
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 25, Number 5

September/October 2014

Back to Zimbabwe

By Jewel Grewe

Early in the journey...

Back to the land where the sun always shines, the dry dusty land waits for the Spring rains and time stands still. Have been here a week and slowly absorbing the quiet and slow way of life. The realities of the everyday struggle slowly permeates my consciousness. The feeling of helplessness grows each day with wishing I had the means and the ways to ease the weariness, striving and pain of every day existence of so many. Today I feel like the little boy with the five loaves and two fishes who gave them as a willing sacrifice to our Saviour. He is the One who took that humble offering and multiplied the gift to feed the masses with abundance left over.

When Jesus questioned Peter if he loved him, Peter was disturbed because Jesus asked him the same question over and over... and he always assured Jesus that he loved him. The answer from Jesus was always the same, “Feed my sheep.” His “sheep” are scattered throughout the world. What an honor we have to be able in a small way to reach out and “feed the sheep.”

Walking into the Bible School office yesterday, I was struck anew with the overwhelming task these dear folk are attempting under the most difficult circumstances. When you arrive at the ramshackle building the Bible School sign protrudes bravely to display that there is indeed a Bible School up the narrow broken steps to the second floor.

Here a sight awaits you of the “classroom” now a library with not enough shelves to hold the shipment of books that arrived from America. The computer center (where much of the

correspondence Bible Studies are accessed) is “squashed in a corner.” The office for the management and secretary are so small that you wonder how they get their work accomplished.



Preparing for graduation...

One morning we were going to have a meeting for the program of the graduation and in the afternoon a ladies meeting. I was to be picked up by 9:30 a.m. but received a call that Mpoko, who manages the affairs of the Bible College, was picked up by the police for waiting for someone in a parking place, so they are detaining him for a bit (typical procedure). One doesn't really plan a day too carefully as those plans have a way of changing. I rejoice that

there have been only two brief power cuts in the two weeks I've been here. When we lived here in 2011, it was a daily "happening."

It would be wonderful to have our own property and premises for the Bible College. That is our prayer and desire. In the meantime, we rejoice for what the Lord has done through the faithfulness of so many up to this time.

Graduation day...

The Graduation day finally arrived. I wrote about the day on the next day. Here is my account:

"It is Sunday Morning early and I'm still rejoicing in the wonderful graduation yesterday. Words can't explain how proud and dignified the graduates marched down the aisle in their black gowns. The week had been fraught with problems—African style—starting with a panic over the fact there were no Diplomas to hand out. After a discussion in the office on Wednesday, Mpoko ran out to organize the same with a local printer. Just the discussion over the "gold seal" took an hour. Finally they were convinced that a gold seal was not necessary to be "official" since they are not even available in Zimbabwe. (For the future, we will make sure we have Diplomas/Certificates in advance with a "gold seal" available to attach. There is a "punch" to press on the seal with the imprint of the school.)

There isn't quite the time this morning to give all the "details," but Princess (the secretary) certainly comes through when the "gaps" arose. On Friday Mpoko was supposed to be picking me up and his car was impounded—over being parked in a wrong place briefly. (When you see how they drive here... you wonder why most of the crazy driving infractions are ignored.) So, he sent a young man to fetch me—who ran out of petrol on the way into town. But, never mind, he had some extra in a can in the back. (By the way, his name is Kissinger).

Arriving at the graduation Karl comes to the car and says, "We've had a slight hiccup, Mpoko's wife had her baby last night." So, a bit of readjustment at 8:00 A.M. to prepare for a quick rehearsal. Mpoko, the happy father, walked up beaming and said, "maybe I'll give him the name 'Graduation'! So, we all went in to the upstairs auditorium for "rehearsal" as the graduation was scheduled to start at 9:00 A.M. (Sparing you many details here).

Readjustments were made to the program. Papa Mkwanzazi was doing a wedding, so he was put on the program last, which actually turned out very well as he gave a beautiful admonition to the graduates about walking cautiously before God. He told them that their lives speak louder than their words. He went on to say, "God calls a man who know His Heart, He calls him into the fire." When he finished he started the chorus, "Where He leads me I will follow." And then he laid his hands on each on and prayed for them one by one. It was very moving.



A note about personnel: Tham Dube is the actual principal, and he fulfills that role as he is "training" the others to leadership. Karl is the Full Time Tutor and does a fabulous job in that task. Mpoko is responsible for the day to day running of the school. Princess keeps them all organized.

Back to the program...

Everything did start (an hour late)—but ran smoothly from then on. The Certificate graduates came first. (Many of these want to go on for a Diploma now.) They received their Certificate, then a gift of a *Thompson Chain Reference Bible* and a *Strong's Concordance*. Those who received their Diploma received the following: *New Bible Dictionary*, *Thompson Chain Reference Bible*, *Nave's Topical Bible* and *Strong's Concordance*. I can't even begin to tell you how thrilled they were! The vision of Ken Myers to provide these books has been a tremendous boost to the work of the Bible College here. Awards were given for the Best Student (judged by grades). For the Diplomas it was a lady from Chipinga!

A very distinguished gentleman who graduated came up to me and said, "I am an Anglican minister and I want to tell you how much I appreciate the Bible College. It has changed my life. First I found out that the Assemblies of God doesn't bite, and most of all the studies have taken me outside of my 'Anglican' box and taught me the Word of God."



Tears of joy came to my eyes over and over as different ones would enthusiastically tell me how much the studies have meant to them.

They are more than happy with the modules and mentioned many times how having Karl to work with them with the modules have helped them so tremendously.

I do wish you all had the privilege of being here as so many have been a part of the sending forth of enthusiastic students who have been thoroughly trained in the scriptures and have a passion for souls.

Christian Alliance Ministries Conference

Report by Pastor Anton Bosch

This year Christian Alliance Ministries held their annual conference at Willersley Castle Hotel, in Derbyshire, United Kingdom, from the 10th to the 13th of July. About 60 believers and leaders gathered from all over the UK for fellowship, worship, prayer and ministry. The theme that had been chosen was "The Whole Armor of God" (Eph 6:13). Bill Randles (Iowa), Roger Winter-Smith (London) and Anton Bosch (California) had been invited to minister.

The venue, an old castle which also served as a military hospital during WWII, is beautifully set amongst the green hills of Derbyshire, some three hours north of London. The green hills, streams and stone buildings were, in themselves, a treat for me after the Southern Californian desert. The meals were wonderful English fare served with real British style.

But it was the spiritual food that excelled. The attendees all came with a hunger for more of the Lord and a wonderful spirit of love and grace prevailed. I was blessed by the emphasis on prayer as well as the singing of hymns from the *Redemption Hymnal* with which I had grown up. At the conference, as well as in the various churches, they seem to be able to sing every single one of the 800 hymns in the book with a musicality unique to the English. What struck me of every gathering I attended was

how much I felt right at home, even though it was my first visit to the country.

The ministry generally followed the theme, but without presenting the stereotypical messages on the Armor. The speakers were able to unpack details on the armor by exploring parallel texts to Ephesians 6 and tying those back to Ephesians. I believe that we all came away with an awareness that the battle is real, and that unless we are thoroughly equipped and aware of the devices of the enemy we could easily be overrun. (Recordings of the messages will be available from Discernment Ministries, <http://home.etcable.net/hestervanboven/products.htm> or phone 903 567-6423.)

After the conference I was privileged to minister in several churches in, and around, London. Even though the churches I visited were mainly small, I was impressed with the level of spirituality of the believers and the churches. While they all seem to be very aware of the general spiritual decline in the nation (as in every other nation), in my humble opinion, it seems that the general spiritual decline has had less of an impact on the churches I visited when compared to similar churches in the US.

In addition to formal church meetings, I was also blessed to meet many believers and leaders from a variety of church backgrounds in more informal settings, and these all impressed me with their intense devotion to the Lord and His Word. It was especially the relatively large number of younger men (mostly tent-makers) who have zealously made the Lord's work their priority in life that encouraged me greatly. I have little doubt that the church in the UK will be in excellent hands, should the Lord tarry. Their zeal for holiness, doctrinal purity and singular devotion to the Lord is a great example to all.

I am very grateful to Mark Mullins, pastor of Strangers Rest Mission and a Barrister (Lawyer), for doing much to make the trip

possible—housing me in his London apartment, and ferrying me all over London to the various appointments. The early morning prayer meetings and late night discussions were spiritually and intellectually stimulating.

While I had crossed “the pond” to minister and serve, I came away feeling refreshed and blessed. They had ministered to, and served me, rather than the other way around. I felt encouraged and uplifted and was strengthened by many new friends and relationships. May the Lord be blessed that He is still building His church and that he yet has those who have not bowed the knee to Baal (1Kings 19:18).





The Peer-Driven Church

By Sarah H. Leslie

The following article was posted on the Herescope blog on July 26, 2014. It contained a link to a comedy routine posted on the Internet at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTezdMLJoyE>. This comedy group's clean-cut routines are posted all over YouTube, but beware that it originated with BYU TV. It is interesting to watch because it so accurately depicts the effects of extreme peer pressure.

*"Woe unto them that call evil good,
and good evil;
that put darkness for light,
and light for darkness;
that put bitter for sweet,
and sweet for bitter
(Isaiah 5:20)*

Peer Pressure is the easiest way to manipulate people. This piece of comedy satire in the video vividly explains what is happening to people in our churches and across our society.

As you watch the above video, note the self-doubt. The confusion. The pressure to conform. How the pressure is ramped up by calling upon an "authority." The high stakes! The emotional appeals!

In 1972 when I was a student in an Educational Psychology class we were put through a similar group psychological experiment. We were positioned in a large circle. One person was

designated as the first person and given a message to deliver. A group of approximately 8-10 people after them were given the same message.

But the rest of us didn't know that they had been given this message. We only knew that we were given the assignment to find group consensus.

These first people had been secretly told to assert strongly that "**Black Is White.**" As the people began go around the circle, more and more pressure was brought to bear. Each secretly-informed person would more assertively and authoritatively state, "**Black Is White.**"

There were only a handful of the rest of us at the end who were not privy to the secret. So by the time it got to our last section of the circle we were puzzled and confused. We were supposed to say "**Black Is White**" in order to accomplish group agreement.

What happened to us? We did the same thing you see happen on the video!

This comedy routine, even though a satire, is the most perfect example I've ever seen of how this peer-driven process works.

Peer-driven is a sophisticated psycho-social marketing technique. It is used in the evangelical church world to pressure people into conforming to new norms, beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviors. It is a very effective method employed by trained leaders to cause people in the pews to change, to follow new teachings and new teachers, to believe new doctrines, to read new books, to join new groups, to adopt new behaviors, etc.

Have you ever wondered why evangelical leaders shifted the focus to "relationships" and "community" over the past few decades? It was to institute a peer-driven culture. What is the final authority? It isn't the Bible anymore. It is whatever the group says. "**Black is White.**"

For example, peer-driven can resemble a phenomena called "Groupthink":

Groupthink is a psychological phenomenon that occurs within a group of people, in which the desire for harmony or conformity in the group results in an irrational or dysfunctional decision-making outcome. Group members try to minimize conflict and reach a consensus decision without critical evaluation of alternative viewpoints, by actively suppressing dissenting viewpoints, and by isolating themselves from outside influences.

Loyalty to the group requires individuals to avoid raising controversial issues or alternative solutions, and there is loss of individual creativity, uniqueness and independent thinking.

There is a reason that the Bible compares people to sheep. We are prone to follow the leaders, and we like to follow our peers.

*"My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them,
and **they follow Me.**"
(John 10:27)*

Evanscandal

Neologisms for Evangelicals (Herescope series)

"My attorneys continue to advise me not to discuss this suit with others nor to make any statements to news media about the allegations brought against me and others. I have followed their advice and intend to continue to follow it through the duration of this suit."^[1]

"I continually operated with a self-preservation mindset that influenced how I pastored and led others."^[2]

"Liberty takes concerns like yours extremely seriously, and that's why I'm writing to personally address your concerns."^[3]

EVANSCANDAL (n.) [ee'-van skan'-dl] [**evangelical**: 1525-35; < Late Latin *evangelicus* (< Late Greek *euangelikós*; see *evangel*, -ic) + -al] [**scandal**: 1580s, "discredit caused by irreligious conduct," from Middle French *scandale* (12c.), from Late Latin *scandalum* "cause for offense, stumbling block, temptation," from Greek *skandalon* "a trap or snare laid for an enemy," in New Testament, metaphorically as "a stumbling block, offense;" originally "trap with a springing device," from PIE *skand- "to leap, climb."]^[4]

1. An evangelical leader - caught in a scandal, sinful or illegal action, public disgrace, offensive conduct, shameful behavior, "defraudings,"^[5] or any other opprobrious deportment - who engages in cover-up, "spin," denials, blasting critics, shifting blame, implausible deniability, harassing victims, counter-attacks, accusations, theological twistings, arguments over minutiae, obfuscation, hiding evidence, misleadings; and employing semantic gymnastics, righteous indignation, lying, deceiving, justifications, technical jargon, outright vengeance, and other similar methods.

2. An evangelical leader who commits such actions and gets caught, who resorts to marketing strategies to restore ("spin") his/her tarnished image. Such marketing methods include hiring a public relations firm, lawyers and press agents; enlisting radio talk show hosts, publishers, media outlets, writers, and big name leaders in the "evangelical industrial complex"^[6]; and engaging friends, buddies, colleagues, and associates to speak favorably about him/her - all engaged in damage control and the restoration of his/her shattered public image. Such leaders, using these tactics, try to "get away with it" with as little collateral damage as possible.

3. An evangelical leader who commits such actions and gets caught, who believes that he/she is "basically good but just flubbed up a bit," and who depends on the whole "Oops!" episode "blowing over quickly" so that they can just get on with their ministry/business. Such leaders often operate out of multiple corporate structures, which enables them to sidestep the controversy and continue on in equally profitable ventures as though nothing happened.

4. An evangelical leader who commits such actions and gets caught, who fails to acknowledge sin or admit wrongdoing, refuses to name the sin, does not express true contrition, avoids public expression of

repentance, and neglects to perform restitution wherever and however possible - but, rather, issues a press release with sweeping blanket statements designed to minimize the impact, trivialize the issue(s), sweep everything under the carpet, and superficially appear to be sorry. Such leaders heavily depend upon "evangullibility" so that they can continue on as before without any serious or long-lasting negative consequences.

RELATED WORDS:

- EVANSCANDALIZE (v.)
- EVANSCANDALIZING (v.)
- EVANSCANDALIZATION (n.)
- EVANSCANDALOUS (adj.)
- EVANSCANDALOUSLY (adv.)
- EVANSCANDAL SHEET (n.)
- EVANSCANDAL-MONGER (n.)

SEE ALSO:

EVANSCHULTZICAL: "An evangelical, most likely a leader, who, when confronted by obvious heresy, hears nothing, sees nothing and knows nothing."

<http://apprising.org/2012/02/29/evanschultzical/>

"For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest.... Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."
(Psalm 51: 3-4,10)

"If I was the head of an organization where this kind of behavior had been taking place for years, even though if I didn't actually perform this kind of behavior, even if I didn't even know about the behavior, the only thing I would say is 'I'm sick. I'm sorry. I will do whatever I need to do to help the victims and their families,' ..." [7]

Endnotes:

1. John Loftness, cited at "C.J. Mahaney Issues Statement Protesting His Innocence," at

<http://abrentdetwiler.squarespace.com/brentdetwilercom/cj-mahaney-issues-statement-protesting-his-innocence.html>. See also: <http://apprising.org/2014/05/22/c-j-mahaney-issues-statement-concerning-civil-lawsuit/> and <http://apprising.org/2012/10/17/lawsuit-claims-c-j-mahaney-sovereign-grace-ministries-concealed-sex-abuse-allegations/>

2. Kyle Firstenberg, formerly of Mars Hill. This admission about the Mars Hill culture was included in his statement of repentance, reported by Warren Throckmorton, March 25, 2014, "Former Executive Pastor Repents for Culture of Fear at Mars Hill Church,"

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/warrenthrockmorton/2014/03/25/former-executive-pastor-repents-for-culture-of-fear-at-mars-hill-church/> and the many other posts at this site pertaining to Mark Driscoll. See also: <http://apprising.org/2014/05/21/did-mark-driscoll-teach-jesus-made-mistakes-as-justification-for-his-own-mistakes/> and the many other posts at this website pertaining to Mark Driscoll. And see: <http://m.christianpost.com/news/fallout-from-radio-show-hosts-allegations-that-pastor-mark-driscoll-plagerized-includes-deletion-apology-and-producers-resignation--110271> For additional information on the Mars Hill scandals and fiascos, see Herescope posts: <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2014/09/we-are-not-abandoned.html> and <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2014/09/under-bus-and-off-map.html> that begin a series on the topic.

3. Email statement by Rev. Johnnie Moore, Jr., senior vice-president for communications and assistant to the president at Liberty University in response to criticism about Glenn Beck's Mormon sermon, documented by Jonathan Merritt, May 19, 2014, "Liberty University responds to complaints about Glenn Beck sermon,"

<http://jonathanmerritt.religionnews.com/2014/05/19/liberty-university-responds-complaints-glenn-beck-sermon/> and covered by Pastor Ken Silva in his post, "LIBERTY UNIVERSITY DEFENDING GLENN BECK AT ITS CONVOCATION," May 23, 2014, at <http://apprising.org/2014/05/23/liberty-university-defending-glenn-beck-at-its-convocation/>

4. Scandal derivations from [Dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) and also from [Online Etymology Dictionary](http://www.etymology.com) which elaborates some interesting history: 'Attested from early 13c., but the modern word likely is a reborrowing. Meaning "malicious gossip," also "shameful action or event" is from 1590s; sense of "person whose conduct is a disgrace" is from 1630s. *Scandal sheet* "sensational newspaper" is from 1939. *Scandal-monger* is from 1702.' Re: *scandalize*, it reports: 'Originally "make a public scandal of;" sense of "shock by doing something improper" first recorded 1640s.'

5. See "Defrauding: What does it mean?", Feb. 27, 2014, <http://www.recoveringgrace.org/2014/02/defrauding-what-does-it-mean/> pertaining to the Bill Gothard scandals.

6. Quote is from Ruth Graham, "The Evangelical Celebrity Machine," http://www.slate.com/articles/life/faithbased/2013/12/mark_driscoll_plagiarism_accusations_janet_mefferd_accused_the_seattle_pastor.htm

7. Statement made by Tullian Tchividjian, "Tullian Tchividjian Pushes Back Against Tim Keller, DA Carson's Gospel Coalition Statement on His Exit," story by Moran Lee, May 23, 2014, *Christian Post*, <http://m.christianpost.com/news/tullian-tchividjian-calls-gospel-coalitions-claims-attributed-to-tim-keller-d-a-carson-about-his-exit-a-flat-out-lie--120272/>

This satire was originally posted at Herescope: <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2014/05/evanscandal.html> and is part of a series where new words are coined to attempt to describe the modern deception and practices in the churches.