy Spirit". My Bible says "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." (I John 1:5). I cannot presume to judge the evangelist or the church that hosted and endorsed him for several weeks of "revival". The God who reads the intents of our hearts is sovereign and full of Mercy to us all. However, the uneasiness will not go away. Throughout the night and early hours of the morning I have been compelled to search the scriptures on this matter with a heavy heart. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful and the end of that mirth is heaviness." (Proverbs 14:12-13). Our God would never put us to shame. The Holy Spirit guides into all truth. Jesus knew what it was to be laughed at, scorned and ridiculed. He endured those burdens so that I would not have to. "The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation." (Rom. 1: 16) and no true believing Christian should ever allow it to be demeaned, ridiculed or treated irreverently.

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