

# The SERVANT

Newsletter of the Christian Awareness Fellowship, Inc. Volume II Issue 97

## HEAVEN'S GATE UFO CULT

By Scott Ladd

*"An 'away team' from an Evolutionary Level Above Human, an 'Admiral,' and His 'Captain' and crew, during the 1920's to 1950's picked and prepped the human bodies which they would wear for the task we are about to describe. They came into those bodies in the 1970's - the Admiral and Captain first. They began rounding up their crew in '75 and assisting them in the process of entering and taking charge of their own assigned human bodies."<sup>1</sup>*

Does this sound like George Orwell or Arthur C. Clarke? For many, the above might bring to mind the far-fetched, science fiction stories like, "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." To some, in a group known as, "Heaven's Gate," the idea of gender-less, yet physical, extra-terrestrial beings preparing human bodies as hosts in order to accomplish some higher goal was not so much a fable as it was their faith. Wednesday, March 26th, 1997 marked the gruesome discovery of the consequences of that of faith.

During the preceding days, in a mansion located in Rancho Santa Fe, California, twenty-one women and eighteen men methodically committed mass suicide. It is believed that those involved died from a combination of suffocation and drug and alcohol overdose, and that these deaths occurred in three groups, the latter ones assisting the earlier ones. For

those who have seen the aftermath, it is impossible to see any logical reason behind this sort of action. For the thirty-nine men and women who died, apparently there was a crystal clear reason: their time had come.

The group, "Heaven's Gate," was hopeful of passing from this earthly life, to what they called the "next level" or, "the evolutionary level above human." They spoke of leaving this body, or "vehicle," and being joined to other, more evolved beings in a space ship, thus advancing to the next level in their evolution. They had

also hoped that this transition would take place without physical death and especially without the unfortunate use of suicide, which they referred to as, "evacuating their bodies." Sadly, this was not the case. What could possibly have been the rationale behind the belief that space ships could assist a person to the next level of some cosmic evolution?

Although many readers may never have heard of "UFO Cults" or "Heaven's Gate" prior to this recent chain of events, this group has been

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

When God confounded mankind's languages at Babel He didn't just change the words. There are cultural, linguistic, and other influences which affect the way languages translate from one to another. Consider some of the bloopers businesses have encountered in developing their international markets:

In China Coca Cola was first translated, "bite the wax tadpole" or "female horse stuffed with wax," depending on the dialect. "Come alive with the Pepsi Generation" came out, "Pepsi will bring your ancestors back from the dead." Also in Chinese, KFC's "finger lickin' good" came out as "eat your fingers off." In South America sales were way down on the Chevy Nova until GM learned that "no va" means "it won't go."

Similarly, we can translate Scripture, but we don't always effectively communicate. For example, Don Richardson had to discover the tribal practice of chiefs exchanging a "peace child" in order to teach about Christ's sacrifice for sin. And in one tribal culture where the people are dark-skinned, their concept of "white" is the ashes from a fire which make them dirty. To them, making one's sins "white as snow" is to make them "dirty." In another culture, friends call from a distance; a thief will knock at the door. Mishandled, Revelation 3:20 makes Jesus a thief!

What many Christians in America fail to recognize is that there is more to understanding the Bible than just

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## Heaven's Gate

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in existence for more than twenty years. The leader and founder of the group, Marshall Herff Applewhite, who was identified as one of the thirty-nine dead, had become known as simply, Do, (pronounced "Doe," as in the musical scale). Do taught a philosophy in which more highly evolved beings would incarnate among humans to help an elite few take the next step in their own evolution.

According to Do, these evolved beings have visited earth on a few occasions, at approximately 2,000 year intervals, periodically and cyclically, most notably during the era of Jesus Christ and the Twentieth century. The visits allegedly coincide with the final age of a particular civilization. At the end of an age the civilization goes through a sort of "cleansing" in which the "plants [people] are spaded under," in preparation for another civilization to begin. This is seen as a natural recycling.

These beings then prepare human bodies in advance by "tagging" them - placing within them a "chip," a metaphor of computer genre, meaning a special knowledge concerning the "TRUTH." They will be the focus of later visits from more of these same, advanced beings. These "tagged" humans, upon leaving childhood and adolescence behind, are ready to move to the first level of their evolution, the metamorphic birth and "classroom." For a select few this can include incarnation of a higher being. This incarnation requires help from previously experienced, older members of "the evolutionary level above human." These members serve

as sort of a midwife.

During the time when Jesus walked the earth, Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, and Jesus' disciples were some of these "tagged" individuals. An evolved being supposedly entered Jesus at about age thirty, and began to show the way for those around him to evolve. According to Do, Jesus was the one to take those around him through heaven's gate. In this day and age Do is that "Way-Shower."

Those who evolve can rightfully be called God, according to Do. It is not clear whether those who evolve will meld with others and thus become a pantheon, or whether they will remain as individuals in a polytheistic age, but one thing is clear, Do does allow for the idea of a supreme one, a "chief of chiefs," so to speak.

According to Do, human beings fall into basically three categories. The first are considered merely animals or "plants." They are human bodies that did not receive the ability to discern "the truth." They have not been given a soul/deposit - they have not been "tagged."

The second group consists of those who have received soul/deposits and are receiving nourishment from representatives of "the evolutionary level above human," i.e., Do or Jesus Christ. This would include the small group of Jesus' disciples, and would also appear to be the majority of those who died in Rancho Santa Fe.

The last group of humans is those who have received soul/deposits, yet for various reasons are not involved in "classroom." The reason may be that they were unaware of the availability of this instruction, or that they simply rejected it and chose not to pursue it further.

If there could be said to be a

spiritual battle that humans are involved in it would be in this area. There is a struggle going on between the representatives of "the level above human" and the Luciferians over the humans with soul/deposits. Luciferians, sometimes called Satan, Fallen Angels and the like, are beings that occupy both outer space as malevolent space aliens, and underground bases as genetic experimenters. They are those who had a chance at the classroom during another civilization, but "flunked out."

These Luciferians masquerade as gods before humans in order to keep them away from the next level. Their followers are among the world governmental leaders, the very rich and the very religious. The Luciferian's message is peace among men, heaven on earth, a long healthy life in the human condition, all of which are said to be destructive to the evolutionary process. Luciferians are the ones who supposedly answer the prayers of Christians and those of other religions, as the next level "abhors" religion of any kind.

Do taught that these "lower forces," through their "norm" concept - what is "socially acceptable," what is "politically correct," would have you not believe in spirits, spirit possession, negative space aliens, Satan, etc. They would have you believe that to even dabble in these ideas is of the "occult," satanic, or at the very least, giving credence to "fringe" topics. That's where they would also categorize any mental search of Eastern religions, astrology, metaphysics, paranormal, UFOs, etc. In other words, they (these space aliens) don't want themselves "found

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## Heaven's Gate

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out," so they condemn any exploration. They want you to be a perfect servant to society (THEIR society of THEIR world) to the "acceptable establishment," to humanity, and to false religious concepts. Part of that "stay blinded" formula goes like this:

Above all, be married, a good parent, a reasonable church-goer, buy a house, pay your mortgage, pay your insurance, have a good line of credit, be socially committed, and graciously accept death with the hope that, "through His shed blood," or some other equally worthless religious precept, you will go to Heaven after your death.<sup>2</sup>

During the 1920s the advanced beings came to Earth to begin tagging bodies for future use, and they continued their work right up until the 1970s. They arrived in space ships and crash-landed, thus discarding their alien bodies, which were retrieved by the government and the military. During the 1970s the incarnations of Do and a female companion Ti (pronounced "Tee," her real name was Bonnie Lu Trusdale Nettles) began. According to Do, Ti is supposedly an older member and a sort of a "Father-like" guide for Do, akin to the relationship of Jesus and his Father. Do then began to seek other tagged humans that he and Ti could begin to instruct. They began a recruitment campaign in the 1970s. In light of the difficulty of this last mission, Do and Ti were task partners, something not necessary during the time of Jesus, as his Father remained in heaven.

During a nine month period spanning 1975 and 1976, Do recruited

a few followers to begin what would end up being an almost seventeen year underground "classroom." The type of people Do was looking for were described by him as "irresponsible, anti-social, duped, crazy, cult member, drifter, loner, drop out, separatist etc." Do felt that these were the traits that society would place on an individual, and would indicate that a person was "tagged." These types of people were more likely to be able to "fluff off" the human/mammalian characteristics, as a butterfly fluffs off its caterpillar ways. This process involves a human body or "vehicle" that is controlled by the physical mind, and therefore unable to accept "advanced concepts," being taken over by a soul/deposit in order to allow this soul to grow.

Eventually the soul/deposit will completely eliminate the human mind, which circuitry would be blown anyway, with such advanced knowledge. During this process the person forsakes all human ties, thinking, addictions, and gender behaviors. Some in the group choose to be neutered in order to have a "gender-less and objective consciousness." When the soul has completely replaced the mind, the next step in the evolutionary process is for it to "disconnect," or, "separate" from the human physical container. This is said to be done under the supervision of older members of "the evolutionary level above human," which are in a "mother-ship in the clouds."

After their seventeen year classroom experience, the Heaven's Gate followers emerged to begin another round of recruitment. In 1992 the group went on the air with a satellite TV broadcast entitled "Beyond Human - The Last Call." In 1993 they took out a one-third page ad in the USA Today paper entitled

"UFO Cult Resurfaces With Final Offer." By January of 1994 the group was ridding themselves of most of their worldly possessions in order to go on the road once again. This series of public meetings, known as the "second wave," lasted about three and a half months, and was an effort to get some of the previous dropouts to join up. The group then went back into seclusion in order to conduct another "metamorphic classroom." They resurfaced over a year later, September 25, 1995, operating the now well known, "Heaven's Gate" web site.

The desire for those in Heaven's Gate was to emerge from this classroom, ready to meet with their helpers from the next level, and to take the step to that next level. The recent arrival of the comet Hale-Bopp was a well-timed sign. The group saw this comet as a definite marker that their step to the next level was now at hand. For centuries comets have been associated with the births and deaths of great leaders and civilizations, all quite possibly coincidental. Hale-Bopp and its near proximity to the end of the second millennium has drawn quite the controversy, as seen with this group. Followers of Heaven's Gate had expressed the idea that while they didn't feel suicide was an alternative to be investigated, they did let their web site readers know that it was not beyond the realm of possibility.

We fully desire, expect, and look forward to boarding a spacecraft from the Next Level very soon (in our physical bodies). There is no doubt in our mind that our being "picked up" is inevitable in the very near future. But what happens between now and then is the big question. We are keenly aware of several possibilities... It has always

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## Heaven's Gate

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been our way to examine all possibilities, and be mentally prepared for whatever may come our way. For example, consider what happened at Masada around 73 A.D. a devout Jewish sect, after holding out against a siege by the Romans to the best of their ability, and seeing that the murder, rape, and torture of their community was inevitable, determined that it was permissible for them to evacuate their bodies by a more dignified, and less agonizing method. We have thoroughly discussed this topic (of willful exit of the body under such conditions), and have mentally prepared ourselves for this possibility (as can be seen in a few of our statements). However, this act certainly does not need serious consideration at this time, and hopefully will not in the future.<sup>3</sup>

Day after day many people fall prey to cults such as this one. They believe the lies, usually not told all at once, but little by little. Sadly, there may come a time when some of these followers will be in a position to believe a lie which will end their earthly life. One can often recall times that the insanity of one individual led countless followers to end their lives as the final step in their plan of salvation. Unfortunately for them, neither Jim Jones, David Koresh nor Marshall Applewhite was the true savior. Do and Ti are not Gods, and the Bible declares that the Gate of Heaven is opened only to those who have been redeemed by faith through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary. Marshall Applewhite and his devotees scoffed at the idea of receiving eternal life through the shed blood of Jesus.

## Power of Belief

by Duane L. Burgess

Like a pendulum swinging to extremes, the "Heaven's Gate" cult, having once been given little attention by anyone, is now being given serious attention by almost everyone. It's a tragedy, not only for the deceased, but for the families left behind. Or is it?

After all, they're not the only ones who have died for a cause. Consider protestors who douse themselves with gasoline and set themselves ablaze; the Kamikaze pilots of World War II; or suicide bombers who blow themselves up with their targets. What makes the Heaven's Gate suicide a tragedy? Videotaped statements of those who died made it clear they believed in and knew exactly what they were doing. It was an act of their own free will.

We consider this event a tragedy because our belief system holds to different values than those of "Heaven's Gate." We say their beliefs were peculiar, strange, and cultic. How can we be so certain that our beliefs are more correct than theirs? When considered objectively, we must

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### REFERENCES

1. Quotations from Heaven's Gate Internet web site.
2. *ibid*
3. *ibid*

**W**e must pay more careful attention, there-fore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. (Hebrews 2:1-3 NIV)

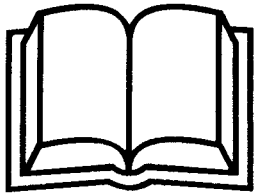
admit that each of us base our beliefs on something; but what is that something? Is it intuition? A gut feeling? An established religious system or political cause? What authority does anyone have to say, with certainty, that another's beliefs are wrong? Unless there is an absolute authority which declares to us what is true and what is not true, our beliefs, no matter how strong, sincere, or popular, are merely a matter of opinion.

We at CAF look around us, see what man has created and ask, what about the natural world? How did it get here, how long has it been here, and why is it here? What is reality? What is truth? We realize that to answer such questions we are totally dependent upon some form of revelation, otherwise we merely express an opinion. So, what revelation should we believe?

There are many people and groups who claim to know "the truth." We at CAF choose to believe the Bible. Its author claims to be the Creator who knows all things. And it testifies of one who fulfilled improbable predictive prophecies, who claimed to be God, who did things only God could do, and then died, rose bodily from the grave, and appeared to many witnesses.

Heaven's Gate is a tragedy, then, when compared to the picture of reality and truth given to us by God's Word, the Bible. The mass suicide of Heaven's Gate, like the deaths of those at Waco and Jonestown, is a vivid demonstration of the power of belief, and reminds us of Proverbs 14:12:

**There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**



# Book Review:

By Duane L. Burgess

## *ANGELS OF DECEIT*

*The Masterminds Behind Religious Deceptions*

People whose profession involves watching for counterfeit currency are not trained in the many counterfeits seized over the years. Rather, they're instructed to recognize the real thing. Likewise, the Bible exhorts believers to study, know, proclaim, and teach the Word of God, not to study false teachings. Besides, there are over 4000 cults and non-Christian religions. It's not possible to become experts in them all.

But there is some value in understanding a little about what a cult member believes to help communicate the gospel to them in a meaningful way. In such a situation CAF recommends *ANGELS OF DECEIT* as a handy reference. Richard Lee and Ed Hindson provide a good overview of the workings of various cult ideologies, including Christian based cults, Eastern Mysticism and Hindu based cults, New Age cults, Satanism, and the Occult; and they take a brief look at 15 false prophets, like David Koresh of the Branch Davidians; Jim Jones who perished with 900 followers in Guayana, Charles Russel (Jehovah's Witnesses), and Joseph Smith (Mormonism).

The place to start in this book is actually the last chapter: A Light in the Darkness. It gives an overview about the believers perspective on witnessing to people involved in a cult, or who believe non-biblical, cult ideas. Ten key ideas are presented

for witnessing:

- 1) Know what you believe.
- 2) Expect your witness to make a difference (God uses His Word).
- 3) Ask the Holy Spirit to convict them.
- 4) Understand what the cult believes and teaches.
- 5) Know the facts and stick to them.
- 6) Don't assume you know what the cultist believes.
- 7) Guard your motive for witnessing.
- 8) Share your personal testimony.
- 9) Be patient in your witnessing.
- 10) Leave something for the cultist to read.

Especially significant is the author's reminder to us of the nature of our witness to the cultist:

"It is not our ability to outthink, scheme, or maneuver the cultist that will bring him to genuine faith in Christ. Only the Holy Spirit has the power to do that. Only He can convict the mind and heart of the cultist to believe the truth of God's Word in a way that produces genuine, saving faith. Again, it is not our skill or ability to witness that wins the individual to faith in Christ. It is the power of the witness of the Holy Spirit who convinces men of their sin and their need of a Savior that draws them to a personal faith in Jesus Christ..."

The material is presented in two sections: the first addresses the Process of Spiritual Deception; the second features biographies of various false teachers and notes their key false teachings. The book is 254 pages and

includes a list of recommended reading, and notes several organizations which specialize in researching cults and religions. The authors are rather vague about their position on creationism, and present as valid several "testimonies" of direct demonic possession.

Richard Lee & Ed Hindson, *ANGELS OF DECEIT, The Masterminds Behind Religious Deceptions*, Published by Harvest House Publishers, 1993.

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reading it. Taken alone a brief passage of Scripture can interpreted as saying something different than the writer's intended meaning in context. Translating the Hebrew and Greek texts of Scripture is just the beginning of Bible study (II Tim. 2:15). It is important to make use of the excellent tools God has provided through the men and women He has raised up as Biblical scholars.

Scripture tells us that the lost do not understand spiritual things. That is why events like the "Heaven's Gate" suicide happen... people do not understand what is TRUE. They were absolutely committed to their beliefs, but their beliefs were in error.

We at CAF are striving to effectively communicate what God's Word says, and how it runs into conflict with the many cult groups and philosophies in the world. We are also concerned about how Scripture is taught within the Church whether by simple error, or deliberate deceit. We welcome your feedback, and your specific questions and topics you'd like to see addressed by CAF.

Because of the recent tragedy in California we are focusing our reports to present a discussion on the Heaven's Gate cult.

Duane L. Burgess

# It's On My Heart

CAF CHAPLAIN George Greene



A Christian friend asked me the other day, "Brother George, why did God let this thing happen?" I asked him what he was speaking about. He replied, "These people killing themselves in this Heaven's Gate thing."

"Let's sit down and talk about it," I said. "First of all, God is love. Second, God has done everything for man to have peace abundantly and life eternally."

Let's look at some facts:

Fact - The fall of man in Genesis 3, Adam disobeyed God.

Fact - Romans 5 explains that because of Adam's sin, sin passed to all men.

Fact - Man chooses to disobey God. This results in the separation of God and man (Isaiah 59:2).

Fact - Man rejects God's truth (II Thessalonians 2:10-11).

Fact - The cross is God's remedy for our sin (Romans 5:8).

"...So you see dear brother, when man rejects Romans 1:18-25, he puts himself into the judgment of his Creator."

After explaining all of these things, the dear brother replied, "God really loves man. Thanks for sharing this with me, but, Brother George, what can we really do?"

I replied, "Share this Good News with others. See what happens to people when they put their faith in man instead of the Almighty God?"

In His Service, Brother George  
(II Timothy 3:16,17)

## CAF, Inc.

The CAF annual Board of Directors' and business meeting met in April. Business discussed included elections, revision of By-Laws and computer upgrades. Election results-

**Officers:** President: Duane Burgess; Vice President: Scott Ladd; Secretary: Vacant; Treasurer: Gregg Winner; Chaplain: George Greene.

**Board Of Directors:** Duane Burgess, Tim Courtney,\* George Greene, Scott Ladd, Neil Martin,\* Gregg Winner.

\*New Members to CAF's Board.

There is no charge for receiving The SERVANT Newsletter, but your prayers and donations are appreciated! Bulk copies are available for distribution at your local church or organization.

## Back To Genesis

Dr. John Morris coming to Tucson

At a recent Back to Genesis conference in Calgary, Alberta, a "seasoned geologist came to Dr. Morris expressing grave doubts that Noah's flood could account for the geologic data. He was challenged to evaluate the creationist models as presented, asking, is it internally consistent and does it work?" Following a slide lecture on the evidence at Mount St. Helen's this geologists confessed that "he had seen the validity of the creation model and saw more clearly than ever the necessity of Biblical literacy."

See the evidence of the truth of God's Word about a literal Creation week. Dr. John Morris, III and his team will be in Tucson, Arizona for their "**Back To Genesis**" seminary November 7 and 8. Mark your calendar and be watching for more details!

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