



Dear Friend of CRI,

The shock of brutal murder -- at the hands of drug-smuggling occultists hit the border town of Brownsville, Texas!

Within days, the story of Satan worship, drugs, voodoo, witchcraft, and death raced across the headlines in print, on radio, and on television. In stunned disbelief, people across the nation were confronted with the harsh reality that human sacrifices had been made in the name of worshiping Satan!

As the account unfolded, the horror of what had occurred began to set in. A group of individuals involved with a drug smuggling ring set up a self-styled black-magic cult. Inconceivable to the civilized world, these occultists had abducted and sacrificed human beings to Satan, thinking these rituals would provide them with supernatural protection in their smuggling operation.

As a result, more than a dozen people were severely mutilated in a horrible death and disposed of in a mass grave. One of these was an American college student who spending an evening across the border in Mexico was apparently abducted and became an unfortunate victim.

TO EVERY MAN AN ANSWER!!

As people attempt to deal with the reality of this bizarre group of individuals, they ask many questions. "How often does this occur?" "What is the basis for the sacrifices?" "Who should one turn to for answers?"

Answering questions like the above is one of the central functions of Christian Research Institute.

We at CRI believe that it is the task of the Christian church to give a reasoned biblical response, lest our silence be construed by the public (secular as well as Christian) as either lack of concern or possible agreement.

Christian Research Institute is the largest clearing house in the world on up-to-date information on non-Christian religions, cults, the occult, and general apologetics, giving people reasons for the Christian faith.

CRI continues to answer more than a thousand letters a week, and innumerable telephone calls and emergency inquiries from God's people around the world.

One of the key tools used to provide answers is the Christian Research Journal.

As you look at the cover of the Journal, it conveys a clear message: "Examining Today's Religious Movements/Giving Reasons for Christian Faith," a statement backed up by scholarly and well-investigated contents.

The foundation laid for the Journal is a dedication to aid the growth of Christians in sound doctrine and spiritual discernment. This combines with the need to proclaim and defend the historic gospel of Jesus Christ. In doing so, it is an evangelistic as well as educational tool.

The Journal takes a scholarly but readable approach in providing information about non-Christian religions, the occult, and contemporary theological and apologetic concerns.

Here are some recently received comments on the Christian Research Journal.

"Just a word of thanks for your excellent assessment, 'From Controversy to Crisis: An Updated Assessment of Seventh-day Adventism,' which appeared in the Summer '88 issue of Christian Research Journal."

"I am used to reading articles about Adventism that somehow fail to comprehend the variety within Adventist thought. It is refreshing to see Adventism presented with a hint of its multiple nature."

*David Neff
Associate Editor
Christianity Today*

"I want to thank you for sending me your fantastic magazine. It is certainly the best magazine I receive. It gives me all the needed cult information that is available, and the articles are great. It is worth all the time you put into it."

*Bill Kaufmann
Orange, NJ*

"Because of your efforts, top-notch material is available at the finger tips of Christian workers."

*Devin Lindsey
San Francisco, CA*

In the current Winter/Spring 1989 issue, you will see a variety of informative subjects addressed. The cover article deals the psychological consequences of cultic involvement and offers several steps to recovery.

Another key article deals with questions that come up in discussions between Christians and those involved with the Baha'i faith. You will also find a continuing series on Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and apologetics.

CRI'S MACEDONIA

My thoughts go back to the words of the apostle Paul in the Macedonian vision as recorded in the Book of Acts.

The call of the Holy Spirit to come over and "help us" directed the apostle to preach in Macedonia. This country, riddled with pagan religion and cults, was still precious to the heart of God. It was even important enough to send an apostle to reach it!

The Lord has also directly called CRI's ministry to an area of "Macedonia." That is giving a reason for the hope that lies within us to those trapped in the cults and false religions of our day. Together with your participation we continue to reach this "Macedonia."

So, once again we ask you, our faithful friends, to prayerfully consider an urgent need of the ministry.

As the fiscal year-end nears, CRI and "The Bible Answer Man" ministry need your prayers and financial support to conclude another year of effectively defending the Gospel.

Please make this a matter of prayer. If you can, send a contribution so our current deficit of about \$70,000 will be eliminated. We want to begin a new fiscal year of service on a sound financial basis.

I believe in informing the Lord's people of our needs and then waiting expectantly in prayer for the answers He always gives.

If each of you reading this letter would give prayerfully and generously above your regular commitment, it will eliminate this current burden. A gift of \$10.00 or more above your regular giving would clear this situation up in only a couple of weeks.

Thank you for your assistance in the past, and your continued prayers now at this crucial time of CRI's growth and history.

In the fellowship and service of the Master,



Walter Martin

WM/may

P.S. The world of the occult surfaced in a dramatic way in Brownsville, Texas. Together we provide people with the answers needed to battle situations such as this. If you would enclose a donation of \$25.00 or more, I would like to send you a subscription to the Christian Research Journal. As you have read, the need for this periodical is pertinent and worth your investment and reading. WM

July 3, 1989

Dear Friend of CRI,

On the morning of June 26, 1989, Dr. Walter Martin died peacefully at home, departing from his loved ones to the One he loved most.

In what he described as the post-Christian era, Dr. Martin purposefully taught people to communicate not only what they believed, but why they believed it.

As a result of Dr. Martin's calling, Christian Research Institute, a transdenominational first-rate primary research organization, provides in-depth, current information on the cults, the occult, and aberrant Christian theology.

One of the greatest tributes to the leadership of Walter Martin is that he astutely prepared for his home going. He often expressed the fact that CRI would be more important in the decade of the 1990's and beyond than when originally founded 30 years ago.

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Dr. Martin developed a plan so CRI could move forward with strength and vision. Over the next several weeks it will be my privilege to unfold for you the exciting legacy he left behind in the ministry of CRI.

This is not a time for retreat. This is a clarion call to make an impact for Christ while there is yet time. With your help, we can make a difference.

Dr. Martin's July letter was just going to the printer when his passing occurred. The trumpet he sounds about the activities of the Mormon church and other cults needs to continue. Let's pick up the swords of battle and--as reinforcements--carry on!

In His service,


Hendrik H. Hanegraaff
President



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July 1989

Dear Friend of CRI,

In a recent issue of *TV Guide*, a full-page advertisement caught my eye.

It featured a young couple cheerfully playing with their young daughter. The caption read "Together Forever." As I read on, my interest peaked.

"Can you have it all -- family, friends, happiness, success? And can it last?"

"Watch 'Together Forever.' The answers may be surprising. Call for the free audiocassette, 'Our Heavenly Father's Plan,' mentioned in the program."

"Tonight, 'Together Forever,' 8:00 p.m. on KHJ Channel 9."

As I thought about what I read, two things came to mind. Either this is a great evangelistic tool, or it is from a group espousing a counterfeit Christ and way of salvation!

My worst fears came true as the program began.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints purchased a block of prime-time television on a Sunday evening! The program's appeal was in showing how several individuals and families resolved conflicts in life through the teachings of Mormonism.

One couple on the program had experienced marital problems and was on the verge of divorce. The wife explained how -- through an "eternal marriage" -- they could work on their relationship forever!

A young man who had searched for truth and answers to difficulties in life learned to resolve conflicts through a relationship with his "older brother," Jesus Christ.

Another husband and wife grieved over the tragic death of their child. They discovered they could be with her eternally through the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

How deceptively the false gospel of Mormonism was packaged. After these emotional and heartfelt "testimonies," people were encouraged to call an 800 number to receive a free audiocassette. This tape would further explain "Our Heavenly Father's Plan."

In addition to this misleading program, the Mormon church is blitzing the media with advertisements for The Book of Mormon -- presenting it as "the other testimony of Jesus Christ"!

The Christian Research Institute, committed for over thirty years to informing the Christian church of such travesty, provides a sound biblical response to Mormonism and other cults.

Informing people of the dangers of cults, the occult, and how to protect themselves from such groups, is the "bottom line" of CRI's ministry. As Mormons, Hare Krishna devotees, Scientologists, Jehovah's Witnesses, New Agers, and many others continue to proselytize, the need for CRI is clear.

The following testimonial illustrates how the Lord is using CRI's ministry.

Dear Dr. Martin,

Thank you for the cassette, "Introduction to the Cults," sent to me by CRI.

I am from Argentina living in the United States. I came looking for progress, better opportunities, etc., only to find, meet, and receive the Lord Jesus as my Savior. All the things I had in mind before, and the main reason I came to this country, I left behind.

Your radio program, "The Bible Answer Man," has contributed to my spiritual growth as a Christian.

Now I look forward to becoming "Christ's worker" in the field of Bible teaching -- maybe in the Spanish community. They are so needy of the Word of God, and in many cases, easy prey of false teachers. In the mean time, I will study hard the Word of God. Reading through your catalog, I see an extensive list of material available to me as I need it.

God bless you all, brother Martin.

*Sincerely,
A.R.
Hawthorne, California*

This letter of praise prompts me to thank you for making all this possible. You allow CRI to help others further defend and proclaim the gospel of Christ.)

((The closing of June saw the completion of the fiscal year here at CRI. I am grateful for all your prayerful support and financial contributions during this past year. Together we saw the permanent headquarters of CRI become a reality and an expansion in the radio and literature outreaches.))

((More important though, we contributed to the growth of hundreds of thousands of believers throughout the world. Together, we evangelized the cults and the occult and saw people come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ!))

I now want to ask you to pray about assisting us as we begin the new fiscal year. Can you help us?

If the Lord lays it upon your heart, please send a contribution of \$10, \$20, \$50, or more for this unique ministry. May the Lord richly bless you as you march with us in fulfillment of our Lord's command: "Occupy until I come!"

May Christ guide you as you prayerfully consider this matter. If you cannot give anything, please pray that God continues to bless us spiritually and also provide for our financial needs.

I look forward to receiving a letter of encouragement from you. It means so very much to us here to know that we are not alone, and that you -- our fellow Christians -- care about this work.

In the fellowship and service of the Master,



Walter Martin

WRM/cl

P.S. The need to fight the effects of programing such as "Together Forever" and to help people such as our Argentine brother is imperative. For a gift of \$20.00 or more to provide a biblical defense to the cults and the occult, I would like to offer the tape "Mormonism: Jesus-Who is He?" On it, I explain and critique Mormon theology on who is Jesus Christ.

Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

TESTIMONY

"I was an elder with the Jehovah's Witnesses!" The personal testimony of Chuck Love

Interviewed by Dan Kistler, CRI Research Assistant

Dan: Chuck, how did you get involved with the JWs?

Chuck: My mother had been a Lutheran and converted to the JWs. I followed her, but my dad remained a Lutheran for two or three years after this. Later — I guess for the sake of family unity — he too became a Witness. Our family has now been involved with the JWs for 30 years.

I was very active as a JW. I went out to "service" every week, which means I went witnessing door to door every week. And I was a strong witness too. Honestly, I was 100 percent convinced that it was the only true religion.

Dan: So you didn't have any questions or doubts about the JWs at the beginning?

Chuck: No, I was just fine at the beginning. When all you hear in your home and the meetings you attend is that the JWs are the only true religion, you sooner or later believe it. By the time I was a teenager, I really thought they were right.

Dan: Did you encounter any Christians during this time who shared their faith with you?

Chuck: No. And as I look back on these years, I have to say that I'm surprised at this. My wife and I have probably called on thousands of homes between the two of us. Not once did we encounter anyone who shared their testimony or their faith in Christ with us. Lots of people would say something like, "Oh, you're that group that doesn't believe in hell," or "You don't believe in the Trinity." Most people spoke to us in negative terms, telling us our beliefs were wrong but never bothering to tell us what was right. Nobody ever said anything about

the love of Jesus Christ. No one ever tried to witness to us at the door.

Of course, we accept some of the blame for this. After all, when we were at the door, we always tried to control the conversation. Sometimes we would even pick an argument. But still, I find it strange that no one ever volunteered to share the true gospel with us.

Dan: You eventually became an elder with the JWs. What is required of a person to become a JW elder?

Chuck: The JW leadership examines potential elders very carefully. To begin with, you had to firmly believe the "truths" of the organization and live a clean life. The leadership was very strict. Not just anyone could become an elder. I recall having to study some Watchtower books, and then I was drilled on them. It was difficult.

Actually, they wouldn't even consider someone for the position of elder unless the person had been a JW for some ten to twelve years. In my case, in addition to being a JW for a long time, I had attended all the Witness schools provided by the Watchtower Society. I was thoroughly indoctrinated.

Dan: Was there anything you found particularly satisfying with the JWs?

Chuck: Well, belonging to the JWs did give my misguided ego a boost. If you think yours is the only true religion on earth, and everyone else is wrong, it definitely has an effect on you. And my entire family belonged to the JWs. It was satisfying to the family as a whole that we all believed the same way and belonged to the only true church.

Dan: Was there anything you found depressing in belonging to the JWs?

Chuck: The deepest feelings of depression came from knowing that I was not worthy of Jehovah. I was always aware that I hadn't done my best to serve Him. With a works-oriented salvation, it's almost impossible to attain any real peace in life. You never know how much "works" is enough "works" to get you saved.

Dan: So, from a personal standpoint, you didn't really have any assurance of salvation?

Chuck: No! And any Witness who is telling the truth will tell you the same. There is no assurance of salvation among JWs.

Dan: What made you begin to question the JW organization?

Chuck: In 1977 I began to question the JW understanding of what it means to be "declared righteous" or "justified." I looked up this doctrine in a Watchtower book, and it said that only the 144,000 who go to heaven are declared righteous and everybody else is not. This did not sit right with me.

I decided to go back through the whole book of Romans and discovered that faith and grace came into the picture. According to Romans, there was nothing I could do to earn my salvation. The message I got from reading this book is that salvation is based not on works but on faith in Jesus Christ.

So I sent the Society a letter. Here I am — a presiding overseer running a JW congregation — and I sent the Society an 18-page letter asking about this particular issue of justification. Actually, the first six pages were sprinkled with apologies. The letter read something like, "I'm sorry, I (continued on page 2)

Troubled Waters for New Age Seminars

A growing number of workers are challenging their employers regarding enforced attendance at New Age seminars like Werner Erhard's The Forum and Psi World. A key issue of concern for many employees — particularly *Christian* employees — is the New Age idea that the world is whatever man says it is because *man creates his own reality*. God is left completely out of the picture (though many New Age seminars teach that *you are your own god*).

More and more employees are filing lawsuits against their employers over this issue. According to a March 25, 1989 *Los Angeles Times* article, these lawsuits are part of "an emerging backlash against employers who try to boost productivity by requiring workers to take part in so-called human potential seminars, motivational programs designed to

change workers' values, attitudes and self-esteem."

Many of the complaints against New Age seminars are filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a government agency that investigates job discrimination claims. Because of increased complaints against New Age seminars, the EEOC is circulating a policy notice to commission employees to help them deal with this growing problem. The policy notice cites Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which protects employees from religious discrimination. The law requires employers to provide "reasonable accommodation" for an employee's religious beliefs unless it creates "undue hardship." The EEOC policy notice says: "While there may be some disagreement over whether the training programs themselves are reli-

gious, an employee need only demonstrate that participation in the program in some manner conflicts with his/her personal religious beliefs." Those who do this are exempted from attending the program.

The *Cult Awareness Network News* (January 1989) cites a case in which eight former employees of the DeKalb (Georgia) Farmers Market filed a federal lawsuit alleging that they were "unfairly fired or forced to resign because they opposed The Forum, which they say is a 'New Age quasi-religious cult.'" The article reports: "The plaintiffs contend that Robert Blazer, who owns the market, required them 'under direct or indirect threat of loss of employment' to attend The Forum training sessions....Supervisors (continued on page 3)

Testimony (continued from page 1)

know I'm an elder, and I know that you must be the only true religion, and I know this and that, but what about this justification stuff?" They sent back a paragraph response, and that's it!

Dan: Did they answer your question?

Chuck: No, not at all. So I wrote them again, this time beginning the letter with Galatians 1:8: "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!" I figured this would get their attention. But they still chose to avoid the issue. They sent me a short letter that was very sweet-sounding but completely void of answers.

The whole episode climaxed when I resolved to thoroughly examine all the major JW doctrines. I found that the more I examined, the further my heart sank. I decided to write the Watchtower Society still another letter which said, "Look, if you can't answer my questions, I'm going to resign." They responded by suggesting that I meet with the body of elders at my church and discuss the issue with them. I did as they asked, and shortly thereafter, I resigned.

This was incredibly difficult for me. After all, I had looked at the organization as my mother and Jehovah as my father. But I had had enough. I was through with it.

Dan: Did you become a Christian at this time or merely "jump boat" from the JWs?

Chuck: Well, I didn't become a Christian immediately. It took several months of deep soul-searching and reading the Scriptures before I finally decided to trust in Christ. During these months, I studied the book of Romans, and I am convinced that this prepared my heart for eventually making the decision to trust in Christ.

Dan: So what was the turning point?

Chuck: I went to see Chuck Colson's movie *Born Again*. As I saw the long spiritual struggle Colson went through, I thought to myself how I was fighting much the same kind of battle he was. I felt like we were on the same stage together! I watched the enactment of his acceptance of Christ in this movie, and I started to cry. And though the movie was only two-thirds through, I had to get up and leave the theater. I went to my car and began to pray. And it seemed like all heaven opened up on me. God was waiting for me with open arms. Like Colson, I too became born again. And what a powerful evening this was for me! I must have sat in that car for two or three hours praying to God. It was glorious! I was "free at last."

Dan: How did your decision to trust in Christ affect your relationships with

family and friends?

Chuck: My decision had definite repercussions. My family disowned me. My wife — who also became a Christian — received similar treatment from her family. Her parents won't even talk to her. Our brothers and sisters cut us off. And all of my close friends — those whom I thought were close friends — shut us out of their lives. When we trusted in Christ, it wasn't just a matter of changing churches; it was a matter of changing lives.

Dan: Have you ever regretted your decision?

Chuck: Never! Not once!

Dan: After all you've been through, what would you say is the best message to use in witnessing to a JW?

Chuck: I think the message should be the love of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross for us. What touched me was finding out that Jesus Christ died for me and that His blood covered my sins. It was after I understood this that I trusted in Christ for salvation. I knew that works couldn't save me. I understood that I couldn't save myself because my sin was too great. But because of what Christ accomplished for me at the cross, I could be saved by trusting in Him.

Dan: How would you compare your life now with your former life as a JW?

Chuck: There is no comparison! I had nothing then; I have everything now.

Troubled Waters (continued from page 2) who declined to participate and recruit their employees were subjected to harassment, humiliation and interrogation, the plaintiffs said." The plaintiffs are seeking "an injunction against the alleged discriminatory practices, back pay and unspecified compensatory and punitive damages."

The *Los Angeles Times* (March 25, 1989) reports that an out-of-court settlement (six-figure) was recently reached in a case involving a man who claimed impairment due to emotional manipulation in a training program put on by Psi World. According to the article, "James Haslip of Twain Harte, Calif., said he lost control of his car, crashed and was hurt because he suffered from 'mind-manipulative' techniques used by Psi World, a San Rafael-based human potential consultant." The article also reports: "Psi World admitted no guilt, but paid a six-figure settlement last year to have the case dismissed, said Joel Kleinberg, Haslip's attorney....Psi World executives declined to comment on their seminars. The firm's lawyer, Stephen Jamieson, said it was willing to settle the suit 'because it was more economical to settle than to go through a trial...Psi World did not admit to any guilt; nor do they believe that there was any merit to the claims,' he said."

As this litigious trend continues, the primary issue that employers will grapple with is: Where should the line be drawn between legitimate programs which boost company productivity and intrusive seminars which may clash with an employee's deeply held personal/religious beliefs?

—Ron Rhodes

Do You Have A Testimony?

If you are a former cult member and have become a Christian, we would like to see your written testimony. Though we prefer it typed, a handwritten testimony is acceptable so long as it's legible. It should be between 1000 and 1500 words. Though not every testimony can be published, it's possible that yours may be chosen for inclusion in a future edition of the *Christian Research Newsletter*. Please address all correspondence to the Editor.

Identifying New Agers — Suggested Criteria

By definition a New Ager is someone of whom all of the following is true: he or she (1) believes in pantheism (i.e., "everything is God") and some or all of its attendant doctrines (e.g., salvation by "gnosis" or experiences of enlightenment, karma and reincarnation, spiritual evolution); (2) engages in mystical or occult practices and/or has had such experiences (e.g., astrology, psychic healing, magic, various methods of inducing trancelike states of consciousness, use of crystals or pyramids for psychic reasons, out-of-body experiences like "astral projection"); (3) believes in the coming New Age (usually understood as the "Age of Aquarius"); and (4) seeks to hasten this New Age by "networking" or cooperating with other New Agers. If some but not all of these criteria are true of an individual, then it can be said that the person has *affinities* with the New Age movement, but not that he or she is a New Ager. Of course, a person who does not fully fit the criteria of a New Ager, like a secular humanist or a Hare Krishna devotee, is not necessarily any closer to the Christian position for not being a New Ager.

In addition to the criteria given above, there are numerous signs of *possible* New Age involvement. These include questionable *terminology* (e.g., use of the term "New Age" itself, "new paradigm," "paradigm shift," "transformation," "global vision"), questionable *political convictions* (e.g., advocacy of a "new world order," a "planetary guidance system," or "green" politics — see Chapter 6 of my book, *A Crash Course on the New Age Movement*), and questionable *personal or organizational associations* (e.g., has ties with or recommends the Association for Humanistic Psychology, the Association for Holistic Health, or some New Age writer like Norman Cousins or Elisabeth Kubler-Ross).

Please note that while such signs can indicate a need for further inquiry, they are *not reliable in themselves* for determining if someone is a New Ager (unless, of course, the *organization* the individual belongs to fulfills the criteria for "New Age" given above). There are no or almost no political convictions that automatically make one a New Ager (as unchristian as the views *may* be). And New Agers do not

hold "copyright" on such terms as "new age" or "transformation," which Christians were using long before occultists adopted them. Furthermore, it is possible and permissible for Christians to appreciate and quote the insights of a Norman Cousins or an Elisabeth Kubler-Ross in particular respects, without agreeing with their basic spiritual message. Therefore, to avoid the harmful, all-too-common extreme of branding none-New Agers as New Agers, it is vital to evaluate the *context* of their language, convictions, and relationships. Do they exhibit the four defining features of a New Ager listed above?

—Elliot Miller

Human Deification?

Are human beings gods like New Agers would have us believe? Consider the following: God is *all-knowing* (Matt. 11:21), but man is limited in knowledge (Job 38:4); God is *all-powerful* (Rev. 19:6), but man is weak (Heb. 4:15); God is *everywhere-present* (Ps. 139:7-12), but man is confined to a single space at a time (e.g., John 1:50); God is *holy* (1 John 1:5), but even man's "righteous" deeds are as filthy garments before God (Isa. 64:6); God is *eternal* (Ps. 90:2), but man was created at a point in time (Gen. 1:1, 21, 27); God is *truth* (John 14:6), but man's heart is deceitful above all else (Jer. 17:9); God is characterized by *justice* (Acts 17:31), but man is lawless (1 John 3:4; cf. Rom. 3:23); God is *love* (Eph. 2:4-5), but man is plagued with numerous vices like jealousy and strife (1 Cor. 3:3). If man is a god, one could never tell it by his attributes!

—Ron Rhodes

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RADIO LOG

'The Bible Answer Man' Radio Log

ARIZONA

Bullhead City/ Laughlin NV	KILA-FMT	90.1	5:35AM	M-F
			8:00PM	M-F
			10:30PM	SAT
Cottonwood	KILA-FMT	90.3	5:35AM	M-F
			8:00PM	M-F
			10:30PM	SAT
Flagstaff	KILA-FMT	91.3	5:35AM	M-F
			8:00PM	M-F
			10:30PM	SAT
Kingman	KILA-FMT	103.1	5:35AM	M-F
			8:00PM	M-F
			10:30PM	SAT
Lk Havasu City	KILA-FMT	88.9	5:35AM	M-F
			8:00PM	M-F
			10:30PM	SAT
Prescott	KILA-FMT	91.7	5:35AM	M-F
			8:00PM	M-F
			10:30PM	SAT*
Sedona	KILA-FM	90.3	5:35AM	M-F
			8:00PM	M-F
			10:30PM	SAT
Seligman	KILA-FMT	88.1	5:35AM	M-F
			8:00PM	M-F
			10:30PM	SAT
Yuma	KGBA-FMT	98.3	4:05PM	M-F

CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield	KERI-AM	1180	3:05PM	M-F
Barstow	KILA-FMT	88.7	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F
			9:30PM	SAT
Bishop	KNIS-FMT	95.9	3:05PM	MWF
Chico/Paradise	KKXX-AM	930	3:05PM	M-F
El Centro	KGBA-FM	100.1	3:05PM	M-F
Fremont	KAMB-FMT	99.3	9:30PM	SAT
Fresno	KAMB-FMT	94.3	9:30PM	SAT
Hornitos	KAMB-FMT	101.5	9:30PM	SAT
Lake Tahoe	KNIS-FMT	92.1	3:05PM	M-F
Los Angeles	KKLA-FM	99.5	3:05PM	M-F
			6:05PM	SAT
Merced	KAMB-FM	101.5	9:30PM	SAT
Needles	KILA-FMT	90.1	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F
			9:30PM	SAT
Sacramento	KFIA-AM	710	3:05PM	M-F
			6:05PM	SAT
Salinas/Monterey	KKMC-AM	880	3:05PM	M-F
	KAMB-FMT	95.9	9:30PM	SAT
San Bernadino/ Riverside	KLFE-AM	1240	3:05PM	M-F
Santa Cruz/ Watsonville	KAMB-FMT	103.1	9:30PM	SAT
Susanville	KNIS-FMT	102.3	3:05PM	M-F
Victorville	KILA-FMT	89.5	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F
			9:30PM	SAT
Yosemite Valley	KAMB-FMT	96.7	9:30PM	SAT

COLORADO

Denver	KRKS-AM	990	4:05PM	M-F
Pueblo	KFEL-AM	970	6:30PM	M-F

FLORIDA

West Palm Beach	WLVJ-AM	640	6:05PM	M-F
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GEORGIA

Atlanta	WNIV-AM	970	6:05PM	M-F
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IDAHO

Boise	KFXD-AM	580	4:05PM	M-F
Idaho Falls	KCIR-FMT	90.1	8:00PM	M-F

ILLINOIS

Peoria/ Pekin	WVEL-AM	1140	8:00AM	M-F
			6:00PM	M-F
			2:00PM	SAT

*Please note 8:00AM release is on one-day tape delay basis

*Also note 6:00PM release airs at 7:00PM during June, July & August

*Saturday research is repeat of Friday's broadcast

INDIANA

Indianapolis	WBRI-AM	1500	11:30AM	M-F
	WXIR-FM	98.3	11:00PM	SAT

*Please note 11:00PM SAT release is repeat of one Monday - Friday program

*Also note 11:30AM release aired on one day tape delay basis

LOUISIANA

Lake Providence/	KWCL-AM	1280	6:35AM	M-F
Oak Grove				

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston	WEZE-AM	1260	6:05PM	M-F
			12:30AM	SUN

*Please note 12:30AM release is aired on one day tape delay basis

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis/ St. Paul	KYCR-AM	1570	5:05PM	SUN

*Please note release is aired on one day tape delay basis

MISSOURI

Kansas City	KCCV-AM	1510	4:30PM	M-F
			7:30PM	SUN

*Please note that both releases are aired on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Alamo	KILA-FMT	97.7	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note the 2:30PM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Beatty	KILA-FMT	104.9	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note program aired on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Caliente	KILA-FMT	95.3	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Carlin/ Lamoille/Osino	KCIR-FMT	90.3	7:00PM	M-F
			9:30PM	SAT

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Elko/ Spring Creek	KCIR-FMT	91.1	7:00PM	M-F
			9:30PM	SAT

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Ely	KILA-FMT	97.7	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Goldfield	KILA-FMT	95.3	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Hawthorne	KNIS-FMT	95.9	3:05PM	MWF
Highland	KILA-FMT	104.9	4:35AM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Hiko	KILA-FMT	104.9	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Indian Springs	KILA-FMT	104.9	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Las Vegas	KILA-FM	90.5	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Pahrump	KILA-FMT	103.1	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Pioche	KILA-FM	95.3	4:35AM	M-F
			7:00PM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

NEVADA

Reno/ Carson City	KNIS-FM	94.7	3:05PM	M-F
Round Mtn.	KILA-FM	97.7	4:35AM	M-F

*Please note 4:35AM release is on one day tape delay basis

LETTERS

I've been studying Dr. Martin's teachings on Jehovah's Witnesses. He's interesting to listen to and learn from, and I appreciate his love for the lost.

So far I've had several different JWs come to my door since studying Dr. Martin's tapes. It's neat how the Lord brings to mind what I've studied. I don't really feel like I've fully retained it; but then — when the opportunity presents itself — there it is.

The Lord has put it on my heart that "Thank you but I'm not interested" isn't the response JWs and other cultists need to hear to get them thinking about the error of their ways.

C.M.
Vancouver, WA

I'm confused about what 2 John 9-11 teaches about the proper Christian response to those who do not hold to the orthodox teaching of Christ. Verse 10 says, "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him." Does this mean that we are not to allow cultists into our homes? How can we effectively witness to them if we do this?

J.S.
Raleigh, NC

First-century Christians usually met in homes because there were no church buildings at that time. It is with this in mind that John warns his readers not to allow people into the church who hold to a different teaching about Christ. Dr. Martin says, "it is clear that [John] is referring to false teachers being given a voice in the church, not to a cultist sitting in your living room" (The Kingdom of the Cults, p. 392).

Dan Kistler
Research Assistant

Praise the Lord for your answer to the letter on est/The Forum in the last *Christian Research Newsletter*!

I attended The Forum in December of 1987 and the Advanced Course in December, 1988. I became a Christian on July 9, 1988. It took me about a month after the Advanced Course to make my choice as to whom I would serve in my life. My choice is Jesus Christ.

Your answer helped remove any doubt from my mind that what I participate in must be CHRIST-CENTERED. I have sent copies of your answer to Forum people I know.

R.D.
Atlanta, GA

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Cult Problem and World Missions



The problems of world missions are well-known to most students of American missionary activity. Throughout the world the church of Jesus Christ is faced

with many challenges, among them world communism, militant nationalism, and the hostile presence of other religions. Moreover, various sects and cults have grown to such proportions that it staggers the imagination. Many of these cults concentrate their efforts on *already affiliated* church members, seldom evangelizing among members of admitted pagan religions. The Jehovah's Witnesses, for example, publish literature in over a hundred languages, circulating millions of tracts, pamphlets, and books each year and "stealing sheep" in shocking proportions.

The church of Christ, however, has until recently been lethargic and apathetic regarding the rise of the cults. It has adopted a type of "ignorance is bliss" philosophy preferring to believe that if the cults are ignored, they may go away much like a bad dream. But history reminds us that such will never be the case.

Christian missionaries are literally in the dark when a cult invasion begins in any given area of the world mission field. While it is true that much literature exists on the cults, a large percentage of it is outdated, unreliable, unscholarly, and shows a marked lack of personal investigation in the field. Second- and third-hand hearsay are often accepted as fact. The result is that missionaries, pastors, teachers, and laymen are at a tremendous disadvantage when facing cultists on the mission field.

Our Christian colleges, seminaries, and Bible schools are aware of this

problem. But few mandatory or adequate curricula have been instituted to orient students in this vital subject. It may seem strange, but it's true nonetheless that a man can receive seven years of college and seminary training and never once be required to learn how to effectively deal with the cults. Sooner or later these same neglected groups will harass his ministry and threaten his flock.

Evangelist Billy Graham has traveled to many of the world mission fields and encountered these problems in his ministry. In a lengthy conversation with Dr. Graham, he told me: "I have traveled to many of our mission fields; I have talked with our missionaries and mission leaders. I know that the problem of cults is not exaggerated there or in the United States. This is a real challenge and a great vacuum exists that needs to be filled."

Dr. Graham recognizes the goals of the Christian Research Institute in this area. He stated: "The Christian Research Institute has the information and the ability to do this. I will do all I can to help get this vital task accomplished. You have my prayers and full support in a work that is definitely of God's leading."

No one can deny then that this is a very real issue, and one that is ignored at the peril of the whole church of Christ in many areas of the world. We do not mean to imply that the cults should occupy the exclusive attention of missionaries. But when it is considered that on almost every major mission field today the activities of the cults are successfully disrupting the witness of the church of Jesus Christ, then it's time to face the issue for what it is and cease procrastinating in the face of certain disaster. Let us gird ourselves for the task which lies ahead. This is not an abstract problem of the future; the challenge is here — the time is now!

Thanks for the recent *Christian Research Newsletter*. I appreciated the article on New Age music. I agree with the article that *right now* most New Age music is benign and harmless unless you buy into the philosophy behind it.

I was suspicious when I started reading the article, thinking you were going to

trash New Age music entirely. But you didn't. You handled it objectively and with the right amount of caution. I will keep the article to refer to, and will be aware of the possibility of undesirable influences coming out of this type of music.

R.H.
Lodi, CA

New Books by CRI Staff

We are excited to announce four new books by CRI staff members. Robert M. Bowman, Jr.'s, *Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of John* was recently published by Baker Book House. Also being published by Baker (in late April) is Elliot Miller's long-awaited book, *A Crash Course on the New Age Movement*. NavPress has just released Ron Rhodes's LIFECHANGE study guide entitled *Hebrews*. And, in the near future, be watching for *The New Age Cult* by Dr. Walter Martin, published by Bethany House Publishers. More is on the way!

Seminars With Dr. Walter Martin

Dr. Walter Martin has been busy doing seminars around the country on such relevant issues as the New Age movement, Satanism and occultism, the cult of self-esteem, evil and human suffering, and the new cults. Recent speaking engagements include the Capital Christian Center in Sacramento, California; Rock Fellowship in Fresno, California; Mount Paran Church in Atlanta, Georgia; and the New Life Center in Everett, Washington.

These seminars have proved to be an effective means of communicating up-to-date information on cults and aberrant

groups. Lou Kebort, who attended the seminar in Sacramento, California, comments: "I didn't realize cults had such a big impact on our society." Mrs. Norman Sand, at the seminar in Everett, Washington, said: "Dr. Martin's comments were very enlightening to me. I'm glad I had this opportunity to learn about the New Age movement."

Other seminars are scheduled! Be watching for the possibility of Dr. Martin speaking in your area.

We Need Clippings!

The research staff at CRI has benefitted greatly from the many newspaper and magazine clippings which have been sent in from all over the world. These clippings have been put to good use. Some have been mentioned in the "For Your Information" column in the CHRISTIAN RESEARCH JOURNAL.

Would you like to become a part of CRI's worldwide research support team? Here's how: If you come across articles related to cults, the occult, or apologetics, simply clip out the article and mail it to CRI. Address it to "CRI Library." Be sure to include the author's name, the publication name, the date, and page number. Your efforts in this area will help CRI to better defend the Christian faith against error.

Project Comrex

CRI recently purchased a valuable piece of equipment known as a *Comrex*. This item enables Dr. Martin to broadcast "The Bible Answer Man" from *any* location he travels to. By using the Comrex, Dr. Martin can give churches, radio stations, and public forums the opportunity to see the broadcast done live in their own cities.

We want to thank all who contributed to *Project Comrex*. It is only by your generous giving that we were able to purchase this much-needed equipment. As a co-laborer with CRI, the fruit of your generosity will be fully known only in eternity.

CRI Prayer Requests

- Pray with us about funds needed to finish remodeling CRI's International Headquarters. This remodeling includes the completion of the radio and engineering studios for "The Bible Answer Man" and "CRI Perspective," as well as the Library and Resource Center.

- Pray for Dr. Martin's health and safety as he continues traveling around the country giving seminars. Also pray for a mighty work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all those attending these seminars.

PROJECT BRAZIL

Latin American Cultwatch

- Latest statistics from the **Mormon Deseret News 1989-1990 Church Almanac** reveal that Brazil has the third largest number of stakes (*groups* of churches) of any nation (57), ten missions (with an estimated 1,300 full-time missionaries), and some 249,000 members (up from 206,000 in 1986). The total number of Mormons in Latin America at the close of 1988 was over 1.4 million and is growing steadily.

- The 1989 **Jehovah's Witness Yearbook** shows Brazil as ranking third in JWs, after the U.S. and Mexico. "Peak Publisher" statistics show the total number of JWs in Latin America's nineteen countries to be over 815,000, though if one were to calculate the *total* participants (adding apprentice JWs going door to door), that number would at least double. In Brazil the number of JW "publishers" reached a high of 245,610 last year, with over 44 million hours spent in proselytizing.

- A recent edition of *O Rosacruz*, the

Brazilian magazine of the San Jose, California-based Rosicrucian (AMORC) cult, reports that Brazil leads all other nations in **Rosicrucian** lodges, chapters, and "pronaoi" — over 200 total. Other countries with large contingents of AMORC members are France, the United States, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and Mexico.

- CRI Brazil has learned of a **Unification Church** travel scheme in which the cult is seeking to lure U.S. evangelicals to Brazil on package tours through the cult's travel agency, Seil Turismo — with the collaboration of at least one evangelical minister in Sao Paulo. Be on the lookout!

Prayer Requests: Please Pray For...

- Our new radio program via shortwave on TransWorld Radio, scheduled to start production in April. CRI Brazil researchers Natanael Rinaldi, Caleb Castellani, and Paulo Romeiro are preparing a full introductory course on

the cults with transcripts and study notes for TWR's listeners.

- Production of a series of articles on the cults and aberrational Christian groups requested by CPAD, the Assemblies of God publishing house, over the next year. These articles will appear in a variety of periodicals.

- Completion of two important Jehovah's Witness projects: publication in Portuguese of David Reed's book, *Jehovah's Witnesses Answered Verse-By-Verse*, and voice dubbing of the film *Witnesses of Jehovah*.

- Efforts to stem the rising tide of the recently-arrived "Positive Confession" movement in Pentecostal and charismatic circles.

- Plans to begin preparing a large-scale Spanish-language outreach in the near future.

- Our computers, as federal authorities and two agencies consider our request for clearance.

- Paulo Romeiro, as he assumes full directorship of CRI Brazil in June.



CHRISTIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

RESOURCE LIST

BOOKS

THE KINGDOM OF THE CULTS by Walter Martin.
(36th printing, 1985 revised and expanded edition) 544 pages on major cultic systems of our day.

B-1 (1 lb. 1 oz.) \$15.95

JEHOVAH OF THE WATCHTOWER

by Walter Martin and Norman Klann.
The first full-length exposé of Watchtower teachings, revised and updated.

B-4 (8 oz.) \$5.95

ESSENTIAL CHRISTIANITY by Walter Martin.

Theology written in newspaper style studying the Trinity, the deity of Christ, salvation, resurrection, judgment, and more.

B-5 (5 1/2 oz.)(revised and updated) \$5.95

SCREWTAPES WRITES AGAIN by Walter Martin.

In the style of C.S. Lewis' masterpiece, Martin examines the tactics of Satan in today's world.

B-6 (6 oz.) \$4.95

THE MAZE OF MORMONISM by Walter Martin.

One of the very best references comparing Mormonism to Christianity. One of the most up-to-date evangelical treatments of Mormon theology and history.

B-44 (14 oz.) \$7.95

MARTIN SPEAKS OUT ON THE CULTS

by Walter Martin.
This is a quick, easy guide to America's leading cults. Dr. Martin presents the major teachings of these cults in the light of the Scriptures, showing that all of them are alien to biblical Christianity (formerly THE RISE OF THE CULTS).

B-59 (6 oz.)....(revised and updated) \$5.95

THE NEW CULTS edited by Walter Martin.

These contemporary cultic sects are capturing the minds and lives of millions — young and old. The new cults examined include: The Way, T.M., Hare Krishna, The Children of God, The Walk, Silva Mind Control, Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism, Ascended Masters, and others.

B-69 (1 lb. 2 oz.) \$8.95

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE by Guy Duty.

A clear, systematic presentation of the biblical teaching that God forbids divorce except in cases of sexual immorality and an unbelieving spouse leaving a believer.

B-79 (12 oz.) \$8.95

THE WATCHTOWER FILES by Duane Magnani.

The best one-volume collection of Watchtower literature photocopies, documenting the Jehovah's Witnesses' false prophecies, changing doctrines, and unbiblical theology.

B-80 (15 oz.) \$6.95

ANSWERS TO THE CULTIST AT YOUR DOOR

by Robert and Gretchen Passantino.
A clear, concise, and practical introduction to the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Moonies, the Hare Krishnas, and the Way International, with sample dialogues.

B-81 (8 oz.) \$4.50

PSYCHIC FORCES AND OCCULT SHOCK

by Clifford Wilson and John Weldon

This book covers an unusually wide range of subjects. Included are Hinduism, T.M., Zen Buddhism, yoga, reincarnation, thanatology, holistic health, EST, the occult, and a lengthy examination of parapsychology. The best book of its kind.

B-84 (1 lb. 2 oz.) \$10.95

SECRET POWER

by D. L. Moody.

Out of print for decades, this book presents Moody's teachings on being filled with and led by the Holy Spirit. With an introduction by Dr. Martin.

B-85 (8 oz.) \$7.95

UNMASKING THE NEW AGE

by Douglas R. Groothuis.

Currently the best book by a Christian on the New Age movement, steering a clear course between fanciful conspiracy theories and undiscerning acceptance of New Age beliefs.

B-86 (10 oz.) \$6.95

INVISBLE WAR

by Donald Grey Barnhouse.

A popular treatment of the subject of spiritual warfare.

B-87 (13 oz.) \$9.95

JOURNAL

Formerly known as Forward, this periodical contains scholarly, yet readable articles with the latest information on the cults, the occult, non-Christian religions, aberrational Christian movements, and general apologetics. Analyses of the themes are both rational and biblical. Published three times annually.

..... \$7.50 Annually

TRACTS

TRACT SAMPLE PACK

A collection of all CRI tracts. Titles include: Jehovah's Witnesses and the Trinity (T-11); Jehovah's Witnesses and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (T-12); Jehovah's Witnesses and the Deity of Jesus Christ (T-13); Mormonism (T-14); John Robert Stevens and the Church of the Living Word: 'The Walk' (T-15); Today Could Be Your Re-Birthday: Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Church (T-16); One Hundred Years of Divine Direction: Jehovah's Witnesses' false prophecies (T-17); Life, Death and Decision (T-18); Pearl of Great Price: The gospel explained in Mormon terms (T-19); Questions and Answers: Is Mormonism Christian? (T-20); The Politics of 'Experience': Explanation of EST seminars (T-21); Spiritualism (T-30); Steps to Peace With God (T-36); The English Translation of T.M.'s Initiatory Puja (T-49); T.M.: More Than Meets the Mind (T-51); T.M.: Penetrating the Veil of Deception (T-53); Whatever Happened to the Book of Mormon? (T-54); Occult Philosophy and Mystical Experience (T-67); Spiritual Power (T-68). T-17 and T-19 are available in Spanish. Individual tracts sell for 15 cents, 100 copies of the same tract for \$7.95.

TS-1 (5 oz.) \$2.00

FACT SHEET SAMPLE PACK

A collection of all CRI fact sheets. Titles include: Can the Believer Lose His Salvation? (FS-3); Historicity of the Bible (FS-5); Choosing a Bible (FS-6); Choosing a Church (FS-7); The Devil Made Me Do It (Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?) (FS-8); Current Catholicism (FS-9); Angels on Assignment? (FS-11); The "Jesus Only" or "Oneness" Pentecostal Movement (FS-12); Reincarnation and Christianity (FS-14); The Way (FS-15); Self-Realization Fellowship (FS-18); Manifestation of the Sons of God (FS-19); Christadelphianism (FS-20); William Branham (FS-21); Church Universal and Triumphant (FS-22); The Second Coming of Jesus Christ (FS-23). Individual fact sheets sell for 15 cents. Angels on Assignment? is 20 cents.

FS-1 (5 oz.) \$3.00

This list is subject to change without notice.

PAMPHLETS

MORMONISM

by Walter Martin.
Special revelations, sacred oracles — are these from God or one man?

P-7 (2 oz.) \$2.95

P-7A Spanish Version (2 oz.) \$2.95

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

by Walter Martin.
Who are they? What do they believe? Does this differ from orthodox Christianity?

P-8 (3 oz.) \$2.95

P-8A Spanish Version (3 oz.) \$2.95

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

by Walter Martin.
Is this religious group truly Christian — or a science?

P-9 (2 oz.) \$2.95

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG AND THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

by Walter Martin.
A careful look at the theology of Herbert W. Armstrong in the light of Scripture.

P-10 (2 oz.) \$2.95

HEALING: DOES GOD ALWAYS HEAL?

by Elliot Miller.
An analysis of the so called "healing in the atonement" teaching.

P-15 (2 oz.) \$1.95

SUN MYUNG MOON AND THE UNIFICATION CHURCH

by James Bjornstad.
An examination and critique of the history, theology, and claims of Rev. Moon and the "Moonies" proving that the Unification Church is blatantly anti-Christian.

P-16 (5 oz.) \$2.95

THE EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION

by J.N.D. Anderson.
Is the resurrection of Jesus Christ true or false?

P-63 (1 oz.) \$1.00

FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTIANITY

by Dr. Alva McClain.
Sermon prepared by Dr. McClain to help those being confronted with Freemasonry.

P-66 (1 oz.) \$1.00

HOW TO RESPOND TO THE LODGE

by L. James Rongstad.
Comparison of lodge beliefs and biblical teachings.

P-67 (2 oz.) \$1.95

THE TEACHINGS OF WITNESS LEE AND THE LOCAL CHURCH by Cal Beisner, with Robert & Gretchen Passantino. False teachings of the Local Church compared with Scripture. P-73 (2 oz.)\$1.95	MARTIN UNDER FIRE by Walter Martin. Includes the hottest questions and answers from several years of public lectures by Dr. Martin in the areas of the cults, the occult, and apologetics. C-22 (1 lb. 1 oz.)six cassettes\$33.95	ASTROLOGY by Walter Martin Danger in the stars. C-05 (3 oz.)\$5.95
DISCIPLESHIP AND SUBMISSION MOVEMENT Report of the Assembly of God General Presbytery Committee on this movement. P-75 (1 oz.)\$1.00	HOW TO WITNESS TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES by Walter Martin. A firm base for communicating truth with intelligence. This series gives insight into the Jehovah's Witnesses' doctrine and its scriptural counterpoint. C-26 (15 oz.)four cassettes\$23.95	BAHAI FAITH by Walter Martin A mixture of Eastern and Western theology explained by Dr. Martin. C-06 (3 oz.)\$5.95
DISEASE OF THE HEALTH AND WEALTH GOSPELS by Gordon Fee. A brief study of this controversial teaching. P-76 (2 oz.)\$1.75	HOW TO WITNESS TO MORMONS by Walter Martin. Common questions and their answers make this set a must for anyone reaching out to Mormons. C-27 (15 oz.)four cassettes\$23.95	NEW! BEST OF MARTIN, QUESTION AND ANSWERS AT BIBLE CLASS (PART 1) Students in Dr. Martin's Bible Class, taught weekly at the Newport Mesa Christian Center in Southern California, ask him a range of intriguing questions. C-127 (3 oz.)\$5.95
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE? by Chuck Sackett. The most current and comprehensive text and description of the secret Mormon temple rituals now in print. Compiled by a former temple worker. P-77 (4 oz.)\$3.95	GROWING IN THE SPIRIT by Walter Martin. In this tape series, Professor Martin gives an overview of how the gifts of the Spirit are applicable today, along with a detailed discussion on the gifts of tongues and prophecy, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. C-30 (11 oz.)....three cassettes\$17.95	NEW! BEST OF MARTIN, QUESTION AND ANSWERS AT BIBLE CLASS (PART 2) More answers to questions asked by students in Dr. Martin's Bible Class. C-128 (3 oz.)\$5.95
WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT? by Bob Witte. An outstanding compilation of photo-reprints and quotations from authoritative Mormon sources for use in witnessing to Latter-day Saints. P-80 (9 oz.)\$3.95	DIALOGUE ON THE DOORSTEP, Vol. 1: JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES AT YOUR DOOR by Walter Martin and William Cetnar. Dr. Martin, founder of CRI, replays a dialogue with Bill Cetnar, a former Jehovah's Witness and the founder of Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus. Bill Cetnar plays the role of a Witness at Dr. Martin's door, and Dr. Martin skillfully answers the Jehovah's Witnesses' arguments against the deity of Christ and shows how to demonstrate to the Witnesses that Jesus is Jehovah, the Almighty God. C-34 (5 oz.)...two cassettes\$11.95	BLACK MUSLIMS by Walter Martin. Dr. Martin discusses Louis Farakhan and the Nation of Islam. C-75 (3 oz.)\$5.95
ON THE FRONTLINES: WITNESSING TO MORMONS by Wally Tope. One of the best guides available on the subject. Gives clear, point-by-point refutations to key Mormon challenges and comebacks. P-85 (9 oz.)\$4.95	DIALOGUE ON THE DOORSTEP, Vol. 2: MORMONS AT YOUR DOOR by Walter Martin and Ed Decker. Dr. Martin, founder of CRI, replays a dialogue with Ed Decker, a former Mormon and the founder of Ex-Mormons for Jesus/Saints Alive in Jesus. Ed Decker plays the role of a Mormon at Dr. Martin's door, and Dr. Martin skillfully demonstrates how to show the Mormon the errors of Mormon teachings and the truth of the biblical gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. C-34A (5 oz.)....two cassettes\$11.95	CHARIOTS OF THE WHO? by Walter Martin. Chariots of the Gods — a lecture on UFO's and Eric Von Daniken. C-85 (3 oz.)\$5.95
WITNESSING TO THE MORMONS by Jerry and Marian Bodine. A helpful tool for the layman who seriously evangelizes the Mormons. Includes full size photo-reprints from Mormon sources. P-86 (8 oz.)\$4.95	WALTER MARTIN DEBATES: ROY MASTERS In this cassette series, recorded live on "The Bible Answer Man" program, Prof. Martin debates the founder of the "Foundation of Human Understanding," showing how the teachings of Mr. Masters are in direct contradiction to historic Christianity. C-102 (6 oz.)two cassettes\$10.95	CHARISMA: CULTIC, OCCULTIC, OR CHRISTIAN? by Walter Martin. Dr. Martin presents surprising answers from evangelical Christianity which have been hailed by charismatics and dispensationalists alike as an authoritative discussion on this controversial issue. C-41 (3 oz.)\$5.95
WITNESSING TO THE WITNESSES by Jerry and Marian Bodine. A helpful tool for evangelizing the Jehovah's Witnesses. Includes full size photo-reprints of false prophecies from Watchtower sources. P-87 (8 oz.)\$5.95	INTERVIEW WITH DESMOND FORD Dr. Martin discusses Seventh-day Adventism in-depth with Desmond Ford. Topics covered include Seventh-day Adventism teachings regarding the Sabbath, the judgment seat of God and Ellen G. White's view of Jesus. C-135 (6 oz.)....two cassettes\$10.95	THE CHILDREN OF GOD by Walter Martin. An analysis of a cultic sect notorious for its deliberate immorality, also known as the Family of Love. C-56 (3 oz.)\$5.95
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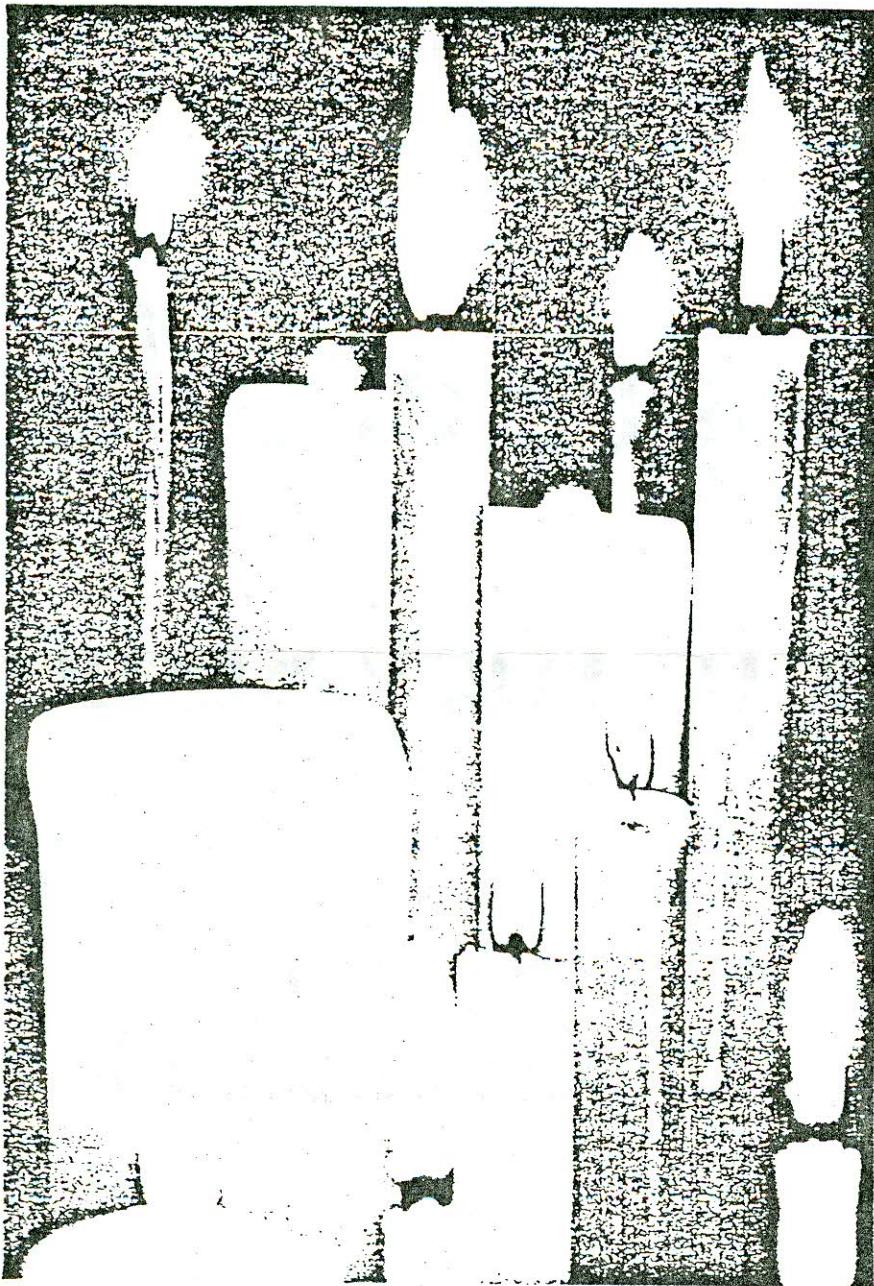
Ahmadiyya Movement—Leader: Hazrat Mirza. "Jesus was not a partner in the Godhead, as was not Jacob. Both of them were beloved prophets of God" (*True Christianity and How It Leads to Islam*).

American Atheist Center—Leader: Madalyn Murray O'Hair. There is no God, thus Jesus is not the Son of God.

Ananda Marga Yoga—Leader: Shrii Shrii Anandamurti. Jesus is considered God, but there is no Trinity. "Be constantly absorbed in the thought of God and you too will become God." (*Baba's Grace—Discourses of Shrii Shrii Anandamurti*).

Anthroposophical Society—Leader: Rudolf Steiner. "According to Steiner, Jesus of Nazareth was just an ordinary man until, at the age of thirty, he received the Christ-Essence during his baptism at the Jordan" (Spiritual Counterfeits Project (Berkeley, CA) Letter, February, 1977). Steiner was an occult medium who interpreted the Bible through clairvoyance.

Arica—Leader: Oscar Ichazo. "The point of Arica is enlightenment, man's transcending from the state of ego into what's known as the Void. This is a state of consciousness. . . . It's not God. It's God Consciousness." Aricans blend physical exercise and meditation. God is formless, thus Christ cannot



be God (*Awakening Ways to Psycho-Spiritual Growth*, C. William Henderson).

Assemblies of Yahweh—“(John 2:19) is sometimes presented as evidence that Yahshua is the Almighty, that He is co-equal with His Father, and that He had the power to resurrect Himself. This, of course, is a false, trinitarian concept” (*The Sacred Name Broadcaster*, Lincoln Frost). “We find the trinitarian doctrine to be foreign to the Inspired Scriptures” (Doctrine #5).

Baha'i—Baha'i, an independent world religion based on “a unique revelation of God,” traces its roots to an early division within Islam. God, called by different names, is

one but unknowable. Christ was a “manifestation” of God and a way to God.

Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship—Leader: Bawa Muhaiyaddeen. “God is a secret and a mystery, but man is also a mystery. Only God can see God. So if man is to see God, he must become God. Man becomes God, and God becomes man. It is no big deal,” says Bawa (*Pyschology*, April, 1976).

Black Muslim—Leader: Wallace D. Fard (Allah-God) and Elijah Poole (Elijah Muhammad—Fard’s prophet). Also called: *The Nation of Islam*. Elijah Muhammad said that Jesus was “only a prophet and not the equal of Moses and Muham-

mad, and his religion was Islam, not the Christianity of the Pope of Rome” (*Pittsburg Courier*, 1959).

Buddhism (Hinayana Buddhism and Mahayanna Buddhism)—“In Hinayana Buddhism there is no god as we conceive of God. . . . The followers of Mahayana Buddhism tend to deify Buddha. Their idea of God, however, has no such comprehensive attributes as has the Christian God” (*Religions in a Changing World*, Howard F. Vos, Ed.). This rules out Christ as a deity.

Cabala (Kabbalah)—Cabala is a system of Jewish mystical thought which originated in southern France and Spain in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The Cabala doctrine of deity recognizes only two deities—the hidden god, the infinite great divine Nothing; and the dynamic god of religious experience (Spiritual Counterfeits).

Center for Spiritual Awareness—Leader: Roy Eugene Davis. Also called: Christian Spiritual Alliance. Buddha, Sri Krishna, and Jesus were enlightened souls. “The second coming of Jesus is a fanciful hope. The awakening of individuals to the realization of their own Christ-nature is what will liberate man and transform society” (*Darshan: The Vision of Light*, Roy E. Davis). Jesus was a man who reached Christ-consciousness and was on earth to share the truth of this consciousness.

Children of God—Leader: David (Moses David) Brandt Berg. Started as a fundamentalist counter-culture ministry, but degenerated into belief in the occult, reincarnation, and sexual permissiveness. The COG believes that Berg is the *only* end-time prophet; that it is the remnant church of the last days; that its authority is absolute; and in the use of blasphemy, profanity, vulgarity, and pornography (*MOODY MONTHLY*, July/August, 1977).

Christian Scientists—Founder: Mary Baker Eddy. Jesus was a mere man who demonstrated the Christ (i.e., a divine idea). It doesn’t matter whether Christ ever existed, and His blood doesn’t cleanse from sin (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, *The First of Christ*) ▶

Scientist and Miscellany, both by Mary Baker Eddy).

Church of the Living Word— Leader: John Robert Stevens. Also called: *The Walk*. "Jesus Christ came to participate in humanity and make the bridge of communication so that God could communicate himself into our very beings. What he is, we become" (*The Word Became Flesh*, a Living Word publication). According to Stevens, this begins with contemporary revelations which make them the Living Word (Christ) to the world. Although some acknowledgment is made of the inspiration and authority of the Scripture, in practice the source of teaching is current revelation, not the Bible. Stevens considers himself God's chief intercessor.

Church Universal and Triumphant— Leader: Elizabeth Claire Prophet. Also called *Summit International* or *Summit Lighthouse*. The Church Universal and Triumphant is a mixture of eastern religions, Theosophy, Christianity, and many other things. Elizabeth is recognized as one of the two witnesses in Revelation 11. Her late husband and the founder, Mark, is considered the other. Jesus is considered a man that had the Christ Consciousness within Him. He was one of many who achieved the "God self" witness.

Dhyana-Mandiram— Leader: Pandit Usharbudh. "God is essentially formless. . . . God may manifest Himself-Herself-Itself in any form, at any time, at any place, on any planet. . . . Jesus may be accepted as one of the many incarnations of God" (*Hinduism: An Introduction*, Pandit Usharbudh and Yorke Crompton).

Divine Light Mission— Leader: Guru Maharaj Ji. Guru Ji is the living Perfect Master. Jesus was the Perfect Master of His time, but Ji has replaced Him. Ji claims the world needs the knowledge of Reality, and he claims to be the source of that knowledge and of peace in the world, according to David J. Hesselgrave, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

ECKANKAR— Leader: Sri Darwin



Gross. ECKANKAR says it is the wellspring and essence of all religions, philosophies, and sacred doctrines. It claims to be the way to God-realization via the "ancient science of soul travel." ECKANKAR makes the biblical God into a demon who as creator is responsible for the evil in the world and defines Christ as "god as all men are god" ("Eck World News," December, 1978, p. 13).

Findhorn Foundation University of Light— Leaders: Peter and Eileen Caddy. "The Devic (Deva is a being of light) would emphasize that man has to do one thing to reverse the trend of events on the planet: he has to recognize within himself the Divinity and wholeness of which he is a part" (*The Magic of Findhorn*, Paul Hawken). They separate Jesus and Christ and appear to be pantheistic. The group, a form of spiritism, became famous because the Findhorn community in Scotland has a producing garden near the Arctic Circle which is supposedly taken care of by plant spirits.

Freemasonry— ". . . We tell the sincere Christian that Jesus of Nazareth was but a man like us" ("Morals and Dogmas" by Albert Pike in *How to Respond to the Lodge*).

Hare Krishna— Founder: Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Also called:

International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). To the Krishnaite, the world is not real; it's illusion. Salvation comes by chanting the name of their God, Hare Krishna, at least 1,728 times daily. They believe in the literal interpretation of the Hindu scriptures, but they also accept the Bible as one of the scriptures. They consider Jesus one of their gurus.

"I Am" Movement— Leader: Guy Ballard (Pen name: Godfrey Ray King). Jesus, a man, developed the "I Am/God Self" within himself. This Mighty I Am Presence is a pure reservoir of energy stationed over the head which can be drawn on at will. Jesus is seen as one of the many Ascended Masters. They don't recognize the Trinity. The cult is an offshoot of the Theosophical Society. Its modern form is called the Summit Lighthouse or Church Universal and Triumphant. However, the "I Am" Movement still exists (*The 'I Am' Discourses Saint Germain Press*).

Iglesia Ni Cristo— Leader: Felix Manalo. "We believe in Jesus Christ, but we do not believe that he is true God. We believe in only one true God, the God of creation. Jesus Christ is a great savior and was commissioned by God to be the savior" ("Research Center Bulletin," Far East Broadcasting).

Inner Peace Movement— Leader: Rev. Francisco Coll, DD. A form of spiritualism and spiritism combining ESP, astro-projection, psychic phenomena, etc., they introduce seven levels of consciousness. Christ consciousness is the highest. Jesus had reached Christ Consciousness and taught this while on earth. Jesus was a man. They separate Jesus and Christ. God is impersonal and spoken of as The All, The Cosmos, and The Universe (*Every Wind of Doctrine*, Hobart Freeman).

Integral Yoga Institute— Founder: Swami Satchidananda. "There are not many gods; there is only One. And that One has no name, no form, no place. [Thus Christ is not God.] He is everywhere—in actuality, neither he, nor she, nor it. . . . The two sides are positive and negative, light and shade. Evil

also is God," says Swami Satchidananda (*The Youth Nappers*, James C. Hefley).

Islam—Christ was a prophet of Allah, but was superseded by Muhammad's teachings and authority.

Jainism—Founder: Mahavira. "Jainism begins by denying the existence of an external Supreme Being, Creator, or Lord, who is the mainstay of the universe. (Thus, no Christ.) For these non-theistic humanists, there is no need to assume a first cause" (*Religions in a Changing World*, Howard F. Vos, Ed.).

Jehovah's Witnesses—Jesus is a created being, Michael, the first creation of Jehovah and the "Son of God."

Laymen's Home Missionary Movement—Leader: Raymond J. Jolly. Similar to the Jehovah's Witnesses, they deny the physical resurrection of Jesus. "John 4:24—God is a Spirit. Luke 24:39—A spirit hath not flesh and bones . . . In the first place, God directly tells us that Jesus is now a Spirit being" (*Epiphany Studies in the Scriptures*). "Trinitarians have grossly mistranslated and misinterpreted this passage to read their trinitarianism into it, as they have done in other cases. The proper translation shows that Christ is not Jehovah. . . He is Jehovah's appointed Savior for the world, not Jehovah Himself" (*Epiphany Studies in the Scriptures*—Series 1).

Liberal Catholic Church—Leaders: Charles W. Leadbeater and Edward M. Matthews. "Obviously, God is not and cannot be a person. (Thus, no divine Christ.) The Persons of the Holy Trinity are Representatives or Masks for the One God who is beyond individuality; is unlimited; eminent; and transcendent" (*The One Existence*, E. M. Matthews). The LCC is independent of the Roman Catholic Church and blends elements of theosophy and pantheism (*These Also Believe*, Charles Samuel Braden).

Megiddo Mission—Founder: Rev. L. T. Nichols. "Christ, Emmanuel, 'God with us,' is not the eternal God but the Son of God, con-

ceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, but wholly human in his nature—Matt. 1:23, Heb. 2:16,17. . . ." (*History of the Megiddo Mission*, published by Megiddo Mission Church.)

Mormons—Founder: Joseph Smith; Prophet: Brigham Young. Also called: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Jesus is a pre-existent spirit, also the Father, one of many gods. Christ was God-man, and men can be just like him (*Mormon Doctrine*, Bruce McConkie).

Nichiren Shoshu Soka Gakkai—Soka Gakkai substitutes Gautama Buddha and Nichiren for the true God and replaces the Bible with the Lotus Sutra, a false scripture. Soka Gakkai means Value Recreation Society ("Views on Christ," John Weldon).

Peace Mission Movement—Leader: Father Divine (George Baker). Baker distinguishes between Jesus and Christ. "I say B. J., not B. C. because it was before Jesus yet, in my opinion, it was not before Christ" (*The New Day*, September 1, 1945). "Jesus, he (Baker) seems at times to regard as merely the temporal and physical embodiment of the Christ" (*These Also Believe*, Charles Samuel Braden). Baker has claimed to be God and the Holy Spirit. There are

also references in his material that Jesus is God (*Kingdom of the Cults*, Walter Martin).

Psychiana—Leader: Frank B. Robinson. "At no time has God, nor will God, manifest Himself on this earth or anywhere as a person. . . Jesus was no more than a human life acting out the God-power" (*They Have Found a Faith*, Marcus Bach).

Radha Soami Society—Leader: Charan Singh. God is seen as attributeless, formless, and impersonal without personality and name, although they give "him" the qualities of love, grace, wisdom, and power. The Society asserts that there are countless gods and goddesses, lords, rulers, and governors in the universe (*The World of Gurus*, Vishal Mangalwadi), thus Jesus is not Lord of Lords.

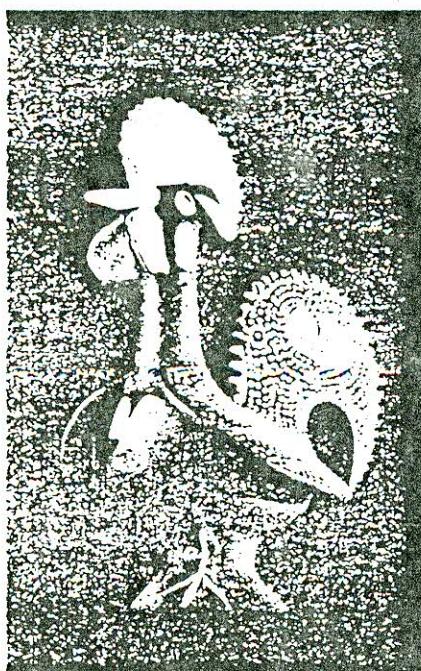
Rajneesh Meditation Centers—Leader: Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. "But God (thus, Christ) is not a person. God is the process. . . Existence is without cause. . . In the beginning, there is no cause so in the end there can be no purpose" (*Beyond and Beyond*, Acharya Rajneesh).

Rosicrucianism—Jesus was a reincarnated man, the highest luminary possible. The Christ spirit in Him was a manifestation of the cosmic Christ ("Rays from the Rose Cross," December, 1978).

Ruhani Satsang—Leader: Kirpal Singh. "Jesus Christ was essentially a man of the East, and his teachings are imbued with oriental mysticism. It is even speculated that he spent many of his early years in India and learned from the Yogins and Buddhist monks" (*The Crown of Life*, Kirpal Singh).

Sacred Mushroom of the Cross—Leader: John Allegro. Christ was a mushroom (*Sacred Mushroom of the Cross*, John Allegro).

Sanatana Dharma Foundation—Leader: Yogeshwar Muni. Also called: Kayavarohan. Jesus is a man who achieved a divine state through meditation. Sanatana Dharma is considered the eternal path to truth leading to fulfillment and divinity. "Thus men, for the first time on Earth, could achieve



the God level not only in concept, but in physical manifestations as well" (Vishvamitra Newsletter).

Satanism—The introduction to the Satanic Bible says, "What amuses us most is that you indicate that a mere command to Satan in Jesus' name is sufficient to dismiss him. The Prince of Darkness regards both God and Jesus Christ as insignificant figments of man's more infantile imagination, at least insofar as their supposed power is concerned. God is dead, and Christ was but a man" (*Every Wind of Doctrine*, Dr. Hobart Freeman).

Scientology—Founder: L. Ron Hubbard. Hubbard claims to have found the spiritual technology to dispense the one "true way" to man. It is a process working through levels of self-knowledge and knowledge of past lives to awaken the primordial deity within until a person is able to regain total godhood. Christ is a man who achieved a "state of clear" but not the higher state of "Operating Thetan" ("Certainty" magazine, Vol. 5, No. 10).

Self Realization Fellowship— Founder: Paramahansa Yogananda. Also called: *Yogoda Satsanga Society*. Separates Jesus and Christ. Jesus was indwelt by the Christ Consciousness. "Let the omniscient Christ Consciousness come to Earth a second time and be born in you, even as it was manifested in the mind of Jesus" (*Metaphysical Meditations*, SRF Publishers).

Shintoism—"Deity is spirit, without form, unknowable . . . changeless, eternal, existing from the beginning of Heaven and Earth up to the present, unfathomable, infinite . . ." (*Source of Japanese Tradition*, Vol. 1, Ed. William Theodore de Bary).

Shree Guru Dev Siddha Yoga Ashram—Leader: Swami Muktananda Paramahansa. Also called: *Siddha Yoga Dham*. This is a self-realization group whose leader claims to be God. "This is the praise of the all-pervasive, formless, unmanifest, Absolute Being who manifests Himself in a thousand forms. . . . Above all, you will receive Divine Grace and finally realize your own divinity." Rejects God manifesting Himself in Christ (*Songs of God, Guru, Self*, Ed. Kabiraj).

Sikhism—Founder: Nanak. Sikhism developed an abstract and mystical monotheism. God is formless, sovereign, unknowable, and absolute. However, a righteous person can call upon the grace of Sat Nam—God. If a person reaches salvation which is by works, he absorbs into God. Rejects the idea of God revealed in a Person (*Cults, World Religions, and You*, Kenneth Boa).

Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centers—Leader: Swami Sivananda. Also called: *International Sivananda Yoga Society and Divine Life Society*. God (or Christ) is not a person or spirit, but Consciousness. He is sometimes reborn as a man, other times as an animal, plant, or even an inanimate object. (*The World of Gurus*, Vishal Mangalwadi).

Spiritual Advancement of the Individual Foundation—Leader: Sri Satya Sai Baba. Jesus Christ is seen as an *avatar*, a deity descended to earth in bodily form. Sai Baba is Jesus Christ who was returned. Man, according to Baba, is Atman—Self or God. Man is under an illusion so he forgets that he is God. Baba also teaches that God is ultimately without attributes (*The World of Gurus*, Vishal Mangalwadi).

Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship— Founder: Arthur Ford and others. "There was no Christ 2,000 years ago. There was a man 2,000 years ago through whom the Anointed One was able to manifest. The man died, Christ lived, and as the Holy Spirit, has been helping. . . . The Divine Mind or the Concept of God has within himself all the faculties or qualities of both the male and female. There can be no creative expression, there can be no life without these two qualities. So God is neither man nor woman." Ford, a former Christian minister, made these comments during a seance March 18, 1965 (*Unknown But Known*, Arthur Ford).

Spiritualists—Jesus was an outstanding Jewish medium (*Kingdom of the Cults*, Walter Martin).

Sri Chinmoy Centers—Leader: Sri Chinmoy. God is seen as Consciousness and Light. Realize the divinity within you. "It is not because of his (Jesus') miracles that

he is worshipped, but because he brought down the eternal Consciousness, the infinite Consciousness" (*Kundalini: The Mother Power*, Sri Chinmoy).

Still Point Institute—Leader: Sujata. Christ is an evolutive god, a cosmic Christ. A heavy influence of Zen Buddhism negates a personal God (*The Still Point*, William Johnson).

Subud—Leader: Muhammad Subuh (Bapak). God is a "Great Life Force that flows through everything and everyone. It is impersonal." (Thus no Divine Christ.) God is felt through "latihan" which is an inner vibration. The objective in Subud is to become passive so that you can experience and feel latihan (*New Gods in America*, Peter Rowley; and *Religious and Spiritual Groups in Modern America*, Robert Ellwood).

Sufism—Leader: Pir-O-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan. God is an "Abstract Sound" which is the creative life principle in all nature. "The goal of Sufism is union with God in this life." Because of its link with Islamic philosophy, it would not consider Jesus as God (*Awakening Ways to Psycho-Spiritual Growth*, C. William Henderson).

Swedenborgism—Founder: E. Swedenborg. A form of spiritism which also denies the person of the Holy Spirit. He is called an efficiency or sanctifying influence. "We ought to have faith in God the Savior Jesus Christ, because that is faith in the visible God in Whom is the Invisible; and faith in the visible God, Who is at once Man and God, who enters Man" (*True Christian Religion*, E. Swedenborg).

Taoism—Greatest philosopher: Chuang Tzu. "There is no personal Creator-God" (*Cults, World Religions and You*, Kenneth Boa).

Tarotology—The most serious form of cartomancy—divination by cards. It has been linked with magic, numerology, astrology, and other cults. For all the languages about God, Spirit, and the Truth of God, the God and Truth of Tarot are in no way those of Christ. It is an idolatrous system, according to Dr. David Hesselgrave, *Trinity Evangelical*.

cal Divinity School.

The Farm—Leader: Stephen. An eastern mysticism commune in Summertown, TN. Jesus, a teacher, was a good man indwelt with Christ Consciousness. "In the telepathic medium of the Holy Spirit, Christ consciousness, Buddha consciousness, call it what you will, exists all the time. . . . You don't have to call it Jesus or Buddha or Krishna, it's the consciousness" (*Hey Beatnik!*, 1974).

The Foundation Church of the Millennium—Leader: Father John. Denies the deity of Jesus. It is an offshoot of or front for the Process Church of the Final Judgment (see below) although they deny it. They were both founded in September, 1966; began in Xul, Mexico; listed their midwest address as 1529 N. Wells Street, Chicago, IL; and have both since moved.

The Holy Order of MANS—Leader: Earl Blighton. Holds the occult/eastern view that Jesus was a great teacher, but merely a man who attained an impersonal kind of "Christ-Consciousness." They separate Jesus and Christ. They believe all can attain Christ-Consciousness (Spiritual Counterfeits Project, Berkeley, CA).

The Himalayan International Institute of Yoga Science and Philosophy—Leader: Swami Rama. "In order to become true members of the Church of Christ, a person must know not who Jesus was, but what Christ is. Christ, Ishvara, is the very personal force pervading this universe that guides and illuminates every aspirant . . . It is not an embodied person, but rather the force in which all individual beings are divine sparks . . ." (*Meditation in Christianity*, Dr. Pandit Arya). Swami Rama has said, "Jesus Christ was perhaps the greatest of all Yogis."

The Process Church of the Final Judgment—Leader: Robert de Grimston. Jesus is a mere man. "The Processeans believe in three gods: Jehovah, Lucifer, and Satan" (*Satan's Devices*, Kurt Koch).

The 3 HO Foundation—Leaders: Yogi Bhajan and Guru Ram Dass. The 3 HO means happy, healthy, and holy. "What is God? . . . He is cosmic energy. . . . He is yin-yang; He is positive and negative. He is male, female. . . . When you say cosmic consciousness, you mean God. . . . You are God. . . . God is you. Man has never realized he is God. . . . God is a stick. . . . God is a cup. . . . God is a woman" (*The Teachings of Yogi Bhajan*, Bhajan).

The Unification Church—Founder/Leader: Sun Myung Moon. Moon says that God has dual qualities—spirit and energy. God is a personal being with consciousness, intelligence, love, and purpose. Salvation can come only through a Messiah who achieves perfection, marries, and has perfect offspring. Christ, Moon says, was to do this, but he failed because he died before he could marry. Because he was resurrected, Moon says, Jesus did redeem man spiritually. The physical redemption of man will happen through a second Messiah, but not Christ. The implication is that Moon is the second Messiah (*MOODY MONTHLY*, July/August, 1977).

The Way—Founder/Leader: Victor Paul Wierwille. A very close counterfeit of Christianity. They believe in God, the Bible, Jesus Christ, salvation, and eternal life, but no trinity. Jesus is not God, and the Holy Spirit is a synonym for God (*Jesus Christ Is Not God*, Victor Paul Wierwille).

Theosophists—Christ took the body of Jesus, a man, to become a teacher. Eventually all men become Christ.

Transcendental Meditation—Leader: Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Also called *Spiritual Generation Movement, Students' International Meditation Society*, or *TM*. Maharishi says the purpose of creation and individual life is the expansion of happiness. This is done by expanding one's consciousness through seven levels of consciousness. Jesus is considered an enlightened one. Leaders have tried to say that *TM* isn't a religion, but the courts have ruled it is (*Meditations*, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi).

Unitarians—Jesus was a man who believed in one God, not the Trinity.

Unity School of Christianity—Jesus was a perfect man indwelt by the Christ Consciousness present in every human.

Vedanta Society (Ramakrishna Order)—Founder: Swami Vivekananda. "They are human beings with extraordinary, original powers and entrusted with a Divine commission. Being heirs of Divine power and glories, they form a class of their own. To this class belong the incarnations of God, like Christ, Krishna, Buddha, and Chaitanya and their devotees of the highest order" (*Hindu View of Christ*, Swami Akhilananda).

Witchcraft—"Down through the centuries, many witches and sorcerers consider God and Satan as merely symbols of power, with no real existence as personalities" (*Kingdom of Darkness*, F. W. Thomas). Some witches may see Jesus as a wizard who was able to master natural and occult forces.

Worldwide Church of God—Leader: Herbert W. Armstrong. Jesus is part of the godhead (God family) and men can become like Jesus and part of the God family—Sons of God. They don't believe in a closed godhead (Trinity). The Holy Spirit is not considered a person, but the Father and the Son work through it.

Zen Buddhism—"Since Zen does not affirm the existence of the living God, it is not only absolutely destitute of the special revelation of God in His Word, but is wholly alien to the God of revelation," says Lit-Sen-Chang (*The Kingdom of the Cults*, Walter Martin).

Zoroastrianism—Leader: Spntoma Zoroaster. This cult doesn't recognize a personal God. Their God Ahura Mazda, is impersonal and has no physical nature (*Cults, World Religions, and You*, Kenneth Boa).

HOW TO WITNESS TO A CULTIST

Dave Breese

Give him something better.



A mysterious stranger is going to come knocking at your door. Or, you may meet him at a shopping center, or an airport. Perhaps even at the door of your church, or, perish the thought, in your Sunday school class. Wherever it may be, a religious promoter will probably cross your pathway sometime this year.

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He (she) will be warm, personable, communicative. He will compliment you on your appearance and even your spiritual perception. He will talk about "the marvelous potential that you face in life," or "the beautiful fulfillment available to you if you will let me share a remarkable new discovery."

It's time to listen very carefully. Promoters of new and strange religions—the religious cults—are moving upon our society with greater activity than ever before. In

all probability they will be well-dressed, carry beautiful literature, and spin a beguiling story for anyone willing to listen. Some of the most vocal and earnest witnessing being done today is by representatives of religious cults. Quite obviously, they are often successful.

They have gained thousands of converts, millions of dollars in contributions, and have distributed tons of literature. On radio and television they have achieved unprecedented visibility. The result: More than 3,000 religious cults with in excess of 5 million members in America alone.

This estimate is conservative considering the religious organizations which have moved from Christian to cultic and the all-too-common spiritual defection of many. Still there are millions of troubled spirits now moving into the fatal embrace of cults who need more than ever to hear a witness to the truth of Christ.

That's the problem. Concerned Christians are asking, "How can I be an effective witness with someone who is enamored with a cult leader, whose mind is apparently closed to the true gospel of Christ?"

A CULT IS an organized heresy: its false views capture a person and become a disease in his intellectual and emotional structure. Rescuing a cultic slave from the depths of spiritual subversion is a difficult task.

But it is possible. Scripture suggests that God may give a person repentance unto the acknowledging of the truth. He may recover from the snare of the devil. Spiritual recovery is possible, but not inevitable. There are several

principles faithful Christian witnesses should keep in mind.

1) *The cultist may be under satanic influence.* Witnessing to him takes great care and a measure of spiritual power. Pray earnestly and carefully weigh every word, asking God to turn it into spiritual dynamite. It is difficult enough to reach a spiritually neutral person. How much more difficult to touch the mind of one captured by the Devil. Prayer is imperative to a good witness to the cultist.

2) *Witness to the cultist will often take the form of spiritual rebuttal.* The apostle Paul tells Christians that they must "reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering in doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). A mind that has been made captive by a satanic lie is not open to "sweet reasonableness." It frequently needs reproof and rebuke. Don't shun sharp and pointed statements.

Christians ask, "How do I start? Where do I open the conversation so that I can talk about Christ to a cultist?" Almost always the cultic promoter will aggressively seize the initiative and attempt to do most of the talking. A perceptive Christian can respond, in kind, often with a sharp word of spiritual correction. We must have a ready knowledge of the Word of God and instant recall to respond immediately to the demands of a spiritual discussion.

3) *Take the initiative when you can.* A loving but gently forceful witness for Christ often surprises a cultist. At airports I often step into a situation where a cultic promoter is attempting to convert a traveler.

"Look," I'll say to the traveler, "this person is a satanic religionist. He is talking about a cult. Don't take this literature and don't give him any money. You're a Christian, and Christians know better than that!" ("You're a Christian" has led to many opportunities to explain what being a Christian really means.)

Cults not only need an active witness, but they also need to be confronted. We Christians are too reticent in our witness for Christ. Assert a word of correction to a cultic promoter.

4) *Stay close to the Word of God.* Many cultists are well-versed in philosophy and most are espe-

cially adept at endless discussion. Like the women at the well, they can talk endlessly about where we are supposed to worship and what truth is. Such discussions are usually profitless—notice Christ's answer to the woman's pseudo-spiritual discussion (John 4).

Don't involve yourself in irrelevant religious discussions. Stay close to Scripture. Quote its teaching on sin, righteousness, the person of Christ, the work of the cross, and the nature of salvation. An aspiring Christian witness, without good command of Scripture, is almost certain to end up second best in an animated discussion with a cultist. The rise of the cults and their remarkable (but warped) knowledge of Scripture should lead many of us back to intense personal Bible study.

5) *Give your testimony for Christ.* Many cultists can be deeply moved by an earnest Christian telling what Jesus Christ has done for him. In the depths of his heart the cultist is still seeking reality and can often be reached by the sincere, heartfelt testimony of a true Christian. Cults are good at producing a pseudo experience. Devotees are still looking for the real thing.

Warnings: First, don't go beyond your depth. It is unwise to pretend to know. Find a counselor, pastor, theologian, or spiritual advisor. Be candid: "I don't know the answer, but I can certainly find out for you." In addition to your church, contact Christian Destiny, Inc. (P.O. Box 100, Wheaton, IL 60187) or Spiritual Counterfeits Project (P.O. Box 4308, Berkeley, CA 94704).

Second, don't give the cultist any money. One mark of a false teacher is his attempt to make merchandise of you. Representatives of some cults raise hundreds of dollars a day from unsuspecting people who buy books or make contributions to "Christian camps," "counseling centers," or "ministries" of one sort or another. The cultist may pretend to be impressed or even swayed by your arguments, provoking sympathy—and then money. Don't do it!

Third, don't promise to attend meetings. Cultists recruit for meetings, counseling sessions, even

retreats. Thousands of young people have naively responded to such invitations only to find themselves caught without help in a brainwashing situation.

Finally, don't be overwhelmed by arguments, personalities, or even physical pressure. If the situation is getting out of hand, get out. Many witnessing situations with cultists simply become impossible. Continued effort or even presence is foolish, and possibly dangerous. You are often dealing with an unstable mind capable of almost any form of aberrative behavior or physical aggression. Be able to spot incipient aggressive behavior and know how to cope with it.

WITNESSING TO A CULTIST is never easy; sometimes it's impossible. The probability of conversion to faith in Christ is considerably less than with a normal, unsubverted person. People with ministries to these bizarre people know how twisted the human mind can become and how strong Satan is.

You might suspect the one to whom you are speaking isn't even listening, then realize that he is simply waiting for you to finish so that he can continue his argument. Spiritual subversion is terrible and often brings its hapless victim beyond the help of a normal, compassionate Christian witness.

About the aftermath. When you have quoted the Word of God to an individual who has been subverted by Satan, you can confidently pray that God will continue to use His word with that person. No verse of Scripture has ever been quoted without eternal significance. Perhaps you have also had the opportunity to leave a tract or a booklet which, in a moment of rationality, the person may take the time to read.

When it comes to witnessing to the cults, the prelude is prayer and the follow-up is more earnest prayer. God does not promise that the person who is subverted by Satan will recover. Nevertheless, the pointed and compassionate witness brought to the heart of one who is spiritually confused may do its wonderful work. As Tennyson said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

CULTS AND ABERRATIONAL CHRISTIAN GROUPS

Over the years, the term "cult" has come to carry a variety of meanings depending on the context in which it is used. From the standpoint of orthodox Christianity, that is, in the theological sense of the term, a cult is a group of persons polarized around a heretical interpretation of religious truth. Such groups typically cite the Bible and claim to be in harmony with Christianity, but deny such basic doctrines of the Christian faith as the Trinity, the unique deity of Jesus Christ, salvation by grace alone, and justification by faith.

The term "cult" is also used in a nontheological, sociological, or behavioral sense, especially in the secular media, to refer to any religious or quasi-religious organization which is socially deviant in some way. In this sense a "cult" is generally an excessively authoritarian group, typically centered around one living man or woman whose control over the members' lives is absolute or nearly so. Although CRI occasionally may use the word "cult" in this second behavioral sense, to avoid confusion we do not use it in cases where the first theological sense does not also apply.

There are sects and organizations which do not deny basic biblical theology, yet whose teachings and practices are seriously inconsistent with orthodox Christianity. CRI refers to these as aberrational Christian groups.

Examples of "cults" (in the theological sense) include, to name but a few, the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Christian Science, Unity School of Christianity, the United Pentecostal Church (not to be confused with orthodox pentecostal churches which affirm the Trinity), the Way International, the Worldwide Church of God, Transcendental Meditation, Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism, and the like. Many, though not all, of these groups are "cults" in the behavioral sense as well.

Some examples of "aberrational Christian groups" would be Seventh-day Adventism, the Local Church of Witness Lee, Maranatha Ministries, the more extreme churches of the Church of Christ, and the ministries of certain of the "positive confession" or so-called "faith" teachers.

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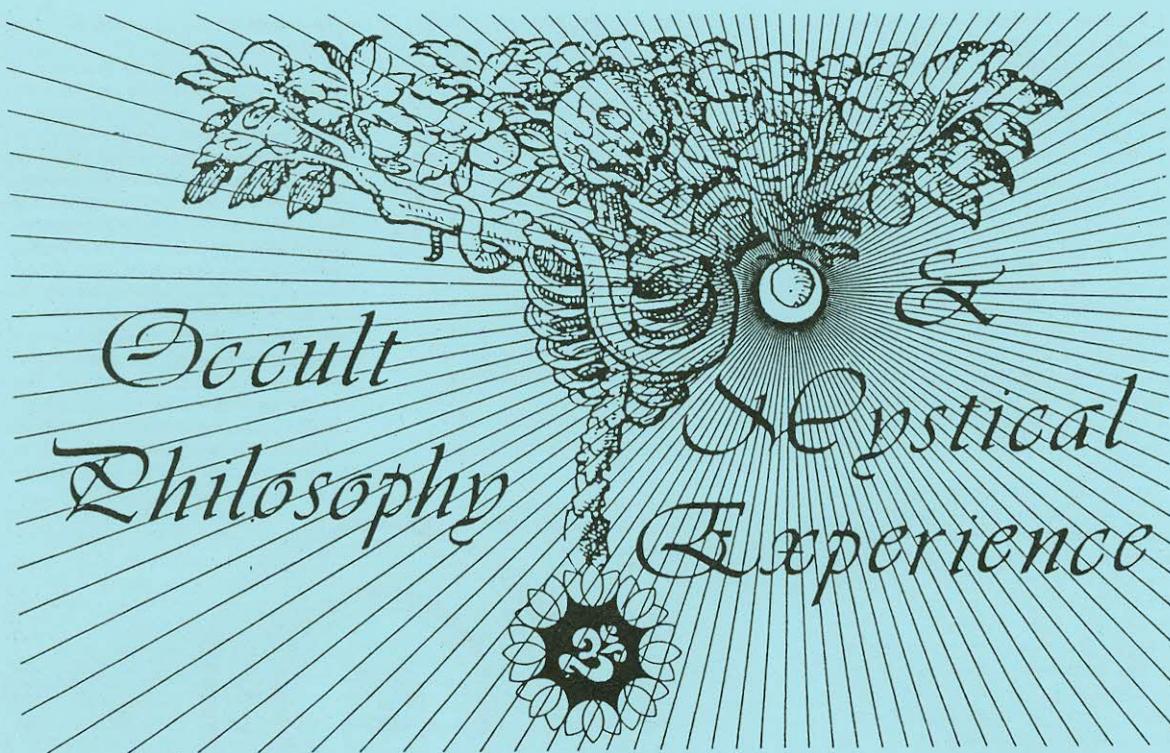
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Occult Philosophy & Mystical Experience

"The main fight, make no mistake," said theologian Nels Ferre in 1961, "is between the Christian faith in its inner, classical meaning and the new Orientalized versions whether they come via Neoplatonism or in modern forms.... The supernatural, personalistic, classical Christian faith is now being undermined by an ultimately non-dualistic, impersonal or transpersonal faith. The winds are blowing gale-strong out of the Orient."¹

Prof. Ferre's meteorological metaphor may have seemed an overstatement in 1961, but today we see its accuracy. Indeed, one of the startling things that has happened in recent history is the penetration of Western society by mysticism and occult philosophy, and the various forms of Eastern meditation which are frequently associated with them. In ten years, the counter-cultural daydream of a society unified around the experience of "the divine within" has begun to take on an uncomfortably concrete reality. It is no longer possible to dismiss interest in the philosophy of eastern religions as a kind of fringe fanaticism which is beneath the concern of the Christian community.

Part of our underestimation of this trend stems from the fact that the American adherents of eastern cults are often so visible and distinctive that we tend to

judge their significance in terms of their limited numbers; we fail to see that their existence is merely symptomatic of a much larger cultural shift. Thus we minimize the impact that this imported worldview has had upon our contemporaries' thinking. These mystical doctrines have influenced areas far removed from the sometimes bizarre world of the counter culture. In fact, an underlying theme runs through contemporary developments in science, business and finance, politics, economics, the arts, psychology and religion: the same basic ideas about man, meaning and God which are traditionally associated with the ancient oriental religions are showing up as root premises of most of the important trends in today's western society.

These ideas are rooted in a common set of presuppositions (i.e., *faith* premises) about the nature of ultimate reality and ultimate values. In the past these presuppositions have been systematically expounded in such "esoteric" disciplines as yoga, magic, alchemy, astrology, kabbalah, Taoism, tantra and Zen. Today, because of the widespread cross-fertilization of these and other schools of thought, meaningful labels are more difficult to apply. Whether we refer to these presuppositions as mysticism, Vedanta, occult

philosophy, pantheism or monism is more a matter of emphasis than of semantic precision. Nevertheless, the proud delusion of modern philosophizing, whether scientific or spiritual, may be described as a kind of "cosmic humanism." It is fundamentally identical with the so-called "hidden wisdom" of classical occultism and is characteristically linked with such religious practices of the east as yoga and meditation. This underlying theme is being promoted in a way that subtly conditions people at every level of culture to accept a definition of reality which ultimately denies the personal God of the Bible, asserts the autonomy, power and inherent divinity of man, and condemns as obsolete any absolute statement of moral values.

C. S. Lewis also understood this issue as a conflict of fundamentally incompatible faiths. At the same time, he grasped the significance of this clash by seeing it in the perspective of history: "Pantheism is congenial to our minds not because it is the final stage in a slow process of enlightenment, but because it is almost as old as we are. It may even be the most primitive of all religions.... It is immemorial in India. The Greeks rose above it only at their peak... their successors relapsed into the great Pantheistic system

of the Stoics. Modern Europe escaped it only while she remained predominantly Christian; with Giordano Bruno and Spinoza it returned. With Hegel it became almost the agreed philosophy of highly educated people.... So far from being the final religious refinement, Pantheism is in fact the permanent natural bent of the human mind; the permanent ordinary level below which man sometimes sinks, but above which his own unaided efforts can never raise him for very long. It is the attitude into which the human mind automatically falls when left to itself. No wonder we find it congenial. If "religion" means simply what man says about God, and not what God does about man, then Pantheism almost *is* religion. And religion in that sense has, in the long run, only one really formidable opponent—namely Christianity."²

In the meantime, the spiritual anemia of the west has left this generation ravenous for reality, and therefore vulnerable to any spiritual counterfeit offered in the name of Truth. As born-again disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will soon come face-to-face with seemingly irrefutable evidence of our own irrelevance. Obviously this development opens up new vistas of Christian apologetics that have barely been touched heretofore. Christians need to be diligent in seeking an informed understanding of what is going on, of where it comes from, what its direction is and what it means within the context of the spiritual warfare to which we are called.

The traditional systems of occult philosophy and their newer variants are all patterned after the archetypal lie of Genesis 3. They are not primarily intellectual constructions, but flow in the first instance from a common experience—the experience of "cosmic totality." This powerful but partial (and therefore ultimately false) experience, like the serpent's primordial deception, is single in its nature. The mystical systems that seek to interpret this experience can nevertheless by analyzed for purposes of intellectual convenience into a number of mutually related categories of thought. The four most important of these may be stated as follows:

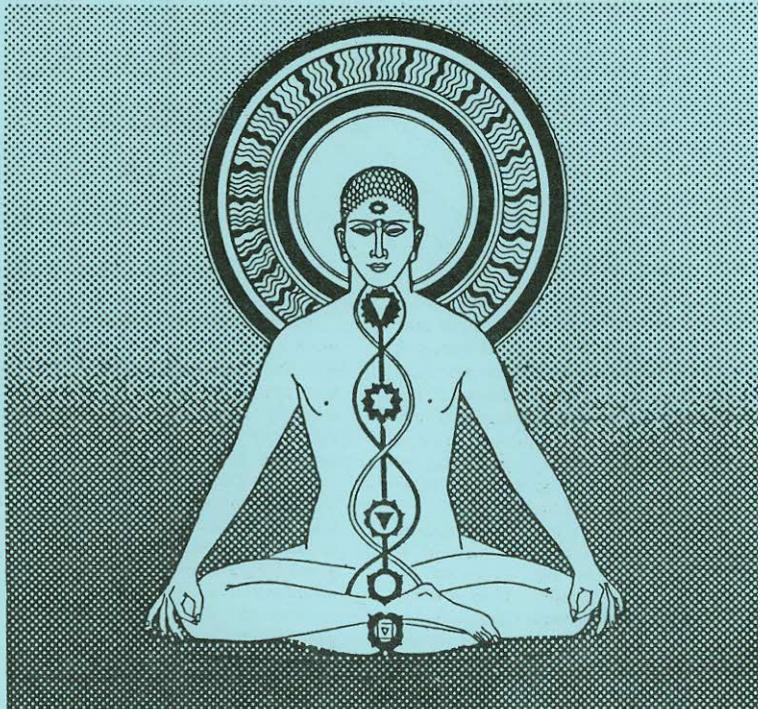
1) "All is One." This declaration is not a theoretical proposition, but a succinct description of the experience encountered in a state of altered consciousness. Such altered states of consciousness may occur spontaneously, but they are more usually produced through the systematic practice of some technique of meditation. The effect of this kind of experience is to dissolve all distinctions (especially the dis-

tinction between the perceiver and the objects of his perception) into a single, undifferentiated unity. The interpretation of this experience leads directly to the first presupposition of monistic philosophy: that there is only one Reality in existence. From this it follows, both logically and experientially, that all apparent separations and oppositions (including the opposition of good and evil) are unreal or are secondary manifestations of the single divine Reality. Likewise, all "objects" and "individuals" are merely partial glimpses of the all-inclusive One. This ultimate Reality is often identified with "pure consciousness," in the sense of unlimited and unconditioned awareness. In Hindu terms, it is *Sat-Chit-Ananda*, that is, "Being-Awareness-Bliss," or "the ecstasy of consciousness aware of itself."

so far as both are constituted by the same primitive elements."³

2) *Man is a Divine being (the Divine within)*. This assumption is inevitable on the basis of the experience described above. If there is only a single Reality in existence, then we are obviously parts or emanations of it. Our own "consciousness" provides the specific connecting link. In experiencing it we experience our oneness with the divine and the essential divinity of our innermost nature. All forms of occult philosophy are united around the central belief that the inner or "real" Self of man *is* God. This is the fundamental form of the fundamental falsehood, the basic statement of The Lie: "Man is God!"

3) *The purpose and fulfillment of life is to become aware of our divine nature*. However the "divinity" of man may be



The chain of seven chakras or psychic centers.

This point of view can be illustrated in an instance of advanced scientific speculation by the case of Erwin Schrödinger, Nobel Prize-winning physicist. His worldview, derived, he says, from Vedanta, is that there is only a single consciousness, of which all things are but different aspects: "The external world and consciousness are one and the same thing, in

defined by a particular cult, the "way" is always the way of *gnosis*: the attainment of experiential "knowledge" through a flash of metaphysical insight. "Salvation" is equated with the discovery of this higher Reality and its laws. The usual occult terminology refers to "enlightenment," "illumination," "at-one-ment," "union" or "Self-realization." All propagandists of



mystical occultism regard their philosophies as scientific as well as (or rather than) religious. They seek to be united with the divine principle or law through their understanding and use of spiritual and psychic techniques. Such attempts seem feasible because God experienced as "the law of man's own being" is completely immanent and therefore readily accessible. As a further result of this approach, such movements look to the personal, subjective and experiential as the source and certification of meaning within the context of their system—not only apart from, but in opposition to any reliance on faith or the authority of revelation.

4) *Self-realization leads to the mastery of spiritual technology and the attainment of psycho-spiritual power.* As an initiate advances upon the path of gnosis, he becomes increasingly familiar with the divine "One" and its relationship to the secondary levels of its manifestation (which we think of as the realm of "creation"). Thus he, as man-God, becomes master and creator of his own reality. Through his knowledge and utilization of spiritual laws, he becomes capable of creating and manipulating the conditions of his own further development or that of others. (If he assumes this role in relation to other individuals, he becomes in effect a "guru" or spiritual master.) Inasmuch as reality is composed of consciousness, man learns to control reality by controlling consciousness.

As we participate in the divine by virtue of our possession of consciousness, we automatically take part in the process by which the world of sense-objects is brought into (illusory) being. As the "enlightened" or "realized" individual learns to alter his consciousness at will, he thereby learns to alter the structure of creation; "matter" itself can be created or de-created by him with the facility of a divine conjurer. It is here that mysticism merges into magic (and vice-versa). From Yahweh's own attribution of unlimited power to those who sought to ascend to heaven, we can see that the Tower of Babel was essentially an occult enterprise: "This they have begun to do, and now nothing that they have imagined will be impossible to them" (Gen. 11:6).

These four elements of "doctrine" are the earmarks of occult philosophy. Though they may be articulated in varying ways, all four are basic to the teaching of most of the eastern cults now active in the west—from the self-professedly innocent and "non-religious" Transcendental Meditation of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, to the more obvious blasphemies of Sun

Mung Moon's Unification Church. If we understand that they are explanations of an experience, and that the experience itself provides the underlying dynamic of mysticism, we can see that these four elements are also present, though masked, in diverse forms of yoga, meditation and martial arts disciplines. Taken together, and discerned in terms of the experience which they rationalize, they provide us with a yardstick by which to evaluate groups and teachings that may be otherwise unfamiliar to us. If a cult or belief manifests even one of them in obvious form, you may be certain that the thrust of its teaching runs counter to authentic Christianity.

However, while faith may be fulfilled in the identification and rejection of the false, apologetics has a more extensive aim. As active participants in our Lord's battle against "principalities and powers," we should try to understand the monistic experience both positively and negatively; that is, we should know it for what it is, as well as for what it is not.

The most prominent fact about this experience of "cosmic oneness" is its universality. The philosophies and belief-systems that spring from it seem to be the dominant religious expression of humanity apart from Christ. Monism is an ancient, natural and seemingly inevitable response to the human condition, as C. S. Lewis points out. This is an important clue. Natural man's universal bondage to the curse of death is revealed in the solidarity of the human condition itself, which results from death. As the writer of Ecclesiastes perceived, human beings find their truest common bond in the grave to

which all descend.

Just as death is—humanly speaking—a final and total separation, so the awareness of that end shatters our attempt to find some sense or value in the pattern of life here and now. As that final entropy creeps backward into our every experience, it brings with it a conviction of brokenness, anxiety and alienation that penetrates to the heart of our being. All "religion" ultimately is an attempt to come to terms with the pervasive and insidious fragmentation of our lives that is introduced by the prospective certainty of death. Humanity cannot, therefore, escape a "religious" response to its condition because individual humans can never escape the fact that they must die. This religious response is, specifically, a groping for some ground of unity that will enable us to grasp an unknown harmony beyond the brittle disintegration of meaning that fractures all our hopes and pleasures.

But the available grounds of unity are strictly limited. Those who seek unification of a broken reality must find it either above the ordinary level of our splintered existence, or below it—either in the living, personal God who speaks the cosmos into existence, or in some impersonal substrate of "being" which underlies even the primordial duality of matter and energy, a substrate which is within the cosmos and constitutes its invisible foundation. That such a created substrate does exist seems a reasonable inference from the account of Genesis 1:1-10, in which the Lord reveals that the initial stage of cosmic formation was a state which possessed true created existence, but was "formless and void," that is,



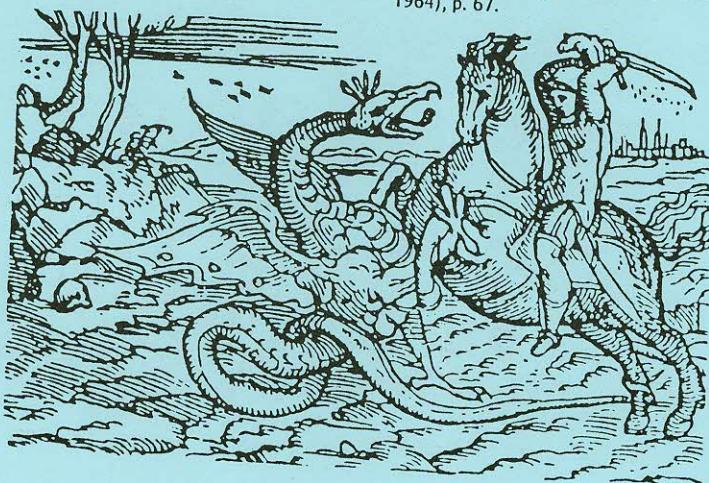
The two-headed alchemical dragon, symbolizing the *Materia Prima*

"without determinate structure." It was only later that this unitary state of "bare" existence passed through the primordial duality (the separation of light from darkness, v. 4) and beyond, into the increasingly elaborate dualizations (e.g., the separation of firmaments, the separation of land from water, etc.; vv. 6-27) by means of which God built up the complex forms of material creation. If it is true that human "consciousness" is itself an instrument of perception which is capable of making contact with the subtle and unstructured basis of its own created existence (and there seems no Biblical reason for denying it), we can see that this latent and inherently accessible possibility offers a form of unification that is naturally appealing to fallen man. Occult mystical experience encounters this lowest-common-denominator of creation, calls it "God," and merges with it to the dissolution of identity and individuality.

In Romans 1:25, the apostle Paul tells us that the essence of false religion is "the worship of the creature . . ." In its wider meaning, the word translated "creature" extends to the whole realm of "creation" and hints at the profound implications of Paul's thought. Such "worship" of the creation, however, is false not only to God, but to its ostensible object as well. Mystical enlightenment represents a radical implosion of consciousness which in effect reverses the flow of God's creative process by disassembling the complexities of the created order and seeking an unstructured root of impersonal existence.

Thus the religious desire for unity is faced with two options for its fulfillment:

- 1) "transcendence" through Christ to contact with the uncreated God, or
- 2) "subscendence" through mystical self-awareness to contact with the created void.



The Bible warns us, however, that we can realistically expect the bulk of humanity to reject the first option in favor of one that panders to the pride and perversity of its fallen nature. We know that man in his natural state not only is apart from God, but actively repudiates Him. Those who follow this tendency are thereby shut up to the only remaining possibility.

To speak of God and His creation is to exhaust the scope of the real. There is nothing else. Everything that exists is either God Himself or is created by Him. In this we can see the inevitability of the present proliferation of mystical religions and occult philosophies. Those who refuse to find the unification of their fragmented lives in God must seek it within the realm of creation. Since the creation itself is fallen (Romans 8:19-23), the conclusion of the matter is that mysticism declares the way by which one embraces the fulfillment of the curse here and now.

This is why Jesus can speak of only two roads: the narrow way which leads to life, and the broad way which leads to death. Just as there is only one Truth, there is really only one Lie, though it may take many forms. Although the broad road has many "lanes," they all lead to the same place in the end.

—Brooks Alexander

¹Nels F. Ferré, Foreword, in Surjit Singh, *Christology and Personality* (The Westminster Press, 1961), p. 14.

²C. S. Lewis, *Miracles* (The Macmillan Company, 1947), pp. 84-85.

³Erwin Schrödinger, *My View of the World* (Cambridge University Press, 1964), p. 67.

Glossary

Esoteric: derived from a Greek root signifying *inner* or *within*; anything that is withheld or veiled from the public at large and revealed only to an inner circle of initiates; commonly applied to the techniques and experiences of mystical enlightenment as well as the ideas of mystical philosophy.

Kabbalah: a distinctively Jewish form of occultism, developed by certain rabbis especially during the Middle Ages; it is based in part on a mystical and esoteric interpretation of the Old Testament.

Monism: the philosophical doctrine that there is only one ultimate reality in existence, and that all things are parts of or are composed of this reality.

Occult, Occultism: while most westerners are accustomed to think of the occult as equivalent to Satanism, black magic, astrology and fortune-telling, the word in its true sense simply means "hidden" or "concealed." Thus it is closely related to *esoteric* (above). Occultism in all its forms consists of secret techniques of consciousness-alteration, coupled with secret doctrines which explain the inner meaning of the experiences thereby attained. An occultist has declared that "occultism may be defined as the use of the hidden powers in man to discover the hidden life in the world."

Tantra: a series of Hindu and Buddhist scriptures which are concerned with special yogic practices for swiftly attaining enlightenment; also, the practices and techniques taught by those books; also, the philosophical tradition based on those teachings.

Taoism: a Chinese religion and philosophy based on the *Book of Tao*, ascribed to Lao-Tzu (6th century B.C.); basically monistic in character, it emphasizes that the "One" is ineffable and undefinable. The *I Ching*, a Chinese book of divination, is associated with Taoism.

Vedanta: a monistic philosophy based in part on the *Vedas*, which are ancient Hindu scriptures; the literal meaning of Vedanta is "the end of the Vedas," that is, their ultimate import or meaning.

Yoga: literally, "yoking" or "union"; any systematized technique or form of spiritual practice by which the practitioner (or yogi) seeks to condition himself at all levels—physical, psychic and spiritual—in ways that will facilitate the experience of conscious union with the divine principle.

Spiritual Counterfeits Project
P.O. Box 2418 Berkeley, CA 94702

MARTIN: 35 workers study cult teachings

By Nicole Brodeur
The Register

Until 912 members of the People's Temple took their lives with a sip of poisoned punch at the direction of a crazed cult leader, few people knew of the Christian Research Institute.

"It took 920 corpses in living color on the covers of Time and Newsweek to convince people that cults are potentially lethal," said Walter Martin, CRI founder.

The institute gathers and distributes information on cults, the occult and denominations. Martin asserts are "non-Christian," including the "Mormon" Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Church of Scientology and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Today, CRI will celebrate its growth with the dedication of a new \$1.7 million international headquarters on Hughes, in the Irvine Business Park.

The dedication is expected to draw several Christian luminaries, including John Ankerberg, host of a Christian television talk show, Martin said. It is open to the public.

"Jonestown was the point in history when people suddenly realized that cults could be dangerous to the life, not just the family and the soul."

Walter Martin

founder, Christian Research Institute

"You can trace from Jonestown the growth of the CRI's influence because at that time, even the secular world recognized us," Martin said Thursday.

In November 1978, the Rev. Jim Jones led his followers to death by poison and gunfire after California Rep. Leo Ryan and four other people were gunned down on an air-strip near the cult's jungle headquarters in Guyana.

"Jonestown was the point in history when people suddenly realized that cults could be dangerous to the life, not just the family and the soul," Martin said.

The institute's new headquarters include an 80,000-volume library and a state-of-the-art radio studio from which Martin hosts "The Bible Answer Man," broadcast in 109

cities and 20 states, including KKLA in Los Angeles and KPZE in Anaheim.

On his show and in letters to supporters, Martin is campaigning to raise an additional \$100,000 for the purchase of a computer system to start the "Strategic Educational Network of Tomorrow."

Martin, a Southern Baptist minister, wants to link 600 Bible schools, colleges, seminaries and mission agencies together to try to convert such groups as the Jehovah's Witnesses to traditional Protestant doctrines.

The network will alert churches to the activities of various cults and non-orthodox groups, so that representatives can be dispatched to "show the cult members that they have been misled," Martin

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said.

The 24,000-square-foot building cost \$1.7 million. It was purchased with donations, grants and revenue from the sale of books, tapes and videos from the institute, Martin said.

The institute draws the largest amount of money from donations, Martin said. He said he could not provide the exact amount donated to CRI last year.

The institute employs 35 people and has a \$1.7 million annual budget, from which Martin draws a \$34,000 annual salary. He also receives 7 percent of the royalties — approximately \$15,000 a year — from the books he sells through the institute.

CRI has offices in Canada and Brazil. Next year, Martin expects to open another office in the United Kingdom, as well as a branch in El Paso, Texas, where the books and tapes will be translated into Spanish for distribution in Central America and Mexico.

Although extremely popular for his books, lectures and radio show,

Martin also is noted for his outspoken denunciations of the teachings of what he considers heretical cults.

Christianity is based on the Bible, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and a true relationship with God, said a spokesperson for Martin. Some religions, such as the Church of Scientology, do not base their beliefs on the Bible and are therefore considered non-Christian by Martin's organization, she said.

Vernon Mikkelsen, an elder with the Costa Mesa Jehovah's Witnesses congregation, said his church took exception to the fact that Martin refers to it as "non-Christian."

"We believe in Jesus Christ and our church's beliefs are based on Christianity," Mikkelsen said. "(Martin) doesn't like us for a lot of different reasons, I guess. I have no idea why he would attack us. But he's not the first one."

"It wasn't the Christian church that attacked the cults," Martin said. "It was the cults that split off from the Christian church that attacked us."

"Do we not have a right to respond? And why when we do is it cult-bashing?"

A philosophy of religion graduate student said CRI sees itself as a defender of Christian doctrine, not as an adversary to other religions.

"From CRI's perspective, they are making sure that the correct information about certain groups is distributed to people," said Greg Cavin, who is seeking a doctorate at the University of California, Irvine. "From another perspective, that's not true. There may not be one set of beliefs related to a religion or group."

"It's not so much that CRI is against other religions," Cavin said. "They just believe that there is another way."