



**Sergeant Sam Smith II**

## The Farrakhan Controversy-A Wolf in Sheep Clothing

By Detective Sergeant Sam Smith

On May 3, 2007, I presented to the AWCF World Congress a lecture about Radical Islam entitled *The Sword of the Prophet: Islam's Bloodstained Path to Paradise*. I ended my presentation with research about the Nation of Islam, the heresy of its leaders, and the threat it poses to African American churches.

I introduced an open forum for questions and answers at the end of the presentation. One lady asked me if I had heard that Louis Farrakhan was dying from prostate cancer. Another woman claimed that Farrakhan had the cancer but was healed by a "Jesus-name preacher." Her husband, an Apostolic pastor, added that Farrakhan not only had been healed of his affliction, but was baptized in Jesus' Name, filled with the Holy Ghost, and spoke in tongues. He said he personally knows Farrakhan and has even visited him at his restaurant. He claimed that they often pray together before Farrakhan preaches. This preacher ended his personal recollections of Farrakhan by stating, "*Now when he preaches, he reads from the Bible and the Qur'an. He's not there yet, but he's coming around.*" Another person added that Holy Ghost is moving in the Nation of Islam.

Afterwards, I asked one of the individuals who claimed personal knowledge of the Farrakhan's conversion why it has not been reported by the media. She told me that it has. She said CNN did a story about Farrakhan's Pentecostal experience. Since then, I have investigated and researched this story and cannot find any reference to Farrakhan's Pentecostal experience. It's imperative that this issue be addressed by the Pentecostal community. As in my presentation on *Radical Islam*, I prefer to directly quote the topic of my sources and reference their words and writings rather than third parties or hearsay.

### Pentecostal Urban Legends

The Farrakhan-Pentecostal experience can be classified as an "urban legend." Urban legends or "urban myths" are stories that are not true, but are described as real events. They usually have specific details of the people and events involved, and these details increase the legend's credibility. The person who repeats the legend does not know the individuals involved, but might claim to know a person who knows them. It's rather disconcerting, but urban legends can spread across the United States in just a matter of days.

It should also be noted that urban legends have had a history of circulating Pentecostal revivals, camp meetings, Sunday school lessons, Bible studies, evangelists' sermons, and minister conferences. They are usually spread by well-meaning people who want to give their sermons or testimonies

credibility. Unfortunately, they have the opposite effect if the truth comes out. These urban legends discredit well-meaning people.

Here's an example that nearly every Apostolic has heard. It's the tale of the vanishing hitchhiking angel. I heard this story many times as a youth and an adult. I can remember preachers heralding and my peers testifying about unwary travelers who picked up a "vanishing" hitchhiker. This hitchhiking stranger warned the traveling benefactors that Jesus was coming soon and then vanished from the car. As a mischievous preacher's kid who dreadfully feared the rapture, this story "creeped me out" maybe the first four-or-five times I heard it. But after hearing it repeated over a period of several years, even as a child, I doubted its authenticity.

While in college, I traced the tale of the "vanishing hitchhiking angel" in Apostolic circles back to 1955. A well known Apostolic preacher's wife<sup>i</sup> referenced it in a pamphlet about Sunday School growth. However, this myth goes back even further. In 1942, a study was published about the "vanishing hitchhiker." Two researchers, Richard Beardsley and Rosalie Hankey, found 79 written accounts of various encounter with vanishing hitchhikers in America. However, not all the stories were accounts of angels forewarning the second coming of Jesus Christ.<sup>ii</sup> In fact, the tale of the vanishing hitchhiker has been told and retold so many times in churches and camp meetings for so many decades that an English professor published a book about urban legends and titled it *The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends & Their Meanings* (1981).<sup>iii</sup>

Another example of a fiscally, damaging urban legend that cost hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in sales pertains to the "Proctor & Gamble and Church of Satan connection." This urban myth widely circulated Christian churches in the early 1990's.

Around 1994, I vividly remember a well-meaning church member zealously handing out fliers in our church lobby warning people not to purchase Proctor & Gamble (P&G) products. The flier read that the CEO of P&G announced on the Sally Jesse Raphael Show that he was a Satanist and P&G tithed to the Church of Satan. He boasted that it was time for P&G to go public "because the Christians in America were not strong enough to do any thing about it." The flier was very specific. It even named the show and the date it aired. The P&G satanic urban legend has resurfaced several times beginning in 1980 and it has no factual basis at all.

On May 3, 1999, P&G successfully sued several Amway distributors who lied to get Christians to buy their Amway products instead of soliciting Proctor & Gamble. P&G spokesperson Elaine Plummer commented: "*It's a malicious lie that erodes the trust of customers and has cost us millions of dollars in sales.*"<sup>iv</sup>

Dr. James Dobson, had this to say about Christian urban legends; "*...the Christian community needs to become more vigilant in not just halting these rumors, but even running truthful accounts back in the direction from where they emerge.*"<sup>v</sup>

The danger of urban myths is that once they are launched, they are nearly impossible to stop. Now there is a new urban legend that needs to be stopped before it circulates throughout Pentecostal circles and it's up to the Apostolics to stop it and send it back to where it emerged!

## The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Louis Farrakhan is a wolf in sheep's clothing and he can be indicted by his own words. Until he goes public and renounces Islam, Apostolics CANNOT give him credibility by claiming "He's coming around" or "He's secretly one of us." Jesus warned his disciples, "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*"<sup>vi</sup>

It's true. The Nation of Islam is full of black Muslims that speak in tongues, but it's not because the Holy Ghost is moving in the Nation of Islam. It's because these African Americans have abandoned their Apostolic, Pentecostal, and Full Gospel churches and have joined Farrakhan and his Antichrist cult; the Nation of Islam (NOI).

Calling the NOI "antichrist" is not too strong! Christians need to go to their website and see what the NOI believes and what Farrakhan is preaching. The NOI acknowledges Jesus Christ only as a prophet and rejects his divinity. Minister Farrakhan teaches that the founder of the Nation of Islam, Wallace Fard Muhammad, is God. Fard is the Mahdi<sup>vii</sup> to the Muslims and the Messiah to the Christians and Jews.<sup>viii</sup>

Minister Farrakhan has taught "*There is no God but Master Fard Muhammad, Who is Allah, and that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is His divine Messenger.*"<sup>ix</sup> Farrakhan uses double-speak to lure Christians into his web of deceit. He has recently stated that he is a "Christian too." He has said that a "*A good Muslim is a Christian and a good Christian is a Muslim.*"<sup>x</sup> However, what Farrakhan believes and teaches his followers is the antithesis to what Christ and his disciples taught.

Farrakhan uses the Christian lure to cast his net and draw disenfranchised and disillusioned African Americans into his anti-Christ cult of hate. Jesus said, "*No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other.*"<sup>xi</sup>

Louis Farrakhan was NOT healed of prostate cancer by a Jesus Name preacher. Last year, he was hospitalized for five weeks after he had a major surgery to treat the cancer. On January 5, 2007, he underwent a 12 hour abdominal surgery designed to correct the damage from the cancer treatments. Doctors implanted radiation pellets to kill the sickness. Farrakhan's assistant minister, Ishmael Muhammad made this statement shortly after his surgery, "*He's not where he needs to be; it will take several more days and we celebrate this victory.*"<sup>xii</sup> Minister Farrakhan has had several bouts of reoccurring prostate cancer since he was first diagnosed in 1991. He has been treated "appropriately" with radiation and "a form of hormonal suppression."<sup>xiii</sup>

On Saviour's Day, 2007, Minister Farrakhan addressed a crowd of 50,000 in Detroit and relayed his thanks for their prayers. He included nearly every major belief system (even yoga), but he never acknowledged a Jesus Name preacher who healed him of his cancer. Nor did he thank "Jesus." Instead he gives praise to Allah, whom he believes is Master W.D. Fard, the founder of the NOI. The following is a quote from his Saviour's Day address in Detroit.

*"Many, many Christians of many different denominations prayed for me. Many Christian pastors put their churches on fasts and prayers for my recovery. There were Hebrew-Israelites throughout America, throughout Africa and in Israel who prayed for me. There were rabbis and Jewish people who prayed for me to recover. There were Muslims all over the world who prayed for me. There were Buddhists who chanted in prayer for me. There were those who practice yoga, in their meditations, they prayed for me. There were Hindus who prayed for me. There were Blacks, Whites, Asians, Hispanics and Native Americans who prayed for me. Tell me then, how can I come to you and not thank Almighty God, Allah, for a message that would be universal in its scope and universal in its power to heal the human condition?"*<sup>xiv</sup>

One Apostolic Farrakhan apologist, whom I approached at the AWCF Conference, hinted that God used Farrakhan's cancer to bring him around to the Apostolic truth. As one can plainly see, Farrakhan, in his Saviour's Day address, makes no mention of a *Jesus Name preacher* or of a supernatural healing.

In the spirit of a true urban myth, “...they are quite specifically detailed telling of the people and events involved, thus increasing the legend’s credibility and the person telling the legend does not know the individuals involved, but might say that they know a person who knows them. Thus, we must ask, “Who is this preacher that baptized him?” and “Where is the CNN report that tells of Farrakhan’s healing?” Is the Farrakhan Pentecostal Experience an urban myth or merely wishful thinking?

## Minister Farrakhan’s Counterfeit Gospel?

In 1997, Cornerstone Magazine featured the Nation of Islam and Minister Farrakhan in a two part series. The writer wrote “*Yet the growth of the Nation of Islam is cause for concern because its doctrines challenge the Christian truth claim on every major front: on the nature of God, the validity of the Bible, the person and work of Christ, and the idea of life after death. Many people believe Farrakhan’s teaching is basically theistic or Islamic...this is not the case.*”<sup>xv</sup> Mainstream Muslims (Sunnis and Shia’s) reject the Nation of Islam as heretics.

Farrakhan currently preaches and teaches the bogus canons of Master Fard Muhammad and his successor Elijah Muhammad. He has yet to renounce the following doctrines:

1. The denial of the divinity of Jesus Christ.
2. Master Fard Muhammad is God (Allah) and fulfilled the prophecies in the Bible
3. The *Saviour’s Day* Celebration: NOI members celebrate Master Fard Muhammad’s birthday, every February 26<sup>th</sup> because he came to *save* them (over the past several years, Christ Universal Church has allowed Minister Farrakhan to use its pulpit to address Muslims and Christians worldwide)
4. Elijah Muhammad is Allah’s messenger and last prophet
5. There is no heaven or hell after death. Heaven and hell are on earth.
6. Islam is the true religion of the black race. Christianity was the religion of the white slave owners who enforced it on their black slaves
7. The black people, both individually and as a race, are gods
8. The white race is a perverse race of “*blue-eyed devils*” who used the Bible to enslave black people
9. The *Yakub Doctrine*: the white race was created by an evil scientist named Yakub, on the island of Patmos
10. Master Fard Muhammad and Elijah Muhammad are currently on a “Mother Plane.” This “Mother Ship,” is an aircraft built by black scientists in Japan many thousands of years ago, and it is undetectable to radar and is currently orbiting the earth
11. Farrakhan preaches that Christians and Muslims worship the same God

## What Does Minister Farrakhan Have to Say about the Day of Pentecost and “Speaking in Tongues?”

On Saviours’ Day, February 25, 2005, at Christ Universal Temple<sup>xvi</sup> in Chicago, Illinois, Minister Farrakhan had this to say about Pentecost and “speaking in tongues” in the sermon he entitled “He Came That We May Have Life.” It is important to point out that Farrakhan is preaching from a Christian pulpit but the one he proclaims who *came that we may have life* is not Jesus Christ!

*“I met a man who taught me. On February 25, 1975, he departed from among us.”<sup>xvii</sup> We felt lost without him physically. That was not his fault. It was our fault. We were wedded to his physical person. We were wedded to the beauty of his personality. We were wedded to his charisma and, of course, some were more wedded to the Word. When that physical person was taken from us, we fell apart, like when Jesus went to the cross, the disciples fell apart. They came back together in the upper room on the Day*

of Pentecost. They understood that he really was alive and, on that day, they started speaking in tongues and every man heard the Gospel preached in their tongue.

This is the Day of Pentecost. I do not care where I go, I preach in your tongue. Your language is the language of Christianity. I am speaking your language. You cannot tell me you did not understand what I said. You cannot go back in the scripture and study what I said, because what I said is with you; I am speaking your language. When I am among Muslims, I speak the language.

But there is a higher language that is synergistic. It takes all of the languages and brings them together as one, so that there may be one faith, one Lord, one baptism. We are one people. One people.<sup>xviii</sup>

Part of the Farrakhan Pentecostal urban legend is true. Minister Farrakhan preaches from both the Bible and the Qur'an. It appears that "speaking in tongues" to Farrakhan means using Christian imagery and terminology as a vehicle to deliver his Anti-Christ message to Christians. Farrakhan will quote scriptures from the Bible to promote his message that Master Fard Muhammad is God and Elijah Muhammad was his messenger and the last prophet.

### The Pentecostal Urban Myth Pertaining to Minister Farrakhan

Louis Farrakhan is NOT spirit filled. He was NOT healed of cancer. He does NOT speak in tongues and he did NOT get baptized in Jesus Name. The Nation of Islam was established on lies, racism, occult doctrines, Eastern mysticism, and ufology (belief in UFO's). It is a threat to Christianity, especially the African-American churches.

The tragedy is that Farrakhan has been personally invited into many Christian churches where he preaches an Anti-Christ message from their pulpits. The shepherds are no longer protecting the sheep. Instead they are inviting the Wolf to come in and dine among the flock.

(The threat of the Nation of Islam to African American churches will be discussed in the next article about Louis Farrakhan.)

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<sup>i</sup> S.G. Norris, president of Apostolic Bible Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota.

<sup>ii</sup> Jones, Louis C. The Ghosts of New York: An Analytical Study, *The Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 57, No. 226 (Oct. - Dec., 1944), pp. 237-254, doi:10.2307/535356

<sup>iii</sup> Brunvand, Jan Harold, *The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends & Their Meanings* (1981).

<sup>iv</sup> "Federal Trial Opens Against Amway," Associated Press, May 3, 1999.

<sup>v</sup> "Urban myths within the Christian community," CitizenLink, Focus on the Family, at: <http://www.family.org/> (retrieved 05-14-07)

<sup>vi</sup> Matthew 7:15, King James Version

<sup>vii</sup> The Mahdi is Islam's Messiah.

<sup>viii</sup> The NOI teaches that Fard is Allah. The current NOI statement is published in every issue of their weekly newspaper, *The Final Call*, in an article titled "What the Muslims Believe." It states, "12. WE BELIEVE that Allah (God) appeared in the Person of Master W. Fard Muhammad, July, 1930; the long-awaited 'Messiah' of the Christians and the 'Mahdi' of the Muslims."

<sup>ix</sup> Farrakhan, Louis, *Seven Speeches by Minister Louis Farrakhan* (1974; reprint, Chicago: WKU and the Final Call, Inc., 1992, p. 74.

<sup>x</sup> Hogan/Albach Susan. "Louis Farrakhan claims he is both a Muslim and a Christian," *Chicago Tribune*, May 26, 2007

<sup>xi</sup> Matthew 6:24, King James Version

<sup>xii</sup> "Farrakhan released from hospital; Surgery was to fix prostate cancer," *Chicago Sun-Times*, January 31, 2007

<sup>xiii</sup> "Farrakhan taking leave to recover from cancer therapy: Nation of Islam leader weak, but out of danger, doctor says," CNN.com, March 19, 1999 (retrieved 05-30-07)

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- <sup>xiv</sup> Muhammad, Askia and Richard Muhammad. "Minister Farrakhan addresses nearly 50,000 at Saviours' Day 2007 Keynote Address," Saviour's Day Website, March 3, 2007 (retrieved 05-30-07)
- <sup>xv</sup> Pement, Eric. "Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam," *Cornerstone*, vol. 26, issue 111, (1997), pp. 10-16, 20
- <sup>xvi</sup> The female pastor of Christ Universal Church is Dr. Johnnie Coleman
- <sup>xvii</sup> Farrakhan is speaking about Elijah Muhammad who died of congestive heart failure in 1975
- <sup>xviii</sup> *"He Came That We May Have Life"*, excerpts from Minister Farrakhan's Saviours' Day sermon at Christ Universal Temple, February 27, 2005, Final Call.com (retrieved 05-16-07)