
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

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

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African Ministry Report

By Jewel Grewe

SOUTH AFRICA

Since both ministries (The Berean Call and Discernment Ministries) are located in the same office in Kempton Park (outside Johannesburg, near the International Airport), we sponsored a South African Conference with Pastor Larry DeBruyn (Guarding His Flock Ministries) joining T.A. McMahon and myself in two locations, namely; Cape Town and Pretoria.

The first Conference was in Cape Town at the Evangelical Reformed Church. The pastor (Ds. Coenie Coertze) there graciously opened the Church for the conference. He also faithfully recorded all the sessions. From the start of the Conference on a Sunday morning we were lifted up by the beautiful harmony in the whole hearted singing of the hymns of the church.

Our hearts were blessed by the participation of many dear people who attended the conference sessions and the warm welcome we received. Our hosts, Peter and Adri Lord, opened up their homes for our stay and gave our visitors glimpses of one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

From Cape Town we flew back to Johannesburg and started another four-day conference in Pretoria. Ds. Johan Botha was our host at the Evangelical Reformed Church in that city. Those sessions were also recorded and video-taped (which will be made available). A highlight of that conference was the Q&A at the end of the conference where many concerns were raised that affected the church in South Africa particularly.

Again the fellowship was sweet and the people very hungry for the truths of the Word of God. We know as the materials are distributed throughout the country – they also go beyond the borders to

other African countries as well. Many photocopies of the newsletters are being made and distributed by those who live in remote areas and want to make the truth of the Word of God known. All of Africa is bombarded with the Prosperity “false gospel”. It is particularly popular because there is such desperate poverty. “Get rich quick” schemes always find an audience amongst those who are in poverty and told that they will have God’s favor poured upon them if they “sow their seed” (finances) in to the latest TV evangelist (snake oil salesmen).

ZIMBABWE

Pastor Larry DeBruyn flew to Bulawayo to then start a series of lectures on Eschatology and Discernment for the Theological students of the Theological College of Southern Africa, local pastors and lay-persons who were interested. The eager interest, faithful attendance and hunger for the Word of God was evident.

It is very difficult for the pastors and leaders in the African countries to take a firm stand. They are being daily bombarded with the “prosperity gospel”. Surrounded by desperate poverty, children begging for bread in the streets and many experiencing an early death for lack of proper medical care, the promise of a large return for their money deceives the folk into following after a false gospel. What a joy to be able to deliver the truth of the Word of God to their hearts. The hunger and interest was evident in the faithful attendance at the seminar.

While the sessions were in progress, one of the young pastors was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and admitted to the local “government” hospital. The doctor decided to operate – but first the family must go to the local pharmacies and obtain the necessary items for the operation.

Then, as the pastor was being wheeled into the operating theatre, \$450 was demanded before continuing with the surgery. Also, the family is responsible for delivering the daily nourishment for the pastor. They do not have transportation, so they must depend on unreliable taxis to take them to the hospital, which is at quite a distance from where they live. The principal of the Bible College found himself in the position of doing most of these obligations as he has a vehicle at his disposal. This is just one example of the difficulties of daily life in Zimbabwe. Yet the people are wonderful and do not complain.

I found myself complaining when I arrived in the country with an inflammation in my right leg. The first obligation I had was to try and withdraw donation funds from a bank account to cover the seminar costs and also the salaries of the workers at the Bible College. We tried ATM after ATM which rejected a debit card that I had been assured would work in Zimbabwe. Of course, there was always a line at each ATM. It was hot, hot weather and most inconvenient for an American just arriving and being reminded, "this is Africa." After a week of frustration, happily a solution was found! But it is things like this that remind one that these folk live under these daily irritations and circumstances. Yet they are such friendly and loving people who truly love the Lord and do not complain.

While Pastor Larry was in Zimbabwe he preached the first Sunday at the Church in Mzilikazi (Assembly of God). They held two services, and the next Sunday he ministered in three services at the Baptist Church in town. The seminar that he held with the Bible School students had a "graduation" ceremony at the end where certificates of achievement were given out to the attendees. There was a time of singing and rejoicing before the ceremony.

Pastor Larry and I gave words of encouragement to the students on the role they can play in the life of the church and prayed for the students. The Africans felt that the seminar was

"one of its kind," as issues were addressed that confront the Body of Christ. Their conclusion was that their time had been "life transforming." It was estimated there were forty participants. Nineteen of those were already students of TCSA (Theological College of Southern Africa).

We know that God's Word never returns void. The joy of giving forth that marvellous Word is a privilege beyond measure. There is transforming power in the Word of God. Power to take us beyond our circumstances and see that God is in control in human affairs. Our trust is in a faithful and wonderful Creator who wants us to give our all . . . and promises us His life everlasting! Praise to His Holy Name!

Your prayers and faithful support are appreciated deeply!

Bulawayo Seminar Report

By Karl Malatone, Academic Dean/Tutor,
Theological College of Southern Africa, www.tcsa-zim.org

The Seminar took place at the Youth for Christ offices in Bulawayo (second Capital city in Zimbabwe). It covered a total of twenty-five hours. The main meetings were on Saturday the 30th of January for the entire day. During the week they were from Monday the 2nd of January to Friday the 5th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. On a few occasions we had a few sessions in the morning and evening during the week, and on the last day, Saturday the 6th, the Seminar was concluded by the "graduation" function. On the Wednesday the Assemblies of God pastors came together, and Pastor Larry was able to respond to their questions and took them through some of the basics of Eschatology and Discernment studies. There were 12 pastors that attended this session.

In summary, the topics were covering two major modules (Eschatology and Discernment studies). The specific topics covered were:

- Introduction,
- General Overview of Eschatology

- Jesus and the Ages
- Systems of Eschatology
- Dispensationalism
- Israel in the Plan of God
- Jesus and the future 1 & 2
- The Tribulation, The Rapture
- The seventy weeks of Daniel
- The Kingdom of God
- Is God through with the Jews?,
- Israel's last battle in the last days
- The Anti-Christ
- The Judgements and the Eternal State
- Satan, Angels and Demons
- Deception and Delusion
- Signs of the Age
- False Gospels
- Mysticism and Contemplative Spirituality
- Apostatizing from the Apostles
- The New Apostolic Reformation
- False Prophets for Profit
- Cults and other religions
- Oneness Pentecostalism
- Ancestor Worship
- Do the Dead Communicate with the Living?

We are in the process of getting in touch with those who came who are not TCSA students to encourage them to consider enrolling for either a Certificate or Diploma in Theology. Others might consider taking a few modules which they feel can be relevant and helpful in their ministry.

Pastor Larry addressed issues that confront the Church as the Body of Christ. The students that attended and participated in the seminars gave some feedback. They felt that the seminar had been life transforming!

AFRICAN MINISTRY REPORT

By Pastor Larry DeBruyn



Under the auspices of *Discernment and Berean Call Ministries*, I was extended an invitation to preach and teach in South Africa and Zimbabwe. At a corner intersection in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, the two sides a local restaurant marquee read on one side, "3,500 Miles to Cairo," and on the other side, "1,500 to Cape Town." Little did I know the blessings that were in store for me after a 15 and ½ hour plane ride from Atlanta, Georgia, to Johannesburg or "Joburg" South Africa (a 16 and ½ hour return flight). I really was in Africa!

At the end of my month long ministry tour of southern Africa (January 13-February 10, 2016), which included preaching and teaching (18 messages in 8 days) at discernment conferences in Cape Town and Pretoria, South Africa, and teaching at the Theological College of Southern Africa (6 messages plus approximately 35 hours of classroom instruction on the subjects of eschatology and discernment issues in 9 days), I was handed a "diploma" with my picture on it with the caption, "I survived Africa."

My experience in Africa was not that that I survived Africa, but according to God's enabling despite my physical weaknesses, "thrived" there. In both South Africa and Zimbabwe I met many

brothers and sisters in Christ. I marveled at the bond of Christ between us which caused me to think I had known these people all my life, and vice versa. A taste of Heaven—it might be said. All my hosts and drivers took very good care of me. Thank you!

Teaching at the college, as well at two conferences in South Africa, was a wonderful experience. The Lord's presence was evident at all times. The pastors in the two South African churches were most receptive and kind, despite the busy schedules they kept.

The Spirit of God enabled me to communicate the subject of Bible prophecy along with some discernment issues. After all, when His disciples asked Jesus, "What will be the sign of your coming and end of the age?" Jesus' first concern for disciples as the first words of answer indicated, was, "*See to it that no man misleads you. For many will come in My name saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.*" Then again indicating the signs of the age (Matthew 24:4-14) Jesus warned, "*Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.*" Then indicating the signs of the end (Matthew 24:15-31), Jesus warned, "*For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect*" (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24). Obviously we can understand from Jesus' prophetic sermon that prophecy and discernment are complimentary subjects.

By God's Spirit, the students and I interacted very well in the classes, attended by approximately 50 students at a local Youth for Christ venue. By my estimation, and according to feedback from the students, the teaching module was a success. I left part of myself with them, and they certainly left a part of themselves with me. Both they and I hope I will be able to return to that part of the world someday.

Praise the Lord!

PLAN TO ATTEND

IFCB Conference

International Fellowship
of Christian Believers

Sun Valley Community Church
Los Angeles

March 31 - April 3, 2016

Theme: *Abiding in Christ*

International Speakers

Contact ina@ifcb.net for more details

Holiness unto the Lord

By Johan Malan

We are living in a world which is in complete disarray because of losing its sense of biblical morality and spirituality. Contemporary leaders, teachers and other people of influence in society have openly turned their backs on the God of the Bible and are now laying the humanistic foundation for postmodern society. Unfortunately, many churches have joined this movement, thereby giving rise to the emergent church of the 21st century. Denominations in this category openly conform to the demands and requirements of postmodern society, which compels them to deny restrictive biblical norms that impede human liberties, and also to establish interfaith alliances for the promotion of global peace initiatives.

Evangelical believers should, very clearly and unequivocally, take a stand for the uncompromised preaching of the gospel of Jesus

Christ. The Bible offers the only basis for the justification and sanctification of sinners. Nothing less than the bold proclaiming of these truths will stem the tide of the present spiritual decline in the world. One of the first signs of a turning away from the Bible is preachers who fall silent on the subject of sanctification. The next step down the stairs towards apostasy is to offer an easy way to sinners for believing in Christ without repentance. In this way, many sins in the lives of “believers” are condoned.

True servants of the Lord should preach the whole counsel of God – justification as well as sanctification. “Holiness unto the Lord” must again become the motto of dedicated pastors and congregations. Unfortunately, many modern believers do not even know what the command towards holiness means. The following brief explanations by almost forgotten holiness preachers will help us to gain a true biblical perspective on this important aspect of spiritual renewal and fulfilment:

AW Tozer

The whole purpose of God in redemption is to make us holy and to restore us to the image of God. To accomplish this, He disengages us from earthly ambitions and draws us away from the cheap and unworthy prizes that worldly men set their hearts upon.

Go to God and have an understanding. Tell Him that it is your desire to be holy at any cost and then ask Him never to give you more happiness than holiness. When your holiness becomes tarnished, let your joy become dim. And ask Him to make you holy whether you are happy or not. Be assured that in the end you will be as happy as you are holy; but for the time being let your whole ambition be to serve God and be Christlike.

I cannot think of even one lonely passage in the New Testament which speaks of Christ’s revelation, manifestation, appearing or coming that is not directly linked with moral conduct, faith and spiritual holiness.

The true Christian ideal is not to be happy but to be holy.

Christ calls men to carry a cross; we call them to have fun in His name. He calls them to forsake the world; we assure them that if they but accept Jesus the world is their oyster. He calls them to suffer; we call them to enjoy all the bourgeois comforts modern civilization affords... He calls them to holiness; we call them to a cheap and tawdry happiness.

We have the blessed Holy Spirit present, and we are treating Him as if He were not present at all. We resist Him, disobey Him, quench Him and compromise with our hearts. We hear a sermon about Him and determine to learn more and do something about it. Our conviction wears off, and soon we go back to the same old dead level we were in before. We resist the blessed Comforter. He has come to comfort. He has come to teach. He is the Spirit of instruction. He has come to bring light for He is the Spirit of light. He comes to bring purity for He is the Spirit of holiness. He comes to bring power for He is the Spirit of power... We would like to be full of the Spirit and yet go on and do as we please. The Holy Spirit who inspired the Scriptures will expect obedience to the Scriptures, and if we do not obey the Scriptures, we will quench Him. This Spirit will have obedience—but people do not want to obey the Lord. Everyone is as full as he wants to be. Everyone has as much of God as he desires to have. There is a fugitive impulse that comes to us, in spite of what we ask for when we pray in public, or even in private. We want the thrill of being full, but we don’t want to meet the conditions. We just don’t want to be filled badly enough to be filled... If there is anything in your life more demanding than your longing after God, then you will never be a Spirit-filled Christian. I have met Christians who have been wanting to be filled, in a vague sort of way, for many years. The reason they have not been filled with the Spirit is because they have other things they want more. God does not come rushing into a human heart unless He knows that He is the answer and

fulfilment to the greatest, most overpowering desire of that life.

We Christians must stop apologizing for our moral position and start making our voices heard, exposing sin as the enemy of the human race and setting forth righteousness and true holiness as the only worthy pursuits for moral beings.¹

DL Moody

It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. We are told to let our light shine, and if it does we won't need to tell anybody it does. The light will be its own witness.²

Andrew Murray

The great test of whether the holiness we profess to seek or to attain is truth and life will be whether it be manifest in the increasing humility it produces. In the creature, humility is the one thing needed to allow God's holiness to dwell in him and shine through him. In Jesus, the holy one of God who makes us holy, a divine humility was the secret of his life and his death and his exaltation; the one infallible test of our holiness will be the humility before God and men which marks us. Humility is the bloom and the beauty of holiness.³

Richard Baxter

Holiness is nothing else but the habitual and predominant devotion and dedication of soul, and body, and life, and all that we have to God; and esteeming, and loving, and serving, and seeking Him, before all the pleasures and prosperity of the flesh.⁴

J C Ryle

There is no holiness without a warfare.⁵

Duncan Campbell

A baptism of holiness, a demonstration of godly living is the crying need of our day.⁶

Joel Beeke

I once read of a missionary who had in his garden a shrub that bore poisonous leaves. At that time he had a child who was prone to put anything within reach into his mouth. Naturally he dug the shrub out and threw it away. The shrub's roots, however, were very deep. Soon the shrub sprouted again. Repeatedly the missionary had to dig it out. There was no solution but to inspect the ground every day, and to dig up the shrub every time it surfaced. Indwelling sin is like that shrub. It needs constant uprooting. Our hearts need continual mortification.⁷

John Owen

We must be exercising mortification every day, and in every duty. Sin will not die, unless it be constantly weakened. Spare it, and it will heal its wounds, and recover its strength. We must continually watch against the operations of this principle of sin: in our duties, in our calling, in conversation, in retirement, in our straits, in our enjoyments, and in all that we do. If we are negligent on any occasion, we shall suffer by it; every mistake, every neglect is perilous.⁸

John Henry Jowett

Sin is a blasting presence, and every fine power shrinks and withers in the destructive heat. Every spiritual delicacy succumbs to its malignant touch... Sin impairs the sight, and works toward blindness. Sin benumbs the hearing and tends to make men deaf. Sin perverts the taste, causing men to confound the sweet with the bitter, and the bitter with the sweet. Sin hardens the touch, and eventually renders a man "past feeling." All these are Scriptural analogies, and their common significance appears to be this – sin blocks and

chokes the fine senses of the spirit; by sin we are desensitized, rendered imperceptive, and the range of our correspondence is diminished. Sin creates callosity. It hoofs the spirit, and so reduces the area of our exposure to pain.⁹

CH Spurgeon

If we divide ourselves between God and mammon, or Christ and self, we shall make no progress. We must give ourselves wholly to holy things, or else we shall be poor traders in heavenly business; and at our stock-taking, no profit will be shown.

I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning and the foundation of all true religion. Without a solemn awe and reverence of God, there is no foothold for the more brilliant virtues. He whose soul does not worship will never live in holiness.

Let us not this day sow to our flesh, for the harvest will be corruption, since flesh always tends that way; but with holy self-conquest let us live for the highest, purest, and most spiritual ends, seeking to honour our most holy Lord by obeying His most gracious Spirit. What a harvest will that be when we reap life everlasting! What sheaves of endless bliss will be reaped! What a festival will that harvest be! Lord, make us such reapers, for thy Son's sake.

You will not gain holiness by standing still. Nobody ever grew holy without consenting,

desiring, and agonizing to be holy. Sin will grow without sowing, but holiness needs cultivation. Follow it; it will not run after you. You must pursue it with determination, with eagerness, with perseverance.¹⁰

John Wesley

Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on Earth.

I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfil God's creational intentions.¹¹

John Bunyan

Nothing can hurt you except sin; nothing can grieve you except sin; nothing can defeat you except sin. Therefore, be on your guard.

The man that takes up religion for the world will throw away religion for the world.

If you have sinned, do not lie down without repentance; for the want of repentance after one has sinned makes the heart yet harder and harder.

Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.

Whatever contradicts the Word of God should be instantly resisted as diabolical.

¹ A. W. Tozer. *The Root of the Righteous*. Moody, Chicago IL. 1955. p31.

² Dwight L Moody. *Inspirational Thoughts to Warm the Soul: Quotations, Stories, and More*.

Doris E. Curtis, Bryan C. Curtis (Eds). IUniverse. Bloomington, IL. 2011. p261.

³ Andrew Murray. *Humility*. CreateSpace. 2014. p33.

⁴ Richard Baxter. *The Sabbath book: moral and religious extracts from esteemed English authors*. Editor Charles Woodfall. Oxford University Press. 1839. Digitized Oct 23, 2006. p229.

⁵ J.C. Ryle. *Holiness: It's Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots*. Letcetera Publishing, 2015.

⁶ Duncan Campbell. *Revival In the Hebrides*. Lulu Press. 2015

⁷ Joel Beeke. *Overcoming the World*. P&R Publishing. 2005. pp. 109-110.

⁸ John Owen. *A Discourse Concerning the Holy Spirit*. Presbyterian Board of Publication. Philadelphia. 1841. p310.

⁹ John Henry Jowett. *The Epistles of Peter*. Kregel. Grand Rapids. MI. 1993. p54.

¹⁰ Charles H. Spurgeon. *Faith's Checkbook*. Moody Publishers. 2013.

¹¹ Letter from John Wesley to Alexander Matwher, 6 August 1777.