

Barack And The Borg

By L.L. (Don) & Joy A. Veinot

A Historic Election

The 56th Presidential Election on November 4, 2008 witnessed the first time in our history an African-American was chosen to occupy the office of President of the United States of America. For many, this looked like a demonstration that we are a post-racial nation. Are we though? Actually, we would submit that most of us passed into post-racialism a *long time ago*.

Certainly, there are some citizens (of all races by the way) who unreasonably and stupidly misjudge people by the color of their skin rather than the content of their character; but our society as a whole has left them behind. No one can fairly say the general behavior and tenor of the American people is racist. Well, there's Jimmy Carter, but who ever accused him of being fair? The type of racism Carter speaks of is largely dead—dead as the proverbial doornail. Who, except maybe for some crackpot skinhead, would believe a qualified Black man is incapable of leading this country? Yet, we all know racial relations are not rosy in our nation—certainly not as people of goodwill would want them to be. Blacks and Whites are *angry with each other*. Hollywood surely does nothing to alleviate the situation, portraying most Whites—especially male conservative Christians—as greedy racists and most Blacks as violent gang bangers or helpless victims of circumstance. The anger is also used by people with an agenda, and it is routinely and calculatedly stoked by those who have an interest in keeping the fire burning. It is also interesting to note the resentment today between the races largely seems to be funneled into ideological passion. Skin pigmentation has nothing at all to do with it. In other words, *liberal* Blacks are not angry with *liberal* Whites as a rule, and *conservative* Whites get along just peachy with

conservative Blacks. It is sad to us Christian Blacks and Whites cannot seem to rise above the anger to work together more effectively, as evil winds of a dissolute culture blow furiously against all of our houses, and dark spiritual forces lead captives away to Hell. We are one body, with one Lord and one baptism (Eph. 4:4-5), but sometimes you'd not know it. But we digress ...

The demise of pigmentational racism (for lack of a “real” word) has not solved all the problems of life for many in the minority communities, however (or in anyone's community, if the truth be told). Although most people would heartily agree to the idea of “equal opportunity for all,” equal opportunity certainly *does not* always guarantee *equality of outcome*. This is from whence, we believe, comes the appeal of Barack Obama's “Hope and Change” mantra. A handsome man, articulate and well-spoken, serenely



You will be assimilated . . . resistance is futile.

confident, Obama expresses concern for the poor and under privileged—Black or White, brown or tan, frankly, anyone—who may have felt left out of the “American dream.” He openly called for a transformative change in America, which most of his admirers chose to interpret as more and better opportunities for the poor, rather than a radical redistributive reordering of our entire system to achieve the very elusive goal of “equality of outcome”—Utopia, as it were. The hope for Utopia in and of itself may not be evil, but more evil has been done in the pursuit of this elusive “impossible dream” than any other we know or can imagine, and only burning embers are ever left in its wake. Still, dreamers continue to step up to lead the ill-informed to Paradise,

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only to come to a very bad end. The road to Utopia often leads to Hell on Earth.

The 56th election also raised the issue of religious worldviews to the fore more than we can remember during any previous election. This may seem surprising since, over the last several decades, there has been a concerted effort to banish God and Christian religious speech and symbolism from the public square. Remember the uproar when George W. Bush said the name "Jesus" in a debate? You might have thought he was promising to appoint the Pope as his "education czar." Nevertheless, God remains very popular in this country; and in this election, it seemed God backed all candidates with each one trying to demonstrate how they are deeply religious.

On the Republican side, the candidates narrowed down to a choice of three: Mitt Romney (Mormon), the relatively unknown Mike Huckabee (Evangelical), and John McCain (raised Episcopalian; now attends a Southern Baptist church). Secularists seemed to fear Huckabee; while some, perhaps many, Evangelicals worked hard opposing Mitt Romney for fear the Mormon Church would use his presidency as a drawing card to recruit converts for the Mormon Church.

On the Democratic side it narrowed down to Hillary Clinton (United Methodist) and Barack Obama (Trinity United Church of Christ a.k.a. TUCC).

One very funny sideshow in the Democratic primary race was the contest between the racialists for Obama vs. the feminists for Hillary. You were a racist if you did not vote for Barack Obama and a sexist if you did! And they were serious!! We suppose you could be both racist and sexist if you didn't vote for either of them!

Candidate Barack Obama calls himself a "Christian" and even mentioned the name of "Jesus" a time or two, if memory serves. For some strange reason, however, the mainstream media (hardly *main stream* anymore!) did not go all ape on him for this lapse of "tolerance." We cannot judge anyone's soul; however, we can point out that TUCC where Obama attended at least 20 years is rooted far more in race than in grace. It promotes Black Liberation Theology (BLT), which at its core is Marxism wrapped in Christian-sounding terminology. This view promotes an angry racist form of Afro-centrism, and it is the predominant worldview under which Barack Obama sat, by his own admission, for over 20 years. When confronted with his pastor's (Rev. Jeremiah Wright) racist and anti-American rhetoric, Candidate Obama claimed to be ignorant of the worst manifestations of it, explaining that he had not been in attendance when these offensive slurs were hurled. Jeremiah Wright married Barack and Michelle, and baptized their daughters. 20 years Barack sat in the pews – 20 years he saw or heard no evil ... Does anyone truly believe this? Comedian Jackie Mason comments,

And [Obama] also pays great tributes to his pastor—how he was involved with him, connected with him—how he learned so much from him—how he was his spiritual guide, his leader, his thinker. And then after all his tributes to him that he couldn't live without his leadership, they asked him did you ever listen to him? Never, never, I never actually listened to him ... I remember him talking but I don't remember listening.¹

Did Evangelicals Play A Part In The Election?

Evangelicals were not united behind one candidate in this election if they ever really are. Evangelicals were divided into differing factions which we think may have had an impact on the outcome of this election. One such segment is the Emerging Church (some of whom like to refer to themselves as "Obamagelicals") represented by Brian McLaren, Rob Bell, Donald Miller, and others in the emerging Evangelical Left. For the uninformed to grasp who the Emerging Church is, one need only remember Paul's *warning* in 1 John 2:19 about false teachers, saying, and we paraphrase, **THEY EMERGED FROM US BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT OF US**. The Emergents fully understand Obama's plan is to redistribute America's wealth nationally and internationally, but they like that. They favor Socialism over Capitalism (even though they personally have done quite well financially with their book sales and speaking fees).

It just seemed there were rather large objections to all of the conservative candidates, which made the Primary kind of a nightmare for conservatives. Some were pro abortion, such as Rudy Giuliani. Mitt Romney is a Mormon, which many Evangelicals recognize as a heretical sect. By derailing Romney, these Evangelicals, though certainly not in favor of Obama, may have inadvertently helped his cause. With Romney eliminated, the unin-

tended consequence was that the widely disliked John McCain bubbled up to the top. Mike Huckabee put up a good fight. He was a relative unknown who did remarkably well with little money; who remained in the race up to the bitter end—a week or two before the national nominating convention. Such a drawn-out contest between these two men *may* have hurt McCain’s chances *if that was possible*. It is likely McCain was beaten before he was out of the gate, however, because a large segment of Evangelical conservatives wouldn’t have voted for McCain if he were the last annoying “Maverick” turncoat on Earth, and so this group simply boycotted the election. Most people are still not entirely sure for whom McCain was rooting to win the election.

Thankfully we still live in a free country. Anyone can use their vote to make their choice for or against anyone else. However, all of these factors—or, perhaps, one could blame the choices that were offered—certainly did not help the conservative cause during this election. For our part, we generally accept that in most elections of our lifetimes, we are simply voting for whomever we consider to be the lesser of two evils. © All of this is interesting to us, but Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc. (MCOI) is not a political activist organization. We hold to the truth of Scripture that God, Himself, establishes governmental leadership and places men in positions of authority over us (Romans 13:1). And, in any case, we are absolutely certain no government or politician will save us; but God certainly may use one to bless or punish a nation. Sometimes, He puts His servant in charge; and other times, He gives rebellious people the leader of their choice and allows them to suffer the consequences of that selection. As long as MCOI does not advocate for a candidate or party, we are legally free to comment from a religious perspective on issues of ethics and morality. The online article “The IRS, Churches, & Politics” is helpful in clarifying this point:

Next, the standards for political impartiality, and strictures on what churches and other non-profit organizations can say or do in the political arena, are far narrower than many people suppose. Roughly, the basic rule is: an organization may freely endorse any stand on any issue. What it may not do (whether explicitly or by clear implication) is endorse, or contribute money to support or oppose, a particular candidate or party by name.²

Messianic Expectations For Obama

Barack Obama’s followers and the main-stream media give him a nearly messianic allegiance. Chris Matthews of CNN’s *Hard Ball* admitted Obama gave him tingles up his leg. He and Michelle must have a hard time sleeping with all those Hollywood “beautiful people” and news anchor people in the bed with them. How they must “ooh and ah” if Michelle wears sleeveless pajamas! Some school teachers have had their students sing songs of praise to him, which seems very weird indeed. This kind of reverence is not normally bestowed upon American presidents—at least until one is dead for 100 years or so. The adoration is partly due to Obama’s personal charisma, his good communication skills (compared to President Bush especially), his good looks and attractive family, and the aforementioned historic nature of his Presidency, which has spawned a “cult of personality” that he, perhaps naturally, does nothing to dispel. We live in an age of celebrity worship, which is also a factor in his ascendancy. He’s cool ... he’s hip ... he’s like a rock star! He gives the “fist bump.” Add to that the vast unpopularity of President George Bush and the uninspired and ineffectual candidacy of John McCain, and it seems there was a “perfect storm” of factors that delivered the White House to him.

With the supposedly “watch dog” press panting at his heels, how much did the average voter actually *learn* about Obama, his plans, the people who really influenced him, and whom he would appoint to advise him? Not much, we fear. Now though, even quite a number of people who voted for him have become alarmed at the radical people with whom he has surrounded himself and the radical policies he is pursuing. What few seem to realize is nearly everything about his presidency originates from his religious worldview. His ideas and choices are informed by Black Liberation Theology, which he was taught in his home church for 20 years:

One of the pillars of Obama’s home church, Trinity United Church of Christ, is “economic parity.” On the website, Trinity claims that God is not pleased with “America’s economic mal-distribution.” Among all of controversial comments by Jeremiah Wright, the idea of massive wealth redistribution is the

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HAVE NOTHING
TO DO WITH THE
FRUITLESS DEEDS
OF DARKNESS, BUT
RATHER EXPOSE
THEM.

~EPHESIANS 5:11~



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most alarming. The code language “economic parity” and references to “mal-distribution” is nothing more than channeling the twisted economic views of Karl Marx. Black Liberation theologians have explicitly stated a preference for Marxism as an ethical framework for the black church because Marxist thought is predicated on a system of oppressor class (whites) versus victim class (blacks).³

President Obama would very likely vehemently deny he is a Marxist; and yet, Black Liberation Theology is based upon Marxist principles, and many of the people with whom he has surrounded himself are Marxists. What is Marxism? How does it differ from Socialism? Socialism is the generic; Marxism is a name brand. Marxism is a type of Socialism; however, not all Socialists are Marxists, but all Marxists are Socialists.

Here are the two definitions of the word *Socialism* from *The American Heritage Dictionary*:

1 Any of various theories or systems of social organization in which the means of producing and distributing goods is owned collectively or by a centralized government that often plans and controls the economy.

2 The stage in Marxist-Leninist theory intermediate between capitalism and communism, in which collective ownership of the economy under the dictatorship of the proletariat has not yet been successfully achieved.

Marxism has failed miserably *everywhere* in the world where it has been tried, and it has killed millions around the world in the process. In addition, European-style Socialism is quickly losing popularity even as Barack Obama and the radical Leftists in Congress and Emerging Church seem determined to implement it here on our shores.

Americans traditionally have rejected both Marxist and Socialist views. The indications are they still will, once they understand what is at stake. However, in a BBC interview and later at the UN, Obama said:

The danger I think is when the United States or any country thinks that we can simply impose these values on another country ...⁴

Nevertheless, doesn't *he* now *have the power* and seemingly the determination to “impose” his radical “values” on the citizens of the United States even if it must be against their will and to their detriment?

More About Black Liberation Theology

Trinity United Church of Christ, Michelle and Barack Obama's former home church, (the Obamas left their church when Rev. Jeremiah Wright refused to relinquish his time in the national spotlight and instead kept embarrassing the candidate with his nationally televised hateful rhetoric) is by no means just another Christian Church with a few crackpot people and ideas. As we mentioned earlier, it is a church that embraces Black Liberation Theology. Dr. Jerry Buckner, one of MCOI's Advisory Board members and host of *Contending for the Faith* radio program,⁵ calls Obama's chosen faith: **“The Cult of Black Liberation Theology.”** We would certainly agree with his assessment. However, we must interject it is possible Barack Obama does not fully embrace Black Liberation Theology, but so far, he gives no indication he does not.

How can Black Liberation Theology be understood? Let's ask the 56th President's mentor—Rev. Jeremiah Wright. In 2008, after his **“G - - D - - America ...”⁶** spiel went international, Jeremiah Wright appeared in a television interview on FOX News' *Sean Hannity Show*. At that time, he helpfully explained to Hannity that unless one reads the writings of James Cone, with whom Wright claimed to wholly agree, they cannot understand Black Liberation Theology.

Recently, another television talk show host, Glenn Beck (who is a Mormon, although his show is not a “Mormon” program) revealed a good thumbnail sketch of Black Liberation Theology. He quoted directly from James Cone, the source who informs and guides Jeremiah Wright. Cone writes in his book, *Black Power and Black Theology*:

Black theology refuses to accept a God who is not identified totally with the goals of the Black community. If God is not for us and against white people, then He is a murderer and we had better kill Him. The task of Black Theology is to kill gods who do not belong to the Black community ...⁷

It has long been charged by racial agitators that one is a racist merely by *disagreeing with Black liberal political positions*. It is interesting to learn their belief that God Himself is a racist deserving of *death* if *He* dares to differ from the goals of the Black community! Wow, I guess that puts independent thinkers of the human variety in very elevated company.

Even being aware, as we are, of the lethal doctrinal drift that has overtaken the church in recent years, it is nevertheless difficult to accept that Obama has found so much support from popular Pastor Rick Warren (he opened the DNC convention in prayer), Donald Miller (he opened one of the DNC sessions with prayer) and Brian McLaren (headed up a large group of the rising Evangelical Left). The common denominator in varying degrees is their acceptance and/or promotion of Socialism, and it leaves one wondering: Do they understand the view of God which Obama has imbibed for over 20 years? But let's let Cone speak to that:

Black theology will accept only the love of God which participates in the destruction of the white enemy. What we need is the divine love as expressed in Black Power, which is the power of Black People to destroy their oppressors here and now by any means at their disposal. Unless God is participating in this holy activity we must reject His love.⁸

Must God participate in the **“holy activity”** of **“the destruction of the white enemy?”** What god IS this? It is certainly not the God of the Bible. This teaching puts in our minds the gods of the pagan religions. My god is going to get you—unless your god gets me first. ☺

Concerning Black Liberation Theology, Ken Blackwell of the Family Research Council well states:

It is an alternative doctrine of the church that embraces big government. It advances a collectivist idea and it says the state not the individual is central to society and that is very disquieting but it also gives you a better understanding of the undergirding of Senator Obama's big government liberal philosophy that would increase spending, would increase taxes, weaken our military and our position in the world.⁹

Ken Blackwell clearly explained this prior to the election, but very few listened.

Religious Socialism On The March

As we sat and watched the government takeover of General Motors (GM), the huge bank bailouts, the disastrously expensive “cap and trade” legislation making its way through congress, and the mounting debt that will bury our children and grandchildren, all happening while we are in the midst of a very painful recession with very high unemployment rates, we just had to wonder what was the thinking behind these disastrous decisions. In fairness to President Obama, President Bush had led the way with the first 700-something-billion-dollar bailout package for the banks in 2008. Bush had big spending, big government tendencies also, which outraged his base and led to his fairly low approval ratings even among conservatives. But Bush looks like an absolute piker compared to his presidential successor, Barack Obama. Why is this happening? Why is there no concern on the part of congressional leaders and the President himself? Obama has stated our debt is “*unsustainable*”¹⁰ and admitted *we have no money*, and yet, he proposes to spend *trillions* (with a “T”) more. Does Obama not understand what he is doing? The President is a smart man. Consequently, it seems implausible to us that he does not, indeed, understand *exactly* where his wild spending is taking us.

Is his worldview leading him to work toward eliminating individualism and capitalism to a high degree and make the collectivist “state central to society?” Obama denied, for example, that he wanted to take over GM, right before he fired the CEO and set up his own crew to oversee things there. It would be like the burglar you confront as he is heading out the door with your TV, saying he has no desire to rob you.

And yet, this seems preposterous. WHY?—Why would Obama and his cronies want to bring this country down economically and impoverish her children? It’s just not *rational*, is it? Look at cults; look at Islamic suicide bombers ... Ideology often trumps rationality. What would “fundamentally change” America faster than shackling her children under massive debt? And it seems this administration is intent on weakening us militarily as well. *Are America’s chickens comin’ home to roost?* American Leftists of various stripes are very contemptuous of their country. This hatred seems ingrained in Marxism. So, could this be the explanation—could this spending us into oblivion and weakening our country militarily be intentional—or are these harmful decisions Obama is making due to naiveté or incompetence? We cannot answer that; perhaps, time will tell.

Ironically, even the Russian news agency *Pravda* was shocked at what is happening to America, and the speed at which it is being carried out. They even recognized the role of the church in assisting in this Socialist/Marxist transformation process. This is something MCOI has been pointing out for several years. In the *Pravda* article “American Capitalism Gone with a Whimper,” they write:

Then their faith in God was destroyed, until their churches, all tens of thousands of different “branches and denominations” were for the most part little more than [sic] Sunday circuses and their televangelists and top protestant mega preachers were more than happy to sell out their souls and flocks to be on the “winning” side of one pseudo Marxist [sic] politician or another. Their flocks may complain, but when explained that they would be on the “winning” side, their flocks were ever so quick to reject Christ in hopes for earthly power. Even our

Holy Orthodox churches are scandalously liberalized in America.¹¹

Sadly, *Pravda* seems to be right on-target concerning where we presently are headed:

The final collapse has come with the election of Barack Obama. His speed in the past three months has been truly impressive. His spending and money printing has been a [sic] record setting, not just in America’s short history [sic] but in the world. If this keeps up for more than [sic] another year, and there is no sign that it will not, America at best will resemble the Weimar Republic and at worst Zimbabwe.¹²

Barack Obama And The Borg

For the first time since its founding, America is led by an adherent of a New Religious Movement. The fears some Evangelicals had that the Mormon Church might use a Mitt Romney presidency as a recruitment tool pale in comparison to Black Liberation Dogma being the official guide of an American administration. However, we tend to think President Obama is more committed to Marxist/Socialist principles *in general* than he is to Black Liberation Theology *in particular*. This is our “Borgian theory.” The Borg is a fictional civilization which was introduced in the *Star Trek: Next Generation* television series. The Borg functions as a collective where all are equal with the exception of the Borg Queen. They have but one goal: To conquer and assimilate all other civilizations with whom they come in contact. **“We are the Borg. You will be assimilated. Resistance is futile”** is their prime directive. The Borg expands their empire by brute force. One’s traditional culture and beliefs are surrendered and incorporated into the Borg. The many truly *become one*—with one purpose and one destiny. The Queen, or leader of the Borg, is the only one who has real personhood; enjoying free thought and action. The Borg will assimilate cultures they attack or if they are unable to do that, it will destroy them.

The Far Left is like the Borg—a conglomeration of many different Marxist-leaning organizations—from radical Marxist environmentalists to far-Left educators to “community organizations” like ACORN. They are different organizations with seemingly different goals, but all really working toward the same *radical* change of our system of government; and, perhaps, the whole world. Indeed, we think radically changing America is only one step toward forming a “New World Order” and instituting world governance. Obama reluctantly threw his Pastor Wright under the bus to save his candidacy. Will he throw Bill Ayers or ACORN or anyone else under the bus to save his Presidency *if he feels he has to*— anything to keep the all-important Borg moving forward? Nevertheless, we still will comment on the Black Liberation Theology dogma Obama sat under for so many years, as it surely has molded his worldview, and surely still influences his thinking and decision-making.

Liberating The Oppressed

On the surface, liberating the oppressed sounds like a fine pursuit. And it *is*, as long as it is carried out in a righteous manner. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus talks about providing for those who are hungry and destitute and caring for and visiting those who are sick or in prison. Jesus is for the voiceless and defenseless. But Jesus was not a radical community organizer and, cer-

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tainly, not a Marxist. We do not find him leading a revolution or seeking to punish a particular race of people for what others of the same race did decades or centuries before. In fact, He really exemplified the opposite. At that time, the Romans were the oppressors; and, yet, when asked about paying taxes or tribute, He said to: **"... Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's"** (Matt. 22:21). He did not suggest that His followers rebel against the hated Romans, but told them if they **"... compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain"** (Matt. 5:41). This was a reference to the occupying soldiers who by law could compel a citizen to carry the soldier's equipment for one mile but no more. This is the very reason why Black Liberation Theology must reconstruct Jesus, for they have no use for Him unless, as Cone said:

Black theology refuses to accept a God who is not identified totally with the goals of the Black community. If God is not for us and against white people, then He is a murderer and we had better kill Him. The task of Black Theology is to kill gods who do not belong to the Black community ...¹³

As mentioned earlier, Black Liberation Theology at its core is racist. Thomas Sowell, who is himself a person of color, noted what he believes was a public demonstration of Obama's racism in his article "A Post-Racial President?":

Those who were shocked at President Obama's cheap shot at the Cambridge police for being "stupid" in arresting Henry Louis Gates must have been among those who let their wishes prevail over the obvious implications of Obama's 20 years of association with the Reverend Jeremiah Wright. Anyone who can believe that Obama did not understand what the racist rants of Jeremiah Wright meant can believe anything.¹²

In Black Liberation Theology, the **"oppressed"** are defined primarily by *skin color* and *political affiliation*, rather than the actual definition of *oppress* as meaning **"to crush or burden by abuse of power or authority"** (Merriam-Webster). Has the attempt to tear down capitalistic companies and processes and nationalize them been prioritized, because they are viewed as being owned and/or controlled by what is termed the oppressive **"white enemy"** and must, therefore, be taken over? Are whites being "punished," and the institutions put in the hands of "the people," which really means the hands of the "new and improved" government? It's possible – it depends upon just how much the President agrees with the teachings of BLT, which again, he sat under for over 20 years!

Ironically, the White people's votes (those evil oppressors!) put Obama in office. Even though Blacks voted almost monolithically for Barack, the numbers to win just weren't there without White support. Many Whites actually thought once we got a Black President, racial animosity would subside; and we would enter a new era of peace, love, and harmony. Oh the joy!!! The rapture!!! The triumph of false hope over rational thought! Of course, it should have been evident to all before the inauguration that the people's high Utopian hopes Obama's election would end the Liberals use of **"the race card"** would be seriously dashed as soon as any real opposition to his policies arose. Don't we already have evidence that anyone who disagrees with Obama and points out his Socialist policies is called **"racist?"** (And what about those Black men such as Thomas Sowell or Walter Williams? Has anyone noticed they are considered even

worse than **"the white enemy"** and are singled out for the severest censure?) As soon as people started publicly declaring Barack's policies as Socialist, his defenders ridiculously asserted that **"Socialist"** is the new **"code word"** for racists or the **"N-word."**

... you start to wonder whether in fact the word socialist is becoming a code word, whether or not socialist is becoming the new N-word ...¹⁵

Someone responded that we need to know the "code word" for "Socialist" so we can use that, because that is what we are talking about when we say "Socialist."

Nation of Islam* (NOI) leader Louis Farrakhan has outright called Obama the Messiah:

You are the instruments that God is gonna use to bring about universal change, and that is why Barack has captured the youth. And he has involved young people in a political process that they didn't care anything about. That's a sign. When the Messiah speaks, the youth will hear, and the Messiah is absolutely speaking. [emphasis ours]

but he seems equivocal, because later he says he:

"... is not the Messiah for sure, but ..."¹⁶

Additionally, Farrakhan told his followers people shouldn't become pacified by the election of the first Black President.

"This can pacify you and lull you to sleep in a dangerous time, making you think that we live in a post-racial America—when the opposite is true," he said to loud applause.¹⁷

Do you find it interesting when Jeremiah Wright and other Black racists make derogatory racial remarks they are so often excused and sometimes even defended, when racism in general is regarded as evil? Why is that?

But is President Obama, himself, really a racist? After all, he surrounds himself with White advisors and appointees—David Axelrod and Rahm Emmanuel are his right-hand men. And he does not speak hatefully toward White people in speeches, except for the rare off-the-teleprompter ad lib comment:

... the Cambridge police acted stupidly ...¹⁸

Obama may or may not be a racist. Even Jeremiah Wright is probably quite cordial to Caucasians he encounters in his everyday life, and he probably has liberal White people who he counts as friends. We do not believe we are able to judge the inner thoughts and motives of people, even if we might disagree with them religiously or politically. And to us, the answer to that is not nearly as important as other issues. But we refer our readers back to our assertion that the racist Black Liberation Theology is *just one facet* of the all-important Marxist/Socialist conglomerate Obama appears determined to lead to the new Promised Land.

However, since we cannot read Obama's mind, we have to judge him more or less by the company he keeps. We will follow his advice to **"judge me by the people who surround me"**¹⁹ just as he himself challenged people to do during the campaign. When Obama was pressed about his friendship with Bill Ayers, co-founder of the terrorist group the Weather Underground,²⁰ Obama responded first by saying of Ayers:

This is a guy who lives in my neighborhood, ... who I know, and who I have not received some official endorsement from.²¹

The evidence seems to demonstrate Obama is being hugely dishonest here, and that he should be judged by the people he chooses to be surrounded by and goes to for advice. He said

his advisors were Warren Buffet, Joe Biden (who seems to continually and inadvertently take public positions in almost hilarious opposition to Obama), and other more or less mainstream characters. It does not seem as though Obama is currently taking much economic advice from Warren Buffet, who has even cautiously criticized some of the President's actions. Of course, the main-stream media did not look into his relationship with Bill Ayers, and they still won't. But then, the main-stream media seems very comfortable themselves with most of the Borg. The truth which is now becoming more common knowledge is that the radical Ayers is NOT simply "a guy who lives in my neighborhood," but he is a personal friend and mentor of Obama and some contend he is possibly the ghost writer of Obama's book *Dreams of my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*. We have not forgotten the radical era of the Weather Underground as we were young adults in their malevolent 1970s heyday. For those who know little about Ayers and his co-conspirators:

With a charismatic and articulate leadership whose revolutionary positions were characterized by anti-imperialist, feminist, and Black liberationist rhetoric, the group conducted a campaign of bombings through the mid-1970s, including aiding the jailbreak and escape of Timothy Leary. The "Days of Rage," their first public demonstration on October 8, 1969, was a riot in Chicago timed to coincide with the trial of the Chicago Seven. In 1970 the group issued a "Declaration of a State of War" against the United States government, under the name "Weather Underground Organization" (WUO). The bombing attacks mostly targeted government buildings, along with several banks.²²

It is true Ayers and his aging radical pals are no longer blowing up Federal buildings and trying to kill "pigs" (police). However, they have never repented of those evil deeds, and Ayers was quoted in a Sept. 11, 2001 article published in the *New York Times* as saying:

I don't regret setting bombs ... I feel we didn't do enough.²³

He felt they really should have committed even more acts of violence to change the system. Never in our wildest dreams did we imagine back then that these criminal radicals would one day have a friend in the White House. Although Obama does not advocate violence, his views line up remarkably well with those of the Weather Underground. We should really take up Obama's challenge and judge him by the company he keeps. After all, the Apostle Paul wrote:

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." (1 Corinthians 15:33, NASB)

Dancing With The Czars And Other Friends Of Barack

Obama tells us he selects his friends "carefully:"

To avoid being mistaken for a sellout, I chose my friends carefully. The more politically active black students. The foreign students. The Chicanos. The Marxists professors and structural feminists and punk-rock performance poets.²⁴

It appears the common denominator among Obama's companions is being anti-Capitalist and pro-Marxist. Recently, this penchant of Obama to cultivate non-sellout, Marxist/Socialist friends has been coming to light. A number of Obama's "Czars," appointees, and organizations which are writing this nation's

legislation are being exposed as Marxists and Socialists. Self-described Marxist Anthony "Van" Jones was appointed by Obama as the Special Advisor for Green Jobs. He recently resigned when it was revealed that:

The administration's "Green Jobs" czar, Van Jones, has a "very checkered past" deep-rooted in radical politics, including black nationalism, anarchism, and communism.²⁵

Obama's chosen Diversity Czar, Mark Lloyd, is enamored with Venezuela's Marxist Dictator Hugo Chavez and is very impressed Chavez has taken control of the national media in Venezuela thereby shutting down media criticism of dear leader Chavez:

In Venezuela, Chavez really had an incredible revolution, a Democratic revolution to be able to put in place things that were going to have an impact on the people of Venezuela.²⁶

Lloyd is upfront about his plans to shut down conservative media in the United States.²⁷ It remains shocking to us, ten months after the election, to hear this high government official of the United States speaking with admiration regarding dictator Chavez *because he was able to silence his opposition and shut down freedom of the press in Venezuela!*

Then there is Jeff Jones, co-founder with Bill Ayers of the Weather Underground:

Jeff Jones was a domestic terrorist in the late '60s and a fugitive from justice throughout the '70s—yet now he's a leader of an influential, taxpayer-funded group.

Jones was a fugitive from justice for 11 years. His own account at his Web site says: "As a leader of the Weather Underground, Jeff evaded an intense FBI manhunt for more than a decade. In 1981, they finally got him. Twenty special agents battered down the door of the Bronx apartment where he was living with his wife and four-year-old son."²⁸

Shockingly, this same Jeff Jones—who was instrumental in bombing the Pentagon and responsible for the deaths of a number of policemen—was Chair of the Apollo Group, *which wrote Obama's stimulus package:*

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid recently credited Apollo with helping write the stimulus bill and getting it passed. Yet the stimulus' "green jobs" provisions funnel federal tax dollars to unions, green groups and community organizers—that is, the organizations that make up Apollo.²⁹

In other words, the Apollo Group wrote the stimulus bill as a way to fund themselves from the Federal coffers in order to be able to advance the agenda of Marxism at the taxpayer's expense. This was passed by Congress!

More information is being revealed every day about Obama's radical friends and associates. There is way too much disturbing information to be included here. Very likely, we will continue to learn even more of the same. We could continue, but these examples and Obama's description of the carefulness with which he chooses his affiliations, attest to the commitment he maintains to radical Marxists groups and causes. Although race, indeed, may be important to him, the whole of Leftist ideology takes center stage in Obama's choices of his selection of friends and advisors. The Borg's the thing, as always. Whether America will be recognizable when the Czars are done with her is anyone's guess.

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“Borg” Continued from page 7 **Anti-Semitic**

Black Liberation Theology is also anti-Semitic. One of the best known American anti-Semites is Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam who was honored by Barack’s home church (TUCC) in December 2007 as a great leader with their **“Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. Lifetime Achievement Trumpeteer award.”**³⁰ Does their ongoing association demonstrate that because Farrakhan is anti-Semitic, that Wright and, more importantly, Obama are anti-Semitic? Again, we cannot know the mind of another. All we can do is examine what Black Liberation Theology teaches, and to what we know the President was exposed for so many years. What does the available evidence show? In the Black Liberation Theology worldview, the roles of oppressor and oppressed are based on genetics and skin color. The color of one’s skin and line of ancestry defines one as either oppressor or oppressed, not the content of one’s character. Black Liberation Theology views the two primary oppressors as Whites and Jews. It is fully consistent with this Black Liberation Theology worldview for Obama to claim the U.S. (i.e.: White oppressors) cannot impose its values on other nations, while at the same time working hard at *imposing his will on Israel*, the Jewish oppressors (or as he called the Israelis, **“the occupiers”**) as he demands Israelis stop construction in East Jerusalem,³¹ which is geographically part of the *their* nation. He then turns a blind eye while Muslims (whom he considers the oppressed or occupied) build on Jewish lands without permits and unlawfully. Black Liberation Theology has a view of Jews very akin to that which Islam holds of Jews. This was emphasized again when Barack declared that America is not a Christian nation (even though it was founded largely on Judeo/Christian principles and beliefs) and shortly thereafter asserted that numerically, America is one of the largest Muslim nations. What a strange thing to say! He and the White House *did not* participate in the National Day of Prayer this year, but *did* host a kick off at the White House for the Muslim Feast of Ramadan. (Brian McLaren also celebrated Ramadan and asked other Christians to participate as well.)³² It makes sense in view of the Black Liberation Theology dogma of “oppressors and oppressed” and seems to be a strong indication of anti-Semitism. This is not just idle speculation—with her “best friend” suddenly cooling towards her; Obama’s worldview *could* have dire implications for Israel’s peace and security. Israelis see it also—according to a *Jerusalem Post* poll, only 6 percent of Israelis (even very *liberal* Israelis!)³³ believe that President Barack Obama is a true friend of Israel. How sad. And remembering God’s Word spoken to Abram the Hebrew at Genesis 12:3 (NIV): **“... I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; ...”** the implications for America may not be good either.

A New Morality

President Obama spent his first weeks in office signing orders overturning pro-life mandates. Biblical morality, which has been the primary basis used against abortion and against the legalization and recognition of homosexual marriage, has been abandoned, and it is now viewed as antiquated, bigoted, and unreasonable—what Obama refers to as **“worn arguments and old attitudes”**³⁴ When Barack Obama spoke at Notre Dame earlier this year, he claimed being pro-life is an extremist posi-

tion. This “new morality” declares protecting innocent human life is immoral. However, Obama holds what *we* consider to be an extreme view concerning infants who accidentally survive the abortion procedure. On April 4, 2002 on the Illinois Senate floor in opposition to SB1663 (a companion bill to the **Born Alive Infants Protection Act** that would have required an abortionist to call a second physician to assess a baby aborted alive) Obama said it:

“... is really designed simply to burden the original decision of the woman and the physician to induce labor and perform an abortion.”³⁵ [underline ours]

According to him, such newborns have no protection of law and must be allowed to die and not interfere with the **“original decision”** of the mother. No comfort given, no mercy extended. The doctor doesn’t get sued, because no one would know he performed a botched abortion. This view is despicable to us. That same, all-powerful mother, however, should she choose to give the child life, cannot *choose* alternative educational opportunities for her child. Abortion choice=good. School choice=bad.

On the other end of the spectrum, Muslim terrorists who have *attacked his own country* have tugged at Obama’s heart strings. Does Obama have a country, or is his only allegiance to the Borg? He doesn’t want terrorists to be afraid of the big, bad interrogators. He considers using water for up to 40 seconds to simulate drowning in order to gain vital information to protect American lives from a terrorist to be one of the **“brutal methods”**³⁶ of interrogation. So, let us get this straight. Doing something which causes no actual physical harm (water boarding) is bad and one of the **“brutal methods”** of interrogation, but using a vacuum to dismember a baby, or burning an infant to death with a saline solution, or cutting open the base of the skull and sucking out the brains of an innocent is perfectly acceptable. We have a suggestion. Since he considers these alternatives as “civilized procedures,” why not use these approved civilized procedures on the terrorists to extract information? Obama may shrink from this, but we are unsure why. (Disclaimer: *We do not* truly advocate the chemical burning, dismembering, or sucking out the brains of terrorist prisoners. Even more so, however, we certainly do not advocate murdering innocent babes in such brutal fashion or any other way.)

This also works itself out at the other end of life. Many were horrified that what were referred to as ‘death panels’ were included in one proposed Socialist healthcare plan. We haven’t read that section of that particular bill and so cannot comment directly on it, but two things seem to arise from this.

One: American families do need to consider and, perhaps, discuss amongst themselves end-of-life questions. What is the fine line between keeping a person alive *artificially* and simply good, life-prolonging care? What does it mean to be merely “kept alive by machines?” The elderly along with their families, perhaps, need to participate in making healthcare decisions and preparations early on in order to help eliminate the family’s difficult decisions later on while under terrible stress and grief. Perhaps, these decisions should be made even younger; after all, the elderly are not the only people who daily face death—we all do! But, the key here is that such things should be discussed by *the family* and not some random, all-powerful bureaucrat in Washington, DC.

Two: If what the government is proposing is not yet eutha-

nesia, we probably will face government implementation of that sometime in the near future, for two reasons: First of all, our nation is aging rapidly. Within a few decades, the baby boomers will begin filling up assisted living and nursing facilities. Who is going to pay for our care? The government already has spent the money *we*, as taxpayers, have paid in; and Social Security and Medicare are facing bankruptcy in the next few years. Who then is going to pay to provide that care? After all, through abortion, we (not all of us, but too many) have killed off millions of the generations who were to follow us. To put it in practical and crass terms: Our generation has murdered the children (many millions) who would have grown up to be taxpayers and contributed funds to our old age care. And we have also lost the taxpayers to whom *they* would have given birth. The pro-choice/pro-abortion motto has been **“every child should be a wanted child,”** thereby devaluing life to match our own selfish desires. May not our youth—who will be saddled with the terrible financial burden of our care and especially facing the huge deficits we have left to them—decide tomorrow that “every grandma should be a wanted grandma?”

Secondly, why not? Upon what moral basis will our future leaders see our old hides as having value, once we are no longer “useful” to the state? Euthanasia presents itself as the next logical step from abortion and very easily flows from a Socialist worldview. *Voluntary* euthanasia is already a “choice” you can make in many Socialist nations and in the state of Oregon. How big of a step will it take to slide into *compulsory* euthanasia—to oh-so-compassionately end the life of those deemed to have no good reason to live—and save the state some much needed money as a bonus? Socialism is utilitarian in its decision making, and social Darwinism has always played a front and center role there. The 1920’s and 1930’s Socialists in America (they called themselves “Progressives”) such as Margaret Sanger, advocated abortion to weed out and breed out the inferior races. The Socialist party of WWII Germany began what ended in the Holocaust with infanticide of handicapped children, abortion, and over time advanced to euthanasia. “**‘Burdensome lives’ and ‘useless eaters’**”³⁷ were weeded out and bred out, and only those with “lives worth living” (such worth was given by the government) were allowed to live. The elderly and infirmed, the mentally and physically handicapped, were not contributors and, therefore, were expendable. Will *our* culture come to that? God forbid.

Redistributing The Wealth

What about redistributing the wealth? Couldn’t that be a GOOD thing? We’re not rich and have often struggled with finances; we could always use a little more taken away from some nameless, faceless, fat cats! Why should we worry? And anyway, isn’t it good to try to provide aid to the poor?

Of course, it is good and even biblical to aid and help the poor. However, at least biblically, that aid is an *individual* response which one *chooses* to do, not one that is to be done under compulsion. But when we, as Christians, *voluntarily* give to godly causes and people with needs, we are rewarded by God. The giver is blessed, and the receiver is grateful. A *personal connection* is made. This is a wonderful thing. On the other hand, compulsory “giving” is extortion. The “giver” not only is resentful, and the receiver not grateful, but also the receiver takes the “gift”

as his due. The government “middleman” pockets a huge portion of the extorted funds as a “handling fee.” Millions of bureaucrats are needed and very well paid to run the system while producing little of value; and they finally retire with great benefits that have to be paid by future taxpayers, and pretty soon we’re all living the California dream—on the verge of bankruptcy.

What Does The Future Hold?

Fighting Socialism has been ongoing since at least the 1800’s in the United States. We were intrigued that the 1944 Presidential Candidate from the American Socialist Party wrote in 1944:

The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism. But under the name “liberalism,” they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program, until one day America will be a socialist nation without knowing how it happened. He went on to say, “I no longer need to run as a Presidential Candidate for the Socialist Party. The Democrat Party has adopted our platform.”³⁸

Will Socialism win the battle this time? Will Obama, perhaps, lead us even further into outright Marxism? Only God knows. There are way too many unknowns for us to even hazard a guess as to whether Obama will fulfill his dream, fall by the wayside, or end up with some of both success and failure as most presidents do. That he *wants* to implement Socialist/Marxist policies, put a great deal more of the nation’s economy under government control, and radically transform America seems undeniable. But whether he will succeed or not is another matter. In his favor is the fact his party has firm control of Congress, and most of his party back his Borgian efforts. The out-of-power party has some Borgists in their ranks as well, but he does not even need them to accomplish anything. On the other hand, he has slipped very badly in the polls—even many who voted for Obama have become dissatisfied with the way things are going. It seems most Americans who are knowledgeably involved in the political process are still very wary of Marxism/Socialism. Certainly, we recently have seen that most reject socialized medicine; but at this point, it seems as though Congress is going to ram the legislation through anyway. They do not seem to have much respect for their constituent’s wishes. But it may become more difficult to push through an unpopular agenda once the Congress remembers the next elections are right around the corner. If Obama ultimately fails, he may find himself under that old bus with Jeremiah Wright; but the Borg will still go on, find a new queen, and come back to fight another day.

Times That Try Men’s Souls

The challenge to the Church is to articulate and teach the core of the faith on a regular basis to the flock. Government will not save us, and in fact, there is no guarantee it always will be friendly toward us. We have enjoyed unprecedented freedom of speech and freedom to worship as we please in this country, and our country has been greatly blessed by God even though she was far from perfect. The early Christians lived in a society that was hostile to their faith. Their regular gatherings focused on learning sound doctrine, fellowshiping, sharing meals, and praying together. There was no compromising on doctrine in order to make unbelievers feel more comfortable.

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A COMPARISON OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT AND CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

By Pam Wolski

Writing a comparison of the New Age Movement (NAM) and Christian theology is challenging, since NAM is so nebulous and diverse. NAM's roots go as far back as the Garden of Eden, with the old lie, "... *you will be like God* ..." (Gen 3:5¹), and it has borrowed from many other philosophies and religions throughout the years—Transcendentalism, Spiritualism, New Thought/Mind Science, Eastern Religions, Native American Religions, and Transpersonal Psychology to name just a few.² Despite NAM's ever-changing faces, I will attempt to compare it with Christian theology, although we will be more apt to find their many glaring *contrasts*.

History Of Nam

The term "New Age" became popular in the 1980s after the publication of Marilyn Ferguson's bestseller *The Aquarian Conspiracy*. After exploring biofeedback and Transcendental Meditation in the late 1960s, she became fascinated with the brain-mind relationship. Her bestseller established her as a spokesperson for NAM, and her vision of a paradigm shift in society, caused by multitudes who had experienced "**inner transformation**," spread across the world.³ Transformational "tools" ran the gamut from meditation and astrology to crystals and healings.

A prevailing New Thought belief in a coming world teacher/messiah led Annie Besant and C.W. Leadbeater to promote Indian guru Krishnamurti as the messiah; but Krishnamurti wisely rejected this "call" in 1929. The cause was picked up by Theosophist* Alice Bailey and her student Benjamin Crème, who in 1982 ran American newspaper ads predicting the appearance of Lord Maitreya, "**the 'christ.'**" This is a chilling reminder of Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24:24 ("**For false Christs and false prophets will appear ...**"). Perhaps only more chilling was New Ager Shirley MacLaine's 1987 appearance on national TV, "out on a limb" and shouting from a mountaintop, "**I am God!**"⁴

Current Scene

NAM continues to thrive today through such vehicles as Rhonda Byrne's *The Secret*, Eckhart Tolle's *A New Earth*, some aspects of Holistic Health, and Quantum Metaphysics. And per-

haps most tragic of all, NAM even infiltrated some evangelical Christian churches. From meditation and visualization techniques to prosperity teaching and "creating your own reality," NAM continues to promise breakthrough; but too often, it leads to breakdown—especially in a person's relationship with God.

Although NAM has no established leadership, codified teachings, or identifiable membership, there are some commonly held beliefs and practices throughout the movement⁵:

1) The Ultimate Reality is God. God is All, All is God (pantheism**). God is impersonal but conscious Energy, Life Force. All is One, One is All.

2) Humanity is an extension of the Ultimate Reality/God. Mankind's true self is divine. Man is one with God. Man is God.

3) Humanity's problem is ignorance of the truth that "All is One, and that man is divine." (In some Eastern religions the world is seen as illusion/*Maya*.)

4) The solution to humanity's problems is to awaken to know the truth that "All is One, and that man is divine." The goal is called self-realization, Christ-consciousness, enlightenment, cosmic consciousness, etc. Practices that lead to this knowledge/awareness include meditation, yoga, chanting, affirmations, visualization, energy balancing, drumming, Sufi dancing, etc. If people do not reach the goal in one lifetime, they are reincarnated in later lives; their good and bad karma (moral consequences for actions) follows them as reaping follows sowing. A coming world leader will help mankind toward the goal. Jesus was one of many "Enlightened Ones/avatars" who came in the past. "Higher knowledge" is often "channeled" from disembodied spirits through mediums.

5) Humanity is poised between two ages (the Piscean Age of rationality and the Aquarian Age of spirituality), and there is about to be a paradigm shift—a quantum leap forward—to where mankind reaches its full potential and ultimately transcends the illusion of separateness from Ultimate Reality/God.

The worldwide fascination with the New Age promises

of power and transcendence can point to a source beyond the natural world. As the Bible says, it was Satan himself who was the first to try to “... *make myself like the Most High*” (Is. 14:12-15). His prideful attempt to usurp the divine Throne led to his expulsion from Heaven. And today, in jealousy and rage, he tries to steal as many as he can from their path toward God (John 10:10).

Who Speaks For Nam?

On the natural level, the New Age continues to have its outspoken proponents. One notable example is the ever-prevalent Oprah Winfrey, who has been watched on TV by millions for more than 20 years. It was Oprah who introduced and popularized such infamous New Age gurus as: Marianne Williamson (teacher of the spiritually channeled *A Course in Miracles*), Neale Donald Walsch (author of the heretical *Conversations with God*), Gary Zukav (*Dancing Wu Li Masters*, which unveiled Quantum Metaphysics), Deepak Chopra (*Quantum Healing*, based on Transcendental Meditation), Rhonda Byrne, and Eckhart Tolle. Oprah’s choice of Rhonda Byrne’s *The Secret* as one of her Book Club selections catapulted “creating your own reality” to the world stage. And her 2008 online Eckhart Tolle course continues to indoctrinate hundreds of thousands of students into the deceptions of the New Age.⁶

Oprah’s fascination with and passion for New Age teachings could earn her the title “High Priestess of NAM,” but Christians should pray for her. Her misunderstanding of God’s nature (by misunderstanding His divinely protective jealousy as human selfishness) led her to reject the God of her evangelical Christian upbringing, and she has taken multitudes of her followers with her.⁷

Common Threads

A brief overview of some New Age writings reveals their common heretical threads:

Think, speak, and act as the God you are.⁸

“Salvation” is merely accepting one’s “true” identity as one essence with God. Therefore, we need nothing from God because each person’s true nature is God.⁹

The Secret is the law of attraction! Everything that’s coming into your life you are attracting ... by virtue of the images you’re holding in your mind. ... the law of attraction is the most powerful law in the Universe. ... You are the most powerful magnet in the Universe! ... Like Aladdin’s Genie, the law of attraction grants our every command.¹⁰ [italics in original]

And the lies continue:

We are the creators of the Universe. So there’s no limit, really to human potential. ... You are eternal energy. ... You hold everything in your consciousness. ... You are God in a physical body.¹¹

[italics in original]

Christ is your God-essence or the Self ... The “second coming” of Christ is a transformation of human consciousness ... not the arrival of some man or woman. ... Never personalize Christ.¹²

The word God is limiting not only because of thousands of years of misperception and misuse, but also because it implies an entity other than you. God is Being itself, not a being. There is no subject-object relationship here, no duality, no you and God. God-realization is the most natural thing there is.¹³

Quantum Connection

Amazingly, both Rhonda Byrne and Eckhart Tolle, as well as many other New Agers, look to Quantum Physics for justification of their beliefs:

Quantum physicists tell us that the entire universe emerged from thought! You create your life through your thoughts and the law of attraction ... When you become aware of this great law, then you become aware of how incredibly powerful you are ...¹⁴

The amazing work and discoveries of the quantum physicists over the last eighty years has brought us to a greater understanding of the unfathomable power of the human mind to create.¹⁵

Quantum mechanics confirms it. Quantum cosmology confirms it. That the Universe essentially emerges from thought and all of this matter around us is just precipitate thought. Ultimately we are the source of the Universe ...¹⁶ [italics in original]

The image of a “quantum leap” is used by Tolle to represent humanity’s entrance into the New Age:

... we are connected, rather than separate, from all of life, ... At core, this new world

view involves seeing yourself, others, and all of life, not through the eyes of our small, earthly self that lives in time. But rather through the eyes of the soul, our Being, the True Self. One by one, people are jumping to this higher orbit. ... Your cooperation is an essential part of it. However you look at it, it is a quantum leap in the evolution of consciousness, as well as our only chance of survival as a race.¹⁷

Comparing these endless heretical statements with what the Bible states will reveal astounding contrasts (which I will address later), but even the secular world would counter these New Age claims to omnipotence. While it is true that Quantum Physics reveals a seemingly paradoxical world—where energy can take the mutually exclusive forms of particles and/or waves depending on the observer’s choice of experiment—and some experiments seem to show that our world is “non local” (meaning far-away objects can affect nearby objects instantaneously, thereby breaking the “speed limit” of light and suggesting an

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underlying connection between all parts of the universe), there is no agreement among physicists as to what this evidence means.

For example, there are no less than eight interpretations of this evidence presented in Nick Herbert's *Quantum Reality: Beyond the New Physics*, including such diverse and mutually exclusive notions as:

- 1) There is no deep reality.
- 2) Reality is created by observation.
- 3) Reality is undivided wholeness.
- 4) Reality consists of a steadily increasing number of parallel universes.
- 5) The world is made of ordinary objects.
- 6) Consciousness creates reality.

As Herbert sums it up:

One of the best-kept secrets of science is that physicists have lost their grip on reality.¹⁸

If there is no consensus among such brilliant theorists regarding the conclusions drawn from the evidence available, how can New Agers selectively use these physicists' "interpretations" to prove anything?

New Age Medicine

Any discussion of NAM would be incomplete without some mention of New Age Medicine. Practitioners who accept the NAM/pantheistic worldview of "All is One, God is impersonal yet conscious Energy, All is spiritual Energy" often turn to healing techniques that claim to balance or otherwise manipulate this energy—variously called bioenergy, vital force, life force, universal life energy, cosmic energy, *chi* (acupuncture), Innate Intelligence (chiropractic), and *prana* (Hinduism). New Age healing methods can include such diverse practices as therapeutic touch, reflexology, crystal healing, Rolfing, chiropractic, homeopathy, acupuncture, psychic/Reiki healing, yoga, visualization, polarity therapy, iridology, etc.¹⁹

As Christian apologist Elliot Miller points out:

Wherever it has appeared—in ancient paganism, modern occultism, or parapsychological [sic] research—this "life force" has been accompanied by altered states of consciousness, psychic phenomena, and contact with spirits. Additionally, those who are capable of perceiving, and adept at manipulating, this force invariably are shamans (e.g., witch doctors), "sensitives," or psychics, thoroughly immersed in the pagan/occult world. ... Furthermore, the energy system models used to explain these therapies ... (the meridians of acupuncture, the seven chakras [psychic centers] of yoga, the auras of occultism)—are all imbedded in world views that are intrinsically pagan and antagonistic to Christianity. ... and are not even remotely related to physical science. ... energetic medicine ... is essentially a pantheistic view and cannot be conformed to biblical theology.²⁰ [italics in original]

Inside The Church

And most tragic of all, even the Body of Christ has been infiltrated by the New Age. As Christian apologists Dave Hunt and Hank Hanegraaff have chronicled in their books *The Seduction of Christianity* and *Christianity in Crisis*, respectively, creative visualization, faith in one's faith, people becoming their own "gods," and believers "creating their own reality" have become common heresies in the local church. The phrase "... **you will be like God ...**" (Gen 3:5) never had a more chilling "fulfillment" than when so-called Christian leaders began to train their flocks to command God, name it and claim it, confess and possess, demand rights, and see themselves as gods.

A startling example was found in the Seattle Pastor Casey Treat's "interpretation" of Genesis 1:26, where God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image ...**" Treat pressured his 3,000-plus congregation to repeat after him:

"I'm an exact duplicate of God!" Yell it out loud! Shout it! ... When God looks in the mirror, He sees me! When I look in the mirror, I see God! ... sometimes people say to me ... "You just think you're a little god!" ... You got that right! "Who d'you think you are, Jesus?" Yep!²¹

As Dave Hunt points out:

Did anyone [in the congregation] notice that Pastor Treat had taken a quantum leap from an "image" to an "exact duplicate?"²²

Unfortunately, Treat is not the only pastor who has led his flock into such heresy. Other notable examples are Word of Faith teachers Kenneth Copeland, Charles Capps, Frederick Price, Robert Tilton, Kenneth Hagin, John Avanzini, Morris Cerullo, and Benny Hinn.²³ And while it should be noted the Faith teachers have not taught the metaphysical concept of an impersonal

God permeating creation (pantheism/panentheism), they still present a deification of man ("**exact duplicate of God**") that is contrary to Scripture. And they preach the heretical "Word of Faith"—that through the force of "**faith-filled words**," people can create their own reality.²⁴

Lest we think the Faith movement was an aberration of the past, Hank Hanegraaff has recently written *Christianity in Crisis: 21st Century*, chronicling the continuing distortion of Christian theology—from the Word of Faith to Prosperity preaching. Current "players" include Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, Rod Parsley, Joyce Meyer, John Hagee, and T.D. Jakes.²⁵ May the Holy Spirit bring gifts of discernment to God's people to expose error and to reveal truth.

Biblical Response

After discussing the fallacies and delusions that spring from NAM, it is more than refreshing to turn to God's Word for answers to the questions: "What is real? What is man? Who is God?" Even a child's level of reading Scripture reveals how far

Lest we think the Faith movement was an aberration of the past, Hank Hanegraaff has recently written *Christianity in Crisis: 21st Century*, chronicling the continuing distortion of Christian theology—from the Word of Faith to Prosperity preaching. Current "players" include Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, Rod Parsley, Joyce Meyer, John Hagee, and T.D. Jakes.

NAM is from God's revealed truth. NAM has taken their prescribed "**quantum leap,**" and consequently, they've led droves to the precipice of hell.

1) When a New Ager claims "God is All, and All is God" or "All is One, and One is All," they can be met with the truths of Scripture that God is the Creator of all things (Gen. 1:1, John 1:1-5, Is. 45:18), and He is forever transcendent above His creation:

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
(Is. 55:8-9)

He is "... **Holy, holy, holy** ..." (Rev. 4:8), which means He is altogether set apart and different from everything and everyone else who exists, has existed, or will exist.

While it is true that since the beginning of time, God desires relationship with mankind, He forever remains distinct from us:

They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev. 21:3b)

And even though God wondrously and miraculously transforms His people to be like Him (2 Peter 1:4, Eph. 4:24, 1 John 3:2, Rom. 8:29, Phil. 3:21, 2 Cor. 3:18), we will never *become* Him. When Jesus said He and His Father would be in believers (John 17:21-23), He retained the subject-object/divine-human relationship—God *and* us, not God *is* us.

An equally striking contrast can be drawn between the New Age claim that "God is impersonal but conscious Energy" and the truth of Scripture. No, God is anything but impersonal—with His fiery love that sent His Son to die for our sins, His protective jealousy that guards us from idols, His grieving heart over man's rebellion, and His plan for divinely wedded bliss with His Bride—the Church. He is the King, the Lord, the Savior, the Bridegroom, and the Shepherd. Impersonal energy could never inspire martyrs to die, nor saints to worship.

2) When claims are made that mankind's true self is divine, man is one with God, and the ultimate claim: Man *is* God, there are abundant Scriptures, some of which I've already shared, that can be offered in response. Though God in His graciousness has condescended to relate with man, has paid the price to redeem man, and has given His sanctifying Spirit so man can become like Him, *man will never be God*, nor will he ever even come close to being God. There is an infinite gap between God and man, and although the Bridge of the Cross provides our union with God (John 17:23), the worship of God and the subordination of man will forever remain (Rev. 21:3, 22:3).

3) When the New Ager asserts humanity's problem is ignorance of the alleged truth that All is One and man is divine, the biblical truth is that man's problem is his sinful rebellion against

a Holy God, including his inherent propensity toward idolatry—setting up himself, anything, or anyone else as a "god" to be worshiped. The Bible is full of examples—from mankind's Fall in Genesis (Gen. 3) to his refusal to bow to the King of Kings in Revelation (Rev. 19:19). Romans 3:23 and 6:23a sum it up:

for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, .. For the wages of sin is death, ...

Because of man's continued rejection of God, he has become God's enemy (Rom. 5:10), and he is doomed to eternal separation from God, in the torments of hell (John 3:18, Rev. 20:15).

In response to the claim the world is illusory, the Bible declares God's creation is real (Gen. 1), so real, in fact, that God had to pay the ultimate price to redeem it. If all that was necessary was to awaken man to the truth of "All is One, All is God," then Jesus wouldn't have had to die to save mankind. It's the ultimate insult to God to say He sent his Son to the Cross for nothing/*Maya*/illusion. While it is true this world is *temporary* (2 Cor. 4:18), it is all too *real*, to which any thinking/feeling human being would attest.

4) When a teacher says the solution to humanity's problem is to awaken to know the "truth" that "All is One and man is divine," there are abundant Scriptures to the contrary as cited previously. When Jesus told His disciples they would "... **know the truth, and the truth will set you free**" (John 8:32), the Truth He was referring to was He, Himself. (... "**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" John 14:6) It is through faith in Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross for mankind's sins, His burial, and His Resurrection by which mankind can be saved. (1 Cor. 15:1-4, John 3:16-18, Rom. 5:8-11, Rom. 10:9-10.)

When New Agers (and others) look to a coming world leader/messiah, the Bible responds with the truth—Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the Savior/Messiah, and He has already come once to this world (Matt. 16:16; Mark 8:29, 14:61-62; Luke 9:20; John 20:31; Acts 5:42, 9:22, 18:28; 1 John 2:22). This truth is so essential to Christian theology that 1 John 2:22 declares:

Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ [Messiah]. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son.

Hebrews 9:26-28 sums up the glorious truths:

... He [Jesus] has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ... Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; ...

This portion of Scripture also proclaims the triumphant Second Coming of the risen Christ:

... and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

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When claims are made that mankind's true self is divine, man is one with God, and the ultimate claim: Man is God, there are abundant Scriptures, some of which I've already shared, that can be offered in response.

What You Need To Know About Your Adventist Neighbors

By Colleen Tinker

I frequently hear the comments: “Adventists today are changing.” “They’re such nice people, and they’re so sincere!” “I did my residency at an Adventist hospital; they believe what I believe except they go to church on Saturday.” “They have a great ‘health message!’”

Perhaps the most disturbing comment, however, is: “Why did you leave?” This question usually is asked with a hint of judgment—a shadow of: “Why divide the body of Christ because you have a personal axe to grind?” In fact, our editorial office at Life Assurance Ministries often receives letters from current Adventists who say in essence, “If you’re unhappy with Adventism, why don’t you just leave quietly and quit talking about the church?”

My response to these kinds of remarks is three-fold. First, no matter how sincere Adventists are nor how effective the organization’s public relations efforts may be, there is only one Adventism; and it is not changing. Second, I left Adventism because I found Jesus, I fell in love with Him, and Adventism is not compatible with His Gospel. Finally, I talk about Adventism because Christians need to be protected from Adventist evangelism and because Adventists need to be evangelized by Christians.

In this article, I will first examine the essential theology of Adventism; and in conclusion, I will look at its impact as a world religion.

What Is Adventism?

Adventism grew out of the Millerite* movement of the 1840s in New England. When Jesus failed to return in 1843 and then in 1844 as William Miller had predicted, the group of people who did not repent of this date-setting and return to their churches coalesced and eventually became the Seventh-day Adventist church. Founded by James White (a former pastor in the Christian Connexion** and a staunch anti-Trinitarian), Joseph Bates (a sea-captain who was instrumental in bringing the seventh-day Sabbath to the group), and Ellen Gould White (James’s wife who received visions and was attributed with having the New Testament gift of prophecy), the fledgling group organized around a doctrine devised to

validate the 1844 date—the “**investigative judgment.**”

The investigative judgment is a complicated doctrine based on a fallacious interpretation of Daniel 8:14. Because Ellen had received visions endorsing Miller’s 1843 and 1844 time prophecies, the group believed she had heard from God and desired to uphold the veracity of her inspiration and of their own preaching. Thus, they reinterpreted the time prophecy, and the result was the “**investigative judgment.**” This doctrine says, essentially, that Jesus’ Atonement was not finished on the cross. Rather, His blood provided a means of transferring the sins of those who professed Christ into Heaven where they were “kept” until Jesus would complete His Atonement by investigating the Heavenly records of the lives of professed believers.^{1,2}

They said this investigation—known as the “**investigative judgment**”—began in 1844³ when Jesus went into the Most Holy Place in Heaven for the first time. Whereas William Miller had said Jesus would return to earth in 1844 and “**cleanse the sanctuary**” (as extrapolated from Daniel 8:14, KJV), the early Adventists taught the real meaning of that text was that Jesus *began* cleansing the sanctuary *in Heaven* of the sins carried there by Jesus’ blood. In 1844, therefore, Jesus supposedly began checking to see if every sin of those who profess Christ had been confessed. Any sin which a person might have forgotten or neglected to confess specifically would not be forgiven and would be placed back on the offender. Every sin which had been confessed would then be placed on the scapegoat***—Satan, and Satan would bear those sins out of Heaven into the Lake of Fire where *he* would be punished for them. Thus, they assert, the sanctuary *in Heaven* would be cleansed.^{4,5}

The fact is: This doctrine continues to shape Adventism. Satan, not Jesus, is their scapegoat. Although Adventists seldom speak of this fact in public, it is at the heart of their theology. In essence, Adventist soteriology† works this way: Jesus’ blood provides a means for the sins of professed believers to be removed from them and carried into Heaven. Jesus’ blood, therefore, actually defiles Heaven because it carries sins into the presence of God. Heaven, itself, is then cleansed when Satan carries those sins out of Heaven and bears the punishment for them.

Today, perhaps because there is no biblical support for the classic doctrine of the investigative judgment, many Adventists interpret God's review of the Heavenly records as being for the purpose of vindicating God's character to the watching universe. This modified view has no more biblical support than does the original doctrine; and in some ways, it is more sinister—it promotes the idea that God must prove Himself to be fair in the face of Satan's supposed accusations that God was unfair to humans. This notion of God needing to prove Himself is embedded in Ellen White's original writing about the investigative judgment,⁶ and over the past few decades, Adventist theologians—including the late Jack Provonsha and Graham Maxwell (both of whom taught on the faculty of religion at Loma Linda University)—have focused on this facet of the doctrine and have made humanity's vindication of God's character the focal point of the judgment.⁷

The classic investigative judgment, however, is still official Adventist doctrine. The Adventists' *Fundamental Beliefs* No. 24 states in part:

The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent.⁸ [emphasis mine]

In summary, this unique doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church assumes there is an as-yet-unresolved conflict between Jesus and Satan in which the fairness and the character of God are on trial. This assumed conflict is being resolved by means of the investigative judgment in which Jesus is finding out which of the earth's professed believers are worthy of salvation.

Implications Of Soul Sleep

Since the doctrine of the investigative judgment requires Christ to investigate the lives of every believer, beginning in 1844 and ending just before the "**Time of Trouble**," the common Christian belief that the spirits of the righteous dead are in Heaven with Jesus (2 Cor. 5:1-10; Phil 1:22-23) and those of the unsaved are being held for judgment (2 Peter 2:9) had to be revised. The Adventist doctrine of "**soul sleep**," shared by the Jehovah's Witnesses, accommodates their doctrine of judgment.

As stated in their *Fundamental Beliefs* No. 7, Adventists believe:

... each [person] is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and

all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position under God. The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil.⁹ [emphasis mine]

The phrase "**an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit**" is code for the Adventist belief that no part of a human survives death except in the memory of God. They teach the "**spirit**" of man is merely his "**breath**." It is breath, not a conscious essence of a person, which they say returns to God.

In *Seventh-day Adventists Believe* is this statement:

But in the Bible neither the Hebrew nor the Greek term for spirit (*ruach* and *pneuma*, respectively) refers to an intelligent entity capable of a conscious existence apart from the body. Rather, these terms refer to the "breath"—the spark of life essential to individual existence, the life principle that animates animals and human beings ... Solomon's statement that the spirit (*ruach*) returns to God who gave it indicates that what returns to God is simply the life principle that He im-

parted. There is no indication that the spirit or breath, was a conscious entity separate from the body. This *ruach* can be equated with the "breath of life" that God breathed into the first human being to animate his lifeless body (cf. Gen.:2:7).¹⁰

Adventists teach that believing "**the dead are conscious has prepared many Christians to accept spiritualism. If the dead are alive and in the presence of God, why could they not return to earth as ministering spirits?**"¹¹

This soul-sleep doctrine leads to the belief the resurrection is actually a *re-creation* of the person out of the *memory*

of God. In other words, there is no ontological connection between the person who was alive and the person who is resurrected.

Because of their disbelief in the Biblical doctrine of a literal spirit which is separate from the body, and which can know and worship God (John 4:24), Adventists have no clear understanding of the new birth. They see the "new birth" as the Holy Spirit giving us the power to "**become victorious**".¹² They do not understand humans as having a literal, immaterial spirit which is born dead in sin but which is brought to life by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Col. 2:13). Rather, they see the Holy Spirit as informing the mind and giving people the power to keep the commandments (but see Rom. 3:20). They do not understand that the new birth literally results in God transferring us from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col. 1:13).

Moreover, they believe that as a man, Jesus was exactly as we are. While they insist He was fully God as well as fully man,

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they teach He inherited fallen flesh from His mother—yet He never sinned.¹³ This belief is closely linked with their perception of what sin is according to Adventist understanding. Because of their disbelief in a literal, immaterial spirit, they perceive sin to be transmitted genetically. In other words, “sin” is linked to the body, since Adventists believe that the body and spirit are indivisible. Therefore, overcoming sin essentially is coming to the point of perfectly keeping the 10 Commandments by somehow accessing enough divine power from the Holy Spirit to resist temptation successfully.

Adventists teach that Jesus was our example by showing us it is possible for us—just as He did—to keep the law perfectly. In their book *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, they state:

To set the example as to how people should live, Christ must live a sinless life as a human being. As the second Adam, He dispelled the myth that humans cannot obey God’s law and have victory over sin. He demonstrated that it is possible for humanity to be faithful to God’s will.¹⁴

Because Adventists do not believe humans possess an immaterial spirit which separates from the body at physical death and goes to the Lord Jesus, they do not understand the natural condition of man is literal spiritual death. Moreover, they fail to understand that Jesus’ sinlessness was not primarily a physical and mental feat accomplished by a focused will. Jesus was, in fact, the only human ever born who was spiritually alive from conception and not dead in sin. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, sin had no claim on Him. He was conceived with spiritual life; never was He in the domain of darkness (Col 1:13).

Soul sleep is not merely a doctrine of what Adventists believe happens at death. It is a doctrine that eclipses the new birth and denies the existence of the human spirit, thus also denying the immaterial spirit of Jesus the Man. His innate spiritual life is misunderstood, and Adventists understand their own righteousness in terms of physical and mental obedience to the law—obedience made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit giving them the ability to resist temptation (but see Gal. 5:3). Because of this erroneous soul sleep doctrine, Adventists have no clear understanding of salvation being effected by the new birth (as described in John 3:3-5), and they have no clear concept of natural depravity as being the result of being literally spiritually dead (cf. Eph. 2:5, Col. 2:13-14).

The Sabbath

Keeping the seventh-day Sabbath is the most visible “marker” of Seventh-day Adventism. While other denominations also worship on the seventh day, Adventists have made keeping the Sabbath an issue not only of obedience, but also of salvation.

Although many contemporary Adventists claim that the

Sabbath is not necessary for salvation, and although they state that people from all walks of life will be saved, nevertheless they deeply fear they will lose their salvation if they give up the Sabbath.

Ellen White established keeping the seventh-day Sabbath as the final mark dividing true believers from the lost and called it “**the seal of the living God:**”

The enemies of God’s law, from the ministers down to the least among them, have a new conception of truth and duty. Too late they see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. Too late they see the true nature of their spurious sabbath and the sandy foundation upon which they have been building. They find that they have been fighting against God.¹⁵ [emphasis mine]

She describes the final judgment when God announces the day and hour of Jesus’ return and the pronouncement of the blessing for Sabbath-keepers:

The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus’ coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest

thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.¹⁶ [emphasis mine]

Not only does Ellen White establish keeping the Sabbath as “**the seal of the living God**” and the mark that identifies those who will be saved, but she identifies worship on Sunday as being “**the mark of the beast:**”

The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.¹⁷ [emphasis mine]

In summary, Ellen White established keeping the seventh-day Sabbath as the issue which determines who will be saved or lost. She calls it “**the seal of God,**” and she identifies worshiping on Sunday as “**the mark of the beast.**” She even admonishes parents to prevent their children from playing either inside or outside on the Sabbath. If they do allow them to play, she says, God will regard the parents as Sabbath-breakers.¹⁸

Soul sleep is not merely a doctrine of what Adventists believe happens at death. It is a doctrine that eclipses the new birth and denies the existence of the human spirit, thus also denying the immaterial spirit of Jesus the Man.

Adventist *Fundamental Beliefs* No. 20 calls keeping the Sabbath:

... a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God's kingdom. The Sabbath is God's perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people.¹⁸ [emphasis mine]

The Bible, however, *never* calls keeping the Sabbath “the seal of God” but rather identifies the deposit of the Holy Spirit within man as being God’s seal (Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30). Moreover, this deposit is *never* called “a token of our allegiance” to a new covenant, nor is it a “God’s perpetual sign of His eternal covenant.” The New Testament contains no command to keep the Sabbath day holy (see Romans 14:5; Acts 15).

Adventists’ insistence upon Sabbath observance is a modern form of the Galatian heresy. They add Sabbath-keeping to the Gospel as a requirement for salvation. Although they say those who have not yet been taught the importance of keeping the Sabbath may be saved, nevertheless, they say if they stop keeping the Sabbath once they have known it, they lose their salvation.

Ellen White wrote:

Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters. ‘Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting. I asked who this company were. [sic] The angel said, “These are they who have once kept the Sabbath, and have given it up.”²⁰

In spite of many Adventists’ protests that keeping the Sabbath is not necessary for their salvation, nevertheless they will not give it up for fear they will be lost and find themselves howling in agony when Jesus returns.

Adventism Today

Because of its carefully orchestrated proselytizing program, Adventism today is growing rapidly worldwide. At the end of 2007, the number of baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was 15,660,347.²¹ This membership is distributed around the globe, but the greatest growth and largest numbers of members are not in North America where the organization began. The greatest current growth is in the Inter-American Division (2,957,485 members), the South American Division (2,617,706), the East-Central Africa Division (2,376,903 members), and the South African/Indian Ocean Division (2,187,125 members). In 2007 alone, the organization acquired 1,040,642 new members worldwide and officially lost only 341,109 members. This growth rate means that by the beginning of 2010, Adventist membership will number around 18,000,000 people.

At the end of 2007, the Adventist church owned 168 hospitals and sanitariums worldwide (including the famed Loma Linda University Medical Center, home of the denomination’s medical and dental schools), 433 clinics and dispensaries, 62 publishing houses producing literature in 362 different languages;

7,442 schools, and a total income of \$2,668,006,564.00.

According to the religious statistical web site Adherents.com, Adventism is the twelfth largest religious body in the world—exceeding even the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Moreover, it is the sixth most ubiquitous international religious body. In other words, it is the sixth most likely religious body to have a church or congregation near you in most countries in the world. The only organizations which exceed Adventists in ubiquity are the Catholic Church, Sunni Islam, the Baha’i Faith, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.²²

Adventist “evangelism” is conducted in many ways. Typically, Adventist programs do not reveal they are Seventh-day Adventists. Their “Prophecy” and “Revelation” seminars are held around the world, and their advertising does not reveal their Adventist affiliation. They offer multiple online and correspondence Bible courses, and they produce multiple magazines designed to introduce Adventist practices and beliefs without revealing clearly that they are, indeed, Adventist. Some of their most successful means of attracting people’s interest include their medical work and various cooking schools and lifestyle seminars.

There are many Adventist ministries. Some are owned by the church, and others are independently owned but are supportive of and evangelize for the Adventist church. Nevertheless, they are Adventist in spite of their lack of public acknowledgement. Included among these organizations are the well-known radio program *The Voice of Prophecy* and the television programs *Amazing Facts* and *It Is Written*. Also in this category are *The Quiet Hour*, *Generation of Youth for Christ*, Weimar Institute (a health conditioning center), and many others.

Adventist publications include *Signs of the Times*, *Ministry Magazine*, *Liberty*, *Renewed and Ready*, *Vibrant Life*, *Winner*, and *Women of Spirit*. Also included in the list of Adventist publications is *The Clear Word*, a Bible paraphrase with Adventist doctrines written into the text without citations. *The Clear Word* is published by Autumn House Publishing, a subsidiary of the Adventist publishing house Review and Herald Publishing. It is advertised and sold by Adventist Book Centers as well as by many Christian booksellers.

Because of Adventism’s beliefs that only they have the full “truth” and that Sabbath-keeping is an integral part of the Gospel, the denomination has an unspoken but powerful mandate to proselytize other Christians. Their primary effort in evangelism is not converting unbelievers, but rather, they concentrate on stealing believers to become Adventists.

What Every Christian Needs To Know

Adventism has a powerful and active public relations machine. Why does it seem they easily and frequently alter their

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Because of Adventism's beliefs that only they have the full "truth" and that Sabbath-keeping is an integral part of the Gospel, the denomination has an unspoken but powerful mandate to proselytize other Christians.

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public statements to sound acceptable to evangelicals? Moreover, they use the same words other Christians use, but they have redefined what those terms mean. When Christians talk to Adventists, the Christians are usually fooled by the Adventists’ use of these Christian words, think the Adventists understand the Gospel, and are saved.

The reality is, however, most Adventists can use the common phrases “saved by grace” and “Jesus is all I need”, but they never understand those phrases in the true, historic Biblical sense. They say those words with their lips; but in their hearts, they believe the investigative judgment, keeping the Sabbath, and believing in soul sleep are mandatory components of the Gospel.

Summarily, this is what Christians need to know: *No matter what an Adventist claims to believe—whether one sounds like a historical Adventist, an evangelical, or a liberal Christian—all Adventists agree on four basic beliefs which they believe are necessary for their salvation but are absolutely contrary to the historic Christian faith.* These beliefs form the underlying definitions for all their Christian-sounding words. They are:

1. A belief in the eternal significance and necessity of keeping the seventh-day Sabbath;
2. A belief in soul-sleep which denies the existence of the human spirit and has grave implications for the nature of man, of Christ, of sin, and of salvation;
3. A belief in an ongoing judgment in which God is on trial and humans help to vindicate Him before the watching universe by honoring the law;
4. A belief in the significance of Ellen White whom the Adventists call “**a continuing and authoritative source of truth.**”²³

These four beliefs are completely incompatible with the Bible and the Christian faith; and yet, they shape and define every Adventist’s world view and perception of the Bible. They read the Bible through Ellen White lenses, and they often have no idea they are not reading, hearing or understanding the Gospel. Adventism is a dangerous deception; it masquerades as true Christianity; it uses Christian words and phrases, but it does not teach the Gospel by which we are saved. (See 1 Cor. 15:1-4 for the Apostle Paul’s presentation of the Gospel that saves).

Christians need to understand that Adventists always interact with Christians with an unspoken intention to proselytize them. They believe that proselytizing fulfills their mandate to preach the Gospel. Christians also need to understand that Adventists need to hear the true Gospel (Rom. 1:2-4). They are in bondage to a dark deception, and they are hungry for real hope.

The veil of spiritual deception keeps Adventists from understanding the Bible (2 Cor. 4:4). The most powerful thing we can do is to pray for them and to seek opportunities to engage them in inductive Bible study. They have learned to study the Bible deductively, using a proof-text method to prove their own beliefs. They have never learned to read and study the Bible contextually, and engaging them in book-by-book inductive study is the best way to help them see the truth.

In conclusion, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a rapidly growing organization masquerading as an evangelical Christian movement. It teaches a different gospel, it honors a false prophetess, it holds unbiblical beliefs about death and

the nature of man and Christ, and it teaches there is an ongoing judgment in which God’s character is on trial and humans exonerate him to the watching universe. It attempts to sound evangelical, but its hidden-from-the-public foundation is unbiblical, and that foundation shapes everything they believe. Adventism must be understood and exposed in order to protect the Christian community from its proselytizing efforts. Finally, Adventists themselves are hungry for the Gospel. We must understand their deception in order to minister to them as God brings opportunities. 📍

***Millerite** = “... followers of the teachings of William Miller who, in 1833, first shared publicly his belief in the coming Second Advent of Jesus Christ in roughly the year 1843.” (Wikipedia)

****Christian Connexion** = “... movement which began in several places during the late 18th and early 19th centuries and were secessions from three different religious denominations ... Several leaders of the movement questioned whether the concept of the Trinity was Biblical and came to believe that it was not.” (Wikipedia)

*****Scapegoat** = “***But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat.***” (Lev. 16:10, NIV, emphasis added) The O.T. scapegoat foreshadowed the One Who ultimately and completely would make atonement for our sins: Jesus Christ.

†**Soteriology** = “the doctrine of salvation, especially the Christian doctrine of salvation through Jesus Christ.” (Encarta Dictionary).

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Resources

Magazines/books available from LifeAssuranceMinistries.org

Proclamation! magazine published by Life Assurance Ministries (available bimonthly or online)

Books by Dale Ratzlaff, former Adventist pastor and founder of Life Assurance Ministries

Sabbath in Christ

Cultic Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventists

Truth about Adventist “Truth”

Truth Led Me Out

Websites:

FormerAdventist.com

ExAdventist.com

EllenWhiteExposed.com

CultorChristian.com

ENDNOTES:

1 “And as the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore

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Jesus' identity as the One and Only Christ (Messiah) sets Him infinitely above any so-called **"enlightened ones,"** but the Bible goes on to present the ultimate truth: Jesus Christ is God the Son. He is both fully God and fully man.²⁶ For one to even begin to compare Him with New Age avatars and gurus borders on blasphemy to be sure.

Regarding "channeled higher knowledge," the Bible firmly condemns medium-ship and spiritism (Deut. 18:10-12). Whoever claims to communicate with disembodied spirits is a counterfeit of the true prophet who speaks for God. (2 Peter 1:21, 2 Sam. 23:2, Acts 3:18, Heb. 1:1-2) Not only that, but God's Word clearly states:

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son ... (Heb. 1:1-2)

And regarding the belief in reincarnation, the Bible clearly states **"... man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment"** (Heb. 9:27). Sometimes New Agers will use the Scriptures about Elijah and John the Baptist to "prove" reincarnation, but Luke 1:17 clarifies that John the Baptist went **"... on before the Lord [Jesus], in the spirit and power of Elijah,"** not as Elijah. And John the Baptist confirmed this in John 1:21, when he responded to the question **"... Are you Elijah? ..."** by saying, **"... I am not. ..."**

5) When the New Agers claim humanity is poised between two ages, the Piscean Age of rationality and the Aquarian Age of spirituality, Christians can respond: "Yes, we are poised between two ages—the present world and the New Heaven and New Earth." This is in contrast to what Eckhart Tolle teaches:

... heaven is not a location but refers to the inner realm of consciousness. ... "A new heaven" is the emergence of a transformed state of human consciousness, and "a new earth" is its reflection in the physical realm.²⁷ [italics in original]

It is ironic when New Agers claim the present world is illusory, and then go on to deny the reality of a future Heaven, too. The only "reality" for them is an elusive and impersonal **"consciousness."** But the Bible is clear: The new Heaven and new Earth will be real places, where **"... the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them ..."** (Rev. 21:3a, cf. Is. 65:17-19). This truth is so precious to God that when His Word speaks of the new Jerusalem coming down out of Heaven from God, He uses the imagery of a bride beautifully dressed for her beloved husband (Rev. 21:1-2), and the **"... wedding supper of the Lamb [Jesus] ..."** to describe it (Rev. 19:7-9). Is it any wonder the enemy of our souls would try to distort, dilute, and otherwise destroy the truth of this glorious future for God and His people? But it is true, and Scripture undeniably confirms it: **"... These are the true words of God."** (Rev. 19:9b). Praise the Lord!

Setting The Captives Free

It has been difficult for me to write this comparison/contrast of the NAM and Christian theology, because I was one of the multitudes caught by the deceptions of NAM. I have been reminded of painful experiences, and the many people with whom I shared my 13-year New Age path.

It grieves me that NAM presents half-truths, and when true seekers grab onto these, they do not realize the other half is a dis-

torted "hook" that will lead them to Hell. For example, the Bible does say Christians will be conformed to Christ's image (Rom. 8:29), but the New Age presents the aberrant, even blasphemous, claim, "you will be a god." The Bible does promise Jesus is coming again (Rev. 1:7), but the New Age turns this into a "watch" for a weirdo guru. The Bible does assure Christians they **"... will be with the Lord forever"** (1 Thes. 4:17b), but the New Age distorts this to mean "you will reach cosmic consciousness, and be one with Universal Energy." As Romans 1:25 says:

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—Who is to be praised. Amen.

How tragic this is. And what a call to all true Christians to pray, reach out, and help set the captives free from the deceptions that lead to death (cf. 2 Tim. 2:24-26).

But writing this article has also stirred my heart to lavish praise and thanksgiving unto God. He has reminded me from how very far He has brought me—infinately further than a "quantum leap." He has brought believers from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light (1 Peter 2:9, Col. 1:13). May the King of Kings be forever praised and worshiped for providing the glories of Eternal Life for **"... whoever believes in Him ..."** the Good News of Jesus Christ (John 3:16). He is worthy of all our praise. And He alone is worthy. ☪

***Theosophy= 1** : teaching about God and the world based on mystical insight **2 often capitalized** : the teachings of a modern movement originating in the United States in 1875 and following chiefly Buddhist and Brahmanic theories especially of pantheistic evolution and reincarnation (Merriam-Webster online)

****Pantheism= 1** : a doctrine that equates God with the forces and laws of the universe **2** : the worship of all gods of different creeds, cults, or peoples indifferently; *also* : toleration of worship of all gods (as at certain periods of the Roman empire) (Merriam-Webster online)



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Their evangelism happened mainly outside the church meeting by educated and trained believers who cared for and about the unbelievers around them, and who quite aggressively challenged the worldviews of those outside the church. Their goal was not to change society in order to make it a more comfortable place in which Christians could live, but rather, it was to win the lost to Christ. Today, many Christians live in nations hostile to Christians and Christianity. They face real persecution for their faith, something we have not yet encountered. But with the great advances non-Christian and even anti-Christian worldviews have made in our nation and the world, and the rise of politically correct views of “tolerance,” which puts Christianity at odds with these worldviews, who knows what we someday may face? The true Church—Red and Yellow, Black and White—may find we really need each other and put our differences aside for good. We are all sinners, after all; all of us are either saved by God’s grace alone or not at all. *God’s family*, not our human tribe, is our true identity.

Is Barack Obama A Christian?

First, anyone who has read the *MCOI Journal* for very long would know this is a question we cannot answer with any certainty. We do not see anything in Barack Obama that would indicate he is a Christian by any biblical or historical understanding of the term, but we do not know the man’s heart. To be a Christian, biblically, one must believe Jesus died, was buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:1-8) and call on the name of the Lord (Jesus) to be saved (Rom. 10:9-13). Secondly, the answer to the question would neither qualify nor preclude him from being President of the United States. There is no religious test in the Constitution and we have had non-Christians (Thomas Jefferson immediately comes to mind) as well as Christians occupy that office in the past. This is not a question of political affiliation for we have had presidents and currently have members of the House and Senate across all party lines who hold to a diversity of religious and secular worldviews. The question at hand in this article has to do with Obama’s *public claims* of being a Christian. What we can summarize are some aspects of Black Liberation Theology as follows:

- 1) Black Liberation Theology espouses a doctrinal position that God hates Whites and is in the business of having them killed and elevating Blacks. Any other view of God is unacceptable.
- 2) Anti-Semitism is strongly supported in spite of God clearly declaring in His Word that He would bless those who bless the Jews and curse those who curse the Jews. (Gen. 12:3)
- 3) An insistence on abandoning biblical moral values and replacing them with new, politically correct and racially driven moral values.

The “**Cult of Black Liberal Theology**” is definitely more akin to the Borg (Marxist/Socialism) than to biblical Christianity.

Nevertheless, we do not say that anyone who attends that church cannot be a true Christian. True Christians do fall prey to false doctrine and false teachers. Most of the New Testament was written to correct false doctrine into which Christians had fallen! Christians are instructed to pray for their leaders, so they may live in peace, (1 Tim. 2:1-2) and do the work they were

called to do. Certainly, it is very important to pray for wisdom for those in charge in this chaotic world. The more wisdom they appear to need and possibly the more we disagree with them, perhaps, the more we should pray for them.

And most importantly of all, we need to remember our God is in loving control of our lives and our destinies, and we trust Him with our future.

*Nation of Islam= Not to be confused with the Islamic religion founded in 610 by Muhammad ibn ‘Abdullah, Wallace Fard Muhammad founded NOI in Detroit, Michigan in July, 1930. ☐



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BUT IN YOUR HEARTS SET APART CHRIST AS LORD. ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE. BUT DO THIS WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT.

1 PETER 3:15



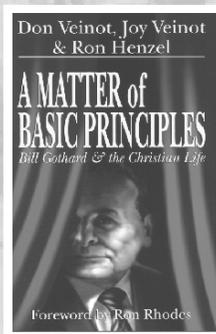
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MINISTRY UPDATE

Several people have contacted us over the last few months to find out if they had been dropped from the mailing list, because they had not received their copy of the MCOI Journal. For a couple of them, that was true. We do need to hear from you at least once a year in some form in order to confirm your contact information for the following year. But for most, they already were updated to receive this year's Journal. In actuality, they hadn't received any since the Winter edition for a few reasons. I wanted to apologize for the delay and also explain.

First, the bulk of the personal support for Joy and I was from my employment in construction management. It not only provided for our personal support, but it granted me quite a bit of flexibility in my schedule for ministry-related speaking, counseling, etc. Due to the economic downturn, I was out of work for all of 2008. The ministry was not in a position to support us, and Joy and I have transitioned into our new jobs doing over-the-road truck driving.

Second, the change in employment also impacted our ability to efficiently do research and writing. Although we can do most of the ministry functions from the truck (weekly e-letter, Crux blog, answer e-mails, and handle the phone and some telephone counseling), we cannot carry enough of the research material with us. In addition, typing on a computer while driving in a big rig is fraught with difficulties. It is easy to wipe out a paragraph or entire page with one bump in the road.

Third, due to the general difficulties in the economy, ministry support is also suffering. This is true for all of the discernment ministries of which I know. Support is down 30%-50% for these ministries. We are hovering at being around 35% down this year. This creates other strains such as covering the costs of printing and mailing the Journal. We are currently about \$7,000.00 in the red. Of course, a few end-of-the-year donations can eliminate this debt by the end of the calendar year.

There is no doubt in our minds that we are called to this ministry. The current state of the church is a daily reminder of the need for sound teaching, discernment, and taking well-thought-out, Bible-based stands which may be unpopular. We also realize this does not market as well as "feel-good theology" which we find in so many churches and promoted by the "Christian" publishing industry. We will continue this ministry as long as God provides the means and opportunity. We ask for your prayers in this. I also ask that you consider becoming a regular supporter of MCOI. Having 250 new supporters at \$25.00 a month would go a long way toward allowing us to be full-time in this mission. In light of the current state of the church and culture, your partnership and prayers are more important now than ever before.

Blessings,



L.L. (Don) Veinot
President
Midwest Christian Outreach, Inc.

MINISTRY UPDATE

"Adventist" Continued from page 18

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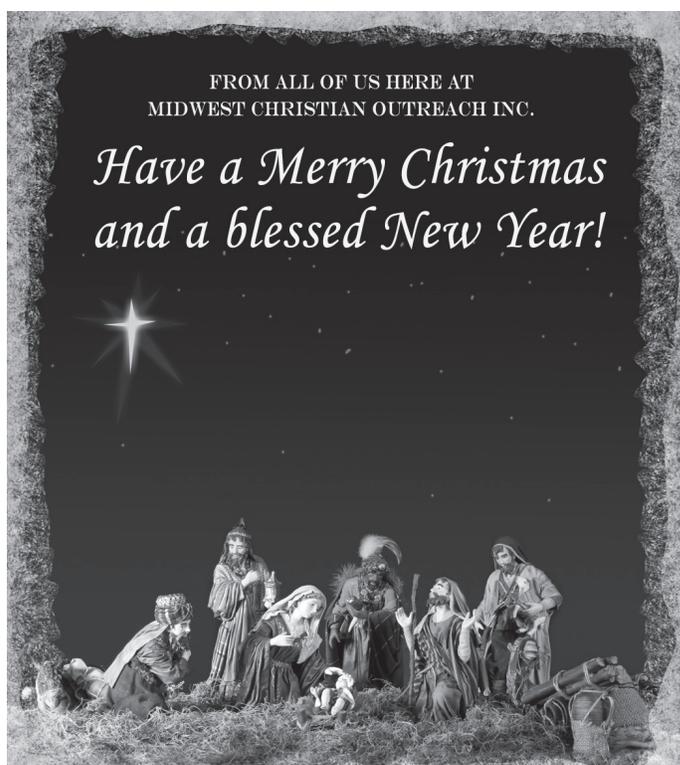
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The
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(Aquired Ignorance of the Doctrines of Scripture)

is reaching alarming proportions within the Church. Sound doctrine is the medicine that strengthens the immune system in the Body of Christ.
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