

THE SERVANT

Educating the Church about False Religions and the Lost about Jesus Christ

Spring

1991

FROM THE CRAFT TO THE CROSS

Testimony Of A Former Witch

by Yolanda K.

It is interesting to look into the mirror and realize that I am no longer the same person I was six years ago. My looks haven't really changed over the years, the difference is inside. The difference comes with finding the Truth and making Jesus the Master of my life.

I was raised in Virginia in a family in which I never felt love. My parents were divorced when I was young and although I had a brother and sisters, I always felt alone.

I had my first experience with a premonition when I was about 8-years-old. I had a frightening dream about some doctors in white gowns and wearing masks standing around me while I was on a table. Later I had found out I was to have surgery.

Soon after that I started to experience knowing other things ahead of time. I had an imaginary playmate when I was young, but she began to speak to me and became more real. This friend (my best and only friend at the time) told me that I had to keep her a secret in order to be able to communicate with her. At times, I would close out the rest of the world and communicate to my invisible friend.

As a teenager I felt more and more

isolated and alone. I thought no one could or would love me. I didn't know how to give or respond to affection. Even if I could, my friend would take over my body and do something to ruin the relationship.

The entire time I hungered for more power and control over my life and the lives of others. In school I experimented with psychic and mystical phenomena. I read everything I could put my hands on to educate myself in the field of the occult. I became very adept at astrology charts, table tipping, tarot card reading, palmistry, and astral projection. I started to receive the attention I craved with the other kids in school, because I could read their horoscopes and tell their fortunes. By the time I entered junior high school, I was a self-styled witch. I taught others how to interpret astrological charts and read futures too. I also experimented with hexes, spells and incantations. Students would ask me to help them to be liked by someone of the opposite sex, or to help pass a test.

In my sophomore year I met a druidic witch who introduced me to her coven. I met the coven of witches in the nearby woods where the oak trees formed a circle. They wore hooded
see Testimony p. 5

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MINISTRY NEWS

The following is from a recent correspondence with Rich Poll of the Christian Research Institute:

In the first chapter of the New Testament book of Philippians, verse 16, the Apostle Paul wrote that he was "appointed for the defense of the gospel." Paul said that the defense of the gospel was the job he was appointed for- not just proclamation alone. The original tongue, biblical Koine Greek, for the word translated "defense" here and in verse seven, is "APOLOGIA." From this root the term "apologetics" is derived.

In the words of Walter Martin, the founder of CRI, "You can preach the gospel from now until Christ returns, but if you don't defend it you are looking into the face of another Dark Ages. Some may say, 'The gospel is going to go ahead anyhow whether you defend it or not.' Yes, but we paid for 900 years for not defending the gospel after the first five centuries. The early Church Fathers gave us the means to defend Christianity. From the fifth century through the Reformation times we had what is known as the Dark Ages. Why? Because we didn't use our defense. Instead we retreated from the world rather than encountering the world. Christian apologetics is the lost art of giving people answers to questions about what Christians believe about their faith."

The Christian Awareness Fellowship is a ministry that is called to defend His gospel. Jesus warned in Matthew chapter 24 that false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and lead many astray. And indeed they have. But thanks to God many have not been misled because someone defended the faith. And many have come out of the cults, and have been saved because Christians were obedient.

Perhaps the Lord is calling you to join us in defending the gospel against false religions and cults. Because of your gifts we will soon upgrade our computer system to provide more people, Christians and non-Christians, with answers about the Christian faith. Thank you Lord! We are still praying for funding and/ or reduction in rent for an office (preferably on the Northwest side of Tucson). If you know of someone with unrented office space that would like to help this ministry (and also receive a tax deductible receipt), please let us know. If you can support this ministry with your prayers or gifts, **Thank You and God Bless You!**

Jack Gracie, president

Tom Perkins, vice president, editor

RECENT C.A.F. ACTIVITIES

The LDS temple in Mesa, Ariz. was the site for a combined ministry outreach to Mormons. The LDS church holds an annual Easter pagant on the temple grounds in order to bring converts into their church. The C.A.F. was invited to participate in the outreach with the Concerned Christians ministry in Mesa.

We had an interesting time witnessing to Mormons and explaining the gospel to those who would listen. Most Mormons politely refused our literature but a few stopped to ask questions and take our tracts.

However there were other Mormons who would harrass and threaten us for exercising our right to free speech and religion. Smoke and stink bombs were thrown at us (one burned a hole in a Christian's clothing). It seemed wrong to them that we were in a public place handing out tracts. Yet it is alright for them to go to public and private places to hand out their literature.

Concerned Christians had over 60 responses to the outreach. They are currently involved with counseling 16 Mormons who want to know more about Christian beliefs! AMEN!

Sunnyside School District parents called the C.A.F. because they were concerned about New Age and occultic beliefs being taught in the public schol.

The parents claimed that a teacher told their children she was a psychic and a palm reader. (In fact, she does advertize her occultic services in a local New Age newspaper.) This teacher also taught a course on metaphysics and showed the students how to make and use Ouija boards in class.

C.A.F. President Jack Gracie spoke on the dangers of the New Age to the parents at a Tucson public library in April. He explained that Ariz. law 15-535, "Secterian Instruction Prohibited," forbids such teachings in public schools. Teachers found guilty of breaking this law will lose their teaching certificates. The school principal, who also attended the meeting, assured the parents that these subjects would not be taught again.

Write us if you would like a free copy of Ariz. law 15-535, or our tract, "Are New Age Ideas being Taught To Your Child In School?"

The Christian Awareness Fellowship is available for presentations at your church or organization. Please call or write for information. We look forward to hearing from you!

BOOK REVIEW

CONFRONTING THE NEW AGE

by Douglas Groothuis
(InterVarsity Press 1988)

Reviewed by Duane L. Burgess

A lot of Christians are asking, "What is the New Age?" A growing number of authors are responding to that question. But what is most important is understanding the impact of the New Age and what Christians should do about it. Douglas Groothuis tackles that issue head-on in his book *Confronting The New Age*.

"The New Age is more than a passing fad-although it is not without faddishness; it is a deep cultural trend attracting scores of people from all walks of life. It claims to offer spiritual reality, fulfillment and world harmony. Yet its promises spring from what turns out to be a spiritual counterfeit."

Everything the Christian does must be considered in terms of his marching orders from the Lord. Our Great Commission is to "make disciples" (Matthew 28). The fact that the New Age exists is sufficient reason for Christians to know something about it so they may be prepared to evangelize those who are caught up in it's teachings, and to protect the Church from New Age influences.

It's helpful, but not necessary to read other materials on the New Age Movement before reading this book. *Confronting The New Age* presents both an overview of the New Age and a strategy for evangelizing New Agers. Groothuis takes a conservative, non-alarmist approach to dealing with New Agers. He cautions against a "baby bath-water" mentality, alerting us to six pitfalls Christians must avoid if we're to be effective in dealing with the New Age.

Groothuis advocates what he calls a "critical engagement" position. This involves believers separating themselves from evil in both thought and action, but engaged in an effort to "...transform culture to the glory of God and to conserve those aspects of culture that please Him." He presents a chapter specifically on "Developing a Strategy" for confronting the New Age.

The New Age is a seemingly overwhelming variety of philosophies, theologies and practices, but Groothuis presents a simplified overview. He deals specifically with nine spiritual counterfeits of the New Age and includes a chapter on Spiritual Warfare. An important feature is the section on "The Bible and Reincarnation." *Confronting The New Age* also presents helpful insight for discernment regarding self-image, visualization, biofeedback, New Age music, education and business.

Confronting The New Age is endorsed by the late Dr. Walter Martin. It's brief, easily readable and worthwhile for any believer who wants to know how to reach those deceived by the New Age. A generous bibliography of recommended reading is included.

Take **A CLOSER LOOK** at what the Bible says

about the **cults** and the **occult** with Jack Gracie weekdays on the following stations:

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BOOKS

- Mormonism, Mama and Me** (Geer) \$8.00
- The Watchtower Files** (Magnani) \$9.00
- Understanding the Cults**
(McDowell, Stewart) \$11.00
- Understanding the Occult**
(McDowell, Stewart) \$11.00
- Unmasking the New Age**
(Groothius) \$10.00
- Confronting the New Age**
(Groothius) *NEW!* \$10.00

BOOKLETS

- How to Respond to the Lodge**
(Rongstad) Freemasonry \$2.50
- Islam & Christianity** (Tingle) *NEW* \$1.50
- Jehovah's Witnesses** (Martin) \$4.50
- Herbert W. Armstrong and the
Worldwide Church of God** (Martin) \$4.00

CASSETTES

Cassettes by C.A.F. president Jack Gracie at Casas Adobes Baptist Church. Price \$5.00 each.

- Mormon vs. The Believer's Priesthood**
- Resurrection & Jehovah's Witnesses**
- Satanism, Witchcraft and the Occult**
- How to Witness to a Cultist**
- The Selling of the New Age Movement**
- Ye Are Gods? ("Faith" Teachings)**
- Is God a God of Miracles?**

TRACTS

We ask for a minimum donation of 15¢ for each tract ordered. Thank You! Please write or call for information on large orders. Topics Available: Astrology, Satanism, The Media, Reincarnation, New Age, Halloween, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Dungeons and Dragons, Christian Science, Witnessing Tips, Worldwide Church of God.

ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY

Islam has about One Billion followers world-wide and is one of the fastest growing religions in the U.S. What does their Koran teach about Jihad- Holy Wars? How can Christians witness to the Muslim people about the Son of God? This excellent booklet by Donald S. Tingle gives the background and witnessing tips about this world religion. Minimum donation \$1.50.

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TESTIMONY cont. from p. 1

robes to conceal their identities until I had been fully initiated. I was given a drug to drink which caused me to hallucinate and was told to cut myself on the side of my wrist. Blood was smeared on the ground and on myself as an offering to the goddess Diana. The ritual then involved sex. I pledged to keep the initiation a secret, to honor the beliefs of the coven, to strive for more spiritual power and to bring more members into the coven.

After induction into the coven, I started to learn more about power and witchcraft. I performed ceremonies using my own blood and occasionally killing small animals to obtain more power.

I became promiscuous, but rejected any overture toward friendship, believing that allowing anyone to get too close to me may lessen my spiritual powers. I even tried to commit suicide twice.

By the time I graduated from high school, I was pregnant. My whole life became so involved with the occult I even read a book on historical witchcraft while I was in labor! I got married, but the first marriage was soon destroyed.

I remarried again to my husband Al, who was a Satan worshipper. We planned a life of carnal pleasure and selfish ambitions. Together we practiced occultic arts and spiritism. One night while contacting spirits we had a terrifying episode. A black curtain seemed to come between Al and me. His whole appearance changed. He had fear in his eyes and looked like a shriveled old man. The ankh cross ring he wore supernaturally jumped back and forth from his left to his right hand without him moving it. Our two year old daughter started to cry in her sleep as a wind blew inside the apartment.

After the incident we moved out of the apartment because of our fear. We decided to join an organized religion to bring in structure to our lives. It was at this time we joined the Mormon Church.

I found that my LDS "sisters" followed their astrological charts and palm readings. I also found that speaking to spirits of the dead, or necromancy, was common in the Mormon Church. I worked hard in the LDS church, yet never felt worthy of attaining the Mormon ultimate, the Celestial Kingdom. During those eleven years I never felt the warmth or kinship I was lead to expect when I first joined.

After we moved to Arizona, my husband became friends with a Christian at his work who was a former Mormon and a member of the

CHRISTIAN AWARENESS FELLOWSHIP. He pointed out fallacies and inconsistencies in the LDS religion. My husband took the challenge to read the Bible and asked me to do likewise. He began to reject Mormon teachings and started to attend a Bible believing church. During an altar call he accepted Christ as his Savior and became a Christian.

At first I was furious at him, but soon I too finally asked Jesus into my heart and begged for His forgiveness. It was the first time I can honestly say I felt love. I found myself weeping for joy. That morning marked the end of a very lonely old life and the beginning of a new life in Christ. I could hardly wait for Sunday morning services at my new church, something I only reluctantly attended just weeks before to please my husband.

I learned that my Father in Heaven had plans for me and my family. I needed to grow strong emotionally and spiritually and to put on my spiritual armor. At first I was reluctant to tell anyone about my past, but through Christian encouragement and counselling I found strength in the Gospel of peace. Slowly I began to relate my past and learn God does heal each wound. I took refuge in the knowledge that I am not alone anymore, Jesus walks with me each moment of the day and carries me through things that are beyond my strength. It is truly wonderful to say that I am weak, but He is strong. Although being a Christian is a wonderful life, it is not without its moments of strife and pain. Through each dark and desperate time the Lord has taught me a little more about love, patience and other emotions I never experienced in my old life. My Lord Jesus Christ loves me, and had loved me when I was a filthy sinner, and kept me from destruction when I deserved it. He died on the cross for my sins to give me the gift of eternal life. A gift undeserved and overwhelming, but there for each of us. It's only a short conversation with God away. Won't you consider reading about His life in the Bible and asking Him into your Life?

Ed. Note: Yolanda and her husband Al are members of the Christian Awareness Fellowship. They have spoken at local churches about their involvement in the occult and have been interviewed on radio and television stations. They recently taped a segment to be played on the 700 Club about their involvement in the occult. Yolanda's testimony can be heard on the cassette, **Satanism, Witchcraft and the Occult** (available from the C.A.F.). If you would like to know more about the Jesus of the Bible that she spoke of, please contact us.

CULT UPDATE

FUNDAMENTAL MORMONS BUILD UNIVERSITY

The 3,000 member polygamous Mormon splinter group, the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, finished the first of their university buildings in Colorado City, Ariz.

According to a Dec. 7, 1990 Associated Press report, the \$2.5 million industrial trades facility finished in January is just one of the buildings planned on the 40-acre site of the John Y. Barlow University. School administrator Lewis Barlow said it will take several years for the 55,000-square-foot administration building and also a performing arts center to be built.

The private school is now in session for the 1991 winter quarter. Barlow said JYBU will allow members of other religions to attend and will not discriminate on the basis of religion or race, the AP reported. It will offer a tuition reduction for its church members, and will also target local Paiute and Navajo Indian students.

The Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was founded by Leroy Johnson in the 1920s in northern Ariz. Johnson and his followers broke away from the Salt Lake City based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints after the LDS church ordered its members to stop the practice of plural marriages in 1890.

Many fundamentalist Mormon sects have separated from the Salt Lake City based LDS church because of theological differences. For the most part, fundamentalists believe in the Adam-God doctrine (Adam is the God for this world) and teach polygamy is necessary for exaltation (becomming a god). The LDS church abandoned these doctrines around the turn of the century. Fundamentalists also claim that Joseph Smith and Brigham Young are prophets and regard the Book of Mormon as scripture.

Other fundamentalist Mormon cults include: the 5,000 member Apostolic United Brethren, lead by Prophet Owen Allred in Salt Lake City; The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of Creston, British Columbia; Church of the Lamb of God, run by the LeBarron family of Utah; and the Lafferty, King, and Singer groups all of Utah.

An estimated 30,000 people residing in Utah, Ariz., Mont., and Idaho practice plural marriage. An unknown number also reside in northern Mexico and Canada. Most Mormon polygamists are members of family clans and are not directly affiliated with established sects.

GODDESS WORSHIPPERS IN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Tucson Presbyterian church hosted a women's spirituality confrence last March to teach Christians how to worship "the goddess."

Goddess worship is a central theme in neo-pagan and Wiccan religions. Among the sponsors were the Tucson Area Wiccan Network (TAWN), Arizona Student Pagans (ASP), Episcopal Women's Caucus, Women Take Back the Night, YWCA, Beauty Way Dianic Women's Circle and the Tucson Rape Crisis Center. Speakers included feminists, Wiccan priestesses from local witch's covens and African and Native American shamans (witch doctors).

About 200 women from various religions attended the conference. Rituals honoring the goddess and puberty rites for teenage girls were also performed at the church. Men were not admitted to most of the sessions or rituals.

The Presbyterian church's pastor, also a conference speaker, said she was not herself a witch, but that her spiritual journey has led her to discover the feminine aspect of God. She believes the conference is in total harmony with Christian beliefs and that witchcraft should not be seen as a threat, but embraced by Christianity.

TUCSON CHURCH OF CHRIST

(which is under the control of the Boston Church of Christ) has been active recruiting members, especially on the University of Arizona campus. This has many parents of college students and local pastors concerned. Dozens of calls on this cult have been received. There will be an updated report on the group in the Summer 1991 Servant.

UPCOMING C. A. F. EVENTS

First Evangelical Free Church Sat. May 11
4700 N. Swan, Tucson
New Age Movement 9:00 am

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Sat. May 18
8650 N. Shannon Rd., Tucson
The Media 8:00am

Casas Adobes Baptist Church Sundays
2131 W. Ina Rd., Tucson
Understanding the Occult and the
New Age Movement 5:15pm.
Classes held every Sunday night until May 26.