

# The SERVANT

Newsletter of the Christian Awareness Fellowship, Inc. Volume 3 Issue 97

## It's On My Heart

CHAPLAIN George Greene



This has been a very rough and trying month for all of us at CAF. Our president is going through trial after trial. He has had problems with his car, finances, his roof on his house, and finding the right job to support his family. Our assistant librarian has been going through chronic back problems. Our secretary and head librarian is a concrete block layer. And, between car trouble and the heat of the Arizona sun, his energy is just about gone. One of our prayer partners is very sick. Another prayer partner's wife has been sick. My wife lost her mother this past May and I had to rush her up to New Jersey because her father fell, broke his hip, and had a heart-attack. I left her there with him after staying with her for eight days. Our computer technician has electrical problems with his car. The night before I got back to Tucson from New Jersey, I got a call saying that my sister was at the hospital. When the doctor's performed surgery to take out a tumor, they found that she was full of cancer and could not finish the operation. She passed into Glory on Friday at 7:45 a.m. My heart is not broken for what we are going through for we know that our God is with us. We hurt because the CAF ministry has suffered. We praise God for this month because it has helped us grow closer to each other. While we were at our weakest point, God's Spirit has done a mighty work. This year we have seen more souls coming out of the cults, by bringing them to the true light of God's word by the spirit of God in love. I want to thank the CAF staff for their faith allowing God to work through their weakness. We want to give God praise and thanks. For, He is the one who gives the increase. Pray for us. Love,

Brother George.

## THE CELESTINE PROPHECY AND THE TENTH INSIGHT

By Duane L. Burgess

"Celestine Prophecy Support Group based on best selling fiction self-improvement adventure novel." Thus ran the ad in the weekly advertisement newspaper, the Tucson Shopper, July 24, 1996. If I hadn't read it myself I wouldn't have believed it. The ideas and philosophies are being taken very seriously! The books, *The Celestine Prophecy*, and its sequel, *The Tenth Insight*, by James Redfield, have become extremely popular. The concepts presented in them are being integrated into conversation, and into many people's personal goals. Over five million copies of *The Celestine Prophecy* have been sold in forty countries, and it became a number one New York Times and national bestseller.

The books are basically a fictional presentation of the New Age world view in a quasi "Indiana Jones" format. In *The Celestine Prophecy*, an American travels south of the border to find ancient scrolls allegedly containing invaluable, spiritual wisdom. But he's hindered by local government and Church (Roman Catholic) officials who want to confiscate the scrolls and keep them from the public. In the end the message gets out. (It has to, of course. The future of humanity depends on it). The alleged spiritual wisdom of the scrolls is actually a form of spiritual humanism combined with evolution which promises a heaven on earth. The basic idea is that humanity is comprised of reincarnating, pre-existent souls whose mission is to remember, during their earthly life, what they knew in the Afterlife dimension, about their purpose and goal in the universe. Once enough people "remember" these spiritual insights, humanity can allegedly evolve to a new, higher spiritual level.

The problem is that fear and conflict hold us back. The mechanism for this evolution is based on a belief that the universe is energy. As energy levels increase there is advancing transformation. Thus when atoms first increased their energy levels the Big Bang occurred. Continued energy advancements produced what we know as Darwinian evolution. Now mankind supposedly has the capability of willfully advancing humanity to its next level of evolution through conscious, spiritual transformation.

As a story the books are rather weak. But the information and ideas presented are, at times, quite fascinating. It's not a blatant attack on Christianity; it's a clever counterfeit - a false spirituality promising health, prosperity, and personal fulfillment. There are many "noble" values found among these New Age ideas. But the overall philosophy is a blatant contradiction of Scripture.

In the first volume, author James Redfield presents "nine insights" which he says predict a massive transformation of society as people realize they are engaged in power struggles with one another, and begin to make changes. The end result, Redfield writes, will be a completely spiritual culture on Earth. "The insights don't undermine any of the church's principles. If anything it clarifies exactly what is meant by these spiritual truths." However, the philosophy is entirely evolutionary and New Age. There is no sin nor need for biblical salvation, and God is a universal force. As Redfield sees it, in the Middle Ages we lived in a simple world of good and evil, defined by the churchmen.

(CELESTINE continued on page 2)

But during the Renaissance we broke free. We knew there had to be more to man's situation in the universe than the churchmen knew, and we wanted the full story. Science didn't give us answers fast enough so we settled in to our modern work ethic which secularized the world and squeezed the mystery out of the world. The information now returning from the scientific method indicates that mankind is on this planet to consciously evolve. The first great shift will be where people receive intuitions of who they are and where they should be and they'll shift jobs in order to continue to grow. The next shift will be the automation of the production of goods. We'll work less to pursue our own truth in our free time. People will give us money for our insights so income will be secure. We'll discover the energy that comes from giving. When we give we receive in return because of the way energy interacts in the universe. Once we give constantly, we will always have more coming in than we could possibly give away.

#### THE INSIGHTS

In the alleged spiritual insights we find elements of truth but they are twisted and distorted.

The first insight describes A RENAISSANCE IN CONSCIOUSNESS. It says we feel restless and begin to recognize certain "coincidences" in our lives. As we take these "coincidences" seriously, we will begin to feel there is something more, something spiritual, operating underneath everything we do.

The second insight INSTITUTES OUR AWARENESS OF THE "COINCIDENCES" AS SOMETHING REAL. We see we've been preoccupied with material survival and focused on controlling our situation in the universe for security. We know our openness now represents a kind of waking up to what is really going on.

The third insight calls for A NEW VIEW OF LIFE. It says our physical universe consists of pure energy that somehow responds to how we think. Humans are unique in a world of energy in that they can project their energy consciously.

The fourth insight supposedly EXPOSES THE HUMAN TENDENCY TO STEAL ENERGY FROM ONE ANOTHER. People have personal conflicts because they feel depleted of energy and cut off. So they seek to "gain energy" by controlling others. However, this shortage of energy can allegedly be remedied when people connect with the higher source. The fifth insights asserts THE SUFFICIENCY OF ENERGY IN THE UNIVERSE. The universe can provide all the energy we need if we can only open up to it.

The sixth insight says WE MUST FACE UP TO OUR PARTICULAR WAY OF CONTROLLING OTHERS. It's largely an unconscious thing. We learned our control drama as children so we could get attention, and now we're stuck in it. We repeat it to gain energy. We must make it conscious to overcome it.

The seventh insight addresses THE PROCESS OF CONSCIOUSLY EVOLVING ONESELF. Supposedly dreams tell us something about our lives we are missing. Dreams, daydreams, and thoughts guide us. They present scenarios which might come to pass. Fear images must be stopped so positive images may come and eventually dominate. Staying in this magic flow is truly the secret of happiness.

The eighth insight reveals HOW TO RELATE TO OTHERS: AVOID BECOMING ADDICTED TO OTHERS. Children are said to be the end points in evolution that lead us forward. But in order to learn to evolve they need our energy on a constant basis, unconditionally. If the children outnumber the adults, the adults become overwhelmed and unable to give enough energy. As long as a child has an adult to answer questions, and has sincere attention, the child has no need to act out or show off. The child always has enough energy and assumes he/she will, thus easing the transition to getting energy from the universe.

In romantic relationships two people give energy to each other, unconsciously, and both feel buoyant and elated, "in love." They stop drawing energy from the universe and start relying on energy they draw from each other.

Since that energy isn't enough, they fall back to their life dramas, trying to control the other and gain energy: power struggles.

One problem is failing to integrate our opposite sexual side. The energy we can tap as an inner source is both male and female (yin/yang). If we fail to integrate it we connect prematurely with a human source for that energy, blocking the universal energy supply.

The ninth insight describes HOW THE CULTURE EVOLVES FORWARD. Humanity will voluntarily decrease our population so we all may live in the most powerful and beautiful places on earth. Many more will exist because we'll let the forests go uncut so they can mature and build energy. The means of survival will all be totally automated and at everyone's disposal. Guided by their intuitions, everyone will know precisely what to do and when to do it, and this will fit harmoniously with the actions of others. No one will consume excessively because we will have let go of the need to possess and to control for security.

Our sense of purpose will be satisfied by the thrill of our own evolution. Our natural pursuit of the truth will lead us to this new society. Fear lowers one's vibrations tremendously. A general rapture will not occur until we abolish fear, until we can maintain a sufficient vibration in all situations. The more beauty we see the more we evolve, thus the more we vibrate. Ultimately our increased perception and vibration (energy) will open us up to a Heaven that is already before us. We just can't see it yet. Writes Redfield, "Reaching heaven on earth is why we are here."

The first nine insights describe mankind's personal and collective spiritual evolution. How to implement these insights and fulfill destiny is presented in the second volume, The Tenth Insight. It reveals Earth's spiritual transformation from both the earthly and Afterlife perspective. The story presents a battle between industrialists and naturalists. Secret experiments are taking place in the Appalachian wilderness. A new form of energy has been developed which will dramatically reduce utility costs, and there are some people who want to control it for financial gain and power.

But their greed threatens the environment of the entire valley, so they must be stopped. The story was created to present the idea that while many people are moving forward in their spiritual awakening, there is a polarizing reaction of fear. The fear must be overcome for humanity to achieve its spiritual transformation.

The Celestine Prophecy and The Tenth Insight propose a way to find truth, peace, love, and fulfillment. But it's not the true way. Biblical Christianity is clearly compromised by the ten alleged spiritual insights presented in these two books. Redfield writes that all religion is about humankind finding relationship to one higher source. Religions become corrupted when leaders are assigned to explain God's will to the people instead of showing them how to find this direction within themselves. He says that Jesus is the one individual in history who grasped the exact way of connecting with God's source of energy and direction and became a lasting example that this connection is possible.

He increased his energy and vibration until he was light enough to ascend to a higher level, invisible to those at a lower vibrational level. That, Redfield believes, is crossing the barrier between this life and the other world from which we came and to which we go after death. This conscious, crossing over is the path shown by the Christ. He opened up to the energy until he was so light he could walk on water. He transcended death right here on Earth, and was the first to cross over, to expand the physical world into the spiritual. He showed the way. At some point everyone will vibrate highly enough so that we can walk into heaven, in our same form. Redfield's Celestine Prophecy presents a

heaven on earth, accomplished by man through willful manipulation of the cosmic energy of the universe. His god is a force, not a person, and there is no sin debt, so no payment is needed for redemption.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Duane L. Burgess

1997 saw the return of Star Wars. But did it ever really leave us? It has been a popular phenomena for 20 years. Maybe it's the special effects and futuristic genre; perhaps people relate to the concept of the Force. Star Wars creator, George Lucas, once told Time magazine that his film presented a religious idea - that god is both good and evil and it's better to be on his good side.

The New Age ideas presented in the Star Wars trilogy are all around us. Consider a recent personal experience: I am employed at a customer service company. I came in to work one morning and found a daily calendar page on my desk. It read, "I am precious, and I cherish who I am. I am a Divine Magnificent expression of Life, and I deserve the very best." That's a typical, worldly, motivational message, reflecting current self-esteem boosting philosophies. But it reflects more than positive thinking or a "winning attitude." It encroaches on the domain of the sovereign Creator. God alone is divine and we find our worth as a creation of God, and especially in having found redemption from sin by faith in Jesus Christ. We don't deserve anything, but we are privileged to be "blessed with all spiritual blessing in the heavenlies" (Eph.1). When we understand how great a sin-debt we owe we appreciate our undeserved blessings all the more. The believer's self-esteem is really Christ-esteem.

This is the broad way, claiming to be the path of Christ, which actually leads to destruction (Matt. 7:13). Let us not be deceived by false appearances of love and peace.

In this issue of the Sevant, we present a recent fad in the world's quest for meaningful spirituality. The "Celestine Prophecy" isn't a cult, but it has a cult-like following. It's basically another appearance of New Age philosophies: that mankind is destined to godhood through spiritual evolution which is under our own power to create. We hope and pray that you, as a student of the Word, will quickly recognize the difference between biblical Christianity and the Celestine False Prophecy. But we especially pray that you recognize how it is a subtle counterfeit of genuine, biblical spirituality.

We also hope that you will be prepared to communicate with those who you meet who are excited by the Celestine philosophies. We mustn't dismiss their ideas in righteous contempt. We need to be like the Apostle Paul who takes a pagan idea and uses it as a bridge to proclaim the gospel. In Acts 17:23 we read, "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."

The Celestine Prophecy proclaims New Age ideas and they are being propagated in homes and businesses in our communities. We need to engage these beliefs in a way that allows us to expose their fallacies and to present Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life.

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## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SON

By Duane L. Burgess

There has surfaced yet another testament of Jesus Christ. This one comes from Pulitzer Prize winning author, Norman Mailer. Publisher, Random House, says of the 1997 release, "In THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SON one of America's greatest living writers has brought us a remarkable book..." It's remarkable all right...it's remarkable God hasn't struck him down quickly. But then, God is longsuffering, enduring

much rebellion from sinful humanity as He works out His perfect plan.

The book presents a fictional account of the life of Jesus Christ presented in first person. In it Jesus is clearly a man whom God has chosen, and Mailer refers to him as the Son of God. But Mailer's Jesus cannot be considered true deity. He gives evidence of uncertainty, doubt, confusion, and even sinful weakness. "Jesus" makes bold, Scriptural statements yet secretly wonders if what he said is true. He loathes the

Gadarene demoniac. He declares that the Centurion's daughter isn't dead, but sleeping, and yet hopes it might be so. Mailer does present Christ resurrected, and seated at the right hand of God. But "Jesus" says the Father doesn't often speak to him. As for the progress of God's plan for humanity Mailer writes, "God and Mammon still grapple for the hearts of all men and all women. As yet, since the contest remains so equal, neither the Lord nor Satan can triumph." So much for the sovereign God of Holy Scripture.

( Gospel continued on page 4)

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THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SON opens with Jesus explaining why he is telling the story. He refers to his baptism, with the Spirit of God descending upon him, the Father's words of pleasure in him, and his temptation in the wilderness afterward. Then "Jesus" allegedly says, "While I would not say that Mark's gospel is false, it has much exaggeration. And I would offer less for Matthew, and for Luke and John, who gave me words I never uttered and described me as gentle when I was pale with rage. Their words were written many years after I was gone and only repeat what old men told them. Very old men...Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were seeking to enlarge their fold."

Thus begins the tragic blasphemies of Norman Mailer...not that we should expect honor for God from the lost. Actually, this story is just as we ought to expect, inasmuch as the lost cannot discern spiritual things. It errs both factually, and in dishonoring the triune God.

Mailer refers to "apples" from the tree in Eden that possessed knowledge of good and evil. However, the Bible refers to forbidden "fruit" of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, not apples. We still have apples. The tree in the Garden of Eden has long been gone. Apparently Mr. Mailer didn't read Genesis very carefully. Yet, there is much we can "learn" from Mailer's book. Did you know...Mary's message from the angel regarding her pregnancy never happened; the angel actually said very little angel actually said very little.

Three wise men worshipped the baby Jesus at the manger and warned Joseph to flee Herod. And Mary and Jesus never said anything about gifts of gold, frankincense or myrrh.

Regarding Jesus' temple teaching at age 12 he states, "I decided that if I had been given wisdom enough to speak to the wise men, that must have come from the spirits of those infants who were killed because of my birth."

Jesus had a serious fever at age 12 and forgot all his Father had told him about being the Son of God. When Jesus, age 30, mourned Joseph's death, he remembered.

Luke hated the Jews.

Jesus came to John the Baptist on a pilgrimage to confess his sins. He was surprised at the things John said of him.

In the wilderness Jesus recalled how Solomon had failed God. And God said therefore to Jesus, "I will not give you riches. And you will never tarry with a woman, or you shall lose the Lord."

At the marriage in Cana Jesus' first miracle was secret; Jesus never told his mother Mary that he was responsible for turning the water into wine.

Jesus never fed 5000; it was an exaggeration. He broke the loaves and fishes into miniscule pieces, personally put one of each on the tongue of each person, and they imagined it was a full meal. There were no leftovers.

And when Jesus told his disciples if he were killed he would be raised up in three days, he secretly wondered if he spoke the truth.

Such is the life of Jesus Christ, according to the imaginative mind of Norman Mailer. It is a story about a mere man, chosen and used by God, but not deity. And so, THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SON, is remarkable...remarkable how it differs so much from the plain reading of Scripture. Yet who knows how many ways the lost can distort spiritual truth? What really matters is that Norman Mailer, like each of us, has sinned. Now, will he repent?

### "BACK TO GENESIS" COMES TO TUCSON

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