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UNMASKED...

Benny Hinn

**Mystic, Magician
or Miracle Maker?**

PHILIP L. POWELL
NEIL RICHARDSON
SANDY SIMPSON

First published as separate articles in *Vanguard* magazine
and *Contending EARNESTLY for THE Faith* (CETF)

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Unmasked...

Benny Hinn

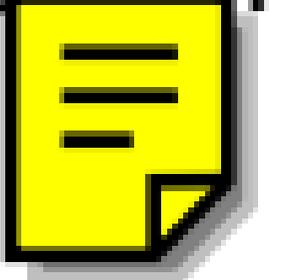
by

Philip L. Powell
Neil Richardson
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If you would like to know more



Preface

HERE are two major purposes behind the publishing of this book. One is to try to prevent you and other good people being deceived by the false teaching, claims and prophecies of Benny Hinn, who is documented as a person who tells lies¹. The other reason is to ensure that those high profile church leaders from countries such as Australia, New Zealand, UK and USA be called to account. They were warned against men like Benny Hinn yet have promoted his ministry.

With this in mind, in the main section of this booklet we have re-published verbatim articles and snippets that appeared in Christian Witness Ministries' (CWM) publications², with references to the editions and dates when they were first published³. They should be read with this stated reason in view.

“Nevertheless when the Son of man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?”

—LUKE 18:8
KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

“Now we beseech you, my brothers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you should not be soon shaken in mind or troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word or letter, as through us, as if the Day of Christ is at hand. Let not anyone deceive you by any means. For that Day shall not come unless there first comes a falling away, and the man of sin shall be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called

God, or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, setting himself forth, that he is God.”

—2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-4
THE MODERN KING JAMES VERSION (MKJV)

The Greek word “*apostasia*” (Strong’s 646) translated “*a falling away*” in II Thessalonians 2:3 is rendered “*forsake*” in Acts 21:21, which is the only other place where *apostasia* (transliterated in English as “*apostasy*”) appears in the New Testament.

“*And they are informed concerning you, that you teach all the Jews who are among the nations to **forsake** Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, nor to walk after the customs*” (Acts 21:21 MKJV)

The one refers to a forsaking of the law of Moses, while the other refers to a forsaking of the faith of Christ and is presented as the one great sign that we should look for prior to the return of our Lord. This is in total agreement with Luke 18:8 — “*...when the Son of man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?*”

Like the passage in II Thessalonians chapter two, which we have quoted above, we reveal the three sources of deception in the teaching of Benny Hinn — spirit, word and letter.

Mr Hinn has written a number of books, the most well known being *Good Morning Holy Spirit*, which, as we have documented on page 49, has been subject to revision due to proven lies and admitted false teaching contained in earlier editions. We implore you don’t be deceived by his writings nor by his preaching.

In our regular journal entitled *Contending EARNESTLY for THE Faith* (CETF) as well as in our magazine called *VANGUARD*, we have consistently pointed out the heresy and error that Benny Hinn has preached in his crusades and on Trinity Broadcasting Television.

¹ Refer *The Confusing World of Benny Hinn* — by Personal Freedom Outreach (PFO).

² *Contending EARNESTLY for THE Faith* (CETF) and *VANGUARD*. Join our subscription list at the CWM home page.

³ May be viewed also at CWM homepage www.christian-witness.org

His “word” is laced with deception.

Undoubtedly the most pervasive deception is that associated with spirit communication. Benny Hinn has been variously called a “spirit” freak and a mystic. He has claimed special anointing from the graves of two women whose ministry he admired — Amy Semple Macpherson and Kathryn Khulman, who he claims has appeared to him in vision form and with whom he has communicated since her death. In addition he claims angel visitation and the latest, as we have documented in the first section of this book, that Jesus Christ Himself is about to appear on the platform in one or more of Benny Hinn’s crusades. These fables are in part designed to attract followers.

It is a matter of major concern that leaders of churches, in their apparent pursuit of recognition and standing in their local, national or international community and to gain a large following, should vacillate from fad to fad with little consideration for the Word of God or the consequences of their fickleness upon the gospel and the Christian public. I recognise the dilemma associated with leaders admitting major mistakes, but fail to see that ignoring them and moving on to something else is any solution. In my view, that sort of attitude and action, only adds to the problem.

Some six years ago Andrew Evans, who was one of the first church leaders to invite Benny Hinn to Australia, sent me a note indicating that the Paradise AoG had withdrawn all of Benny Hinn’s videos and audios. I wrote to him and said that the action was too late. The horse had already bolted, through the promotion of Benny Hinn all over Australasia. He never replied to my letter. Following Mr Hinn’s alleged “repentance” it would appear that Mr Evans and the church in Adelaide reversed their decision as they have most certainly supported and promoted Benny Hinn since then.



Philip L. Powell
16 May 2000

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CHAPTER ONE:

A summary of the latest information on Benny Hinn

BY SANDY SIMPSON

About the Author...

Sandy Simpson is the son of a pastor of a church belonging to the Conference of Congregational Christian Churches (CCCC) of America, who became a missionary with the interdenominational evangelical Liebenzell Mission International of the USA in Micronesia. For more information on this faith mission visit: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Liebenzell_USA/homepage.htm

Sandy Simpson's home page is at: <http://pages.hotbot.com/family/ssimpson2846/index.html>

Sandy is Webmaster for *Deception In The Church*, which is an apologetics web site exposing the false prophecy and teaching in the New Apostolic Reformation or Third Wave (also called The River Revival) counterfeit revival movement out of Toronto, Brownsville A/G, Rodney Howard-Browne, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Rod Parsley, Joyce Meyer, Bishop Earl Paulk, Richard Roberts, Pat Robertson, Paul Crouch and many others.

If you want to recommend *Deception In The Church* apologetics web site to your friends just use the following link: <http://www.recommend-it.com/l.z.e?s=468540>

MY family taught and administered a Christian girls' school in Palau for 18 years, as well as doing church planting and evangelism. My father died in Palau in a boating accident while on his own during a storm. His body was never recovered.

Many were saved as a result of his ministry and many after his death. My mother continued to serve in the school. I attended high school at Faith Academy in the Philippines and then I went on to do Christian music for fifteen years with Sparrow Records, Meadowlark Records, Capitol Records all under the Ark Records label with Jeff Johnson.

We recorded and produced many albums. I also wrote and produced hundreds of commercial advertisement jingles and industrial and feature film scores during that time. I joined Liebenzell Mission USA with my wife Rose in 1989 and have been serving in Micronesia out of Guam as a guest-house manager, purchasing agent for 40 missionaries and four schools, doing evangelism and music, bringing conferences and speakers out to the islands, and many other things. I am now in Hawaii with my family and my mother. We live together and are doing bible studies for Micronesian islanders here.

We also produce a newsletter that goes out to key pastors and Christian leaders in Micronesia on a quarterly basis called “Pacific Waves”. I continue to do the discernment ministry web site here in Hawaii that I started in Guam in 1997 in response to the first group from Brownsville that came to the islands. The web site was started to give pastors in the islands a resource to help them with the issues facing them from the Third Wave onslaught of the islands.

My mother wrote a book about her early mission experience called “Walking The Waves” which is available from major booksellers. It details more about my family. We have been in mission work for 38 years. The Lord has given us many people to disciple and that is what we are doing ... especially following up on the graduates of the mission schools and their children. We have many contacts all over the Pacific Islands and we are doing whatever we can to teach them sound doctrine and preach the gospel.

I have attended and/or been a member of many churches in my life such as Conservative Baptist, American Baptist, Calvary Chapel, AoG, Congregational Christian Church (CCCC, not UCC), Southern Baptist, Independent Baptist, nondenominational churches, etc. We have churches from a wide variety of evangelical backgrounds that support our ministry, including the above denominations and more.

So I have a pretty wide view of what is going on in the church today. Our primary focus is the bible study groups we have with islanders from Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, the Marshalls, Palau, Yap, Guam and Saipan. We do a lot of visitation of the sick as many come here for medical help. We also travel in Micronesia and I am putting together a discernment conference with Mike Oppenheimer of "Let Us Reason" Radio Ministry for Hawaii, Guam and Palau in March 2001 with Dave Hunt, Bill Randles and Jewel van der Merwe.

The following articles are taken from *Deception in the Church* website:

Volume 5, Issue 2

DECEPTION IN THE CHURCH Newsletter 5/00

Dear All,

The feature article in this newsletter is an update on the "***Benny Hinn claims Jesus will appear physically in his crusades***" story we sent out a month ago. It contains transcripts and many audio clips as well as links to TBN Real Player clips of the "*This Is Your Day*" on TBN. Since I put the original story out Hinn has been making more and more outrageous claims. That there has been almost no hue and cry from the ranks of orthodox Christianity on the subject of Hinn's latest claims below shows the sorry state of the "Church" today. How much more evidence do Christians need to stand up for the truth? How many more millions of lives will Benny Hinn drag down to spiritual ruination before some Christian leaders make their voices heard loud and clear. From my vantage point, I only see a few discernment ministries laying their necks on the chopping block for the truth, and they do it ALL THE TIME! It's time for other Christian leaders to be counted on this issue. What Benny Hinn is doing is EXACTLY what Jesus Christ warned us about in Matthew 24:

At that time if anyone says to you, "Look, here is the Christ!" or, "There he is!" do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. So if anyone tells you, "There he is, out in the desert," do not go out; or, "Here he is, in the inner rooms," do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is

visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:23-27).

This is a call for the body of Christ to rise up and cast this wolf in sheep’s clothing firmly away from its ranks and call him what he is — a heretic leading a cult! We have a duty to warn people against the likes of Benny Hinn before those who do not know the Lord NEVER want to know Him ... and those that do shipwreck their faith.

If we do not stand against the likes of Benny Hinn and instead continue to call him “a brother in Christ”, I am convinced that we will be judged for being “ashamed of Jesus Christ”. I’ll take the word of the Lord Jesus Christ any day over the word of Benny Hinn.

“To seek unity with false prophets without challenging their errors leaves one’s own beliefs open to question. Those who defend heretics, even if they do not believe in their teachings, are guilty of lending credibility to their heresies, and will be held accountable to God for the souls that are destroyed as a result. It’s up to those that know the truth to defend the church against false teachers whatever the cost to unity or to personal benefit.”

*Al Dagar, Media Spotlight Special Report
“Latter-Day Prophets: The Restoration of Apostles and Prophets and the Kansas City-Vineyard Connection”, September, 1990, (p. 11).*

I believe God, in His grace and longsuffering, is allowing people like Benny Hinn to test true believers. While Hinn struts, postulates, makes up stories to grow his following, and collects obscene amounts of money to do “ministry”, he has lately “kicked it up a notch” and is doing exactly what Jesus warned us about, thereby proving beyond any doubt that he is a last days’ false prophet. I believe that God is allowing this last days’ test for Christians to see if they will love the truth or go running after myths. When He comes, will He find faith on the earth?

Benny Hinn claims: Jesus will appear “physically” in Nairobi, Kenya! benny-hinn.way (1.85 MB — © April 2nd, 2000 by TBN).

Here is a transcript of this clip:

“The hour is urgent. Many of you have known me for many years. But I am telling you right now, things I haven’t said years ‘n years ‘n years ago. I believe — hear this, hear this! I believe, that Jesus, God’s Son, is about to appear physically, in meetings and to believers around the world, to wake us up! He appeared after His resurrection and He is about to appear before His second coming! You know a prophetess sent me a word through my wife, right here, and she said ‘Tell your husband that Jesus is go’n to physically appear in his meetings.’ I am expecting to see, I am telling you that – I feel it’s going to happen. I, I, I’m, I’m careful in how I am saying it now, because I know the people in Kenya are listening. I know deep in my soul, something supernatural is going to happen in Nai – in Nairobi Kenya. I feel that. I may very well come back, and you and Jan are coming, to – Paul and Jan are coming to Nairobi with me, but Paul, we may very well come back with footage of Jesus on the platform! You know that the Lord appeared in Romania recently, and there’s a video of it! Where the Lord appeared in the back of a church and you see him on video walking down the isle? Yeah! Paul do you remember when I came on TBN years ago and showed you a clip of the Lord appearing in our church in Orlando, on the balcony on the wall? Yeah. You, you remember that? [Paul Crouch] Very well, I saw it! [Benny Hinn] That was ’80, 80 something, ’86, what – whatever. You know I always wondered why the Lord, why did He do that? Do you know why, now I look back? That was the beginning of the greatest move of God in our church. Because ’83, ’84, and ’85 were horrible years for me, horrible years. Eighty-six the blessings of God began, but they began with a – with this manifestation of the Lord’s face on, on the balcony, that stayed for eight weeks. Eight solid weeks! The Lord has done this in the past, but He is about to do it again, now hear this, I am

prophesying this! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is about to appear physically in some churches, and some meetings, and to many of His people, for one reason – to tell you He is about to show up! To Wake Up! Jesus is coming saints!”

— Benny Hinn, April 2nd, 2000

Benny Hinn claims: Jesus will appear “physically” on the platform with him. Benny repeated his claim that Jesus will be appearing physically at his crusade(s) about 10 minutes into his “*This is your day*” program dated April 20th, 2000 (Real Video). Thousands of people will allegedly see Jesus physically on the stage! Here is a transcript of the relevant portion:

“...the Lord spoke to her recently, and she called my wife and told her to tell me, that Jesus said to her, that He will appear physically on the platform in one of our crusades. She said, ‘Tell Benny, that the Lord told me, that He is going to appear physically, on the platform, and the crowds will see Him, on the platform’. Dear God my hair is standing up! It may very well happen in Nashville! ... Think, think about what’s going to happen when the people, thousands, she said thousands will see the Lord on the, on the, on the platform! Lord may it happen in every crusade this year in Jesus’ mighty name.”

— Benny Hinn, April 20th, 2000

Benny Hinn claims: Jesus will “visibly” appear in one of his crusades! At the beginning of the program, Benny again repeated his belief that Jesus would appear physically at the Nairobi crusade, and that He is now appearing to Muslims in his “*This is your day*” program dated April 21st, 2000 (Real Video). Here is a transcript of a portion of that program:

“You know, yesterday on the program I was telling you and the audience here that ... the prophetess, had sent me a word from the Lord, where she said that the Lord had spoken to her clearly, that, a, for me to prepare

myself, for the Lord is going to visibly appear, on the platform, in one of our crusades. I pray it'll happen in every crusade. But I have a feeling, I am just telling you honestly, I have even told some of our staff, when I go to Kenya, I am going to Kenya in just a few days from now, a million people will be in Kenya, Nairobi. I feel in my being it is going to happen there. So pray for us as we go to Kenya. I pray it will happen tonight, at the good Friday service in Nashville. I pray it will happen in every crusade.

—Benny Hinn, April 21st, 2000

Benny Hinn claims: Jesus appeared to a whole crowd in Africa! Again Benny repeats that Jesus will physically appear at his crusades on the “*This is your day*” program dated May 2nd, 2000 (Real Video, see six minutes into the program. Programs are recorded three weeks in advance, so this program was recorded before the Nairobi crusade.) Here is a transcript of the relevant portion:

“And I know, that I know, that I know, we are about to see the greatest manifestations of God’s presence ever! A prophetess named ... sent me a word recently and told me to get ready, to see, physical manifestations of Christ on the platforms in our crusades, that people will have visions of the Lord in the meetings. Those things have happened in the past, I know. In a Thialagua meeting one time in Africa, the Lord appeared to a — to the whole crowd! It is about to begin happening, I know it too! Expect it, to happen also, in your own home!”

— Benny Hinn, May 2nd, 2000

Benny Hinn claims: Ruth Heflin got an “audible” from the Lord. Here is an audio clip [29MARCH-CLIP1.WAV](#) (637KB — © March 2000 by Benny Hinn Ministries) from the “*This Is Your Day*” program of March 29th, 2000, when Benny apparently first announced that Jesus would appear at his meetings. This occurred about 10 minutes into the program. The RealVideo of this program

is still available from Benny Hinn's web site, but may be removed at any time, since his site no longer lists it: "*This is your day*" program dated March 29th, 2000. Here is a transcript of the clip:

"Let me tell you something. The Holy Spirit has already told me He is about to show up. And you know, oh, I gotta tell you this quickly, just before we go. I had a word of prophecy from ... Ruth Heflin, you know who Ruth Heflin is? Ruth prophesied over me back in the seventies and everything she said has happened. She just sent me a word through my wife and said the Lord spoke to her audibly and said that He is going to appear physically in one of our crusades in the next few months. Yeah, she—I'm telling ya—she said, the Lord spoke to her audibly and said, 'Tell Benny I'm going to appear physically on the platform in his meetings'. Lord, do it in Phoenix Arizona in the name of Jesus! And in Kenya too, Lord, please, Lord, in fact, do it in every crusade. In Jesus' name."

— Benny Hinn, March 29th, 2000

Volume 5, Issue 3

DECEPTION IN THE CHURCH Newsletter 9 May 2000

Dear All,

I know many of you are downright tired of hearing about Benny Hinn, but when I reviewed the recent "*This Is Your Day*" shows I caught something I thought I had heard before. The short article called "*Benny Hinn The Puppet Master—Jesus Christ allegedly serves as marionette to Benny Hinn, the puppeteer*" by Sandy Simpson, May 8, 2000 is attached. It speaks for itself. If you have been watching Hinn the last month or so you have noticed that his storytelling has reached new flights of fancy, and his blasphemy seems to mount up higher each day. I continue to call for Christian leaders to speak out clearly in denunciation of his "ministry". The time is now.

Why do I say that? Because with the advent of events like "Celebrate Jesus 2000" cementing the relationship between the Third Wave and the Roman Catholic Church, and other organizations who have

signed on with Rome such as Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship, Bill Bright of Campus Crusade, Pat Robertson of 700 Club, and 65 percent of the Lutheran church, the numbers of the apostate world church are growing everyday. Soon they will have too much power to be brought to task for their heretical teachings and ecumenical/interfaith alliances. People like Benny Hinn will soon not only not have to listen to rebuke, but will be able to put real muscle behind his curses on those who disagree with them. Lest you doubt this please make yourself aware of all the militant talk and prophecies in the counterfeit revival lately.

Wolves in sheep's clothing like Benny Hinn should have been dealt with many years ago. But now, because of the cowardice of most Christian leaders, true believers are finding themselves in the minority, and persecution is sure to follow. This is the last warning bell to "come out of her" and separate ourselves as a holy people unto our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In His hands, Sandy Simpson, missionary

P.S. Don't forget to visit the *Deception In The Church* web site for the latest in articles and news on the Third Wave and related movements at: <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/>

Benny Hinn the Puppet Master
Jesus Christ allegedly serves as marionette
to Benny Hinn, the puppeteer
by Sandy Simpson May 8, 2000

I always ask myself, while watching Benny Hinn lead thousands of pagans to believe in vain and millions of Christians to shipwreck their faith ... "How much further can he go?" Wasn't it bad enough for him to state that **Jesus Christ is going to appear bodily** on stage with Benny Hinn in direct opposition to what Jesus Christ said about His next appearance on earth?

"At that time if anyone says to you, "Look, here is the Christ!" or, "There he is!" do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. So if anyone tells you,

“There he is, out in the desert,” do not go out; or, “Here he is, in the inner rooms,” do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:23-27).

Well, hold on to your seats for more blasphemy! Laced with the usual myths and false claims of miracles came this new revelation on April 21, 2000 on Hinn’s “*This Is Your Day*” program. You may still be able to view the video of this program at: <http://www.bhmm.org/media/2000-4-21-56.ram>

Although Hinn’s site only archives the shows there for a month or so. Go to about 5 minutes into the program and watch from there. You can also listen to the audio of this tale of puppeteering here: www9.50megs.com/ditc/hinn42100.WAV

Follow along with the transcript:

“You know one of these days we may show you what happened in our church in Orlando when I had the church in Florida. I was preaching, I was actually ministering on a Sunday night to the sick when suddenly the people began screaming as the Lord’s face appeared on the balcony. We have it on video. The Lord’s face appeared on the balcony and what was so remarkable is right before that the same face appeared in the children’s church on a blackboard. And a little child sitting there with crippled legs was healed instantly. The teacher comes running down from the balcony screaming and shouting, the kids are all behind her, telling us how the Lord had appeared up there. And when she came running down that’s when the face of the Lord appeared in the main sanctuary. She was screaming, we all began screaming, and for eight weeks the Lord’s face was on that balcony, on the wall. And what was even more remarkable is that night, that Sunday night service when I was having a healing service, as I was speaking the mouth was moving. The mouth ... the Lord’s face was on the wall and you could see the mouth moving as I was speaking. And we thought, it was maybe, you know, it had to do with the

lights, you know just how we are all human beings, we're like Thomas sometimes who say "Is this for real?" And, and, and the next day, Monday, the lights were all out ... it was still there! Eight weeks later it was still there."

—Benny Hinn, *This Is Your Day*, April 21, 2000

Appalled as you may be, you may not realise that Benny Hinn has had prior experience with “manipulation” of Jesus Christ. Read this episode from Benny Hinn’s 1987, yet ever changing, personal testimony:

“Benny Hinn speaks of many other experiences given over the TBN network. For example, he said that the Lord was in front of him and when he moved his arm so did Jesus. When he moved his foot so did Jesus. This continued until they walked together and they merged becoming one. Incredible! This “Christianity” is more at home with New Age Occultic experience than with the Christ of the bible!”

(Benny Hinn, Personal testimony, July 1987 audio #A071987, Orlando Christian Center as cited in “Touch, Topple, Tilt” by Mike Oppenheimer, Let Us Reason, P.O. 683, Wahiawa HI 96786)

I continue to marvel that Christian leaders do not call Benny Hinn, who has been rebuked countless times by discernment ministries for his false teachings, what he is ... a heretic! He is a false prophet, a false teacher, a false Christ, and a liar all rolled into one, and this has been documented for years. Are we all to continue to act like he is our brother in the Lord?

This type of stuff is blasphemy of the highest order and, frankly, I am really fed up with it. But worse than the apostate condition of Benny Hinn and those who follow him is a lukewarm church that is apparently too scared to warn people away from Hinn. With each new Benny Hinn blasphemy many church leaders today, who are not standing up for the truth, are bringing themselves closer to judgment. Are they so ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ that they will not even defend His Almighty Name?

CHAPTER TWO:

Fire of Divine Judgement

BY PHILIP L. POWELL

The following article appeared first in CETF Volume 2.3, June/August 1996.

ONE of the worst things we heard during our time in Australia is that Benny Hinn, who is undoubtedly one of the most influential false teachers about the Holy Spirit in our day, is to be guest speaker at the national AOG Conference next year. Last year it was Rodney Howard-Browne with his mesmerism. Next year it will be Benny Hinn with his “magic coat”—the amazing “spirit” dispenser who taught that Eve was made to have children out of her side (apparently the birth canal fell with the fall!); that Adam could fly from planet to planet, swim like a fish and fly like a bird; that there were nine persons in the Godhead. Sadly AOG in USA “rolled out the red carpet” to Benny Hinn in spite of his admitted heresies.

Incidentally, since his repentance about teaching those things, his latest extra-biblical gaffe is that the Egyptians were not drowned in the Red Sea. They were crushed by giant ice cubes. It really is amazing stuff and makes you wonder how men like Benny Hinn can stay in Christian ministry, let alone be invited as guest speakers at official conferences!

CHAPTER THREE:

Benny Hinn Unmasked

BY PHILIP L. POWELL

The following was first published in the Australian edition of VANGUARD Issue 3, May 1998 as a lead-in to Neil Richardson's first article in the UNMASKED series.

Editorial Comment by Philip Powell:

Frequently when presenting the following and similar facts about Benny Hinn we encounter the statement: "Yes but Benny Hinn has repented and so it's wrong to dig up the past." However the bible position regarding serious sin (heresy is a serious sin) is that it carries consequences.

Furthermore the bible clearly teaches that true repentance results in a change of behaviour. We publish this article with a deep sense of compassion and concern, especially for the large numbers of Christians who are confused or deceived but also for Mr Hinn himself and for those who endorse, sponsor or promote his meetings. Those who deceive are frequently deceived themselves. We must look at the facts.

At no time, in our view, has Benny Hinn seriously been made to face up to the enormous damage that his false teaching has caused to individuals and to the body of Christ and so the problem is ongoing. We understand that his advisors, including charismatic church leader Jack Hayford persuaded him to make a public acknowledgment of some of his earlier false teaching, which he did. At that point, to all intents and purposes and in many people's minds, the matter ends. But is that the case from a biblical perspective? We don't think so.

Paul the apostle teaches that "*a little leaven leavens the whole lump*" (1 Corinthians 5:6 and Galatians 5:9). The first reference relates to immorality in the church and the second to false teaching

in the church. There is only one remedy “*purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump*” (1 Corinthians 5:7); “*that you will have no other mind*” (Galatians 5:10). If proper, biblical discipline is not instituted the matter will spread—in both cases viz in respect of immorality and of false teaching. And sadly that is precisely what has happened very widely in the church in both regards.

Church leaders who are guilty of immorality are all too frequently dealt with privately or “transferred” to another situation. The matter is “hushed-up”. The biblical requirements of public rebuke (1 Timothy 5:20) and evidence of repentance (Luke 3:7-8) are seldom invoked.

Cronyism and nepotism rule the day. Sometimes congregations are left with the impression that their pastor has suffered a nervous breakdown or “burn-out” when in fact he has been guilty of serious sin that should be dealt with openly, both for his own sake and for that of the people of God. Corruption at the top will ultimately corrupt the whole.

A similar situation pertains to false doctrine. It spreads—“*their word will eat as doth a canker (gangrene): of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred*” 2 Timothy 2. Interestingly Paul named the false teachers of his day, to protect the church. He would do the same now, if he were with us.

Benny Hinn has acknowledged that his hugely popular “*Good Morning Holy Spirit*” contained heresy. So what does he do about it? On the occasion of his acceptance into the AOG credentialed ministry in USA he said he would write another book to reflect his changed position. The end result is total, utter and absolute confusion. So now not only do you have heresy but you also have widespread confusion and it’s all because the proper, biblical remedy is not instituted.

By his own confession Mr Hinn is a heretic and therefore not worthy to occupy the position of a teacher in the christian church (c/f James 3:1-2). He should stop writing and preaching and put himself under discipline until he knows and understands what are the basic truths of scripture. Maybe he should enrol in a good bible school. Because

the book (and other material) containing the heresy cannot be withdrawn and because the heretic is not properly disciplined it is inevitable that further heretical teachings will proceed from Mr Hinn and that is exactly what has happened and will continue to happen—“*a little leaven leavens the whole lump*”. In this corrupting of the charismatic and pentecostal church the leaders who endorse or sponsor Benny Hinn must share the responsibility for what is happening.

It is now clearly established and well documented that Mr Benny Hinn practises necromancy, which is absolutely forbidden in the bible (see the CWM web site at <http://www.christian-witness.org> or order the book *The Confusing World of Benny Hinn* from CWM). Bad as this is, the matter is even worse. The above book alleges and provides undeniable evidence for the conclusion that a much younger Benny Hinn, in an attempt to establish a mystique and aura, has published downright lies and gross exaggerations about himself and his ministry. (The publishers of the above listed book were contacted by Hinn's lawyer requesting that they withdraw it. They refused.) Developing, in people's minds, a mystique about oneself by telling stories about supposed spiritual encounters or imaginary healings is a ruse employed by a number of so called ministers. Benny Hinn has used the device to great effect. Some of those who endorse him have been presented with the facts and the evidence, but they continue their support. In so doing they are themselves guilty of the huge deception that is taking place among God's people. We call on them to repent.

CHAPTER FOUR:

Benny Hinn Unmasked

BY NEIL RICHARDSON

This is the article that launched Neil Richardson's UNMASKED series, first published in the UK edition (Issue 1, October 1997) and then in Australasian edition of VANGUARD (Issue 3, May 1998): {REFER bennyhinn.html}

TWO of the scriptures to consider when dealing with this man, and others like him, are Galatians 1:7-8 “*There are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach any gospel to you other than the one we have preached to you, let him be accursed;*” and 1 Timothy 2:1 “*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men*”...

The main objective of this article, then, is to warn the body of Christ of false teachers and false teachings and to show from the bible how to “*cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God*” (2 Corinthians 10:5). The secondary aim is to move the reader to pray for people like Benny Hinn and those whom he influences, that the Lord “*who desires all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth*” (1 Timothy 2:4), may reveal Himself to them, and deliver them from the devil’s deception.

BENNY HINN: the man

Pastor of the Orlando Christian Center in Florida. Congregation: 12,000. Regular televangelist on Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) with programs like *This is your day*; *Benny Hinn, Praise-a-Thon* and *Praise the Lord* (PTL). Potential viewing figures: 16 million.

Author of blockbusting bestsellers *Good Morning Holy Spirit*, *This is Your Day*, *This is Your Day for a Miracle*, *Lord I need a Miracle*, *The Blood*, *Rise and Be Healed*, *Welcome Holy Spirit* and *The Anointing*. Sales:

upwards of one million (exceeding those of Charles Swindoll and James Dobson combined).

Born and raised in Israel, which leads many to believe that he has command of authoritative biblical Hebrew (he doesn't). He claimed his father was mayor of Jaffa (he wasn't).

“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets” (Luke 6:26).

What is he up to and with whom does he associate?

He appeared at Earls' Court, London in August 1996 with international evangelist Morris Cerullo and Kensington Temple (London) pastor Colin Dye among others, where he made claims of bringing a greater revival to England than it has ever seen (one that the apostles Peter and James wish they could be at), in which the houses of parliament and Buckingham palace would be shaken. He also relieved the very willing audience of a vast amount of cash (in buckets), assuring the people that they would receive a great (financial) reward, physical healing, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, deliverance from the devil, and so on. The author of this piece was present and can testify in truth that what characterises Benny's crusades is not the gospel but GREED—*“Men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself”* (1 Timothy 6:5).

The Lord Jesus Christ, His cross, sin, repentance and faith were not mentioned. There was no prayer. The bible was not read, except random verses to back up monetary extortion. Most of the talk was at the devil and not to God.

In a crusade conducted in Rome in late 1996 he so incensed his Pentecostal promoters by his public support of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church that the interpreter refused to interpret his preaching, the musical group refused to perform and later the sponsors signed a declaration of non-association with Benny Hinn, indicating that they would never invite him to Italy again. The Italian Assemblies of God had previously refused to be involved in the crusade.

At the 1997 National Assemblies of God Conference in Adelaide Benny Hinn again eulogised the Pope and told of his meeting with Cardinal Sin of the Philippines and their private agreement that Sin would promote Hinn and that Hinn would encourage Roman Catholics to return to and remain in their Catholic faith and church. Notwithstanding these facts prominent AOG leaders in Australia and New Zealand continue to support, endorse and sponsor Benny Hinn's visits to Australasia.

In 1991, Benny Hinn commissioned Rodney Howard-Browne to be the "laughter dispenser" in the so-called new wave of the Holy Spirit:

"Rodney, God has given you a great anointing for this. Let the holy laughter hit them in Jesus' mighty name...it's coming [zaps him].... Pick him up. Now release it on the people, Rodney!"

[Rodney replies] **"Be filled right now. In the name of Jesus, I command you to laugh right now. I loose the joy of the Lord right now. In the name of Jesus, let it bubble out of your belly right now in Jesus' name. Let the joy of the Lord bubble out of your belly. Lord make everybody drunk in the Holy Ghost. Make everybody drunk in the Holy Ghost. In the name of Jesus [repeated 10 times]....Double dose!"** [Pushes people over, weird tongues with no interpretation, etc.] (See clip from *A Plague in the Land* video by Alan Morrison; available from CWM).

Mr Hinn is ordained by the International Convention of Faith Churches and Ministers, the chief proponents of which are Kenneth Hagin and Kenneth Copeland. He is also fully endorsed by Oral Roberts of the same stable. He has said, "I no longer believe the faith message" (*Christianity Today*, October 1991), but he continues to staunchly defend the tenets of this group, which stresses "positive confession" and health-and-wealth prosperity teachings: "Those who attack confession are on the devil's side." (Benny Hinn, TBN, 8th June 1992.) Here is a quote that shows his advocacy of their peculiar "you are gods" heresy:

“Now are you ready for some real revelation knowledge? Okay. Now watch this: He laid aside His divine form...so one day I would be clothed on earth with the divine form. Kenneth Hagin has a teaching. A lot of people have problems with it. Yet it is an absolute truth. Kenneth Copeland has a teaching. Many Christians have put holes in it, but it's divine truth. Hagin and Copeland say: You are god. Ye are gods. “Oh! I can't be god.” Hold it. Let's bring balance to this teaching. The balance is being taught by Hagin. It's those that repeat him that mess it up. The balance is being taught by Copeland, who is my dear friend, but it's those that repeat what he says that are messing it up. You see there brother? When Jesus was on earth, the bible says that first He disrobed Himself of the divine form. He, the limitless God, became a man, that we men, may become as He is.”

(Our Position in Christ, Orlando Christian Center, 1990.)

For approximately two years Benny Hinn was a certificated minister of Assemblies of God in USA. The writer of this piece viewed the video tape of the service where he was interviewed and accepted by the relevant presbytery. Hinn indicated that he wanted to accept discipline and supervision. General Superintendent Trask seemed to bend over backwards and to bend all the rules to accommodate him as a special case person. Within two years, for reasons that have not been disclosed, the association was severed. If Hinn was expelled the matter should be made public. If he withdrew then the reasons should be given. What is there to hide?

Benny Hinn is a kingpin of the Toronto movement, particularly considering his influence on John Arnott, pastor of the then Toronto Airport Vineyard (TAV): “John is very close friends with Benny Hinn which gives an indication of what his priorities are in terms of the Holy SPIRIT” (*Alpha magazine*, September 1994). Arnott confesses his own inexplicable non-susceptibility to Benny's anointing:

“I’d probably had Benny pray for me 50 times, trying to give me what he had (John hadn’t received the anointing until November 1993). I was never sure if I fell down (everything happened so fast) or that the catchers behind me just grabbed me and pulled me back or if he [Benny] hit me so hard on the forehead that he knocked me down, or whether I just wanted it so bad that I just sort of fell over because that was what was expected of me and I’d been kind of lying there on the floor thinking to myself—“I don’t know if I fell or anything, you know. I don’t want to make this up, or you know, hype it or anything in any sense of the word. I might as well just get up from here, not in touch with the fact that I was really receiving things of God whether I believed it or not.”

(Audio clip in A Plague in the Land video by Alan Morrison.)

When it comes to style, however, Hinn gravitates towards such faith healers as Aimee Semple Macpherson and Kathryn Kuhlman. The influence of these women on Hinn’s life and ministry is so great that he still visits their gravesites and experiences “the anointing” which he claims emanates from their bones. In addition, Hinn has given his endorsement to notorious revivalist A.A. Allen, a huckster if there ever was one” (*Christianity in Crisis*, Hank Hanegraaff, 1993, p30; ref. Double Portion Anointing#3 audio & *Praise the Lord*, TBN, 16th April 1992).

“Just before Christmas in 1973, I attended one of Kathryn Kuhlman’s healing services. That night the Holy Spirit came into my room, and for the first time I entered into a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit that transformed my life. Afterwards, when I ministered, the power of God descended and miracles began to happen,” says Hinn on his internet homepage. (Note that he does not say that he repented of his sin and put his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Benny Hinn’s “Holy SPIRIT” is an interesting entity which seems to operate quite independently from God the Father or God the Son.) Kuhlman is clearly then the formative stylistic influence on Benny’s behaviour. Unfortunately “one eighty-five year old woman

who had come forward for a healing touch from Benny Hinn died after someone slain in the Spirit fell on her, fracturing her hip. The woman's family filed a five-million dollar lawsuit against Hinn in the incident" (*Charismatic Chaos*, John MacArthur, Jr., 1992; ref. Elderly Woman Killed by a Person "slain in the SPIRIT" falling on her, National & International Religion Report, September 21, 1987).

BENNY HINN: his teachings vis-a-vis the Word of God
■ The deity of Christ, and the perfection of His nature vs His demotion to a Spirit-filled man capable of sin.

BENNY'S IDEAS:

"Had the Holy Spirit not been with Jesus, He would have sinned" (*Good Morning Holy Spirit*, first edition, 1990, p135);

"Jesus knew the only way He would stop Satan is by becoming one in nature with him" (Benny Hinn, TBN, 15th December 1990).

"Before He died, I should say, on that cross, something happened to Him which began the wheels of the new creation moving that was this: He died spiritually! Jesus Christ understood that spiritual death is union with the satanic nature. What is spiritual death? Separation from God" (*New Creation in Christ* sermon, late 1988).

WORD OF GOD:

Philippians 2:6 "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God"

Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature"

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Mark 2:5-7 "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there was certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts. Why doth this

man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?"

Luke 4:12 "And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

John 10:30 "I and my Father are one."

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

■ The Trinity: Three or Nine?

BENNY'S IDEAS:

"Each one of them is a triune being by Himself...there's nine of them" (Benny Hinn, TBN, 3rd October 1990).

"God the Father is a person separate from the Holy Ghost. Totally separate. ...Do you know that the Holy Spirit has a soul and a body separate from that of Jesus and the Father? ...God the Father then is a triune being within Himself. He's a person, He has His own Spirit, He has a soul. A soul is my intellect. God thinks separate from the Son and separate from the Holy Ghost. God the Father is a separate individual from the Son and the Holy Ghost, who is a triune being who walks in a spirit body and He has hair, has eyes, has a mouth, has hands" (Orlando Christian Center, October 13th 1990).

WORD OF GOD:

Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"

1 Corinthians 8:6 "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

1 John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD"

■ Man's dominion over creation:

BENNY'S IDEAS:

"Adam was a super-being when God created him. ...The scriptures declare clearly that he had dominion over the fowls of the air...which means he used to fly. ...Adam not only flew, he flew to space. He was—with one thought he would be on the moon" (*Praise the Lord*, TBN, 26th December 1991).

WORD OF GOD:

Job 10:9 "Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?"

Job 39:26-27 "Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south? Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?"

1 Corinthians 15:39 "All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds."

■ Sinful nature of man: versus the supposed deity of man ("ye are gods" heresy)

BENNY'S IDEAS:

"You say, 'Benny, am I a little God?' You're a son of God, aren't you?...What else are you? Quit your nonsense!...If you say, 'I am', you're saying you're part of Him, right? Is He God? Are you His offspring? Are you His children? You can't be human! You can't! You can't!" (*Our Position in Christ #2*, 1990, audiotape, sd2)

"When you were born again the Word was made flesh in you. And you became flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. Don't tell me you have Jesus. You are everything He was and everything He is and ever shall be... Don't say, 'I have', say, 'I am, I am, I am, I am, I am'." (ibid.)

"When you say, 'I am a Christian,' you are saying, 'I am mashiach,' in the Hebrew. I am a little messiah walking on earth, in other words. That is a shocking revelation. ...May I say it like this? You are a little god on earth running around" (*Praise-a-Thon*, TBN, 6th November 90)

"In my case, I know I have lost complete desire for anything to do

with the world. My worldly desires are gone....I no longer have any rebellion in me.” (*The Anointing*, p177-8.)

“SO, I’M BENNY JEHOVAH!” (Spiritual warfare seminar, May 2 1990).

“Say after me: ‘Within me is a God-Man.’ Say it again. ‘Within me is a God-Man.’ [Congregation repeats.] Now, let’s say even better than that. Let’s say, ‘I AM A GOD-MAN.’ ‘This spirit man within me is a God-Man’. ‘Say ‘I’m born-of-heaven-God-Man. I’m a God-Man. I’m a sample of Jesus. I’m a super being’.” (*Praise the Lord*, TBN, December 6 1990).

‘God came to earth and touched a piece of dust and turned it into a God. Are you a child of God? Then you’re divine! Are you a child of God? Then you’re not human!’” (TBN, December 1, 1990).

“When I stand in Christ—I am one with Him; united to Him; one spirit with Him. I am not, hear me, I AM NOT PART OF HIM, I AM HIM! THE WORD HAS BECOME FLESH IN ME! When my hand touches someone, it’s the hand of Jesus touching somebody” (Our Position in Christ).

“I [Jesus] loved you enough to become one of ya! And I love you enough to make you one of me.” (TBN, December 1 ’90).

WORD OF GOD:

Psalms 25:11 “For thy name’s sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”

Romans 7:18-21 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.”

Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us”

James 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

1 John 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Mark 12:32 “And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he.”

■ The effect of words

BENNY'S IDEAS:

“The Devil can kill with words, then you with your words can bring life” (*Praise the Lord*, 1 June 1989); “Words create reality” (Benny Hinn, TBN, 29th June 1992).

“If you say it, I’ll do it.”

“That’s what God says. So when you confess it you are activating the supernatural force of God. Do you know that confession activates heaven? Confession releases the spirit world. Words activate heaven” (*Praise the Lord*, Dec 6th, 1994).

“Violent faith. I think the time has come to take what is ours aggressively” (TBN, Sept 26, 1994).

WORD OF GOD:

Job 13:5 “O that ye would altogether hold your peace! And it should be your wisdom.”

Job 16:3 “Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?”

Job 38:2 “Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?”

Psalms 12:3-4 “The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things. Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?”

Proverbs 10:19 “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”

Ecclesiastes 5:7 “For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.”

■ Health...

BENNY’S IDEAS:

There will be no sickness for the saint of God” (*Rise and Be Healed!*, 1991, p14); “He promises to heal all—everyone, any, any whatsoever, everything—all our diseases! That means not even a headache, sinus problem, not even a toothache—nothing! No sickness should come your way” (ibid., p32); “God’s greatest desire for the church of Jesus Christ...is that we be in total and perfect health” (ibid., p65); “If your body belongs to God, it does not and cannot belong to sickness” (ibid., p62); “Hundreds of verified healings and thousands of conversions have occurred including people rising from wheelchairs and leaving crutches. Several blind eyes and deaf ears have been opened and verified’ (*The Anointing*, 1992, pp94-95).

WORD OF GOD:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

Matthew 25:36 “Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.”

2 Timothy 4:20 “Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.”

Philippians 2:26-27 “For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.”

■ ...and Wealth

BENNY'S IDEAS:

“The Lord giveth and never taketh away. And just because [Job] said, ‘Blessed be the name of the Lord,’ don’t mean that he’s right. When he said, ‘Blessed be the name,’ he was just being religious” (Benny Hinn, TBN, November 1990); “Years ago they used to preach, ‘we are going to walk on streets of gold’ I would say, ‘I don’t need the gold up there. I’ve got to have it down here’” (*Praise-a-Thon*, TBN, 2nd April 1991).

“The wicked are piling up the funds and I love the way John [Avazini] teaches on this. He’s the best there is on how to get the wealth of the wicked. Man, I like it!” (*Praise-a-Thon*, TBN, 6th November 1990.)

“Poverty is a demon. God had to show me a vision of a demon literally to prove this to me. All at the same time when Oral Roberts came to tell me what he told me about believing God for my harvest. All at the same time, I had a vision in my bedroom. I was asleep and woke up and right in front of my face I saw a devil. You say, “You saw it?” Yes, sir, I did. If you have troubles with it, that’s your problem. And that thing was mocking me in my bedroom. And the Lord spoke and said to me, “That is the demon of poverty.” I didn’t think there was such a thing. And the Lord said, “Now, rebuke it.” I sat up in bed and said, “I rebuke you.” The Lord stopped me and said, “That’s not the way you rebuke. You rebuke with My Word.” And suddenly out of my mouth, scriptures began flying out about the blessings of God. That demon vanished out of my sight and from that day till now, there’s been blessings on my life.” (TBN, 1990).

“We are going to believe that in one year you’ll be out of debt. Now, that’s in the bible! Genesis 26 states that Isaac sowed in famine and reaped in that same year. It says that he got a harvest that same year! If you want a harvest this year, it’s gonna happen. I was out of debt in one year” (*Praise-a-Thon*, TBN, April 1990).

“Say after me, all of you, everybody say it, ‘The wealth of the wicked is mine.’ [The audience repeats.] One more time. [The audience repeats.] One more time.” [The audience repeats.] (ibid.).

WORD OF GOD:

Job 1:21 “And said, Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

1 Samuel 2:7 “The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.”

Job 21:13 “They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?”

Job 31:24 “If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence; If I rejoice because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much; If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness; And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand: This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.”

Psalms 37:16 “A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.”

Psalms 52:7 “Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.”

Psalms 73:12 “Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.”

Proverbs 10:2 “Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.”

Proverbs 11:4 “Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.”

Proverbs 11:28 “He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.”

Proverbs 13:7 “There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.”

Proverbs 21:6 “The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.”

Proverbs 23:4 “Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.”

Proverbs 23:5 “Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.”

Proverbs 28:20 “A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.”

Proverbs 28:22 “He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.”

Proverbs 30:8 “Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me.”

Ecclesiastes 5:10 “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”

Jeremiah 5:28 “They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.”

Jeremiah 17:11 “As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.”

Micah 6:12 “For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.”

Zephaniah 1:18 “Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”

Matthew 6:19 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal”

Matthew 13:22 “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”

Matthew 19:21 “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.”

Matt 19:23 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Luke 6:24 “But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.”

Luke 12:15 “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

1 Timothy 6:5-10 “Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

“And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

James 1:11 “For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.”

James 5:1 “Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.”

■ Treatment of enemies

BENNY’S IDEAS:

“Those that put us down are a bunch of morons” (*Praise-a-Thon*, TBN, November 1990); “Somebody’s attacking me because of something I’m teaching. Let me tell you something, brother: You watch it! ...You know, I’ve looked for one verse in the bible; I just can’t seem to find it. One verse that said, “If you don’t like them, kill them.” I really wish I could find it! ...You stink frankly—that’s the way I think about it! ...Sometimes I wish God will give me a Holy

Ghost machine gun; I'll blow your head off" (*Praise-a-Thon*, TBN, 8th November 1990); "The Holy Ghost is upon me....The day is coming when those that attack us will drop down dead.... Don't touch God's servants; it's deadly... Woe to you that touch God's servants. You're going to pay" (Miracle Invasion Rally, 22 Nov 91).

"Now I'm pointing my finger with the mighty power of God on me. You hear this: There are men and women in Southern California attacking me. I will tell you under the anointing now, you'll reap it in your children unless you stop. And your children will suffer. You're attacking me on the radio every night—you'll pay and your children will. Hear this from the lips of God's servant. You are in danger. Repent! Or God Almighty will move His hand. Touch not my Anointed." (World Charismatic Conference, 7th August 1992.); "You have attacked me, your children will pay for it." (TBN, Oct 23, 1992.)

"That got me so angry—if I could have killed him, I would have" (Orlando Christian Center, Aug 12th 1992).

"Now I'm going to tell you that God prophetically is showing us in the Psalms, that the body of Jesus Christ in America will sooner or later become militant, and say: "We've had it! You touch us one more time and, DROP DEAD BROTHER" (ibid.).

"If you pray, 'get 'em,' nothing can prevent that from happening, but God has allowed enough grace that you can say, "Lord forgive them," and God will not allow anything to happen to them; it's really up to you. God has given you the choice whether He should judge them or not; it's in your hands" (ibid.).

"You don't know the scriptures! You forgive them only when they know not what they do. I pray that in my own prayer time; I said, "Lord, don't forgive them, let 'em have it" (ibid.).

WORD OF GOD:

Titus 3:2 "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men."

1 Peter 3:9 "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."

Luke 6:35 "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend,

hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.”

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”

Romans 12:19-20 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.”

Proverbs 10:11 “The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.”

Psalms 50:6 “And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.”

Matt 5:39 “But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

Mark 11:25 “And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

■ The Sovereignty of God

BENNY'S IDEAS:

“God told Abram He couldn't touch this earth till a man gave it back to Him” (World Charismatic Conference, 7th August 1992); “Never, ever, ever go to the Lord and say, “If it be thy will....” Don't allow such faith-destroying words to be spoken from your mouth” (*Rise and Be Healed!*, 1991, p47-48).

WORD OF GOD:

Numbers 11:23 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD's hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.”

Deuteronomy 32:39 “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.”

1 Chronicles 29:11 “Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.”

2 Chronicles 20:6 “And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?”

Job 9:12 “Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?”

Job 42:2 “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”

1 Cor 10:26 “For the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.”

Matthew 26:39 “And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

James 4:15-16 “For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.”

■ The Resurrection

BENNY’S IDEAS:

“Jesus was born again [in hell]” (*Our Position in Christ #1*, ‘91, audio).

WORD OF GOD:

John 11:25 “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”

■ The Work of the Holy Spirit

BENNY’S IDEAS:

“Let me explain that many times I wasn’t aware of His presence. I knew He was with me, but I became so accustomed to Him that I did not feel the electricity of those special times. But other people felt it. Many times when my friends came to see me, they began weeping because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. I was lost once again in the anointing of God’s spirit. Then I heard Jim honking the horn. As I ran down the stairs and to the car, I actually felt the Lord’s

presence running with me. The moment I jumped into the front seat and shut the door, Jim began to weep. He began to sing that chorus, Hallelujah! Hallelujah! He turned to me and said, “Benny, I can feel the Holy Spirit in this car?” “Of course His presence is in this car,” I said. “Where else would it be?” To me it had become the norm. But Jim could hardly drive. He continued to weep before the Lord. Once, my mother was cleaning the hallway while I was in my room talking with the Holy Spirit. When I came out, she was thrown right back. Something had knocked her against the wall. I said, “What’s wrong with you, Mama?” She answered, “I don’t know?” Well, the presence of the Lord almost knocked her down. My brothers will tell you of the times they came near me and didn’t know what was happening—but they felt something unusual.” (*Good Morning, Holy Spirit*, Word Publishing, 1990, pp.41-42.)

“Once, in England, I was staying in the home of a Christian family. My room was at the very top of the house. One evening I was lost in the Spirit, having the greatest time in the world talking to Him. The woman of the house called up, “Benny, supper is ready.” But I was bubbling over and didn’t want to leave. She called again, “Supper is ready.” And as I was about to leave, I felt someone take my hand and say, “Five more minutes. Just five more minutes.” The Holy Spirit longed for my fellowship.” (*ibid.*, p56.)

“Instantly, the power of God hit the place. People began to cry and many fell to the floor. I tried to turn the service over to the fellow who was leading the meeting, hoping he would come and take the service out of my hands. But as I turned and pointed toward him, he fell backward several feet. I was trying to get him to come close and suddenly he was farther away.” (*The Anointing*, p.26.)

“If this [Baptism of the Holy Spirit] is all there is, I’m not sure there’s much to it.” (*The Anointing*, p.31.)

“I am not overstating the case. The anointing is mandatory if you are called to serve the Lord. Without it there will be no growth, no blessing, no victory in your ministry.” (*The Anointing*, p.79.)

“How often have we closed our eyes and seen a figure in white. You say, “Who is that?” The Holy Ghost. “Oh, I didn’t know that.” Oh you should” (Great Miracle Service, Texas, June 21 1990).

WORD OF GOD:

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 15:26 “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.”

John 16:8 “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

John 16:13 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

Galatians 5:22-26 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”

2 Timothy 1:14 “That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.”

1 John 3:24 “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”

Jude 1:18-19 “How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.”

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”

2 Peter 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

2 Corinthians 11:14 “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

■ **The reproduction of man**

BENNY’S IDEAS:

“The Holy Spirit says, ‘God’s original plan is that the woman was to bring forth children out of her side’” (*Our Position in Christ #5*, 1990, audiotape, side 2).

WORD OF GOD:

Psalms 127:3 “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

■ **The nature of faith**

BENNY’S IDEAS:

“Faith is released when I speak the word of faith.” (Benny Hinn, TBN, 6th July 1992.)

WORD OF GOD:

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

■ **The sufficiency of scriptural revelation:**

BENNY’S IDEAS:

“Please, please, please, don’t think [we’re] here to repeat something you’ve heard for the last 50 years. ...If we quit giving you new revelations, we’re dead.” (TBN, December 9th 1990).

WORD OF GOD:

Deut 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

Deuteronomy 12:32 “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

Proverbs 30:5-6 “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest

he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

Rev 22:18 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.”

Galatians 1:8 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

■ Discernment

BENNY'S IDEAS:

“So don't question this teaching. Only the immature question it.”
(Our position in Christ).

WORD OF GOD:

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

1 Thess 5:21 “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

■ The Lord's Supper

BENNY'S IDEAS:

In the course of describing a Catholic communion he took part in:

“[I reached out and touched a robe which had] a silky feeling, a beautiful softness to the robe. The next thing I was feeling was actually the form of a body, the shape of a body. And my body went totally numb. And God really gave me a revelation that night, that when we partake communion, it's not just communion. We are partaking Christ Jesus himself. He did not say, “Take, eat, this represents my body.” He said, “This is my body, broken for you.” When you partake communion, you're partaking Christ, and that heals your body. When

you partake Jesus, how can you stay weak? Sick? And so tonight, as we partake communion, we're not partaking bread. We're partaking what He said we would be partaking of: "This is my body" (*Praise the Lord*, TBN, Dec 27 '94)

BENNY HINN: the miracles

"The very presence of God" is exactly what thousands of people clamour for when they attend one of Benny Hinn's "Miracle Crusades". They hope to see God move in a mighty way through an outpouring of miraculous healing power.

After personally attending one of Hinn's crusades, however, I can say from experience that the likelihood of being hurt during such an occasion is vastly greater than that of being helped or healed. I observed with great anguish scores of men, women, and children who could not even get near to the stage to be healed by Hinn. The scenario can best be described as a vulgar display of "survival of the fittest," with people stampeding madly to get on stage so they can experience falling at Hinn's feet.

Tragically, those who attended the meeting in wheelchairs ended up leaving in the same physical condition. Some departed in tears. Others told me they left feeling that God neither cared for them nor had the time to consider their needs.

"Not only does Hinn claim to have raised people out of wheelchairs, given blind eyes sight, and opened the ears of the deaf, but he also claims he has healed at least four people of AIDS [*Orlando Sentinel*, 11 October 1987]. However, when pressed for verification, Susan Smith, who apparently helps document such healings for Hinn, becomes strangely elusive.

When it comes to the AIDS case, her response was that the final tests are not yet in. When queried about an Orlando woman who was allegedly cured of blindness due to diabetes, Susan would not divulge the name of the woman. She subsequently stated that the woman's vision may still be cloudy and that she still has diabetes, which ironically enough precipitated the problem in the first place. "I wish she would get off insulin," says Susan. "That's what makes them blind."

Make no mistake: I personally believe in God's healing power. But if God is in fact healing through Hinn, the evidence is conspicuous by its absence. Where, for example, are those whose missing eyes or legs have been restored? If God has indeed used Hinn to heal multiple hundreds as Hinn boasts, then why hasn't even one quadriplegic stepped forward to show the world that Hinn represents the real power of the Holy Spirit?

Benny Hinn has provided the Christian Research Institute with three healing testimonies that have doctors' records and documentation [letter to CRI, Sept 1992] out of many hundreds he claims. Presumably, this is the best evidence Hinn can supply, his strongest case. But according to CRI's medical consultant, Dr Preston Simpson, MD, all three case are poorly documented and confused.

Case 1: Colon Cancer. A careful examination of the medical records supplied by Hinn reveals that the malignant tumour had been surgically removed (along with the appendix and eight lymph nodes), rather than miraculously healed.

Case 2: Lupus and related disorders. This is a particularly interesting case in that lupus is well known to go in remission spontaneously for years at a time. This naturally makes miraculous healing difficult to verify. What can be verified are the effects of lupus—in this case damage to the sacroiliac joint—which was definitely not healed.

Case 3: Spinal tumour and various cancers. This case really has problems. To begin with, the tapes of the CAT scan of the spine were "erased before the bones could be evaluated". Next, the records reveal that the spinal tumour began shrinking some three months prior to Hinn's Miracle Invasion Rally. And finally, the tumour was still present—not healed—months after the alleged "healing".

Hinn claims that there are "hundreds" of authenticated healings—but it is clear that if evidence like this is the best Hinn can muster after years of "miracle rallies"—with a staff working at each rally to document cases of healing—then there is no credible evidence that he has ever been involved in a bona fide healing" (*Christianity in Crisis*, Hank Hanegraaff, p339-41).

CHAPTER FIVE

The Confusing World of Benny Hinn

BY PHILIP L. POWELL

The following appeared in “Contending EARNESTLY for THE Faith” (CETF) Volume 2.5 November/December 1996:

“*The Confusing World of Benny Hinn*”—this is the title of a 205 page book¹ published by Personal Freedom Outreach, PO Box 26062, ST LOUIS MO 63136, USA in March, 1996. Basically CWofBH is a well researched and documented series of investigative articles by five authors, including W.E. Nunnally, Associate Professor of Early Judaism & Christian Origins at Central Bible College and Adjunct Professor of Hebrew Language at the AOG Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo, USA.

When Benny Hinn was admitted to AG in September 1994, it was only after considerable controversy and objection. Judging by the chapter headings for the articles written by AG Professor W.E. Nunnally, “*Chapter 10: Benny Hinn and the Bible—Are His Interpretations God’s Intentions?*” and “*Chapter 11: Hermeneutics That Harm—Misuse of Scripture to Support False Doctrine*” —one would think that the objection and controversy still rage.

If Hinn supporters are informed of his heresy, to which he himself admitted, the usual excuse is that he repented of his false teaching and we must accept his repentance! But surely heresy is a serious matter. Is it any less serious a sin than sexual moral failure, for example?

Are the self-admitted sins of Benny Hinn less than the sin of Jimmy Swaggart? Jimmy was made to face the consequence of his act. Benny

¹ Obtainable from CWM.

Hinn has faced no public discipline for the incredible heresies that he taught, which have had a profound influence on so many Christians.

I have seen the video of Benny Hinn being admitted to AG. The officials rolled out the red carpet. There was no sense of remorse, regret or repentance and no censure or probation. Maybe that is why Benny Hinn continues with his aberrant teaching and his false claims, “since his series of renunciations and promises of reform”²

For me the most disturbing thing about Benny Hinn is the proven false stories he told about his speech impediment³, his father being Mayor of Jaffa,⁴ a miracle associated with his plane crash⁵ and other claims documented in the book. According to CWofBH the mayor story is a fantasy predicated upon the fact that the father of Hinn’s idol, Kathryn Kuhlman, was a mayor.

The book published by PFO claims that Benny Hinn has never repented of his proven lies. Instead, when challenged, in the case of the mayor story, he fabricated at least two false explanations and did similar things with his other false claims.

Benny Hinn is a “spirit fanatic” who frequently claims to be speaking by “revelation knowledge” i.e. the Holy Spirit has shown him. If Martin Luther were living today he would undoubtedly describe him as he once quipped of preachers of his time who confused their own spirits with the Holy Spirit: “They think they have swallowed the Holy Ghost, feathers and all”.

John Calvin’s words should be a warning: “The fanaticism which discards the scripture, under the pretence of resorting to immediate revelations is subversive of every principle of Christianity. For when they boast extravagantly of the Spirit, the tendency is always to bury the Word of God so they make room for their own falsehoods”.⁶

On such a basis BH once claimed there were nine persons in the

2 *Confusing World of Benny Hinn* p134 c/f p 144.

3 *Confusing World of Benny Hinn*, pgs 46-49, 97-99

4 *Ibid* p 29-38, 55-56, 96, 161 etc

5 *Ibid* 57-61, 161

6 *Coming Evangelical Crisis*, p 260.

Godhead, women were created to give birth from their sides; Adam could fly from planet to planet, swim like a fish, fly like a bird (and presumably lay eggs like a hen) simply because God gave him “dominion”. Hinn’s knowledge of Hebrew from his Israeli background (truth is he’s neither Israeli nor does he understand Hebrew) allows him to make the incredible claim that the word “dominion” in the Hebrew means that you can do everything that the thing you have dominion over can do. This is vintage Hinn!!

Interestingly “New Horizons” is the theme of the Australian AOG Conference next May¹, when Benny Hinn is the announced guest speaker. The advertising brochure repeats the claim about Hinn’s severe stuttering disorder. We simply ask, “What New Horizons?” God’s Kingdom is built upon and surrounded by God’s righteousness. If you fabricate a foundation you will end up with false horizons.

¹ This occurred in Adelaide in May 1997.

CHAPTER SIX

Italian Pentecostals Boycott Hinn

BY PHILIP L. POWELL

First published in CETF Volume 3.1 January/February 1997: {REFER bhinn2.html}

“It is better to do what is right in God’s eyes and risk the consequences from man, than to do what is right in man’s eyes and risk the consequences from God.”¹

¹ Quote from *Let Us Reason* broadcast.

On November 28, 1996 I received a fax from PFO, publishers of the above named book informing me that Benny Hinn resigned from AOG the previous month; that the AG headquarters in Springfield were keeping “tight-lipped about the resignation”; and that the AOG in Italy had boycotted Hinn’s November crusade in their country.

Later I received a copy of a November 15 press release entitled “Benny Hinn Disaster in Rome”. Written by Terry Peretti, brother of the well known author, Frank Peretti. This was originally listed on <100557.213@CompuServe.COM> and is summarised as follows:

“The November 9 & 10 crusade in Rome was the largest gathering of evangelicals ever at one place and one time in Italy with estimated numbers of 5,000. The Italian AOG boycotted the meetings and several of the supporting independent pentecostal groups pulled out.”

“On the first night the preacher never once opened his bible and on the second Mr Hinn shocked his audience by courting the Catholic Church and talking about meeting the pope. The interpreter refused to continue and another was called to the platform. The Italian music group refused to come to the platform when called; the independent pentecostal pastors of Italy agreed to sign a declaration of “disassociazione” from Benny Hinn and his crusades.”

It appears that the evangelicals will never invite Benny Hinn to Italy again.

Our action in seeking to warn God’s people about the aberrant teachings of Benny Hinn and the false claims, which have never been renounced, has evoked serious accusations against us from AOG members in Australia, eg one of my faxes was marked “Return to the Accuser of the Brethren”. CETF Vol 2.5 addressed to a national executive member was returned with the following writing on the envelope: “Return to the Accuser”.

The truth is that we have reported facts not made accusations. In the interest of truth and openness we have decided to include a

section in CETF for letters. This may become a regular feature in future issues and will probably include correspondence over disputes such as these². Our motivation is not self-justification but to openly state the truth and to warn God's people of heresy and of those who teach it and of leaders who are conning God's people and refusing to be open about their action.

For the record PFO informed us that Benny Hinn had his lawyer contact them in an effort to pressure them to cease publishing the book entitled "The Confusing World of Benny Hinn", the October 1996 edition of which, complete with details of Hinn's false prophecies, is available from CWM.

We too have received veiled threats of legal action from those who were our former colleagues. Their latest ploy is to accuse me of being contentious and divisionary. In a letter dated 19 December 1996 Australian AOG General Secretary Keith Ainge writes: "We will not respond to any correspondence which may be received from you, until you cease your attacks. ... it has been decided to have nothing to do with you. A letter to this effect is being sent to all our pastors".

Subject to space constraints, background correspondence may be published in a future CETF so readers can judge for themselves.³

2 This has been actioned as a regular column entitled "Letters to the Editor" and elsewhere in various editions of CETF now published on one of our archives web site – refer www.christian-witness.org

3 I wrote to Keith Ainge protesting the arrogance of this attitude and have continuously indicated my availability to discuss the matter at any mutually convenient time.

CHAPTER SEVEN

More on Benny Hinn

BY NEIL RICHARDSON

The following was first published in October 1997 in VANGUARD issue No 4 (UK) issue No 2 (Australasia) {REFER bhinn97.html}:

IN the first issue of the United Kingdom edition of *Vanguard* (or the third issue in Australasia), we ran a slightly controversial article entitled “*Unmasked... Benny Hinn*”. In that article, written by Neil Richardson, many aspects of the teachings and doctrines of Mr Hinn, who remains one of the most popular pseudo-Pentecostal figures in the world, were shown to be erroneous. That article attracted a certain degree of criticism from some quarters, partly due to the fanciful notion that Mr Hinn had since repented of his erroneous ways.

We now present startling evidence to the contrary, enough to convince any reasonable person that this man should not be received as a brother.

In the weekly journal *West Africa*, dated 2-8 September 1996, Christian sociologist Michael Amoah wrote an article entitled *Christianity and Politics*, in which he examined the impact of evangelistic crusades on African politics. The first paragraph reads as follows:

“In August, during the week-long “Mission to London” pentecostal gatherings at Earl’s Court Arena, one of the preachers, Benny Hinn, is known to have mentioned the fact that during his most recent visit to Ghana (perhaps in November 1995), he was invited by the President to the Castle. During the meeting, the President communicated something to the effect that Benny Hinn has power, so he should speak to his

people (Ghanaians), since they would rather listen to the preacher than to himself [Rawlings]. Various arguments have arisen out of this comment. Most prominent of these is that if Jerry Rawlings thinks that Christians have that much power, then why is he not “born again”? Perhaps, then, he could talk to Ghanaians better?”

This article drew the following response from the Office of the President of Ghana. Sent by V.A. Sackey, Public Affairs Secretariat, it appeared in the letters page of *West Africa* dated 16-22 September 1996. In this response, he accuses Mr Hinn of being “rather generous in embellishing the truth!”

These rather generous embellishments, otherwise known as lies, were used by Mr Hinn to raise money from a largely African audience. These embellishments included the claim that 500,000 people filled the Accra Sports Stadium which, Mr Sackey points out, can only hold about 125,000. Mr Hinn claims to have been invited to return to Ghana as the president’s guest. This is also denied by Mr Sackey, who points out that there was “merely a remark that he and other religious leaders are welcome to visit Ghana”.

The claim that Mr Hinn was asked to get a message across because he had more power than the president is true however, which sounds impressive until one learns what this message was.

Again, from Mr Sackey’s response:

“The president attends many religious functions of all persuasions, and meets with visiting religious leaders who so request, not merely as a duty but out of recognition of the role of religious groups in strengthening the moral values of the nation.” [NB - this includes Christian, Muslim and traditional priests].

The “message” which the president asked Hinn to stress to his congregation was a topic which the president himself often raises at religious and other gatherings. This is that passive prayer of words and thoughts needs to be supported by the prayer of action...we

must all be prepared to get up and do something about our problems, rather than wait for intervention from above.

Not only has Mr Hinn been exposed as a fraud by a secular authority, thus shaming himself, but he has also shamed the gospel and the efforts of those who are sincere in their desire to reach Africa with the good news of Jesus. As president Rawlings of Ghana said [*Ghanaian Times*, 31st August]:

“...because of the deep religiosity of our people, some so-called men of God use the bible to exploit their credulity.”

We stand by our initial article about Mr Hinn, and will seek to oppose his influence at every opportunity.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Benny Hinn and Necromancy

BY PHILIP L. POWELL

First appeared in CETF Vol 4.1 January 1998 {REFER necro.html}

THE scriptures are very clear that we must never pray to or consult with the dead. Such practice is known as necromancy, which is one of the abominations strictly forbidden by God. We must not associate in any way with witches, soothsayers, enchanters, sorcerers, spell makers, mediums, spiritists or those who consult with the dead—c/f Deut 18:9-14. Benny Hinn consults with the dead and should therefore be avoided. He confesses that he visits the graves of Aimee Semple Macpherson and Kathryn Kuhlman where he experiences “the anointing”¹. Apart from anything else that should alert us to the fact that Hinn’s anointing is not from God.

In a crusade conducted in Hawaii, Hinn spoke of hearing the voice of Elijah as well as getting instruction from Kuhlman. Both people are dead, so how is it that Hinn claims to hear their voices? Where does this spiritistic notion come from?

The clear answer is that unclean spirits have invaded the pentecostal/charismatic church scene and they are forcing upon christendom the idea that all of this is a great revival from God. But the question remains—how did it happen? When did the demons invade the church and by whose authority?

1 *Christianity in Crisis*, pgs 30 & 31

CHAPTER NINE

Benny Hinn... going lower

BY PHILIP L. POWELL

First published in CETF Vol 5.2, September 1999.
{REFER bhinnlower.html}

“Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, is the man who deceives his neighbour, and says, ‘I was only joking!’”

PROVERBS 26:18-19 (NKJV)

WHEN Benny Hinn found himself in a bind over his gaffe about there being nine persons in the Trinity he said that it was only a joke. He has made many other irresponsible claims, eg that humans were created to swim like fish and fly like birds and with a thought could move from planet to planet. When

challenged as to his authority for such ridiculous claims he appealed to his Jewish origin (Hinn was born a Palestinian Arab, not a Jew¹) and his knowledge of Hebrew, which he clearly doesn't have. He said that the word translated to "*have dominion*" in the creation story means that Adam and Eve could do everything that the creatures over which they had dominion could do². So presumably they could lay eggs like hens and swarm like bees.

The teachings of Benny Hinn from the beginning of his ministry are obviously the rantings of a buffoon. His latest TV interviews however indicate that the man has gone beyond the pale; that he has indeed moved to a lower level. If you want more evidence we recommend that you contact Mike Openheimer of Let's Reason Ministries in Hawaii—administrator@letusreason.org

"For those whom God to ruin has designed, He fits for fate, and first destroys their mind"

—JOHN DRYDEN

THE HIND AND THE PANTHER (1687).

Paul Crouch (PC) is interviewing Benny Hinn (BH) on TBN with Paul and Jan Crouch, September 13, 1999:

In the opening exchanges of the interview reference is made to Kathryn Kuhlman, who BH appeals to as a precedent for his "cursing and blessing" pronouncements at a recently held healing crusade in Denver, USA. He also refers to Fred Roberts, whom he calls "an apostle", as being another person who encouraged him to "speak judgment" on his opponents.

BH: "He said you are entitled now because they blasphemed the Holy Spirit to tell God what you want to see done."

PC: "Because they were attributing your works to the devil; exactly what they did to Jesus." Hinn agrees.

1 *The Confusing World of Benny Hinn*, PFO Dec 1997, page 34.

2 *Christianity in Crisis*, Harvest House Publishers, page 119.

BH: “See the second they attribute the work of God to Satan, we, as believers step into, legally step into, a place we can ask God to stop them.”

PC: “Amen!”

BH: “William Branham was ministering one time—and this happened more than one time but I only heard about it twice—this happened; when a man came in and said—he was actually lying to William Branham—and said—he was trying to mock him—and came in and said he was sick and wanted William Branham to pray for him; and William Branham said you’re not sick; you’re just here to mock me; but you’re going to walk out with the same sickness you said you had and he walked out sick!”

As the interview continues BH refers to an incident which he alleges took place under the ministry of Tommy Reed in the Philippines when God supposedly inflicted sickness upon someone who was opposing the meetings. Whether such did or didn’t take place we have no means of checking. From the way BH recounts it, it’s very doubtful. What is certain is that Benny Hinn is employing illegitimate fear tactics. Even worse he appeals to a biblical incident in the life of Christ in an unscriptural way. Read what Benny Hinn said in the light of Proverbs 26:18 and the couplet from poet John Dryden quoted above.

BH: “When they said this—“It’s of the devil,” He <said>, “Ah this is one thing I won’t forgive!” He spoke there, judgement; and the judgement He spoke was eternal damnation. He said I’ll forgive any sin but not this one; and there he made the clear cut. So Tommy <Reed> said to the Lord, “All right Lord, here’s what I want done”. The last night of the meeting they brought this lady with arthritis on a wheelchair down <the> front. The man came back, in the back again, began to do the same thing. “This is of the devil,” screaming all this stuff. And Tommy said, “Lord now!” When he said “now” the Lord healed the lady with, with the, with the

arthritis and struck the man with her sickness, he switched sickness.”

PC: “Jesus!”

BH: “He switched sicknesses and took it off the lady and hit the man with it. And the man began screaming and ran out. With ARTHRITIS.”

Now pause for a moment. Ask yourself, “Are these the rantings of a man whose mind has gone, who is no longer thinking rationally? Or are they, as is being presented, the expressions of someone anointed by the Holy Spirit?” According to Benny Hinn, God heals a woman in a wheelchair. In so doing He (i.e. God Almighty) “switched sickness” and brought judgment upon a poor Philippine man, who RAN out screaming with the same ARTHRITIS that had confined the woman to a wheel chair? Sounds like a double miracle with the second cancelling out the reality of the first. Now that really does stretch credulity.

Apart from the utter stupidity of the ravings of Benny Hinn in this clearly fabricated story the really sad thing is that he appeals to scripture as a precedent. There is such a thing as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit of which sin our Lord said there was no forgiveness. Seeing so many in the “Revival Now” camp are all the time appealing to this SIN as their get-out from legitimate examination and judgment, by those who seek to follow the Berean example, it behoves us to know clearly what this blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is in the scriptural context.

“Therefore I say to you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

MATTHEW 12:31-32:

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is clearly a very serious matter. According to verse 22 the teaching was predicated upon a genuine healing performed by Christ, and related to exorcism. Not all sickness has its source in demon possession but this one did:

“Then was brought him one possessed with a demon, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, so that the blind and dumb man spoke and saw.”

Following this Matthew tells us (vs 23-24):

“And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out demons, but by Beelzebub the prince of the demons.”

Mark relates something similar and gives us a deeper insight into what this sin of the pharisees and scribes and may be also of some of the “common” people (see the Luke reference) really was:

Mark 3:22 *“And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, He has Beelzebub, and by the prince of the demons casts out demons. (v30) they said, He (Jesus) has an unclean spirit.”*

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is ascribing the act of exorcising demons from people by the Lord Jesus Christ (Himself) to the works of the devil (Satan), while maintaining that Christ Himself is demon possessed. We may extrapolate principles from these New Testament passages and relate them to the genuine work of true gospel preachers in our time but the application made by Benny Hinn and others like him is not legitimate biblically.

Luke sheds further light on this in citing Christ’s ironic question and unavoidable conclusion to those who wrongfully accused Him:

Luke 11:19-20: *“And if I by Beelzebub cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore shall they be your judges. But if I by the finger of God cast out demons, then the kingdom of God is come upon you.”*

The term “the finger of God” appears four times in scripture and in only three connections. The first describes the true miracles of God as opposed to those of the Egyptian magicians—Exodus 8:19 c/f 2 Timothy 3:8; the second relates to the giving of the ten commandments—Exodus 31:18 and Deut 9:10; and the third to the works of Christ—Luke 11:20. The cross-reference of Luke’s citation is to Acts 19:13 and is most illuminating. The Jews had

their own exorcists and they were as impotent to deliver people as are their modern counterparts in the false Signs and Wonders Movement that is headed up by such as Benny Hinn. Where are his GENUINE miracles? So far they have all fallen short in this regard.

So blasphemy against the Holy Spirit relates to our Lord Jesus Christ and not to Benny Hinn or any self acclaimed “anointed ONE” i.e. “christ”. If you are doing what the bible requires of you—“testing the spirits” (1 John 4); “judg[ing] righteous judgment” (John 7:24), “proving all things” (1 Thess 5:21) and generally acting as a Berean Christian should act (Acts 17:11), it is impossible for you to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. It is far more likely that men like Benny Hinn and Paul Crouch et al are themselves guilty of the blasphemy that they impute to others.

Back to the TV interview... It gets worse and brings to light the very thing that we have anticipated and been warning about now for several years. Gullible Christians are going to be caught up in a net of deception. No wonder David Wilkerson has so strongly warned God’s people to keep away from all of this nonsense.³

2 Timothy 3:13-17: “But evil men and impostors shall grow worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them; And that from a child you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be complete, fully fitted for every good work.”

BH: “Under the anointing not one word falls to the ground.”

PC: “Amen.”

BH: “I am not the same man under the anointing that I am now—My children are afraid of me under the

³ *Reproach of the Solemn Assembly*, audio tape by David Wilkerson available from CWM: <http://www.christian-witness.org>

anointing. What they do not know is that I'm afraid of the anointing too. (laughter) I'm not afraid of myself, I'm afraid of what the anointing can do to me if I mistreat it. Or if I abuse it or if I misuse it."

Clearly Benny Hinn is not talking about the "anointing" as the whole of scripture portrays it and John the apostle describes it in 1 John 2:19-29. What is this anointing that he and others keep talking about? Nowhere in the New Testament is there any idea of ANYONE being specially anointed other than our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the ANOINTED, i.e. the CHRIST (the words "anointing, christ, messiah" all derive from the same root). There is a sense in which all of God's people have a general anointing and John makes it clear that this gives us a relationship with our blessed Lord, but it never makes one higher, better, greater or more powerful than another. This is utter heresy and is part of the necessary creation of a "mystique" to silence criticism and critics. But it won't work.

From here the TV interview goes to a level which can only be described as horrific and occultic. TBN screens a video recorded at Denver when Benny Hinn pronounced blessings on those who support him and curses on those who oppose:

BH: "I've been preaching 25 years almost, I've never seen the anointing as frightening as I saw in Denver Friday night; and so when you hear me in just a little bit give blessings and cursings and basically all I say each, any who attack this anointing, I speak a judgement on them."

According to an eye witness account:

"In the recent Denver crusade Hinn became a different person under the influence of the "anointing" unlike anything seen before. So much so, that his voice changed to a "growl". He was telling the people to raise their hands and exalt the master Jesus. It was obvious that he was not talking about the Jesus of the

bible. He also cursed all who would raise their hands against his ministry in word or deed.”

Here are some extracts from the video recording of what happened at Denver.

BH: “My skin is about to explode. Your body will tingle from the top to the bottom. Lift your voices. Lift your hands and ask him for it—people of God be healed! People of the Lord be delivered! Rise up out of your sickness and jump into the river of healing and be healed, in Jesus’ name. Take your seats, this is just the beginning of the service.” Hinn then brings up a man claiming two thirds of his heart is dead. “He’s barely been able to walk.” Hinn growls, “The glory! The glory, if I don’t release it I’ll blow up. If I don’t release the anointing I’ll blow up. I got to release it on somebody. The demon must bow to the name of the master Jesus ... Yes Lord I’ll do it! I place a curse on every man and woman that will stretch his hand against this anointing I curse that man who dares to speak a word against this ministry. But any man, any woman that raises his or her hand in blessing towards this ministry, I bless that man. I bless that home. I bless that family. Any man, any woman, any person that raises his tongue in blessing toward this work, raises his tongue in blessing toward this anointing, raises his tongue in blessing toward this servant of the Lord, I bless them. I bless the work of your hands. I bless your life with his mighty power. I bless your home with divine protection. I bless your children with long life and I bless you <with> length of days. I bless you with healing. I bless you with prosperity. I bless you with the very presence of Almighty God. I, a servant, bless you in the name of the one I serve. I bless <your> people tonight in Denver. Lift your hands and receive the blessing.

“I rarely ever do what I’m doing now. This is the Holy Ghost on me telling me to do this. I bless you; I bless

your homes, your life, your future, your children. May every attack of Satan be destroyed. May every plan of hell be destroyed against you (change of voice) and every plan of God be established in Jesus name. Amen, amen.”

Benny Hinn’s recent programs, seen on TV in Hawaii, reveal new programming styles with interviews and crusade clips with Hinn consistently changing his tune and a dangerous trend toward Catholic type worship and ecumenical unity.

A number of third wave charismatics, key players in today’s revivalism were guests on Hinn’s program over recent weeks—Kenneth Copeland, Rod Parsley, Joyce Meyer and Rodney Howard-Browne. Hinn clearly is assuming the apostolic father figure of the healing ministry picking up the mantle where, not Kathryn Kuhlman, but William Branham left off.

Here’s just one extract from one of the TV programs to let you see where things are heading. Sounds a bit like a Jimmy Bakker re-run. This is with Benny Hinn (BH) and Rod Parsley (RP) on *This Is Your Day*, August 24, 1999:

RP: “The healing ministry is almost dead. When you look at who’s out there praying for the sick today, there’s not many!” (This is false. There are more healing ministries today than there ever were.) “And the Lord said to me to build a healing centre, a healing and prayer centre that people can come to, 24 hours a day, any day of the week, and be prayed for and get healed. And I did not really know what the Lord would show me, but as time went on I began to get the picture much clearer. January 3rd the year 2000 we break ground for that healing centre in Dallas, Texas. It’s going to have healing gardens with healing statues of biblical healing saints from the Old Testament. It’s going to have a healing fountain an eternal healing fire. It’s going to have places where people can come to and be prayed for in a healing cathedral and chapels in it. Think

about a place that will be staffed with partners, God anointed partners. They will be there volunteering where people can come 24 hours a day and be prayed for. So no one will have to wait for a crusade. Yes I will continue to have crusades; yes I will continue to travel; but what a wonderful thing it would be when God's people can come to a place like that. It's going to be built with Jerusalem rock. It's going to look like Jerusalem and the Lord gave us property a mile and a half from the Dallas Stadium right on highway 114.

BH: "Saints we have to preserve that anointing; whether it's the anointing ... that's on Rod ... and you're building a place ... now expanding your own ministry."

Rod Parsley then prayed showing how little he understands about the true biblical anointing.

RP: "Holy Spirit of God I thank you even now your servant has been willing to conceive this child, this healing centre where multiplied thousands upon thousands would be healed, but more than <that> where the healing ministry will be preserved. Preserved so that we will not lose our roots; so that people may know the ministry of Kathryn Kuhlman and Aimee Semple Macpherson, A.A Allen and Jack Coe; of Oral Roberts and Lester Sumrall, God, where those anointings will be multiplied [I'm seeing this now Benny] and brought to bear in that place; multiplied by one another—Smith Wigglesworth's anointing multiplied by Oral Robert's anointing, multiplied by Kathryn Kuhlman's anointing, multiplied by Benny Hinn's anointing. And when the people come there, their faith will be at such a level that that spiritual genealogy, which you are preserving will come to bear against their need. A.A. Allen had a miracle valley. This is going to be a miracle mountain."

BH: "Whoa! This is going to be a miracle mountain."

Editorial Note: Those who are overawed by the names mentioned above may care to read Neil Richardson's *Unmasked* article (*Vanguard* June 1999) and consider where and how many of them ended. For the record, I met AA Allen just before he died of extreme alcoholism or a drug over-dose, no-one seems to be sure which. He was preaching in Stockport, Cheshire near where I was pastoring in Manchester, UK. He was a bitter man who claimed to have distributed "miracle saw-dust" from the floor of his "miracle valley" tent. Was he just someone who had missed his way or simply a man who had never discovered the true way?

I and another young AoG pastor approached him to discuss some of the outrageous things he had said during his sermon. I believe our approach was with a sincere desire to help him. He refused to talk to us and barged past using his brief case to push me aside. The following night he claimed he had been attacked the previous night by "two demons". Those two demons were David Phillips and Philip Powell. I was saddened to learn only a few months later that A.A. Allen had died in circumstances which certainly raised questions about his entire life and ministry.

That incident and A.A. Allen's life and ministry, plus the record of a number of the other "big" names mentioned above, beg a couple of questions which are troubling many with regard to the 20th century pentecostal revival. Was the whole thing a huge fraud? Is there ground for the claims that are coming loud and clear from the camps of the cessationists that the pentecostal out-pouring of 1906 and the charismatic renewal of the late 50's and early 60's and the current "Toronto-Pensacola" river revival are all branches of a tree that is rooted in deception, heresy and apostasy? These questions and others like them have occupied our thinking and that of a number of our friends for quite some time. We plan to address them in depth through our publications starting in the next issue of *Vanguard* with an article by Siam Bhayro on CESSATIONISM and my own article on THE GENUINE ON-GOING PERSONAL REVIVAL⁴. We hope you stay tuned.

⁴ These two articles were published in *Vanguard* (February 2000).

CHAPTER TEN

When Will the Hypocrisy End?

BY PHILIP L. POWELL

ABOUT a month before leaving New Zealand for Queensland (14/06/00) I became aware of the following statement issued by Neil Hetrick, National Secretary of AoG:

“The Executive Presbytery has written to Benny Hinn and his organisation three times and asked for a copy of the prophecy allegedly given in December 1998 concerning New Zealand and reported in a national Christian newspaper. Although an answer was promised, nothing has been forthcoming. The Assemblies of God were reported as being involved in these meetings and in some way endorsing this prophecy. This is not the case. We also objected to their organisation soliciting tithes from people, our understanding is that these should be “brought into the storehouse”. We have had no reply on these matters and we wanted you all to know that we had endeavoured to get a satisfactory answer! We have not, are not and do not intend to be associated with this organisation in the future.”¹ (*Emphasis in original*)

In the light of this claim, how does Neil Hetrick explain the fact that Wayne Hughes, National General Superintendent of AoG in NZ is listed among those who, allegedly endorsed Benny Hinn’s healing crusade in Auckland on June 13, 1998, in a letter dated March 4, 1998 written by Averil E. Quartier and issued by the New Zealand branch of the Benny Hinn Ministries (PO Box 24377, Royal Oak, Auckland – phone 09 521 0133; fax 09 528 7185)? The letter contains a glowing endorsement of Benny Hinn allegedly made by the principal officer of the NZ Assemblies of God yet the General Secretary claims that the denomination has never been associated with the Benny Hinn organisation. On May 17 I wrote to Neil Hetrick requesting an explanation without response. This letter and

background information is published on the home page of the CWM web site at www.christian-witness.org

Neil Hetrick's statement refers to the involvement of a national Christian newspaper. On May 23 New Zealand's *Challenge Weekly* (Vol 58 Issue 18, page 4 story) published an article entitled *AOG distance themselves from Benny Hinn*, in which they republished part of their story about Benny Hinn's false prophecy. Openness and honesty are hallmarks of the Christian message. Has TRUTH fallen in the streets of the Assemblies of God? Those who associate with "deceivers" will inevitably end up being deceived and sadly they will also deceive others.

Of course some prefer to simply treat this as a passing fad and to remain detached believing that it will all pass and things will right themselves. Naïve leaders present the idea to their followers that Benny Hinn achieves good in spite of his "faults and foibles" and his proven lies, false prophecies and heresies. But can this possibly be the case? History and the bible answer with a resounding "NO".

THE BIBLE SAYS: "*Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?*" 1 Corinthians 5:6 c/f Galatians 5:9. Interestingly, as we have consistently pointed out, the first reference relates to immorality whereas the second deals with heresy. The two things go hand in hand – each leading inevitably to the other. Nicolaitanism (wrong doctrine) is always linked to Balaamism (immorality).

CHURCH HISTORY SHOWS: that while TRUTH and HONESTY are their own defence, ERROR and DISHONESTY will ultimately undermine or destroy those who associate with them.

CWM is pleased that the AoG hierarchy in NZ has at last woken up to the falsity of Benny Hinn, but we are concerned about any "cover-up". We call on those within Assemblies of God to seek an explanation from their church leaders or from the national office per my letter to Neil Hetrick, published on our web site. The official AoG facsimile number and email address are: +64 9 358 4725 – email agnzinc@voyager.co.nz

We call on the AoG in Australia to publicly acknowledge their initiation of the scam associated with the false "*Faith and Prosperity*" and to disassociate from the false ministry of Benny Hinn.

God bless you.

Philip L. POWELL (June 22, 2000)

¹ Published in the official newsletter to "Assemblies of God Ministers and Churches".

About the Authors...

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PHILIP L. POWELL... is founder and co-director of Christian Witness Ministries (CWM) and co-editor of *Vanguard* and *Contending EARNESTLY for THE Faith* (CETF). He was formerly National General Secretary of Assemblies of God in Australia but took a stand for traditional evangelical and classical pentecostal truth against the aberrant teachings and practices introduced by the hierarchy of AoG in Australasia.

NEIL RICHARDSON

NEIL RICHARDSON... is co-founder of *Vanguard* (UK) and the feature writer of the Unmasked series in the CWM publications. He is the main contributor in the first in this series of books entitled "Alpha Unmasked" available from all CWM offices as listed elsewhere in this book. For more information on Neil Richardson, see "Alpha Unmasked" page 61.

SANDY SIMPSON

SANDY SIMPSON.... is webmaster for *Deception In The Church* <<http://pages.hotbot.com/family/ssimpson2846/index.html>> which is an apologetics web site exposing the false prophecy and teaching in the New Apostolic Reformation or Third Wave (also called The River Revival) counterfeit revival movement out of Toronto, Brownsville A/G, Rodney Howard-Browne, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Rod Parsley, Joyce Meyer, Bishop Earl Paulk, Richard Roberts, Pat Robertson, Paul Crouch and many others. He is a missionary of many years standing, with association with the Evangelical Church at large. For more details please see chapter one, pages 9-11.

Unmasked... Benny Hinn

The prophet speaks of a time when judgement is reversed and justice is remote because “truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter” (Isaiah 59:14). This is a disturbing feature of our time both in the world and in Christendom at large. One pastor of a large AoG church in America tells his students that if they want to build a big church they must create a mystique about themselves.

The documented material of this booklet puts the spotlight on one of the most effective exponents of this manipulative practice. The case against Benny Hinn with his \$US60 million per year rake-off is virtually undeniable. We have provided some of the evidence and supplied additional leads for you the reader.

In accordance with the requirements of scripture we ask that you be the judge as to whether this man is what he claims to be and whether those who have promoted him should be held accountable:

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1)



This is the second in a series of booklets published by
Christian Witness Ministries (CWM)

The first was written mainly by our research writer, Neil Richardson,
who is well known for his “Unmasked” series of articles published in Vanguard.

OTHERS IN THE SERIES INCLUDE:

Nicky Gumbel & The Alpha Course UNMASKED... with more to follow.

WEBSITE ADDRESSES

CWM (home): www.christian-witness.org
with VANGUARD (archives) and CETF (archives)
as direct links to aid research.